

Appeal after Atlantic Hero master wins spill case

Court says ballast sediment explanation for tanker incident was plausible, writes Andrew Spurrier in Paris — Thursday March 31 2005

THE public prosecutor in the French port city of Brest is to appeal against the decision of a local court to acquit the master of a MOL tanker of a charge of deliberately causing pollution at sea.

The rare acquittal decision has been hailed by the master's defence lawyer as marking a turning point in the way cases of marine pollution have been dealt with recently by the French courts.

But the public prosecutor's office in Brest, which has been responsible for a series of convictions of masters and owners over the past two years, made known its intention to appeal against the judgment immediately after it was delivered.

The court said in its judgment that it could not find against Captain Srdjan Ljustina, the 42-year-old Croatian master of the 96,687 dwt Atlantic Hero, on the grounds that his claim that the pollution spotted in the wake of his ship was probably caused by oil present in the sediment in its ballast tanks rather than waste from its engine room was plausible.

The crew of the Atlantic Herowas spotted by a French navy aircraft last September 10, 260 km off the tip of the Brittany peninsula with a 11 km long pollution slick in its wake.

The court was told that it was cleaning its ballast tanks at the time as well as discharging waste water from its machine room sump.

Brest public prosecutor François Nicot claimed that Captain Ljustina had deliberately taken advantage of the ballast tank cleaning operation to empty engine room waste directly into the sea instead of passing it via the separator.

Captain Ljustina argued, however, that the oil released by the ship could have been picked up when the vessel took on ballast water after discharging in a previous port of call.

Analysed

He took samples of ballast sediment with the aim of checking if this was the case but the prosecutor's office rejected his invitation to have them analysed on the grounds that he had collected them on his own account without verification by an independent party.

A subsequent analysis carried out for the defence indicated that hydrocarbons were present in the sediment along with other oily waste of industrial origin.

The court noted that the prosecutor's office had not only refused to have the master's samples analysed but had also failed to take samples on its own account.

In this situation, it said, it could not refuse to take into account the samples taken by the master and was obliged to conclude that it was impossible to determine whether the oil in the slick in the wake of the Atlantic Herocame from its ballast tanks or its engine room.

Detailed

Defence lawyer Guillaume Brajeux said yesterday he was "very, very satisfied" by the court's decision, which he added had taken into account the detailed technical evidence which had been presented to it on the master's behalf.

It was "a first reversal of the trend" of recent judgments systematically to reject masters' explanations for the pollution which they were accused of having created deliberately.

"I think that the principal lesson to be drawn from this is that the court has agreed to play its role of arbiter by giving consideration to the explanation given by the defence instead of systematically rejecting it," he added.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>BALTIC PRESS</i>	ro-ro	SWE	AB ABS	6,413	4,451	1979	Vessel had hydraulic pump failure and damage to crank housing in lat 49 23.5N, long 04 37.3W Mar 21. Vessel not under command. Tug <i>Multratug 7</i> taken vessel in tow, arrived Falmouth Mar 22 to effect repairs.
<i>CHRISTY</i>	tug	USA	—	149	—	1972	In collision with <i>Star Drivanger</i> in the Mobile Ship Channel Mar 21. Vessel subsequently ran aground but not in danger of sinking.
<i>CORNER BROOK</i>	general	BMU	NV	7,587	7,650	1976	Fire in engine-room in lat 49 05N, long 24 02W, Mar 20. Engine-room has been flooded with carbon dioxide and crew are waiting to re-enter. Tug <i>Fairplay IX</i> on scene Mar 23 and vessel is under tow to Falmouth ETA Mar 27.
<i>GLORY BRIDGE</i>	container	LBR	AB ABS	29,872	31,208	1980	Fire on board off Saudi Arabia Mar 14 Potential claims for General Average.
<i>INDEPENDENCE</i>	fish factory	USA	—	5,716	4,521	1938	Vessel lost steering and is adrift in lat 58 18N, long 145 13.3W, at Mar 21. Weather in area very bad. Cutter <i>Storis</i> taken vessel in tow and is proceeding to Cape Spencer and Juneau. Tug <i>Chahunta</i> will take over tow when they rendezvous.
<i>MAERSK ROSYTH</i>	product tanker	GBR	LR	22,184	34,811	2003	Salvage services rendered to vessel under LOF by Les Abeilles International/Wijsmuller Salvage BV Mar 18 due to machinery damage. Vessel arrived Port Jerome Mar 18 and sailed Mar 19, arriving Rotterdam prev Mar 21.
<i>MARITIME ANTALYA</i>	bulker	PAN	(NK)	30,053	52,454	2002	Vessel taking on water in No.1 and No. 2 hold in about lat 45 31N, long 157 00E, Mar 20. In lat 41 39N, long 141 16E, Mar 24, proceeding to Niigata escorted by patrol vessel and tug
<i>MARITIME WISDOM</i>	bulker	SGP	NK	38,379	73,657	1993	In collision with barge <i>Prapati</i> four nautical miles off Goa Mar 23. About 110 tonnes oil spilled. Authorities are responding to the collision.
<i>MILLICOMA</i>	barge	USA	AB ABS	4,355	—	1985	Broke away from tug <i>Howard Olsen</i> and grounded near North Head, Columbia River Mar 20. No fuel leak. Heavily damaged. Salvage operations under way Mar 21 but severe weather is hampering salvors. Refloated Mar 23 & towed to Astoria.
<i>POLSKA WALCZACA</i>	bulker	VUT	NV	41,220	73,505	1992	Vessel grounded at the Hook of Holland Mar 24. Refloated same day, assisted by Smit Salvage under LOF 2000. Vessel anchored in Rotterdam roads, awaiting inspection.
<i>ROSE</i>	—	TUV	—	—	—	—	Grounded off south of Mahajanga, Madagascar in lat 16 01.37S, long 45 04.46E, Mar 17. All 15 crew safely rescued. Subsequent fire on board and oil spill reported.
<i>STAR DRIVANGER</i>	general	SGP		27,735	43,051	1978	In collision with tug <i>Christy</i> in the Mobile Ship Channel Mar 21. Vessel subsequently ran aground and has a gash in the port bow and taking on water. Pumps have been placed on the vessel. Still aground Mar 22.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AKAMAS (Singapore)

Honolulu, Mar 22 -- Product tanker Akamas sailed Honolulu harbour Feb 26 for Chiba. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ALEXIA M. (Cyprus)

London, Mar 23 -- Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1010, UTC: Bulk Alexia M. (15944 gt, built 1979), Ventspils for Amsterdam, cargo coal, grounded in lat 55 54N, long 10 57E at around 1200, local time, yesterday. Vessel is still aground. Five thousand tons of coal have been taken off so far. No leakage reported. (Note -- Alexia M. sailed Ventspils Mar 20 for Amsterdam.)

ALIDA GORTON (Sweden)

Montreal, Mar 21 -- General cargo Alida Gorton is still in dry dock at Les Mechins, Quebec. Permanent repairs to rudder are being carried out. Repairs should be completed within six days. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ALKMINI A. (Greece)

Piraeus, Mar 18 -- Passenger ro/ro Alkmini A. is currently under repair at Perama Shipyard. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ARION (Greece)

Piraeus, Mar 18 -- Passenger ro/ro Arion is still aground at Cavo Melanios area, north-west of Chios Island. Reportedly Matsas G. Loucas Salvage & Towage Maritime Co, who undertook salvage operations, stopped as refloating of the vessel was considered impossible due to the severity of the grounding. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ASPEN (Panama)

Managua, Mar 22 -- General cargo Aspen sailed Corinto Mar 16 for Caldera, to discharge product. Discharge operations commenced Mar 21. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ASR (Malta)

Vigo, Mar 21 -- Bulk/c.c. Asr (16992 gt, built 1980), discharging steel cargo in Vigo, reports suspected cargo damage due heavy weather encountered on trip. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Asr sailed Salerno Mar 14.)

ATHOS I (Cyprus)

London, Mar 21 -- A Delaware River Oil Spill Joint Information Centre press release, dated Mar 18, states: Funding for the cleanup operations related to the discharge of oil from crude oil tanker Athos I into the Delaware River near Paulsboro on Nov 26 will officially be federalized and handled by the National Pollution Funds Centre (NPF) Mar 21. The Coast Guard is working on a cooperative agreement with the Responsible Party (RP) and is

reviewing a full spectrum of options to transfer the source of funding to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) via the NPF in order to ensure a seamless transfer of all costs and contracts associated with the spill. "Throughout these operations, it has truly been a unified effort," said Captain Jonathan Sarubbi, US Coast Guard Captain of the Port Philadelphia. "Now with the continued cooperation of the states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, and representatives for the RP, it is our hope that we can make this shift as smoothly as possible so that we can continue diligently cleaning and protecting the environment and minimising the economic impact to the maritime industry and the general public along the Delaware River." "Since day one we've been working hand-in-hand with the response personnel and the Unified Command to minimise damage and clean up this spill as fast as possible," said Steve Kegelman, Manager Response Services for the O'Brien's Group and Incident Commander with the oil spill. "With this change in funding, we're happy to say that we'll be staying on the response to ensure a smooth transition without a break in our cleanup operations." Regardless of who writes the cheques, cleanup costs and claims reimbursement will be paid and cleanup operations will continue on the Delaware River. The owners/insurers of the vessel have already incurred cleanup costs over \$100 million, well beyond their financial obligations under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. As a result of this spending and despite the fact that the RP has not yet requested to limit their liability through the NPF, they have expressed their desire to federalize the cleanup efforts and have the NPF manage payment through the OSLTF, which was established in 1990 to help facilitate cleanup activities and compensate for damages from oil spills. With over 600 responders working in the command centre and along the affected shoreline, clean up efforts are continuing. Approximately 191,695 gallons of oil and oily liquid and 13,867 tons of oily solids have been recovered. Fifteen marinas, along with 78% of the heavily oiled areas, 55% of the medium oiled areas and 34% of the lightly oiled areas have been decontaminated. Oil recovery operations are continuing, weather permitting, throughout the winter months. Once the gross decontamination is completed, the next step will be a detailed assessment of the contaminated areas to finalise the cleanup plan. The Unified Command anticipates cleanup operations will continue through spring and into the summer. The Coast Guard will process third party claims for removal costs and damages as quickly as resources will allow. Claims processing funding limitations have constrained the ability to acquire resources necessary to meet public and

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Congressional expectations. The magnitude of this spill and the number and type of claims expected to be submitted will test our resources and will likely result in longer processing times than we would like. Investigation into the cause of the spill continues. Final results of the investigation are not expected to be released for several months.

ATLAS SKY (NIS)

Poznan, Mar 21 -- Understand bulk Atlas Sky will most probably stay at port (Gdynia) until the end of the month. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BALTIC PRESS (Sweden)

London, Mar 21 -- Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 2119, UTC: Ro/ro Baltic Press (6413 gt, built 1979), Sweden for Spain, cargo 4,450 tonnes paper, with 90 tonnes gas oil and 10 persons on board, in lat 49 23.5N, long 04 37.3W, at 2045, UTC, drifting at 1.5 knots north north-west with engine-room hydraulic pump failure and damage to crank housing. Vessel not under command. Wind south to south-west 4 to 5 (moderate to fresh breeze) . Vessel's insurers arranging assistance of a tug. (Note -- Baltic Press, from Sodertalje, passed Brunsbuttel 1615, Mar 19 for Ferrol.)

London, Mar 21 -- Understood tug Multratug 7 has been contacted to tow ro/ro Baltic Press to Falmouth. Tug should be on scene between 0930 and 1000, UTC, tomorrow.

London, Mar 22 -- Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1013, UTC: Ro/ro Baltic Press: Tug Multratug 7 arrived on scene at 0900, UTC, and took Baltic Press in tow for Falmouth, ETA 1530 hrs.

Falmouth, Mar 23 -- Ro/ro Baltic Press arrived Falmouth at 1550, Mar 22, in tow of tug Multratug 7. The vessel was secured to the Cross Roads buoy at 1715 hrs, in order to effect engine repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BRO TRAVELLER (Sweden)

London, Mar 22 -- Chem.tank Bro Traveller arrived Milford Haven Mar 16 and sailed Mar 17.

BROTHER JOY (South Korea)

Busan, Mar 23 -- General cargo Brother Joy arrived Busan Mar 17 and dry-docked on the slipway at the premises of Kangnam Coporation, Busan, for repairs, which will be completed at the end of March. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

BRUNHILDE SALAMON (Marshall Islands)

London, Mar 20 -- Bulk Brunhilde Salamon sailed Ghent Mar 19. (See issue of Mar 16.)

BRUNO SALAMON (Panama)

London, Mar 18 -- Following received from Ankara MSRCC, timed 1225, UTC: Bulk Bruno Salamon is still aground in the same position and salvage operations are continuing.

London, Mar 22 -- Following received from Ankara MSRCC, timed 1325,

UTC: Bulk Bruno Salamon is still aground in the same position. About 1,500 tonnes of cargo has been transhipped from the vessel.

CANADIAN PROSPECTOR (Canada)

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Bulk Canadian Prospector (18526 gt, built 1964) at the north end of Thunder Bay's harbour was evacuated yesterday after fumes from a fuel tank ignited and sent a fireball into the air. More than 30 employees were working onboard the laker when the explosion occurred just after 1300 hrs. "The main thing is nobody was hurt and there was no ill effects to my crew and their crew," Steve Allen, PASCOL's general manager, said. Tom Chandler of the Thunder Bay Fire Service, said welders attempting to fuse a plate to the side of the ship caused an explosion in the fuel tank. Chandler said a round metal cap, which resembles a manhole cover, was blown off the top of the tank. The cover landed on frozen Lake Superior about 30 metres from the ship. People on the ship's deck saw the metal cap fly off and flames shoot out of the hole, Chandler said. A "ball of flame came out of that manhole" about 10 metres high, he said. The fuel fumes were a mixture of kerosene and diesel, Chandler said. When fumes accumulate in an enclosed space, they can become highly combustible, he said. A St. Catharines company, Upper Lakes Shipping Ltd., owns the vessel. The ship has been docked at the PASCOL yard for repairs since Christmas. There were 20 ship employees and 14 shipyard employees on the vessel when the explosion occurred, Tara Wilkins, a communications officer for Transport Canada, said. The fumes in the tank for the main engine ignited, Allen said. The ship did not have any visible damage, Wilkins said. Transport Canada safety inspectors are investigating. "Until our investigation is complete, I can't speculate on what happened or why it happened," Wilkins said.

CANADIAN TRANSPORT (Canada)

London, Mar 21 -- While loading coal at Nanticoke a fire was discovered in a cargo hold of bulk Canadian Transport (23399 gt, built 1979) at 1730, Mar 20. Shipboard and shore crews quickly extinguished the fire and approximately 1,500 tons of wet coal was transferred ashore. There was no apparent damage to the vessel.

CAPRICORNUS LEADER (Panama)

London, Mar 18 -- A press report, dated Mar 17, states: Vehicle Capricornus Leader (61854 gt, built 2004) while moving from the Osthafen to the Nordhafen, during a turning manoeuvre the stern of the vessel contacted the Nordhafen jetty at 2340, Mar 15. The vessel sustained denting and a tear below the loading ramp. (Note -- Capricornus Leader

subsequently sailed Bremerhaven 1805, Mar 16 for Southampton where it arrived 1934, Mar 17.)

CATALYST (Panama)

See "Gibraltar" under "Port State Control."

CHRISTY (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 21 -- Following received from the Marine Safety Office New Orleans, timed 1300, UTC: Tug Christy (149 gt, built 1972), towing four coal barges, and general cargo Star Drivanger (27735 gt, built 1978), inbound for Mobile, with steel and forest products, were in collision in the Mobile Ship Channel at about 0826, UTC, this morning. Star Drivanger is aground and has a gash in the port bow and is taking water, pumps have been placed on board. Christy is also aground, but is in no danger of sinking. The lead barge has a six-foot gash in hull. (Note -- Star Drivanger sailed Vitoria Mar 2 for Mobile.)

London, Mar 22 -- Following received from Marine Safety Office, Mobile, timed 1550, UTC: Tug Christy, collision with general cargo Star Drivanger: Star Drivanger remains aground with a safety zone around it. Lightering is required to facilitate refloating but the weather on scene at present is not ideal for the salvage operations. There is an 18-ft draught restriction currently in place in Mobile Ship Channel between Mile 84 and Mile 87.

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Star Drivanger, loaded with lumber, rebar and steel beams, was in collision with a loaded coal barge being towed by tug Christy in the Mobile Ship Channel just east of McDuffie Island Coal Terminal at 0230 yesterday, authorities said. Star Drivanger and the barge were badly damaged in the incident but no one was injured and there was no pollution, US Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Gary Herman said. Herman said the cause remained under investigation. The coal terminal is just south of downtown Mobile. Judy Adams, Alabama State Docks spokeswoman, said yesterday that the grounded vessel and barge were not completely blocking vessels from entering or exiting the Port of Mobile. "It's a minor inconvenience and we don't expect it to affect our activities in the short term," Adams said. Although the channel remained open, large commercial vessels with draughts of 18 feet or more have to get permission from the Coast Guard Captain of the Port before passing between the grounded vessel and barge, which were moved out of the channel and run aground on opposite shores, Herman said. They were left so they were unable to move about and become more damaged, he said. The vessels were damaged near the waterline, he added. The large commercial vessels posed a danger to the damaged vessels because they cause a large wake as they pass, he said. Masters of large vessels must get

permission from the Coast Guard to pass near the barge and vessel, which are between Buoys 84 and 87, according to a Coast Guard news release. The "temporary safety zone" restriction on vessels with draughts of more than 18 feet was in effect until 1600 today, the news release said.

CORNER BROOK (Bermuda)

London, Mar 20 -- Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0724, UTC: General cargo Corner Brook (7587 gt, built 1976) reports fire in engine-room in lat 49 05N, long 24 02W. The engine-room has been flooded with carbon dioxide, and the crew are waiting to re-enter.

London, Mar 20 -- Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1425, UTC: General cargo Corner Brook: Fire is contained in the engine-room and boundary is being cooled. Crew are not going to open up the engine-room in order to ensure there is no further spread of fire. They are running on auxiliary generator power. Tug Fairplay IX is due to depart UK waters around this time, ETA on scene in about two to three days.

London, Mar 21 -- Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0901, UTC: The fire on board general cargo Corner Brook is believed to have been extinguished, and boundary temperatures have fallen. The vessel is currently disabled but has electrical power. Position at 0800, UTC, lat 49 25N, long 23 25W. Tug Fairplay IX is proceeding from Falmouth, ETA on scene am, Mar 23.

CTMA VACANCIER (Canada)

London, Mar 21 -- Passenger ro/ro CTMA Vacancier (11481 gt, built 1973) sustained hull damage, just above waterline, in way of the forepeak tank, when navigating in ice conditions in lat 49N, long 64W, at 2000, EST, Mar 12..

DAIHATSU MARU NO.8 (Japan)

Moji, Mar 23 -- Vehicle Daihatsu Maru No.8, collision with barge Eikei: Daihatsu Maru No.8: Necessary repairs were completed on Mar 16 and it returned to normal trading on the same day. Eikei arrived at a shipyard in Wakamatsu Mar 12 but left there without effecting any repairs Mar 15. According to the shipyard, owners stated that the barge would be scrapped. -- Lloyd's Agents.

EIKEI

See Daihatsu Maru No.8.

ELANTA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Mar 18 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: The Port Authority advised general cargo Elanta departed Chios Island at 0500, Mar 10 in tow of tug Atlas bound Nemrut Bay.

ENTERPRISE (Antigua & Barbuda, not NIS as before reported)

London, Mar 18 -- Following received from Australia RCC, timed 1025, UTC:

Bulk Enterprise, V2OL7, brokedown shortly after sailing Port Kemba Mar 16 and vessel was towed back to Port Kembla and reported alongside at 0858, Mar 16.

