

March 17 2006

## New research highlights modus operandi of Somali hijackers

A map devised by a City University academic shows which type of vessels, from superyachts to merchant ships, are most at risk from attack and where, writes David Osler — Friday March 17 2006

SEPARATE Somali piracy gangs operate a division of labour with some targeting merchant ships and others superyachts, according to a new chart of attack locations.

The map is based on the work of City University academic Risto Talas, a former Lloyd's underwriter who plotted the co-ordinates of yacht piracy incidents between 1999 and 2005.

Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit, affiliated to Informa Group, parent of Lloyd's List, extended Mr Talas' data with data for attacks on commercial shipping.

Once the information is displayed graphically, clusters of incidents become clearly visible.

Most attacks on yachts occur closer to Yemen than to Somalia, between 13°-14° latitude and 48°-49° longitude.

The principal cluster for merchant vessel piracy comes further east, at about 51° longitude and 12°-13° latitude.

Mr Talas also consulted popular yachting websites and noted several reports hinting that those who strike against yachts do so in conjunction with people trafficking.

One yachtsman noted: "We were attacked by three old ships' lifeboats, the sides of which were raised with blue plastic sheeting.

"The boats were crammed with what appeared to be very frightened Somali people."

Experts agree with the conclusion that several groups are at work.

Jayant Abyankar of the International Maritime Bureau said: "There are at least two, if not three, gangs, we believe. They have their own patches."

Some 39 incidents have been reported off Somalia since March last year.

The IMB advises vessels not making port calls to keep at least 200 miles from the Somali coast.

Meanwhile, the Bahrain-based US Navy Maritime Liaison Office has issued an advisory on Somalia.

"Pirates have operated at night and have cued in on the ship's lights," Marlo writes.

"Vessels travelling off the coast of Somalia should use the minimal lighting that will ensure compliance with the international rules of the road and safe navigation practices."

Merchant vessels should keep Automated Identification System on during transits.

They should also keep their radar working and open the distance when they detect any approaching vessels.

Marlo adds that pirates have in the past used false distress calls to lure unsuspecting victims and may do so again.

When trying to escape hijacking, it is better to increase speed than engage in aggressive manoeuvring.

## Indonesian transport firms threaten strike at ports

Friday March 17 2006

INDONESIAN transport workers have threatened to stop carrying goods to and from the country's four major ports if the government does not scrap a 10% value-added tax on port transportation services.

Industry officials said the indefinite shutdown starting on Monday could hit trade in commodities, especially rubber and coffee, from Southeast Asia's largest economy, but it would have a limited impact on the oil sector which uses its own ports and vehicles.

The four major ports to be affected are Tanjung Priok in Jakarta, Tanjung Perak in the country's second-largest city of Surabaya, Tanjung Emas Port in Semarang, Central Java and Belawan in the commodities-producing region of North Sumatra.

The chief of the land transport firms association (Organda) said the tax, levied more than two years ago, was hurting transport firms after a sharp domestic fuel price hike last October. "We will suspend our service indefinitely, unless the government abolishes the tax," Murphy Hutagalung told Reuters.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>DAVIKEN</i>	bulker	BHS	AB ABS	23,306	35,532	1987	Reported Mar 7 drifting in lat 50 18.9N, long 01 12.6W to effect repairs. Unable to repair camshaft and due to approaching bad weather requested a tow to Southampton. <i>Anglian Earl</i> tasked. Alongside at Southampton Mar 8.
<i>HEINZ SCHEPERS</i>	general	ATG	GL	3,992	5,350	1993	Anchored three miles south-west of Wolf Rock, in lat 49 55N, long 05 53W, Mar 3, with damage to turbo-charger shaft bearings and inlet/outlet valves. Taken in tow by <i>Anglian Prince</i> . Arrived Falmouth, same day, for repairs.
<i>IBRAHIM R.</i>	general	KHM	PR	4,909	6,035	1969	Grounded off Novorossiysk, in lat 44 34 14N, long 37 58 59 E, Mar 4. In same position Mar 6.
<i>LEONID SOBOLEV</i>	bulker	RUS	RS	16,502	23,940	1985	Hit by a shore crane while discharging at Port Alfred, quebec Mar 5. Aft mast pushed down resulting in loss of radar, GPS, communication system etc. Damage considerable.
<i>MIRIAM</i>	general	ATG	GL	4,163	5,055	1998	Had main engine problems when counter-shaft broke about 100 miles off Cartagena(COL) Feb 19. Towed to Cartagena Feb 22. Discharged cargo and towed to shipyard for repairs, ETC 6 months.
<i>NEDLLOYD DE LIEFDE</i>	container	LBR	GL	10,917	13,700	1995	Had fire in engine-room in lat 10 11N, long 78 26W, Mar 7. To be towed to Cristobal. Arrived Manzanillo Mar 8.
<i>OTILIA</i>	product tanker	DNK	GL	5,525	8,828	1989	Contacted the outer pier of the Bremerhaven northern lock when entering on Mar 2. Sustained damage requiring repairs before voyage can be continued. Minor damage to pier.
<i>PANDION</i>	asphalt tanker	SWE	BV	6,280	7,130	2003	Grounded near Holmsund, in lat 63 40N, long 20 20E, Mar 4. Some bottom damage and leakage in pump-room. Lightering in progress Mar 6. Initial refloating attempts unsuccessful. Refloated Mar 7 and in port at Holmsund.
<i>RUNNER 4</i>	general	DMA	LR	3,464	6,072	1976	In collision with mv Sv.Apostol Andrey near Vainlo, Gulf of Finland, Mar 5. Sank as a result. Crew rescued. Reported Mar 7 some pollution noted.
<i>SUPERFERRY 12</i>	passenger	PHL	LR	11,914	5,022	1984	Had fire in state room while en route from Manila to Cebu Mar 9. All passengers and crew safe. Anchored off Daanbantayan, 60 miles from Cebu. Subsequently fire brought under control and vessel continued voyage.
<i>TEKLIVKA</i>	general	MLT	RS	3,936	4,168	1991	Sank 75 km outside Egyptian territorial waters, in the Mediterranean, Mar 9.
<i>TK BARCELONA</i>	general	MLT	NK	4,337	6,596	1985	Grounded in bad weather off Novorossiysk, in lat 44 38 10N, long 37 54 29E, Mar 4. Still aground Mar 7. Water ingress in No 1 hold and engine-room. Diver inspection due Mar 7.
<i>ZIM MEXICO III</i>	container	ATG	GL	10,736	14,103	1993	Struck a gantry crane while turning at Mobile Mar 2. Crane collapsed, killing operator. Two foot gash to bow, 20 feet above waterline. Port Authority claiming \$12 million in damages.

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## The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



### Marine

#### **AEGEAN SUN (Greece)**

Piraeus, Mar 9 — Ro/ro *Aegean Sun* (10171 gt, built 1975) struck the pier during departure manoeuvres at Chios port last night, May 8, while performing the schedule Mytilene - Chios - Piraeus. The vessel sustained stern damage. All crew members and passengers were reportedly healthy and secure. No pollution was reported. The local port authorities prohibited the vessel's departure until inspection by class surveyor and repair of the damage — Lloyd's Agents.

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

Vigo, Feb 28 — General cargo *Aegitna* is still under repair at Vigo. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **AFEA (Cyprus)**

Honolulu, Mar 7 — Bulk *Afea* (22382 gt, built 1982) reported engine related problems and encountered heavy weather Mar 1. Vessel departed Hopping, Taiwan Feb 3, bound for Panama, with final destination to be Florida for discharge. On Mar 3, a total of forty-four 55 gallon drums of lube oil were transported by two water taxis to *Afea*, 12 miles offshore, Hawaiian waters. Extent and particulars are unknown. On Mar 3, the vessel departed bound for Panama. — Lloyd's Agents. ( Note — *Afea* according to LMIU AIS, was in lat 21 10 11.9N, long 157 38 44.97W at 0253, UTC, Mar 4.)

#### **AL SALAM BOCCACCIO 98 (Panama)**

London, Mar 9 — A preliminary report into last month's Egyptian ferry disaster that killed about 1,000 people will be published in around two months, the official in charge of the investigation said yesterday. The final report will not be ready for a further two months after that, Mohammed Abdel- Fattah Shama added. "It's too soon to announce results or deductions," he told a press conference in Cairo. The voyage data recorder from passenger ro/ro *Al Salam Boccaccio 98* was recovered last month by a robot vehicle about half a mile down on the sea floor. The recorder's contents are now being analysed in Britain. *Al Salam Boccaccio 98* was said to be carrying 1,400 people when it sank on Feb 3, after a fire broke out while it was en route from Saudi Arabia to Safaga in Egypt.

#### **ALESSIA (Switzerland)**

Brest, Mar 9 — General cargo *Alessia* is still in port after discharging the cargo. Repairs were carried out by a local repair yard and reloading is now scheduled for next

week. Departure for Haôfa not expected before the end of next week at the earliest. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ALFASHIP (Bahamas)**

Piraeus, Mar 3 — Crude oil tanker *Alfaship* remains at Kynosoura, Salamis island, undergoing repairs, ETD unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ALICAN DEVAL (Turkey)**

Messina, Mar 3 — General cargo *Alican Deval* was refloated and sailed thereafter. Understand that there was little or no damage to bottom. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 4 — General cargo *Alican Deval* arrived at Valletta on Mar 2.

London, Mar 6 — A Svitzer Wijsmuller Salvage report, dated Mar 3, states: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage yesterday redelivered general cargo *Alican Deval* safely alongside its repair berth in Malta. The vessel was refloated a week earlier from its grounding position off Sicily and was brought, as per the local authorities requirement, into Siracusa, where it found a temporary berth. Since permanent repairs could not be done at that location the owners elected to have it moved to Malta, but before that could be achieved the local authorities needed a number of requirements to be met, which also necessitated the involvement of the Turkish flagstate. This resulted amongst others in the vessel having to be brought back under temporary class. In close co-operation between the vessel's class society (ABS), the Turkish flagstate and a number of specific SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage resources and offices class was temporary re-instated on Mar 1. To name a few, ABS offices in Genoa, Piraeus, London and Houston were involved, the SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage offices in The Netherlands and Greece were co-ordination with these ABS offices and the necessary specific trim/strength/stability calculations were provided by SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage naval architects. Upon class having been provided at 1700, local time, Mar 1, departure permission was immediately granted by the local authorities and at around 1800, local time, the vessel moved out of port under command of a SvitzerWijsmuller salvage master and with a salvage team and specific salvage equipment on board. The convoy arrived safely off Valletta early yesterday afternoon, was berthed at around 1600, local time, with redelivery having actually been formalised at 1630, local time, same day.

#### **ALICE (Malta)**

See *Twin Star*.

#### **ALVAREZ ENTRENA I**

London, Mar 2 — Following notice to mariners issued at 0233, UTC, today: derelict fishing *Alvarez Entrena I* adrift in lat 39 36S, long 59 11W.

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



London, Mar 2 — Following navigation warning issued today: Fishing *Gianfranco* towing fishing *Alvarez Entrena I* in lat 39 35S, long 59 12W, line length 300 metres, speed 6.5 knots, course 028, bound Quequen port.

#### **AMIRAL AKDENIZ (Libya)**

London, Mar 4 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1139, UTC: The list to general cargo *Amiral Akdeniz* has been corrected and the vessel remains at Skoutari Bay.

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1026, UTC: Ggeneral cargo *Amiral Akdeniz* is still in Skoutari Bay.

London, Mar 9 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1034, UTC: General cargo *Amiral Akdeniz* is still anchored in Skoutari Bay, and the crew are continuing with repairs.

#### **ANGEL PEARL (Sierra Leone)**

Kingston, Mar 7 — General cargo *Angel Pearl* is still in port. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ANNE-S. (Netherlands)**

Esbjerg, Mar 6 — General cargo *Anne-S.*, with rudder problems, was towed into Esbjerg by tug *Taucher O. Wulf 3* at 0510 hrs, Feb 26. The vessel is currently dry-docked at Esbjerg, with repairs estimated to be completed in 10-14 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **APL PANAMA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Mar 8 — An APL service status report, dated Mar 7, states: C.c. *APL Panama* remains grounded off the coast of Ensenada. The salvors state that they have made substantial progress in removing sand in a channel in front of the vessel, and intend to renew their efforts to refloat the ship by pulling it out through the channel they are dredging. Salvors hope to try and refloat the ship this week. Some 1,292 containers, equivalent to 20,266 tonnes, have been removed from the ship. Another 513 containers remain on board. The salvors have suspended further removal of containers from the ship at this time, pending the next refloating effort. We have notified all customers with containers that are located ashore. We are also notifying customers in the event damage to their cargo is suspected. Only a very small number of containers appear to have been damaged in any way, however. It is our hope that if the vessel is refloated we will be able to have it dock in Ensenada so that the remaining containers on the ship can be off-loaded. The salvor's ability to do this will depend on the condition of the ship and whether authorities permit the vessel to dock in Ensenada. If the cargo cannot be off-loaded in Ensenada we will explore other avenues with the owners, salvors and authorities, including offloading in Manzanillo. It is likely the ship will remain at anchor for some time while she is inspected and repaired.

#### **ARATERE (New Zealand)**

See "New Zealand" under "Weather & Navigation."

#### **B.C. FLYER (Canada)**

London, Mar 7 — Fishing *B.C. Flyer* (66 gt, built 1942) was taking on water and in danger of sinking near French Creek, BC, in lat 49 21N, long 124 21.00W at 2113, PST, Mar 6.

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Victoria BC, timed 2148, UTC: *B.C. Flyer* taking on water for unknown reasons yesterday. Vessel proceeded to French Creek and subsequently continued on voyage to Vancouver.

#### **BARBAROS KIRAN (Turkey)**

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1920, UTC: Bulk *Barbaros Kiran* (22466 gt, built 1985) bound Hampton Roads, loaded, in collision with fishing *Lady Ann* (26 gt, built 1971) in lat 33 36.9N, long 76 54.8W at about 1710, UTC. No injuries to crew of either vessel. *Barbaros Kiran* has departed the casualty position and its whereabouts is being sought. *Lady Ann* has minor damage but has full power.

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, VA, timed 1522, UTC: Fishing *Lady Ann* took on water and sank in lat 33 36.8N, long 79 56.3W, at 2112, UTC, Mar 7. All three crew were rescued. Bulk *Barbaros Kiran* is currently proceeding to Hampton Roads, ETA 2000, UTC, today.

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: Southport fishing *Lady Ann* collided with bulk *Barbaros Kiran* some 55 miles off the mouth of the Cape Fear River Tuesday afternoon (Mar 7), and three fishermen were rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard as the boat sank. Larry Poatter, Tom Smith and an as yet unidentified crewmember were on board *Lady Ann* when the accident occurred. Coast Guard search and rescue controllers in Portsmouth, Va. received an electronic distress call from the 44-foot fishing vessel *Lady Ann* at about 1230 according to television station WKTR in Hampton Roads, Va. After issuing an urgent marine information broadcast in the area of the distress call, a fishing vessel reported hearing over their radio that the *Lady Ann* was taking on water after the collision with the 633-foot Turkish-flagged *Barbaros Kiran*. The Coast Guard launched a rescue helicopter from Air Station Elizabeth City and a Navy helicopter was diverted to the scene. But the *Lady Ann's* captain, Larry Potter, soon reported that the flooding was under control and the crew would proceed to their dock in Southport. The helicopters discontinued their mission. The fishing vessel remained in radio contact with the Coast Guard and at 1449. Potter reported the boat was taking on too much water and was sinking. The Coast Guard helicopter returned to the scene. A Marine Corps helicopter from Cherry Point also headed to the boat's

position. The Coast Guard helicopter arrived at 1530 and began hoisting the crew. The men were taken to New Hanover Regional Medical Centre in Wilmington, and are reported to be in good condition. The Coast Guard will investigate the cause of the collision.

#### **BARGE SUNK, DANUBE RIVER, SERBIA**

London, Mar 8 — Port authorities in Serbia have said a sunken barge in the Danube poses "little or no" ecological threat to the area. The statement came after a barge, pushed by the Bulgarian vessel *Stara Planina*, sank in the Serbian part of the Danube on Mar 2, Serbian authorities confirmed. The vessel experienced problems navigating close to Kovovica and the hull of the vessel, which was carrying 1,000 tons of coke for iron-producing company *sZelezara* in Smederovo, was pierced after it hit a reef. The crew reportedly battled for hours to save the vessel but it eventually sank. A spokesman for the port authorities said an investigation had been launched into the incident.

#### **BEACON 3 (Belize)**

Piraeus, Mar 2 — C.c. *Beacon 3* remains in port (at Piraeus) under detention. Prospects of release are unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BEETLE NO.3 (Japan)**

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A jet ferry collided with an object believed to have been a whale yesterday off Tsushima, Nagasaki Prefecture, slightly injuring 11 passengers, Japan Coast Guard officials said. A total of 90 passengers and seven crew members were on ferry *Beetle No.3* (255 gt, built 1989) at the time of the accident, they said. The ferry left Busan, South Korea, at 0845 and was headed for Hakata, Fukuoka Prefecture, when it hit something around 1020. The ferry made an emergency stop at Hitakatsu port in Tsushima around 1400 after it could not be navigated at high speed due to the accident.

#### **BUDELLI (Italy)**

Messina, Mar 3 — Passenger ro/ro *Budelli* is presently in port but repairs, which will in any case be minimal, are not likely to start for some time because there is an inquest on-going at the local court to ascertain responsibilities/causes of the collision. Most of the damage was incurred by the floating arm of the marina and by yachts moored therein. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BUMI JAYA (Indonesia)**

Chittagong, Mar 5 — General cargo *Bumi Jaya* is still lying at Chittagong Outer Anchorage. No further developments. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BUNGA PELANGI (Malaysia)**

London, Mar 6 — C.c. *Bunga Pelangi* sailed Antwerp 1333, Mar 1, for Southampton, where arrived 0126,

Mar 2. Vessel sailed Southampton 0206, Mar 3, for Gioia Tauro. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CALIFORNIA LUNA (Singapore)**

London, Mar 7 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: On the River Maas, in the Paddenstoelen, C.c. *California Luna* (41110 gt, built 1987) had a machine blackout on Mar 5. The vessel was pulled into the Beerkanaal by a Smit tug. Subsequently the vessel resumed power and continued its voyage to Hamburg. (Note — *California Luna* arrived Hamburg on Mar 6 and sailed same day.)

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Cosmic Ship Management Pte Ltd, Singapore, technical managers of c.c. *California Luna: California Luna* had a M/E trip on Mar 5, but were restarted within 10 minutes. The trip was activated by a false alarm and needed to be reset. Thereafter the vessel safely proceeded on her voyage to Hamburg. There was no machine blackout as previously reported.

#### **CARIBBEAN CLIPPER (Honduras)**

See "Hurricane "Katrina"" under "Weather & Navigation".

#### **CHRISTOS (Greece)**

Piraeus, Mar 3 — Product tanker *Christos* left Halki port Feb 26 for Perama, Piraeus, for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CHUN YEON (South Korea)**

London, Mar 3 — General cargo *Chun Yeon* is still at anchor with a 30-deg list. A tug remains on scene and another is proceeding.

#### **CINNA (Liberia)**

London, Mar 2 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1410, UTC: Bulk *Cinna*, which grounded while waiting to berth, refloated after approximately 7,000 tons of cargo was lightered. Vessel is now alongside berth discharging remainder of cargo. The Captain of the Port Order placed on the vessel has been rescinded.

#### **CMA CGM WAGNER (Bahamas)**

London, Mar 7 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: At 0930, local time, today, c.c. *CMA CGM Wagner* (65247 gt, built 2004) had a machine failure on the River Elbe, exactly opposite the Elbehafen (Elbe Harbour), Brunsbüttel. Tugs were attached and towed the vessel into the Elbehafen.

London, Mar 8 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: At 1500 hrs, Mar 7, c.c. *CMA CGM Wagner* resumed its voyage towards the North Sea after some repair work to the machinery.

London, Mar 9 — C.c. *CMA CGM Wagner* arrived at Rotterdam on Mar 8.

#### **CSL ATLAS (Bahamas)**

London, Mar 3 — Bulk *CSL Atlas* (41173 gt, built 1990) and tank barge *Imperial Dartmouth* (1192 gt, built

1970) were in contact at Halifax at 0720, AST, Mar 1, while *Imperial Dartmouth* was coming alongside for bunkering. *Imperial Dartmouth* sustained slight damage.

#### **DA QING 733 (China)**

See *Xing Hang 18*.

#### **DAVIKEN (Bahamas)**

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 1544, UTC: Bulk *Daviken* (23306 gt, built 1987), Philadelphia for Antwerp in ballast, reported drifting in lat 50 18.9N, long 01 12.6W, at 1500, UTC, to effect repairs to power transmission unit. Estimated duration of repairs one hour.

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 1945, UTC: Bulk *Daviken* has declared the problem is on the cam shaft and unrepairable by the vessel's staff. Vessel speaking to their owners.

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 0100, UTC: Owners of bulk *Daviken* reported that a technician from Belgium is required to repair camshaft, which will take two-to-three days. Because of approaching bad weather, Coastguard has requested that owners find a tug to tow vessel to Southampton.

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 0345, UTC: Bulk *Daviken*: Anchored position is approximately 11 miles south south-east of St. Catherines Point, Isle of Wight. Tug *Anglian Earl* tasked from Deal, where departed 0238, UTC, today, ETA on scene 1030, UTC, today. Arrangements made with Southampton VTS to secure a berth at Southampton. VTS in process of arranging harbour tugs for escort through the Solent and up Southampton Water.

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 1235, UTC: Bulk *Daviken* is now under tow of tug *Anglian Earl*. Eta Nab Tower 1430, UTC. Vessel is to berth at Berth 106, Southampton.

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 2159, UTC: Bulk *Daviken* is alongside at Southampton QE2 berth. Tug *Anglian Earl* departing the area.

#### **DESH RAKSHAK (India)**

London, Mar 4 — Crude oil tanker *Desh Rakshak* arrived at Singapore on about Jan 26.

#### **ELISE SCHULTE (Hong Kong)**

London, Mar 7 — Crude oil tanker *Elise Schulte* arrived at Port Arthur on Mar 5.

#### **EUGENIA (Honduras)**

Mumbai, Mar 9 — General cargo *Eugenia* is still under detention at Mumbai Port. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **EUGENIO**

Durban, Mar 7 — General cargo *Eugenio* has completed repairs. Understand from the vessel's local agents that it is due to be sold. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **EURO FJORD (Norway)**

Trondheim, Mar 7 — General cargo *Euro Fjord* has completed repairs but is still at Kvernhusvik Shipyard. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **EVANGELIA M. (Malta)**

London, Mar 3 — bulk *Evangelia M.* was permitted to try and refloat with own means by Gelibolu Port Authority until 1600, Feb 27. As it could not be refloated by its own means, a salvage agreement was signed between the master of the vessel and tug *Kurtarma 4* at 0002, Feb 28. Tug *Alemdar 2* was also sent to vicinity of incident from Istanbul.

London, Mar 3 — Following received from Ankara MSRCC, timed 1010, UTC: Bulk *Evangelia M.* was refloated with tug assistance at 1800, local time, Mar 1, and anchored in the Bosphorus for survey.

#### **EW MCKINLEY (Panama)**

London, Mar 3 — Following received from the Admiralty Marshal's Office, dated today: Ref *EW McKinley* was released from arrest on Mar 3.

#### **EXPLORER OF THE SEAS (Bahamas)**

See "Outbreak Of Virus On Bahamas Flagged Vessel" under "Miscellaneous."

#### **FATAHASMAT**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The Indian Coast Guard and the Pakistani Maritime Agency jointly rescued unknown *Fatahasmat* off Pakistan's coast. Fourteen crew members, including two Slovaks and 12 Indians on board the *Fatahasmat* have been stranded for days, 80 nautical miles off the Karachi coast. The vessel belonging to a Salaya-based shipping company was headed for Mumbai from Sharjah, when it developed engine trouble. The Indian Coast Guard was alerted on Feb 26 and a joint operation with the Pakistan Maritime Agency rescued the crew on Feb 28. *Fatahasmat* was towed to Indian waters on Feb 28 by the Pakistan Maritime Agency vessel *Rahmat* where the Coast Guard vessel *Tarabhai* took over. On board the stricken *Fatahasmat*, were two Slovakian journalists shooting a documentary on Indian maritime shipping. The rescue operation was a rare collaborative effort by officials of India and Pakistan and was a lucky escape for the 14 crewmen.

#### **FINNSTAR (Finland)**

London, Mar 9 — Passenger ro/ro *Finnstar* arrived Naples on Mar 5. (See issue of Nov 28.)

#### **FREE DESTINY (Marshall Islands)**

London, Mar 8 — Following received from the operators of bulk *Free Destiny* (16282 gt, built 1982), dated Piraeus today: *Free Destiny* grounded in the River Congo while en route from Matadi to Boma, Mar 5. Vessel grounded on soft bottom and was able



to refloat itself, however, a bottom inspection will be carried out at a later date. (Note — *Free Destiny* sailed Ko Sichang Jan 15, arrived Singapore Jan 22, and sailed same day, for Luanda.)

#### **GALINA (Cambodia)**

Falmouth, Mar 7 — General cargo *Galina* was released from detention Mar 6 by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. Tug *Waterman* has arrived Falmouth to tow the vessel to Haleda, Israel. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GOLDEN TRADER (Tonga)**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Peak-hour traffic along the waterfront in central Auckland turned to chaos, yesterday, as emergency services closed Quay St to battle a fire on ro/ro/c.c. *Golden Trader*. As vehicles sat bumper-to-bumper, smoke rose from *Golden Trader*, moored at the Port of Auckland. Auckland senior station officer, Barry Fox, said the fire started in an acetylene cylinder while workers were welding. No one was injured and structural damage was minimal. Traffic was flowing again by 0700 hrs.

Auckland, Mar 7 — Ro/ro/c.c. *Golden Trader* had a minor fire while berthed at Captain Cook wharf on Mar 2. The vessel was undergoing maintenance as it is under a sale contract. Current owners are Shipping Corporation of Polynesia. A gas regulator blew off an acetylene tank, damage is apparently very minor and limited to paint blistering on the forward bulkhead. Vessel still at berth undergoing continuing maintenance to bring it up to class for upcoming sale to Japanese owner. — Lloyd's Agents

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

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1036, UTC: Tug *Goliath* (169 gt, built 1956) reported losing the towline to its barge tow off Land's End. The vessel connected the emergency towline and is currently heading into Mount's Bay to resecure the main towline. The vessel is expected to arrive in Mount's Bay at about 1430, UTC, and is being escorted by tug/supply *Anglian Princess*.

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1220, UTC: The Penlee lifeboat has been launched to standby both tugs. At 1132, UTC, a man was placed on board the barge from tug *Goliath* and the tow was reconnected to tug *Anglian Princess*. *Anglian Princess* now proceeding into Mount's Bay to allow *Goliath* to re-establish tow and recover broken cables.

London, Mar 9 — Following press release from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated Mar 8, states: At 0500 this morning, Falmouth Coastguard were contacted by the tug *Goliath* reporting that their had tow had parted. The tug subsequently managed to secure an

emergency tow line onto the vessel which also parted. Falmouth Coastguard dispatched the Coastguard tug *Anglian Princess* to go and assist the *Goliath* in its efforts to re-secure the barge. Penlee RNLI lifeboat was also requested to launch to standby the vessels as personnel were transferred to the barge. The weather conditions on scene are south westerly force 7 to gale force 8 with a rough sea and a heavy swell. Neil Oliver, Falmouth Coastguard said: "The Coastguard tug managed to secure a line aboard the barge, after transferring a crew member from the tug *Goliath* to secure the tow in very difficult sea conditions. The barge has now been safely towed to shelter in Mounts Bay where the *Goliath* will be able to effect repairs."

London, Mar 9 — A report from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, timed 1439, UTC, Mar 8, states: At 1700 today, Falmouth Coastguard were contacted by tug *Goliath* reporting that their had tow had parted. *Goliath* subsequently managed to secure an emergency tow line onto the vessel which also parted. Falmouth Coastguard dispatched the tug *Anglian Princess* to go and assist *Goliath* in her efforts to resecure the barge. Penlee RNLI lifeboat was also requested to launch to standby the vessels as personnel were transferred to the barge. Neil Oliver, Falmouth Coastguard said: "The Coastguard tug managed to secure a line aboard the barge, after transferring a crew member from *Goliath* to secure the tow in very difficult sea conditions. The barge has now been safely towed to shelter in Mounts Bay where *Goliath* will be able to effect repairs."

London, Mar 9 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1334, UTC: At 1330 today tug *Anglian Princess* departed the scene and is now enroute Falmouth, *Anglian Princess* will then return to Coast Guard duties. Tug *Goliath* is also heading to Falmouth. Tug *Anglian Earl*, from Southampton, has now taken the tow of the barge *Atlas*, 1005 gt, in ballast, and is remaining in Mount's Bay overnight until the weather improves.

#### **GOTALAND (Sweden)**

Gothenburg, Mar 6 — Understand that passenger ro/ro *Gotaland* (18060 gt, built 1973) has a fire on board at the port of Trelleborg. The alarm came in to the Fire Brigade at 1122, local time, today, reporting heavy smoke from the funnel. Three stations were called in with extra equipment and a police helicopter. Understand that it is the vessels own heavy fuel oil that caught fire. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Mar 6 — Passenger ro/ro *Gotaland*: Understand that this was no serious fire and all under control. It was a minor fire on board with quite heavy smoke, but limited to part of the engine room. No injuries noted and all people on board and all cargo and trailers brought ashore

without problem and no alleged damage. Investigation underway. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Mar 7 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Gotaland* (18060 gt, built 1973) caught fire on Mar 6 in Trelleborg, Sweden. The fire in the machine-room led to dense fumes and was fought by firefighters from Hyllie, Svedala and Vellinge. *Gotaland* travels between Trelleborg and German port of Travemunde.

#### **GRACHTBORG (Netherlands Antilles)**

Hamburg, Mar 7 — Understand from shipyard Norderwerft that repairs to general cargo *Grachtborg* will be completed on Mar 9. Thereafter the vessel will be docked out. The shipyard was not in a position to advise the vessel's next destination. At the time of the collision with general cargo *Marietje Benita*, *Grachtborg* had actually been en route to Kubikenborg in Sweden. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 7 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Both general cargos *Grachtborg* and *Marietje Benita* are still in their respective repair yards in Hamburg and Wewelsfleth and will doubtless stay there for some more time, as the bows of both ships will have to be replaced completely.

#### **GRAND CHOICE (Panama)**

See "Ban on "Salvaged" Vehicles, Dominican Republic" under "Miscellaneous".

#### **GRENLAND (Dominica)**

Gijon, Mar 8 — No salvage operations to general cargo *Grenland* are underway. The Port Authority is asking for tenders on a wreck removal basis. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GRIGOROUSA I (Liberia)**

Piraeus, Mar 3 — Crude oil tanker *Grigoroussa I*: Lloyd's Standard Form contract has been signed with Tsavliris and we are currently waiting for formalities to be completed with local authorities in respect of transshipment operations. Tug *Megas Alexandros* is proceeding from Piraeus, ETA at casualty site Sunday evening (Mar 5) or Monday morning. Personnel with transshipment equipment are due on scene at that time and we are currently trying to find a suitable tanker that will be able to take on board the cargo. — Tsavliris Salvage (International) Ltd.

#### **GURYEY (Russia)**

London, Mar 4 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: In the morning hours of Mar 3 general cargo *Sofia* (3870 gt, built 2005) and product tanker *Guryev* (2966 gt, built 1990) were in collision in the Kiel Canal. The ships touched each other in the passing point Fischerhuette while *Sofia* was on the way to the North Sea and *Guryev* was heading towards the Baltic from

Brunsbüttel. Both vessels sustained only minor damage and were able to continue their voyages.

London, Mar 9 — Product tanker *Guryev* arrived Gdansk on Mar 5 and sailed on Mar 6 bound for Stockholm.

#### **HACI EMINE ANA (Turkey)**

See "Ipswich, Suffolk, United Kingdom" under "Pollution."

#### **HANIFE ANA (Turkey)**

Brindisi, Mar 3 — General cargo *Hanife Ana* which sailed Ravenna Jan 31 for Izmir, in ballast, and grounded about 15 miles north of Brindisi during the night of Feb 6 and 7. While at Ravenna the vessel had some engine problems, to the governor and injectors, which caused the vessel to remain at the port from Jan 13 to 31. At 1000, Feb 2 the vessel dropped anchor about 15 miles north of Brindisi, Costa Merlata, one mile from the coast, depth 27metres - sandy, because of engine problems. Repairs continued up to Feb 5 and problem solved, up to crew declarations. Due to bad sea/wind conditions and forecast, master decided to remain at anchor position awaiting better conditions to sail. During the evening of Feb 6 there was a north-east strong wind, force 9 Beaufort, and wave 7 Beaufort. At about 2100, local time, the port anchor started dragging. Second anchor was dropped without result, and engine was not able to stop vessel directed on the coast. Vessel grounded at 2140, local time, in four metres of water with sandy bottom, and rocks on the side. All crew left the vessel next day. Present conditions: Vessel is listing nine degrees to starboard. All four holds are full of sea water. In hold No.4 there is presence of fuel oil, IFO 180, coming from leakage of overflow pipe of double bottom tank No.4. Engine-room is full of water and oil presence, about five to six metres of water. After diving inspections, there is not presence of breakages/holes on the visible hull, a hole of about 15 cms on port side communicating with hold No 4, which was immediately repaired from harbour-master dispositions. Is not possible to investigate the bottom of the hull because the same is grounded on the sand for about half of the hull, aft part. Bulkhead between hold 4 and 3, hold 3 and 2, are disconnected on the bottom of the holds. Therefore there is water passage between the holds. In double bottoms tanks No.4-5 there is presence of water. Unknown reasons, possible reasons: breakage of hull or water coming from overflow broken pipe. Harbour-master has issued a warning notice to owners and master in order to discharge immediately all bunker from the vessel. Still on board is about 90 tons of IFO of which 70 tons are still in double bottoms tanks, and 20 tons in service and settling tanks G.O. and L.O. has been discharged by owners to trucks. All crew, all Turkish nationality, have returned to Turkey except master and one crew member.