ERICH WOGÉ (Germany)

See Mayon

FARLEY MOWAT (Canada)

Halifax, Mar 21 -- Research Farley Mowat was not able to be repaired at Liverpool, Nova Scotia, due to prior commitments of the slipway. The vessel departed Liverpool unrepaired on Mar 16 and is now located at Eastport, Maine, USA. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FAUNA (Russia)

Istanbul, Mar 22 -- General cargo Fauna (1772 gt, built 1985) Ashdod for Ilichevsk, had engine breakdown, drifted and contacted an iron parapet while transitting Bosphorus, today. Vessel sailed by its own means and anchored off Istanbul. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Fauna, Ashdod for Ilichevsk, passed Istanbul east Mar 20.)

FJORD CHAMPION (NIS)

Kristiansand, Mar 18 -- Product tanker Fjord Champion is docked in Kristiansand for inspection and temporary repair of hull. No decision has been taken for scrapping or leaving the port of Kristiansand. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FOTINI LADY (Liberia)

Piraeus, Mar 18 -- Crude oil tanker Fotini Lady arrived Skaramanga Oct 22. The vessel completed repairs and sailed Nov 22 for the UAE. -- Lloyd's Agents.

GERRITA (NIS)

Brest, Mar 18 -- Crude oil tanker Gerrita is still in the port of Brest. Completion of repairs is expected approximately mid April. -- Lloyd's Agents.

GLORY BRIDGE (Liberia)

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated Mar 18, states: C.c. Glory Bridge (29872 gt, built 1980), Far East for Europe, with containers, had a fire on board Mar 14 and requested a Saudi Arabian port for refuge. There are potential claims for General Average arising from the incident. (Note -- Glory Bridge sailed Singapore Feb 25 for Genoa.)

GRAND VIEW (Liberia)

London, Mar 21 -- C.c. Grand View sailed Singapore Mar 12 for Salalah.

HARDWAR (India)

London, Mar 18 -- Bulk Hardwar, bound Taranto, passed Tarifa Feb 27 and last reported to have sailed Venice Mar 15 for Nemrut Bay.

HEIAN (Panama)

Yokohama, Mar 17 -- C.c. Heian arrived Osaka Mar 16, from Miike, and sailed same day for Kobe where it arrived same day.

HENRIETTE (NIS)

London, Mar 23 -- General cargo Henriette sailed Haugesund Mar 17.

HOWARD OLSEN (U.S.A.)

See Millicoma

IDATEN (Japan)

See "Malacca Strait" under "Piracy."

INDEPENDENCE (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 21 -- Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 2115, UTC: Fish factory Independence (5716 gt, built 1938), with 204 persons on board, has lost steering and has been adrift in lat 58 18N, long 145 13.3W, since approximately 0800, local time, today. Weather in area is very bad. Two Coast Guard cutters are enroute, along with a sistership which can tow Independence if necessary. An AMVER vessel has also been tasked to stand by and should be on scene in about four hours.

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Seattle-based fish factory Independence, carrying 204 people, was drifting rudderless in the Gulf of Alaska yesterday evening, prompting a rescue response from the US Coast Guard. Two Coast Guard cutters and a C-130 aircraft were dispatched to help the Independence, a vessel owned by Trident Seafoods of Seattle. The vessel isn't in danger of sinking, said company representative Joe Plesha. But without steering, the vessel has turned so that its side is facing oncoming waves, he said, rather than the bow. Though conditions are uncomfortable for the crew, "it's certainly not taking in water. It's certainly not in danger of anything but being tossed a bit," Plesha said. The vessel is in seas reaching 20 feet and winds up to 60 knots, said Coast Guard spokesman Chief Roger Wetherell. The first Coast Guard cutter was expected to reach the vessel around 2300, yesterday. The 356-foot vessel, the company's largest floating processor, was returning from fishing waters in Alaska when the problem occurred, Plesha said. It left Seattle in January. Plesha said there were no signs of problems with the steering before this incident. The Coast Guard got a report yesterday morning that the vessel was having a problem with one of its three rudders. The vessel later reported it had lost its steering. It was drifting about 95 miles south of Kayak Island, 62 miles south-east of Cordova.

London, Mar 22 -- A Coast Guard Kodiak press release, dated Mar 21, states: A Coast Guard C-130 is on scene with fish factory Independence and Coast Guard cutters are continuing to the vessel's position. The fish processing ship lost steering and began drifting earlier today in the Gulf of Alaska. The Coast Guard received a report earlier this morning from crewmembers onboard the Seattle-based Independence of an engineering problem with one of the ship's three rudders. Later, a crewmember reported to the Coast Guard here that the ship's steering had failed, leaving the ship to drift

about 95 miles south of Kayak Island which is 62 miles southeast of Cordova. The vessel is on a one hour communication schedule with the Coast Guard Command Centre in Juneau. Crews onboard the Kodiak-based cutter Storis and Alameda based Morgenthau are en route the ship's location to assist Independence and its crew. Morgenthau is expected to arrive on scene around 2230 hrs. Storis was diverted from another mission and will arrive at about 0300 tomorrow. In addition to Coast Guard assets the vessel's owner has arranged for a tug to assist the vessel. The tug is expected to arrive tomorrow afternoon. Independence's sister ship, Seattle Enterprise, is also en route. The C-130 crew reported on scene weather conditions at the ship's position as 20-foot seas with winds at 50 knots. Blowing snow and a low ceiling have limited visibility to one and one half miles. A C-130 will remain on scene with the vessel until further notice. No injuries have been reported.

Seattle, Mar 22 -- Trident Seafood's fish factory Independence is adrift 100 miles off coast of Alaska with 204 crew on board. Ship is not in imminent danger but there is some concern for safety of crew in 20 ft seas and 60 knot winds. Vessel said to be making three knots at present. Coast Guard C-130 standing by. Tentative plans are to have vessel towed to sheltered waters and then towed to Ketchikan for repairs. Information verified by Tom Ford, Port Engineer for Trident Seafoods. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 22 -- Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1525, UTC: Fish factory Independence is still adrift without power. Vessel's position was lat 58 36.4N, long 145 41.9W, at 1430, UTC. A Coast Guard cutter has just arrived on scene and another is proceeding to the casualty in order to take it in tow.

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Coast Guard cutter took fish factory Independence that had been adrift in the Gulf of Alaska under tow today. "The seas have died down substantially," said Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Roger Wetherell. Cutters Storis and Morgenthau arrived on the scene today, at which point a Kodiak-based C-130 crew left, the Coast Guard said. Storis took Independence under tow. They are headed toward Cape Spencer and Juneau. Tug Chahunta was to take over the tow when they rendezvous. The vessel's trouble began about 0700 yesterday, when the port rudder failed as the ship was heading back to Seattle following the end of its cod season, according to Trident attorney Joe Plesha. Crew members disconnected a hydraulic piston driving the damaged rudder. About noon, the piston controlling the vessel's other two rudders also failed. The system is not designed to operate on just one piston, Plesha said. The cause of the system failure is not yet known, Plesha said. "The ship still has its own power," he said. "It's not an issue of power but of steering."

INTREPID B. (U.K.)

Avonmouth, Mar 22 -- Tug Intrepid B. left Fishguard about two weeks ago bound for MacDuff shipyard. -- Lloyd's Agents.

IRVING JOHNSON (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ten college students and their 10 sailing instructors were rescued in pounding surf yesterday after a twin-masted sailing vessel ran aground in heavy seas near a jetty in Oxnard. "They were shivering from cold, but otherwise OK," said David Reyes, an Oxnard fire captain. Three of those rescued were taken to a hospital for treatment of possible hypothermia and minor bruises. Officials said training Irving Johnson (85 gt, built 2003), a 90-foot vessel operated by the Los Angeles Maritime Institute in San Pedro, was approaching the entrance to Channel Islands Harbour at 1555, local time. They said the vessel was using its diesel engine to manoeuvre when it struck an uncharted sandbar apparently created by heavy seas during the night. Capt. Jim Gladson, president of the institute, said strong currents and powerful seas generated by an approaching storm prevented the vessel's captain, Doug Corey, from regaining control. As the vessel drifted south of the harbour entrance, narrowly skirting a rock jetty and heading toward the beach, someone on board radioed that Irving Johnson was in trouble. The wooden vessel, completed in 2003 and built to resemble a 19th century windjammer, ran aground a few yards from the beach. Large waves began breaking over the side, threatening to drive the vessel against the boulders of the jetty. Moments after the vessel ran aground, four people washed overboard. They were pulled from the surf by rescuers from the Coast Guard and harbour patrol. Everyone on board was wearing a lifejacket. Tom Law, a Ventura County fire captain, said local rescue teams were summoned. Law, a member of one of the teams, said the vessel was in danger of breaking up, and it quickly became apparent that the 16 on board had to jump into the water to be rescued. "It was our only option," Law said. "There were people who didn't want to jump, but they knew we meant business." A tugboat will be brought in today to try to drag Irving Johnson to safety. Officials expressed optimism that the effort would succeed. Gladson said the vessel had left the Port of Los Angeles on Friday (Mar 18) for a weeklong training exercise among the Channel Islands. He said the vessel was making a regularly scheduled stop at Oxnard, a port the vessel visits regularly, when the mishap occurred. "We've had Irving Johnson in and out of here many times, so having this happen is quite a surprise," said Lynn Krieger, director of the Ventura County Harbour Department. The entrance to the harbour had been surveyed as recently as Sunday, so the hidden sandbar must have formed

overnight, Gladson said. Irving Johnson is one of two tall ships built for about \$8.5 million for use in training young people to sail. The students on board attend different colleges and are on spring break. Gladson said. They are participants in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars program, based at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Fourteen of the students and crew members were taken to a local Red Cross shelter for the night.

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ocean salvors were working today on ways to refloat training brigantine Irving Johnson that went aground near Oxnard, a U.S. Coast Guard lieutenant said. Salvage teams hired by the ship's owner met at first light to prepare an attempt to refloat the vessel at high tide around 0730 hrs, said U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Tim List. But the vessel remained aground some three hours later, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Prentice Danner. Irving Johnson went aground on a rock jetty at the entrance to Channel Island Harbour near Oxnard about 1530 yesterday, Danner said. The 20 passengers onboard the \$4.5 million twin-masted sailing ship were college professors and honor students who volunteered to spend their spring breaks learning to sail. No one was injured. High surf violently tossed the ship yesterday, complicating efforts to stabilize it and pull it back to sea, List said. The diesel engine on the sail ship presents some pollution concerns. Crews could not remove any of the ship's fuel yesterday because of the surf, List said.

London, Mar 23 -- A press report, dated Mar 22, states: Ocean salvors today will attempt to tug back into deep water training Irving Johnson that went aground near Oxnard, a U.S. Coast Guard lieutenant said. Salvage teams hired by the ship's owner will wait for the nighttime high tide before trying to refloat it. Divers are inspecting the hull for damage. The engine-room apparently is flooded and will have to be pumped out before the vessel can be floated to a dock. A tug is heading up from Los Angeles to tow the vessel sometime after high tide, which is expected at about 2200 hrs. High surf violently tossed the ship yesterday, complicating efforts to stabilize it and pull it back to sea. The diesel engine on the sail ship presents some pollution concerns. Crews couldn't remove any of the ship's fuel yesterday because of the surf, List said, adding that refloating the ship is "the safest way to remove that from being a threat."

ISLAND GEM (Greece)

London, Mar 18 -- Bulk Island Gem sailed Newport Mar 16 for Hamburg.

JAAMI (Bangladesh)

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

KAREN DANIELSEN (Bahamas)

Aarhus, Mar 21 -- General cargo Karen Danielsen is still at Nyborg, and

tenders from yards are expected within the next week. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Gothenburg, Mar 21 -- General cargo Karen Danielsen: According to the first preliminary report from the Sea-Protest hearings the cause was mainly due to the chief officer's drunkenness but also in combination with the (poor) supervision from the VTS central. Since no-one else beside the chief officer was drunk or affected, no other party involved and no explanation to his behaviour on duty, and as far as known there were no problems when he took over the watch duty. It was also said that the master's call for help was ignored by the VTS centre, expecting the Lyngby Radio to respond. They were informed by the police after people called in from their mobile phones wanting to report the accident. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

KARMSUND (Norway)

Trondheim, Mar 17 -- General cargo Karmsund: Repairs have been completed and it sailed yesterday morning for a port in southern Norway. -- Lloyd's Agents.

KYROS (Cook Islands)

Trondheim, Mar 21 -- General cargo Kyros is still under repair, ETC not known. -- Lloyd's Agents.

LIFANA (Netherlands)

Maassluis, Mar 17 -- At 2215 hrs, today, incoming general cargo Lifana (1116 gt, built 1983), PFOC, was in collision with outgoing general cargo OPDR Porto (4115 gt, built 1998), EAZS. Lifana proceeded to its berth "Elbehaven ADM CWP - 5842". OPDR Porto came back to check for damage and is now on its way to "Calandsteiger No.2 - 5384". -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

LUJIN II (North Korea)

Bucharest, Mar 17 -- General cargo Lujin II sailed Constantza Mar 16. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MAERSK ROSYTH (U.K.)

London, Mar 21 -- Understood salvage services were rendered on Mar 18 to product tanker Maersk Rosyth (22184 gt, built 2003) under Lloyd's Open Form by Les Abeilles International/Wijismuller Salvage BV. (Note -- Maersk Rosyth sailed Rotterdam 0930, Mar 16, passed Dover same day, arrived Port Jerome Mar 18 and sailed Mar 19 for Rotterdam where arrived 1155, today.)

London, Mar 22 -- A Cesam report, timed 1504 today, states: Services were rendered to product tanker Maersk Rosyth, bound Port Jerome, cargo chemicals, under Lloyd's Open Form on Mar 18 following machinery damage.

MANDARIN (Cyprus)

London, Mar 22 -- Bulk Mandarin (18311 gt, built 2003) lost an anchor when departing Punta Lobitos for Canada, at 1900, UTC, Feb 14. (Note - - Mandarin passed Panama Canal Feb 21 for Belledune.)

MARITIME ANTALYA (Panama)

London, Mar 21 -- Following received from Coast Guard Japan, timed 2045, UTC: Bulk Maritime Antalya (30053 gt, built 2002), cargo 48,000 tonnes corn, was reported taking water in No 1 and 2 holds Mar 19. Last reported position lat 45 21N, long 157 00E. Two Japan patrol vessels are near the vessel and will escort it towards Japan. A tug is also enroute ETA on scene not known. (Note -- Maritime Antalya sailed New Orleans Feb 14 and passed through Panama Canal Feb 23.)

London, Mar 22 -- Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 1145, UTC: Bulk Maritime Antalya was reported in lat 44 18N, long 154 09E at 1100, UTC. The next port of call is unknown.

MARITIME WISDOM (Singapore)

London, Mar 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Bulk Maritime Wisdom (38379 gt, built 1993) was in collision with barge Prapati, owned by Atraya Shipping Private Ltd, four nautical miles off the Goa coast, this morning. Captain of the ports A P Mascarehas said today that the collision occurred at around 0110 hrs, off the Agauda. Both the vessels were transporting iron ore. In the collision, the fuel tank of Maritime Wisdom was damaged and about 110 tonnes of oil was spilt. Mormugao Port Trust (MPT) responded and precautionary measures have been taken. The Coast Guard has also been alerted, he said. The situation is under control and no causality has been reported so far, Mr Mascarehas added. (Note -- Maritime Wisdom sailed Singapore Mar 1 for Mumbai.)

MARWA M. (Tonga)

Valletta, Mar 21 -- General cargo Marwa M., that had been bought by Cassar Ship Repair Yard in a judicial sale by auction held early in 2003, was subsequently sold to Redmond Shipping Co. Ltd. on Jan 6. The vessel is still in Malta in the Grand Harbour. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MASSACHUSETTS (U.S.A.)

Suva, Mar 20 -- Trawler Massachusetts: Situation unchanged. It appears that there are no interested parties to purchase the vessel and the current owners have no intention to have it repaired. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MAYON (Netherlands)

Duisburg, Mar 21 -- Investigations reveal that non specific tankers Mayon and Erich Woge collided during heavy fog near Dusseldorf on Feb 20 when going upstream and respectively downstream the Rhine. During this, cargo is supposed to have run out of Mayon. The repair costs for Erich Woge amount to around Euro 50,000. However, this vessel has already been repaired at the Triton shipyard in Duisburg and is in operation again. The hull damage to Mayon is some Euro 110,000 and the vessel is being repaired at a shipyard in The Netherlands. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MILLICOMA (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Crews worked today to retrieve tank barge Millicoma (4355 gt, built 1985) that broke away from tug Howard Olsen near the Columbia River Bar and ran aground in a cove near North Head, north of the river's mouth. Although the barge's cargo tanks were empty, 5,000 gallons of diesel fuel remained in a double-hulled tank, said Gary Faber of Foss Maritime, which owns the tug. No fuel had leaked by this evening, the U.S. Coast Guard said in a joint press release with the Washington state Department of Ecology. Howard Olsen was pulling Millicoma in severe weather crossing the bar when a towline broke last night, the press release said. The barge drifted three and a half miles to a cove near North Head in Washington state, where it was located this morning. The barge was heavily damaged, Faber said. He said his company contacted the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality as well as the Coast Guard, and Washington state Department of Ecology. "We have response personnel on scene to retrieve the barge when the severe weather breaks and allows us access to the barge," he said. An environmental response company has sent a team to the site in case there is a spill, the press release said. The cause of the accident was being investigated. No injuries were reported. A second barge being towed by the tug did not break loose and reached moorage in Portland, Ore.

London, Mar 21 -- A Coast Guard Seaview, Wash, report, dated today, states: Personnel from the US Coast Guard, the Washington State Department of Ecology, Foss Maritime and Sause Brothers have organized at Pacific County's Seaview Fire Department to coordinate efforts to respond to the grounded tank barge Millicoma that parted from tug Howard Olsen while entering the Columbia River Saturday evening (Mar 19). While the barge was cleaned and empty, it does have diesel fuel onboard that is used to power a generator. Responders believe that no diesel has been released into the environment from the fuel tank. Today the joint effort will survey damage to the barge and develop a plan to remove the diesel. It will also be making preparations to refloat and free the barge from the cove near the North Head Lighthouse. The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will close off the area around the lighthouse to the public today to provide a staging area for equipment and to protect safety of the public and responders while they conduct the survey. Access to the Cape Disappointment State Park will be blocked on North Jetty Road. A large amount of equipment has been moved into place for the effort, including several tugs, a helicopter for overflights, mobile command post, and, if needed, shoreline cleaning equipment and a wildlife rescue trailer. Once the damage survey is

completed, the agencies will begin to stage resources for removing fuel, freeing the barge, and preparing for the potential of a pollution response in the event that diesel onboard is released. The joint command includes the US Coast Guard, the Washington Department of Ecology, Foss Maritime Company and owner of the barge, Sause Bros, of Portland. Also participating are the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Marine Spill Response Corporation and National Response Corporation, and Fred Devine Diving & Salvage. The Seaview Fire Department is supporting the effort by providing use of its facilities. To date, there have been no injuries to responders or salvage crews. A command post has been established at the Seaview Fire Department.

Seattle, Mar 21 -- Tank barge Millicoma: Weather severe at present and delay in retrieval highly likely. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated Mar 21, states: Tank barge Millicoma, containing as much as 5,000 gallons of diesel fuel, broke free from a tug and ran aground in an area rich with wildlife and historic landmarks, authorities said. The tug was pulling two barges across the Columbia River in severe weather Saturday night when one ran aground after drifting. Two environmental clean-up companies had crews and equipment at the scene by early today but were unable to deploy containment booms because of high wind and waves, said Sandy Howard, a spokeswoman for the state Ecology Department. "The weather has been really blowing hard this morning, battering the barge into the rocks," Howard said. Cargo holds of Millicoma were empty, but there was some diesel fuel in a double-hulled 5,000-gallon fuel tank, said Gary Faber of Foss Maritime, which owns the tug. No injuries were reported. The cause of the accident was under investigation. Faber said the barge was heavily damaged.