A local public prosecutor has issued a formal accusation to master and has formally nominated him as the official keeper of the vessel and has detained the vessel. The vessel was insured with Astra Asigurari, Bucharest, with a hull and machinery insured value of US\$2 million. However the insurance company wrote an official letter to the Harbour-master informing that the policy is not valid because of lack of payments of premiums. At the moment the owner has communicated that we will prepare a refloating plan shortly. Being the warning notice terms for refloating, 15 days, has expired, Harbour-master has instructed the Ministry of Environmental to make a proper plan of refloating. As soon such plan is ready, the ministry will operate, in charge of the owners, with messrs Castalia, which connected with ministry, for immediate removal of bunker still on board, and for the refloating operations. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1023, UTC: General cargo *Hanife Ana* is still aground and salvage operations are continuing.

#### **HAPPY DAY (Panama)**

London, Mar 7 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: At 0550, local time, Mar 6, bulk *Happy Day* (37808 gt, built 1997), had a machine blackout at Freiburg Roads on the Elbe. Tugs *Bugsier 12* and *Bugsier 15* went from Brunsbüttel to the aid of the ship.

London, Mar 7 — Bulk *Happy Day* arrived Hamburg 0854, Mar 6.

Hamburg, Mar 8 — Bulk *Happy Day* is scheduled to leave Hamburg at 2000 hrs in direction of Atlantic for orders. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **HEINZ SCHEPERS (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Mar 2 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth, timed 1238, UTC: General cargo *Heinz Schepers*, V2OM7, (3992 gt, built 1993), Cork for Rotterdam, with containers, reported in lat 49 51N, long 05 49W, drifting 291 deg, at 0.9 knots, with defects to turbo-charger shaft bearings and inlet/outlet valves. Estimated time of repair is four hours.

London, Mar 3 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0045, UTC: General cargo *Heinz Schepers* anchored three nautical miles south-west of Wolf Rock, in lat 49 55N, long 05 53W, with damage to turbo-charger shaft bearings and inlet and outlet valves. Vessel reported at 0011, UTC, unable to repair and requested tug assistance. Salvage tug *Anglian Prince* released at 0040, UTC, and expected to take vessel in tow to Falmouth.

London, Mar 3 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0859, UTC: General cargo *Heinz Schepers* has now been towed

into Falmouth and taken over by harbour tugs. Salvage tug *Anglian Prince* off task at 0840, UTC. *Anglian Prince* to remain in Falmouth Bay.

London, Mar 3 — General cargo *Heinz Schepers*, in tow of tug *Anglian Prince*, arrived Falmouth at 0800 hrs, today, to effect repairs to a damaged turbo-charger.

Falmouth, Mar 3 — General cargo *Heinz Schepers* arrived Falmouth at 0830 today in tow of tug *Anglian Prince* with turbo blower problems. Vessel berthed Queens Wharf, Falmouth Docks, at 0950 hrs to effect repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

Falmouth, Mar 8 — General cargo *Heinz Schepers* completed repairs to turbo-blower and sailed Falmouth at 0615, Mar 6, for Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **HENRY HUDSON BRIDGE (Japan)**

Genoa, Mar 8 — After completing commercial operations c.c. *Henry Hudson Bridge* sailed from Genoa on Feb 19 bound for Port Said, having sustained very minor damage to her starboard bow shellplating. Ro/ro *Isola delle Perle* has sustained damage to her bow, involving main deck, shellplating and bulwark on both sides in way of forecastle and forward accommodation block and damage to her stern ramp, all of which are currently being repaired at Genoa. The initial report of damage to passenger ro/ro *Tadla* has not been confirmed. Conversely, passenger ro-ro *Moby Fantasy*, berthed starboardside alongside portside of *Henry Hudson Bridge* at the material time was struck by this latter vessel in way of the starboard side bridge wing and sustained some contact damage. It is understood that *Moby Fantasy* is due to drydock at Genoa in the near future and that repairs will be carried out at that time. Damage to the building on the quay struck by the stern ramp of *Isola delle Perle* during the incident is also being repaired. One bit was torn off the quay and will be replaced in due course. The official inquiry started ex-officio by the Port Authority is under way. A marine surveyor appointed by Genoa Civil Court upon application of the local tug company is attending an investigation into the cause of the casualty and extent of damage. A number of marine surveyors representing the various interests concerned are attending. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **HOECHST EXPRESS (Germany)**

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The crew of c.c. *Hoechst Express* (53833 gt, built 1992), currently tied up at Port Angeles' T-1 terminal, were told last week that they would have to wait as parts were coming from the factory overseas, after their ship pulled into Port Angeles Harbour with engine problems. Port Deputy Executive Director Dave Hagiwara said the ship was outbound from Seattle when it was forced into Port Angeles Harbour more than a week ago. "It came from



Seattle and this was as far as it got," Hagiwara said. The ship's engines require new bearings which must come from a factory in Germany, he said. Since the ship was anchored in the harbour without working engines, it was considered disabled and therefore required to have a tug nearby 24 hours a day, Hagiwara said. Then the ship's owners, Hapag-Lloyd AG, determined it would be cheaper to tie up at the Port's T-1 terminal to await arrival of the engine bearings, he said. Hagiwara said it has not been determined whether the vessel's crew will make the repairs or if the work will be contracted out. The ship is scheduled to be at the dock until Monday, he said. (Note — *Hoechst Express* sailed Seattle 1310, Feb 20 and arrived Port Angeles 1935 same day.)

London, Mar 7 — C.c. *Hoechst Express* sailed from Port Angeles on Mar 4 for Oakland.

#### **HUSTLER II (Canada)**

London, Mar 8 — Tug *Hustler II* (76 gt, built 1972) with barge *Smit 1210* (866 gt, built 2005) in tow, both grounded near Garry Point in the Fraser River near Steveston, BC in lat 49 07N, long 123 12.00W at 0316, PST, Mar 7.

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Victoria BC RCC, timed 2040, UTC: *Hustler II* managed to free itself and is awaiting another tug for onward towage.

#### **HYUNDAI ISLAND (South Korea)**

See *Vega Pioneer*.

#### **IBRAHIM R. (Cambodia)**

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Ibrahim R.* (4909 gt, built 1969) has been aground in the Tsemesskaya Bay, Novorossiysk, for the past 24 hours as a result of gale-force winds, which pushed it onto the shore. The vessel is now in the area of Kabardinka. According to the management, the Novorossiysk port had not received requests for assistance from vessel up to this morning. The continuing strong gales, with gusts of up to 18 meters per second, are causing difficulties with respect to evacuating crew and inspecting the state of the vessel's bottom. There is no cargo on board the *Ibrahim R.*. (Note — *Ibrahim R.*, which arrived Novorossiysk Feb 21 from Damietta, was reported by LMIU AIS in lat 44 34 14.32N, long 37 58 59.79E, at 1746, UTC, today.)

London, Mar 6 — According to LMIU AIS, general cargo *Ibrahim R.* in lat 44 34 14.48N, long 37 58 59.66E at 1504, UTC, today.

#### **IMPERIAL DARTMOUTH (Canada)**

See *CSL Atlas*.

#### **INDEPENDENT TRADER (Liberia)**

Maassluis, Mar 7 — C.c. *Independent Trader* (12997 gt, built 1991) struck the door of the Zandvliet Lock at 1355, local time, today. The vessel sustained no visible damage and will

proceed on voyage. A damage report will be issued by the authorities. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **ING4727 (U.S.A.)**

See "Hurricane 'Katrina'" under "Weather & Navigation".

#### **ISABEL BARRETO (Panama)**

See "Peru" under "Piracy".

#### **ISLAND BRAVE (U.S.A.)**

Seattle, Mar 2 — Tug *Island Brave* is still moored east of Terminal 5 in the Duwamish Waterway, Seattle, at the Island Tug and Barge moorage. The vessel is for sale on an "as is, where is" basis. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ISOLA DELLE PERLE (Italy)**

See *Henry Hudson Bridge*.

#### **JOANNA III (Greece)**

London, Mar 8 — General cargo *Joanna III* arrived at Thessaloniki on Feb 28.

#### **KELLY LEE (U.S.A.)**

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: It could be two months, even longer if the Ohio River rises or problems crop up, before crews can finish removing asphalt from a runaway barge (which was being pushed by tug *Kelly Lee* at the time of the incident) pinned against the K&I Railroad Bridge since Jan 26. After that, they can start moving the buckled barge itself. The weight of the solidified asphalt is preventing workers from righting the barge and removing it. However, melting and removing the caked asphalt from eight compartments on the barge is slow work. It takes about eight days to heat and empty one compartment, said Bob Mallette, a contracted incident commander for the barge's owner, Magnolia Marine Transportation Co. Workers from River Salvage Inc, the company hired to do the work, have had to work on one compartment at a time, he said. The reason for this is because the main heating line that runs lengthwise down the barge broke when the hull buckled, said Jimmy Zubic, vice president of River Salvage. "Otherwise, we could have heated the whole barge at once and would be done by now," Zubic said. The workers try to heat the asphalt to between 300 and 350 deg, he said. This weekend (Mar 4-5), workers hoped to try heating two compartments at once, Mallette said. The first of the compartments was emptied Tuesday. Each compartment has its own heating coil linked to the main line. The coils are heated by diesel-fueled boilers. Two compartments' heating coils were damaged and workers will have to install temporary coils to heat them. Zubic said his company has dealt with many spills worse than this one but this is the first time it has worked with this much asphalt, so much of the work is trial and error. The US Coast Guard in Louisville estimated the barge was carrying more than 800,000 gallons of asphalt

when it broke free from its tow. However, the company is no longer thinking in terms of gallons, Mallette said. The asphalt solidified as it cooled, and it weighs an estimated 3,600 tons, he said. About 600 tons of asphalt spilled into the river, and Mallette said it may never be collected because the hardened asphalt would quickly clog the tools used to suck up the spill. It does not pose an environmental risk, he said. Mallette said his company has had daily meetings in Louisville with the Coast Guard and other government agencies during the clean-up.

#### **KIM JACOB (Liberia)**

London, Mar 4 — Crude oil tanker *Kim Jacob* arrived at Setubal on Mar 2 from Port of Spain.

#### **LADOGA 13 (Russia)**

See *Lerrix*.

#### **LADY ANN (U.S.A.)**

See *Barbaros Kiran*.

#### **LEONID SOBOLEV (Russia)**

London, Mar 7 — Bulk *Leonid Sobolev* (16502 gt, built 1985) was hit by a shore crane while discharging in Port Alfred, Quebec at 1820, EST, Mar 5. The aft mast was pushed down leaving the vessel without radar, GPS, communication system etc. Damage is considerable.

#### **LERRIX (U.K.)**

London, Mar 3 — Following received from Riga MRCC, timed 2309, UTC, Mar 2: General cargo *Ladoga 13* (1639 gt, built 1978), in icebreaker's convoy, contacted the stern of general cargo *Lerrix* (1998 gt, built 1977) (Hull for Riga), in the Gulf of Riga, in lat 57 43.45 N, long 22 50.11 E, at 1455, UTC, Mar 2. Both vessels sustained minor damages but remained in seaworthy condition and were able to continue their voyages. There were no casualties during this incident.

#### **LYDIA**

London, Mar 3 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: In the evening hours of Mar 2 general cargo *Lydia* had a rudder failure when passing the Kiel Canal from Brunsbuettel to Kiel shortly after entering the canal. The vessel then hit a barge at the so-called "Bahnhofsaldalen" (railway station pilings) in Brunsbuttel which was towed by a Dutch tug. Both barge and vessel sustained only minor damage. *Lydia* continued its voyage shortly after the incident.

#### **M.PIONEER (Panama)**

London, Mar 9 — Bulk *Trader*, ex *M.Pioneer*, arrived Everingen Feb 27 and sailed Feb 28.

#### **MAERSK VAASA (Germany)**

Istanbul, Mar 6 — C.c. *Maersk Vaasa* (16145 gt, built 2003) and bulk *Surf*, 4LVE (ex *Kapitanas Andzejauskas*, 9965 gt, built 1978), Istanbul for Constantza, were in contact at Ahirkapi/Istanbul, at 0804, local time,



today. The vessels are presently waiting at anchor at Ahirkapi. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Kapitonas Andzejauskas* passed Dardanelles 0900, Feb 28 for Istanbul. *Maersk Vaasa* sailed Port Said Mar 1.)

London, Mar 6 — Following received from Ankara MRCC, timed 1545, UTC: C.c. *Maersk Vaasa* in contact with bulk *Surf*: Both vessel are still at Ahirkapi. Damage sustained to both vessels is minor.

#### **MAINE (Cambodia)**

Piraeus, Mar 3 — General cargo *Maine* remains heavily aground at Lemnos. Refloating operations have not started yet. Reportedly her managers are trying to find someone to undertake the discharging operation of her cargo. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 6 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 2225, UTC: General cargo *Maine* remains aground in the same position, awaiting cargo discharge.

London, Mar 9 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1034, UTC: General cargo *Maine* is still aground.

#### **MANTENHA (Portugal)**

London, Mar 6 — Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1615, UTC: General cargo *Mantenha* (1448 gt, built 1971), St. Vincent, CV, for Fall River, cargo empty containers, has just been reported to us as being adrift due to having run out of fuel about 230 miles north of Bermuda, in lat 35 45N, long 63 02W. Assistance required.

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1315, UTC: General cargo *Mantenha* is now in lat 35 33N, long 62 48W. Owners are reportedly trying to arrange for a tug to proceed from Port Everglades, which is around three to four days sailing away. Vessel still has enough fuel to power essential services on board but this is expected to be used up in the next few days.

#### **MARIELLE BOLTEN (Liberia)**

Freeport, Bahamas, Mar 6 — General cargo *Marielle Bolten* arrived Freeport under tow. Several days passed before full access to the vessel could be attained for cargo purposes, however, cargo discharge has commenced. Drydocking will commence after discharge. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MARIETTE LE ROCH (France)**

London, Mar 6 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway, timed 0721, UTC: Fishing *Mariette le Roch*, FVDX, (297 gt, built 1984) reported in lat 58 51N, long 08 13W, in tow of fishing *Jean le Clerc*, bound for Lochinver, after an engine-room fire. No assistance required. ETA Lochinver 1430, UTC, today.

London, Mar 6 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1504, UTC: Fishing *Mariette le Roch* arrived Lochinver Harbour 1426, UTC. Lochinver Coastguard team reported fire caused by turbo failure

on main engine. Fire has caused extensive damage to the wiring and electrical systems and intention is to unload the fish holds in Lochinver before towing her to France for repairs.

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 2148, UTC: Fishing *Mariette le Roch* on passage to France to effect repairs.

Glasgow, Mar 9 — Understand that fishing *Mariette le Roch* sustained an engine fire and was towed into Lochinver at 1400 hrs, Mar 6, by fishing *Jean Le Clerc*. The local lifeboat was also in attendance. Subject vessels departed Lochinver at 1215 hrs, Mar 7, bound for France, with *Mariette le Roch* still under tow. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MARIETTE LE ROCH II (France)**

London, Mar 3 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 2055, UTC: Fishing *Mariette le Roch II* (840 gt, built 2004), Lochinver for fishing grounds, is currently anchored 35 nautical miles north-west of the Summer Isles, in lat 58 03.5N, long 05 34.6W, due to engine failure. The problem is presently under investigation.

London, Mar 3 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 2326, UTC: Fishing *Mariette le Roch II* restarted engine at 2100, UTC, and began making its way to Lochinver. After consulting with their agents vessel requested assistance to enter Lochinver harbour. Lochinver RNLI lifeboat tasked to escort into harbour, where arrived 2315, UTC.

Glasgow, Mar 9 — Fishing *Mariette le Roch II* sustained engine problems and was escorted into Lochinver by the lifeboat, arriving Mar 3. Following repairs, the vessel departed at 1830 hrs, Mar 6. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MERWEDESTROOM (Netherlands)**

London, Mar 9 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: When entering the Brunsbuttel locks on the Kiel-Canal, North Sea for the Baltic, at 2040, local time, Mar 8, c.c. *Merwedestroom* (1713 gt, built 2005) crashed into one of the lock gates. The amount of damage is not yet known.

London, Mar 9 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: According to the police c.c. *Merwedestroom* had almost come to a standstill when it touched the wall of the Brunsbuttel lock while entering it. Both vessel and lock sustained only minor damage.

#### **MIRIAM (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Bogota, Mar 6 — General cargo *Miriam* (4163 gt, built 1998), Rio Haina for Cartagena, had main engine problems when the "counter-shaft" broke approximately 100 miles off Cartagena Feb 19. The vessel was towed to Cartagena by tug *Oceanos* arriving Feb 22. After discharging its cargo *Miriam* was towed to Cotecmar

shipyard and it is now awaiting a spare shaft. The approximate time of repairs is six months. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MOBY FANTASY (Italy)**

See *Henry Hudson Bridge*.

#### **MOLDA (NIS)**

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1452, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Molda* (52157 gt, built 1994) reported at 1000, local time, Mar 7, that the vessel had lost an anchor at Magnolia anchorage. Salvors are currently assessing whether the anchor can be recovered.

#### **MOLOKAI PRINCESS (U.S.A.)**

London, Mar 6 — A Coast Guard Honolulu press release, dated Mar 5, states: Coast Guard Station Maui's 47-foot Motor Lifeboat is currently towing passenger *Molokai Princess* (99 gt, built 1971) into Lahaina harbour after it was reported disabled and adrift at 1700 today. *Molokai Princess*, was en route from Manele Harbour, Lanai, to Lahaina, Maui, when it contacted Coast Guard Sector Honolulu Command Center and reported it was disabled and adrift. *Molokai Princess* has 86 passengers on board and there are no reports of injuries. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

London, Mar 6 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 09230, UTC: Passenger *Molokai Princess* has arrived Lahaina harbour safely.

#### **MONTE ROSSO (Malta)**

Piraeus, Mar 3 — Crude oil tanker *Monte Rosso* remains at Kynosoura, Salamis island, undergoing repairs. Reportedly she sustained a small crack, approximately 1-2 inches long, 2 metres above the waterline at her left fuel tank located at her bow which caused an oil spillage of 900-1000 square metres. Clean-up operations are completed. ETD Mar 8. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MORANT BAY (Panama)**

Novorossiysk, Mar 7 — Ro/ro *Morant Bay* (5589 gt, built 1981, that arrived Sochi Mar 4) is reported to have lost part of its cargo, palletised fruit and vegetables, is severe weather during night of Mar 3/4. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MSC SELIN (Panama)**

Dar es Salaam, Mar 7 — Ro/ro/c.c. *MSC Selin* sailed 0700, Mar 3 for Mombasa. Understand minor repairs were carried out by the crew members. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MYS KOMMUNAROV (Russia)**

London, Mar 3 — Ref *Mys Kommunarov* arrived Kanazawa Feb 18.

#### **NAPOCOR POWER BARGE No.106 (Philippines)**

See "Tropical Storm 'Kaijiki'" under "Weather & Navigation."

**NEDLLOYD DE LIEFDE (Liberia)**

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0925, UTC: C.c. *Nedlloyd De Liefde*, A8HF3, (10917 gt, built 1995) reported at 0637, UTC, in lat 10 11N, long 78 26W, with fire in engine-room. Fire has now been reported under control and distress cancelled. Ref *Spring Dragon* is in the vicinity.

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1005, UTC: C.c. *Nedlloyd De Liefde*, laden empty containers, is awaiting a tug from Cristobal. Vessel is then to be towed to Cristobal. There are 21 crew on board the vessel, no injuries.

Balboa, Mar 8 — C.c. *Nedlloyd De Liefde* arrived/berthed at Manzanillo International Terminal this morning. — Lloyd's Agents.

**NINA 1 (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Liepaja, Mar 8 — According to Ship's Agents, general cargo *Nina 1* berthed at Liepaja Feb 23 and is still in port. The vessel is afloat at berth No. 21 of Tosmare Shipyard, port of Liepaja. Repairs commenced Feb 24 and are expected to be completed after one month at least. At the moment the exact date of departure is not known. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**NORWAY (Bahamas)**

Port Klang, Mar 9 — Passenger *Norway* is still at the same position. However there is some news that the owner is intending to turn her into a floating hotel or training ship. However they will need to satisfy all the relevant requirements. The Department of Environment in Malaysia is closely liaising with Marine Department of Malaysia with regards to the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

**NOVA SPIRIT (Malta)**

Varna, Mar 6 — According to vessel's agents general cargo *Nova Spirit* arrived at Varna roads Feb 24 and subsequently entered KRZ Odessos Shiprepair Yard, Varna, for permanent repairs. The repairs are still under way and are expected to be completed around Mar 10. — Lloyd's Agents.

**OCEAN HARVEST II (U.K.)**

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Five County Down fishermen have been airlifted to safety after their boat, trawler *Ocean Harvest II* (96 gt, built 1972), caught fire in the Irish Sea. The crew reported a blaze in the engine-room just before 1215, UTC. They abandoned the vessel and managed to get onto a lifeboat. An air and sea operation got under way involving Kilkeel and Clogherhead lifeboats and a Dublin helicopter. Four of the men were reported to be in good health and one of them was said to be suffering from smoke inhalation. The men were taken to hospital in Drogheda. Alan McVeigh from Kilkeel lifeboat explained what happened to the vessel. "Kilkeel lifeboat was

launched shortly before 1230, UTC, to go to the assistance of a Kilkeel fishing trawler 25 miles off the coast which reported its engine-room on fire," he said. "The crew of the fishing trawler had abandoned ship and had gone on board a liferaft." He said the weather conditions were very bad, with heavy fog and a choppy sea. He added: "They managed to get off the vessel very quickly and into the liferaft to await the emergency services' arrival."

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Coastguard Belfast MRSC, timed 1451, UTC: Mayday received from trawler *Ocean Harvest II*, reporting fire on board in lat 53 45.82N, long 05 28.82W, and all five crew taking to liferaft. Helicopter Rescue 116 scrambled, and Kilkeel and Clogherhead Lifeboats tasked. The liferaft was located by Rescue 116 and the crew were transferred to Drogheda Hospital, landing at 1341, UTC. One person believed to be suffering from smoke inhalation.

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Coastguard Belfast MRSC, timed 1059, UTC: Trawler *Ocean Harvest II* sank in lat 53 47.87N, long 05 28.23W, at about 1630, UTC, Mar 7.

**OCEAN JEWEL OF ST. PETERSBURG (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Miami, Mar 6 — Passenger *Ocean Jewel of St. Petersburg* is still in Tampa. The US Coast Guard have inspected the vessel and there appear possible problems with crew experience and mechanical problems. They will not allow vessel to depart unless it is in "dead tow". The current owners "Ocean 21", are based in California. They are understood to be considering to dead tow the vessel to international waters, returning the crew and sailing to the Bahamas where they would off loaded gambling equipment etc. They would then take the vessel to the Dominican Republic for dry dock. — Lloyd's Agents.

**OCEAN THERESE (Panama)**

Poznan, Mar 6 — General cargo *Ocean Therese* will stay in port (Gdynia) till the end of the week. — Lloyd's Agents.

**OPAL NAREE (Thailand)**

Sydney, Mar 7 — Molten metal from a welding process spilling into the engine-room workshop, was the most likely cause of a fire on board bulk *Opal Naree* (18122 gt, built 1982) at the port of Dampier last September, an Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigation has found. About 1630 hrs, Sep 15, a fire broke out in the engine-room workshop of the Thai-registered bulker, *Opal Naree*. A fitter had been allocated the task of weld repairing the sewage system save-all base, while the duty oiler was assigned to stand-by in the workshop below and keep a fire watch. The oiler left the workshop to answer the telephone and then attended to a ballast pump fault to

which the second mate had alerted him. During this time, the fitter continued to work and it appears that molten metal from the welding process fell into the workshop, landing on coiled electrical cables, causing them to ignite. The fitter detected the fire and the emergency alarm was raised. The crew mustered and the master contacted the port authority, which in turn, contacted the fire and emergency services. The crew closed all the engine-room doors and fire dampers while the master and chief engineer assessed the situation. They decided to use the fixed fire extinguishing system and at 1700 hrs, carbon dioxide was released into the engine-room. By 1800 hrs, two firefighting tugs were standing by the vessel, and the fire and emergency services were on board. At 2153 hrs, the ship's crew and the shore authorities began the first of two inspections of the engine-room. There was no sign of fire and by 2310 hrs, the ship's crew had begun ventilating the engine-room. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

**ORIENT BRILLIANCE (Panama)**

Lima, Mar 7 — Bulk *Orient Brilliance* is still undergoing repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ORO 1 (Comoros)**

Piraeus, Mar 2 — General cargo *Oro 1* remains in port (at Keratsini) under detention. Prospects of release are unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

**OTILIA (Denmark)**

London, Mar 3 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: Product tanker *Otilia* (5525 gt, built 1989), cargo heavy oil, struck the outer pier of the Bremerhaven northern lock when entering it "Mar 2". It had tried to enter it without the help of tugs. The ship struck the pier with its bow and was damaged. The damage will have to be repaired before the ship can continue its voyage. The damage to the pier is minor. The lock itself remained in operating status which was lucky as its original gate is at present being repaired at Lloyd Werft in Bremerhaven after a previous contact. (Note — *Otilia* was last reported to have arrived Bremerhaven 0820, Mar 1 from Kaliningrad.)

**PACIFIC HARMONY (Singapore)**

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0225, UTC: Lpg *Pacific Harmony* (42465 gt, built 1990) and bulk *Raffles Light* (14704 gt, built 1995) were in collision near Borneo in lat 07 34N, long 115 53E at about 0225, local time, Mar 4. No pollution and no loss of life. Some damage to *Pacific Harmony*. Both vessels proceeded on voyage. (Note — *Pacific Harmony* sailed Ruwais Feb 16 and sailed Fujairah Anchorage Feb 20 for South Korea.)

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0325, UTC: Lpg *Pacific*



*Harmony* was bound for Korea or Japan. Bulk *Raffles Light* was bound for the Philippines.

#### **PACIFIC SKY (U.K.)**

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Pacific Sky* (46087 gt, built 1984), carrying 1,500 passengers, is on its way to Port Klang for repairs after spending 30 hours stranded in the Malacca Strait. P&O Cruises says *Pacific Sky* experienced problems with one of its engines after leaving Singapore on Saturday (Mar 4) night for a seven-day cruise. Passenger Michael Storer says the ship came to a shuddering halt about five hours into the journey. He says the ship was anchored in the Malacca Strait for 30 hours while its crew tried to fix the problem. Mr Storer says the ship is now cruising on one engine and is expected to arrive in Port Klang for repairs later tonight. "There was a bit of talk that we were in the straits of Malacca and you're susceptible to pirates," he said. "The master assured we were completely safe and he advised us that the Malaysian military was keeping a close eye as well so I think we were all OK there." (Note — *Pacific Sky* sailed Singapore 2340, Mar 4 and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 02 37 30.79N, long 101 27 06.52E, at 0808, today, speed 15.9 knots, course 308 degrees.)

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 1300 passengers on passenger *Pacific Sky* have arrived Port Klang safely after the ship broke down near Singapore. John Richardson, a spokesman for P&O Cruises, said *Pacific Sky* had anchored in the Malacca Strait for about 30 hours after problems with its starboard engine. The crew was unable to fix the problem at sea and sailed on at slower speed using only the port side engine, arriving in Port Klang at about 2000 yesterday, Mr Richardson said. "The master described it as a minor but significant problem," he said. None of the 1340 passengers on the seven-day cruise had been harmed during the incident and they would be given complementary shore tours in Port Klang. "The passengers will be enjoying the day in Port Klang which was scheduled for yesterday," Mr Richardson said. Mr Richardson said *Pacific Sky* had been sold to another company and was on one of its final journeys for P&O Cruises.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Pacific Sky*, which made an unscheduled stop in Port Klang to fix an engine problem, is due to leave today. The ship berthed at the Star Cruises Terminal in Pulau Indah yesterday evening for rectification work, according to port sources. Star Cruises corporate communication vice president Jane Poh confirmed the company had granted permission to *Pacific Sky* to dock at the Star Cruises Terminal.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Pacific*

*Sky* has now departed again for the final leg of its seven day journey. The ship docked in the Port Klang for repairs yesterday and is now on its way to Penang. P & O says the passengers will be given \$350 in compensation because the cruise missed calls to two ports. A spokeswoman says the ship will receive permanent repairs when it arrives back in Singapore on Saturday morning.

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Some passengers on passenger *Pacific Sky* are considering a class action against the shipping line. The *Pacific Sky* travelling to Singapore became stranded in the Malacca Straights because of engine problems. The vessel, which has undergone some repairs, is now on its way to Penang, but will bypass two ports because of lost time. Cruise passenger Jeff Storer says many people wanted to stop at the ports and they are angry with how P and O has handled the situation. "A few passengers on the ship got a petition together and started walking around and getting people to sign it because they do want to take a class action on this and get something sorted because this isn't the first time the ship has broken down," he said. "On the last two occasions, they were either compensated for half of their cruise money up front and on the second occasion when it broke down outside of Brisbane, they were actually refunded the entire trip." P and O says the 1,500 passengers will be given \$350 in compensation.

#### **PANAM TRINITY (Bahamas)**

London, Mar 8 — At 0359, UTC, Mar 8, chem.tank *Panam Trinity* (6499 gt, built 2004) declared to ECAREG when passing Cabot Strait, in lat 45 00N, long 50 00W, that main and backup masthead lights have been lost during a storm.

#### **PANDION (Sweden)**

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1820, UTC: Asphalt tanker *Pandion* (6280 gt, built 2003), bound Holmsund, cargo bitumen, grounded near Holmsund, in lat 63 40N, long 20 20E, at 0800, local time, Mar 4. There is some bottom damage and some leakage in pump-room. Divers have been conducting operations today and it is hoped that efforts to refloat will be made tomorrow. (Note — *Pandion* sailed Antwerp Feb 26 for Nynashamn.)

London, Mar 6 — Following notice to mariners issued at 0300, UTC, today: Asphalt tanker *Pandion* aground in lat 63 40.23N, long 20 20E. Lightening operation in progress. Great caution requested.

London, Mar 6 — Following received from the managers of asphalt tanker *Pandion*, dated today: Lightening operations actually got under way about 1000, UTC, today, and are anticipated to take around five to six hours. There is no leakage as the hole is reportedly only in the cofferdam and there is no penetration into the cargo holds.

Gothenburg, Mar 6 — Asphalt tanker *Pandion*, cargo 6,000 tonnes of bitumen, 12 crew members, chartered for oil company Nynas, ran aground Mar 4, when approaching Holmsund. Understand vessel had damage to rudder and rudder system before ran aground just outside the port entrance. No injuries. The hull sustained damage and divers have during the weekend tried to cover the damage temporarily. Attempts made to pull it off the ground have failed. The icebreaker *Ymer* have made several attempts to pull vessel off the ground, but its in same position as before and no improvement. Vessel only 100 metres from inlet and fairway to the port, no problem to pass for other vessels. Today a local newspaper reports that company vessel *Alsedo* approached the place and ready to discharge first approximate 600 tons of the cargo and since grounding. Both the tugs *Krono* as well as icebreaker *Ymer* have made attempts to pull it afloat but failed. Vessel is still aground this evening. No discharge of cargo or very few tons since it appear to have some problems to keep the temperature of the bitumen to correct 160C degrees, now more 130 - 150 and the cargo seems to get slight "stiff" and cold for normal discharging. Special pumps required from Roda Bolaget and on their way to Umea port. At present, they are exhausting cargo by suction equipment, but extremely slow due to temperature of cargo. The pumping equipment brought up by trailer from Gothenburg are on their way to the vessel and to be landed onboard later this evening. Pumps to be installed during night and expect to commence pumping later after midnight. The temperature of the cargo is slowly decreasing since the "thermos cover"/double hull system is not working properly. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Mar 7 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Asphalt tanker *Pandion*, chartered by Nynas, ran aground in the morning of Mar 4 near the harbour in Holmsund, east of Umea, Sweden. There were no injuries, nor are there any leakages from the double hulled vessel. So far the attempts to salvage the vessel have not been successful. *Pandion* was on her way into Holmsund when she ran aground. The vessel carries a load of 6 000 cubic metres of bitumen, a heavy oil product used as a binder in asphalt. The vessel is double hulled, which gives a high degree of security against leakage. Safety procedures are now being followed.

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1036, UTC: Asphalt tanker *Pandion* is still aground, and cargo lightening operations are currently under way.

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Coast Guard Holmsund, timed 1108, UTC: Asphalt tanker *Pandion* refloated at about 1220, local time, Mar 7, and is presently in port at Holmsund.



London, Mar 9 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Asphalt tanker *Pandion* was towed free by icebreaker *Ymer* and tug *Krono* after it had lightered 600 tons of its cargo of bitumen to asphalt tank *Alcedo*. After refloating, *Pandion* entered Holmsund under own power assisted by the icebreaker and was safely berthed there.

#### **PANTANASSA (Cyprus)**

London, Mar 6 — Understand bulk *Pantanassa* (36264 gt, built 1988) struck beacon 5 on the way into Bunbury, from Fremantle, at approximately 1330 Mar 2. Vessel subsequently sailed Mar 6 for Bahrain ports, cargo 58,000 tonnes alumina.

#### **PINTAIL (Cyprus)**

See *Twin Star*.

#### **PRINCESS ERICA EXPRESS**

Port Moresby, Mar 7 — Vessel *Princess Erica Express* is still at anchorage in port Moresby Harbour with no repairs commenced to date. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **PROTECTOR (Panama)**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulk *Protector* sustained bulbous bow damage when it suddenly altered course while proceeding down the channel and struck the steel pile jetty alongside the MIPS container terminal at Maputo. One report suggests that the ship's rudder jammed shortly after the vessel got underway and was heading down the river out of Maputo harbour. Earlier the vessel had completed discharging a cargo of wheat at one of the bulk berths higher upstream. Surveyors were busy yesterday assessing the damage to the ship and according to a senior port spokesman it appeared the ship might be permitted to sail later. This has not been confirmed. Definitely requiring more serious repairs is the steel jetty. A section of the steelwork has crumpled and collapsed with a large volume of backfill slipping into the harbour. One estimate suggested that as much as 50,000 cubic metres of backfill had collapsed into the harbour but the port spokesman said this sounded excessive.

Maputo, Mar 8 — Bulk *Protector* is still in the port of Maputo and it is now reported as arrested until a letter of guarantee is received. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **QUEEN OF ESQUIMALT (Canada)**

London, Mar 7 — Ro/ro *Queen of Esquimalt* (9081 gt, built 1963) reported striking dock pad while departing Tsawwassen Ferry dock, BC, at 1330, PST, Mar 6.