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated Mar 21, states: A three-man crew was dispatched yesterday afternoon to assess the amount of fuel on board tank barge Millicoma, which broke free from a tug and ran aground on rocks near the North Head lighthouse, north of the mouth of the Columbia River. The crew were also discussing ways to recover the barge, Coast Guard spokesman Petty Officer Mike Zolzer said. With no sign of a spill, "right now the priority is recovery of the barge -- how to free it from the cove where it ran aground," he said. "It's continuing to batter with the waves," said Sandy Howard, a spokeswoman with the state Department of Ecology. The damaged barge is taking on water. The team was also getting a better idea of the amount of diesel fuel involved -- estimated at between 3,000 and 5,000 gallons. The fuel could be removed from the barge using portable "totes" that could be dropped on board, filled

and then removed by helicopter, Howard said. The assessment team was made up of representatives from two environmental clean-up companies called to the scene. Containment booms were on standby, Zolzer said. "Today they're just assessing how they're going to go about freeing it," he said of the barge. The barge ran aground at the weekend (Mar 19-20). Coast Guard personnel and crews from National Response Corp and Marine Spill Response Corp were at the scene, near Cape Disappointment State Park in an area rich with wildlife, razor-clam beds, waterfowl areas and historic landmarks, Howard said. The barge's cargo holds were empty; the diesel fuel on board was in a double-hulled 5,000-gallon fuel tank, Gary Faber of Foss Maritime said earlier. Faber described the barge as heavily damaged. Tug Howard Olsen was pulling two barges across the Columbia River bar when a towline snapped in severe weather on Saturday night, and Millicoma ran aground in a small cove after drifting for three-and-a-half miles. The other barge remained attached and was towed to a moorage at Portland. The cause of the accident was being investigated. No injuries were reported.

MOAWIN (Pakistan)

London, Mar 17 -- A press report, dated Mar 16, states: The death toll from last week's fire on board a Pakistan navy vessel in the port city of Karachi has risen to 35. Doctors said the condition of another 24 of the wounded remained critical and that there could be more fatalities. Last Thursday's (Mar 10) fire initially claimed the lives of six people but left another 95 seriously hurt. Officials said a fireball engulfed the PNS Moawin logistics vessel during routine maintenance and may have been caused by human error. The dead include eight officers, along with other sailors and civilian workers. At least 60 people were still being treated for severe burns, officials said. Twenty-nine people have succumbed to their injuries since the fire broke out. The wounded are being treated at navy hospitals in Karachi and the southern Punjab town of Kharian, where the military hospital has a special unit for treating burns victims. The injured were evacuated from the vessel using helicopters and boats while a security ring was thrown around the area, correspondents said. The cause of the fire is still being investigated. The PNS Moawin, an auxiliary vessel that serves as one of two fleet tankers, was initially believed to be badly damaged but later reports suggested otherwise. "The damage to the ship was not much because there was just one mighty fireball," a navy official said.

OPDR PORTO (Canary Islands)

See Lifana.

PACIFIC SKY (U.K.)

London, Mar 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: The 1,310

passengers on board passenger Pacific Sky will make a premature return home following technical damage to the vessel. Yesterday the passengers arrived in Noumea two and a half days after their last visit. The vessel arrived, very slowly, at the container quay at midday yesterday. Since the damage, which occurred between Australia and New Caledonia, the vessel operated on only one turbine. According to the vessel's agents, the master waited to see how his vessel reacted between Noumea and the Isle of Pines before making a decision. This morning, two Qantas Boeing 747s were to take some of the passengers to Brisbane and third was to take passengers to Sydney this afternoon.

London, Mar 21 -- At 1939, UTC, today, passenger Pacific Sky was at sea bound Brisbane.

Noumea, Mar 22 -- Passenger Pacific Sky left Noumea Friday afternoon (Mar 18) for Brisbane with one engine still running but a slow speed. Understand repairs will be done at Brisbane. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PALAWAN (Antigua & Barbuda)

Dubai, Mar 19 -- Repairs to ro/ro Palawan are expected to commence today. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PAULA (Republic of Ireland)

Trondheim, Mar 18 -- Trawler Paula arrived Edsvik Skipsbyggeri AS shipyard Mar 17. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PRAPATI (India)

See Maritime Wisdom.

PYTHON (Belgium)

London, Mar 18 -- Belgian inland non specific tanker Python, bound Antwerp, loaded with a cargo of 732 tons of diesel oil, ran aground on a flat sandbank in the River Scheldt, between the Schaar van Valkenisse and the Zimmerman Geul, yesterday morning. The grounding was one hour after high water at 0845, local time. According to the master of the vessel, the incident was due to malfunction of navigation instruments. At low water, vessel was lying dry all around. The master refused the aid of the three tugs from Multraship that came to assist. A tug from Antwerp via his managing office was ordered, but this tug came too late to assist. At high water on the next tide, at about 1930, Mar 17, master manoeuvred on vessel's own power, assisted by vessel Arne, back to the main fairway. An investigation was held, there was no damage to the tanker and it proceeded to Antwerp.

RICKMERS GENOA (Marshall Islands)

London, Mar 18 -- Following received from the operators of general cargo Rickmers Genoa, dated today: Rickmers Genoa is still anchored in the Yangtze River estuary.

London, Mar 21 -- A report, dated today, states: Rickmers-Linie said its general cargo Rickmers Genoa, which was involved in a collision on Mar 8, is

anchored at Shanghai roads. Rickmers said the vessel will proceed to Shanghai port once a fire on board has been finally extinguished, whereupon damage to the vessel and its cargo will be assessed.

London, Mar 23 -- Following received from the operators of general cargo Rickmers Genoa, dated today: Rickmers Genoa is still anchored at Shanghai roads. It is not presently known when the vessel will be able to enter port.

ROSE (Tuvalu)

Reunion, Mar 19 -- Understand from Reunion MRCC that vessel Rose, length 103 metres, grounded off southern Madagascar on Mar 17. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Reunion, Mar 19 -- Vessel Rose grounded south of Mahajanga. All 15 crew have been safely evacuated from the vessel. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Reunion, Mar 22 -- Vessel Rose grounded on Mar 14, in Baly Bay, in lat 16 01 37.6S, long 45.04 46.5E. It seems that the vessel took fire sometime later for unknown reasons. Oil marine pollution suspected and now ascertained. Crewmembers, 13 from India and two from Ghana, have been transferred to Antananarivo for official investigations. -- Lloyd's Agents.

RYU GYONG (North Korea)

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

SAIL (Belize)

Piraeus, Mar 18 -- General cargo Sail sailed from Lesvos Island Mar 16, bound for Turkey. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SAINT ENOGAT (South Africa)

Cape Town, Mar 22 -- Fish factory Saint Enogat is still lying sunk alongside the berth at Cape Town. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SAPPHIRE PRINCESS (Bermuda)

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated Mar 20, states: Passengers on board passenger Sapphire Princess (115875 gt, built 2004) have reported the vessel is "limping" to Malaysia after a malfunction in an engine turbine between Darwin and Indonesia on Tuesday (Mar 15). Passengers have reported the vessel was travelling so slowly, a scheduled stop in Bali was cancelled. Two passengers, who paid (Aus)\$7500 each for the 18-day cruise to Thailand, were angry the stopover was cancelled to make up time. The ship is due to arrive in Thailand next weekend. P&O Cruises spokesman John Richardson said crew members were having trouble starting one of the gas turbines used to boost the ship's speed from 17 to 22 knots. "The gas turbines operate separately to the diesel engine, which is fine, and they allow the boat to perform high speeds," he said. A technician is due to join the boat in Singapore on Tuesday morning, and Mr Richardson said any delayed passengers would be compensated. Many of the 2700 passengers boarded Sapphire

Princess in Sydney on Mar 7. Brisbane passengers boarded the vessel on Mar 9. (Note -- Sapphire Princess sailed Darwin Mar 15 for Bali, and was reported at 1157, UTC, today, at sea heading towards Singapore.)

London, Mar 22 -- Passenger Sapphire Princess arrived Singapore 0830, local time, today, from Port Klang, and sailed 1815, local time, for Vung Tau. At 1815, UTC, Sapphire Princess was at sea bound Vung Tau.

SCHIEBORG (Netherlands)

Bremen, Mar 22 -- Ro/ro Schieborg is under repair at Bremerhavener Dock GmbH and will be staying there for at least a further week. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SEA EAGLE S. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Piraeus, Mar 18 -- General cargo Sea Eagle S. was refloated Mar 13 and is still in the area near the "Mirmigia" islands, off Salamis. Reportedly, long cracks in the bottom of the hull were found, along with damage in the engine-room. Underwater repairs have already commenced and are expected to be completed Mar 19. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SIRIUS (Russia)

Mariupol, Mar 21 -- General cargo Sirius is still aground. There have been no developments in the vessel's situation, due to stormy weather. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SKIATHOS DOLPHIN (Greece)

Piraeus, Mar 18 -- Ferry Skiathos Dolphin completed repairs and sailed Volos Jan 19 for Skiathos island. The vessel is operating between Volos, Skiathos, Skopelos and Alonissos. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTHERN HARRIER

Cape Town, Mar 22 -- Fishing Southern Harrier is still lying sunk at the berth in Cape Town. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SPIRIT OF VANCOUVER ISLAND (Canada)

London, Mar 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro Spirit of Vancouver Island was back in service yesterday, a day ahead of schedule and in time for the spring break. The vessel was taken out of service Sunday (Mar 13) after a mechanical problem that created huge delays at the end of the weekend and into this week.

STAR DRIVANGER (Singapore)

See Christy.

STEEL QUEEN (Netherlands)

London, Mar 22 -- Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1015, UTC: General cargo Steel Queen (2540 gt, built 2003), PBDM, grounded outside Oxelosund Mar 20. The vessel is still aground and has damage to a ballast tank.

STENA DANICA (Sweden)

Gothenburg, Mar 18 -- Passenger ro/ro Stena Danica sailed Gothenburg

0930, local time, Mar 18, for Frederikshavn. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

TOLEDO (NIS)

London, Mar 18 -- A press report, dated Mar 17, states: Vehicle Toledo (62800 gt, built 2005) when leaving the north lock, Bremerhaven, was in contact with the east jetty, damaging it slightly, at 2300, Mar 15. The vessel sustained a tear 15 cm long, eight metres above the waterline. Toledo berthed at Columbuskaje for repairs. (Note -- Toledo arrived Bremerhaven 2220, Mar 12, sailed 1150, Mar 16 and arrived Zeebrugge 0809, Mar 17.)

TRANS ARCTIC (NIS)

See "Brittany, France" under "Pollution".

TRI SAMUDRA (Indonesia)

See "Malacca Strait" under "Piracy."

TV (Canada)

London, Mar 18 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Port Everglades' beaches reopened to surfers and swimmers at 1530, today after the Environmental Protection Agency gave the city a clean bill of health. The beaches were closed after yacht TV (248 gt, built 2004) crashed into the north jetty at the entrance channel to Port Everglades last night. City officials feared the vessel was leaking diesel fuel. Coast Guard officials said the spill was small and cannot confirm whether it came from the grounded yacht. A towing company sent a 96-foot salvage tug to salvage the vessel, which had eight crew members aboard. "There are several thousand gallons of fuel on board," said Chloe Smith, of the towing company. "Obviously that represents an environmental concern."

London, Mar 18 -- Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 0900, UTC: Yacht TV: Small oil spill reported. Vessel is currently alongside the jetty at Port Everglades.

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated Mar 19, states: Yacht TV that ran aground on the north jetty of the entrance channel to Port Everglades earlier this week, was refloated yesterday afternoon and taken to a repair centre. Salvors waited until high tide to set the 116-foot vessel free. Divers patched the damaged yacht and crews pumped 5,000 gallons of diesel fuel off the vessel. The yacht ran aground as it was entering the channel Wednesday night (Mar 16). An investigation is under way to determine how the accident occurred, said U.S. Coast Guard spokesperson Anastasia Burns.

URSULA LEONHARDT (Malta)

Brest, Mar 11 -- General cargo Ursula, ex Ursula Leonhardt, sailed Brest Mar 10 in tow of tug Ocean Lady, bound Mali Losinj. -- Lloyd's Agents.

VOYAGER (Bahamas)

Genoa, Mar 18 -- Passenger Voyager is still at Mariotti shipyard, Genoa,

under repairs which are expected to be carried out until the end of April. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ZIM NOVOROSIYSK (Malta)

London, Mar 22 -- C.c. Zim Novorossiysk arrived Haifa Mar 19.



MALACCA STRAIT

London, Mar 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: Malaysian police said yesterday they have found a fishing boat suspected of being one of three used by pirates who attacked a Japanese tugboat and abducted three of its crew earlier this week. Police also hinted they now have an idea where the hostages -- two Japanese and a Filipino -- are being held. Marine Police Force Commander Abdul Rahman Ahmad confirmed that police have found a fishing boat that could have been used by the pirates when they attacked salvage tug Idaten on Monday (Mar 14). The pirates, who witnesses said numbered between 10 and 14, attacked in three falsely registered fishing boats and were armed with M-16 machine guns and rocket launchers. "We detained one boat and a few crew," Abdul Rahman said, adding that at least one of them is Malaysian. He said the boat bears the same registration number given by witnesses on the tugboat and the barge. In Japan, the tugboat operator, Kitakyushu-based Kondo Kaiji, said it is willing to pay a ransom for the skipper and two other crew members taken captive. Hideo Ishii, managing director of Kondo Kaiji, told a morning news conference that while it was "completely the company's own view," it would respond to any ransom demands by the pirates who attacked the tug. He added, however, that there has been no word from the pirates or their captives since they were spirited away Monday. (See issue of Mar 16.)

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Pirates have released two Indonesian sailors taken hostage last weekend (Mar 12-13) in the Malacca Strait. An Indonesian navy spokesman said the men were the captain and engineer of product tanker Tri Samudra. The spokesman said the hostage-takers had not been identified, and he did not know whether a ransom was paid. The two Indonesians were kidnapped on Saturday or Sunday last week when a gang of more than 30 pirates armed with machine guns and rocket launchers boarded the Indonesian-registered ship. The kidnappers demanded a ransom of two billion rupiah (\$211,449, £110,000) from the owners of the ship.

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Armed pirates have freed the captain and two crewmen they kidnapped from

Japanese salvage tug Idaten in the Strait of Malacca last week, a Japanese embassy official says. "They are safe and that's all the information I have," the embassy spokesman in Kuala Lumpur said. "The details will be released later." Earlier, Japan's Kyodo news agency said Japanese captain 56-year-old Nobuo Inoue, 50-year-old Japanese chief engineer Shunji Kuroda, and 41-year-old Filipino third engineer Edgardo Sadang, of the Japanese-registered Idaten had been found on a boat in the strait off the southern Thai coastal town of Satun. Police in Satun said two Japanese and one Filipino had arrived there yesterday night and were staying at a safe house. The chairman of the shipping company that owned the tugboat received news of the men's release in the early hours of today, the embassy spokesman in Kuala Lumpur said. The spokesman said Kondo Kanji, chairman of the Kondo Kaiji company, was on his way to meet the three to confirm their safety. More than 10 armed pirates on a small boat fired on Idaten on Mar 15, before boarding it and kidnapping the three. Idaten carried 14 crew when it was attacked. After the three were taken, the tugboat headed for the nearby island of Penang, off Malaysia's west coast, where it remains.



GIBRALTAR

Gibraltar, Mar 18 -- Chem.tank Catalyst is still under detention and is awaiting the Port Surveyor's decision regarding release. -- Lloyd's Agents.



AGIOS SPYRIDON K. (Greece)

London, Mar 18 -- A report in the Mar 18 issue of "Newsfront" states: Ro/ro Agios Spyridon K. has been listed for auction on Apr 6. Lying at Salamina, the vessel carries a reserve of Euros 350,000.

AIDA LUZ (Ecuador)

Santo Domingo, Mar 17 -- General cargo Aida Luz has been renamed Tia Mery, Sao Tome & Principe flag. The vessel sailed Santo Domingo Mar 9 for Cumaredo. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ALBATROS (Cambodia)

Trieste, Mar 17 -- Ro/ro Albatros is still under detention at Trieste. It is unknown if and when the vessel will be released by the Authorities. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ARDENT

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Trawler Ardent has been seized off the west coast of Ireland for alleged illegal fishing. It was detained 50 miles from Achill. The vessel is being escorted by the Navy to Galway for inspection by Department of the Marine officials.

BIGA (Canary Islands)

Bilbao, Mar 18 -- General cargo Biga is still under embargo at Bilbao. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FORTUNE 1 (Indonesia)

Cape Town, Mar 22 -- Fishing Fortune 1 sailed from Cape Town on Mar 15. -- Lloyd's Agents.

GEORGIOS 2 (Greece)

Piraeus, Mar 18 -- Ferry Georgios 2 was seized in early December, 2004, in pursuit of a claim of Euros 26,000. The claim amount was finally paid to the claimers, and the vessel was released on Dec 17 and returned to service. -- Lloyd's Agents.

INVINCIBLE (Mongolia)

Colombo, Mar 22 -- General cargo Invincible is still under arrest at Galle. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MARWA M. (Tonga)

See under "Marine."

MASTROGIORGIS B. (Panama)

Sydney, Mar 18 -- Understand that bulk Mastrogiorgis B. (39740 gt, built 1991), which arrived Newcastle (Aus) on Mar 14, was arrested as the result of unpaid charter fees. The vessel subsequently sailed on Mar 15. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Sydney, Mar 21 -- The arrest order for bulk Mastrogiorgis B. was lifted on Mar 18. On Mar 19 it was moved from the grain berth, Western Basin 3 to the Channel Berth, according to our shipping schedule, and is currently tied at the Channel Berth, and due to sail to Port Lincoln at some time today. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SAMARA CITY (Russia)

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated Mar 20, states: Product tanker Samara City (4407 gt, built 1993) has been detained for breaching shipping regulations in the outer roadstead of the port of Batumi. As an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by the coastal protection service of the Georgian border guard department, "the tanker, flying the Russian flag (port of registry Astrakhan), was on its way to Batumi to load up with petroleum products and in the outer roadstead of the port it lowered a motor boat in violation of Georgian and international legislation". The tanker, detained late last night, is in the roadstead of the port of Batumi and there are 15 crew on board. "The crew members have not been detained, and they all have the right to go to Batumi and to maintain contact with the relevant Russian services, if they so wish," the service said. For violating shipping rules, the owners of the

vessel face a fine of 50,000 lari (27,000 dollars), after payment of which the vessel will be released. The Russian side has been informed of the detention of the tanker.

Pollution



BRITTANY, FRANCE

Brest, Mar 18 -- Chemical/oil carrier Trans Arctic (5025 gt, built 1991) Bordeaux for Hamburg, loaded, a French custom aircraft noticed the presence of oil residues lying in the wake of the vessel. The Public Prosecutor's Department of Brest was advised and required the vessel to divert immediately towards Brest and arrived at 1300, Mar 18. No information obtained yet concerning the guarantee claimed by the High Court of Brest to release the vessel. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Trans Arctic sailed Bordeaux Mar 17 for Hamburg.)

Brest, Mar 22 -- Understand that a guarantee of 400, 000 Euros was claimed by the High Court of Brest to release chemical/oil carrier Trans Arctic. The vessel was authorised to depart from Brest on Mar 21, upon payment of the funds claimed. -- Lloyd's Agents.

DELAWARE RIVER, UNITED STATES

See Athos I under "Marine."

ST. CLAIR RIVER, ONTARIO, CANADA

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated Mar 18, states: Imperial Oil and a former employee of the company have been charged in last year's spill of 150,000 litres of industrial solvents into the St. Clair River. Methyl-ethyl ketone and methyl-isobutyl ketone entered the river in February, 2004, after mixing with cooling water in a leaky heat exchanger. The chemicals are used by Imperial Oil's plant in Sarnia, Ontario, to manufacture lubricating oils. The company commissioned an independent environmental group to study the human and ecological impacts of the spill. It concluded the accident posed no negative health or any long-term environmental effects. The spill forced communities downstream from the leak to close up their water treatment plants temporarily, for fear that the ketones could jeopardise water safety. Concerns were also raised about the general safety of the water supply in an area known as Chemical Valley for its concentration of chemical and petrochemical plants. After an investigation by the Ontario Environment Ministry, Imperial Oil and the process operator each face one count of depositing a deleterious substance in water frequented by fish. Imperial Oil and the employee will appear in a Sarnia court on Apr 12.

Weather & Navigation



AFGHANISTAN

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Severe floods across much of Afghanistan have killed at least 88 people and left thousands more homeless. The floods, triggered by heavy rain, hit the south-central province of Uruzgan, Farah and Ghor provinces in the west and Jawzjan in the north today. At least 88 people, most of them children, have been confirmed dead. Officials say more are feared dead in remote districts that have been cut off by the floods. The Interior Ministry says 85 died in Farah province, 680 km west of Kabul. A woman and two children were also killed in neighbouring Ghor province. "At least 21 elders and 64 children were drowned due to floods in Farah," press officer Dad Mohammed Rasa told AFP. In Uruzgan, scores of houses were destroyed. "Around 600 houses have been destroyed in the Deh Rawood district of Uruzgan province. They are in severe need of food and tents," ministry spokesman Lutfullah Mashal said. US military spokesman Major Steve Wollman says US-led forces, stationed in Uruzgan to battle the Taliban, used a helicopter to evacuate around 200 people stranded in an island in the middle of a river. In Ghor province, some 266 families have been displaced due to floods. "Some 63 families have been displaced in Chaghcharan, 40 in Charchana district, 100 families in Kanda district and 63 in Shahrak district of Ghor province," Mr Rasa said. In Jawzjan, around 600 people have been displaced in Khawaja Du Koh district and over 1,000 hectares of farmland has been washed away.

Kabul, Mar 20 -- Torrential rains have killed more than 200 people and destroyed thousands of houses in several parts of Afghanistan in recent days, officials said today. The worst hit areas were Deh Rawud district in the rugged central Uruzgan province and the western provinces of Farah and Herat, they said. "The deaths of 115 have been confirmed, while thousands of homes have been destroyed," Uruzgan's governor Jan Mohammad Khan said, adding that many more people were missing. US military Chinook and Black Hawk helicopters rescued around 250 people in the Deh Rawud District, some 70 km north-east of the US at Kandahar, after the Helmand river burst its banks. In Farah, 68 people died as a result of floods, its governor Assadullah Falah said. Officials reported 40 more deaths in Faryab and Ghor provinces. "We have reports of total destruction of 7,800 houses in Farah," Falah said, adding that large numbers of livestock had been killed. Some 2,500 houses had collapsed in

Herat province. Most houses in Afghanistan are built from mud and are highly vulnerable to flooding. Local officials also reported an outbreak of dysentery in Herat's mountainous and inaccessible Pashtun Zarghoon area. Afghanistan had its worst winter for over a decade after nearly six years of harsh drought. Several hundred people lost their lives during the winter and the current rains coupled with melting snow have caused the latest calamity. -- Reuters.

ANGOLA

London, Mar 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: Over 4,000 people have been cut off from surrounding areas by flood waters near the town of Dondo in the northern Angolan province of Cuanza Norte, where 10,000 people have already been made homeless by floods. According to official sources yesterday, the stranded group, from nine villages around the town of Massangano, about 170 kilometres east of the capital, urgently need drinking water and food supplies after taking refuge on high ground from flooding that began nearly a week ago after the River Kapacala burst its banks. The sources said the government and international relief NGOs have already sent emergency convoys to the afflicted region. The World Health Organization has sent a specialist epidemiologist to the northern province of Uige, where a suspected outbreak of acute hemorrhagic fever syndrome has claimed dozens of victims since January. This week, the outbreak had killed seven people and a total of 74 people have now died from the deadly condition, according to health officials in Uige.

BANGLADESH

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 13 people were killed and 70 injured when a storm lashed parts of northern Bangladesh yesterday, local officials and reporters said. They said the storm, with winds estimated at 90 km per hour, ripped through several villages in Gaibandha district, flattening hundreds of houses, uprooting trees and electric poles and damaging crops. Police said they could not yet confirm the number of casualties as rescue teams had not reached the affected areas because of fallen trees and debris. "We are unable to get into the battered villages at night due to bad roads and darkness," one police officer told reporters in the nearby Bogra district.

Dhaka, Mar 21 -- At least 35 people have been killed and 500 injured in a violent tropical storm that whipped through northern Bangladesh overnight. Officials said the storm, packing winds of 60 mph, tore through several villages in the districts of Gaibandha and Rangpur, flattening hundreds of houses, uprooting trees and electric poles and damaging crops. "The storm also turned nearly 10,000 people homeless," said an official at Gaibandha, some 300 km from Dhaka.

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"The storm has left a trail of destruction and we are carrying relief to the affected people," he added. Rural homes, mostly made of bamboo, straw and corrugated iron sheets, could not withstand the rain and wind. -- Reuters.

CYCLONE "INGRID"

London, Mar 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: The head of the Nhulunbuy Corporation in north-eastern Arnhem Land estimates it will take about three months to clean up debris from Cyclone "Ingrid." Mike Hindle says thousands of trees were uprooted and power poles knocked down when the eye of the cyclone passed 30 km north of Nhulunbuy as a category four system just over a week ago. Mr Hindle says the community has work teams focused on removing the trees. Mining giant Alcan says it lost two days production when it shut down its Nhulunbuy alumina refinery as a precaution against Cyclone "Ingrid." Spokesman David Sutherland says that equates to about \$2 million but he says it is part of doing business in the Northern Territory. "We have a very proficient emergency management plan and especially for cyclones and I must say that on this occasion it worked like clock work," he said. "The team did a great job and that's a good example of how there was virtually no damage to the refinery during what was a massive cyclone."

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Northern Territory Government says the rebuilding of coastal communities affected by Cyclone "Ingrid" is continuing. Power has been restored to most of the communities struck by the cyclone, including the Tiwi Islands and Croker Island. The Government says the removal of debris is continuing at Minjilang on Croker Island and the Tiwi Islands. It says asbestos experts will arrive today at Croker Island, north-east of Darwin, to begin demolishing buildings damaged by the cyclone. The Government says the construction of a new community store to be funded by the Federal Government is expected to take several months. It says it will operate out of its present storage area in the interim. The Government says it wants to have school operating on Croker Island by Apr 11. It says it has some difficulty accessing demountables, but it is exploring various options. The Chief Minister's department says a contractor has been employed to start digging a registered pit today to bury potentially dangerous asbestos from damaged buildings. The demolition of damaged buildings including the school, store and unused houses is planned to start tomorrow. The Government says NT WorkSafe will be monitoring clean-up operations.

POLAND

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Severe flooding has been causing havoc in some parts

of Poland, leaving two people missing and dozens homeless. A total of 1,200 buildings have been flooded around the country. The authorities in three cities and 30 regions have declared flood alerts, according to local reports. In the southeastern part that was worst hit by the disaster, more than 10,000 hectares of land were submerged, with two youths missing. In the north-east, severe flooding was again reported during the course of the day following initial assessments that the situation was improving. A number of families were forced to evacuate their homes in the town of Bartoszyce, close to the border with Russia's Kaliningrad. Water levels in the town were over a metre higher than normal. Further west in the town of Braniewo, located in the popular Mazurian lakes region, water levels in the Pasleka river reached nine metres, flooding cellars in low-lying urban areas. The flooding was caused by snowmelt as a result of the ongoing temperatures.

RUSSIA

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Flights between Kamchatka and the mainland have been suspended till Mar 20 due to a powerful cyclone that has hit the peninsula with heavy snowfalls and gale-force winds. A storm warning has been issued in the region. The speed of the wind on the coast reaches 34 metres per second. Traffic has been paralysed on major highways that link the region's capital with districts. Public transport has come to a halt in Petropavlovsk Kamchatsky, and ships have to seek shelter in the ports to avoid rough seas with up to 10-metre waves. The cyclone from the Sea of Japan is slowly spreading to the rest of the region, complicate this work.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "HENNIE"

London, Mar 22 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Hennie" was located near lat 15.0S, long 60.0E at 0600, UTC. Movement past six hours 235 deg at nine knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, position based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds: 30 knots with gusts to 40 knots. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Mar 23: Position predicted to be near lat 16.7S, long 58.5E with maximum sustained winds of 45 knots and gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 50 nautical miles.

TURKEY

London, Mar 17 -- Traffic in the Istanbul Strait was suspended at 2130, local time, Mar 16, due to poor visibility and dense fog.

London, Mar 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: A persistent risk of fresh landslides impeded rescue workers in their efforts today to find 15 people buried after a landslip yesterday in northeastern Turkey. More than 20 houses were buried in Sivas province's Sugozy village, surrounded by mountains, in the

landslide officials blamed on heavy rains unsettling the mushy ground typical of the region. An earlier toll said 17 people were trapped under the earth, but a new count today by the local crisis centre put the figure at 15. Nine other people were injured in the disaster, but their lives are not at risk, the crisis centre in Ankara said. Dozens of rescuers and earth-moving machines were immediately dispatched to the stricken area, about 400 kilometres north-east of Ankara, but were forced to call off their efforts overnight due to unfavourable conditions. They were unable to resume work on this morning due to continuing landslides.

TYPHOON "ROKE"

London, Mar 18 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon "Roke" downgraded to tropical depression near lat 12.9N, long 118.3E at 1800, UTC, Mar 17. Movement for the past six hours 290 degrees at 18 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 25 knots, gusts 35 knots. Forecast position lat 13.5N, long 116.1E 0600, UTC, Mar 18. Maximum sustained winds 20 knots, gusts 30 knots. Tropical depression "Roke" has rapidly weakened after tracking over the Philippines into the South China Sea. The system is located 110 nm north-west of Palawan Island. (See issue of Mar 18.)

UKRAINE

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Bad weather in Ukraine cut off the energy supply to 140 towns and villages in eleven regions, a source in the press service of the Emergency Situations Ministry said today. The wind exceeding 20 metres per second caused power outages in the Vinnitsa, Lvov, Khmelnytsky, Chernovtsy, Rovno, Zhitomir, Ternopol, Nikolayev, Ivano-Frankovsk, Volyn and Zaporozhye regions. Meanwhile, over one million hectares of land are flooded in Ukraine because of a thaw. The Kherson, Nikolayev, Odessa and Zaporozhye regions were the worst damaged.

UNITED STATES

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated Mar 18, states: A late-winter storm dropped up to 16 inches of snow across portions of Minnesota today, forcing dozens of schools to close and cancelling more than 200 flights out of the Twin Cities. Jim Kline of the National Weather Service said the heaviest snowfall was in the state's southern counties, which could receive more snow throughout the night. "This storm system is really stuck," he said. "They are going to continue to get dumped on." The storm prompted authorities to shut down Interstate 90 in the western half of the state. Police reported receiving hundreds of accident reports by this evening, but there were no fatalities or reports of serious injuries. Ploughs could only keep one runway open at Minneapolis-

St. Paul International Airport, officials said. About 260 flights were cancelled by late afternoon.

Earthquakes



FIJI

London, Mar 20 -- A report, dated Mar 9, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 1734, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.3 event has been located in the Fiji region in lat 21.87S, long 179.56W, depth 590 km.

London, Mar 22 -- A report, dated Mar 20, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1706, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located south of the Fiji Islands in lat 24.96S, long 177.60W. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 159 km.

GUATEMALA

London, Mar 18 -- A 6.2 magnitude earthquake struck Guatemala at 1337, Mar 17, at a depth of 197 km.

INDONESIA

London, Mar 18 -- A quake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale hit Indonesia's Aceh today, the strongest of the 16 aftershocks to have hit the province since the Dec 26 tsunami, reports Xinhua. The quake lasting seconds occurred at 0620, Antara news agency quoted an official as saying. The strong tremor was felt in the capital Aceh of Banda Aceh, but caused no casualties, the official said.

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale rocked the eastern Indonesian island of Alor early this morning, but no casualty or damage has been reported, a local meteorologist said. The quake took place at 0115, local time, 49 km south-west to the Kalabahi Island near East Timor, said Amran from the Indonesian Meteorology Agency. The epicentre was 33 km under the sea, in lat 07 8S, long 124.7E, he added.

JAPAN

London, Mar 20 -- A report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 0153, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.4 event has been located in Kyushu, Japan, in lat 33.85N, long 129.98E, depth 10 km.

London, Mar 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: A powerful magnitude-7.0 earthquake struck off the coast of southern Japan today, killing one person and injuring at least 381 others, damaging buildings and jolting residents with a series of strong aftershocks. Authorities issued a tsunami warning that was later cancelled. The temblor, which hit west of Kyushu Island at 1053, local time, was centred at an unusually shallow depth of 5.5 miles below the ocean floor, the Japanese Meteorological Agency said. Aftershocks followed -- at

least one a magnitude-4.2 quake. Officials reported water and gas main breaks and power blackouts. Local and bullet train railway service was halted after an automatic safety mechanism was triggered by the tremors, public broadcaster NHK television reported. Telephone service in the southern prefecture was jammed. Minutes after the shaking began, the agency warned of the possibility of 20-inch tsunami waves triggered by the seismic activity. Authorities cautioned residents near the water to move to higher ground. However, an hour after the quake, the agency said there was no danger of tsunami. Masahiro Yamamoto of the Meteorological Agency predicted that strong aftershocks measuring up to magnitude-6 would continue. A 75-year-old woman, who was hospitalised after a wall fell on her in southern Fukuoka city, became the first reported casualty of the quake, the Kyodo News agency said. At least 381 people, most in hard-hit Fukuoka prefecture, were injured by the quake, some struck by toppling cabinets, items falling off shelves or shattered glass, and two were burned by a cooking stove, NHK reported. Authorities in Fukuoka, 560 miles south-west of Tokyo, have confirmed 107 injuries, 15 of them serious, according to the prefectural government's website. Ten people in neighbouring Saga prefecture were injured, a prefectural government official said. In Saga prefecture's Okawa city, a 56-year-old man suffered broken bones after trying to jump to safety from the second floor of his home, NHK said. One person was reportedly rescued after being pinned inside a collapsed home. Japan is always well prepared for a major quake. Tough requirements making buildings quake-safe and frequent disaster drills likely kept injuries and structural damage to a minimum in today's temblor. About 1,000 residents in Fukuoka prefecture evacuated their homes to stay in temporary shelters for the evening, including some 400 residents of Genkai island, nearly half of the population of the tiny island off the coast of Kyushu. Homes on the island collapsed and roofs caved in, and village officials requested emergency help from Japanese troops, NHK television reported. A Fukuoka prefectural police spokesman said the initial jolt, which lasted about 30 seconds, made it difficult to stand. NHK showed tall office buildings and street lamps in the centre of Fukuoka, nearest the epicentre, shaking violently. In residential areas, cracks appeared in sidewalks and parts of retaining walls flaked off. Authorities warned of landslides around Fukuoka, Saga and Nagasaki prefectures. Kyushu Island is separated from South Korea by a narrow strait of water, and the quake was felt about 130 miles away in South Korea's port city of Busan, where it briefly shook buildings. No damage was immediately reported, a police spokesman in Busan said.

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of people took refuge at shelters today as aftershocks battered southern Japan a day after a powerful magnitude-7.0 earthquake damaged or destroyed hundreds of homes, leaving one person dead and hundreds injured. The temblor hit early yesterday off Japan's southern main island of Kyushu near Fukuoka city and was followed by some 100 aftershocks, giving the region's residents a jittery night, the Meteorological Agency said. The worst damage occurred on Genkai island, near the epicentre, where the earthquake triggered landslides and leveled homes. In all, 780 homes were damaged and 18 destroyed, most of them on Genkai, the National Police Agency said.

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: The powerful earthquake that hit northern Kyushu on Sunday morning (Mar 20) left more than 700 people injured while damaging 800 houses and forcing some 2,800 people to evacuate their homes in Fukuoka Prefecture, police said yesterday. One woman died in Fukuoka Prefecture and 735 people were injured, 724 in Fukuoka, 10 in Saga and one in Nagasaki prefectures due to the quake.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Colombo, Mar 22 -- General cargo Jaami is presently in port at Colombo, awaiting repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TONGA

London, Mar 20 -- A report, dated Mar 19, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 1502, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.1 event has been located in Tonga in lat 20 38S, long 174.37W, depth 10 km.

Political & Civil Unrest



INDONESIA

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least three people were seriously injured in a blast in the sectarian violence-hit eastern Indonesian city of Ambon, eyewitnesses said today. The explosion at 2230 hrs was believed to have originated from a car driving through Batumerah, a predominately Islamic area of the city, the scene of sporadic violence between Muslim and Christian communities. All three victims were believed to be Muslims and were taken for treatment at the nearby Al-Fatah and Al-Mukadeh Muslim hospitals. One local journalist, quoting police sources, said that as many as 11 people may have been wounded in the explosion, with three seriously hurt. The vehicle believed to have been involved in the blast was being examined by members of Indonesia's Brimob paramilitary police deployed to the area.

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IRAQ

London, Mar 20 -- A press report, dated Mar 19, states: Attackers gunned down a police officer heading to work in the oil-rich city of Kirkuk today, then bombed a funeral procession carrying his corpse, killing three other policemen and injuring two, officials said. The attacks came on the second anniversary of the US invasion on Mar 19, 2003 and are typical of the violence that has become commonplace in Iraq. The attackers sprayed automatic-weapon fire from a vehicle, killing the policeman as he made his way to the station house early today, police Capt Ahmed Shinrani said. Hours later, a roadside bomb hit mourners and security forces transporting the corpse for burial. "This is a criminal act. The mourners were doing a religious duty. I don't understand how someone could blast a funeral," wailed Allaa Talaban, wife of one of the officers killed in the blast in Kirkuk, 180 miles north of Baghdad. The Kirkuk attacks came as unidentified assailants in Baghdad killed police Commissioner Ahmed Ali Kadim as he traveled to his office in the Doura neighbourhood of the capital, said Falah Al-Mohammadawi, an investigator in the precinct. Also today, a suicide attacker detonated a car bomb, targeting a US military patrol on a highway three miles north-west of Ramadi, a city 70 miles west of Baghdad in the restive region known as the "Sunni Triangle," Sgt Laith Ismael of the Iraqi police said. The US military said in a statement the car bomb "detonated prematurely, before it could reach the patrol." The statement made no mention of casualties. US and Iraqi forces also clashed with gunmen in Ramadi yesterday after militants attacked a government building. No casualties were reported. Iraqis kept up protests today against a Jordanian man they believe carried out a suicide bombing that killed 125 people in Hillah on Feb 28. "No, no to terrorism," chanted about 200 people in Baqouba, 35 miles north-east of Baghdad. The Jordanian daily Al-Ghad had reported that the man, Raed Mansour al-Banna, carried out the attack, the single deadliest of the Iraqi insurgency. The paper later issued a correction, however, saying it was not known where in Iraq al-Banna carried out an assault. Al-Banna's family has denied his involvement in the Hillah attack, saying he was killed while carrying out a suicide bombing in Mosul. Today's protest came a day after more than 2,000 Shiite demonstrators marched through Baghdad, raising the Iraqi flag over Jordan's Embassy and demanding an apology from the Jordanian government. Iraqi police and special forces gathered outside the embassy but failed to prevent demonstrators from reaching the building. The protesters later dispersed, and no violence was reported. Yesterday's protest was the largest in a week of mounting anger. (See issue of Mar 18.)