#### **R.S. STERLING (U.S.A.)**

Veracruz, Mar 6 — Ferry *R.S. Sterling* could not be refloated so it was recently cut up at the beach where it went aground in Boca del Rio, State of Veracruz, and sold for scrap. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **RAFFLES LIGHT (Hong Kong)**

See *Pacific Harmony*.

#### **RENNESOY (Norway)**

Kristiansand, Mar 7 — Understand that repairs to ro/ro *Rennesoy* were completed in week six. Since Feb 8 the vessel has been on a regular route between Mortavika (Stavanger side) and Asvagen (Haugesund side.) — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **RIO (Comoros)**

Edinburgh, Mar 9 — General cargo *Rio* (1193 gt, built 1966), which sailed Midia yesterday afternoon, is sending out an SOS message to Constantza Port that they are in a sinking condition in the Black Sea in a heavy storm. Tug *Hercules* is proceeding to scene. — Danube Research. (Note — *Rio* arrived Constantza Roads Mar 7 and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 43 55 26.3N, long 28 43 52.49E at 1659, Mar 8, 11 nautical miles from Mangalia, speed 1.5 knots.)

Bucharest, Mar 9 — General cargo *Rio* arrived at Constantza Roads Mar 7, apparently in laden condition with a steel shipment from Istanbul. It appears that while departing from Romanian waters, during the night Mar 7/8 the vessel lost steering. It is presently (? being) towed to Constantza by tug *Hercules*. The assistance is apparently quite difficult due to high sea. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — According to LMIU AIS *Rio* was in lat 43 59 37.76N, long 28 44 42.06E, course 336.5 degrees, speed 4.2 knots at 1004, today, status not under command.)

#### **RUNNER 4 (Dominica)**

Tallinn, Mar 6 — At 2343, local time, yesterday, a collision occurred between general cargo *Runner 4* (3464 gt, built 1976) and unknown *Svjatoi Apostel*. The collision was close to the island of Vainlo, in the Gulf of Finland. Both vessels were in ice convoy outbounding St. Petersburg. Due to the collision *Runner 4* sank. All 14 crew members were saved. *Runner 4* was fully loaded with aluminium. — Lars Krogius Baltic Ltd.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A cargo ship general cargo *Runner 4* sank after colliding with another vessel (? general cargo *Sv. Apostol Andrey*, 4960 gt, built 2002) in Estonian waters early today, but the crew of 14 was evacuated safely to a Russian icebreaker. The ships were part of a convoy that had left the port of St. Petersburg when the accident happened, Estonia's maritime border guard said. One of the ships involved in the collision sank, while the other sustained minor damage. The convoy turned around and was to return to St. Petersburg.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Runner 4*, carrying aluminium, sank minutes after colliding with general cargo *Sv. Apostol Andrey* in Estonian territorial waters some 45 km from the Finnish coast in the Gulf of

Finland late yesterday, the Baltic News Service (BNS) reported today. Both crews are safe, with the crew of the *Runner 4* having been rescued by a Russian icebreaker. The accident happened when both vessels were following an icebreaker in convoy. When the first vessel, the *Runner 4*, stopped after the ice channel collapsed because of the weather, the vessel behind it, the *Sv. Apostol Andrey*, was unable to stop in time and hit the stern of the former vessel, opening its engine-room to the sea.

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated Mar 7, states: Pollution has been detected on the scene of the general cargo *Runner 4* wreck in the Gulf of Finland, the Estonian Border Department said yesterday. The department's helicopter flew over the wreck scene offshore the Estonian Island of Vaindloo and saw about-one-kilometre-large pollution. A Finnish border vessel equipped with an undersea robot will visit the area to assess the pollution kind. The robot will take samples of water and examine the vessel's hull.

#### **RUTH BORCHARD (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Mar 2 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1954, UTC: C.c. *Ruth Borchard* arrived Syros at about 1200, local time, today and is now in Syros Shipyard.

#### **SAGA SPRAY (Hong Kong)**

Vancouver, Mar 2 — Bulk *Saga Spray*: On arrival, damage was found to the vessel's deck equipment, and severe damage found to the empty containers on deck. The Dock Mobile Crane had to be used to discharge the units and following discharge, it was determined that 21 containers had been lost overboard and 61 containers were damaged beyond repair. A further 12 containers sustained damage and are now being assessed. The vessel was repaired and sailed Feb 25. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SAMOS SPIRIT (Greece)**

London, Mar 4 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1143, UTC: Repairs to ferry *Samos Spirit* were completed on Mar 3 and the vessel has proceeded on voyage.

#### **SARAH JANE**

Vigo, Feb 28 — Ref *Sarah Jane* is still under repair at Vigo. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SARUNA (Panama)**

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

#### **SAVANNAH EXPRESS (Germany)**

London, Mar 8 — The Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) has published a report of its investigation into the collision between one of the largest container vessels in the world, c.c. *Savannah Express* and the linkspan at 201 berth, Southampton Docks on Jul 19 2005. The report calls for the following; raising, at the

International Maritime Organisation, the need for improved training requirements of ships' engineers and electricians; an improved specialist training course for electronically controlled engineers and increased awareness of the inability of some large, powerful vessels to fully test their main propulsion system before leaving the berth. Synopsis: At 1146 on Jul 19 2005, one of the largest container vessels in the world, the German flagged, 94483 gross tonne *Savannah Express* made heavy contact with a linkspan at 201 berth, Southampton Docks. The vessel had lost astern engine power entering the Upper Swinging Ground where she was due to swing before going alongside. Minor paintwork damage was sustained to the bulbous bow of the vessel, and she was able to proceed to her berth with the assistance of three tugs. The linkspan suffered extensive damage to its structure, which prevented its further use until major repair work was carried out. Prior to the collision, two tugs had been secured to *Savannah Express*, one at each end of the vessel. They were unable to take the way off the vessel sufficiently to prevent the collision with the linkspan, partly because the tugs lacked the necessary power, and partly because there was insufficient room for them to manoeuvre. The most effective tugs available, bearing in mind the size of the vessel, its particular requirements and the characteristics of the tugs, were not allocated to *Savannah Express*. *Savannah Express* had sustained an engine failure earlier that morning as she approached the Nab Tower and the pilotage boarding area. She anchored and carried out repairs before proceeding to Southampton. The pilot was aware the engine had been turned before leaving the anchorage, but he was unaware that the engine had only been turned on air astern. Over an hour after leaving the anchorage, the pilot was informed that the cause of the engine failure had not been positively diagnosed, but no additional precautions were put in place and the harbour authority was not told. The large, slow speed, diesel main engine on *Savannah Express* was of a revolutionary design without the normal camshaft and mechanical timing gear. This equipment had been replaced with a computer controlled electro-hydraulic system. The system had suffered a number of technical problems since *Savannah Express* had left the builder's yard in Korea in April 2005. At Singapore, the previous port of call, a service engineer from the engine manufacturer had attended the vessel to rectify various guarantee claims. In addition, three out of the four pressure sensors on the hydraulic system had failed during the preceding two months, but the service engineer was unable to provide any spares, due to a problem with supply. The chief engineer received the impression that the sensors were used for pressure

indication only, and that the loss of the final sensor would not cause the engine to stop. As a consequence of this erroneous information, the chief engineer informed the master that he was content for the vessel to sail with only one sensor working. On the morning of the accident, the final pressure sensor failed, which resulted in the failure of the main engine as the vessel approached the Nab Tower. Without any spare sensors, and misunderstanding the displayed hydraulic pressure information, the engineers resorted to disabling an electronic control system to enable a back-up system to take-over. Unbeknown to the engineers, this resulted in insufficient hydraulic power being available to operate the engine astern. Later, when astern power was needed as the vessel entered the swinging basin before berthing, the engine failed to run. Although the engine manufacturers provided a short training course for operators of the new engine, the chief engineer and electrical engineer on board *Savannah Express* had not attended this course. However, the course was of a superficial nature, and might not have provided them with sufficient knowledge to successfully diagnose the engine failure either at the Nab Tower or at the Upper Swinging Ground. The engine manufacturer also provided the vessel with a 24-hour telephone hotline to give additional technical support. Unfortunately, the chief engineer, who had joined the vessel at short notice, was not aware of this. Although the engineers on board were experienced and held appropriate STCW certificates, they were unable to correctly diagnose the reason for the engine fault at the Nab Tower and, later, at the Upper Swinging Ground. The increasing levels of electrification of engine control and propulsion systems require increased training requirements in the operation, maintenance and fault finding of these technically complex, and multi-discipline systems. The STCW training standards for ships' engineers have not been updated to account for modern system engineering requirements. The accident has also highlighted the essential need for the development of adequate type specific training. Corrective action has been taken by the ship manager of *Savannah Express*, the Statutory Harbour Authority of Southampton and the tug operating company. Additionally, the MAIB has circulated a synopsis of this accident, with the lessons to be learned, to shipowners around the world. Specific recommendations have been addressed to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), the ship manager of *Savannah Express* and the engine manufacturer, and UK harbour authorities with the purpose of: Raising at IMO the need for improved training requirements of ships' engineers and electricians; Improving the MAN B&W specialised training course for electronically controlled

engines; Raising awareness of the inability of some large, powerful vessels to fully test their main propulsion systems prior to departure from the berth, due to likely mooring damage.

#### **SHINSEI MARU NO.3 (Japan)**

See *Zim Asia*.

#### **SIGMAGAS (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Bremen, Mar 2 — Lpg *Sigmagas* left the repairyard at 0845 this morning and sailed for orders. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Feb 15.)

#### **SIMA PRIDE (Singapore)**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Police in southern Vietnam will launch a criminal probe against the master and crew of a c.c. *Sima Pride* that hit a fishing boat off the southern coast last week, leaving eight men dead and eight others injured, officials said yesterday. The ship fled the scene after the incident Feb 27, but maritime authorities later tracked it down, identifying it as the *Sima Pride*. "We have all the evidence to confirm that the foreign ship caused the accident," said Nguyen Van Hoa, head of the legal department of Vung Tau Port Authority. "The paint on the fishing boat analysed by police matches the paint left on the foreign ship." Police are expected to get approval from provincial prosecutors to launch the criminal investigation Wednesday, he said. Officials had quoted the survivors as saying the boat caught fire after a gas container exploded before it sank Monday night, eight kilometres off the coast of southern Vung Tau. The eight survivors, who all suffered burns, were rescued by fellow fishermen nearby. The body of one fisherman was recovered and seven others were reported missing last week. All seven bodies of the missing fishermen have now been recovered, said Bui Ngoc Tri of the Southern Maritime Search and Rescue Operation Center.

#### **SMIT 1210 (Canada)**

See *Hustler II*.

#### **SOFIA (Netherlands Antilles)**

See *Guryev*.

#### **SORMOVSKIY 48 (Russia)**

Zeebrugge, Mar 2 — General cargo *Sormovskiy 48* (2466 gt, built 1983), bound Antwerp, where ETA 1745, today, passed Flushing roads at 1435 hrs and anchored in River Scheldt at 1514 hrs with engine trouble. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Sormovskiy 48* sailed Rotterdam 2025, Mar 1 for Antwerp.)

Zeebrugge, Mar 2 — General cargo *Sormovskiy 48* proceeded to Flushing roads to effect repairs and subsequently moored in Flushing harbour at 1733, local time, for inspection. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **SPICA (Cyprus)**

Montreal, Mar 8 — Chemical/oil carrier *Spica* completed temporary



repairs Feb 28 and sailed Three Rivers Mar 1, bound for Saint John, New Brunswick. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **STELKUR (Faroe Islands)**

Torshavn, Mar 3 — Understand that fishing *Stelkur* will undertake repairs in the Faroes. The shipowners, have in the press, regretted the fire which means that the vessel will out of operation for several months in the best fishing time. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SUPERFERRY 12 (Philippines)**

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Superferry 12* (11914 gt, built 1984), owned by the Aboitiz Company, caught fire around 1100, local time, today, while en route to Cebu from Manila. All of the 600 passengers are safe. John Rojo, AVP for Corporate Communications of WG & A, said the fire is now under control and none from the crew and the 600 passengers were injured. *Superferry 12* is now in anchorage near the chocolate island off Daanbantayan, which is 60 nautical miles from the port of Cebu. Rojo said all of the passengers would be ferried to the Cebu port. For the meantime they are awaiting the authorities to check on the vessel before it be allowed to continue its trip to Cebu. *Superferry 12* is supposedly due to arrive in Cebu 1700 from Manila.

Manila, Mar 9 — Passenger ro/ro *Superferry 12* caught fire in the waters of Cebu this morning. The vessel reportedly left Manila at 1745, local time, yesterday, enroute to and expected to arrive Cebu at 2045, local time, today. The vessel is now anchored at Bulalagi Point, about 60 miles from Cebu. Reports state that the fire started in the stateroom of the ship at 1150, local time, today. The 600 passengers, who are safe and secure, will be transported to the port of Cebu. No information on the extent of damage available yet. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire on passenger ro/ro *Superferry 12* was brought under control near the central Philippine island of Cebu today, with none of the 600 passengers injured and no evacuation necessary, the coast guard and the ship's owner said. *Superferry 12* was on its way from Manila to Cebu City when a fire started in a state room, John Rojo, a spokesman for the operator WG&A, said on television. "All the passengers are safe and secure. What we will make sure is that the ship reaches the port of Cebu," he said. The vessel was anchored about 60 nautical miles from Cebu.

Manila, Mar 9 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that the passenger ro/ro *Superferry 12* caught fire off Bantayan island Cebu about 1150 today. According to the Coast Guard, the fire started at cabins 205 and 206 on the vessel's top deck. She was placed on anchorage in the vicinity of Bulalagu Point, 60

nautical miles from Cebu port, while the crew fought the fire. The fire spread to four other cabins until it was placed under control at around 1447 hrs. Aboitiz Transport System, Corp., owner of the vessel, said that all 639 passengers and 145 crew are safe and secure and there was no need for evacuation. The ship proceeded to Cebu as planned. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **SURF (Georgia)**

See *Maersk Vaasa*.

#### **SV.APOSTOL ANDREY (Malta)**

See *Runner 4*.

#### **SYMS ZHUIJANG (Cyprus)**

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 1805, UTC: C.c. *SYMS Zhuijang* (7464 gt, built 2005) reported adrift in lat 26 40.4N, long 127 21.4E at 1500, UTC, today. Vessel remains adrift. (Note — *SYMS Zhuijan* sailed Nagoya Mar 4 for Xiamen.)

London, Mar 9 — Following navigation warning issued today: Drifting container vessel in Okinawa area (c.c. *SYMS Zhuijang*) removed.

#### **TADLA (Cyprus)**

See *Henry Hudson Bridge*.

#### **TANANGER (Barbados)**

London, Mar 4 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Tananger* sailed Kristiansand today, for Grenaa, where ETA 0500, local time, Mar 5.

#### **TAXIARCHIS SIERRA (Cyprus)**

See "Crew of Cyprus Vessel at Houston, United States" under "Labour Disputes."

#### **TEKLIVKA (Malta)**

Port Said, Mar 9 — General cargo *Teklivka* (3936 gt, built 1991), from Izmir, sank 75km outside Egyptian territorial waters at about 1300, local time, today. It is rumoured that some people jumped off and were saved. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **THOR TRIUMPH (Thailand)**

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

#### **TK BARCELONA (Malta)**

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *TK Barcelona* (4337 gt, built 1985) has been aground in the Tsemesskaya Bay, Novorossiysk, for the past 24 hours as a result of gale-force winds, which pushed it onto the shore. The vessel is now in the area of Cape Doob. According to the management, the Novorossiysk port had not received requests for assistance from vessel up to this morning. The continuing strong gales, with gusts of up to 18 meters per second, are causing difficulties with respect to evacuating crew and inspecting the state of the vessel's bottom. There is no cargo on board the *TK Barcelona*. (Note — *TK Barcelona*, Ravenna for

Novorossiysk, was reported by LMIU AIS in lat 44 38 09.85N, long 37 54 29.48E, at 1738, UTC, today.)

London, Mar 6 — Following received from the managers of general cargo *TK Barcelona*, dated today: *TK Barcelona* is still aground. At present, an improvement in the weather is awaited before underwater inspections can be carried out. After refloating it is planned to take vessel to dry dock in Novorossiysk. There is no leakage or pollution.

London, Mar 7 — Understand general cargo *TK Barcelona* is still aground with water ingress reported in No.1 hold and engine-room. Also understand diver inspection is to be carried out today.

#### **TOR FLANDRIA (Sweden)**

London, Mar 6 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Ro/ro/c.c. *Tor Flandria*, which was damaged in a collision with a bridge in Terneuzen, sailed for repairs in Gothenburg on Feb 28.

#### **TRACER (Netherlands)**

Gijon, Mar 5 — General cargo *Tracer* (6714 gt, built 1999) arrived Gijon 1230 today for sheltering after cargo of anchor chains shifted shortly after departure from Bilbao for Fos. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 6 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Understand that general cargo *Tracer* arrived at Gijon in the morning hours of Mar 5, with a strong list to starboard.

London, Mar 6 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Tracer* left Bilbao on Mar 4 bound for Lobito with a cargo of steel chains. In bad weather her cargo shifted to starboard and the vessel was forced to enter Gijon for shelter.

#### **TROY (Netherlands Antilles)**

London, Mar 4 — General cargo *Troy* arrived at Tuzla Feb 23.

#### **TUGEN (Luxembourg)**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Product tanker *Tugen* has arrived in Durban under tow after being grounded on the West coast of Madagascar. The ship is due to enter the Eldock floating dock for damage assessment and repairs. *Tugen* he was refloated with the assistance of a Durban dive company team and the Durban tug *Toto*, which later towed the vessel to Durban for repairs. An assessment of hull damage is due to be made today once the vessel is on the floating dock. According to reports the propeller blades are badly bent and will need extensive repair and the rudder, which was initially lost in the grounding but later recovered by the dive team, will be repaired and refitted with a new stock. While on the dock an examination of possible damage to the ship's hull will also be made.



**TWIN STAR (Panama)**

Lima, Mar 7 — Bulk *Twin Star* is still lying sunk. Salvors began to extract all bunkers etc, on Feb 25 and expect to be completed in approximately three to four weeks. Once the bunkers are removed, the salvors will then extract all the steel cargo on board, after which the vessel will be scrapped and taken to a local foundry. The operation is expected to take about five to six months. Bulk/c.c. *Pintail* and general cargo *Alice* are still anchored and under arrest. The Port Authority investigation is continuing. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ULUSOY-1 (Turkey)**

Novorossiysk, Mar 7 — Ro/ro *Ulusoy-1* (13556 gt, built 1980), at Novorossiysk, is understood to have cargo damage due to shifting of cargo in holds in severe weather during the night of Mar 3/4. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Ulusoy-1* operates between Novorossiysk and Samsum.)

**VAR LISA (U.K.)**

London, Mar 9 — Following received from Forth Coastguard, timed 0907, UTC: At 0748, UTC, a telephone call was received from a member of the Dunbar RNLI lifeboat crew reporting that the skipper of fishing *Var Lisa*, with two persons on board, had reported that the vessel had fouled her propeller outside Dunbar harbour and was drifting. Coastguard ascertained that *Var Lisa* had become tail-tied and unable to manoeuvre. Skipper requested lifeboat to launch. Lifeboat towed *Var Lisa* into Dunbar harbour without further incident.

**VARANDEY (Russia)**

Vladivostok, Mar 3 — Sakhalin Salvage Centre advised that ro/ro *Varandey* is still aground. Salvage operations are not being conducted. Reportedly, hull is so seriously holed that, in case of refloating, she will sink quickly. Hull has progressive deformation, reportedly sagging. Shipowner's intentions unknown. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Feb 7.)

**VEGA PIONEER (Panama)**

Sydney, Mar 8 — Ian Dymock, a spokesman for BMA, told Lloyd's List DCN that the impact on throughput is just about half of what had originally been feared. While Berth 1 was out of commission, Berth 2 had been loading vessels at close to record rates. The diversion of some tonnage to Gladstone in January and February, and more recently to the neighbouring Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal, where some spare capacity has become available, has also helped. "We estimate that over the four-month period (mid-December to mid-April) that we will lose about 1m tonnes," Mr Dymock said. "It could have been a lot more, because the actual capacity of the port is down by 30%. "We have been lucky in that in January, there was scheduled to be a major maintenance shutdown at DBCT over several weeks. "That didn't happen, so

because they had capacity we were able to bring ships in." Mr Dymock said that on Tuesday (Mar 7), there were three coal ships waiting off Hay Point, while DBCT had 12, of which three were to load BMA cargoes. The stockpile situation was normal both at Hay Point and the mines, he said. On Dec 28, one of the terminal's two ship loaders hit a ship-mounted crane aboard bulk *Vega Pioneer* as it moved between the ship's holds. The vessel sustained only minor damage and sailed two days later, but the terminal loader suffered cracks, and had to be dismantled before being repaired. Operations at the Hay Point were further disrupted when on Jan 19, the end of a telescopic ship loader at Berth 2 fell into the hold of the Korean-flagged bulker *Hyundai Island*. Damage to the vessel was minimal and it sailed from the port soon afterwards. However, no coal was loaded for almost a week at the terminal. The latest delay is the result of a failed attempt to lift the loader off the terminal using the heavylift vessel *Scan Hansa*, which had been chartered in from Singapore on Jan 24. It had spent six days alongside Berth 1, but eventually departed Mackay late last month, after operations were frustrated by heavy swells and strong tides. A second vessel, a jack-up barge that can place feet on the seabed to provide stability, was eventually brought in and the boom was finally lifted off the jetty on Monday and taken to Mackay harbour, some 22 miles north, where it will be repaired. Last year about 35m tonnes of coking coal was shipped through Hay Point. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

**VERTIGO (Jamaica)**

London, Mar 8 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Collision-damaged bulk *Vertigo* arrived in Poland and anchored on Swinoujscie roads Mar 4. On Mar 5 she was moved to the port of Szczecin and berthed at local ship repair yard "Gryfia".

**VIERNES SANTO (Argentina)**

London, Mar 3 — Following navigation warning issued Mar 2: Fishing *Columbus* towing trawler *Viernes Santo* (240 gt, built 1975) in lat 41 09S, long 64 24W, line length 320 metres, speed 6.5 knots, course 301, bound for San Antonio Este.

**VOC ENDEAVOUR (Bahamas)**

Novorossiysk, Mar 7 — Bulk *VOC Endeavour* (30012 gt, built 2004) damaged the berth at Tuapse in severe weather during the night of Mar 3/4. Vessel is putting up security to sail. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *VOC Endeavour* arrived Tuapse Mar 1.)

**WATERMAN N (Panama)**

London, Mar 9 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Bulk *Waterman N* (129325 gt, built 1985) sustained a machine blackout on the River Maas,

Netherlands, at 1600, local time, yesterday. The vessel had left port shortly before and was headed for sea. Tug *Smit Polen* came for assistance and attached a rope. (Note — *Waterman N* sailed from Rotterdam on Mar 8 bound for Tubarao and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 50 50 28.8N, long 01 02 49.8E, at 0830 hrs, Mar 9, 17.2 nautical miles from Folkestone. ETA Tubarao Mar 15.)

**XING HANG 18 (China)**

Antwerp, Mar 8 — Tanker *Xing Hang 18*, 2239 gt, built 1981, is currently at port of Zhoushan undergoing survey after contact with anchored tanker *Da Qing 733* (2549 gt, built 1988) at Zhoushan Wuquishan anchorage, in lat 29 59.1N, long 122 06.55E, at about 1840, Mar 3. The contact caused the holes on starboard side hull plating in way of No.5 starboard tank. The master and crewmember reported that about 200 to 300 Kgs of cargo of fuel oil, 380cst, leaked from No.5 starboard cargo tank. *Xing Hang 18* is discharging cargo at port of Zhoushan, and planning to repair the damage at Zhoushan Fuxing shipyard after cargo discharge. — "DPS Teamhead Surveyors."

**ZIM ASIA (Israel)**

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: The Transport Ministry has found the Zim Israel Navigation company and officers on board c.c. *Zim Asia* responsible for an accident in which the ship struck fishing *Shinsei Maru No.3*, killing seven fishermen last September. The ministry's report on the accident castigates Zim and its management, and finds the ship's master and first officer indirectly responsible for the accident. So far only the second officer has been indicted in the affair. The report also finds problems on *Zim Asia*'s bridge and failures in the company's command chain. Following the accident Captain Moshe Ben David was suspended. However, Haaretz found that he and First Officer Eyal Sasson are still working on Zim ships and, so far, none of the faults have been corrected. Transportation Minister Meir Sheerit appointed an inquiry committee to probe the affair, which completed its report in January, but did not release it. Despite its conclusions, the State Prosecutor and police have decided not to indict anyone from Zim's management, nor the master and first officer. Only Second Officer Pilastro Zdravko, a foreign citizen from Montenegro, was indicted for causing death by negligence. When the recommendation to indict Zdravko was published, the police said the probe found the company had acted according to procedures. A copy of the report indicates otherwise. "In general," the report says, "Zim company is a properly run shipping company with a good reputation. However in this case failures in the chain of command were found from the management, through the coast

officer and naval inspectors to the ship's officers in implementing international maritime safety regulations." The report says the ship's command misinterpreted and misapplied the safety regulations and "Zim Asia's complacency contributed to the circumstances that led to the accident." There is no clear cut evidence that the accident was "hit and run" or that Zim concealed evidence, the report says, noting the company "fully cooperated with the investigators and presented all the required material." At the time of the accident Second Officer Zdrabko and seaman on duty Lechev Galin, a Bulgarian citizen, were on the bridge. They testified the master was not on the bridge. At about 0200 hrs Galin left for a safety patrol. Safety regulations stipulate that the observer from the bridge must not do anything else and another sailor must conduct the safety patrol. The master said that in Zim the custom was that the observing sailor makes the hourly safety patrols. The seaman testified to the committee that when he returned to the bridge after the patrol, between 0220 and 0230 hrs, he saw strong lights of a fishing boat 300 to 500 metres from the ship. The second officer dismissed this and said the distance was greater. The seaman said the officer told him to go to manual steering and tilt the ship by "10 degrees" and then "20 degrees to the right." The officer said this was meant to make way "for another ship" that was three nautical miles away from the collision course. This was not corroborated. The committee concluded that the second officer's decision to send the sailor on the patrol despite the "dangerous circumstances implies a problematic excess of self confidence." It said the officer displayed "grave ignorance in understanding his ship's manoeuvring characteristics" and that the evasion manoeuvre was "patently dangerous and caused Zim Asia's collision with the fishing boat." The report says Zim relied too heavily on the existence of written instructions instead of supervision and verifying the senior officers' understanding of safety regulations. "The owners and management are responsible for the vessel's safe operation, in all circumstances," it says. The report finds Zim's explanation for sending the observer on other missions on his shift "unacceptable." The report castigates the master, stating that his "silent agreement" to the observer's absence from the bridge is a misinterpretation of the regulations and incompatible with safety regulations. The State Prosecutor said the findings are insufficient for pressing charges against Zim and the other officers.

### ZIM MEXICO III (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated Mar 2, states: A 196-foot-high sky-crane, struck by turning c.c. *Zim Mexico III* (10736 gt, built 1993),

tipped over and collapsed into twisted wreckage, at the Alabama State Docks, Mobile, at about 1130 hrs, today, killing one man in the crane, and injuring a co-worker, port officials said. Port Operations Vice President, Smitty Thorne, said *Zim Mexico III* had completed its operations, loading and unloading containers, when the accident occurred. The 40-metric ton crane, mounted on a railroad-type track, struck the vessel as it fell, causing a two-foot gash in the bow, about 20 feet above the waterline, Coast Guard officials said.

London, Mar 3 — A Coast Guard Mobile press release, dated Mar 2, states: Investigation and pollution teams from Coast Guard Sector Mobile are responding today to an accident in Mobile Bay, Ala., involving c.c. *Zim Mexico III* and a sky-crane at approximately 1130 today. One person has been confirmed dead. Local law enforcement and search and rescue personnel are also onscene. Responders reported a two-foot gash in the bow of the vessel. About 200 gallons of hydraulic oil and diesel also leaked onto the pier and was contained by the local fire department. The waterway has not been closed to maritime traffic. The Coast Guard, in conjunction with local officials, are currently investigating the incident.

Mobile, Mar 3 — At approximately 1130 hrs, Mar 2, while attempting to transit out of the Port of Mobile, c.c. *Zim Mexico III* struck and collapsed a container gantry crane. One man was killed, and another seriously injured. The crane collapsed upon numerous containers stored within the complex. — Lloyd's Agents.

New Orleans, Mar 3 — C.c. *Zim Mexico III* allegedly struck a gantry crane Mar 2 which subsequently toppled over. One person killed, one injured and as many as three trapped underneath. Efforts underway by Port Authority to remedy. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated Mar 3, states: Alabama Port Authority officials rolled out a backup crane today for use on a container vessel arriving next week for the first unloading since c.c. *Zim Mexico III* toppled the port's main crane, killing one worker and injuring another. Port officials said they hope to continue operations without delays, starting Monday (Mar 6) with the arrival of *Star Istind*, the first vessel since the dockside accident Thursday. Officials rolled out the Gottwald mobile crane, mounted on tyres, for backup use. It sits 75 feet above the dock line and can handle 15 containers an hour, compared to the 23 containers an hour by the wrecked rail-mounted crane that has been a docks fixture for about 30 years. *Zim Mexico III* struck the 196-foot-high sky-crane at about 1130, knocking it backwards into a twisted pile at Pier 2, next to the Mobile Convention Center. It could cost up to \$9 million to replace it, port officials said. The vessel was turning

in the river when its bow struck the crane, which was not in use at the time, Port Authority Vice President of Operations Smitty Thorne said. An electrician working in the crane was killed. Police identified him as Shawn David Jacobs, 46, of Mobile. A co-worker also on the crane was not seriously injured. The Coast Guard, the lead investigative agency, has no timetable for completing its investigation, Lt. John Doepp said Friday. Doepp said there's a lot for investigators to check, including the condition of the vessel before and after the accident. The crew will be interviewed and given drug and alcohol tests. "We'll be working with different agencies to ensure we get all the events and the complete scope of information from the first responders and other investigators," he said. He said it's too early to comment on potential fines or penalties that could be imposed. The vessel had arrived in Mobile from Kingston, Jamaica, carrying general cargo.

London, Mar 4 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth (Va), timed 1735, UTC: C.c. *Zim Mexico III* remains at Mobile with investigations under way.

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated Mar 7, states: The Alabama State Port Authority has claimed at least \$12 million in damages in a lawsuit it filed after a deadly accident last week in which c.c. *Zim Mexico III* struck a container crane on the downtown Mobile waterfront. The suit, filed Friday (Mar 3) in US District Court in Mobile by the Port Authority, named four defendants including the vessel's owners and operator. In response to the lawsuit, US Magistrate Judge Sonja Bivins ordered a warrant for the arrest of the vessel, but the vessel sailed on Saturday. A lawyer representing the vessel's German owner said that the warrant was never served on the vessel because of an agreement reached with the Port Authority, which runs the state docks. The *Zim Mexico III*'s bow hit the state dock's largest container crane Thursday, causing it to collapse and crush and kill an electrician who was working on the structure, according to docks personnel and officials investigating the incident. In its suit, the Port Authority charged that the collision and damage were "caused by the fault and negligence" of four entities: the *Zim Mexico III*; the two German companies that own and operate the vessel, identified as MS Peter R i c k m e r s Schiffsbeteiligungsgesellschaft and Rickmers Reederei GmbH; the company that chartered the vessel: ZIM American Integrated Shipping Services. The lawsuit also demands that the vessel be condemned and sold to pay for damages. All parties have begun deferring questions to lawyers, who said they will begin conducting their own investigations apart from the ongoing US Coast Guard inquiry.



## Piracy



### PERU

Lima, Mar 6 — Product tanker *Isabel Barreto* (13811 gt, built 1986) while at anchor, waiting to berth at the Northern Peruvian Refinery of Petro Peru in Talara, seven armed men boarded the vessel in the early hours of Mar 4. While holding the master and crew at gun point, robbers stole personnel effects, money, watches, lap tops and also expensive tanker equipment GPS, radios etc., This tanker carries out Peruvian coastal deliveries to various terminals and is contracted by Petro Peru. No-one was injured. — Lloyd's Agents.

## Port State Control



### THOR TRIUMPH (Thailand)

See "United States — Port State Control / Thor Triumph" under "Port State Control".

### UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The saga of general cargo *Saruna* continues after its grounding in the Cross Channel over the weekend when it was about to sail for Romania and its engine failed. The ship's master was served with a Notice of Direction, Merchant Shipping Act 1995, by Robin Middleton, SOSREP (Secretary of State's Representative Maritime Salvage and Intervention) after the incident. The ship is under detention moored to the Cross Roads buoy as investigations continue. Politicians and the media continue to raise issues about the ship's general condition but there is also a human side to this debacle. The mainly Romanian seafarers, who have completed their six-month long contract, remain trapped onboard *Saruna*. The vessel's 20 man crew, 17 Romanians, a Russian and a Syrian find themselves stranded at Falmouth as the ship enters her third month in detention in European waters. The crew signed on the ship at Lome in August 2005 for a six-month contract. The International Workers Transport Federation (ITF) is now investigating crew terms and conditions and claims from the crew that they are owed money. French Port State Control inspectors detained *Saruna* at Cherbourg after 23 deficiencies were found. Released by the French authorities *Saruna* came to Falmouth for bunkers when it was detained by British inspectors.

Falmouth, Mar 8 — General cargo *Saruna* was released from detention

by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on Mar 3. The vessel left the Cross Roads buoy on Mar 4 but lost power and drifted aground. It was refloated by harbour tugs and resecured to the Cross Roads Buoy, where it was further detained by the MCA. — Lloyd's Agents.

### UNITED STATES

London, Mar 6 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1630, UTC: General cargo *Thor Triumph* (16569 gt, built 1987) is currently detained at Houston due fire-fighting deficiencies. (Note — *Thor Triumph* arrived Houston Mar 1.)

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1449, UTC: General cargo *Thor Triumph* was released from detention Mar 8.

## Seizures & Arrests



### AEGEAN I (Greece)

Piraeus, Mar 2 — Passenger *Aegean I* remains in port (at Piraeus) under arrest. Prospects of release are unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

### AGIOS ARSENIOS (Greece)

See under "Tsoukalas Naftiki Eteria".

### ATLANTIC MERCADO (Antigua & Barbuda)

Durban, Mar 6 — Repairs to general cargo *Atlantic Mercado* have now been completed. A Lloyd's Classification Surveyor has been appointed to attend the vessel tomorrow. Her date of departure is not yet known. — Lloyd's Agents.

### BALTIC KRISTINA (Latvia)

Riga, Mar 2 — Passenger ro/ro *Baltic Kristina* ferry was sold for Latvian Lat 2.56 milion (Euro 3.64 million) to authority of Riga Freeport Dec 21 but subsequently, at the beginning of this year, results of the auction were contested by the Rinkis Ov company, which was a fuel supplier for the vessel. — Lars Krogus (Baltic) Ltd.

### FARLEY MOWAT (Canada)

Cape Town, Mar 7 — The port of Cape Town advises that research *Farley Mowat* remains detained at this port. — Lloyd's Agents.

### HOANG PHUONG (Vietnam)

Manila, Mar 5 — The Indonesian Navy arrested the Vietnamese-registered general cargo *Hoang Phuong* (1,090 dwt) on Friday (Mar 3) for alleged sugar smuggling. The vessel which originated from Thailand was intercepted by the Indonesian Navy warship *KRI Silas Papare* while passing through waters off Riau Islands, Antara News Agency reported today. The vessel was found to be

carrying 34,200, 50 kilogram bags of sugar. Naval authorities said the ship was arrested because it's manifest and customs documents did not show a port of destination. The vessel and its 15-man crew were escorted to the Indonesian Naval base in Batam island for further investigation. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

### LIAN CHI SHENG

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The registrar of a foreign fishing vessel places strong disciplinary action against its vessels, which breach licence. The comment comes from the directors of the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize. The body is the registrar of the Taiwan fishing *Lian Chi Sheng* whose local charterer was fined \$30,000 last month for breach of fishing licence. Waikava Marine Industries Limited was fined \$30,000 by the High Court in Suva last month after the vessel was seen fishing inside Fiji's archipelagic waters and territorial seas. Director general of the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize, Angelo Mouzouropoulos said in a statement yesterday that they did not receive any notification copy of any warning from Fiji that the vessel had committed any infringement by fishing in restricted zones.

### MAZNAH (Indonesia)

London, Mar 9 — General cargo *Maznah* has reportedly been found beached at Chittagong, carrying a false name, *Jelita*.

### PONGSU (North Korea)

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Pongsu*, which has cost Australian authorities an estimated A\$2.7 million, remained berthed in Sydney last night after senior crew members were acquitted in Victoria's largest heroin importation case. The vessel was seized by the federal police after a four-day chase along the New South Wales coast in April 2003 on suspicion that it was used to import 150 kilograms of heroin. The vessel's master, Man Sun Song, its political secretary, Dong Song Choi, the first mate, Man Jin Ri, and the chief engineer, Ju Chon Ri, were found not guilty of drug importation after a seven-month trial yesterday. The jurors sat for less than an hour on their tenth day of deliberations before returning the verdicts in one of Victoria's longest trials. The vessel had anchored off Lorne in Victoria's south-west, on the night of Apr 15, 2003. Two men from the vessel set off in a rubber dinghy carrying 150 kilograms of heroin packages, the prosecutor, John Champion, SC, had alleged. As they headed to a rendezvous with a three-man shore party, the dinghy capsized and one of the men drowned. Part of the drugs consignment was lost but 125 kilograms, estimated to be worth about \$160 million, was brought ashore. Two men waiting on land for



the shipment had pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting drug importation and received minimum sentences of 15 and 16 years. Ta Song Wong, who brought the drugs from the *Pongsu* with the unnamed companion who drowned, is yet to be sentenced. Another member of the shore party is also awaiting sentencing. However, in their trial, the master and senior crew denied any involvement in the importation, or knowledge of it. Mr Song told the jury he had believed Wong and his companion to be agents of a company that had chartered the vessel. The companion told him on Apr 15 that the vessel's charter to pick up luxury vehicles in Melbourne had been cancelled and he was to await further instructions. Mr Song dropped anchor 2.5 kilometres from Boggaley Creek, where engine repairs were carried out. He said he did not learn until later that the agents had left the vessel. He said he investigated their disappearance and was told by the vessel's owners to leave the area and travel north. Jack Dalziel, solicitor for the four men, said they had been granted bridging visas for a few days and were expected to return to North Korea. He said they were elated to be released after almost three years in custody. The *Pong Su* had been berthed at Snails Bay, Balmain, then moved to Garden Island for repairs, and was last reportedly berthed at Chowder Bay, near Clifton Gardens. A spokesman for the NSW Maritime Authority said it cost "a couple of thousand" a month to berth the vessel but it is believed authorities are paying nearly \$2600 a day for maintenance and security. A spokeswoman for the Australian Federal Police said it was working with other government agencies in considering the fate of the *Pongsu*.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities would destroy the North Korean freighter used to import 150kg of heroin in Australia, Federal Police chief Mick Keelty said today. General cargo *Pongsu*, which weighs more than 3500 tonnes, has been berthed in Sydney since it was seized three years ago after a four-day chase by Australian soldiers, federal police and customs officers. Mr Keelty today revealed the vessel would be treated like any other drug smuggling vessel. "It still is a vessel that was used for the importation of heroin into Australia, that's been proved before the courts, and it will be destroyed just like any other vessel in that situation," he said. "What normally would happen in a case like this is where a vessel is used for an importation of this kind, the vessel is disposed of under the Customs Act and that's what we intend to pursue in this case." The owners of the *Pongsu* are considering suing the Australian Government over the seizure of the vessel and loss of earnings over the three years. The vessel has been costing Australian taxpayers about \$2500 a day while the four accuseds' taxpayer-funded defence has been estimated at up to

\$3 million. The solicitor for captain Man Sun Song and the Pong Su Shipping Company, Jack Dalziel, yesterday said he was under instructions to consider compensation for significant loss of earnings.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: The acquittal of general cargo *Pongsu* crew members did not clear the North Korean Government of heroin smuggling, Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer said yesterday. Mr Downer vowed to raise his concerns with the communist Government of North Korean dictator Kim Jong-il. "The North Korean involvement in this remains murky," he said. "The North Korean Government angle to it remains a matter of concern to me." A Supreme Court jury this week cleared *Pongsu* captain Man Sun Song and three of his crew of being involved in smuggling 150kg of heroin worth \$165 million to Boggaley Creek, near Lorne. "But these people being acquitted isn't to say that that means the North Koreans weren't involved in it," Mr Downer said. "The North Korean Government wasn't on trial in this case. "But the question of its involvement is still a matter of very considerable concern to me. "It was a North Korean ship, it had a North Korean crew on it. "It had a member of the (Communist) party on it. "OK, these people have been acquitted. That's the decision of the court. "But that doesn't detract from the fact the North Korean Government has been involved in drug trafficking in the past." Mr Downer said there were well-documented cases of the North Korean Government being involved in smuggling illegal drugs around the world. He said he had previously raised his concerns about the *Pongsu* case with the North Korean Government and would again ask officials about the case. In other developments: Australian Federal Police chief Mick Keelty indicated he believed the North Korean Government was involved in the heroin importation. It has cost the AFP more than \$2 million to keep the vessel in Sydney Harbour for almost three years. THE 4000-tonne freighter will be sunk within weeks, possibly by allowing the navy to blow it out of the water by torpedo or missile. A Lawyer representing the vessel's owner claims the company is considering suing Australian authorities for compensation for loss of earnings since the vessel was seized by the AFP in April 2003. While Capt Song and his three crew were this week cleared of involvement in Victoria's biggest known heroin importation, four other men have admitted their role in it. Two of them have been jailed for 23 and 22 years, with the other two still to be sentenced. The Herald Sun yesterday revealed the jury was not allowed to hear evidence that implicated the North Korean Government in the *Pongsu* heroin operation. US experts testified in the absence of the jury that they had no doubt the North Korean Government

was involved. Mr Downer and Mr Keelty both speculated yesterday about the North Korean Government being involved in the heroin shipment. "Just how much government involvement is hard to establish, particularly now that those four got off," Mr Keelty said. "So it's a bit hard for me now to say that there's any direct evidence of the involvement of the North Korean Government. "But clearly an operation of that size doesn't get under way without some sort of significant support, not only to get the heroin into North Korea, but to get a vessel from that side of world over to Lorne in Victoria does require significant resourcing and support."

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Pongsu* will most likely be used for navy target practice now that the trial of its crew is over. The vessel, which has cost Australia more than \$2 million to maintain as possible evidence since it was seized in 2003, will be scuttled, probably by a torpedo or missile strike. A jury this week cleared four *Pongsu* crew members of allegations they attempted to bring 150kg of heroin, worth \$165 million, to Australia on the freighter, which was seized off Victoria. Four others pleaded guilty to the crime and have been sentenced to lengthy jail terms. But Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer and AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty said the acquittals hadn't cleared the North Korean Government of being involved in heroin smuggling.

**PROTECTOR (Panama)**

See under "Marine."

**PROTON (North Korea)**

Piraeus, Mar 2 — General cargo *Proton* remains in port (at Ambelakoa, Salamina), under arrest. Prospects of release are unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 4 — A report in the Mar 3 issue of "Newsfront" states: General cargo *Proton* has once again been listed for hammering down, this time on Mar 15. Lying at Ambelakia, Salamina, the vessel is carrying a start-up price of US\$80,000.

**TSOUKALAS NAFTIKI ETERIA**

London, Mar 7 — General cargo *Agios Arsenios* was renamed *Bright Star I*, Panama flag. The vessel sailed Piraeus Jan 28.

**UGO FOSCOLO (Greece)**

London, Mar 4 — A report in the Mar 3 issue of "Newsfront" states: Passenger ro/ro *Ugo Foscolo* was seized at the end of February by Wilckens Paints (Hellas) SA in pursuit of a Euro 52,336.41 claim against the registered owners, ANEZ.

**VALETTA**

Manila, Mar 3 — Unknown Malta-registered oil tanker *Valetta* was arrested on Feb 27 by Indonesian authorities, while anchored off Nipah island, on the border between Indonesia and Singapore. The vessel

was seized for carrying 58,000 tons of diesel fuel, allegedly purchased illegally in Indonesia, the Jakarta Post said, in a belated report today. Indonesian authorities have been waging a campaign to stop the sale of subsidised fuel to foreign buyers. It is estimated that Indonesia loses about US\$862 million annually to oil smuggling. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

## Pipeline Accidents



### AHVAZ AREA, IRAN

Tehran, Mar 8 — Pipelines carrying crude oil to the refinery city of Abadan in southwest Iran caught fire last night but caused no disruption to supplies, state television said today. Television said the fire broke out near the crude production centre of Ahvaz at 1830, GMT, but added there were enough alternative pipeline routes for supply to be redirected immediately. Abdolreza Asadi, head of the state's Karoun oil company, was quoted saying he could not rule out the possibility of sabotage. The fire broke out close to the city of Ahvaz which has simmered with ethnic infighting between Iranian authorities and the Arab minority there over the last year. Some minor oil facilities were bombed in September. However, Abdolhamid Talebzadeh, head of Ahvaz's fire brigade, told the official IRNA news agency the blaze had been caused by a leak. His men extinguished the blaze at 0330, GMT. The refinery at Abadan has capacity up to 450,000 bpd. Industry sources said Abadan refinery was running as normal today. — Reuters.

### PERU

Lima, Mar 5 — Peru's Camisea gas pipeline has leaked for the fifth time in 18 months, causing a fire and injuring two people, its operator said today, following warnings of ruptures because of poor pipe construction. Pipeline operator Transportadora de Gas del Peru (TgP), a consortium led by Argentina's Techint, said the 430-mile pipe yesterday leaked 750 cubic meters of natural gas in Peru's southern jungle region, home to one of the world's most biodiverse rain forests. "The estimated volume of liquid lost is 750 cubic metres. A fire also broke out at the leakage point, which is burning up the spilled liquid," TgP said in a statement. The company said one person suffered burns from the leak and another inhaled gas. According to the E-Tech report, at least half of the Camisea tubing used in the pipeline construction was left over from other projects and was severely corroded. — Reuters.

### TURKMENISTAN AREA

London, Mar 7 — Oil explorer Dragon Oil said today that a blockage

at one of its pipelines offshore Turkmenistan meant it was losing out on 5,600 barrels of oil a day. Its shares in both Dublin and London tumbled after the news. The company said in a statement that one of the feeder pipelines on the LAM field in the Cheleken Contract Area had become blocked with paraffin wax and that initial attempts to clear it had not worked. Dragon said it was continuing to treat the block with special chemicals and planned to install a new pipeline as an alternative flow system from the affected LAM 22 platform. It said this would be working by early April. "Operations on the LAM 22 platform are currently temporarily suspended resulting in a total short term daily loss of production of approximately 5,600 barrels of oil per day," the company said. The Cheleken Contract Area covers around 950 square kilometres and comprises two offshore oil and gas fields, Dzheitun (LAM) and Dzhygalybeg (Zhdanov), in water depths of 10 to 37 metres. "The resolution of this problem has been somewhat hampered by adverse weather conditions and also due to the fact that certain of the chemicals required to treat the blockage were not readily available in the region, commented Dragon Chairman, Hussain M Sultan. "I am confident that this blockage will be cleared shortly and production from LAM 22 will recommence with improved flow rates over those being previously achieved due to an increase in pipeline pressure," he added.

## Pollution



### BRITTANY, FRANCE

London, Mar 9 — A French appeal court has upheld the decision of a lower court to acquit the master of a MOL tanker accused of deliberately causing pollution at sea. The appeal court in Rennes rejected the appeal of the public prosecutor, supported by several environmental organisations, against the decision of a court in Brest in March last year to acquit 43-year-old Captain Srdjan Ljustina, the Croatian master of the 96,687 dwt crude oil tanker *Atlantic Hero*. The vessel, which was on its way to Le Havre from the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk, was spotted by a French navy aircraft at the head of a 17.6 km-long pollution slick off the tip of the Brittany peninsula on Sep 10, 2004. The court in Brest was told that it was cleaning its number two ballast tank at the time, as well as discharging waste water from its machine room sump. The prosecutor claimed that the master had deliberately taken advantage of the ballast tank cleaning operation to empty engine room waste directly into the sea instead of passing it through

the vessel's oily water separator. Captain Ljustina denied this, however, and also ruled out an accidental discharge through the oily water separator, the functioning of which, he said, was regularly checked. He argued that the oil could only have come from sediment picked up with ballast water loaded after cargo discharge of in previous ports of call. The court in Brest was told that the prosecution had declined his offer to have analysed samples of ballast sediment he claimed to have taken. Subsequent analysis of the samples carried out for the defence confirmed the presence of hydrocarbons and other oil waste of industrial origin. The court of appeal said that these samples could not be taken into account, given that nothing was known of their origin or of the conditions in which they were taken. It found, however, that the prosecution should have taken steps on its own account to verify the veracity of the master's version of events, notably by examination of the ballast tank in question before it was emptied. In the absence of such verifications, the court said, it was not possible to consider that the reality of the offence of which the master had been accused had been established.

### ELBE RIVER, CZECH REPUBLIC/GERMANY

Prague, Mar 3 — Czech officials said they were laying protective floating barriers around an oil slick discovered today in the Elbe river that has raised environmental concerns in neighbouring Germany. "The slick is about 500 litres. It's maybe 15 kilometres long," said a dispatcher from the Czech agency that oversees the Elbe. The oil slick was discovered at 0830, local time and officials quickly began enacting a plan to control it, he added, giving no further details. The Ministry of Environment and Agriculture in the eastern German state of Saxony said it had been informed by the Czechs of the oil slick, which is in the vicinity of Usti nad Labem, a city near the northern Czech border with Germany. "The cause of the contamination is not yet clear," the ministry said in a statement. "It is possible that it was a damaged pipeline or a freighter or truck accident." "The Czechs have erected barriers that should slow down the spread of the oil slick. It is not clear whether and when the oil slick will reach Saxony," it said. — Reuters.

### FORT GEORGE (U.K.)

See "Portland Harbour, United Kingdom" under "Pollution".

### HACI EMINE ANA (Turkey)

See "Ipswich, Suffolk, United Kingdom - Poll" under "Pollution".

### IPSWICH, SUFFOLK, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A shipping



company and its master, who were ordered to pay more than £100,000 in fines and costs after a major pollution incident on the River Orwell, have had their total bill cut by £28,000. An oil slick extended over four miles of the River Orwell after 1.5 tonnes of heavy fuel oil spilled from general cargo *Haci Emine Ana* in September 2004. A number of swans were affected and had to be taken to a wildlife centre in Norfolk to be cleaned and oil residue from the spillage remained on the shores of the river for up to five weeks afterwards, Ipswich Crown Court heard. In December, Mustafa Colcuoglu, the master of *Haci Emine Ana*, was fined £5,000 and ordered to pay £2,000 costs by magistrates after he admitted discharging oil into United Kingdom waters. Ship owner Arif Kalkavan Ogullari Gemicilik admitted the same charge and was fined £75,000 and ordered to pay £20,600 costs. Yesterday, they appealed against the magistrates' order and Colcuoglu had his fine reduced to £2,000 while Gemicilik had their fine reduced to £50,000. The cost orders in respect of both were not changed. Agreeing to reduce the fines, Judge John Devaux, who was sitting with two magistrates, said the spillage had been the result of "serious negligence." He said that an internal checklist concerning the transfer of fuel on board the freighter from one tank to another had not been followed in a number of important respects. In addition Judge Devaux said he found it "astonishing" that the master of the vessel, who was asleep at the time of the spillage, had not become aware of it until more than an hour after river officials had gone on board to collect samples. Judge Devaux said that in his opinion the master was not running a "tight ship." However, he said the court had to have regard to his means and had therefore decided to reduce his fine by £3,000. The judge said the company's fine was excessive and this was why the bench had decided to reduce it by £25,000. The court heard that the owners of the vessel would have to pay a £33,000 civil bill for the clean up operation resulting from the spillage. Ian Lawrie, for Associated British Ports, said the oil spillage was spotted by port pilot Robert Stevens during the early hours of the morning and he had alerted the deputy harbour master. As soon as the extent of the pollution was realised help was called in from Harwich and the Haven Hornbill pollution fighting vessel was sent out. Officials from the port quickly identified the vessel responsible and when they went on board they found the deck had been cleaned and looked spotless. However, no-one from the vessel had reported the leak to the harbour authorities. Edmund Broadbent, representing the owners and master of the vessel, said the accident had happened when members of the crew were transferring heavy fuel oil from one tank to another. Following an internal investigation by the company, all the

crew involved in the oiling operation had been dismissed as had the chief engineer. Speaking after the hearing, Rob Smith, manager of the Port of Ipswich, said: "The level of the fine was always going to be at the discretion of the court. The fact they've been successful in reducing it does not alter the fact we caught them committing an offence and were delighted to secure a successful prosecution."

#### **NEW YORK HARBOUR, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 6 — The Coast Guard issued its final press release on the response to the oil spill into Arthur Kill. Active shoreline cleanup has been suspended. Excavation and cleanup at the wharf area continues. The incident is under investigation.

#### **OHIO RIVER, UNITED STATES**

See "Pollution, Ohio River, United States" under "Awards & Settlements."

#### **PORTLAND HARBOUR, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Mar 9 — Following received from Portland MRSC, timed 1055, UTC: Following received from Portland Harbour Authority: Engine oil reported floating on the water at Portland Inner Harbour. Amount unknown, but estimated at upwards of 200 litres. Source is naval auxiliary *Fort George* (28821 gt, built 1989). Source stopped. Oil is mostly contained between ship and jetty. Skimmer being deployed to recover accessible oil. Fast tank erected. Port staff able to deal with situation.

#### **PRUDHOE BAY, ALASKA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated Mar 2, states: An unknown quantity of crude oil spilled today from a pipeline on Alaska's North Slope, and fumes stalled inspection and cleanup efforts for hours. Crews began using a vacuum truck to recover some of the oil, which had pooled on the frozen ground, said Daren Beaudou, spokesman for BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. The cause of the spill, at Prudhoe Bay operations, was unknown. BP operators discovered the spill early today, he said. The line was quickly blocked. Air monitors detected high levels of volatile fumes this morning, which could have led to an explosion or breathing risks, Beaudou said. The 34-inch-diameter pipeline carries crude that eventually flows to the trans-Alaska pipeline.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated Mar 6, states: A bubbling sound early Sunday (Mar 5) helped workers pinpoint a leak in a pipeline that allowed a sizeable amount of crude oil to spill onto the frozen tundra at Prudhoe Bay. State, federal and oil company officials said the total amount of oil spilled is still not known, but they discounted claims by an oil industry critic that the spill was much larger than BP Exploration

(Alaska) Inc. is saying. The breach was discovered at 0140 Sunday inside a low-lying section of the 34-inch transit line, which leads to the trans-Alaska oil pipeline. The section where the leak occurred is covered by gravel to let caribou pass. "All kinds of technology has been brought to the North Slope, and the way it was actually found was that someone heard a gurgling noise, put some lights on it, and saw it," Maureen Johnson, BP manager of the Prudhoe Bay unit, said during a briefing with reporters. The source of the leak was found after enough snow had been removed from the site. The spill, discovered Thursday by a BP operator, prompted the company to shut down the processing plant, depressurize the line and block off both ends, but workers Sunday found oil still dripping from the breach. With the location of the leak known, officials will focus on determining a cause, repairing the line and continuing the cleanup of spilled oil. Johnson said the spill, about 650 miles north of Anchorage, has affected an area of slightly less than two acres. As of Sunday afternoon, crews had recovered 1,097 barrels, or more than 46,074 gallons, of crude and snowmelt. The amount spilled is far greater than BP and government officials are saying, according to oil industry critic Chuck Hamel. Hamel, of Alexandria, Va., said he learned from onsite personnel that the spill volume is closer to 798,000 gallons, which would make it the second largest oil spill in Alaska, second only to the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* spill of 11 million gallons in Prince William Sound. Hamel said meters record the volume flowing into the pipe as well as the amount leaving it. "There's a 798,000-gallon discrepancy," he said in a phone interview. He declined to provide documentation of the difference. Hamel also said operators knew there was a leak at least 36 hours before the spill was found, because the smell of crude vapors was noted. BP and regulatory officials investigating the leak said much progress has been made in responding to the spill. Crews have worked under considerable challenges, including temperatures dipping to 20 degrees below zero and deep snow hiding much of the spill. The leak was difficult to detect because oil can seep into insulation and the sheath surrounding the line, exiting at a distance.

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: An oil spill in Alaska's North Slope could end up being one of the region's largest, officials said today as the cleanup continued. Crews have recovered 58,590 gallons, or 1,395 barrels, of crude and snow since the pipeline spill was discovered Thursday in the Prudhoe Bay field. Most of the recovered material will probably turn out to be crude once the water is separated out, officials said. Lynda Giguere of the Alaska Department of Conservation said officials should have an estimate tomorrow of how



much crude spilled onto a two-acre area from the line, which leads to the trans-Alaska pipeline. Temperatures are well below zero and are expected to approach 60 below in coming days, complicating the cleanup, officials said.

## Weather & Navigation



### AUSTRALIA

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Wild weather in south-east Queensland is wreaking havoc, with transport services worst hit. Roads, aircraft, trains and vessels have all been affected. Virgin Blue has cancelled all of its flights into the Sunshine Coast. Severe winds brought trees down on power lines on the north-coast rail line this afternoon, stopping all train services between Nambour and Yandina. Power has been cut to more than 7,000 homes on the Sunshine Coast, which is also causing traffic problems. Winds of up to 50 knots have been reported at sea, causing delays to shipping. There has also been a land slip on the Gold Coast.

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Energex crews are working to restore power to about 8,000 homes in the Gold Coast and hinterland area in south-east Queensland, where strong overnight winds caused black-outs. At one stage 25,000 businesses and homes lost power, with debris blown into power lines. The main areas without power this morning are at Willowvale, Kingsholme, Ormeau, Pimpama and Upper Coomera. Emergency services say the damage from two days of heavy rain and battering winds has not been as bad as they had expected. Counter Disaster and Rescue Services spokesman Mike Schapland says the damage has been relatively minor.

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The State Emergency Service (SES) says it appears the worst of the flooding on the New South Wales mid-north coast is over. About 500 residents in the township of Bellingen are stranded, as roads and bridges are expected to remain inundated with water until Monday (Mar 6). Two helicopters and several boats are on stand-by if residents need urgent medical treatment or food supplies. SES spokesman Phil Campbell says river levels are expected to ease in the next couple of days. Meanwhile, there are reports gale force winds hitting the NSW far north coast are causing considerable sand erosion. The SES says huge waves between Ballina and Tweed Heads are causing problems along the coastline, although no property damage has been reported. Mr Campbell says

heavy rain in the area is also likely to cause localised flash flooding on roads.

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Wild weather in south-east Queensland has again closed beaches on the Gold and Sunshine coasts. Meanwhile, the weather bureau says the strong winds that have battered the coast in recent days are similar to a category 2 cyclone. Already three people have died and more than 25 vehicles have been damaged in road crashes across the state since Friday (Mar 3). Homes and property have been damaged while 87,000 consumers have lost power since last Friday. Senior forecaster Jeff Callaghan says the low pressure system should head further out to sea this afternoon. "Well it's probably as bad as a cyclone, it's got 50-knot winds which is storm force gusting to 130 knots an hour, equivalent to a category 2 cyclone," he said.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The State Emergency Service (SES) says there has been minor flooding around Lismore and the Tweed overnight but weather conditions are expected to improve in northern New South Wales. For the past few days, the north coast has experienced flooding, heavy downpours and gale force winds, due to a low pressure system off the coast. A minor flood warning is still in place for the Bellinger River and people living in the upper reaches remain isolated by floodwaters.

London, Mar 7 — Rio Tinto Group, the world's second-largest iron ore exporter, could miss contract deliveries of the steelmaking raw material after cyclones dumped rain into its mines in Western Australia, Bloomberg reports. Rio notified alerted customers by declaring force majeure for its mines in the state's Pilbara region, spokesman Matthew Coomber said from Perth. He could not say for how long the declaration, which began on Mar 2, will last. London-based Rio last had force majeure in the Pilbara in 2004. The northwest of Western Australia has had three tropical cyclones this season. The Bureau of Meteorology forecast five in the season from October to April. The rain in Pilbara did not affect the iron ore operations of Melbourne-based BHP Billiton, the world's third-biggest iron ore exporter.

### BANGLADESH

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: At least five people have been reported dead following the arrival of a tropical storm in southern parts of Bangladesh. Some 3,000 from a number of villages near the forests of Sundarbans were also left homeless after the wind and rains destroyed their bamboo dwellings on Mar 4. A local police officer told Reuters that wind speeds reached 94 miles per hour and "destroyed almost all houses within a few minutes". The majority of the deaths occurred as a result of

people being crushed to death as their homes collapsed around them. Electricity poles and trees were also knocked down. The arrival of the storm heralds the start of the season, which usually lasts until May.

### BULGARIA

London, Mar 7 — The port of Bourgas was closed today due to stormy winds and heavy snow. Since early in the morning the port administration banned any manoeuvres of both small and large vessels within the Bourgas Bay. All roads in the region are cleaned up from the snow and now are accessible, the national road authority said.

### CANADA

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: A strong wind warning is still in effect for the Greater Vancouver region. Heavy rains mixed with snow are pounding the area. Night classes at Simon Fraser University have been cancelled because of heavy snowfall on Burnaby Mountain and the B.C. Ferry service has also been delayed by the strong winds. This stormy weather is wrecking the plans of many ferry travellers in Tsawwassen. The cancellation of the 1300 hrs sailing is inconveniencing lots of travellers and as the storm conditions continue, all ferry travellers can do is wait. The 1500 hrs left the docks but B.C. Ferries has said both the Tsawwassen and Victoria are about a half hour behind schedule. Power is currently off to about 1700 customers in maple ridge. That outage is blamed on a car crash.

### EUROPE

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Heavy snow and high winds lashed Europe over the weekend (Mar 4/5), causing the deaths of at least 17 people in weather-related accidents and avalanches in Germany, France, Italy and Switzerland. Thousands of people in France and southern Germany spent a night trapped in their cars, trains or emergency shelters after heavy snow blanketed the Alps, officials said. Authorities were forced to close stretches of motorways, leaving hundreds of cars stranded through the night on Saturday on routes in eastern France and firemen relaying supplies to them to ensure passengers had sufficient food, water and warmth. In the French Alps, 2 600 holidaymakers were put up by the town hall in Bourg-Saint-Maurice after the snow made travel impossible. In southern Germany, too, hundreds of people were trapped on motorways Saturday, while a train en route from Duesseldorf to Milan spent the night stuck in the station at Singen with 80 passengers because of snow on the rails. In Switzerland, 130 motorists spent the night at a civil protection centre after the road between the capital Bern and the north-eastern city of Zurich was blocked. Flights at Frankfurt's

international airport, Germany's largest, were wracked by delays on Saturday, as were those at the Munich airport, where more than 40cm of snow fell, and rail traffic throughout the southern state of Bavaria. On Saturday night a Siberia Airlines aircraft with 166 passengers on board skidded off the frozen runway in Munich as tried to take off for Moscow, the police said, adding that nobody was injured. In central France, a thick fog on Sunday morning triggered a pile-up of three trucks and 31 cars on a motorway in Yonne and 31 people were hurt, two with serious injuries, authorities said. Train services in France and Switzerland were disrupted by the heavy snow on the rails. The EuroAirport, which serves the Swiss city of Basel, as well as Mulhouse in France and Freiburg in Germany, was forced to shut down on Saturday, and reopen only late on Sunday afternoon, airport authorities said.

#### GERMANY

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated Mar 3, states: Heavy snow forced the cancellation of more than 100 flights today at Frankfurt's international airport, the busiest in Continental Europe. An airport spokesman, Klaus Busch, said the flights had been cancelled after more than 20 centimetres of snow fell during the morning. Dozens of other flights were delayed by as long as an hour. "Most of the flights are coming into Frankfurt as planned, but there are delays because of the weather," he said. In Munich, in southern Germany, an airport spokesman, Ingo Anspach, said two flights had been cancelled and 30 flights delayed by as long as an hour because of the weather.

#### HURRICANE "KATRINA"

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated Mar 2, states: Supply *Caribbean Clipper*, grounded by Hurricane "Katrina" on Aug 29, was refloated in Bayou La Batre early yesterday and was left floating in a channel dug by salvors. Phil Beyel, the head of the salvage operation, said the vessel will remain in the channel until his company is paid by the insurance company funding the job. Beyel said he and his crew of eight men worked three months to pull the vessel from the reedy bank where "Katrina" left it. For a few weeks, the crew had the help of a 110-foot tug, he said. But after unsuccessful attempts to pull the vessel off its muddy perch, tug *Elisabeth II* and its master, Lithium Smith, departed the bayou in late January, Beyel said. "He pulled on it twice, broke his cable and left," said Beyel, salvage master of Cocoa, Florida-based Beyel Brothers Crane & Rigging. After receiving an emergency permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Dec 13, Bevel's crew, working on barges, began clawing a 50-foot-wide, 15-foot-deep channel into the wetlands. In late February,

the crew members used a crane barge to unload the vessel's cargo of shipping containers and cars. They then wedged a 50-by-150-foot barge into the bank of the bayou near the vessel. Tuesday evening, the crew used a winch to pull the vessel; halfway into the water, Beyel said. Before the hurricane, *Caribbean Clipper* would arrive in Bayou La Batre every three weeks or so with a shipment of lobsters for American restaurants. It would leave with diesel fuel, cars, trucks, car parts and other cargo. The vessel was preparing for a trip to Honduras when "Katrina" hit, company officials have said.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated Feb 24, states: Ingram Barge Company barge *ING4727* (705 gt, built 1990), that landed in the Lower 9th Ward as Hurricane "Katrina" struck New Orleans is on its way out of the ruined neighbourhood. Titan Maritime hired by the vessel's owner used industrial strength inflatable air bags to lift the 200-by-35-foot barge off the ground yesterday and place it on Jourdan Avenue, enabling lawyers, engineers and other experts to examine every inch of the steel. Within 10 days Titan Maritime plans to remove the barge, using metal torches to cut it into pieces and haul it away, a lawyer for Ingram said yesterday. "We can't float it away," said attorney Don Haycraft, whose firm represents Ingram. The barge has sparked lawsuits by residents who believe corporate negligence sent it crashing into homes that border the Industrial Canal. The barge's prime role now is as a piece of courtroom evidence, and the salvage crew about to cut it apart must follow a federal judge's order on which pieces will end up in storage, and what will be discarded as scrap, as several post-"Katrina" lawsuits loom on the docket. Ingram owns the barge, but before "Katrina" the vessel was not under the company's "care, custody or control," as court documents put it. Instead, the dry cargo hopper barge had been chartered by Lafarge North America. It was empty when "Katrina" hit, having delivered a load of cement to Lafarge, on the west side of the Industrial Canal. At some point, the barge drifted across the canal, coming to rest upon homes. Several studies, including one by the National Science Foundation, say the storm surge breached the levee, and the barge surfed through the gaping hole. Critics, and those suing in court, say it could not have happened without negligence. Ethel Mumford of New Orleans sued Ingram last fall on behalf of all property owners and residents on the east side of the Industrial Canal, from the Lower 9th Ward to St. Bernard Parish. The barge's owners and charters "abandoned" the vessel to the elements, Mumford's suit says, allowing it to break loose from its "inadequate moorings," and crash through the flood wall. Ingram has filed its own civil action in U.S. District Court seeking exoneration

from any liability. "We believe the evidence will show the barge came in through an already existing breach in the levee," Haycraft said.

#### MALAWI

Mangochi, Mar 7 — Heavy rains have washed away roads and bridges in Malawi's resort district of Mangochi, stranding tourists and leaving much of the area incommunicado. Officials had no immediate word on casualties but said damage in the few areas that remained accessible appeared extensive and included crucial crops. The meteorological department said downpours last night and today had drenched the region with 158 mm of rain. Mangochi is one of the districts in the southern part of the country described as one of the worst hit by a food crisis affecting millions. — Reuters.