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated Mar 20, states: Insurgents

targeted Iraqi and US security forces with gunfire, suicide attacks and mortar rounds today, killing an American soldier and five Iraqis as the conflict moved into its third year since the US-led invasion. In neighbouring Jordan, a court convicted Iraq's most-wanted terrorist, Abu-Musab al-Zarqawi, of plotting to attack the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad, sentencing him in absentia to 15 years imprisonment. The Jordanian-born militant has already been sentenced to death twice for other crimes. A bomb exploded early today near the northern city of Kirkuk, killing a US soldier and wounding three others, the US military said in a statement. Elsewhere in northern Iraq, a suicide bomber blew himself up inside a government compound in Mosul, killing himself and Walid Kashmoula, the head of the Iraqi police anti-corruption department, officials said. Three others were wounded. Al-Zarqawi's al-Qaida in Iraq group purportedly claimed responsibility for the attack in a message posted on an Islamic Web site known for carrying statements from extremist militant groups. Insurgents have increasingly targeted Iraqi security and government officials they see as collaborators with the US-led mission. People in Baghdad said saboteurs blew up a municipal building in a western neighbourhood, reducing the two-story building to rubble. No injuries were reported. A Humvee was also overturned on the highway to the airport. Witnesses said it was hit by a roadside bomb, but US military officials were not available to comment. US troops sealed off the area. Iraq's fledgling security force has been struggling to build its ranks and fight the lawlessness that has gripped the country in the two years since President Bush ordered the US-led invasion on Mar 19, 2003. The anniversary of the invasion falls on Mar 20 in Iraq, because of the time difference. Assailants leapt from their vehicle and unleashed gunfire on a policeman walking to work in Samarra, killing the man, said Maj Sadoun Ahmed, a police official in the Sunni Triangle town some 60 miles north of Baghdad. Police who went to collect the man's body also came under attack, sparking a gunfight that left three police injured along with a trio of attackers, who were arrested, police Lt. Qassim Mohammed said. In the southern city of Basra, attackers targeted a police patrol with a roadside bomb, killing one civilian and injuring a policeman, police Col Karim al-Zeidi said. Insurgents also lobbed mortar fire into a neighbourhood just outside the walls of an Iraqi army base in the town of Mahmoudiyah, south of Baghdad, killing one civilian and injuring two others, said Ikbal Sabir, an official at the Yarmouk Hospital where the bodies were taken.

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated Mar 21, states: Dozens of insurgents attacked a US convoy with gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades, sparking a clash that saw US troops

kill 26 militants, one of the largest fights since Iraq's Jan 30 election. Some 40 rebels hit the military police and artillery units from the Kentucky National Guard late yesterday as the Americans travelled along a road 20 miles south-east of Baghdad that has seen a recent upturn in violence, the military said in a detailed account today. Six soldiers and seven militants were wounded, and one person was arrested. After the attack, troops recovered six rocket-propelled grenade launchers, 16 rockets, 13 machine guns, 22 assault weapons, more than 2,900 rounds of ammunition and 40 hand grenades from the insurgents. Also today, in the western Baghdad neighbourhood of Amiriyah, gunmen in two speeding cars opened fire on an Iraq army foot patrol, killing one soldier and wounding another, police Capt Talib Thamir said. In Samarra, a car bomb exploded near an Iraqi army checkpoint, injuring several civilians, including women and children, according to police and hospital officials. The US military reported the death of one of its troops: A US soldier killed a day earlier during action in restive Anbar province, which contains the flashpoint cities of Fallujah and Ramadi. The US military also said today that ten men captured by Iraqi soldiers last week had confessed to staging a Mar 9 Baghdad car-bomb attack near the Agricultural Ministry and a hotel favored by Westerners. At least four people, including the attackers and a guard, were killed in that attack. The Iraqi troops who carried out the Mar 18 raid also seized two vehicles being rigged for detonation as well as four rockets and launchers, light weaponry, blank Iraqi passports and thousands of dollars in cash, the military said in a statement. Today's violence came as Iraq and neighboring Jordan engaged in a diplomatic spat, with a tit-for-tat withdrawal of high-level representatives in a growing dispute over Shiite Muslim claims that Jordan is failing to block terrorists from entering Iraq.

ISRAEL

Sixth of October City, Egypt, Mar 17 - - Palestinian militants agreed today to extend until the end of this year a halt to attacks on Israel, a move Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon described as positive but the United States said did not go far enough. Palestinians linked what they called a period of calm to Israel freeing prisoners and withdrawing from West Bank towns. Sharon reiterated his call for Palestinian militants to disarm. In Washington, State Department spokesman Adam Ereli said the militants' move fell short of U.S. demands that they renounce violence. The militants' agreement, reached in Egypt after 48 hours of talks, strengthens Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's hand as he tries to revive talks with the Jewish state on an independent Palestinian state, analysts said. If the truce holds, Israel could more easily carry out its plan to

pull its troops out of Gaza, but it could also come under more international pressure to make other gestures. A statement by the 13 Palestinian groups said maintaining the current period of calm, agreed by Abbas and Sharon at a summit in Egypt on Feb 8, was part of their programme for 2005. It did not set a specific time limit for the truce but the leader of the militant group Hamas said it could expire before the end of the year if Israel did not make reciprocal gestures. -- Reuters.

Tulkarm, Mar 22 -- Israel completed its handover of the town of Tulkarm to Palestinian control today, opening a gate and allowing traffic to flow freely to the rest of the West Bank for the first time in three years. The transfer of Tulkarm, days after Palestinians regained the West Bank town of Jericho, was an Israeli gesture to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas who won a deal with militants last week to extend a de facto truce. Israeli and Palestinian commanders shook hands at the metal gate before it was opened to Palestinian vehicles. It was erected shortly after a Palestinian uprising began in September, 2000, and had been manned by Israeli troops. The low-key ceremony ended the handover of security control of Tulkarm, a city of 50,000 people near the Israeli border, which began last night. Israel had promised on the eve of a Feb 8 peace summit to transfer security responsibility for five West Bank cities, but the handovers were delayed by disputes over security and a suicide bombing at a Tel Aviv nightclub last month. Israeli officials said they would transfer the West Bank city of Qalqilya, south of Tulkarm, to Palestinian security control next week. The Tulkarm transfer was delayed by hours due to a dispute over Israel's insistence on retaining control over three outlying villages, including one from where a suicide bomber set out last month to carry out an attack that killed five Israelis in Tel Aviv. The handover began last night when Palestinian police took up positions in the city and set up checkpoints as gunmen fired into the air and drivers honked car horns in celebration. Israel had withdrawn from Palestinian cities in the West Bank under an interim peace accord reached in 1993. However, its troops surrounded many West Bank cities anew, including Jericho and Tulkarm, following a series of Palestinian suicide bombings against Israelis during the uprising. -- Reuters.

IVORY COAST

Abidjan, Mar 17 -- Ivory Coast's rebels said today that South Africa's president, who has been trying to revive the former French colony's stalled peace process, had invited the main parties to the conflict to urgent talks. Amadou Kone, an aide to rebel New Forces leader Guillaume Soro, said they had yet to decide whether to take part. Kone said the rebels had received a letter from Mbeki. The

letter, published in the daily opposition newspaper *Le Patriote* today, also invited President Laurent Gbagbo and key political leaders to the talks to be held in March. "With the current situation and the violations of the ceasefire, can we meet with Gbagbo? It's this question we will answer when we meet," Kone said, adding the rebels would discuss their participation later today or tomorrow. Today, the U.N. mission in Ivory Coast said it was worried about movements of armed forces on both sides of the no-weapons buffer zone stretching across the country. The situation was calm for the moment. Ivory Coast's main opposition RDR party said its leader, Alassane Ouattara, had also been invited to talks by Mbeki. "The RDR is not opposed to any invitation or initiative which can restore peace," said spokesman Cisse Bacongo. Ouattara's exclusion on nationality grounds from a disputed 2000 election is regarded as the catalyst of the crisis, which African leaders fear could destabilise the whole region. One major sticking point between the foes is whether Ouattara can take part in presidential polls, due in October. Gbagbo wants a change in the constitution, which would allow Ouattara to stand, to be put to a referendum. The rebels and opposition parties are against the idea of a popular vote. -- Reuters.

LEBANON

Beirut, Mar 17 -- Syria completed the first phase of its troop pullout from Lebanon today. A Lebanese security source said 4,000 to 6,000 Syrian troops had returned home since the pullout plan was announced on Mar 5, leaving 8,000 to 10,000 in eastern Lebanon. He said all Syrian forces had pulled back to the Bekaa Valley or crossed into Syria. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he expected Syria to withdraw fully before Lebanon's May parliamentary election. Deepening Lebanon's political crisis, key opposition leader Walid Jumblatt said he and his allies would not join a government as long as pro-Syrian President Emile Lahoud remained in office. That stance could wreck a bid to forge a unity government by pro-Syrian Prime Minister Omar Karami, who resigned on Feb 28 under opposition pressure but was reappointed last week. -- Reuters.

Beirut, Mar 19 -- A car bomb exploded in a Christian suburb of eastern Beirut today, wounding at least six people and raising fresh fears of a return to Lebanon's violent past. The blast early today devastated the ground and first floors of an apartment block, blowing out balconies, shattering windows in surrounding buildings and wrecking dozens of vehicles, a witness said. The vehicle containing the bomb exploded after midnight in an adjacent car park, gouging out a crater. "I was standing under this building and we heard a huge explosion and there was

a big cloud of dust, and glass flew everywhere. We saw this car just fly into the air and land on the street right in front of us," said witness Rany Ayoub. It was unclear whether the attack was politically motivated, but residents gathering at the scene blamed Syria. Lebanon has been rocked by political turmoil since Feb 14 when former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri was killed in a car bombing, which many Lebanese blame on Syria. Damascus denies the charge, but the assassination has prompted mass public protests against Syria's military and political influence in Lebanon. Faced with mounting international pressure, particularly from US President George W. Bush, Syria has begun pulling its troops out of its tiny neighbour after a three decade presence and its intervention in a 1975-1990 civil war. A security source said a nearby bingo hall may have been the target of the bombing. The bingo hall was not damaged apart from broken windows. Soldiers and other security forces sealed off the area. At least six people were taken to hospital, medical sources said. The building's ground floor, which residents say housed small clothing stores, had a gaping hole criss-crossed with twisted metal. The blast smashed the wall of a first floor office, exposing desks and cabinets inside. Many analysts and politicians warn strains are evident in the precarious political, religious and communal balance achieved since Lebanon's civil war. They say political tensions could spill into violence. Leading United Nations envoy Terje Roed-Larsen, who has been involved in negotiations with Lebanon and Syria, said yesterday he was worried another leading Lebanese figure could be killed unless there was a cooling off period in the country. Maronite Christians, about one-fifth of the population and long Syria's most vocal opponents, have dominated the past few weeks' protests demanding the withdrawal of Syrian troops. Syria finished the first phase of its pullout on Thursday. A Lebanese security source said 4,000-6,000 Syrian troops had returned home since the pullout plan was announced on Mar 5, leaving 8,000-10,000 in eastern Lebanon. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan expects Syria to fully withdraw its forces before Lebanese elections due in May. Washington has also demanded the disarmament of Shi'ite Muslim Hizbollah guerrillas, but Hizbollah, backed by Syria and Iran, has vowed to keep its guns to fight Israel rather than confine itself to politics as US officials want. Deepening Lebanon's political crisis, key opposition leader Walid Jumblatt has said he and his allies will not join a government as long as pro-Syrian President Emile Lahoud remains in office. That stance could wreck a bid to forge a unity government by pro-Syrian Prime Minister Omar Karami, who resigned on Feb 28 under opposition pressure but was reappointed last week. -- Reuters.

PAKISTAN

Quetta, Mar 18 -- Eight soldiers were killed and 23 wounded in a fierce battle with tribal militants in Pakistan's troubled southwest, the military said today, while a tribal politician said dozens of tribesmen died. Military officials said gunmen from the Bugti tribe opened fire on a Frontier Constabulary convoy on the outskirts of the town of Dera Bugti in Baluchistan province yesterday. "Eight of our soldiers have been killed and 23 injured," FC spokesman Colonel Rizwan Malick said. Baluch nationalist opposition politician Kachkol Ali told reporters in the provincial capital Quetta that at least 50 tribal people died and 150 were wounded in the fighting, which lasted about 10 hours. Dera Bugti is about 250 km south-east of Quetta, the provincial capital. The military dismissed the figures as exaggerated and Ali's estimate could not be independently verified. The military said some militants may have died, but did not have numbers. Ethnic Baluch militants have been waging a low-level insurgency for greater autonomy for decades in Pakistan's largest but poorest province, but they have stepped up attacks on government targets, including natural gas and transport facilities, in recent weeks. Military officials said a ceasefire was agreed yesterday to allow both sides to collect their dead and wounded and this was holding. -- Reuters.

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated Mar 18, states: Train bombings killed two people in restive south-western Pakistan today, a day after a fierce battle between government and renegade tribal forces left at least eight soldiers and about 20 tribesmen dead, officials said. The bombs, planted in toilets on trains travelling the main railway line in Baluchistan province, went off within about three hours of each other. Eight other people were wounded. Railway police said the first bomb killed a soldier on a train traveling from the provincial capital Quetta to the eastern city of Lahore at a station about 20 miles south-east of Quetta. At least five other people were injured, two critically. The second bomb went off on a train travelling in the opposite direction about 60 miles south-east of Quetta, killing one person and wounding three.

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Authorities in Pakistan's south-west Balochistan province now say more than 20 died in yesterday's clashes between soldiers and rebel tribesmen. Eight soldiers and about 15 tribesmen were killed in fighting around Dera Bugti, a spokesman for the paramilitary Frontier Corps said. However, a tribal chief said the army had killed more than 50 locals. The tribesmen demand greater political and economic rights. They also blame army members for raping a local doctor.

Quetta, Mar 19 -- At least 32 people have been killed and more than 40 wounded after a bomb exploded at a

religious gathering at a minority Shi'ite Muslim shrine in south-west Pakistan late, officials said. The motive for the attack in Gandhawa, a small town in the south-western province of Baluchistan, was not immediately clear, they said today. The province has been troubled by both sectarian and separatist violence. The bomb went off as food was being distributed after a late night ceremony at the shrine in Gandhawa, which is about 420 km north of Karachi. Faqir Ghulam Hussain, the shrine caretaker, said 32 bodies had been found and the final toll could be higher. "Limbs are still scattered over a large area," he said. "It was a very big explosion," local police officer Rawat Khan said. Mehrab Khan, head of the local police station, said more than 40 people had been wounded. Police ruled out a suicide attack, a method used by majority Sunni Muslim militants in the past to attack Shi'ites. "The bomb was planted somewhere near where the food was served," Khan said. "It created a five to six foot crater." Provincial Home Secretary Humayun Khan said it was too early to say who was to blame, but added: "It is an act of terrorism." Baluchistan, Pakistan's largest but poorest province, has a history of sectarian violence between Sunni and Shi'ite militants and has also been troubled recently by increased attacks by tribal militants fighting for more autonomy. On Thursday (Mar 17), eight soldiers were killed and 23 wounded in a battle with tribal militants on the outskirts of Dera Bugti, about 250 km south-east of the provincial capital, Quetta, the military said. A tribal politician said at least 50 tribespeople died and more than 150 were wounded in that fighting, which lasted more than 10 hours. Yesterday, bombs exploded in two trains in the region, killing two people and wounding nine. Baluch militants have been waging a low-level insurgency in the province for decades for greater autonomy, but they have recently stepped up attacks on government targets, including natural gas and transport facilities. The military has stepped up security since a big militant attack on the country's largest gas field in Baluchistan on Jan 11, in which at least 15 people died, disrupted supplies for more than a week. This month, police said they had arrested an Islamic militant who played a key role in two big sectarian attacks on Shi'ite Muslims in 2003 and 2004 in Quetta, which killed more than 100 people. Ramzan Mengal, a senior leader of the outlawed Sunni Muslim militant group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, was arrested in Quetta. Pakistani police blame the group for most of the sectarian bloodletting in Pakistan in recent years and security analysts say it has long had close ties with al Qaeda, which has tried to destabilise President Pervez Musharraf's government since he joined the US-led war on terror in 2001. Most of Pakistan's Sunnis and Shi'ites live peacefully side by side,

but hundreds have died over the past 15 years in tit-for-tat attacks by militants from the two sects. Shi'ites account for about 15% of Pakistan's 150 million people. -- Reuters.

QATAR

London, Mar 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: A British man has been killed and about 12 other people injured in a suspected suicide bomb attack in Qatar. The car bomb blast occurred at the Doha Players theatre outside the capital, Doha, near a British school. The dead man has been named as Jonathan Adams. No group has said it carried out the attack but Qatar's interior ministry said the suspected bomber was Egyptian. It was the first attack of its kind in the Gulf Arab state, which hosts the US military's Central Command. The UK Foreign Office confirmed the name of the dead Briton after his relatives were informed. The Qatar interior ministry named the suspected bomber as an Egyptian, Omar Ahmed Abdullah. The blast occurred at a theatre opposite the Doha English Speaking school in the Khalifa district, a few kilometres from the city centre. The force of the blast shattered windows of houses and cars in the residential area. White plumes of smoke rose above the theatre, which was severely damaged. About 100 people are believed to have been in the venue at the time.

SOMALIA

Nairobi, Mar 17 -- A brawl broke out in Somalia's parliament today after legislators voted against the president's call to deploy peacekeepers from bordering countries to restore order in the lawless state, parliamentarians said. But Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Ali Gedi said the vote was marred by improper procedure and he rejected the results. Many Somalis, including warlords and militant Islamists, have promised to attack any troops from neighbouring states -- especially from traditional rival Ethiopia -- if they deploy as part of a planned African Union peacekeeping force. Ethiopian-backed Somali President Abdullahi Yusuf wants 7,500 AU and Arab League troops to help his government return home from Kenya, and is adamant border states be included. The AU last month backed a deployment of troops from Uganda, Sudan, Djibouti, Kenya and Ethiopia to tame rampant insecurity in Somalia, but has no money to fund it. Illustrating the deep split in the government over the issue, fighting broke out immediately after parliament Speaker Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan declared the vote finished, witnesses including Gedi said. Television footage showed several MPs in suits and ties throwing heavy chairs at each other, some beating others with long sticks and others drenched in blood after being struck on the head. Gedi acknowledged that MPs who are also cabinet members destroyed the ballot box, and said he urged the speaker to call off the vote

instead of going ahead with a hand count. Several MPs said that out of 217 present, 156 voted against the presence of troops from border states, with 55 voting in favour and six abstaining. The dispute is fast approaching a deciding moment on the international level, as IGAD leaders today began a two-day meeting in Nairobi to discuss the AU deployment. Diplomats at the meeting said Western donors will oppose the use of any troops from Somalia's neighbours. Donors have grown increasingly cool towards Yusuf's plan, and the United States last month said it would not support any peacekeeping force with border state soldiers. Other donors, who have thus far kept their reservations quiet because of IGAD's lead role in shepherding Somalia's peace process, echoed that position today. "We wish to express our concern regarding the question of neighbouring troops in Somalia," Enrico De Maio, Italy's ambassador to Kenya and co-chair of IGAD's donor partnership, told the meeting. The United Nations acting special representative to Somalia, Babafemi Badejo, told the meeting the U.N. Security Council would have to grant an exemption to a 1992 arms embargo to any foreign force deployed in Somalia. Several diplomats said the United States has promised to use its Security Council veto to block any force involving neighbouring troops. A U.S. official cautioned it was too early to say a veto would happen, since it may not be necessary after the IGAD meeting and next week's Arab League summit in Algeria. -- Reuters.

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated Mar 18, states: East African governments have agreed to send 6,800 peacekeeping troops to Somalia from Uganda and Sudan, rather than from bordering countries. The Ugandan foreign Minister said the decision was made out of respect for the sensitivities of the Somalis. Somali warlords have said they will attack troops from neighbouring states if they form part of a peacekeeping force. Somalia's president was willing to accept troops from neighbouring states. But a brawl broke out in the Somali parliament, sitting in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, after legislators voted against President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed's call to deploy peacekeepers from Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti.

UGANDA

London, Mar 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ugandan rebels have attacked a village in the north abducting 49 people, mainly teenagers, a district security official at the scene said. It comes as the International Criminal Court (ICC) said prosecution of Ugandan rebel commanders could be delayed to allow peace efforts to continue. The rebels kidnap the children to make them sex slaves and fighters. Some 1.6 million people have been driven from their homes into refugee camps during the 19-year conflict. Ten well-armed LRA rebels

attacked Minakulu village, about 30km south of Gulu on yesterday night and looted food before abducting their victims, the security official said. He said the fact that they abducted so many teenagers suggests this was not only a food looting spree but also an operation intended to boost the rebel ranks. Ugandan military spokesman Tabaro Kiconco confirmed the attack but said just 10 people had been abducted and were later rescued. Recently LRA attacks on both civilian and military targets have increased significantly. In the last two weeks there have been another five reported attacks on civilians in which at least 25 were abducted and 12 people killed. Meanwhile, ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said he may delay the prosecution of the rebels after he met a delegation of religious, cultural and district leaders from northern Uganda. The ICC has indicated that soon it intends to issue arrest warrants for several senior LRA rebel commanders. The chief prosecutor said he was still gathering evidence, and had already built a strong case. But he said he was sensitive to the concerns and mindful of traditional justice and reconciliation processes, and in exceptional circumstances he could delay issuing warrants. "I am collecting evidence but at the same time assessing carefully what happened, because I have to understand the interests of the victims," he said. Many people in the region feel the ICC's work is likely to dissuade the rebels from accepting an amnesty offered by the Ugandan government. A former minister working as a mediator between the rebels and the Ugandan government has said she would have no option but to abandon the whole peace process if the warrants were issued.

Labour Disputes



ARGENTINA

London, Mar 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Buenos Aires Airport was brought to a standstill yesterday as local airline workers went on strike to protest against possible layoffs after the entry of Chilean airline Lan Chile in the local market. The strike was headed by employees of state-owned airline Lafsa, which will be acquired by Lan Chile after an agreement signed between Lan Chile and the Argentine government. The strike in the airport delayed the landing or take-off of aircrafts on several national and international flights. During the strike, only an aircraft from Uruguay managed to land.

GREECE

London, Mar 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: Trade unions across Greece have started a 24-hour strike against rising unemployment

and high inflation. They say the conservative government has failed to fulfil financial pledges made during last year's election. It follows a government warning that Greece faces a difficult period as it struggles to control a budget deficit above limits set for euro states. Teachers, bank employees, railway staff and postal workers are just some of those taking part in the stoppage. The industrial action is expected to be the most serious challenge from the trade unions since the conservative New Democracy party was elected almost exactly a year ago. There will also be rallies and demonstrations in the capital, Athens.

INDIA

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Banking operations in the country's financial capital especially at branches of state-owned banks were today hit by a nation-wide strike to protest merger of PSU banks and proposed hike in FDI limit to 74 per cent in the sector. Transcations at branches across the metropolis came to a stand still as banking staff stayed away from work following a call by United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), the umbrella body comprising nine major bank unions representing officers and employees in the country. The treasury, foreign exchange operations at large PSBs were also impacted significantly. "The strike is complete and this overwhelming response is a clear indication of union's stand against government policies on banking," union officials said here today. The banking unions also organised protest marches and demonstrations before branches and headquarters. "Employees under the banner of UFBU have decided to go on country-wide strike opposing M&As among Indian banks and proposed hike in foreign investment upto 74 per cent in private banks," they added. The UFBU has also decided to take up the issue with Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and all major political parties. An All India Bank Officers' Confederation official said employees of old private sector banks would also be participating in the strike while other private bank have expressed their solidarity with UFBU.

ITALIAN AIRLINE PERSONNEL

London, Mar 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: The latest strike by flight attendants for Alitalia forced the airline yesterday to cancel at least 118 flights, 30 more than the number of cancellations originally planned, the airline said. The cancelled flights involved travel from or to Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport and Milan's Malpensa airport, state TV said. The 24-hour strike to press for contract renewal was scheduled to last until the end of yesterday.

ITALY

London, Mar 18 -- Customs Unions at Trieste have called a 24-hour strike for

today. Only the clearing of perishable goods, animals and life-saving medicines will be guaranteed.

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Italian rail workers went on strike yesterday to demand improved safety after a January train crash that killed 17 people, the second nationwide work stoppage in less than a week. Italy's state railroad, trying to limit fallout, said it would guarantee four out of every five medium- to long-range routes, but there were scores of cancellations and travellers experienced long delays. Rail workers are demanding billions of euros in investment in safety and have staged three strikes this year to press their case. They are threatening another stoppage in April.

Awards & Settlements



AIR POLLUTION, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: An Ohio company will pay \$1.1 billion in fines and cleanup costs at four power plants in the second-largest federal settlement with an electric utility over air pollution. The case, filed in 1999 against FirstEnergy Corp.'s W.H. Sammis plant in Stratton, Ohio, was the first involving dozens of Midwest plants to go to trial over accusations that the plants spewed dirty air that caused smog and health problems across the Northeast. A federal judge in Columbus, Ohio, ruled in August 2003 after a three-week trial that Akron, Ohio-based FirstEnergy had violated the Clean Air Act by making physical changes at its coal-fired plant without upgrading pollution controls. Yesterday's agreement, which involved the Environmental Protection Agency, the Justice Department and New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, completes the penalty phase of the case. The agreement, which still must be approved by U.S. District Judge Edmund A. Sargus Jr. in Columbus, would lead to an annual reduction of 212,000 tons of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide, one of the largest reductions ever in the emissions blamed for acid rain. That represents about 80% of the pollutants coming out of the Sammis plant, which by 2012 must install pollution controls on all seven of its units, said Thomas V. Skinner, the EPA's acting assistant administrator for enforcement and compliance. Additional reductions would be achieved by installing pollution control equipment at two other FirstEnergy plants: The R.E. Burger plant in Shadyside, Ohio, and the Eastlake plant in Eastlake, Ohio. Sulfur dioxide scrubbers will be updated at the company's Bruce Mansfield Plant in Shippingport, Pa. "This builds on the significant progress we have been making to

protect the environment while resolving uncertainty," FirstEnergy President and CEO Anthony Alexander said in a statement. The settlement also includes \$8.5 million in civil penalties, the second-highest ever. The highest civil penalty ever levied against an electric utility over air pollution was \$9 million, lodged Mar 7 against Dynegy Inc. A case against Virginia Electric Power Co. was settled in 2003 for an estimated \$1.2 billion total cost to achieve 237,000 tons in pollutant reductions. The settlement also requires FirstEnergy to pay \$25 million for environmental mitigation projects; \$14.4 million for wind power projects in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York; \$10 million for environmental projects in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut; \$400,000 for a solar power project in Allegheny County, Pa.; and \$215,000 for an environmental project at Ohio's Shenandoah National Park.

ANTITRUST LAWSUIT, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: A 10-person jury dealt Clear Channel Communications Inc a stunning defeat yesterday, ruling it interfered with a Chicago promoter's bid to produce motorcycle events, and ordering it to pay \$90 million. The verdict marks a triumph for Jerry Mickelson, the concert promoter who founded Jam Productions and later tried to branch out into promoting "supercross" dirt-bike events through another company, JamSports. The jury rejected JamSports' antitrust claim -- potentially the most costly to Clear Channel, but it found the entertainment giant had interfered with a JamSports contract and business relationship, and awarded \$17.1 million in missed profits and \$73 million in punitive damages. "Punitive damages are awarded when a jury believes that the litigant has engaged in willful or malicious conduct, bordering on criminal," said JamSports' attorney Jeffrey Singer. The lawsuit had its origins in JamSports' efforts to take Clear Channel's place as the promoter of supercross. In 2001, Jam and the American Motorcyclist Association entered a 90-day exclusive negotiating period. During that time, Clear Channel approached the AMA about a deal. According to JamSports, Clear Channel also interfered with the talks by threatening stadium owners, and pledging to start a rival supercross series. In the end, JamSports' deal with the AMA fell apart, and Clear Channel won a renewed deal to promote supercross. Clear Channel asserted it competed fairly, and that JamSports simply lost out to a more qualified company. "We are very disappointed that the jury didn't see this case for what it really was: a disgruntled competitor who couldn't succeed in the marketplace, and took his case to the courtroom," Clear Channel said in a statement. The company plans to file an appeal, the

statement said. Still, it was the testimony and e-mails of Clear Channel executives that apparently lost the case. A source who spoke to jurors after the verdict said the testimony of Chief Financial Officer Randall Mays and executive Brian Becker were especially damaging. One e-mail cited the need to "kill, crush and destroy" competition. Another defendant, AMA affiliate Paradama Productions, was ordered to pay JamSports \$169,315.

ASSAULT, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 18 -- A press report, dated Mar 17, states: A former California state prison guard awarded a \$10 million judgment against two inmates who attacked him and left him partially paralyzed says he doesn't expect any money. Demond Blunt, 25, said in his civil lawsuit that he suffered "permanent traumatic brain injury" in the April 2004 attack and had to go on disability. The chances of recouping anything from prisoners Gregory P. Gaines and Harold X. Wesley are slim because they probably don't have much money, he acknowledged. Blunt, who was assaulted as he was walking across an exercise yard, filed the lawsuit with the help of the California Staff Assault Task Force. A Los Angeles Superior Court judge entered the judgment against the inmates March 3 after they failed to adequately file formal responses with the court, said R. Rex Parris, an attorney for the guard. Task force members believe prisoners serving long sentences have nothing to lose by attacking corrections officers. They hope judgments such as this one will allow guards to seize even the paltriest inmate possessions as a means to deter future attacks.

COLLAPSE OF TELECOMS COMPANY, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Eleven former WorldCom directors have agreed to pay \$20 million out of their own pockets to settle a civil lawsuit filed on behalf of investors against the failed telecom giant. Under the terms of the deal, insurance companies that provided WorldCom directors and officers' liability coverage will pay \$35 million, The New York Times said on Saturday (Mar 19). Former WorldCom chief executive Bernard Ebbers was last week found guilty of being the mastermind of the \$11-billion fraud that forced the telecom giant into bankruptcy in 2002. Shareholders lost about \$180 billion in WorldCom's collapse, 20,000 workers lost their jobs and the company went bankrupt. The company came out of bankruptcy last year, renamed MCI Inc. The directors' settlement is seen as "a rare case of investors holding directors accountable for problems occurring on their watch," the Times said. It was first announced in January but fell apart when a judge ruled it illegal because it could expose other defendants to greater damages by limiting directors' liability. It was

revived after all the banks involved reached their own settlements. "We are delighted that with the last of the bank settlements, we can now revive this historic settlement and proceed to trial against WorldCom's former auditor, Arthur Andersen, and its former chairman, Bert Roberts," said Alan Hevesi, comptroller of New York and lead plaintiff in the civil lawsuit. The amounts to be paid by each director differ and were not disclosed, the daily said. They amount to about 20% of their aggregate net worth, excluding primary residences and retirement accounts, it said. The directors involved served on the WorldCom board from 1999 to 2002. Former chairman Bert Roberts did not agree to the settlement and remains a defendant.

FRAUD, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated Mar 21, states: Time Warner has agreed to pay \$300 million to settle fraud charges. The world's largest media company has made a deal with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which had accused Time Warner of overstating its revenues from online advertising and exaggerating the number of its Internet subscribers. The company will restate its financial results from the fourth quarter of 2000 through 2002. As part of the agreement, Time Warner is neither admitting nor denying the SEC's allegations. The company reached a separate settlement with the Justice Department last year. In a statement released by Time Warner, CEO Dick Parsons said: "We're pleased to have resolved the SEC's investigation of the company, based on the proposed settlement announced late last year. We're committed to cooperating with the independent examiner as well as fulfilling all of our other obligations under the settlement."

ROAD ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 18 -- A press report, dated Mar 17, states: A New Hampshire jury has awarded \$1.7 million to a Brookline, Mass. man who suffered spinal injuries in a traffic crash with a trash-hauling truck five years ago. Lindsay Van Schoick, 56, was totally disabled as a result of the collision of his Ford Explorer with a commercial trash hauler that ended his career as a self-employed computer programmer, according to Ken Brown, one of his lawyers. The Hillsborough County Superior Court jury ruled Tuesday (Mar 15) against the driver of the truck, John Hopping of Raymond, and his employer, Merrimac Cartage of North Andover, Mass. Van Schoick charged that Hopping drove through a stop sign near the Route 495 south onramp in Lawrence, Mass., and he did not have time to avoid the crash. The \$1.7 million verdict is fair compensation for Van Schoick's past and future medical bills plus lost wages, Brown said. An official for Merrimac Cartage declined to

comment yesterday. The defendants have 30 days to appeal the decision. Van Schoick's lawyers also argued the company was liable for hiring Hopping they claim was unqualified and cited three speeding violations and two suspensions, according to court records. The defense argued that Van Schoick did not complain of back problems for several months after the accident, said his back surgery was unrelated to the crash and that he does have the capacity to work.

SEXUAL ASSAULT, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated Mar 18, states: A woman whose stepfather was convicted of impregnating her with a syringe was awarded more than \$4.3 million in damages today. A Summit County jury ruled that John Goff, of Stow, was liable for more than \$3.3 million in compensatory damages and \$750,000 in punitive damages. Goff is serving a 20-year prison sentence after being convicted in 2002 of rape, sexual battery and child endangerment. The jury also ordered Akron City Hospital to pay \$224,000 in damages to Shenna Grimm, 22, of Kent. Grimm "was very happy" with the decision, said her attorney, Bill Whitaker. "She felt it was a vindication of what she's been through." Whitaker said he will appeal the judge's decision to dismiss a third defendant, the Summit County Children's Services Board. Goff, who represented himself in the civil case, agrees that he is the biological father of a boy born in 1999 to his then 17-year-old stepdaughter. He and his family said the girl lied when she testified that she was threatened with a gun to comply with insemination using a syringe. The child, a boy, was placed for adoption. Grimm said in court documents that hospital and county workers should have known she was in denial about being sexually abused. The hospital said Grimm indicated her boyfriend made her pregnant and asked to have her stepfather listed as the father for insurance purposes. Grimm testified that she told social workers and hospital staff that the father of her baby was someone who moved to Florida, but she could not remember his name or where he was from. She said Goff coached her to say that and that she was afraid not to obey him. Hospital spokeswoman Heather Phillips said in a written statement that hospital officials believe they took appropriate action, and had not decided whether to appeal.

UNLAWFUL DEATH, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 18 -- A press report, dated Mar 17, states: An Illinois jury has awarded \$27 million to the family of a suburban Chicago man after deciding a faulty driver's seat caused his death in an accident five years ago. The jury yesterday ordered Ford and Mazda, the two companies that built the 1996 Ford Escort L-X, to pay damages to James Mikolajczyk's

family. The 46-year-old man was killed in February-2000 after his Escort was rear-ended by a Cadillac that was travelling an estimated 60 miles an hour. The family's lawsuit blamed the Escort's front-seat design as the cause of his death. A Ford spokeswoman says the Escort's front seat meets all federal guidelines. The Cadillac's driver was convicted of drunken driving and reckless homicide.

USE OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated Mar 18, states: Wal-Mart Stores Inc, the world's biggest retailer, has agreed to pay \$11 million to settle federal allegations it used illegal immigrants to clean its stores, attorneys in the case said today. The landmark settlement was expected to be announced by federal immigration officials at a news conference today. Since 1998, federal authorities have uncovered the cases of at least 250 illegal immigrants who were employed by janitor contracting services and hired by the giant retailing chain in 21 states. Many of the janitors, from Mexico, Russia, Mongolia, Poland and a host of other nations, worked seven days or nights a week without overtime pay or injury compensation, said attorney James L. Linsey. Those who worked nights were often locked in the store until the morning, Linsey said. "We're happy that Wal-Mart may finally be putting this shameful chapter to rest with the federal authorities and we expect them not to focus on the people who were shamefully exploited from around the world," said Linsey, who is representing the workers in a civil suit against the company that is still pending in New Jersey. The \$11 million settlement clears Wal-Mart of federal allegations of hiring the illegal immigrants. Federal officials refused immediate comment this morning, as did Wal-Mart officials. Wal-Mart, which has 1.2 million domestic workers, had pledged its co-operation in the investigation. Wal-Mart is based in Bentonville, Ark. On Oct. 23, federal agents raided 60 Wal-Mart stores across 21 states, netting the alleged illegal aliens working in the stores. Almost all the workers were in the employ of subcontractors paid to clean the stores. About 10 of the workers were employed by Wal-Mart. Officials said at the time of the raids the investigation involved wiretaps that revealed Wal-Mart executives were aware that the subcontractors used illegal workers. The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement bureau said the workers came from 18 different nations, including 90 from Mexico, 35 from the Czech Republic, 22 from Mongolia and 20 from Brazil. Once the raid began, Wal-Mart told its executives to preserve documents. Federal agents didn't wait and moved into part of the company's Bentonville headquarters, taking boxes from the office of a mid-level executive. Wal-Mart had begun about a year before the October raids

to move toward using its own workers to clean the floors. The company said it had used more than 100 third-party contractors to clean more than 700 stores nation-wide. An employer can face civil and criminal penalties for knowingly hiring illegal immigrants or failing to comply with certain employee record-keeping regulations.

Railway Accidents



COTTAGE GROVE, MINNESOTA, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Authorities say there were no injuries when a Burlington Northern Santa Fe freight train derailed south of Cottage Grove. Authorities say dozens of cars came off the tracks shortly after 1300, today but there was little other damage. The derailment happened between the Mississippi River and Highway 61. It took firefighters about three hours to clear the scene. Police officer Mike Vandervort said about 30 railroad cars were affected, with one ending up in the Mississippi River and several others on the river bank. He said there were no toxic spills or environmental danger.

MIANWALI, PUNJAB, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Mar 18 -- Four passengers and the driver of the Attaullah Express, a passenger train of Pakistan Railway, were injured when the train ran into a derailed freight train between Kallurkot and Piplan railway stations in Mianwali in northern Punjab Province of Pakistan at 1300, yesterday. Railway authorities said the accident occurred because the telephone service between the two stations was out of order. They said the freight train (6119 Up) was going to Piplan from Kallurkot when it derailed. Meanwhile the Attaullah Express reached Kallurkot around midnight and the Kallurkot stationmaster cleared it onwards. The passenger train ran into the derailed train from behind and its engine was derailed. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TEZONAPA AREA, MEXICO

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Authorities late yesterday were working to clean-up more than 500 litres of sodium hydroxide which spilled after six freight train cars derailed in the Gulf Coast state of Veracruz. No one was hurt in the Sunday afternoon (Mar 20) derailment in the community of Presidio, near the city of Tezonapa. Between 500 and 800 litres of sodium hydroxide, an irritant used in making soap, leaked however, some of it seeping into the nearby soil, according to Gabriela Perez, a spokeswoman for local police. Nearby residents complained of nausea and authorities

evacuated 20 families from nearby homes, Perez said. The train was running its usual route from the city of Cordoba to Tierra Blanca at the time of the derailment. Each of the six cars was carrying more than 61,000 liters of sodium hydroxide, but only a small amount of the total cargo spilled, Perez said. The Mexican army joined emergency response personnel and municipal authorities in the clean-up. As of late yesterday, only two of the six derailed cars had been hauled away. What caused the wreck was unclear.

Miscellaneous



CARGO DISPUTE, CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Mar 21 --The official of Chittagong Port said this afternoon that general cargo Ryu Gyong which was scheduled to sail last week is still at the port. Earlier, its shipping agent said that the question of quality issue of the imported wheat had been resolved and the government had given its permission for offloading at Chittagong Port. Ryu Gyong arrived Chittagong Jan 18 from India. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

COLLAPSE OF RAMP, CALAIS, FRANCE

London, Mar 18 -- A press report, dated Mar 17, states: A cross-channel ferry operator says it has lost millions of pounds due to on-going berthing problems at Calais. Passengers have faced weeks of delays since a gangway rope collapsed on Feb 8, closing the berth as well as others for repair and safety checks. P&O Ferries said it had no choice but to seek compensation from the port. Repairs at the berth are still going on and striking SeaFrance crew caused further problems today by blocking access to one of the docks. Chris Layming from P&O said he expects the delays to continue for several weeks as the Port of Calais had not even started to repair the broken berth. Both P&O and SeaFrance share four berths at Calais but at present they are restricted to two - one of which is often taken out of action due to strong winds. The SeaFrance strike by the crew of ro/ro SeaFrance Rodin ended this afternoon but as a result P&O would not be operating a crossing until 2150, UTC.