#### MOZAMBIQUE

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Heavy rains at the weekend have cut the main North-South highway in Mozambique, leaving a considerable number of heavy-duty lorries and people stranded. The rains have been falling across southern and central parts of the country and the section between Inchope in Manica Province and Muxungue in Sofala appears to be the worst affected while a number of rivers including the Zambezi, Limpopo and Incomati have reached or are reaching flood alert levels. According to Mozambique sources at least 16 people have lost their lives as a result of the heavy rains and storms. Mozambique authorities have issued warnings to people living along the banks of the Zambezi between the Zimbabwe border and the coast.

#### NEW ZEALAND

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Ambulances are meeting the Interisland ferry, due to dock at Picton at 2200 hrs. Three passengers are understood to have minor injuries from the rough crossing, caused by the stormy conditions battering Wellington. The storm has also forced the cancellation of all other Cook Strait ferry sailings tonight. Toll Shipping is hopeful ferries will be able to begin sailing from Wellington again from 0800 tomorrow. Around 800 passengers have been affected by the cancellations.

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Massive southerly swells in Cook Strait have forced the cancellation of all Interisland ferry crossings. Swells of 8 to 10 metres and 125 km per hour winds are battering Wellington's south coast. The storm hitting the capital has also caused 15 boats to break free from their moorings at Evans Bay, and roofs have lifted off some houses. And in Christchurch, fallen trees and power lines are creating hazards for drivers. Drivers of caravans and large trucks are being advised to stay off the roads, particularly in exposed places.



London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Aratere* (12596 gt, built 1998) limped into Picton with vehicles loose on the lower decks and passengers battered and bruised, after being hammered by 10-metre swells and 125-kph winds in the Cook Strait. It is understood that six rail carriages and some private cars came adrift during today's 1400 hrs sailing, which took almost eight hours instead of the usual three. An area was cordoned off at the Picton terminal to provide "privacy" for passengers as they arrived off the vessel about 2230 hrs. Two ambulances and the fire service were on standby. Four people were injured — two had cracked ribs and another an injured arm. A fourth was said by passengers to have been "badly smashed up". Passengers reported a "definite list" to the vessel as it limped into Picton. Interislander spokeswoman Sue Foley said those whose vehicles were damaged had been given rental cars and all passengers' fares would be refunded. Marlborough harbourmaster Alex van Wijngaarden said the vessel's master decided midway across the Cook Strait to divert from the usual course through the Tory Channel and to take the longer but safer northern entrance. Vessel *Kaitaki* also struggled in the storm that lashed much of New Zealand yesterday and a tugboat was called in to help it berth at Wellington shortly before 1900 hrs. All Interislander and Bluebridge evening sailings were cancelled, stranding up to 1,000 passengers. The ferries were expected to resume tomorrow morning. The gale also caused havoc on land, lifting roofs, bringing down trees, signs and power lines in Kapiti Coast, Hutt Valley and Wellington. There were power cuts in Wairarapa. Wellington Airport duty manager Stephen Rybinski said aircraft were able to land but were delayed up to 15 minutes by strong winds. MetService forecaster Allister Gorman said wind gusts reached 140 kph at Mt Kaukau and 126 kph in some Wellington suburbs late this afternoon, but were expected to ease overnight.

Wellington, Mar 3 — New Zealand King Salmon will meet with the Marlborough harbourmaster next week to explain its plans for its runaway Te Pangu Bay salmon farm. Marlborough harbourmaster, Alex van Wijngaarden, said he had asked the company to present a plan for the farm's reconfiguration by the middle of next week. "We need to be satisfied that it would be moored adequately and safely in Tory Channel," he said. In the meantime he was satisfied that the farm, which drifted in Tory Channel after its moorings broke at 0800, Mar 1, was now moored safely in Ruakaka Bay. King Salmon managers requested the closure of the channel for more than three hours while tug boats and a barge secured the farm. It was held stationary in Tory Channel until the tide turned, and then towed to Ruakaka Bay. NZ

King Salmon chief executive, Paul Steere, said the company would be talking with engineers, hydrologists and other specialists to determine what went wrong and what could be done to prevent a recurrence. "We are going to sit down and look at what we've got there and why the design had a weakness, how the moorings were looking, how high the tide was running," he said. He had heard the tide was a three-year record high on yesterday morning. By 0300 hrs, yesterday the farm was secured with screw anchors at its temporary location in Ruakaka Bay, across the bay from another King Salmon farm. Two nets, in a cage of four nets, were damaged in the incident and the company was to remove them from the farm and assess the damage, Mr Steere said. The price of new cage was up to \$300,000, and, while it was possible the existing cage could be repaired, it would still be a costly exercise, Mr Steere said. The farm was covered by insurance. Harvest had continued while the farm was adrift and continued yesterday, as it was secured. The farm had been in Te Pangu Bay for about 14 years, Mr Steere said, and while it had been gradually chopped and changed through the years it had stood the test of nature well until now. Most of the fish in one net were able to be transferred to another area of the farm, while about 100,000 in the other may have been lost. Mr Steere said an inventory would be done over the next few days, as some of those fish may have remained in the billowing net. The fish at this point cost about \$75,000 and would have been worth \$25 each on harvest in a year's time. "It's a disappointment to us that they are no longer available for harvest next year," he said. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ferry services are preparing to shift the backlog of travellers in Wellington and Picton after gale force winds and large sea swells in Cook Strait overnight, disrupted the travel plans of thousands of people. Greater Wellington regional harbourmaster Captain Mike Pryce said the weather in Cook Strait was moderating and the conditions were being tested in the harbour, which had been closed for the morning. The conditions were being tested with the departure of a freight ferry at midday and if conditions were fine container vessels would be allowed to move again soon, he said. The stormy conditions which lashed the region last night caused a container ship to divert to Cloudy Bay and the cancellation of scheduled passenger ferry services. Toll Shipping spokeswoman Sue Foley the Interislander would be sailing at 1300 as the service prepared to shift the more than 2000 people who had been affected by the weather conditions. Four people, all adults, who had been injured during a turbulent crossing last night received only superficial or minor injuries and had not required hospital treatment, she said.

Bluebridge Passenger Ferry spokeswoman Wendy Pannett said their passenger ferry was due to leave Picton at midday, with a full ferry of 370 onboard. If conditions continued to improve the company hoped to have it scheduled ferry service back on track by 1900 tonight, she said.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Two investigations have been launched into whether ro/ro *Aratere* should have crossed the Cook Strait on Friday (Mar 4) night. She was battered with 10-metre swells as it took eight hours to make the three hour crossing. Four passengers were injured during the journey, including one person who suffered fractured ribs. An investigator for the Transport Accident Investigation Commission, Captain Ian Hill, says he will look at the weather, what went into the master's decision to sail and whether he took the right route. Captain Hill says the aim of the commission's report is to offer safety recommendations and not to punish those in charge. Maritime New Zealand is also conducting an investigation into the journey. Spokesperson, Steve Corbett, says any incident in which people are injured needs to be taken seriously. He says that unlike the TAIC, Maritime New Zealand has the power to impose penalties.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: The Interislander ro/ro *Aratere* is being investigated by the Transport Accident Investigation Commission after an eight-hour journey in stormy seas on Friday (Mar 3) that injured passengers and damaged cargo. The ferry sailed across the Cook Strait through 10m swells and 125km/h winds. Chief investigator John Mockett said the decision to sail led to the injuries and damage. The ordeal for the passengers and crew began around 1400 and the ferry limped into Picton about 2230, five hours later than scheduled. "What we're looking at in the investigation is the company policies on whether or not they should sail, the decision to sail that was taken on the night, and then having made that decision, the security of the cargo," Mr Mockett said. Six rail wagons fell over and heavy trucks and vehicles moved around, causing considerable damage, he said. "Large items of cargo moving around in any ship can be dangerous for the personnel on board and we felt that was worthy of an investigation." Mr Mockett said heavier vehicles, wagons and campervans were tied down, but the investigation team would look at how they were secured, the adequacy of it, the policy and the strength of the lashings that they used. He added that the investigation would also cover how people on board the ferry were injured. "We understand initially, and remember it's very early days, that one crew member and three of the passengers received injuries." Ferry owner Toll said it had reported the incident to the commission and was co-operating with the investigation.



Wellington, Mar 7 — A local press report, dated today, states: Six badly damaged vehicles sit today in a Port Marlborough yard in Picton's Westshore, the result of a storm-tossed Cook Strait crossing byro/ro *Aratere* on Friday (Mar 3). Broken windows, caved in sides, smashed mirrors, numerous scratches and dents attest to the ferocity of the crossing that also saw one crew and three passengers receive minor injuries. Two investigations are now underway into the ferry journey. Three Maui campervans, one of which had a side completely smashed in, a van and two cars were in the yard today. Three other badly damaged campervans were removed yesterday, taken away on a flat-topped truck. A Mitsubishi Evo 9 car worth \$100,000 owned by Blenheim motor racing driver Lloyd Owen was also badly smashed during the crossing with effluent, salt water also getting into the works of the finely tuned vehicle. The entire car had to be taken to pieces to see how bad the damage was, he said. The incident will be investigated by the Transport Accident Investigation Commission and Maritime New Zealand. The vessel intended to use the northern entrance into Queen Charlotte Sound when it was struck by two swells higher than 10m, causing it to heel to starboard at about 45 to 50 degrees. The lashings on five rail wagons parted and the wagons tipped over. The vessel was again struck by large swells causing a heel to starboard of about 50 degrees. This caused a sixth rail wagon to tip over and vehicles, including heavy trucks on the top deck to move causing considerable damage. The vessel finally berthed in Picton at 2226. — Lloyd's Agents.

Wellington, Mar 8 — NZ King Salmon executives met with the Port of Marlborough harbourmaster yesterday as investigations continue into why a salmon farm the size of a rugby field drifted free from its moorings last week, resulting in the closure of the Tory Channel. The NZ King Salmon farm, with one million fish and eight staff on board, drifted towards the channel and risked floating into the ferry lanes last Tuesday (Feb 28). Several ferries had to be redirected to avoid running into the farm which tugs were brought in to secure. NZ King Salmon chief executive Paul Steere said tides and a high current caused the moorings to snap, despite the farm having been assessed to ensure such a situation would not occur. Mr Steere said today the company had commissioned two external experts to lead the investigation. He said King Salmon was co-operating with the authorities and they would be sharing their findings with them. "There was over 31 significant moorings (securing the farm). They shouldn't have moved in theory. "We'll also be checking the strength of the cables and the ropes," he said. Mr Steere said he was hopeful the company would have some answers next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

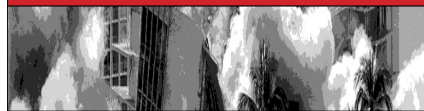
#### ROMANIA

Bucharest, Mar 8 — The Sulina Channel was closed Mar 7 due to north-easterly winds Force 5-6 (fresh to strong breeze) and five-to-six-metre seas. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### RUSSIA

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Gale winds blowing at 33 metres per second have hit North Ossetia, a republic in Russia's North Caucasus. All emergency services in the republic have been put on high alert. An aide to the republic's emergencies minister, Vladimir Ivanov, said strong winds cause fires, tear roofs off buildings, break power lines, and knock down trees. "The fire service is working at the scenes of five fires at the same time. Fire engines cannot cope with all of them and there are not enough fire crews," Ivanov said. Emergency service operators are having a hard time answering telephone calls from citizens who report broken power lines, fallen trees, crushed cars, and torn roofs. Electricity and water supplies have been cut off to half of Vladikavkaz and district capitals. People injured as a result of the storm have already sought medical assistance at healthcare institutions. According to weather forecasts, the storm will continue will tomorrow.

### Earthquakes



#### INDIAN OCEAN

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake with a magnitude of 6.4 on the Richter scale rocked the southern Indian Ocean in the region of a remote French island, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said. The quake at 1813, UTC, was 165 miles southeast of Amsterdam Island, a French possession in the Indian Ocean, said a USGS report. The quake was about 6.2 miles under the seabed. The island is home to a score of persons, including scientists, according to an official website.

#### INDONESIA

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: An earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale jolted Indonesia's Aceh province today, local media reported. According to the Antara news agency, the earthquake was traced at around lat 4.1N, long 96.2E, with a normal depth of around 33 km, and its epicentre was located off the coast of Meulaboh, some 250 km southwest of the province's capital of Banda Aceh, Syahnan. Although the quake was relatively strong, there have been no property damage reports.

#### TROPICAL STORM "KAJIKI"

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated Mar 3, states: Barge *Napocor Power Barge No.106*, which spilled more than 300,000 litres of oil into waters, mangrove forests and corals off Semirara Island, was not checked for seaworthiness before it was allowed to set out to sea. A Senate committee investigating what had been described as the country's biggest oil spill got admission that only a surveyor from the GSIS, the barge's insurer, checked the barge before it was allowed to leave port. The committee on environment, chaired by Sen Pia Cayetano, got the admission from *Napocor* chief Cyril del Callar in a hearing Tuesday (Feb 28). The Coast Guard said that, while the clean-up of the spill is nearly 33% complete, much still has to be done. Arturo Olavario, head of the field operations group of the Coast Guard's Task Force Semirara, said the clean-up had covered 37 hectares of the estimated 112 hectares of mangrove forests around the island. Studies made by researchers from the University of the Philippines in the Visayas (UPV) said the area damaged by the spill was 112 hectares. Dr Rex Sadaba, a mangrove expert and head of the UPV team of researchers, said the oil spill damaged 97.64 hectares of old growth mangrove and 10.97 hectares of reforested areas. The rest are natural grown forests. The clean-up, which started on Dec 21, has involved 23 Coast Guard personnel and around 250 residents of the island. They have collected more than 25,000 sacks of contaminated material. The Coast Guard said 364,120 litres of bunker fuel were spilled when the barge ran aground 200 meters off Sitio Bobog in Barangay Semirara. The barge was carrying about 874,570 litres of bunker fuel. Sadaba said the extent of the damage and the long-term impact on the mangroves and marine life will only be determined after a comprehensive study.

#### UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Poor visibility at Dubai International Airport yesterday morning led to 11 flights being diverted to Al Ain, Muscat and other destinations, an airport spokesman said. "The heavy blanket of fog made landings impossible from 0300 to 0800, yesterday." The weather forecaster at the airport yesterday said that visibility was as low as 100 metres in Dubai and Sharjah and it was 400 metres in Abu Dhabi. He predicted similar conditions today.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Overnight snowfall caused multiple road accidents and disrupted rail routes, and Mersey ferry services were cancelled after part of the Pier Head landing stage collapsed. Ambulance bosses said that at one stage today they were simultaneously attending

11 road accidents caused by the poor weather. Gritters had been out on the roads, but speed restrictions of 40 mph were in place on the M57, M58 and M62. On Merseyrail, services between Sandhills and Kirkby on the Northern Line and on the Wirral line between Rock Ferry, Ellesmere Port and Chester were subject to delays. Platforms 1 and 3 at Liverpool Lime Street Station are also closed. Merseytravel said all ferry services had been cancelled because the Pier Head landing stage at Liverpool had partially sunk. Councillor Mark Dowd, chair of Merseytravel, apologised for the inconvenience but said the safety of passengers "must come first". "We have put on temporary bus services and are in discussions with Mersey Docks and Harbour Company about using an alternative landing stage at the Isle of Man terminal," he added.

**UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated Mar 5, states: Delays of up to an hour and a half were reported at Chicago's airports today in the midst of a late winter snowstorm sweeping across the area. A snow advisory was in effect for Chicago and the surrounding suburbs until midnight, meteorologist Charles Mott said. Flights at O'Hare International Airport were delayed by an hour or more, and flights at Midway International Airport were delayed 30 to 60 minutes, Wendy Abrams, spokeswoman for The Chicago Department of Aviation, said. No weather related incidents had been reported at either airport, she said.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Barge traffic along the Mississippi River is expected to start moving next week. Don Bardole, a park ranger at Lock and Dam 15 in the Quad Cities, says tug boats, barges and all other manner of riverboats will soon be seen moving along the wide, muddy waterway. Lock number-19 at Keokuk has been closed for the winter for maintenance and it's scheduled to open on March 15. Bardole says the lock and dam at the Quad Cities should see traffic moving through a few days after that. He says the first traffic will be tugs pushing empty barges, headed upstream to be filled with grain. Bardole says there is often a large group of barges that come through right away, as they've been waiting in line for while to get to their destinations. He says that will likely be the case this year as there's no ice at Davenport, which is the usual limiting factor at this time of year. He says there's been limited river traffic already, things like sand, gravel and coal, but the huge loads of corn will start moving downriver within days, headed for New Orleans and then to points around the world.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: The Houston Channel remains closed today due to fog since 2030, local time, Mar 5. The same applies to the Texas City-

Galveston Channel, which was closed due to fog at 0545, yesterday morning.



**MOUNT AUGUSTINE, ALASKA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated Mar 5, states: Scientists say pressure is building again at Augustine Volcano. Activity at the island volcano had subsided for weeks. Scientists say the likeliest explanation for the new pressure is that Augustine's new lava dome is sealing off vents in the volcano. That would trap volcanic gas. Scientists say an eruption could occur again, although it probably would be less explosive than the huge eruptions that disrupted commercial air travel in January. Augustine is located 180 miles southwest of Anchorage.



**AFGHANISTAN**

Kandahar, Mar 2 — A Canadian soldier was killed and seven injured when their vehicle overturned in southern Afghanistan today, officials said. The incident happened on a road leading west from the city of Kandahar. Police said a Canadian jeep hit the back of a car that had slowed down and both vehicles tumbled off the embanked highway. In neighbouring Helmand province yesterday, Taliban guerrillas ambushed an Afghan army convoy, killing one soldier and wounding two in Girishk district, provincial army commander General Rahmatullah Raufi told Reuters. — Reuters.

Kandahar, Mar 4 — Taliban guerrillas killed a French special forces officer in a clash in southern Afghanistan today and a roadside bomb killed an Afghan intelligence agent and four other Afghans. A Canadian soldier from the US-led foreign force was also seriously wounded in a clash in the Shawali Kot district of Kandahar, Canadian spokesman Lieutenant Mark MacIntyre said. US spokesman Colonel Jim Yonts said at least one Taliban guerrilla was killed in that clash and two were killed in the one in which the French officer died. The French Defence Ministry said he was a naval officer with special forces. The wounded Canadian would be evacuated to a US military hospital at Landstuhl in Germany, the US spokesman said. Taliban spokesman Qari Mohammad Yusuf said the

rebels planted the bomb which killed the Afghans in Helmand province, neighbouring Kandahar, as part of a campaign to overthrow the US-backed government. He said nine people were killed. The blast in Nadali district of Helmand killed Mohammad Ali Borak, a local official of the National Security Administration, said Asadullah Sherzad, head of the agency in the province. "It was a remote-controlled bomb," Sherzad said, adding that an Afghan electrician who had been travelling in the same vehicle as Borak and his three bodyguards were also killed. The attack was the latest in a spate on insurgent violence to hit Helmand. Yesterday, Taliban gunmen killed the chief government official in Sangin district, hours after police killed eight guerrillas and captured 10 in a two-hour battle. — Reuters.

**ALGERIA**

Algiers, Mar 5 — Hundreds of Algerians went on a rampage today, looting and burning a state bank outside the capital Algiers and clashing with security forces after a youth died in police custody, residents said. Several protesters and riot police were injured in the clashes which followed the death of the young man at a police station in the coastal town of Zeralda, some 35 km west of Algiers, they said. Police used tear gas to disperse the angry rioters who set fire to a bank after looting it. The rioters threw stones at police and attempted to attack more public buildings, the residents added. — Reuters.

**COLOMBIA**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated Mar 2, states: Colombia's second-biggest rebel group, the ELN, has declared a ceasefire ahead of this month's legislative elections. The group's commander, Antonio Garcia, said voters should look towards those candidates who are committed to the peace process. The ELN is currently in talks with the government to see if common ground for a lasting peace deal can be found. Correspondents say the ceasefire is another step towards a positive result in those talks. The other main left-wing rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc), says it has no plans to lay down its arms during the election period. Mr Garcia made the announcement in Havana, where a round of peace talks with the Colombian government ended earlier this week. The sides did not reach agreement but promised to meet again in Cuba in April. Colombians are voting 199 deputies and 114 senators on March 12. They will also elect a new head of state on May 28, with President Alvaro Uribe seeking a second term. (See issue of Mar 1.)

London, Mar 6 — At least two people have been killed and 10 others wounded in a bomb explosion today in the southern Colombian town of San Vicente del Caguan. The town's mayor Mauricio Orozco said the explosion

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about 0830 hrs destroyed seven dwellings, and killed an elderly woman and a youth. Officials said two of the injured were in serious condition. The blast occurred as a military patrol was inspecting a home in the Simon Bolivar neighbourhood of San Vicente, Mr Orozco said.

Bogota, Mar 6 — Colombian rebels killed three civilians with a bomb intended for soldiers today, the latest in a series of attacks President Alvaro Uribe called a “cowardly” attempt to erode his support ahead of elections. The bomb blew up a house, killing a 8-year-old boy and two women nearby and injuring three soldiers in the southern jungle province of Caqueta. The blast came a day after the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, made another electoral gambit by agreeing to a request from an opposition politician to release hostages. Uribe, a close US ally who has made defeating the FARC one of his top priorities, is favoured to win a second four-year term on May 28. “The message from the FARC is that they will not negotiate peace with Uribe but they may negotiate with a different president,” said Francisco Leal, political analyst at Bogota’s University of the Andes. “At the same time they are increasing attacks to show that Uribe’s policies are not working. However, every time they kill civilians, Uribe gains support because he is seen as the strongest candidate in terms of security,” Leal said. Today’s “house bomb” was detonated by remote control as soldiers marched by on a street near the former rebel stronghold of San Vicente del Caguan. The FARC also attacked a remote village in the coffee-growing province of Caldas with mortar shells and assault rifles on Saturday (Mar 4), killing a baby and a police officer. — Reuters.

#### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Kinshasa, Mar 2 — Congolese army soldiers fighting alongside U.N. peacekeepers against ethnic militiamen have mutinied, ransacking a U.N. camp in the east and firing on a U.N. helicopter carrying top commanders, U.N. officials said. The mutiny began yesterday and forced the suspension of a joint U.N. and Congo army operation to retake the eastern town of Tchei in Ituri district from an ethnic militia which U.N. staff says is using thousands of villagers as human shields. “About 50 soldiers have mutinied. Yesterday, they refused to fight and returned to their base in Aveba where they threatened their superiors,” U.N. military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Frederic Medard said in the capital, Kinshasa. A senior U.N. official said: “Right now we have had to stop the joint operation because the army that we are supposed to be fighting alongside is incapable of maintaining discipline. This is unacceptable.” It is still not clear what is behind the mutiny, nor

whether the mutiny was planned or spontaneous, but Congolese soldiers are poorly paid and often forced to fight with little support. A U.N. source said mutineers pointed guns in the faces of peacekeepers and fired in the air while looting their camp. The Tchei operation was launched this week with thousands of government troops and hundreds of blue helmeted peacekeepers backed by U.N. helicopter gunships, but the operation was hampered by bad weather, with helicopters grounded at times due to heavy rain and soldiers forced to march through wet jungle. U.N. staff say militiamen are using people as human shields. “More than 8,000 people, mostly women and children, are being held hostage by militiamen, who are using them as human shields. These people are living in the bush with no shelter or food,” U.N. humanitarian coordinator OCHA said in a statement. With the Democratic Republic of Congo’s first free national elections in 40 years due in a few months, the United Nations has stepped up attempts to help Kinshasa’s forces pacify the east, where rebels and militia still roam three years after war officially ended. The world body has its biggest peacekeeping force in Congo, with 17,000 soldiers and policemen. But the chaotic new national army forged from foreign-backed factions which fought in the 1998-2003 war is struggling to overcome divisions and is accused of continuing the rape and murder Congo’s people have suffered during years of warfare. A senior U.N. official told Reuters mutineers had fired on a U.N. helicopter trying to land in Aveba today and forced it to turn back. Aveba is about 65 km southwest of Bunia, the main town in Ituri district, and was being used as the advance base for the operation to retake Tchei. The helicopter was carrying the Congolese army’s senior commander in the area, General Padiri Bulenda, together with the U.N. peacekeepers’ deputy divisional commander, a South African. “The South African general and I tried to land in Aveba but they started firing at us. When this happened we had to fly back to Bunia,” Bulenda said, but he did say he could not be sure who had fired the shots. — Reuters.

#### ECUADOR

See under “Labour Disputes.”

#### INDIA

Lucknow, India, Mar 7 — At least 15 people were killed and scores wounded in a series of explosions which hit the Hindu pilgrimage city of Varanasi in northern India within a span of 45 minutes today, police said. One explosion occurred in the packed Sankat Mochan temple and two blasts rocked one of the city’s main railway stations, a federal interior ministry official said. “Fifteen people have died and about 60 are injured. The blasts were pretty big and I do not rule out a terrorist hand behind it,” Navneet Sikera, Varanasi’s police chief, said.

The three explosions occurred between 1800 and 1845 hrs, police said. A bomb was also recovered from a residential area and was being defused, they added. “There was a very loud noise and all my men rushed to the spot,” said Jabir Ali, a police inspector at Varanasi’s cantonment railway station. “We have emptied the station and are checking it. We have stopped trains bound for Delhi,” he said by telephone. No group claimed responsibility for the blasts and officials said it was too early to pin blame. However, most previous attacks on Hindu temples in India have been blamed on Islamic militants. Authorities ordered increased security across northern India to prevent any clashes between the country’s majority Hindus and minority Muslims. “I cannot say which outfit was responsible for the attack but since one of the places of attack is a temple it has a potential of creating suspicion and tension among different communities,” said federal Home (Interior) Secretary V.K. Duggal. — Reuters.

#### INDONESIA

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Calm returned to Ambon on Tuesday (Mar 7) following a weekend of violence between police and military personnel that left one police officer and one soldier dead, and one civilian injured. Residents have resumed their daily routines in the conflict-torn city, and joint police and military patrols are helping to keep the peace. Maluku Police chief Brig. Gen. Adityawarman said Tuesday both the police and the military had taken internal measures to prevent the situation from worsening. “But this case will continue to be investigated and will be dealt with transparently,” he said. So far, only one police officer has been arrested. He is believed to have started the violence between police and military personnel by allegedly attacking a soldier. Indonesian Military chief Air Marshal Djoko Suyanto said Monday the clash between several soldiers and police officers had been triggered by individual problems.

#### IRAQ

Baghdad, Mar 3 — Gunmen raided a small town near Baghdad and shot dead at least 25 people in what police said to be a sectarian attack by Sunnis on Shi’ites. Among the dead were many Shi’ite laborers gunned down at a brick factory in a dusk raid yesterday by a suspected al Qaeda-linked group. Officials said more bodies may be recovered. Hours after U.S. and Iraqi troops forced the 50 or so gunmen to withdraw, the Iraqi government imposed a new daytime traffic curfew on Baghdad to avert clashes on the Muslim day of prayer after 10 days of sectarian violence that has killed hundreds. Iraqi troops and police patrolled the deserted streets, but U.S. forces kept a low profile. Embattled Shi’ite Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari warned



clerics against “inflammatory” language from pulpits today. He also rallied Sunni and other leaders into resuming talks on a U.S.-sponsored unity coalition to help stem the violence. The main minority Sunni bloc ended a boycott it called in protest at reprisal attacks on Sunni mosques following the bombing of a Shi’ite shrine on February 22. But after Jaafari hosted a late-night meeting yesterday of the main parties elected to parliament in December, political sources said Sunnis, Kurds and other leaders were still pushing the dominant Shi’ite Alliance to ditch him as premier. The negotiations will go on but we still insist on removing Jaafari,” said an official in the Sunni Iraqi Accordance Front. Critics accuse Jaafari, a soft-spoken Islamist doctor, of being ineffectual in combating rebel violence and economic collapse in his year in power as interim prime minister. Some, including U.S. officials, look askance at his ties to Iran. He narrowly won the backing of his Shi’ite Alliance coalition to lead the new government with the crucial support of the cleric and militia leader Moqtada al-Sadr. As the biggest group in parliament, the Alliance nominates the prime minister. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Mar 4 — At least nine people were killed today in two separate attacks in an area south-east of Baghdad torn by sectarian violence, police said. A mortar round landed in a crowded market near a bus station and killed seven people and wounded 20 in the town of Gisir Diyala near Salman Pak, while a car bomb near a police checkpoint in Salman Pak killed two civilians and wounded three police officers. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Mar 6 — Iraqi President Jalal Talabani said today he would convene parliament in six days, but political wrangling and violence means there is little chance of forming a government of national unity any time soon. As Talabani met a constitutional requirement to summon parliament after elections in December, a car bomb north of Baghdad killed six people, including two children. Nearly three months after the election, Iraq’s divided political leaders are still fighting over the crucial post of prime minister in the new government. The row means parliament will only be able to name a new speaker. Talabani’s announcement came after he sent a delegation yesterday to meet influential Shi’ite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani to help break the impasse over the premiership. “I will call today for parliament to hold the first session on the 12th of the current month since it is the last day that the constitution allows,” Talabani said. The impasse has delayed the formation of a unity coalition of Shi’ites, Sunnis and Kurds that Washington has promoted in the hope of fostering stability and allowing U.S. troops to begin withdrawing. Talabani leads a group of Sunnis, Kurds and others opposed to the nomination of Shi’ite Prime Minister

Ibrahim al-Jaafari. Sistani, a semi-recluse in the city of Najaf, is not directly involved in politics but has huge influence over the bulk of the country’s 60 percent Shi’ite majority. Talabani said today the delegation to Sistani had returned to Baghdad satisfied. Today’s car bomb in Baquba just north of Baghdad killed six people, two of whom were girls under four years old, and wounded 20, police said. The bomb exploded in a busy market in the city after police arrived to check on a separate incident in which one person had been killed. Five policemen were wounded in the bombing, police said. The blast destroyed food stalls and shops in the market. In northern Baghdad, two policemen and three civilians were wounded when a car bomb exploded as a police patrol passed by, police said. Human rights in Iraq were also at the forefront today after Amnesty International condemned the detention of 14,000 prisoners without charge or trial, saying the lessons of the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal had not been learned. In a 48-page-report entitled “Beyond Abu Ghraib”, the London-based human rights group called for an end to the internment, which it said contravened international law. — Reuters.

Hilla, Iraq, Mar 7 — A car bomb wounded three traffic police officers in the Iraqi city of Hilla south of Baghdad today, police said. A second car bomb in the north part of the city caused no casualties. Police said it had imposed a ban on traffic in central Hilla after receiving information that suicide bombers in a vehicle were planning to launch another attack. Witnesses reported hearing four blasts in Hilla but police said one of the two car bombs had exploded three times. — Reuters.

**ISRAEL**

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Four Palestinians have been killed and seven wounded in an Israeli air strike on a car in Gaza City, doctors and witnesses said. Two of those killed were Islamic Jihad militants, they said. Israel has confirmed it fired at the car. In a separate incident two teenage brothers were killed in the Gaza Strip when an explosive device went off. The brothers were close to the Bureij refugee camp. The blast cause is not known but Israel denied involvement. An angry mob gathered at the Shifa Hospital in Gaza where the bodies of the four Palestinians killed in the car strike were taken.

**NEPAL**

Kathmandu, Mar 6 — Hundreds of Maoist rebels raided a town in eastern Nepal, bombing government buildings and freeing dozens of prisoners from a local jail, officials said today. At least six people — three Maoists, one civilian, a police officer and a soldier — were killed in the overnight attack in Ilam, a tea-growing area bordering India, about 600 km east of Kathmandu, they said. The guerrillas,

who specialise in hit-and-run attacks, drove into Ilam in buses and trucks, attacking government buildings and shooting at security posts, residents said. “The Maoists also stormed the local jail and freed more than 100 prisoners including some Maoists,” a police officer said. He said the rebels, who are fighting to overthrow Nepal’s constitutional monarchy, bombed or set fire to the district administration office building, the revenue office and the local municipal council office. More than a dozen security troops were wounded in the fighting. The rebels also set ablaze the home of the mayor who was elected in last month’s municipal elections opposed by the Maoists, journalist Rohit Chandra Bhattarai said. He said the fighting continued until dawn when an army helicopter was seen and the rebels sped away in buses. “Many buildings in Ilam are burnt out and riddled with bullet holes,” said another resident. Nepal’s seven main political parties today appealed to the Maoists to call off plans for a blockade of Kathmandu next week and a nationwide strike later, saying it would hurt ordinary people. The political parties, who have struck a loose alliance with the Maoists after King Gyanendra seized power last year, said they would start a new round of protests in April in their campaign for restoration of democracy. The Maoists have threatened an indefinite blockade of the capital from Mar 14 and a general strike next month to increase the pressure on the king. — Reuters.

London, Mar 7 — Thirty-one anti-government guerrillas were killed in clashes with security forces Sunday (Mar 5) night in the district headquarters of Ilam in eastern Nepal, state-run Radio Nepal reported today. One Royal Nepalese Army personnel and two police personnel died in the clashes, a Defense Ministry press release stated. The guerrillas also killed two civilians during their attack, the release said. They took away 103 prisoners after attacking the district jail, the ministry said. According to the ministry, the guerrillas launched an attack at the district headquarters of Ilam, some 600 km east of Kathmandu, targeting District Prison Office, District Administration Office, District Police Office, the army base and other government offices Sunday night. The guerrillas fled the area after security forces strongly retaliated, it said. The army claimed that the guerrillas suffered huge casualties in the clashes.

**NIGERIA**

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated Mar 1, states: Nigerian separatist militants stormed a tanker vessel working in the Niger Delta and took a large sum of cash, 12 days after they kidnapped nine foreign oil workers from another vessel. The kerosene tanker was working on the Escravos River in an area controlled by heavily armed ethnic Ijaw guerrilla fighters when it was boarded. “The

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tanker was intercepted by a patrol and set on its way. No one was hurt or kidnapped," said a spokesman for the rebel group, in a message sent from an email address previously used to distribute photographs of the kidnapped oilmen. The insurgent spokesman said the tanker captain had parted with naira 500,000 as a "goodwill token" during the encounter, although a shipping industry source put the sum at naira two million (\$15,500). Henry Imhanlenjaye, who runs a fleet of small passenger boats operating from the oil port of Warri, said that the attack had taken place on the Escravos River in an area controlled by the hostage-taking gang. The Escravos connects Warri's refinery and docks to the Atlantic and runs past the ethnic Ijaw town of Okerenkoko.

London Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: An oil pipeline run by Royal Dutch Shell Plc's venture in Nigeria was damaged in two attacks on March 3 that didn't affect output because production from the area has already been shut down, the company said. Two manifolds on a pipeline run by the Shell Petroleum Development Co. (SPDC) venture that normally carries crude to the Forcados export platform were damaged in the assault, Caroline Wittgen, a spokeswoman in London, said in an e-mailed statement today. "There were two new attacks by some unknown persons on SPDC's Agge and Agoro manifolds on the Trans-Forcados trunkline in Bayelsa State," Wittgen said. "These are areas from where we previously have evacuated staff and stopped production because of the security situation." Kidnappings and attacks last month on a Shell pipeline and Forcados forced the company to halt output of 455,000 barrels a day, about a fifth of Nigeria's daily production. Shell shut down all production in the western Niger River delta. Nigerian militants yesterday vowed to cut the West African nation's oil production by another one million barrels a day this month. The militants failed to carry out their threat of a 30 percent shutdown in February. Nigerian Oil Minister Edmund Daukoru said in an interview in London today that Shell probably will be able to fix the damage to Forcados in two weeks. He said he is concerned that the attacks may hinder Nigeria's ability to develop spare production capacity. The group behind last month's kidnappings and attacks, known as the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, or MEND, said that it wasn't responsible for the March 3 damage to the pipeline and that local villagers may have done it. "We know nothing about this, which may have been done by communities," Jomo Gbomo, a MEND spokesman, said in an e-mailed response to questions.

#### PAKISTAN

Miranshah, Pakistan, Mar 4 — Fierce fighting broke out today between Pakistani security forces and

pro-Taliban militants in a tribal region near the Afghan border, residents and an intelligence official said. The fighting erupted after the militants seized one government building and attacked others in Miranshah, the main town in the North Waziristan region, they said. "A heavy exchange of fire is going on between the two sides. At least three helicopter gunships are also being used by the army," a resident said. The Pakistani army said 45 militants suspected of links to al-Qaeda were killed in a security force raid on a hideout in the same area on Wednesday (Mar 1). An intelligence official said the militants began the fighting with attacks on government buildings with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic rifles. "First the communication system broke down and then missiles began flying in all directions," said the official. The militants were led by a powerful Islamist cleric, Maulana Abdul Khaliq Haqqani, the official said. Government forces had responded with an attack on an Islamist school, or madrasa, run by Haqqani, he said. "It is apparently blown up but it is not clear whether Haqqani was there or not." Militants also launched attacks in the nearby town of Mir Ali, he said. Residents said Miranshah had been tense since Wednesday's fighting and hundreds of families had moved out fearing more bloodshed. — Reuters.

London, Mar 5 — Pakistani troops battled pro-Taliban militants near the Afghan border for a second day today in clashes which have killed more than 50 people. Pakistani officials said 46 militants and five soldiers died after fighting erupted yesterday, although some reports put the death toll at over 70. Hundreds of people are said to have fled the scene in North Waziristan. Correspondents say it is the fiercest fighting since the army went into the area in 2003 to drive militants out. An unnamed resident of Miran Shah, North Waziristan's main town, as saying fighting continued through the night, with both sides using heavy weapons. Clashes reportedly petered out in the early hours of Sunday but later on helicopter gunships pounded mountains to the east of Miran Shah, sending plumes of smoke into the sky. The violence began on Saturday morning when a group of more than 100 tribal militants attacked a military post in the town of Mir Ali. Security forces fought back, killing more than 20 militants. Soon the clashes spread to Miran Shah, where several hundred militants tried to storm the main headquarters of the paramilitary troops. The army sent helicopter gunships after tribesmen traded mortar and gunfire with security forces. Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters fled into North Waziristan after the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001. Tens of thousands of Pakistani soldiers are deployed there. Residents of the area told local reporters that the place near the paramilitary headquarters

was littered with bodies, but the BBC's Zaffar Abbas in Islamabad said in the absence of any direct contact from the remote town it was difficult to corroborate such reports. According to security sources, intercepted radio communications between the militants suggested 46 of their number were killed. North Waziristan has lately turned into the main hub of pro-Taliban activities. After reports of the presence of a large number of foreign militants, security forces decided to launch an operation to flush them out, our correspondent says. These are the fiercest clashes since the Pakistani army went into the lawless tribal region more than three years ago, he adds. Reports from the area say hundreds of families have started to flee the escalating fighting. Saturday's violence came as US President George W Bush made a day-long visit to Islamabad, about 300km (190 miles) to the north-east. He declared solidarity with Pakistan in the fight against militants, and called for more work in the war on terror.

Islamabad, Mar 6 — Pakistani army helicopters were in action against Islamist rebels today, blasting positions around a town near the Afghan border for a third day, a resident said. Scores of people have been killed in the fighting that erupted on Saturday (Mar 4) as U.S. President George W. Bush was meeting Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf in the capital, Islamabad, to spur his efforts in the war on terrorism. "Helicopter gunships have been pounding militant positions around Miranshah," a resident of the main town in the North Waziristan tribal region said. "The situation is very tense." The Pakistani military said about 50 militants and five government troops have been killed since Saturday when the militants launched attacks and seized government buildings in Miranshah in revenge for the killing on Wednesday (Mar 1) of 45 of their comrades in a government attack. Thousands of residents have left the town since last week's violence and the exodus was continuing today, the resident said. — Reuters.

London, Mar 6 — Authorities imposed a curfew today in a remote northwestern Pakistan town where three days of fighting between Pakistani security forces and pro-Taliban militants have killed more than 100 people. Clashes continued today in the North Waziristan tribal region, and thousands of residents joined an exodus out of the main town of Miran Shah. Sikandar Qayyum, a high-ranking security official for Pakistan's tribal areas, said authorities believed more than 100 militants had been killed, based on intelligence reports and questioning of some injured and arrested militants. Army spokesman Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan confirmed the account, adding that the dead included five security forces. "Now we find out that the casualties might have exceeded 100,"

he said. Qayyum said the curfew would cover all but three hours in the afternoon to allow residents to buy provisions. He said it would last as long as "the security situation requires." A militant rocket attack on a residential area for government officials hit a house today, killing a 17-year-old girl and seriously wounding four people, Qayyum said. Helicopter gunships fired on militant positions around Miran Shan, while militants attacked security checkpoints around the nearby towns of Mir Ali and Razmak, Qayyum said.

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated Mar 7, states: A report from Mastung states: An explosion here in the district of Balochistan damaged gas pipeline severing the gas supply to the city. Police said that some unknown persons had planted explosives near gas pipeline at Kali Bachchabad of Mastung district, which had burst with a big bang and ripped apart one foot long piece of the 4 inch diameter gas pipeline. Police and other officials reaching the scene of incident started probing. The Sui gas officials told that the gas supply to Kali Bachchabad and its surrounding areas had been disrupted due to explosion and later supply to Mastung city was also suspended for halting the leakage of gas and for the repair of gas pipeline. Sui Gas officials said that the repair work of the damaged pipeline would soon be completed for the restoration of gas supply to the affected areas.

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated Mar 7, states: Three gas pipelines were blown up in the Pir Koh gas field area and Mastung township, while a bomb exploded in Quetta and around 28 rockets were fired at Frontier Corps checkpoints in Kohlu and Dera Bugti districts, today. The city was rocked at night by a powerful explosion in the Railway Colony. The device was planted near the house of a union council Nazim Javed. The portion of the house was damaged and windowpanes of nearby houses were smashed. However, no one was killed or injured. Unknown people also blew up a pipeline supplying gas to Mastung in the early morning stopping the gas supply to the township. Two other gas pipelines connecting gas plant with well No 3 and 16 from Pir Koh gas field were also blown up this evening. Repair work could not be started as landmines had been planted there. The gas plant is closed for the last three weeks. The District Nazim Dera Bugti Mohammad Kazim Bugti said that four gas wells were destroyed in Pir Koh gas field. He also claimed that a widow and her three children were killed in Khambi area of Dera Bugti during exchange of heavy firing between forces and armed men. According to reports unknown armed men fired at least 28 rockets at FC checkpoints in different areas of Dera Bugti and Kohlu districts.

#### PHILIPPINES

Manila, Mar 3 — President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo ended a week-long

state of emergency in the Philippines today, as widely expected, after her security chiefs said the threat from coup plotters had receded. Two small bombs exploded in Manila about 75 minutes before Arroyo's taped announcement was broadcast, briefly raising fears that the president might extend emergency rule. There were no casualties or damage from the blasts near the headquarters of an elite police team and a shopping area in the upmarket Ortigas district. Police said the explosions were caused by crude devices and were no cause for alarm. "I firmly believe that order has been restored," Arroyo said on radio and television. "It is important that our political enemies and opportunists stop troubling the economy and embarrassing the Philippines because of their nonsense shows," she said. "I will never allow this kind of adventurism." — Reuters.

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Eight army officers and 17 enlisted men have been detained, accused of involvement in last month's alleged coup attempt against President Gloria Arroyo, senior military sources said today. Among those being questioned are two lieutenant colonels and all but one of the group are from the elite Scout Ranger unit whose former commander, Brigadier General Danilo Lim, was removed from his post on Feb 24 accused of involvement in the alleged coup plot. The 25 officers and soldiers are being held in three different military camps in Luzon. Arroyo declared a week-long state of emergency to quell the alleged coup. Her government also arrested one leftist congressman, is seeking the arrest of 16 opposition figures and has cracked down on street protests in an effort to forestall any power grab.

#### PROTESTS AGAINST PUBLICATION OF CARTOONS OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A complete strike was observed across Pakistan yesterday to protest against the publication of cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad in the European media. Major commercial areas of all cities were deserted as shopping centres remained closed and public transport was suspended for the day. The protests were largely peaceful, with only a few minor incidents of violence reported. Most private businesses were closed while attendance in government offices was thin. In Karachi, police fired teargas at around 1,000 stone-throwing protesters trying to reach the US Consulate in Karachi. Karachi's industries suffered production losses as a large number of workers failed to reach their factories due to the opposition-sponsored countrywide strike. According to industrialists, the strike negatively affected export orders worth Rs 30 million. Similarly, the city's leading commercial areas and shopping centres remained closed throughout the day.

#### RUSSIA

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Clashes around the war-torn province of Chechnya left two Russian soldiers dead and two more wounded over the last 24 hours, a source in the local government said yesterday. The official said that one sapper died and another was injured by a mine at Itum-Kale in the south of the country. In a clash with rebels at Serzhen-Yurt in the southeast one member of the militia of pro-Russian strongman Ramzan Kadyrov, now integrated into Russian interior ministry forces, was killed and one wounded. An officer in the pro-Russian police force was killed and another wounded in a shooting in the capital Grozny, the source said. Two presumed rebels were killed by a grenade. Russian positions came under fire on 11 occasions.

#### SPAIN

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: ETA set off two bomb explosions this morning at the start of the day on which the Basque Terrorist Organisation has called for a General Strike in the region. The strike call from the izquierda abertzale radicals is the first of its type since June 2002. The strike was called in protest at the death in prison last week of two ETA prisoners, Igor Angulo and Roberto Sainz, one in a suicide and the other from a heart attack. Reports are that few people are following the strike call today, with some sources in Guipuzcoa describing participation as null. The first explosion was set off on the A-8 road at Onton between Bilbao and Santander. The explosion took place at 0810 today between the 140 and 142 km points. A phone warning was sent previously in the name of the Basque Terrorists. And the second blast happened shortly after on the N-111 road at Viana in Navara. There were no injuries in either of the explosions and there was also a false alarm for a further explosive device in Burgos, and reports of warnings of another device at Gallur in Zaragoza.

#### SRI LANKA

Colombo, Mar 4 — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels accused the army of killing two of their fighters in an attack today, the first significant violence since key talks in February but the military denied involvement. Suspected rebel attacks on the armed forces in December and January all but destroyed a 2002 ceasefire and pushed the island to the edge of a return to civil war but tensions have fallen sharply since direct talks in Switzerland last month. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) Peace Secretariat website said men in military fatigues had come from an army checkpoint and camp near the eastern town of Batticaloa to attack a Tiger position, killing two rebel fighters. "LTTE members ... launched a counter-attack and the attackers from the SLA (Sri Lankan Army) camp ran back to their camp,"



it said. A military spokesman denied any knowledge of the attack, saying that the armed forces had not crossed into rebel territory since the ceasefire. However, the Nordic team tasked with monitoring the truce said an incident had definitely occurred. "We saw one dead body early this morning — shot to death," head of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM), Hagrup Haukland, said. "There were a couple of houses burning." — Reuters.

#### THAILAND

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people were shot dead in Yala and Narathiwat yesterday as violence continued in the southernmost provinces. Pol Col Anuruth Im-arp, the district police station chief, believed the two cases were linked and the insurgents were trying to instil fear in the two areas.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A group of heavily-armed men stormed a Buddhist village in Pattani early yesterday, killing three villagers and wounding another before setting fire to two houses. At least 30 armed raiders, all in black outfits swept into the mostly-Buddhist village of Ban Jae-or, in tambon Manangyong in Pattani's Yaring district. In another incident a villager in tambon Tha Rua in Pattani's Khok Pho district, was shot dead by the pillion rider of a motorcycle while returning home on his own motorbike on Sunday night (Mar 5).

#### TURKEY

Ankara, Mar 4 — A small bomb wounded one man and damaged dozens of buildings in western Turkey today, the state-run Anatolian news agency said. The makeshift bomb exploded in a wheelbarrow near a police station in a mainly Kurdish district of Izmir, Turkey's third biggest city. The wounded man, aged 54, had been crossing the street at the time of the blast, which shattered glass and caused other damage to more than 40 buildings in the vicinity. Police suspected the hand of the rebel Kurdistan Workers' Party, which is fighting for an ethnic homeland in south-east Turkey, Anatolian said — Reuters.

### Labour Disputes



#### AUSTRALIA

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The national building industry watchdog has stepped up its response to the workers' strike on the Perth to Mandurah rail project. The Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) has sent letters to the workers, asking them to

explain their unlawful strike or face penalties. More than 400 workers walked off the job a week ago, even though contractor Leighton Kumagai had been granted an interim injunction ordering union officials to stay away from the project. The ABCC says the employees have seven days to respond to the letters or face prosecution and personal fines of up to \$22,000.

#### BELGIUM

Zeebrugge, Mar 6 — Understand Ostend has been on strike since 1800, Mar 1. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### CREW OF CYPRUS VESSEL AT HOUSTON, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 9 — Bulk *Taxiarchis Sierra* (12296 gt, built 1985), which arrived Houston Feb 6, was arrested there by its crew with the help of the International Transport Workers' Federation due outstanding wage payments. The vessel was released after lawyers and trade unionists secured the back wages and it sailed Feb 27.

#### ECUADOR

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Ecuador declared a state of emergency in three provinces yesterday after a strike by 4,000 contracted workers cut output at state oil firm Petroecuador and the company warned it could halt full production by today. Petroecuador production was down 34% to 132,000 barrels per day after contract workers in two Amazon provinces put down their tools yesterday to demand full-time positions and protest work terms, a company official said. "A state of emergency was called in the provinces of Napo, Orellana and Sucumbios," presidential spokesman Enrique Proano told reporters. A state of emergency limits constitutional rights such as freedoms of association and to right to public gatherings. The strike is the latest conflict to hit Ecuador's oil industry. Last month protesters forced a cut in exports after briefly closing down two key pipelines to demand a fairer share of the nation's oil revenues. Petroecuador warned that its production could be completely cut off by today without an end to the strike. "We estimate accumulated production losses of 197,545 barrels by 0600 today, which is equivalent to \$9.8 million and could mean a total halt of the company's operations," the company said in a statement. A leader of the contract workers, Remigio Sornoza, said they were holding talks with Petroecuador officials to end the strike. In its statement, Petroecuador said it owes around \$51 million to the subcontracting companies that hire the workers. "The workers have shut down electricity in all the oil fields and that is causing a gradual drop in production," said a high-ranking company official who asked not to be named. Contract workers complained about late payments and demanded the state company give them full-time

positions. "All our 4,000 workers are on strike in Orellana and Sucumbios," Sornoza, president of the contract workers union, told Reuters by phone. He said workers went on strike early yesterday. Oil contract workers offer services ranging from oil field security to heavy machinery repairs and drilling operations.

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: Petroecuador said today it expects production will climb to near normal levels in three or four days after troops fired tear gas to clear out strikers who have cut crude output at Ecuador's state oil firm by nearly half. Production was down to 96,360 barrels of oil per day, a slight improvement from earlier today when the ongoing strike slashed production by nearly three-quarters. Petroecuador normally produces around 200,000 bpd. The company said in a statement it expects production to rise to 190,000 bpd in three or four days as troops gradually clear strikers from oil infrastructure. Trying to control the protest, the government declared a state of emergency in three Amazon provinces yesterday and limited constitutional rights such as the right to public gatherings. Security forces fired tear gas to clear out contract workers gathered near an oil facility in the Amazon city of Lago Agrio, 118 miles east of Quito, the company said. Troops also took control of affected Petroecuador oil wells. "Neither Petroecuador nor the government has given us an answer to our demands," said Luis Ubidia, a union leader, in a phone interview. "The strike will continue for the moment." Ubidia said union leaders are currently meeting to decide whether to extend the strike, originally planned to last two days.

#### GUINEA

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated Mar 2, states: A general strike in Guinea has halted operations at Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinee (CBG) and may trim annual output which was initially seen as high as 15 million tonnes, a company source said today. The strike was called by public service unions protesting over their wages and high inflation and has brought the capital Conakry and other parts of the country to a virtual standstill. Many workers at mining companies part-owned by the government belong to the public service union and have observed the strike, although RUSAL said its 700,000 tonne/year alumina refinery was unaffected. "Everything has been blocked since Tuesday (Feb 28). The trains and trucks are at a standstill ... we haven't even got fuel," said a senior employee at CBG. At the port of Kamsar, which handles CBG's bauxite exports and is the transit point for many of the essential supplies brought in from abroad, senior port executive Demba Toure said activities had ground to a halt since the strike started. "There are no staff to unload the ships. I've never

known a situation like it, it's very serious," Toure told Reuters. At the Alumina Company of Guinea's 700,000-tonne Friguia refinery operated by Rouski Alumini (RUSAL), employees said many staff were observing the strike, but RUSAL's top official said production was normal. "Our activities are continuing as usual," Anatoly Pantchenko, Guinea representative for Russian tycoon Oleg Deripaska's unlisted RUSAL group, told Reuters.

#### INDIA

London, Mar 8 — The five-day strike by employees of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) earlier this year caused a financial loss of more than Rs 2.64 crore to the airline industry apart from leading to cancellation of flights, the Minister for Civil Aviation, Praful Patel has said. The Minister told the Rajya Sabha that while Jet Airways suffered a loss of up to Rs 60 lakh, Air Sahara suffered a loss of up to Rs 39.75 lakh, while the loss suffered by Air Deccan is about Rs 1 crore. India Budget 2006 | Kingfisher Airlines suffered a loss of up to Rs 45 lakh and Spice Jet suffered a loss of up to Rs 20 lakh, Patel said and added that information was being collected from Indian Airlines and Air India about the losses suffered by the two airlines.

#### ITALY

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated Mar 3, states: An Air Traffic Controllers strike action has been declared in Italy tomorrow (Mar 4).

#### MEXICO

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated Mar 2, states: Mexico's nationwide strike of steelworkers and miners eased as Grupo Mexico SA and Altos Hornos de Mexico SA, two of the country's biggest companies, said their employees returned to work. Consuelo Aguilar, a union spokeswoman, was unreachable for comment on whether workers at all companies have ended the strike. Workers had walked off the job at more than 70 companies across the country yesterday, demanding the government recognize Napoleon Gomez as their labour leader and not his rival Elias Morales. The nationwide strike emerged from what started as a strike by Grupo Mexico workers who were demanding improved safety after 65 miners died in a coal mine blast last week.

London, Mar 7 — Last week, more than a quarter-million miners and steelworkers walked off their jobs in one of the largest industrial strikes in Mexico in three decades. Between Mar 1 and Mar 3, hundreds of mines and mills across the country were affected by the national strike called by the 270,000-member National Mine and Metal Workers Union (STNMM). The action began with wildcat strikes by miners on Feb 28 at a series of copper and zinc mines owned by Grupo Mexico, sparked in large measure the deaths of 65 miners in a February 19

explosion at the Pasta de Conchos mine in Coahuila, near the border with the US state of Texas. The walkouts followed the decision of the government to end its rescue and recovery efforts at the mine. This was the first national strike by miners since a strike over union recognition and wages in 1944 that was part of a broad labor offensive that included strikes by communication workers and oil workers. Last week's protest strike shut down mines across Mexico that produce coal, copper, silver, zinc and other minerals. It also shut down the Altos Hornos and Mittal steel mills; the latter Dutch-owned company is Mexico's largest steel producer. Virtually every union miner across Mexico participated in the walkout. News of the strike caused a rise in the world price of silver - Mexico produces 15 percent of the world's silver. The 70 mines paralyzed by the strike lost US\$17 million on Thursday (Mar 2), and the steel mills lost US\$10 million. Thousands of workers stayed out on March 2, including the Sonoran copper miners at the sprawling Cananea and La Caridad mines near the border with the US state of Arizona.

#### SOLOMON ISLANDS

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The Ports of Honiara and Noro in Solomon Islands are at a standstill today as workers go on an indefinite strike. The Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation reports more than 160 staff members of the Solomon Islands Ports Authority began strike action after the expiry of a 28-day strike notice last night. The Ports Authority currently pays an allowance of 26 US dollars year to the workers, but they are demanding an increase owing to the disparity between this payment and the allowances accorded to directors. The Ports General Manager Ngenomea Kabui says the action by workers is a loss to local businesses who use port services daily, as well as to the country as a whole.

#### SOUTH AFRICA

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Unions in dispute with Transnet over restructuring have postponed for a week a day-long national strike scheduled for Monday (Mar 6), the SA Transport and Allied Workers Union (Satawu) said today. "This is to allow workers in the Gauteng region to also participate in the action, when they would otherwise have been hindered by the high profile (rape) case against ANC deputy president Jacob Zuma. He goes on trial on Mar 6 at the Johannesburg High Court," Satawu's Ronnie Mamba said. The four unions at Transnet have confirmed their participation in the national action and have reported a high level of preparedness. Johannesburg metro police security requirements for the Zuma trial will not allow such a large gathering in the Johannesburg CBD on the same

day, Satawu said. The union was pleased at the success of its previous round of strikes, from Jan 30 to Feb 22. Satawu added the unions would meet Transnet on Saturday for pre-mediation talks. A meeting with Public Enterprises minister Alec Erwin is scheduled for Mar 9. The unions involved are Satawu, the United Association of SA, the South African Railways and Harbour Workers' Union and the United Transport and Allied Trade Union.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Transnet trade unions, Satawu, Utatu, Uasa and Sahrwu warned yesterday that next Monday's national strike will be the start of a second round of mass action targeting specifically the ports of Durban, Richards Bay and Cape Town which can be expected to last for much longer than three days. Satawu's Randall Howard says the unions were shocked to learn on Saturday (Mar 4), while in the midst of establishing a mediation process, that Transnet had gone ahead and signed an agreement to transfer Metrorail over to the SA Rail Commuter Corporation by the end of March. He said this was despite ongoing talks between Transnet and the unions and the appointment of a mediator late last week. According to Howard Transnet had been done this "behind the backs of labour despite vehement denials of unilateralism as well as media assurances that they (Transnet) were consulting fully with their counterparts in labour about the process of restructuring." In addition he said Transnet had gone ahead and appointed financial institutions to advise on the disposal of non-core business units within Transnet, regardless of this being the subject of concern to the unions and the cause of the initial round of strikes. The unions that organise within Transnet were shocked to learn on Saturday even as they were briefing the mediator, Charles Nupen, said Howard. "As a result, labour has refused to continue (with the mediation process) and is seeking an urgent interdict to set aside this (sale) agreement. Labour is of the opinion that mediation can not continue while a spectre of the sale agreement hangs in the background and unilateral decision-making and implementation continues." Howard said the way in which Transnet had handled the matter meant that if the process had not been discovered during last Saturday's meeting, Metrorail workers would have woken up on Saturday, Apr 1 with a new employer and without any assurances of job security, guarantee and conditions of service and pension benefits. "We shall defend, mobilise and fight for the Trade Union rights to be respected just as we did in 1987 when we felt the right of black trade unions were not being recognised. We will fight against unilateralism with all our might. The national strike action commences on Mar 13. This will be a launching pad for the second round of

strikes, commencing in the ports of Durban, Richards Bay and Cape Town, lasting much longer than three days." Howard said the four unions would also declare separate disputes of mutual interest in specific business units and pursue strike actions in those. Transnet spokesman John Dlodlu said shareholder approval (government) has been obtained for Transnet to go ahead with selling the non-core assets and there was no going back on the sale of the non-core units. He said further advisors for the sale of the remaining units would be announced.

#### **SOUTH KOREA**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: South Korea's railways have been hit by strike action for a third day running as workers reacted angrily to the suspension of union activists. More than 16,000 staff stopped work on Wednesday (Mar 1) over pay and conditions and the sacking of colleagues. Managers at Korea Railroad (Korail) have since suspended the jobs of more than 2,000 union members who were accused of obstructing business. The number of trains in service on Friday was cut by about 60%. Another 387 hardcore activists have also been suspended and the company said it was considering further action against them. In response, union members warned that the suspensions would only aggravate the situation and prolong the strike. "The massive suspension of jobs has sparked an explosion of anger among railway workers," the union said in a statement. "This measure will only make matters worse." But the government has branded the strike illegal on the grounds, it says, that workers defied a mandatory 15-day ban on strike action to allow for arbitration when they walked-out on Wednesday. "The government will take all necessary measures to deal with illegal strikes," said government spokesman Kim Chango-Ho. Thousand of striking workers have been camping out in railway depot since Tuesday (Feb 28), but reports say many other workers are gradually returning to work.

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated Mar 3, states: The South Korean government warned the country's striking railway workers today to return to their jobs or face what it called the highest level of legal punishment. The government will continue to maintain its emergency measures without any disruptions to help minimize people's inconvenience from the strike by the (Korean) Railroad Workers' Union," said Kim Chang-ho, head of the Government Information Agency. Kim said the government was considering "all possible measures" to deal with the illegal strike by the unionized railroad workers. The rather quick and harsh response came two days after about 13,000 railroad workers throughout the nation walked off

their jobs Wednesday. The labour action caused an estimated loss of at least 10 billion won (US\$10.3 million) for the government-funded corporation as of 1500, today, and inconvenience for millions of public transportation users. Korea Railroad has also relieved 2,244 of the striking officials of their posts thus far.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated Mar 5, states: Train and subway operations, including bullet train services, are expected run normally today as some 17,000 unionized rail workers returned to work on Saturday (Mar 4), ending a four-day strike. According to the Korean Railroad Corp. (Korail), subways in Seoul metropolitan areas and the Korea Train Express (KTX), the bullet train, will operate normally on Monday. The resumption of services comes after public anger over the disruptions coupled with strong pressure from the government and management to terminate the strike. Today's passenger services are expected to run at about 90 percent of daily capacity. However, freight services are expected to take several days for services to return to full capacity as it takes more time for rail engineers to check operation schedules and safety conditions. During the strike, operations on subway lines 1, 3 and 4 in Seoul and nearby areas were cut by some 60 percent due to the walkout. Korail operates these lines in association with Seoul Metro Subway, which averted a strike by its workers last Wednesday.



#### **"CLICK FRAUD" SUIT, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: Google Inc. has agreed to a settlement worth up to \$90 million for a suit that alleges the Internet search behemoth overcharged for advertising, a company official said today. The "click fraud" suit was brought last year in Arkansas against Google and other Internet companies. Google and plaintiffs are asking the judge to approve the settlement, which would resolve the case, according to Nicole Wong, associate general counsel. In a Google blog, Wong wrote that under the settlement, the company will "open up" a 60-day notification window for advertisers to apply for reimbursement for clicks that they believe are invalid. "For all eligible invalid clicks, we will offer credits which can be used to purchase new advertising with Google," Wong wrote. "We do not know how many will apply and receive credits, but under the agreement, the total amount of credits, plus attorneys' fees, will not exceed \$90 million." Wong added that

the agreement covers all advertisers who claim to have been charged but not reimbursed for invalid clicks dating from 2002 through the date that the settlement is approved. The attorneys' fees will be charged as an expense, most likely in the first quarter, while the credits will be recorded as a reduction to revenue during the periods in which they are redeemed, Wong added. A Wall Street Journal report indicated that the proposed settlement would enable Google to avoid disclosing further details about its ad system and anti-fraud measures in court.

#### **DEATH IN ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated Mar 3, states: A St. Louis Circuit Court jury awarded \$46 million today to the families of a couple killed in a fiery, fog-bound multivehicle accident on Interstate 44 near Joplin. Consolidated Freightways, the defendant, said it would continue to fight the claim. Jose and Anna Silva were driving west from Chicago when they came upon a foggy stretch of I-44 early in the morning of May 18, 2002. Vehicles had already crashed up the road when the Silva's Nissan Altima stopped behind or hit a stopped Hogan Transport tractor-trailer. A Consolidated Freightways truck with two trailers then hit the Nissan from behind. A lawyer in the case said it was filed in St. Louis because one or more of the parties involved in the wreck did business here. Lawyers for Anna's parents, Jose Rodriguez and Guadalupe Rodriguez-Sanchez, and Jesus and Rosa Silva said the Consolidated Freightways driver should have slowed or pulled off the road when he saw the fog. They also said the truck sparked the fatal fire. But lawyers for the trucking company said that the driver had no time to stop. They also said the fire started elsewhere and that another vehicle hit the Nissan first.

#### **INVASION OF PRIVACY, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A man who secretly videotaped his house guests' activities in the bathroom has been ordered to pay the Texas couple \$3.25 million in damages. Okaloosa County jurors issued the verdict against Kevin Michael Moncla yesterday. The couple and their two young children were videotaped from September to November 2002 while they were guests in Moncla's Destin home. In the lawsuit, the plaintiffs, identified as John Doe and Jane Doe, said they had suffered "severe emotional trauma," because of Moncla's actions. Moncla taped both the family and his then-wife through ceiling vents as they used bathrooms in the residence, court records said. Moncla pleaded guilty in 2004 to a misdemeanor voyeurism charge and paid a criminal fine. A second offense could result in a felony charge. Florida's Department of



Children & Families investigated Moncla's actions to see if crimes against the family's children had been committed during the taping. No evidence was found, according to court records.

#### **MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A Sheffield man left brain-damaged after a hospital failed to provide the correct care during his birth has been awarded £3.25m in compensation. Philip Bennett, 20, from High Green, was awarded the sum in an out-of-court settlement after a 13-year legal battle against Pontefract General Hospital. He now requires 24-hour care and cannot be left unsupervised. His mother Linda Bennett said: "I can now put the past behind me and move on, giving Philip the life he deserves." She alleged that Pontefract General Hospital made several failings in the care provided after ultrasound scans at 30 and 36 weeks showed her baby to be underdeveloped. Her lawyers maintained that, with the lack of growth indicated, Mrs Bennett should have been admitted for monitoring and delivery. Labour should have been induced on 25 April 1985, but this did not happen until five days later. They also alleged that signs of foetal distress early in the labour were disregarded. In addition a decision to use suction to help the delivery was strongly criticised. Mrs Bennett's lawyer Tom Mather said: "Philip sustained significant and irreversible brain damage at the time of his birth, meaning he will always be entirely dependent on others in all aspects of his life. He requires 24-hour care and cannot be left unsupervised. He has specially adapted accommodation and relies on a wheelchair for mobility. Today's hearing brings to an end the struggle Philip and his family have endured for 20 years." A West Yorkshire Strategic Health Authority spokesman said: "The West Yorkshire Strategic Health Authority has accepted, on behalf of the NHS, partial responsibility for Philip's injuries. A compensation package has been agreed and it is hoped that this will go towards providing Philip and his family with security for the future. The NHS wishes Philip and his family well for the future."

#### **POLLUTION, OHIO RIVER, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: An international metal company and its partner firms agreed to settle charges that they dumped toxic chemicals into the Ohio River, the Justice Department announced Tuesday (Feb 28). The deal between the US government and Norway-based manufacturer Elkem Metals provides \$2 million for river cleanup, three-quarters of a million in Clean Water Act penalties and another \$460,000 combined to Ohio, West Virginia and the Interior Department for violating the 1980

Superfund act. All of the violations arise from allegations that operators of the company's Southeast Ohio manufacturing facility knowingly dumped hundreds of tons of toxic-metal-tainted wastewater into the Ohio River from 1994 to 1999. The US Justice Department, the Interior Department and the Environmental Protection Agency jointly negotiated the settlement with Elkem and Eramet Marietta, which took over operations of the facility in 1999. The settlement, open to public comment for 30 days, brings to an end a battle started when environmental groups discovered the companies' dumping practices in the 1990s killed many freshwater snails, mussels and fish. Neither Elkem nor Eramet admitted guilt under the terms of the deal, and they only agreed to the deal because of court costs, Eramet spokesperson Ethan Frank-Collins told the Marietta Times. According to information gathered by the US Public Interest Research Group, the Marietta, Ohio Eramet facility "dumped more persistent toxic metals into the nation's waters than any other facility." The group estimates that the factory pumped more than 1.2 million pounds of metal precipitant between 1992 and 1996 and alleges that most of that ended up in the Ohio River. More persistent toxic metals were dumped into the Ohio than any other river during the same period, US PIRG said in a 1998 report. Early last month, the government body in charge of water in the region, the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission, proposed changing the standards it uses to measure river pollution in order to conform with the Clean Water Act and plans to decide the issue this summer, the Cincinnati Post reported.