Fires & Explosions



COAL MINE, XINZHEN, CHINA

Beijing, Mar 18 -- Eighteen miners have been confirmed dead after a gas

blast ripped through a coal mine in China's southwest Chongqing municipality, the Xinhua news agency reported today. Rescuers were still searching for one missing miner, the agency said. Xinhua said 19 miners had been trapped by the blast, which occurred around 1500 hrs, yesterday at the Sulongsi coal mine in Xinzhen town, Fengjie country. The cause of the explosion was under investigation, Xinhua said. -- Reuters.

COAL MINES, SHUOZHOU, SHANXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Mar 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from a gas explosion at two adjacent coal mines in northern China has doubled to 42, state media reports. With 27 remaining trapped, and possibly still alive, intensive rescue efforts are continuing a day after the powerful blast ripped through the Xishui colliery at Shuozhou city in Shanxi province. The blast immediately caused a wall to collapse in neighbouring Kangjiayao coal mine. Television reports did not specify how many of the confirmed fatalities are from each of the two mines. However, previous reports describe three deaths in the Xishui mine, and 18 in the Kangjiayao pit.

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated Mar 20, states: State media in China said today the death toll from a gas explosion in a mine yesterday had risen to 59. Another 10 miners were trapped underground, with some of them possibly still alive. Officials said police had detained the four owners of the mine in the northern province of Shanxi. The Chinese news agency Xinhua said the licensed mine had been ordered to suspend production after safety problems last November. However, the owners had defied the order and resumed work. The blast occurred yesterday at the Xishui coal mine in Shuozhou and rocked nearby Kangjiayao coal mine. Chinese leaders President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao have "demanded relevant departments try their best to save the trapped and instructed rescuers to pay attention to their own safety", Xinhua said. Xishui was established in 1993 and has an annual output of 150,000 tons.

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from a north China coal mine gas explosion rose to 65 after two more bodies were found and four miners remain missing, state media said. The explosion Saturday (Mar 19) ripped through the Xishui colliery at Shuozhou city in Shanxi province, killing 46 there so far, the Xinhua news agency said. The blast was so powerful that it caused a wall to collapse in the neighbouring Kangjiayao coal mine, killing another 19 miners there. A total of 69 coal miners were trapped in the two shafts after the accident. The four missing miners are from the Xishui mine. Four owners of the Xishui mine have been detained on suspicion of defying an order last November to cease

operations over safety problems. The other coal mine, Kangjiayao, had governmental approval to operate.

FACTORY, WINGFIELD, ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters have spent the night at the scene of a large factory fire at Wingfield in Adelaide's north-west. They were called to the factory on Leeds Street about 1930, ACDT. Metropolitan Fire Service spokesman John Foody says there were several explosions inside the factory at the height of the blaze as the fire burned through pallets of cardboard and packaging equipment. Mr Foody says the burnt-out factory has smouldered all night and the investigation into how the fire started will now begin. "There's a lot of plastics, there's a lot of cartons stacked one on top of the other so fire crews have had to turn over and try to move these products around to make sure that the fire's totally out," he said. "It was a very intense fire and there's also some concern about one of the structures there, a better brick wall."

PREMISES, BALTIMORE, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated Mar 21, states: An asphalt fire has occurred in southeast Baltimore. It happened inside the GAF Plant on 1500 South Ponca Street. Officials say about 23,000 gallons of hot asphalt spilled inside the building, causing a fire. Fire officials are now on the scene. There is no word on any injuries. Surrounding streets have been blocked off.

PREMISES, COLUMBIA, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated Mar 20, states: The Columbia Fire Department says a blaze started in the basement of the Best of the West a jewelry store and quickly spread thick smoke through several other businesses in the building, located on North 10th St. Firefighters say they sounded a second alarm because of the number of businesses and the difficulty in reaching the fire in the basement. But firefighters say they quickly got the blaze under control. No injuries were reported. Damage estimates for fire are unknown. Investigators are still trying to determine what caused the blaze.

PREMISES, JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire at the T&T Pallet Recycling Company threatened a nearby Ferrellgas propane tank yesterday, but firefighters from six different districts were able to bring flames under control by mid-afternoon. No one was injured in the fire, which ruined the business's main structure, a steel building, and set ablaze dozens of tinder-dry wood pallets. Located on Route W, the pallet company is not far from the former Renz prison and is

sandwiched between two Ferrellgas distribution sites. Heavy winds gusting across the open Missouri River bottom whipped the flames high, making the job of attacking the blaze more difficult. Forty-five minutes after it began, the fire wasn't under control, Chief Bob Rennick said. Observers heard small explosions from the inside of the building. Around noon, a loud boom and cloud of black smoke was seen and heard. One firefighter believed it may have been a small propane tank. Ferrellgas Service Centre General Manager Chip Campbell first saw the fire from the Missouri River bridge. At least six fire protection districts, including Jefferson City's, sent help under mutual aid agreements, with Holts Summit commanding the scene. To combat the blaze, firefighters used tanker trucks to suck water from a hydrant on West Main Street in Jefferson City and dump it into a yellow drop tank erected on the road in front of the pallet company. The six districts that responded included: Millersburg, Southern Boone County, Jefferson City, New Bloomfield, Cole County and Holts Summit. Around 1315 hrs, four of the districts were released from service. Owned by Stacy Toebben, the pallet company site is littered with stacks of used and new pallets. Jefferson City officials recently helped Toebben secure a grant to clean up the used pallets by chipping broken ones into mulch.

PREMISES, JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 18 -- A press report, dated Mar 17, states: Firefighters are still dealing with a four alarm fire in Jersey City. The fire burned a row of stores and the smoke was so dark and thick it could be seen from more than 20-miles away. Fire department officials said the fire actually started when a roofer was using a torch on the roof and what started as a small fire quickly spread out of control. The fire tore through a row of stores along Martin Luther King Drive, destroying everything in its path. The four-alarm fire brought out 70 firefighters attacking the flames from above, from below and on the side. The building - an aging structure sitting alongside new construction - was empty at the time the blaze broke out. Chief Frederick Eggers, FDNY: "We initially started an interior attack inside the building but realizing that the building was under renovation, there was basically no floors and we were having to construct the floors out of plywood as we were walking along. The fire got out of control at that point. We couldn't get to the main source of the fire, which was in the rear of the building. At that point especially when the side of the building was starting to crack we had to pull our men out of the building and we're attacking from the outside at this point in time." The fire started just after 1330 hrs, this afternoon. Captain Andrew Johnson, Jersey City Fire Department: "There's going to be

extensive damage to the building. I believe that the roof probably is gone at this point." No firefighters or civilians have been injured and engineers will determine later whether the building housing the antique store, a 99 cent store and a liquor store are in danger of imminent collapse.

PREMISES, SALMABAD, BAHRAIN

London, Mar 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 60 workers fled for their lives as a huge blaze destroyed a company complex in Salmabad yesterday. More than 100 firemen from stations all over Bahrain battled to put out the blaze, which destroyed two warehouses and much of a two-storey building housing labour accommodation, offices and several shops. The fire broke out at the A Ali Essa Al Daaysi Company complex at around 2330, Friday (Mar 18) night. Firemen were still at the scene last night, damping down small fires as they erupted in the smouldering debris. "More than 60 workers have been put up at other labour camps because their rooms were damaged by the fire, leaving them with the only clothes they were wearing." Two warehouses, one for electrical appliances and another one for frozen food were destroyed, leaving just charred debris. Half of the shops rented out on the ground floor were gutted while the others suffered smoke damage. The cause of fire is still under investigation.

REFINERY, DELAWARE CITY, DELAWARE, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire in a pump at Premcor's Delaware City refinery yesterday was extinguished without serious environmental damage or releases, state officials said. Premcor spokeswoman Mary Jen Beach said the fire occurred in a pump that moves finished products through pipes on the east side of Del. 9. Refinery workers were trying to determine whether the pump was moving gasoline or diesel fuel. No firefighters or workers were injured during the blaze and production was unaffected, Beach said. The blaze was reported shortly before 0900 hrs, said Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Michael G. Chionchio, and the Delaware City Fire Company and Premcor's fire brigade brought the fire under control in about 30 minutes. It was the second environmental problem in as many days at the 190,000-barrel-a-day complex. On Saturday (Mar 19), the company reported a spill of more than 500 gallons of ethylene glycol from a broken pipe under a concrete pad.

STEEL PLANT, RIVER ROUGE, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated Mar 21, states: Spilled molten steel caused a fire and explosion today at a Michigan steel plant, injuring 12 people, officials said. A transport vehicle that can carry up to 400 tons of molten steel was backing into a building at the sprawling River Rouge

industrial complex when some of its high-temperature cargo sloshed out, said William Hornberger, a spokesman for Severstal, the Russian company that owns the plant. The molten steel hit two of the vehicle's 8-foot tyres, setting them afire and causing them to explode minutes later while Dearborn firefighters were battling the flames, Hornberger said. The explosion blew out part of the building's steel sheet siding and caused electrical damage, he said. Six remained hospitalized in good or stable condition later today, officials said. Four others were treated and released for minor injuries. Two other people reported minor injuries, Hornberger said. John Brennan of the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration said a compliance officer was at the plant today to investigate the accident. An investigation could take a few weeks, he said. Hornberger said the plant continued to operate after the accident, although at a reduced level of activity to accommodate the investigation and cleanup.

STORAGE AREA, GEEBUNG, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Investigations are continuing into the cause of an industrial fire in Brisbane today. Thick black smoke billowed from the blaze in a storage area beside a hose supply factory at Geebung on the city's north side. About 40 firefighters wearing breathing equipment quickly brought the fire under control. Queensland Fire Service spokesman Kevin DeBitt says there was no threat to workers in the area. "The timing was really good for the fire service in that it was a light industry area and most of the people who were occupying those buildings had left the scene about a half-an-hour before that," he said.

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire in a building in Brisbane's northern suburbs caused more damage to a neighbouring business before it was brought under control. A Queensland Fire and Rescue Service spokesman said the fire, which broke out at 1240 today in a Geebung storage building, was being treated as suspicious. He said firefighters quickly brought the blaze under control without incident, but the heat from the fire damaged a neighbouring business, leaving an adjacent wall unstable. "The fire hasn't affected the building where it started, but what is has done is structurally damaged the building beside it. A wall has been condemned, stopping people coming into the building. That's our problem at the moment," the spokesman said. He said the wall was being reinforced early next week before the case could be investigated. Until then, security guards will patrol the site.

WILDFIRES, MALAYSIA

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Selangor Fire and Rescue Department's worst fear has become a reality, the Raja Muda

Musa forest reserve is ablaze again. And this has happened less than two weeks after the dousing of an earlier fire that had left parts of the state blanketed in smoke. State assistant operations director Nor Hisham Mohd said firemen detected smoke in several spots in the forest during a periodical aerial surveillance on Wednesday (Mar 16). According to him, the firemen found signs at some of the fire spots which strengthened the suspicion that the fires had been caused by people, most probably farmers trying to clear land for planting crops. This had been a common reason for fires starting in bushes, peat swamps and jungles, especially during the height of the hot season. Nor Hisham, however, said the fire this time around was much less intense and easier to handle than the previous one. The last fire, detected on Feb 15, was classified as critical, needing inter-state deployment of 300 men working round-the-clock. The fire this time was contained on Thursday using 108 men deployed from all districts in the state. However, we remain on the alert as the fire is still moving, he said. Nor Hisham said there were at least five spots burning in the 44,488 sq km jungle. One of the more serious spots, he added, was located just about 1km from the Selangor agro-tech area in Batang Berjuntai. Having assessed the situation, we have decided to put more men to control this fire to protect the agro-tech area, he said. Nor Hisham added that even after the previous fire was successfully extinguished, the department had continued to monitor the forest reserve and had assigned a team of about 60 men for this task.



AIRCRAFT HIT BY TURBULENCE ON FLIGHT FROM SAIPAN TO JAPAN

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated Mar 18, states: A Northwest Airlines flight from Saipan to Japan carrying 362 people hit severe turbulence over the Pacific Ocean, injuring four people on board, and was forced to make an emergency landing at a Tokyo airport, an official and media reports said. The Kyodo News Agency, citing authorities, said the aircraft was about 56 miles south of Narita Airport when it hit turbulence at an altitude of nearly 15,000 feet. Flight 75 was carrying 349 passengers and 13 crew members, public broadcaster NHK said. Airport spokesman Koitsu Ito said crew members told authorities at Narita airport there were some injuries on board. A passenger from Tokyo, who was not injured, told Kyodo she felt a sudden shock and saw some other passengers, who were not wearing their seatbelts, thrown to the floor.

Two female flight attendants, both US citizens, and two Japanese passengers, aged 21 and 18, were taken to the hospital with minor injuries, Kyodo said, citing fire officials. The incident occurred 15 minutes before the scheduled landing, Northwest Airlines officials said. The seatbelt sign was turned on, they said.

AIRCRAFT MISSING ON FLIGHT FROM WATERLOO TO PORT HURON, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: A search resumes at sunrise for a aircraft that left Waterloo region yesterday for Michigan but never arrived. The single-engine aircraft left the Region of Waterloo International Airport bound for Port Huron, Michigan at about 1100. The OPP says only the pilot, 41-year-old Emil Janusiewicz of Waterdown, Ont. was on board. The flight should have taken about two hours. The search involves teams from CFB Trenton, Middlesex OPP and the United States Coast Guard. Weather conditions at the time were favourable.

AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO JORGE CHAVEZ INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PERU

Lima, Mar 17 -- An Antonov, carrying general cargo, had to return to Jorge Chavez International Airport, Lima, yesterday, after losing height after take-off. Due to a bad landing, the aircraft was on the runway for at least seven hours until eventually moved. All international and local flights were diverted to the provinces during this time. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CRASH, ENTEBBE, UGANDA

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: The government will this week announce a probe team to investigate the cause of the Saturday morning (Mar 19) crash of a Boeing 707 at Entebbe International Airport. Civil Aviation Authority spokesman Ignie Igunduura said yesterday that the committee would comprise aviation experts among others. "The Minister of Works, Transport and Communication, Mr John Nasasira, is expected to name the investigation team very soon," Igunduura said. The official statement from the government attributed the crash to poor weather and human error. All five crew on board survived, but suffered injuries and were admitted at Nsambya Hospital in Kampala. The pilot reportedly tried and failed to land the first time. It was on the second attempt that the aircraft missed the runway and hit a rock near the Kigungu landing site before disintegrating and scattering pieces into Lake Victoria.

CRASH, FAYETTEVILLE, WASHINGTON COUNTY, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated Mar 21, states: A single-engine aircraft crashed in a rural Washington

County hay field after takeoff yesterday afternoon. Volunteer firefighters say both people on board were injured, one of them critically. The pilot was identified as Harold Read. His passenger was his stepdaughter, Norma Lynch. A nursing supervisor at Northwest Regional Hospital in Springdale said Read was still in critical condition overnight. Lynch was in intensive care in stable condition at Washington Regional Medical Centre in Fayetteville. The aircraft appeared to have crashed nose-first and there was no fire or explosion, which allowed Read and Lynch to climb from the wreckage

CRASH, FORTE DEI MARMI AREA, ITALY

London, Mar 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft belonging to Italy's civil protection agency crashed into a home near the Tuscan coast today, killing two pilots on board, according to news agency reports and a fire department official. The home belonged to an elderly couple who were out at the time of the crash, the Italian news agency ANSA said. The aircraft left Rome at about 1640 to help fight a forest fire near Lucca, ANSA said. Witnesses said the Canadair MI-DPCK appeared to be experiencing some difficulties and caught fire before crashing into the home near Forte dei Marmi, about 12 miles north of Pisa, ANSA reported. Officials with the civil defence agency told the news agency the pilot apparently tried to reach the sea before crashing. ANSA said rescue officials spotted the two pilots' bodies at the site of the crash.

Leghorn, Mar 21 -- Italian Canadair crashed in locality Vittoria Apuana between the province of Lucca and Massa Carrara on Mar 18. Both the pilot and the second pilot were killed in the accident. In the crash one small house sustained damage but there were no casualties. Investigations are still in hand, but at the moment it appears that the aircraft collided with the high-voltage cables. The aircraft was in service in extinguishing a fire which broke out in locality Monte di Ripa, in the area of the accident. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CRASH, GERMISTON, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Mar 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two people have been critically injured and three seriously hurt when an aircraft crashed in Germiston, east of Johannesburg, this afternoon, emergency services say. Spokesman Johann van den Heever said the eight-seater Piper crash landed shortly after taking off from Rand Airport between Germiston and Alberton around 1300 hrs. The injured were taken to Union Hospital in Alberton and Sunward Park Hospital in Boksburg.

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Netcare Union Hospital in Alberton, south of Johannesburg, said one person

remained in a critical condition and four others were stable after yesterday's light aircraft crash in Germiston. Some passengers who were being treated at the Sunward Park Hospital have now been transferred to the Union Hospital. Civil Aviation Authorities are investigating the crash. The aircraft went down shortly after take-off from the nearby Rand Airport. The pilot attempted an emergency landing, but hit a tree and landed on the carport of a nearby house.

CRASH, HOOKS MEMORIAL AIRPORT, TOMBALL, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated Mar 18, states: A four-seat Cessna crashed into the woods roughly a mile north of Hooks Memorial Airport near Tomball this evening, authorities said. The two people in the aircraft walked away from the crash with minor injuries, according to Harris County Sheriff's department officials. The crash occurred about 1700 hrs, according to an airport official. A person in the aircraft, which is based in Hooks, contacted the airport shortly before the crash, authorities said.

CRASH, KOLIKOSH, KHORRAMBID, IRAN

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: A police helicopter crashed in Kolikosh region in Khorrambid, Fars province, noon yesterday, killing two crew and injuring six others.

CRASH, LAKE CONROE AREA, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated Mar 18, states: A final report on the fatal crash of a T-34 aircraft near Lake Conroe in 2003 confirmed federal investigators' initial speculation that metal fatigue caused the wing to fall off. The National Transportation Safety Board report issued this week also confirmed that the aircraft, leased by Aviation Training, did not have required wing spar modifications to meet Federal Aviation Administration requirements. The maintenance log showed the vintage military aircraft was inspected two weeks before the Nov 19, 2003, accident, the report said. It was scheduled for modification. Killed in the crash were pilot Don Wylie, owner of Aviation Training and Texas Air Aces, and passenger William J. Eisenhower Jr, of Centerville, Ohio. Wylie was performing simulated aerial combat with another aircraft when his aircraft lost its right wing and fell to the ground. Another T-34 owned by Aviation Training crashed on Dec 7, 2004, after losing its left wing while doing similar manoeuvres near Lake Conroe. Pilot Richard Gillenwaters, of Conroe, and passenger Pietro Migliori, of Venezuela, died in the accident. Investigators believe metal fatigue also may have played a role in that accident. FAA officials grounded all T-34 aircraft shortly after the December crash.

CRASH, TONITOWN AREA, ARKANSAS, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated Mar 20, states: Two people are recovering while federal and local authorities try to figure out what caused their aircraft to crash in north-west Arkansas. Officials were called around 2200 hrs to the airstrip off Harmon and Columbine near Tonitown, west of Fayetteville where a single engine aircraft came crashing nose first to the ground shortly after taking off. Two people were on board and were conscious after the crash. Both victims were transported to Northwest Medical Centre and are listed in serious condition.

EMERGENCY LANDING, DON MUANG AIRPORT, BANGKOK, THAILAND

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated Mar 18, states: Ninety passengers were left stranded at Bangkok's Don Muang Airport today when a Phuket Air aircraft bound for the southern resort island was forced to make an emergency landing 15 minutes after takeoff. Captain Surin Songkhram, the aircraft's pilot, made the decision to make an emergency landing after discovering a fault in the hydraulic system of the its wings. The airline said that it was laying on a special flight to transport the stranded passengers to Phuket this evening. This morning's flight to Phuket, which was initially due to take off at 1050 hrs, had already been delayed several times as engineers tried to fix the fault.