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

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: A federal judge has approved a \$15.6 million settlement in the case of a horrific accident on Interstate 65 in north-west Indiana in which a 6-year-old boy was killed and his father's leg severed while the boy's mother watched, according to the attorney for the family. U.S. District Judge Harry Leinenweber approved the settlement between Mary and Allan J. Pierce of Chicago and System Transport Services of Spokane, Wash. Attorney Stephen M. Libman, of Chicago, said the trucking company was negligent in its responsibility toward safety by using the "cheapest and most unsafe method" to transport a heavy load, resulting in the death, injury and emotional trauma suffered by the family. On Sep 1, 2001, the Pierce family, then of Melrose Park, was driving on I-65 near Hobart, Ind., when the family car had a flat tyre, Libman said. Allan J. Pierce pulled over to the shoulder and got out to fix the tyre, while Mary Pierce got out to watch, leaving their son, Allan M. Pierce, strapped in his car seat in the

back seat of the vehicle. A flatbed semitrailer truck carrying two large cherry-picker lifts weighing more than 44,000 pounds rolled over coming out of a construction zone, Libman said, and one of the lifts struck Allan J. Pierce, severing his leg at the knee. The lift then struck the car, which burst into flames, he said. Allan J. Pierce, not knowing his leg was severed, kept trying to rush toward the car to help but kept falling down, the attorney said. Mary Pierce also tried to help, but the intense heat kept her away from the car. Libman said Allan J. Pierce lost his leg while Mary Pierce's injuries were the "unimaginable horror of watching her son killed and her husband lose his leg." "She struggles every day to make sense out of what happened," Libman said. Part of the purpose of the suit was to call on the governor and the trucking industry to do something about unsafe, unstable, high-gravity loads on flatbed trucks, Libman said, calling them a danger to anyone who drives on the highway.

#### **THEFT OF TECHNOLOGY, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated Mar 3, states: The maker of the Blackberry e-mail device has reached a \$612.5m (£349m) settlement to end a dispute that could have closed the service in the US. Canadian company Research In Motion (RIM) said today that the deal with American software firm NTP represented a "full and final settlement". NTP, which had claimed RIM stole its technology, had tried to get the Blackberry service shut in the US. The portable device has three million American users. "All terms of the agreement have been finalised and the litigation against RIM has been dismissed by a court order this afternoon," said RIM. "The agreement eliminates the need for any further court proceedings or decisions relating to damages or injunctive relief. NTP grants RIM an unfettered right to continue its business, including its Blackberry-related business." The settlement brings to end four years of legal dispute in the US between the two companies. RIM said it had already put aside \$450m for a possible settlement with NTP, and that the additional \$162.5m would be recorded in its next quarterly report due in April. The overall \$612.5m settlement compares to the firm's total cash reserves of \$1.8bn. Last year the firms agreed a tentative settlement, but the agreement subsequently collapsed, taking the case all the way to the US Supreme Court. Earlier this month, the US government asked a federal judge to hold off from a possible shutdown of the Blackberry service, because of the system's popularity among key government employees. RIM had argued that a shutdown of Blackberry services would impair critical public services. The Blackberry now has 4.3 million global users.

**WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT,  
UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A man who was cleared by DNA evidence after serving 10 years in prison for rape has settled his lawsuit against the city of Marlborough, Massachusetts, for \$2 million. Eric R. Sarsfield, of Clinton, sought at least \$10 million in damages in a federal civil rights lawsuit filed against the city and several police officers. "It has been 20 years of my life," Sarsfield said. "At least I don't have to worry about it any more, and I can put it behind me now." In a special meeting last night, the city council transferred money from the city's stabilisation and health insurance funds to cover the settlement. City attorney James Agoritsas said any award against the city in the tens of millions of dollars would have rendered the city bankrupt. "We're very mindful of the pain and trauma Mr. Sarsfield went through," Agoritsas said. "However, we are of the opinion that our police officers involved in this case did nothing wrong." Sarsfield's lawsuit has already cost the city about \$400,000, and Agoritsas estimated an additional \$500,000 in legal costs if the case went to trial. Under the settlement, the city also assigned rights to Sarsfield to pursue legal action against insurance companies the city contracted after he was prosecuted. The insurance companies have denied the city had coverage for the lawsuit. Sarsfield was paroled in 1999, and the next year, DNA tests cleared him and the conviction was vacated. Last year, the state awarded Sarsfield \$500,000 under a new law to compensate people imprisoned for crimes they did not commit.

**Railway Accidents****MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA,  
UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: BNSF Railway employees worked into the darkness in an effort to clear three coal cars that derailed yesterday just north of Eufaula Street on North 43rd Street East in Muskogee. Muskogee Emergency Management Director Jimmy Moore said the railroad cars nearly toppled when the track gave way beneath the weight of the train. He said the derailment occurred at about 1330 yesterday. A BNSF Railway crew based in Tulsa were on the scene within hours of the derailment. Bulldozers fitted with lifts and booms were used to lift the railroad cars upright and ferry them to an area where the tracks were in better shape. According to workers at the scene last night, about 300 feet of track will have to be replaced after the railroad cars are uprighted and

moved. City of Muskogee street crews were standing by to make necessary road repairs at the railroad crossing. The cause of the derailment was unknown last night, and railroad workers would not comment about how long the track would be out of service.

**TEHRAN AREA, IRAN**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A cargo train carrying fuel oil derailed in the vicinity on Tehran today, Head of Police Information Center Colonel Mohammad Tourang said. The cargo train was carrying fuel oil from Tehran to Mashhad, he said. During the accident two coaches overturned and blocked the rail track, he said. On one has been injured in the accident and relief workers are working to reopen the track, he said.

**Robberies & Thefts****CASH FROM AIRCRAFT,  
LANDVETTER AIRPORT, SWEDEN**

London, Mar 7 — The robbers who attacked an SAS aircraft at Gothenburg's Landvetter airport today, making away with bags containing cash, must have had inside information. That is the view of the airport's security manager Dan Larsson. "I judge it to be highly unlikely that they did not have [inside information]," he said. The gang must have known that cash was being transported on that particular aircraft. They must also have known the procedures for handling transport of valuables and exactly where it would happen, he said. Larsson drew parallels with a robbery at Stockholm's Arlanda airport in 2002. "The robbers there also struck when the secure load was being transferred from the plane to the security vehicle," he said. Security routines were tightened following that robbery, said Larsson, although would not reveal how. Airport perimeter gates have not been strengthened, however. This was clearly in evidence when the robbers were able to break through the gates at Landvetter with a car. Larsson said that this revealed a conflict between different safety considerations. "It must be possible for an emergency services vehicle to force open the gates in the event of an accident," he said. International flights from Gothenburg's Landvetter airport were cancelled this afternoon following an armed robbery on guards carrying cash to a foreign exchange bureau. The airport's information office said that incoming flights were not affected, and that all domestic flights were operating as normal.

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Swedish police have arrested a suspected member of a gang that carried out an armed raid

on a passenger aircraft after it landed at Gothenburg airport. Passengers saw masked robbers with automatic weapons crash through a security gate and hold up baggage handlers unloading crates of currency. The gang stole what police describe as a "substantial sum of money" which had been on the aircraft from London. Police did not say if any of the cash had been recovered after the arrest. The suspect was arrested north of Gothenburg yesterday, hours after the raid at the city's Landvetter airport. Correspondents in Sweden say the robbery is similar to a raid four years ago, when more than \$5m dollars was stolen from an airport in Stockholm.

**CASH FROM SECURITY DEPOT,  
TONBRIDGE, KENT,  
UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Mar 2 — Two men and a woman appeared in court today, charged in connection with the biggest cash robbery in British history, a £53-million raid on a security depot in southern England. The three, the first to be charged over last week's huge heist in Tonbridge, Kent, were all remanded in custody until Mar 13 after a brief hearing held amid tight security at Maidstone magistrates court. Car salesman John Fowler, 57, and Stuart Royle, 39, were charged with conspiracy to rob the depot, run by Swedish company Securitas. Fowler was also charged with kidnapping the depot's manager Colin Dixon, his wife Lynn and their eight-year-old son Craig. Kim Shackleton, 39, self-employed, was charged with handling stolen goods. Detectives said they had also arrested another man in East Sussex today on suspicion of conspiracy to rob the depot. He was the 14th suspect to have been arrested since the raid, when a gang posing as police officers seized Dixon, then took his wife and young son hostage and threatened to harm them unless he helped them get inside the compound. Kent police have been granted more time to quiz two other suspects. They said the inquiry could last for years. "This investigation is likely to continue for many months and possibly years as we track down those responsible and indeed all of the stolen money," said Assistant Chief Constable Adrian Leppard in a statement. — Reuters.

London, Mar 6 — Police hunting raiders who carried out the country's biggest cash heist from a security depot in Kent said today they had recovered several million pounds after arresting a man in London. Detectives investigating the £53-million raid on a security depot said bags of cash had been found on industrial premises in the Welling area of the capital and a 43-year-old man held on suspicion of handling stolen goods. "Cash thought to amount to several million pounds has been recovered following a police raid in south-east London yesterday," a spokesman for Kent police said. "A number of bags containing cash are now being examined for forensic evidence. Until this examination is



complete, the full amount will not be known." The record robbery took place last Wednesday (Feb 22) after a gang posing as police officers seized the manager of a Securitas depot in Tonbridge, took his wife and son hostage and threatened to kill them unless he helped them get inside the compound. Police have now charged five people in connection with the raid. Lea John Rusha, a 33-year-old roofer, was today accused of conspiracy to commit robbery and was remanded in custody until Mar 13. Unemployed Jetmir Bucpapa was also remanded in custody today until Mar 13 following a brief hearing at Maidstone magistrates court. He is accused of conspiracy to rob. Two men and a woman appeared in the same court yesterday charged with various offences connected to the robbery and were remanded in custody. — Reuters. (See issue of Mar 6.)

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Police investigating the UK's biggest robbery have recovered £11m stolen cash so far, with a further significant seizure in the last 24 hours. Kent Chief Constable Michael Fuller said more than £9m was seized in a police raid on a vehicle repair yard in Welling, south-east London, last week. Five people have been charged after the £53m Securitas raid on February 22. A total of 17 people have been arrested. In less than two weeks since the raid, police have followed up 1,200 pieces of information, seized more than 3,500 exhibits, and taken more than 300 witness statements. A number of vehicles believed used in the crime have also been recovered, and at least 20 premises searched.

**PAINTINGS FROM MUSEUM, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated Mar 3, states: One of the paintings stolen from a Brazilian museum was put up for sale on an internet auction site for \$13m (£7.4m), according to police. Henri Matisse's Luxembourg Gardens, which was taken from the Chacara do Ceu museum in Rio de Janeiro, was advertised on a Russian website. Brazilian police say they believe the stolen pictures are still in Rio. The picture was taken along with works by Picasso, Dali and Monet, while carnival festivities were under way. Investigating officer Deuller Rocha said Interpol had joined in the widening search. He said: "Given the characteristics of the crime, the way the thieves acted, it may be a contract job done for an international crime ring." The Chacara do Ceu museum has put up a reward of \$5,000 (£2,876) for the safe return of the paintings. Police have also issued computer-generated images of the armed thieves and given details of the paintings to 182 countries via Interpol, while Brazilian authorities are on alert to stop the items leaving the country. At least four men are believed to have been involved in the heist last Friday (Feb 24), in which

security guards at the museum were threatened with a hand grenade. The thieves shut down the security cameras and then made their getaway during the carnival, said museum officials. The other works include Pablo Picasso's The Dance, Salvador Dali's The Two Balconies and Claude Monet's Marine. A number of tourists who were visiting the museum at the time were also mugged by the gang.



Miscellaneous

**BAN ON "SALVAGED" VEHICLES, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Santo Domingo, Mar 7 — Understand from the local agents of vehicle *Grand Choice* that the vessel was not prohibited from discharging its cargo of cars at Santo Domingo. The vessel arrived Santo Domingo Feb 20 from Brunswick and departed the same day for Panama. — Lloyd's Agents.

**DAMAGE TO FERRY BERTHING FACILITIES, LIVERPOOL, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A travel company is trying to find temporary berthing facilities for the Mersey Ferries after Liverpool's landing stage sank in bad weather. Services across the River Mersey have been suspended since the sinking of the terminal on Thursday (Mar 2). Operator Merseytravel is in talks with the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company to allow the Mersey ferries to share the Manx terminal in Liverpool. It is hoped services will resume later this week. River levels dropped on Thursday, causing part of the floating landing stage to fall into the water. Later in the day, the rest of the stage disappeared into the Mersey. Cruise services have continued to operate between Seacombe and Woodside.

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: Ferry services across the River Mersey, which were stopped after the landing stage sank in bad weather, will be resumed tomorrow. Operator Merseytravel has been in talks with the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company to allow the Mersey ferries to share the Manx terminal in Liverpool. The ferries will now operate from the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company pontoon, next to the Pier Head. Neil Scales, chief executive and director general of Merseytravel, said: "We are extremely grateful to the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company for their assistance. "Obviously this is a temporary measure until the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company has replaced our pontoon but it was imperative that we resume services as quickly as possible for commuters. "The Steam Packet Company have pulled out all the stops". River levels dropped last week

causing part of the floating landing stage to fall into the water. Later in the day, the rest of the stage disappeared into the Mersey. Cruise services continued to operate between Seacombe and Woodside.

**FLOODING IN COAL MINE, XINGNING, CHINA**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A court in southern China has sentenced 16 officials to jail terms of up to six years in connection with a coal mine flood that killed 123 people, the government said today. Those sentenced included Wang Zhuoxiong, chief of the local work safety office in Daxing, a city in Guangdong province, and Li Zhenquan, deputy director of the local land resources bureau, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. The report did not give the specific sentences for Wang and Li. Provincial authorities ordered all coal mines in Guangdong to shut down after the Aug 7 flood at the Daxing Coal Mine, which had been operating without a licence and in violation of orders to close due to a flood at a nearby pit that killed 16 people. The government also ordered officials to sever all business ties with coal mines. The officials sentenced today were convicted of various crimes including dereliction of duty, taking bribes and illegal mining, the report said. Another 22 local officials received unspecified administrative penalties, it said. The mine's owner, Zeng Yungao and 17 people with business connections to the mine are also due to face sentencing soon, the report said.

**OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"**

London, Mar 2 — Iraq, Serbia and Germany reported the latest cases in the spread of bird flu today and health officials and researchers around the world prepared to fight a possible deadly avian flu pandemic among humans. Iraq said a woman had died in a suspected case of the H5N1 bird flu virus and Serbia said it had detected its first case of bird flu in a dead swan that was being tested to see if it had the deadly strain. The latest cases in Europe and the Middle East came hours after US Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt said it was "just a matter of time" before wild birds and possibly poultry flocks in America contracted H5N1. US officials said they bought more than 14 million courses of antiviral treatments from GlaxoSmithKline Plc and Roche Holding AG to prepare for a possible human bird flu pandemic. The United States plans to have enough medication to treat 25% of its population in the event of an outbreak. In Tokyo, Japanese researchers said they had developed a new way of producing the anti-flu drug Tamiflu, considered one of the best defences against bird flu in humans, that does not rely on natural ingredients and may help ensure more stable supplies. The H5N1 avian flu

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virus has killed 94 people in seven countries — Turkey, Iraq, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, China and Cambodia. It has infected 174, giving it a more than 50% fatality rate, but experts are unsure if some people may have had less serious infections that went undetected. Since 2003, H5N1 bird flu has been found in more than 30 countries. Iraq said the woman who died of the suspected case of H5N1 lived in the province around the town of Nassiriya in southern Iraq and more tests were being carried out in Baghdad and Cairo. Two fatal cases of human bird flu, in a teenage girl and her uncle last month, were previously confirmed in the northern Iraqi province of Sulaimaniya, close to the border with Turkey. Serbia said today it had detected its first case of bird flu in a swan found dead in the region of Sombor, close to the Croatian border. The Ministry of Agriculture in Belgrade said in a statement the bird tested positive for the H5 strain of avian influenza and samples would be sent to a British laboratory to determine whether the more dangerous H5N1 strain was present. In Africa, where the H5N1 virus has been detected in Niger and Nigeria leaving African governments worried, Zimbabwe's health ministry warned people in rural areas against keeping poultry in residential houses. The southern Africa country has been on alert since the H5N2 strain of avian flu, which is not dangerous to humans but can kill birds, was detected among ostriches last December. The Greek government said today that it would help poultry farmers hit by bird flu fears with state-backed loans. Greece has yet to find a single case of bird flu in farmed poultry but chicken consumption has dropped by up to 80% since the virus was discovered in the country in February. To date, 19 cases of bird flu have been found in migratory birds. The Bahamas government said a mystery spate of bird deaths in the Bahamas involved only five birds, not the 21 initially reported, reducing the likelihood of a bird flu outbreak. The H5N1 virus has been detected in birds in around 20 new countries over the past month alone, crossing into Europe and Africa. The spread is blamed on migratory birds, although some people argue that the poultry trade might play a role. France, Europe's largest poultry producer, last week became the first country in the European Union to report an outbreak of bird flu on a farm. As many as 43 countries outside the European Union have since banned or restricted French poultry imports. Dutch farmers have not decided yet whether to vaccinate free range chickens against flu, fearing that vaccination could damage exports, industry groups said today. The farm ministry said last week Japan planned to ban Dutch imports when the country starts vaccinating as consumers shun meat from vaccinated animals because of possible health risks. Dutch farmers fear other countries will ban

imports from the Netherlands, a top world poultry exporter and Europe's second biggest producer after France. — Reuters.

Bucharest, Mar 3 — Romania detected the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus in domestic birds in a village 80 km west of the capital and in a wild goose in a city of Buzau, authorities said today. Avian flu has been found in 40 villages and a small Black Sea resort since the virus was first detected in the Danube Delta in October. — Reuters.

London, Mar 3 — Europe's poultry industry counted the multi-million-dollar cost of the spread of bird flu in lost sales today after US agencies urged more funds to fight a possible deadly human pandemic that could kill millions. As the world took steps to try to prepare for such an outbreak, Romania and Greece detected new cases of the deadly H5N1 virus and Switzerland found more bird flu in wild birds and Turkey in poultry flocks. China issued a national bird flu warning that migratory birds returning during the spring could cause more human cases. "There are some places where prevention and control efforts have weak links," Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu told a cabinet conference today. China has had 14 human cases of people infected with H5N1 bird flu, eight of them fatal. H5N1 has killed birds in more than 30 countries in the Middle East, Asia, Europe and Africa. It has infected 174 people in seven countries, killing 94 of them. Scientists say H5N1 is mutating steadily and may eventually acquire the changes it needs to be easily transmitted from human to human. Because people lack any immunity to it, it could sweep the world in a matter of weeks or months, killing tens of millions and bring economies to their knees. Congress agreed \$3.8 billion of \$7.1 billion US President George W. Bush asked for last year to fight a possible pandemic. "But it really takes a lot of time and a lot of money. There are a lot of black boxes out there where something could emerge and we won't be able to find it," Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, told a House of Representatives appropriations subcommittee. "Our current situation now is not a good situation. We have these ongoing and widespread outbreaks," said Gerberding, as agency heads asked for funds for networks to fight bird flu. France's poultry sector, the biggest in Europe, is now losing Euros 40 million (\$48 million) a month as bird flu hits sales at home and abroad, French officials said today. The Paris government has said more than 40 countries had restricted imports of French poultry following the outbreak of H5N1 at a turkey farm in the east of the country. Germany's poultry industry has lost more than Euros 140 million since last autumn because of bird flu, with demand down some 20% from previous levels. Hungarian poultry

producers said today their sales had fallen by up to 20% since H5N1 was first found there in dead swans on Feb 21. Chicken sales were hardest hit. Romania today detected H5N1 in domestic birds in a village west of Bucharest and in a goose in the city of Buzau. Avian flu has been found in 40 villages and a small Black Sea resort since the virus was first detected in the Danube Delta in October. Birds have been culled swiftly and Romania has not reported any cases in humans. Greece, where poultry sales are down by up to 80% since the first case was reported in February, said three more H5N1 cases were confirmed in swans, bringing the total infected birds there to 22. Turkey confirmed three new cases of the H5 strain of bird flu in poultry in an area west of Istanbul and said culling of birds was under way. Samples were being tested for H5N1. Switzerland, which on Wednesday (Mar 1) said it had found its first case of the H5N1 strain of the virus in a wild duck found in Geneva, discovered five more cases of H5 bird flu in wild birds, the federal veterinary office said today. The birds were being tested for H5N1. As scientists examined the routes of migrating birds, Nigeria blamed illegal poultry imports for the outbreak. H5N1 has spread to seven of the country's 36 states and the capital city since it was first detected in the north on Feb 8, but 90% of infected farms bought day-old chicks from one farm in Kano state, Information Minister Frank Nweke said. Experts want to identify how the virus entered Nigeria, the first infection in Africa, to better stop it spreading further. — Reuters.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: China confirmed yesterday that a ninth person had died from bird flu, state media reported, while Azerbaijan said it was checking if two children may have died from the illness. As the inexorable spread of the disease continued, with France, Germany, Greece, Poland, Romania and Switzerland all announcing new confirmed or suspected cases in birds, authorities in Europe, Asia and Africa stepped up measures to prevent a pandemic. Hong Kong, which borders the province of Guangdong where the latest Chinese fatality occurred, slapped a ban on imports of poultry and other birds from Guangdong. Poland and France imposed hygiene safety defences around new infected areas and Nigeria promised neighbouring Niger equipment and training to stem the virus' advance.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The Nigeria government has started to pay compensation to farmers whose poultry have been killed by bird flu. Some 23m naira (\$180,000) was paid to 47 farmers in the northern state of Kano, home to half of Nigeria's 450,000 birds to have died or been culled. The farmers had demanded more than the 250 naira (\$2) for each chicken, saying this was just half the market price.



London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Poland has confirmed its first case of the deadly H5N1 strain of the bird flu virus, in two wild swans. Officials at Poland's national laboratory said they had identified the virus in birds found near a river in the northern city of Torun. Poland has imposed emergency measures near the site to fight the outbreak. Initial tests had already shown that the Polish swans died from a version of the H5 virus. Jan Zmudzunski, deputy director of the Pulawy laboratory, told the AFP news agency that it was "definitely H5N1". Samples would now be sent to the EU laboratory in Weybridge, UK, for further examination, he said. Yesterday, the Polish authorities imposed hygiene-security restrictions around the site on the bank of the River Vistula where the birds were found. A crisis centre has also been set up. Elsewhere, China has suspended the supply of live poultry and pet birds to Hong Kong, after a man died of bird flu in neighbouring Guangdong province. The man is believed to be the first in China to have been infected with bird flu in an urban area. It is reported he was infected after coming into contact with live chickens on sale in a market in Guangzhou city. Usually around 30,000 live chickens are sent from China to Hong Kong each day. That has been stopped with immediate effect. The ban will last for three weeks. The authorities hope the ban on the supply of live poultry will prevent any outbreak spreading to the territory, and they have stepped up efforts against poultry smuggling as well.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: The H5N1 bird flu virus has been found in "two or three cats" in the southern Austrian province of Styria, the provincial health authorities were quoted saying yesterday by Austrian media. The cats infected with the H5N1 virus, which can be lethal to humans, were still alive, said Hans Seitingner, Styria's agricultural representative. The virus was found after tests were conducted on the cats by the Austrian Health and Food Safety Agency, he said. The cats were in an animal shelter in Graz, where H5N1 was found in poultry last month, an agency source said. Austrian Health Minister Maria Rauch-Kallat was due to give a press conference later yesterday in Vienna. On Friday (Mar 3), six new cases of H5N1 were confirmed in the west and south of Austria, bringing its total number of cases to 29.

Beijing, Mar 8 — A nine-year-old girl has died of bird flu in China, state media said today, as the United Nations stepped up efforts to battle the rapidly spreading virus. The girl, China's tenth known death from bird flu, died on Monday night (Mar 6) in the eastern province of Zhejiang, the official Xinhua news agency said. Her death came days after the government confirmed that a 32-year-old man had died from the H5N1 virus in the

southern province of Guangdong, near Hong Kong, triggering alarm there. "The epidemic situation is very severe. Right now is spring, when there is a high chance of bird flu outbreaks due to the frequent movement of migratory birds. This epidemic has not been effectively controlled worldwide," China's deputy agriculture minister Yin Chengjie said. The virus has spread rapidly since the beginning of February, killing birds in more than 15 new countries as it moves deeper into Europe and Africa. Albania today confirmed its first case of H5N1 in a chicken found in the southern Sarande coastal region, close to the border with Greece. Nigeria said yesterday that highly pathogenic bird flu had spread to three new states, including an outbreak in Port Harcourt, the main city in the oil-producing Niger Delta. The World Health Organisation, confirming the Chinese girl's death, said bird flu had infected 175 people, killing 96 of them since 2003. To try to combat the growing threat, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation is to play a greater role in fighting bird flu, becoming a "global clearing house" for efforts to stem the spread of the virus, it said yesterday. The United States and the European Union have backed the formation of what a senior US official called an "emergency operations centre" at the FAO's Rome headquarters. Funding will come from a pot of almost \$2 billion pledged by wealthy nations at an international conference in Beijing in January. The United States would provide experts to help run the centre and expects other nations to follow suit. — Reuters.

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The mainland yesterday reported its 10th human death from bird flu, two days after the fact. The death of a nine-year-old girl from Zhejiang province means two-thirds of the country's known human cases have been fatal. The Ministry of Health said the girl died on Monday evening (Mar 6), Xinhua reported yesterday. Earlier reports said the girl had visited relatives on a farm with sick and dead chickens in Guangde county, Anhui province, before falling ill. She had a fever and other symptoms on Feb 10 and was admitted to hospital in critical condition. No new human cases or outbreaks in poultry have been detected in Zhejiang, which is near Shanghai. The girl was apparently infected in an area of Anhui that has yet to report an outbreak in birds, raising the possibility that some infections in poultry are slipping through the monitoring network. The mainland had reported 15 human cases of bird flu in nine provinces up to Tuesday. Guangdong's agriculture department says the province has done a thorough job in keeping its poultry safe from bird flu and has appealed to Hong Kong to lift its ban on chicken imports, even though the

Food and Agriculture Organisation has warned that backyard farms still pose a risk. Yu Yedong, head of the provincial department's animal health inspection and quarantine administration, said inspections were being increased to ensure that chicken stocks replenished after the Lunar New Year were vaccinated.

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: The Albanian Ministry of Agriculture announced today that a chicken found dead at a farm in southern Saranda province has tested positive for the H5N1 strain of avian flu. Albanian Minister of Agriculture Jemin Gjana told reporters that the chicken was found in Cuke village, some 290 km south of Tirana capital. Tests carried out by a laboratory in Britain showed that the fowl was infected with the deadly virus

**OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON BAHAMAS FLAGGED VESSEL**

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Royal Caribbean has announced many people on its Feb 26-Mar 5 sailing of passenger *Explorer of the Seas* (137308 gt, built 2000) are sick with a gastrointestinal illness. In fact, a few hundred who weren't allowed to disembark at one port are being offered discounts on future cruises. The cruise line reports 243 of the vessel's 3,252 guests and 19 of its 1,184 crew members experienced the illness, which is thought to be a Norovirus brought onboard by a guest previously exposed to it. Royal Caribbean says those affected by the short-lived illness responded well to treatment administered onboard the vessel. Also, the company has taken steps to control and eradicate the illness' transmission. Royal Caribbean also will have two additional physicians onboard (for a total of four) for the next *Explorer of the Seas* sailing, scheduled to begin Mar 5. On Friday (Mar 3), *Explorer of the Seas* made its scheduled port call at Georgetown, Cayman Island. In an attempt to prevent any further spreading of the illness, Cayman Island health authorities mandated that any guests who were ill or had experienced symptoms of the illness at any time during the sailing remain on the vessel. That mandate also applied to affected guests' close contacts. All guests who were isolated due to the illness received a 50 percent credit for a future Royal Caribbean cruise. *Explorer of the Seas* sailed from Miami on Sunday (Feb 26), and made ports of call in Belize City, Belize, on Tuesday; Costa Maya, Mexico, on Wednesday; Cozumel, Mexico, on Thursday; and Georgetown, Cayman Islands, on Friday. The vessel returns to Miami today, as scheduled.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated Mar 5, states: Passenger *Explorer of the Seas* arrived back at its home port today, filled with passengers upset about the latest outbreak of illness on board a cruise ship. Two hundred and forty-three of

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the Miami-based ship's 3252 passengers, along with 19 crew members were apparently laid low by a what Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines is calling a Norovirus, some so ill they were denied permission to leave the ship at a foreign port. She arrived at the Port of Miami about 0830 this morning, and passengers who left say people were sick all over the ship, which was on a seven-day cruise to the western Caribbean. A few hundred who weren't allowed to disembark at one port are being offered discounts on future cruises, but some passengers were upset that after they became ill while on board, they were required to pay the ship's doctor for the medical care they needed. Royal Caribbean, which claims a passenger brought the virus on board, made a swift about face on that decision. Spokesperson Leslie Katz told CBS4 News: "It was not our intention to charge our guests for their treatment. Those guests who were charged should call 1-800-256-6649 to have any treatment related charges removed from their bill." The ship received a thorough cleaning while at port, and was expected to leave for its next cruise, on schedule, about 1700 today.



**ART GALLERY, OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated Mar 2, states: Damage from the fire that destroyed an Overland Park art gallery will exceed \$1 million. Overland Park Fire Department spokesman Jason Rhodes estimated damage at \$750,000 to the building that housed Gil Rumsey's Gallery, and \$300,000 to the contents of the gallery alone. The estimate did not include smoke and water damage to surrounding businesses in the city's historic downtown area. The fire broke out shortly before 1700 hrs, yesterday, destroying Rumsey's and threatening other businesses. Even though the fire wall held between the gallery and adjacent businesses, water seeped into the historic Ford Building, next door to the south. Building owner Shane Jones said he expected to see water and smoke damage to computers and other furnishings, but later emerged from the structure saying the building was in better condition than he could imagine. Police were at the scene this morning to control access to buildings that had been left open overnight for firefighters to gain access to potential hot spots.

**BUSH, AUSTRALIA**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews from the Department of Conservation and Land Management will begin mopping

up today after bringing a bushfire in the D'Entrecasteaux National Park under control. The fire near Walpole was detected on Wednesday (Mar 1) to the north of a prescribed burn which was carried out on Monday. It has burnt through almost 2,000 hectares of bush. The South-Western Highway was reopened last night, but Broke Inlet Road remains closed. Water bombers will remain on stand-by today in case the fire breaks any containment lines.

**COAL MINE, QUANG NINH, VIETNAM**

Hanoi, Mar 7 — An underground explosion killed eight Vietnamese coal miners in the northern province of Quang Ninh, state media reported today. The bodies of the eight, all men aged between 21 and 30, were recovered immediately after the accident early on Monday, the Tien Phong (Vanguard) newspaper said. State media quoted industry officials as saying methane gas was believed to have triggered the explosion. — Reuters.

**MARINA, CREEKWOOD, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A string of decorative hot pepper lights may have started a fire yesterday at Creekwood Marina, Hendersonville, that destroyed 12 houseboats and a Jet Ski. An officer, who is part of the team still investigating, said the fire began on one particular boat. "We think it's electrical," said Matt Brian, a Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency boating officer. Mark Bain, a boat owner who lives across the street, said he saw flames shooting from the windshield with the pepper lights, which he said were "always on." He had untied his Chris Craft cabin cruiser and pushed it away from the dock, then tried unsuccessfully to help put out the quickly moving fire. Brian said about 18 slips were damaged. Of the 12 houseboats, most had sunk or were sinking last night. At least two floated while in flames across Old Hickory Lake's channel, with some minor damage occurring to a private dock and vegetation on the opposite shore. Both eventually dropped underwater. The marina, with multiple docks, houses about 230 boats. The boats, many houseboats and cabin cruisers, have fuel in their tanks, as well as small propane tanks for cooking and heating. Each time firefighters thought they had the wind-stoked blaze under control, another little explosion would erupt, Steele said. After about two hours, the fire, which had been reported to 911 at 1044 hrs, was over, he said.

**PREMISES, BEIRUT, LEBANON**

Beirut, Mar 8 — Fire broke out in a three-story building of the Express International printing press belonging to Joe Seikaly yesterday evening, causing serious damage to all of its

contents. Firemen and the interior defence force had to evacuate all occupants from the building. It took them many hours to put out the fire. — Lloyd's Agents.

**REFINERY, MARCUS HOOK, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion rattled through the Delaware County community of Marcus Hook overnight. The blast happened at the Sunoco refinery just before midnight. It triggered a fire that took almost an hour to put out. One person was treated at the scene for minor injuries. Authorities are still looking for what caused the explosion.

**WAREHOUSE, GREAT BENTLEY, ESSEX, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters were last night tackling a major blaze at a warehouse in Great Bentley. Emergency services were called to the Great Bentley Business Park in Plough Road at around 1800 hrs, after smoke was seen coming from a building. Initial reports suggested there could be someone trapped inside and firefighters wearing special breathing apparatus entered the premises. Fire crews from Weeley, Brightlingsea, Clacton and Colchester were joined by the aerial ladder platform in Chelmsford as they attempted to tackle the blaze. However last night Sgt Michael Harridge, who with other police officers had sealed off the area, said the four people with official access to the unit, believed to be a car repair shop, had been accounted for. Speaking at the scene, shortly after 2100 hrs, he said that although firefighters had managed to search the ground floor of the premises they had not been able to access the top floor. "I understand it is still ablaze at the moment," he said. "The units next door to the original scene of the fire have also been damaged. One is a fire shop, and the other a kitchen place. We understand there may be some gas cylinders in there and that is a concern."

**WAREHOUSE, HASTINGS, NEW ZEALAND**

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A toxic inferno that could be seen for 25km caused the evacuation of 70 Hastings houses and had Hawke's Bay hospitals on high alert yesterday. Trees 30m from the massive blaze burst into flames, three houses were ablaze and a van parked nearby twisted into ashen metal as the fire was fanned by strong winds that caused havoc around the lower and mid-North Island. One onlooker said the flames were five storeys high, and others described fireballs leaping from the towering plumes of toxic black smoke. Emergency services were investigating the cause of the fire at



the factory, which contained oil and cleaning products that were mostly sold in bulk containers. "The biggest danger we've had would have to be the severe health risk from the smoke, and then we've got the firefighting water runoff which we've had to contain on the side of the road and the regional council is disposing of that," said senior firefighter Mike Hurley. The Fire Service said last night it would not know the various chemicals that had been involved in the fire until they had spoken to the company's management today. The cause of the fire was not known. V J Distributors director Peter Geor would not elaborate on the chemicals, but he said they were everyday cleaning products. Fifteen fire trucks, an aerial unit and 80 firefighters battled the inferno at the Omaha Rd site, which threatened businesses nearby. Workers were inside the building when the fire began but authorities said no one was injured. A handful of people taken to hospital. Fearing toxic fumes, police went door-to-door evacuating people from dozens of houses downwind from the fire.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The clean-up has begun in Hastings after an industrial warehouse was destroyed by fire on the weekend (Mar 4-5), causing oil and toxic waste to spill into nearby waterways. Hawke's Bay Regional Council regulation manager Helen Codlin told NZPA that while some of the oil had contaminated the nearby waterways it was contained now. "We are aware that there have been some reports of dead fish downstream within that (Karamu Stream catchment) system, but it's pretty much now contained." Fire service resources were stretched when the blaze at VJ Distributors Ltd in the suburb of Frimley on Saturday morning caused the evacuation of about 70 homes because of toxic smoke. The warehouse, roughly 20m by 60m, contained oil and cleaning products, which were mostly sold in bulk containers. The fire service was alerted to the fire about 1130, Saturday and by the time it was under control at 1700 hrs, about 80 personnel, 15 appliances, an aerial unit and command unit were involved. The focus now was on minimising the environmental damage. Ms Codlin said Hastings District Council was cleaning out the stormwater pipe network to remove oil that might have stuck to the sides, and would be doing that for the next couple of days. There was also contaminated "sludge" that needed to be cleaned from the waterway drain, Ms Codlin said. The next problem for the council was getting rid of the waste. "We need to work out what levels of contamination there are before we decide where we can dispose of that." One option open to the council is to dump the waste at the Omarunui landfill, as it has the correct authorisation to accept the material.

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire safety officers in Hastings have not yet determined the cause of a fire which completely destroyed a large oil and chemical storage facility at the weekend (Mar 4-5). It took 80 fire fighters several hours on Saturday to put out a fire at V.J Distributors in an industrial area of Omaha Rd on the western side of the city. Toxic smoke forced nearby residents to leave their houses for most of the afternoon. Hastings Chief Fire Officer Ray Brown says fire safety staff have been working since the fire to establish the cause, but have no any answers yet. He says they are bringing in heavy equipment to remove roofing iron and other structural material today.

#### **WILDFIRE, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A massive grass fire closed the Kansas Turnpike northeast of Wichita yesterday. The fire is now mostly contained, but Gov. Kathleen Sebelius declared a State of Disaster Emergency for Butler County. The fire burned about 3,000 acres between Towanda and El Dorado. No injuries were reported, but the fire burned two oil wells and damaged two homes. At least one neighborhood was evacuated in Towanda, and one elementary school northwest of El Dorado closed.

#### **WILDFIRES, AUSTRALIA**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews battling a blaze near Gladstone in Tasmania's far north-east say it could be some days before the fire is extinguished. The Parks and Wildlife Service says the fire has burnt out about 700 hectares of the Mount Cameron Regional Reserve and has come within several hundred metres of Gladstone. Liz Wren from Parks and Wildlife said crews from her group and from the Tasmanian Fire Service were working to create firebreaks and strengthen existing boundaries on the town's outskirts. She says the main problem is westerly wind gusts of up to 40 kilometres-per-hour.

#### **WILDFIRES, NEW ZEALAND**

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The Rural Fire Service says the fire which has destroyed 150ha of pine forest in Marlborough may take months to put out completely. Firefighters from around the region battled the fire overnight, after it started about 1700 yesterday in the Weyerhaeuser commercial pine forest, 1 km east of Canvastown Regional rural fire committee chairman, Chris Milson, says the fire was contained earlier this afternoon but firefighters still face problems at the scene. Forestry manager Mark Forward says its cause is still unknown. Department of Conservation sounds area manager, Roy Gross, says another fire, near Picton, was brought under control this morning after burning up to 20 ha of forest.



#### **AIRCRAFT DIVERTED TO PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated Mar 4, states: An American Airlines flight headed to Chicago from Fort Lauderdale this morning was diverted to Palm Beach International Airport. After take-off from Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport at 1050, crew on flight 889 reported the aircraft's tail section was overheated, PBIA spokeswoman Lisa De La Rionda said. Air traffic controllers redirected the aircraft to PBIA. The MD-80 aircraft was carrying 137 passengers plus American Airlines crew members. It landed safely at PBIA at 1129 and taxied to a gate. The flight was scheduled to land at Chicago O'Hare International at 1315, central time. The aircraft remained at a gate this afternoon while it was being inspected.

#### **CRASH, HOBART, TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA**

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: The pilot of a light aircraft, which crash-landed at the Hobart airport, has escaped without injury. It is understood the aircraft was coming into land when it experienced problems with its undercarriage. The chief executive of Hobart airport, Wayne Tucker, says the departure of one commercial Jetstar flight was delayed by the incident. Mr Tucker says it was a minor accident. "A light aircraft landed at the airport and the nose wheel collapsed on landing and so there was one person on board and there was no injuries. It was a very simple procedure then to remove the aircraft from the runway," he said.

#### **CRASH, STATON PRISON AREA, WETUMPKA AIRPORT, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people were injured last night when a twin-engine aircraft crashed in an agricultural field near Staton Prison. The pilot walked away from the crash that happened shortly after 2200 hrs, said Elmore County Sheriff Bill Franklin. The aircraft came to rest upside-down and the passenger had to be cut from the aircraft by rescue personnel. Both the pilot and passenger received minor injuries. The pilot had reported engine trouble as he was approaching Wetumpka Airport. The pair were traveling from Alexander City to Wetumpka, Franklin said. The crash is being investigated by the Federal Aviation Administration.



**CRASH, TULIP CITY AIRPORT AREA, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated Mar 7, states: A small aircraft on a trip that began in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., crashed near Tulip City Airport, badly injuring two of the three people on board, police said. The crash happened around 2050 yesterday, said Holland police spokesman Len Quist. Authorities said the aircraft, a single-engine Beech J35 built in 1958, was trying to land when it crashed in an Allegan County cornfield about 100 yards short of the runway. It then hurtled across a street before stopping nose-first in a roadside ditch. The pilot and a male front-seat passenger suffered head injuries and were flown by helicopter to Spectrum Health Butterworth Campus, a Grand Rapids hospital. They remained in critical condition this morning, said hospital spokesman Bruce Rossman. The aircraft's owner, Mark Murphy, of Ohio, said that the pilot was Eric Stam, 59, of Holland, Michigan, owner of Boat Services Inc. Murphy identified the male passenger as Henry Reest, 66, also of Holland. Federal Aviation Administration officials were expected to begin their investigation today. Stam, who is licensed to fly single-engine aircraft, flew yesterday from Fort Lauderdale to Anderson, S.C., then on to Holland, Murphy said.

**CRASH, WANAKA AREA, NEW ZEALAND**

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people died when their helicopter crashed in steep terrain in Mt Aspiring National Park, near Wanaka this morning. The Robinson 22 crashed near Homestead Peak, west of Lake Wanaka, at an altitude of about 1500 metres before 1100. John Aspinall of Mt Aspiring Station said staff at Wanaka Aerodrome called him this morning to confirm a fire in the park which had been reported by an aircraft flying in the area. Mr Aspinall said he drove about five kilometres up the valley from his property and was able to confirm the fire through binoculars. It was not until the Department of Conservation was notified and flew over the site that they realised the fire was from the wreckage of a helicopter, he said. Mr Aspinall said the site of the crash was on a ridge, in steep terrain, which then dropped away to a gorge. "There is only one way they will be able to retrieve the wreckage and bodies and that is with helicopters," he said. Recovery operations may be hampered by strong wind in the area but flying conditions had been "ideal" at the time of the crash, he said. Police said they believed the helicopter was on a private flight.

**D-EIOI**

London, Mar 9 — Mooney M-20K, D-EIOI, was destroyed following a loss of control in flight near Hohnstein, Sachsen, Germany, on Mar 6. The pilot was killed.

**EMERGENCY LANDING AT KEFLAVIK AIRPORT, ICELAND**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: An Icelandair B757 aircraft with 150 passengers on board, was forced to return to Keflavik Airport yesterday due to damage sustained from a lightning strike. The incident occurred five minutes after it took off from the base, leaving the aircraft with substantial damage to its on-board radar equipment and nose, reports Iceland Review. When the aircraft landed, the Keflavik Airport Fire Department was on standby in case of emergency. However, the landing went smoothly and all passengers were able to leave for New York, their initial destination, several hours later on a different aircraft.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, BALIKPAPAN AREA, INDONESIA**

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated Mar 4, states: Sudden trouble with its rear popeller forced a helicopter belonging to IAT (Indonesia Air Transport) to make an emergency landing in the sea off Balikpapan last Wednesday (Mar 1) morning, an IAT spokesman said. All six people on board the aircraft were able to save themselves on a life-raft ejected from the helicopter, Tony Hadi, IAT operations manager, said yesterday. The survivors were later picked up by a tug boat from the Bekapai offshore oil rig operated by French oil and gas company PT BP Migas-Total E and F Indonesia which was located only three miles from the location of the helicopter's emergency landing. The helicopter which had been rented by the French company was still airworthy, Hadi said. The six survivors who included the helicopter's pilot were first taken to the Bekapai oil rig before being flown to Balikpapan's Sepinggan Airport and further to a local hospital for medical examinations. The ill-fated helicopter was recovered from the emergency landing location on the same day by IAT which has been operating in East Kalimantan since 1972.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, PIARCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TRINIDAD**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: American Airlines Boeing 757 jet was yesterday forced to make an emergency landing at Port of Spain Piarco International Airport in Trinidad. Reports indicate that the aircraft, with 188 passengers and six crew members, landed safely at 1741 hrs. However the airline's officials say American Airlines Flight 166-A, from Piarco to Miami, left Trinidad at about 1654 hrs, adding that soon after takeoff the pilot radioed back that there was a smoky smell in the cockpit. The aircraft made an immediate turnaround and headed back to Piarco for an emergency landing. The local fire services were alerted, and emergency appliances were deployed at the airport within a matter of minutes.

**EMERGENCY LANDINGS, MID-CONTINENT AIRPORT, WICHITA, KANSAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated Mar 6, states: Three emergency landings at Mid-Continent Airport this weekend (Mar 4/5) have prompted Atlantic Southeast Airlines to ground an aircraft for inspection. All three flights were Delta, operated by Atlantic Southeast. Two of the emergency landings were by the same aircraft on different days. The airline is inspecting the aircraft's flaps to see what went wrong. Until it has a cause of the problem, it says the aircraft will stay on the ground. No one was hurt in any of the emergency landings. Mid-Continent's runways are long enough that pilots in all three emergency landings were able to bring the aircraft to a stop on the ground.

**HK-2496**

London, Mar 8 — Bell 206B3 helicopter, HK-2496, owned and operated by Helicargo Ltda, at Enrique Olaya Herrera Airport, near Medellin, Colombia, was destroyed when it crashed near Mutata, Colombia, at approximately 0725, EST, Feb 24. The pilot and three passengers were killed.

**INCIDENT, GUERNSEY AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM**

Guernsey, Mar 9 — A freight aircraft overshot Guernsey airport yesterday. The aircraft was removed pm., Mar 8. — Lloyd's Agents.

**N5601C**

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Hawaii All three people on board an air ambulance twin-engine Cessna are dead after the aircraft crashed into the parking lot of a car dealership yesterday on the island of Maui. Nobody on the ground was hurt. A spokesman for Hawaii's Transportation Department says the aircraft was about to land at an airport to pick up a patient when the crash happened. The National Transportation Safety Board will be investigating.

London, Mar 9 — Cessna 414A (Chancellor) N5601C crashed near Kahului, Hawaii, at 0513, Mar 9, while on a flight from Honolulu, HI, to Kahului. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were killed.

**N9178X**

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The pilot of a Cessna 182D (Skylane) (N9178X) which crashed last week was on his cell phone before he clipped a high-tension line, sending the aircraft into a fatal tumble, the National Transportation Safety Board reported. Benjamin R. Hickin was talking by cell phone to a friend who was driving a tractor trailer on Interstate 81 on Feb 23 when "the aircraft struck power lines, and subsequently impacted the

ground,” the NTSB said in a preliminary report. An examination of the burned wreckage by Federal Aviation Administration investigators “did not reveal any pre-impact malfunctions,” the report said. FAA regulations prohibit the pilot’s use of a cell phone only when an aircraft is using instrumentation, a spokeswoman said today. Skies were clear at the time of the crash and Hickin was flying visually. Hickin had taken off from Waynesboro’s Eagles Nest Airport and was apparently returning to the airport. A witness told police the aircraft circled at treetop level three times, then crashed. Virginia State Police 1st Sgt Jeff Pearson said Hickin was attempting to fly within sight of the truck driver. “We have no information that would lead us to believe there was a medical or mechanical situation,” he said.

#### **XB-BID**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people are dead and two others are wounded after a small plane crash in Georgetown. The plane cleared the southern boundary of the Georgetown Airport only to crash near Lakeway Drive. Witnesses at the airport say they could hear the engine of the small Cessna sputtering as it tried to take off. The plane broke apart on impact killing two of the people on board. Witnesses at the scene came to the aid of two other people who were injured in the crash. “There’s not much left of the plane, it broke up on impact. Witnesses saw it go down shortly thereafter,” Georgetown PIO Keith Hutchinson said. The pilot is one of the people who died.

London, Mar 7 — Cessna 182 XB-BID crashed near Georgetown, Texas, at 1715, Mar 4, following take-off from Georgetown. The aircraft was destroyed. Two of the four persons on board were killed and two were seriously injured.

#### **YV-1149C**

London, Mar 7 — Cessna 208B Grand Caravan YV-1149C operator SASCA - Servicios Aeronauticos Sucre, departed Porlamar, Venezuela, at 1509, Mar 5 on a flight to Canaima. On board were two crew and 11 Czech tourists. Unspecified problems forced the crew to carry out an emergency landing near Arecuna. The aircraft overturned during the attempted landing in a field. There were no fatalities. The aircraft was “written off.”

## **Product Recalls**



#### **AUTOMATIC TWISTLOCKS ON CONTAINER VESSELS**

London, Mar 7 — The loss of 400-500 containers in heavy weather in northern European waters has prompted MacGregor to replace

thousands of fully automatic twistlocks used to secure the deck stacks onboard containerships. The key supplier of container lashing equipment says that the move is “precautionary” and advises that none of its twistlocks have been involved in the incidents affecting a number of vessels worldwide. During high-profile incidents in Europe last month, ships operated by Maersk and CMA CGM lost 250 containers in the space of two weeks. Market leader MacGregor, which introduced the fully automatic twistlock some 18 months ago, is to replace about 70,000 of the cargo securing devices with proven semi-automatic twistlocks for customers who have been supplied with the newer equipment. A further 100,000 units which have been manufactured will not now be sold. Jens Fuge, sales manager, lashing systems for the company said that the replacement programme was precautionary, as a preliminary review of the incidents, which all occurred last month, indicated that all the ships concerned were using fully automatic twistlocks between their container corner castings. Although there had been no reported failures of MacGregor equipment in the various incidents, the review had also indicated that the design itself, in which a single latch was employed, might have failed to lock together containers which were not precisely the same dimensions. A similar design was used by a number of different manufacturers which had fully automatic twistlocks on the market. Classification society Germanischer Lloyd has reacted to the losses by issuing an amendment to its Container Securing Manual specifying that visual confirmation of positive latching of all four twistlocks on all containers would be required, which would be difficult and negate any advantages claimed for the fully automatic equipment. There has already been some reluctance to use the fully automatic twistlocks, as, unlike their semi-automatic predecessors, they could not be used for vertical tandem lifts of two containers together. The operators who had gone over to fully automatic equipment, Mr Fuge said, were relatively small in number, while most major customers had stayed with the semi-automatic twistlocks. Two types of twistlock, the ALC-2 and ALC-2/1, were being withdrawn by MacGregor. The company pointed out that its affiliate, All Set Marine Lashings, is in the final stage of developing a new type of automatic twistlock, of a symmetrical design, which is expected to address the issues raised about the earlier models. It is expected that this new device will be approved and available during the final quarter of this year.

#### **MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Mitsubishi Fuso & Bus Corp. told the transport ministry today they will recall vehicles that

may have defects. Mitsubishi Fuso’s recall involves about 21,000 trucks. Mitsubishi Fuso said in its report submitted to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport that seatbelt buckles in the Fuso Fighter medium-sized truck, made between September 2003 and last month, may be prone to cracking.

#### **NISSAN MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE**

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated Mar 4, states: Nissan is recalling some 466,000 of its X-Trail worldwide due to a potentially defective fuel inlet pipe. According to Nissan’s recall, an ‘inappropriate’ pipe coating could result in a rusty refueling pipe (primarily in 2000-2004 models), causing a gas leak. Thus far, the automaker has received word of 49 defective pipes, but no injuries have resulted. Globally, the recall affects about 177,000 European and 142,000 Japanese X-Trails, with the rest being sold elsewhere.

#### **SUZUKI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Suzuki Motor Corp. told the transport ministry today they will recall vehicles that may have defects. Suzuki’s recall covers some 7,600 sport-utility vehicles made by General Motors Corp. of the United States. Suzuki said in its report to the ministry that it will recall Chevrolet Trail Blazer vehicles made by GM and imported by the Japanese automaker between October 1991 and July 1998 because of possible fluid leakage from pipes corroded by battery-related leakage.

## **Port Conditions**



#### **ITALY**

Genoa, Mar 6 — Port situation: Genoa: No vessels awaiting berths. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. Savona: One vessel waiting for special berths. — Lloyd’s Agents.

#### **PANAMA CANAL**

Balboa, Mar 3 — Despite significant effort, the Canal has not been unable to reduce delays due to consistent high arrivals at both ends of the waterway. The current backlog is 55 vessels, with delays for non-booked vessels running in excess of 3 days. The booking system is at full level of utilisation and with the present situation, only a very few of the top ranked customers are being successful in securing third period bookings. Expected arrivals for tomorrow and Sunday (Mar 5) exceed available capacity and any improvement in conditions is not likely to occur until sometime towards the end of next

week, assuming a drop in traffic allows this to happen. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SOLOMON ISLANDS**  
See under "Labour Disputes."

**SYRIA**  
Lattakia, Mar 4 — The waiting period for Lattakia port is currently 24 hours and for Tartous it is five days. — Lloyd's Agents.

**Port Delays**

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbots Point	07-Mar-2006	Coal: 9 vessels due by 25/3; no delays expected.
Brisbane	07-Mar-2006	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 4 vessels due by 31/3; up to 1 day's berthing delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Dalrymple Bay	07-Mar-2006	Coal: DBCT berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 3 vessels due by 10/3; DBCT berth 2: 2 vessels waiting; 2 vessels due by 23/3; DBCT berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 2 vessels due by 10/3; 4 vessels waiting, not scheduled; 16 vessels due by 23/3.
Dampier	07-Mar-2006	Iron ore: Parker Point A berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 9 vessels due by 15/3; Parker Point berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 4 vessels due by 11/3; Parker Point berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 5 vessels waiting; 12 vessels due by 13/3.
Esperance	06-Mar-2006	Mar 1: Grain: 5 vessels due by 24/3, 3 to load wheat, 2 other grain; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Mar 6: Iron ore: 1 vessel due 18/3; no delays expected.
Geraldton Gladstone	07-Mar-2006	Grain: 1 vessel waiting to load wheat; 2 vessels due by 20/3, both to load wheat; no delays expected. Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 1 berthed and waiting, 26 waiting, 47 vessels due by 6/4; shiploader No. 2 will be shut down for maintenance from 3-7/4; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed and waiting, 3 waiting; 11 vessels due by 20/4.
Hay Point	07-Mar-2006	Coal: Berth 1: loading operations due to resume by mid-April; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 4 vessels due by 12/3; 2 vessels due by 25/3, not yet scheduled for berthing.
Newcastle	06-Mar-2006	Mar 1: One vessel due 20/3 to load wheat; no delays expected. Mar 6: Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 3 vessels berthed and loading, 10 waiting; 51 vessels due by 24/3; 4-8 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 10 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 20 vessels due by 26/3; 3-7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 4 vessels off port awaiting coal.
Port Hedland	07-Mar-2006	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 3 vessels waiting; 3 vessels due by 13/3; "B" berth: 3 vessels waiting; 4 vessels due by 16/3; shiploader will be shut down for 48 hours for maintenance ca.13/3; 8 other vessels due by 27/3, no eta received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 2 vessels due by 15/3; shiploader maintenance from 06.00 hrs. 7/3 to 06.00 hrs. 9/3; "D" berth: vessel berthed and loading; 6 vessels due by 13/3; Cockatoo Island: 2 vessels due by 23/3.
Port Kembla	06-Mar-2006	Mar 1: Grain: 2 vessels due by 14/3, 1 to load unspecified grain, 1 barley. Mar 6: Coal: 1 vessel waiting at anchor; 12 vessels due by 8/4; no delays expected.
Port Walcott	07-Mar-2006	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 13 vessels due by 16/3; shippers advise that there will be a shiploader maintenance shutdown this week.
Whyalla	07-Mar-2006	Iron ore: 5 vessels due by 17/4; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
<b>Azerbaijan</b>		
Apsheron	06-Mar-2006	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 2 vessels berthed, of which 1 completed discharging crude oil, 1 discharging crude oil; 1 empty vessel anchored; 1 vessel due 6/3 to discharge crude oil.
<b>Bulgaria</b>		
Bourgas	06-Mar-2006	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 containers, 1 metals), 8 discharging (1 containers, 1 lead concentrate, 1 soya beans, 2 metals, 2 salt, 1 billets); 2 vessels in roads, of which 1 to load equipment, 1 to discharge coal; 11 vessels due, of which 4 to load (1 trucks, 1 equipment, 1 pig-iron, 1 containers), 7 to discharge (1 fuels, 1 billets, 1 containers, 1 metals, 1 iron ore pellets, 1 iron ore, 1 equipment).
Varna	06-Mar-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 26 February - 5 March: Thirty-four vessels in port operating of which 19 loading (1 scrap, 2 chamotte/kaolin, 4 bulk maize, 2 bulk sulphuric acid, 5 soda, 1 bulk clinker, 1 bulk cement, 1 bulk wheat, 1 bulk coal, 1 sunflower seeds), 10 discharging (2 bulk coal, 3 raw phosphate, 1 petcoke, 1 steel packets, 1 bulk gypsum, 2 equipment in packing cases), 5 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.
<b>Chile</b>		
Antofagasta	06-Mar-2006	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 20 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Arica	06-Mar-2006	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 19 vessels due this week.
Iquique	06-Mar-2006	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 19 vessels due this week.



## Port Conditions

Puerto Montt	06-Mar-2006	Two vessels at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 9 vessels due this week.
Punta Arenas	06-Mar-2006	Five vessels at terminal, 2 berths vacant; 15 vessels due this week.
San Antonio	06-Mar-2006	Six vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 22 vessels due this week.
San Vicente	06-Mar-2006	Six vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 22 vessels due this week.
Valparaiso	06-Mar-2006	Five vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 4 vessels anchored; 21 vessels due this week.
<b>Cyprus</b>		
Larnaca	07-Mar-2006	Two conventional vessels discharging at berth; 1 conventional vessel due 8/3; no delays expected.
Limassol	07-Mar-2006	Five container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 7 conventional vessels discharging at berth, 1 Ro/Ro discharging/loading at berth; 5 container vessels, 5 conventional vessels, 1 passenger vessel due 8/3; no delays expected.
<b>Egypt</b>		
Adabiya	06-Mar-2006	Eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 reefer.
Alexandria	06-Mar-2006	Thirty-eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 28 general cargo, 5 bulk carriers, 4 tankers, 1 container vessel; 17 vessels dry-docked; 22 vessels at inner anchorage, 12 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	06-Mar-2006	Twenty-one vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 14 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier, 1 reefer, 5 containers; 2 vessels at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage.
Dekhelia	06-Mar-2006	Nine vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 8 bulk carriers, 1 tanker; 1 vessel at outer anchorage.
Port Said	06-Mar-2006	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 4 containers.
Suez	06-Mar-2006	Ten vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 3 reefers, 4 passenger vessels; 3 tugs, 1 vessel dry-docked.
Suez Canal	06-Mar-2006	Twenty-six vessels transiting Northbound, 31 Southbound.
<b>Estonia</b>		
Tallinn	06-Mar-2006	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 1 coal vessel loading at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 1 vessel due, with 5 days berthing delay expected.
<b>India</b>		
Kolkata	06-Mar-2006	10 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading LDO, 6 vessels discharging (Containers-2, Logs-3, Edible Oil), 3 vessel waiting to load General Cargo; 1 vessel working at midstream to discharging Crude; 3 vessels under repair; 2 vessels waiting to sail; 1 passenger vessel due.
Haldia	06-Mar-2006	11 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading Iron Ore, 6 vessels discharging (POL, LPG, Net Coke, Coking Coal, Fertilizer, Crude), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth (1 to discharge, 1 to load; 7 vessels due (POL-2, Containers-3, Petroleum Oil, Thermal Coal).
Paradip	06-Mar-2006	6 vessels operating at berth of which 5 loading (Iron Ore-2, Thermal Coal, Chrome Concentrate, Chrome Ore), 1 vessel discharging N.C.Coal; 1 vessel awaiting berth to load; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge.
Visakhapatnam	06-Mar-2006	14 vessels operating at berth of which 8 loading (Steel-3, Soya, C.P.Coke, Thermal Coal, Iron ore-2), 5 vessels discharging (Steam Coal, POL & Crude-2, Coking Coal, Urea); 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 6 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (5 to discharge, 1 to load); 1 vessel under repair (MV Chin Shwe Raw at HSY Jetty which was collide with MV Uttar Kasi); 37 vessels due (Iron ore-3, Steel Cargo-2, Alumina, Manganese Ore, General Cargo, Containers, Granite Blocks, Soya & Food Grains-3, Crude & Product Tankers-4, S.Acid, Rock Phosphate-2, Coking Coal-5, Container-2, Styrene Monomer-2, Met Coke, Lam Coke, General Cargo, C.P Coke, L.P.Gas-4).
Chennai	06-Mar-2006	14 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (IOL, Furnace Oil), 8 vessels discharging (S.Plates, MOP, C.P.Oil, S.Coal-2, Rock Phosphate, OrthoxyIn, Crude Oil), 4 vessels loading and discharging (Granite Blocks/Project Cargo-2, Container-2); 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge; 6 vessels due (Containers-3, Supply, S.Coal, Project Cargo/ Granite Block).
Tuticorin	06-Mar-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading General Cargo, 6 vessels discharging (Timber Logs-2, Project Cargo, Rock Phosphate, Copper Concentrate, Thermal Coal); 1 vessel awaiting berth to load; 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 1 vessel (MV Shahad) at the anchorage after completion of cement loading operations for repair work.
Cochin	06-Mar-2006	5 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading HSD; 2 vessels discharging (Sulphur, Soda Ash); 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth to load and discharge.
New Mangalore	06-Mar-2006	6 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading (Iron Ore Fines-2, POL Product), 3 vessels discharging (POL Product, POL Crude, LPG); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage (3 to discharge, 1 to load); 9 vessels due (POL Crude-2, Ammonia, Iron Ore Fines-2, POL Product-2, Timber, Soya Bean Oil).
Mormugao	06-Mar-2006	1 vessel operating at berth and discharging HSD & MS; 3 vessels working at mid stream (2 to load, 1 to discharge); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 4 vessels under repairs and dry docked; 10 vessels due (Coking Coal, Met Coke, Iron ore-8).
Mumbai	06-Mar-2006	15 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading Bagged Rice, 10 vessels discharging (Bulk Salt, Rock Phosphate, Steel/General Cargo, Steel Pipes, Steel/ Machines, Steel/General Cargo, Steel Cargo, POL-3), 4 vessels loading and discharging (Containers, Steel/General Cargo/Containers/Rice, Containers/Wood Pulp/General Cargo, Steel/General Cargo/ Vehicle/ Containers); 1 vessels awaiting berth to discharge; 5 vessels under repairs; 5 vessels under arrest, 1 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 37 vessels due (Containers-5, Fertiliser (RM), General Cargo-31).
J.N.P.T.	06-Mar-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels discharging (RKO, RMQC(Project Cargo), 5 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 5 vessels awaiting berth to load and discharge; 5 Container vessels due.

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

## Port Conditions

Kandla	06-Mar-2006	15 vessels operating at berth of which 8 discharging (Ammonia, Other Liquids-3, Timber Logs, H.R.Coils, MOP, Machinery), 5 vessels loading (Agriculture Product-3, Cement, Rice); 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth to load; 5 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 3 to load); 1 vessels under repairs; 1 vessel under dry docked; 2 vessels waiting for dredging purpose.
Ennore	06-Mar-2006	2 vessels operating at berth and discharging Thermal Coal; 2 vessels due (MT Agawam(POL Products), MV Rani Padmini(Thermal coal).
<b>Israel</b>		
Ashdod	07-Mar-2006	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 14 vessels discharging at berth (10 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 4 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 22 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	07-Mar-2006	No labour problems. No vessels berthed, none waiting at anchorage; no vessels due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	07-Mar-2006	No labour problems. Six vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 5 bulkers), 7 vessels loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 2 car carriers); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (1 containers, 1 tanker); 6 vessels under repairs/drydocked; 17 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
<b>Kazakhstan</b>		
Aktau	06-Mar-2006	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, 1 completed loading crude oil, 1 loading crude oil, 1 loading unknown cargo; 13 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargoes.
<b>Pakistan</b>		
Karachi	07-Mar-2006	Four vessels loading at berth (1 rice, 1 cement, 1 naphtha, 1 MOL), 5 discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 steel coils, 2 sugar, 1 S.B. meal), 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 MOL, 3 containers), 5 waiting at anchorage to discharge (3 containers, 1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil); no vessels dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 2 vessels due (1 general cargo, 1 phosphate), with no delays expected.
Port Qasim	07-Mar-2006	Two rice vessels loading at berth, 2 vessels discharging at berth (1 iron ore, 1 wheat), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at QICT berth; 1 rice vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 1 wheat vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge.
<b>Poland</b>		
Gdansk	06-Mar-2006	Four vessels loading at berth (2 coal, 1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 3 discharging at berth (1 bulker, 1 general cargo, 1 tanker); 9 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 24 vessels due.
Gdynia	06-Mar-2006	Three vessels loading at berth (1 coal, 1 grain, 1 general cargo), 4 discharging at berth (1 bulker, 1 general cargo, 2 grain); 16 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 48 vessels due.
<b>Russia</b>		
Novorossiysk	06-Mar-2006	Eighteen vessels in port operating, of which 15 loading (1 WRIC, 1 bulk cement, 1 HBI, 1 slabs, 2 bulk NPK, 1 pipes/coils, 1 copper, 1 steel billets, 1 bulk urea, 1 coils, 1 cellulose, 2 vegetable oil, 1 wheat), 3 discharging bulk sugar; 14 vessels waiting in roads of which 13 to load (1 pipes/tin plate/steel sheets, 1 coils/steel billets, 2 bulk urea, 1 bulk cement, 2 coils, 1 wheat, 1 bulk NPK, 1 steel billets, 1 steel billets/H-beams/steel sheets/coils, 1 aluminium, 1 beetroot), 1 to discharge coils; 90 vessels due, of which 83 to load (5 vegetable oil, 1 HBI, 2 bulk ammonium nitrate, 6 aluminium, 13 coils, 14 steel billets, 1 H-beams, 1 steel billets/H-beams/steel sheets/coils, 5 DRI, 2 steel sheets, 1 slabs/rails, 1 steel sheets/coils, 5 slabs, 2 scrap, 3 bulk NPK, 1 beetroot, 1 WRIC/steel sheets, 1 bulk cement, 2 pipes, 2 steel billets/WRIC, 1 pig-iron, 2 cellulose, 2 bulk urea, 1 soda ash, 4 copper, tin plate, 1 lead, 2 diesel oil), 6 to discharge (1 debars, 1 construction materials, 2 bulk sugar, 1 vegetable oil, 1 coils), 1 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 1 tanker berthed loading crude oil; 8 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 5 tankers due, all to load, of which 4 crude oil, 1 fuel oil.
<b>Spain</b>		
Bilbao	06-Mar-2006	Twenty-six vessels operating (7 tankers, 19 other vessels), of which 6 loading, 14 discharging, 6 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	06-Mar-2006	Twenty-nine vessels in port operating, of which 2 loading (1 steel products, 1 bulk fertiliser), 25 discharging (19 steel products, 2 machinery, 3 vehicles, 1 fruit), 2 loading/discharging general cargo; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>		
Colombo	06-Mar-2006	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Nine container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 16 vessels discharging at berth (9 containers/feeders, 2 bulk palm oil, 1 bagged soya bean meal, 1 bulk fertiliser, 3 bulk cement); 2 container/feeder vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 6 vessels dry-docked, 1 at new tanker berth; 7 vessels due (6 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement), with no delays expected.



## Port Conditions

### Turkmenistan

Aladja	06-Mar-2006	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed loading crude oil.
Okarem	06-Mar-2006	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed loading crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	06-Mar-2006	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, of which 1 loading heating oil, 1 discharging crude oil.

### Ukraine

Ilichevsk	06-Mar-2006	Ten vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (5 steel products, 1 sunflower seed oil, 1 barley, 1 gasoil), 1 discharging sunflower seed oil, 1 loading/discharging containers; 4 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 2 fuel oil, 1 steel products, sulphur; 16 vessels due, of which 10 to load (8 steel products, 2 sunflower seed oil), 6 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	06-Mar-2006	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (5 steel, 1 sunflower beans/husks, 1 carbamide), 1 discharging equipment/containers, 1 discharging/loading containers/fire-clay; 2 vessels in roads, of which 1 to load steel, 1 to discharge equipment; 36 vessels due, of which 33 to load (21 steel, 1 pitch, 7 coal, 2 sulphur, 1 fire-clay, 1 bran), 3 to discharge equipment.
Odessa	06-Mar-2006	Twenty-three vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (8 metal, 1 oil, 1 corn, 1 sunflower seeds, 1 pig-iron), 6 discharging (1 citrus, 1 bananas, 1 sugar, 1 general cargo, 1 luggage, 1 sand), 4 loading/discharging containers, 1 passenger vessel; 12 vessels in roads, of which 6 to load (4 metal, 1 wheat, 1 pig-iron), 3 to discharge (2 sugar, 1 fish), 3 to load/discharge containers; 80 vessels due, of which 44 to load (31 metal, 4 pig-iron, 2 ferro alloy, 2 timber, 1 soya beans, 1 wheat, 1 oil, 1 coal, 1 pitch/coal), 10 to discharge (1 metal, 3 vegetables, 2 citrus, 1 luggage, 2 general cargo, 1 unknown cargo), 26 to discharge/load containers.

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