EMERGENCY LANDING, HYDERABAD AIRPORT, INDIA

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Jet Airways Boeing 737, Hyderabad to Mumbai, made an emergency landing back at Hyderabad airport on Saturday evening (Mar 19), after passengers complained that their noses were hurting. "When passengers complained that their noses hurt, the commander said that the automatic pressurisation of the aircraft had failed and that they were turning back," said a member of the cabin crew of the flight. The flight then returned to Hyderabad airport, went through the Minimum Equipment List check, said the ATC official. "There was some problem with the computer so the pressurisation failed. The passengers might have been inconvenienced for a short while, but the aircraft landed safely," said a Jet Airways official.

FLIGHTS GROUNDED DUE TO FUEL SHORTAGE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Mar 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of passengers have been stranded in Papua New Guinea with the national Airline, Air Niugini, grounding all its domestic and international flights due to a jet fuel shortage. The airline's major fuel supplier, Shell PNG, said the most recent shipment of fuel did not pass international aviation gas

standards and would have placed the aircraft and passengers at risk. The airline's corporate affairs manager, Eva Ani, said all of today's domestic and international flights had been cancelled until a new source of fuel is supplied to Air Niugini. Shell PNG said a second batch of samples had been sent to Australian laboratories for testing and they were awaiting the results to see whether any fuel can be supplied to the airline. Managing Director, Peter Walsh, said the safety of passengers and the aircraft are its priority. "The joint technical expertise that exists within Australia will review those tests to determine whether those products could be used or not," he said. "As well as that, we have already diverted an overseas tanker carrying jet fuel, which was going to Sydney, and that will arrive in Port Moresby tomorrow morning. "It can only release about two million litres but will at least enable Port Moresby to return to some normality."

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Shell PNG said today that an overseas tanker carrying jet fuel would arrive in Port Moresby later in the day. Managing Director, Peter Walsh, said the tanker had been diverted from Sydney. The fresh supplies of fuel will allow PNG's national carrier, Air Niugini, to resume flights. Thousands of people have been stranded at airports around PNG after the airline grounded all flights yesterday because of safety concerns over jet fuel. Their major fuel supplier, Shell PNG, said the fuel, from the local Napanapa refinery, did not pass international standards. An Air Niugini spokeswoman said the situation was beyond the airline's control and nothing could be done until fresh supplies of jet fuel arrive.

N141SW

See "Crash, Lake Conroe Area, Texas, United States."

N422R

London, Mar 17 -- Bell 206B, N422R, crashed under unknown circumstances near Elim, Alaska, at 1930, local time, Mar 15. Damage was substantial.

N875JX

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated Mar 18, states: A BAe Jetstream 31 (N875JX), which crashed in north-east Missouri last year, killing 13 people, continued a steady descent less than 300 feet off the ground when it should have been levelling off, according to federal safety investigation records released today. Documents from the National Transportation Safety Board's investigation into the Oct 19 crash of the Corporate Airlines aircraft also showed the aircraft experienced no apparent mechanical failure or maintenance problems. The aircraft clipped treetops before crashing on private property in a wooded area near Kirksville Regional Airport. Two passengers survived what was the deadliest civilian airline crash in the nation last year. Flight data suggests

the aircraft's approach to the airport was routine until just seconds before the it crashed about one mile short of the runway. Records released today reach no conclusions about what caused the accident. That determination will come later, after the agency completes a final report on the investigation. "It looks like a constant descent, and he should have levelled off, but he didn't and we don't know why," said Bill Waldo, an aviation safety professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Arizona. While the cause of the crash remains a mystery, investigators have said the aircraft lacked an updated system that warns pilots when they fly too low, having an earlier version. The Federal Aviation Administration has ordered the new warning system installed by Mar 29 in commercial aircraft with at least six seats. Several lawsuits have been filed over the disaster, including at least one that alleges the two pilots had been on duty for 14 hours and 41 minutes at the time of the crash. That is below the current FAA standard of 16 hours, but beyond American Airlines' 14-hour limitation.

RA-46489

London, Mar 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: A flight data recorder recovered from the aircraft (RA-46489) that crashed in the Russian Arctic suggests there were no mechanical problems with the An-24 aircraft before it went down Wednesday (Mar 16) near an oil port, killing 28 people, the transport minister said today, according to a report. The 1980s-era two-engine turboprop aircraft crashed near Varandei in the Nenets autonomous region on the Pechora Sea shoreline, some 1,100 miles north-east of Moscow. Twenty-four passengers and crew survived in subzero temperatures. Officials had said the crash could have been caused by pilot error or a technical malfunction. But Transport Minister Igor Levitin told the Interfax news agency that initial results from an examination of the cockpit voice recorder found in the wreckage "did not show that there were technical problems or an equipment failure on board during the approach to landing." Levitin said the other recorder, which stored data from the aircraft's controls, was in extremely bad condition because the wreckage burned, and it might not be possible to recover information from that machine. Citing eyewitnesses, officials said the 23-year-old aircraft's tail section was falling apart as the aircraft went down. Alexander Neradko, head of a federal aviation oversight agency, said yesterday the aircraft was flying too low and he hoped flight data recorders would explain why.

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated Mar 21, states: Specialists of the International Aviation Committee have completed analysis of the voice recorder of the An-24 aircraft (RA-46489) that crashed last Wednesday

(Mar 16). "We have conducted the interpretation from the end to the beginning, and the talks of the crew during the last flight have been restored at present," IAC's technical director for flight safety Rudolf Teimurazov told Itar-Tass today. He said the "interpretation has not revealed anything that would indicate an emergency situation on board." The crash in the Yamalo-Nenets autonomous region left 28 people dead and 24 injured.

Product Recalls



GENERAL MOTORS VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 18 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: General Motors Corp. is recalling 77,055 minivans because their rear brake lights or hazard lights can stop working, federal safety regulators and the world's biggest automaker said Thursday. The recall involves Chevrolet Astro and GMC Safari minivans from the 2001 and 2002 model years. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said a circuit problem could cause the lights to stop working, which could lead to a crash. GM spokesman Alan Adler said there have been no injuries related to the defect. GM dealers will repair the lights for free. NHTSA also said today that GM is recalling 35,777 of its 2005 Pontiac G6 sedans because the owner's manual doesn't say there is a child restraint anchor in the middle of the back seat. NHTSA said owners could have difficulty installing child seats if they aren't aware of the anchor.

Port Conditions



BANGLADESH

London, Mar 19 -- A press report, dated Mar 18, states: Mongla port has remained virtually idle for the last week with no cargo ship anchoring the problem-ridden port, officials here said Wednesday (Mar 16). "Even till Mar 17 there is no schedule for any ship in the port," one official concerned said, stressing that if the situation continued, there will be a paralyzing impact on export and import activities through this port. On Mar 9, sources said, two vessels left the port after downloading goods and since then no ship anchored in the port. Several thousand port workers employed on "no-work no-pay" basis and their families have been passing through fiscal difficulties and uncertainties in absence of any loading and unloading work at the

port having no movement of ships. Mongla Port remained virtually inoperative due to various problems gripping the harbour.

ITALY

London, Mar 21 -- Port situation Mar 21: Genoa: Three bulk carriers and two tankers awaiting berth. Average delays in berthing 24 - 48 hrs. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. Savona: No vessels awaiting normal berth. No vessels awaiting special berth. -- Lloyds Agents.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Mar 22 -- Mongla port has started operations after remained virtually idle for 10 days without any movement of ship and loading and unloading activities. Chairman in-charge of Mongla Port Mohammad Ruhul Amin Sheikh told local media that finally, three cargo ships anchored this week in Mongla port, restoring normal harbour activities and infusing fresh enthusiasm among the virtually idle marine workers and

staff. He said that two ships carrying containers and other cargoes anchored in the port on Saturday night, while another was waiting at outer anchorage with 33,500 mt of clinker for delivery at the port. Hundreds of dock workers and port staff were left with uncertainties about their future in absence of normal port operation, official sources said, adding the dock workers were back to their duties with the arrival of the ships. -- Lloyds List Correspondent.

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbott Point	21-Mar-2005	Coal: 12 vessels due by 8/4; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Brisbane	21-Mar-2005	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 4 vessels due by 12/4; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	21-Mar-2005	Coal: 3 vessels berthed, 54 anchored; 35 vessels due by 29/4. 20-30 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; waiting times vary greatly due to different stem supply issues.
Dampier	21-Mar-2005	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 6 anchored; 8 vessels due by 2/4; up to 11 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 8 vessels due by 2/4; up to 7 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	21-Mar-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 3 vessels berthed, 6 anchored; 39 vessels due by 25/4; up to 6 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed; 11 vessels due by 23/4; up to 1 day's 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	21-Mar-2005	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 6 anchored; 9 vessels due by 27/4. 1-9 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability.
Newcastle	21-Mar-2005	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels berthed, 14 anchored; 26 vessels due by 4/4; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel berthed, 5 anchored; 13 vessels due by 1/4; 9 unallocated vessels due by 28/3; 4-11 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal, coal product problems with some shippers and cargo receipt.
Port Hedland	21-Mar-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 9 vessels due by 1/4; 1-3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 8 vessels due by 30/3; 1-3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 4 vessels due by 26/3; 2-3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 3 vessels due by 26/3; 1-2 days delay expected due to berth congestion, maintenance shutdowns and cargo availability.
Port Kembla	21-Mar-2005	Coal: 16 vessels due by 22/4; CB-1: 2 vessels due by 8/4; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Walcott	21-Mar-2005	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 17 vessels due by 6/4; up to 4 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.
Brazil		
Paranagua	22-Mar-2005	Twelve vessels berthed of which 3 fertiliser dischargers, 1 container discharger, 3 reefer loaders, 1 pellets loader, 4 other loaders/dischargers; 6 vessels waiting in roads, of which 4 to load (1 reefer, 2 soya, 1 other vessel), 2 fertiliser vessels to discharge; 35 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	22-Mar-2005	Two vessels berthed of which 1 soya oil loader, 1 sodium nitrate discharger; 1 vessel waiting in roads; 39 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	22-Mar-2005	Nineteen vessels berthed of which 1 bulk fuel oil loader, 9 sugar loaders, 2 bulk wheat dischargers, 1 juice loader, 2 bulk soya loaders, 2 full container loaders/dischargers, 2 other loaders; 6 vessels waiting in roads; 28 vessels due over the next 7 days

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Port Conditions

Sao Sebastiao	22-Mar-2005	Six vessels berthed, 4 waiting in roads; 7 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitoria	22-Mar-2005	No vessels berthed; Terminal Vila Velha: 1 container loader/discharger; Tubarao: 3 iron ore loaders, 1 soya vessel; Praia Mole: 1 vessel; Portocel: no vessels; Ubu: 2 vessels; 14 vessels waiting in roads; 27 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	21-Mar-2005	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 3 coils, 1 containers, 1 steel sheets, 1 empty), 4 discharging (1 billets, 1 iron ore, 1 hexane, 1 containers); 2 vessels waiting in roads, of which 1 to load cigarettes, 1 to discharge coils; 20 vessels due, of which 15 to load (1 metals, 1 barley, 4 coils, 1 sulphur, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 lead, 2 copper concentrate, 1 containers, 1 scrap, 1 transformers, 1 copper cathodes), 5 to discharge (1 coils/sheets, 1 soya, 1 metal constructions, 1 containers, 1 iron ore).
Varna	21-Mar-2005	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 14-20 March: Forty-two vessels in port operating of which 24 loading (4 bulk maize, 3 scrap, 2 sunflower seeds, 1 bran, 7 soda, 1 bulk clinker, 1 sulphuric acid, 1 silica sand, 1 NP compound fertiliser, 1 kaolin/other, 1 silica sand/other, 1 bulk cement), 9 discharging (2 bulk coal, 1 bulk gypsum, 3 copper concentrate, 2 raw phosphate, 1 equipment), 9 discharging/loading containers.
Chile		
Antofagasta	21-Mar-2005	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 15 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Valparaiso	21-Mar-2005	Two vessels berthed, 6 berths vacant; 4 vessels anchored; 13 vessels due this week.
Egypt		
Alexandria	21-Mar-2005	Forty-three vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 35 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 5 tankers, 1 containers; 16 vessels dry-docked; 15 vessels at inner anchorage, 13 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	21-Mar-2005	Twenty-two vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 14 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 4 containers; 1 vessels at outer anchorage, 8 at inner anchorage.
Suez Canal	21-Mar-2005	Thirty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 30 Southbound.
Israel		
Ashdod	22-Mar-2005	No labour problems. Three general cargo vessels loading at berth, 13 vessels discharging at berth (8 general cargo, 5 bulkers), 4 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker); 2 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 9 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (7 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 2 passenger vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 17 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	22-Mar-2005	No labour problems. Four vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 7 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 3 bulkers); 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 19 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Mozambique		
Maputo	21-Mar-2005	Twenty-four hour berthing/sailing for vessels up to 150 metres LOA. Some restrictions to larger vessels are subject to prior arrangements with Port Captain. Vessels have to be geared for general cargo berths as shore cranes are very few and unreliable. The Port is working normally and is expected to remain so, hence vessels should berth on arrival, daylight, draft and weather permitting. No berthing delays envisaged. A shortage of equipment is being experienced (except at the Container terminal). Shed space is currently available. Safe draft for transiting the channel is 9.1 metres plus the tide of the day. Density of water varies from 1.020 to 1.023. Vessels with ramps on starboard side can berth with the ebbing tide. Should ramps be portside, vessels to berth with the flowing tide. Pilot launch is operational. Both tugs are operational. Leading lights are lit. Both container gantries are operational. Matola coal terminal is operational. Ressano Garcia, Goba and Limpopo railway lines are all operational. Five vessels are currently in port berthed, of which 1 loading ferro chrome, 4 discharging (3 bagged rice, 1 bulk aluminium); 21 vessels due by 4/4 of which 12 to load (1 petcoke, 2 cashew nuts, 2 aluminium, 1 frozen fish, 3 ferro chrome, 1 bulk sugar, 1 bagged rice, 1 coal), 4 to discharge (1 briquettes, 1 bulk aluminium, 1 vegetable oil, 1 petrol), 4 to discharge/load (2 containers, 1 coal, 1 containers/steel rolls/steel sheets), 1 other vessel.

Port Conditions

Pakistan

Karachi	21-Mar-2005	Two vessels loading at berth (1 rice, 1 general cargo), 9 discharging at berth (2 crude oil, 1 palm oil, 1 general cargo, 1 sugar, 1 scrap, 1 DAP, 1 steel coils, 1 jute), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 8 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 coal, 1 sugar, 4 general cargo, 1 crude oil, 1 chemicals); no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 4 vessels due (1 general cargo, 1 SBM, 1 rice, 1 chemicals), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	21-Mar-2005	Three vessels discharging at berth (1 MEG, 1 wheat, 1 HSD), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 LPG)

Poland

Gdansk	21-Mar-2005	Two vessels loading at berth (1 coal, 1 tanker), 3 vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 2 bulkers); 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, 2 bulkers waiting in roads; 21 vessels due.
Gdynia	21-Mar-2005	One grain vessel loading at berth, 2 general cargo vessels discharging at berth; 19 vessels under pairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 46 vessels due.

Russia

Novorossiysk	21-Mar-2005	Twenty vessels in port operating, of which 17 loading (1 DRI, 1 bulk cement, 1 bulk urea, 1 ore, 2 scrap, 1 WRIC, 1 steel billets/coils/tin plate/equipment, 2 steel billets, 1 slabs/steel billets/coils, 1 pig-iron, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate/bulk urea, 1 coils, 1 aluminium, 1 wheat, 1 diesel oil), 3 discharging bulk sugar; 6 vessels waiting in roads, of which 5 to load (1 bulk NPK, 1 steel sheets/coils, 1 steel billets, 1 cellulose, 1 barley), 1 to discharge ore; 69 vessels due, of which 67 to load (6 aluminium, 2 scrap, 6 steel billets, 3 steel sheets, 2 bulk ammonium nitrate, 5 pig-iron, 1 HBI, 6 copper, 6 bulk NPK, 2 pipes, 1 tin plate/steel sheets/coils, 1 slabs, 2 wheat, 2 DRI, 1 paper, 1 steel billets/coils/steel sheets, 1 flowers, 3 coils, 1 WRIC, 1 lead, 2 bulk fertiliser, 2 bulk urea, 1 steel billets/coils/tin plate, 1 equipment, 1 UAN solution, 2 WRIC/steel billets, 1 steel sheets/coils/channel/tin plates, 1 steel billets/slabs, 1 barley, 1 rice, 1 cellulose), 2 to discharge (1 ore, 1 bulk NPK). Oil terminal: 4 tankers berthed, all loading, of which 3 crude oil, 1 diesel oil; 7 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 6 tankers due, all to load, of which 4 crude oil, 2 fuel oil.
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Spain

Cadiz	22-Mar-2005	Sixteen vessels in port of which 8 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 2 containers, 1 wheat, 1 cereals, 1 semolina), 8 vessels under repair; no delays.
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Sri Lanka

Colombo	21-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. Twelve vessels loading at berth (11 containers/feeders, 1 containers/general cargo), 15 vessels discharging at berth (12 containers/feeders, 1 bagged maize, 1 bulk cement, 1 bulk palm oil); 1 bagged maize vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel dry-docked, 1 bunkering; 7 vessels due (6 containers/feeders, 1 bagged maize), with no delays expected.
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Ukraine

Mariupol	21-Mar-2005	Six vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 2 steel, 2 coal, 1 fire-clay, 1 wheat; 3 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 steel, 1 coal, 1 pitch; 62 vessels due, of which 58 to load (33 steel, 1 coke, 14 coal, 1 fire-clay, 2 sulphur, 2 wheat, 1 equipment, 3 soya beans, 1 pitch), 3 to discharge (1 containers, 1 citrus, 1 pipes).
Odessa	21-Mar-2005	Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (5 metal, 1 scrap, 1 corn), 2 discharging (1 luggage, 1 meat), 2 discharging/loading containers, 1 passenger vessel; 3 vessels in roads, of which 1 to load corn/barley, 2 to discharge (1 oil, 1 citrus); 78 vessels due, of which 51 to load (34 metal, 2 pig-iron, 2 pipes, 3 wood, 1 general cargo, 2 wheat, 5 corn, 1 oats, 1 oil), 7 to discharge (2 citrus, 1 oil, 1 luggage, 1 sugar, 1 meat, 1 ore), 20 to discharge/load containers.

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United States

Houston	21-Mar-2005	Normal 40 ft. 0 ins. max. channel draft reported. Channel open under normal traffic. LDC Dreyfus terminal: no delays expected; Cargill terminal: no delays expected.
Kalama, WA	21-Mar-2005	Kalama export terminal: 3 days delay expected; United Harvest terminal: 2 days delay expected.
New Orleans	21-Mar-2005	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1-2 days delay expected. Cargill-Westwego: 1 day's delay expected. ADM/Ama: 5-7 days delay expected. Bunge/Destrehan: 2 days delay expected. ADM/ Destrehan: 5-7 days delay expected. ADM/Reserve: 5-7 days delay expected. Cargill/Reserve: 1 day's delay expected. Peavey/Paulina: 1 day's delay expected. Zen-Noh/Convent: 1-2 days delay expected. Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays expected. Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: 1 day's delay expected; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 2 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 2 days delay expected. Nine-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to decrease to 5.1 ft. by 31/3/05 Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: SW Pass to Pilottown - 47 ft. for all vessels; Pilottown to Nola - 47 ft. for all vessels; New Orleans (Mile 233.5) to mile 180 in. - 45 ft. for all vessels (vessels with drafts up to 47 ft. have been handled but are approved by pilots on a case-by-case basis based on current river conditions); Note: Motiva Convent dock no. 1 is restricted to a maximum draft of 38 ft, (fw) until dredging is completed. Dock no. 2 is restricted to 30 ft, (fw); Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 34 ft. from Bouy 1 - Mile 28.3; 36 ft. from Mile 28.3 - Mile 66.9
Portland, OR	21-Mar-2005	Grain terminal: 3 days delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: no delays expected; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays expected.
Tacoma	21-Mar-2005	Temco terminal: 2 days delay.

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