

March 24 2006

Hyundai Fortune 'firework' blaze to spark record insurance claim

SvitzerWijismuller battling to save hull of burning containership, write James Brewer, Mike Grinter and Helen Hill — Friday March 24 2006

A RECORD total insurance claim affecting all the world's main cargo markets is shaping up from the Hyundai Fortune Blaze.

Underwriters said it was too early to estimate claims, but one said the overall exposure would be "massive".

A host of cargo recovery and legal experts are being instructed by insurers in London, the US, Europe, Malaysia, China, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and other markets.

The overall bill is expected to be much higher than that which followed the 2002 fire on the Hanjin Pennsylvania.

With more than 5,000 containers, the Hyundai Fortune is a bigger ship, but a complicating factor is that the cargo was supplied by feederships.

Spectacular

Even the insurance market's most experienced practitioners were taken aback by the spectacular blaze which engulfed the ship's stern some 120 miles east of Aden, 60 miles offshore.

Lloyd's Open Form was signed with Wijismuller Salvage amid hopes that the vessel, which was bound for Europe, could be saved.

A key question yesterday was whether Aden or any neighbouring port would

accept the stricken ship, as a port of refuge, a move which might create practical problems for other shipping in the region.

An initial theory as to the cause of the conflagration pointed to seven containers of fireworks. A legal department spokesman at Hyundai Merchant Marine said that the company was not prepared to say that the containers were the actual source of the explosion, but they were located in the area where the explosion took place.

Staff were still combing the manifest to see if any other dangerous cargoes were located in the same area.

Seven cargoes of fireworks belonged to a Hong Kong manufacturer. The containers were destined for Hamburg and Le Havre.

Wijismuller's firefighting and salvage team were still battling hard to dampen the flames.

As Lloyd's List went to press SvitzerWijismuller Salvage had been tackling the blaze on the Hyundai Fortune since yesterday afternoon.

When the first fire-fighting tug had arrived on scene, containers in front of the accommodation block were also being consumed in the flames.

But Hendrick Land of SvitzerWijismuller Salvage said there had been no worsening of the situation since then.

Three more fire-fighting tugs are due on site tomorrow.

It was too early to say whether fireworks had caused the explosion, he stressed.

A Wijismuller team had flown from the Ijmuiden-based firm on a chartered aircraft to Yemen and had boarded a tug in Aden. They were the first to arrive.

Release

Wijismuller also had a tug working for the Salalah Port Authority, which had agreed to release it for the salvage operation. This vessel is capable of firefighting to the tune of 2,500 cu m an hour.

The ocean-going salvage tug SmitWijs Rotterdam is proceeding at full speed towards the location with an estimated time of arrival of three to four days.

Other salvage and firefighting equipment is also planned to be moved in by air shortly, while other salvage experts will be brought in from SvitzerWijismuller Salvage offices in South Korea, Singapore and South Africa.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
AMUR 2525	general	RUS	RS	3,086	3,152	1988	Contacted by bulk <i>Ivan Makarin</i> at St. Petersburg Mar 4. Arrived Tallinn Shipyard Mar 12, where ETC repairs is five days.
BANG XING I	bulker	PAN	—	11,641	19,816	1970	Sank in lat 27 20N, long 125 38E, Mar 13. Numerous logs from vessel adrift in the area.
BAO CHENG	general	KHM	—	2,869	4,114	1974	Encountered stormy weather 13 miles off Mai-Liao, Taiwan Mar 12. Water entered engine-room causing power failure. All 15 crew rescued by Coast Guard. Vessel drifting in lat 22 31N, long 119 18E. Grounded. Towed Kaohsiung Mar 15.
DEANNA	general	PRK	—	1,069	1,220	1966	Reported water ingress in lat 35 45.2N, long 27 14.4E, Mar 15. Anchored Karpathos Island awaiting inspection.
DIAMANT	trawler	RUS	—	1,113	615	2002	Sank in lat 54 46.5N, long 154 44.5E, Mar 11 due hole in hull.
EAST CARRIER	general	KHM	—	2,742	3,728	1967	In collision with a fishing vessel at Taicang Mar 10. Anchored at CJK anchorage.
GULF QUEEN	general	PRK	—	786	1,200	1966	Reported "dead" in the water in Persian Gulf Mar 6. Apparently engine equipment extremely degraded. Crack in hull & flooding in some of vessel's main spaces. To be towed to Iraq.
GUNVOR MAERSK	container	DIS	(AB) ABS	97,933	115,700	2005	Lost power and drifted back to its berth, contacting a quayside crane at Felixstowe Mar 13. A few scratches sustained. The crane will take months to repair. Arrived Felixstowe Mar 13 and sailed Mar 14.
HEBEI MERCY	bulk/oil	HKG	NV	44,921	76,279	1985	Had major oil leak in the engine-room, causing SOLAS detention to be applied. Arrived Tacoma Mar 12. Reported Mar 15 no longer under detention. Survey scheduled for Mar 20.
IRAN BAYAN	general	IRN	LR	9,888	16,130	1974	Unable to heave up forward port side anchor at Chittagong Mar 13 due shackle fouled with mooring buoy. Engineers working on problem, which cleared Mar 14.
PIGEON POINT	chem	PAN	NK	29,654	48,356	2005	In contact with two moored barges while outbound at Port Arthur Mar 10. Sustained scrapes to starboard hull. One barge sustained minor damage. Subsequently arrived Houston Mar 12.
SALVATORE LAURO	ro-ro	ITA	—	447	—	1944	Reported lost while in tandem tow of tug <i>Saint James</i> in the area of Gerolimena, South Peloponnes, where sank Mar 12.
SANKO BREEZE	crude oil tanker	PAN	(LR)	56,172	105,721	2005	Grounded at Mile Marker 128, Lower Mississippi, Mar 10. Refloated by 3 tugs and proceeded to anchor at Bonnie Carie Slipway, Anchorage.
SUPERFERRY 9	ro-ro	PHL	AB ABS	7,269	4,546	1986	Developed steering problems off Balbagon island, central Philippines Mar 13. Stranded for several hours. Towed by <i>Superferry 2</i> , to Bredco Port, where arrived Mar 14.
TY ORCHID	general	KOR	KR	4,391	6,803	1999	Sank in lat 39 36N, long 124 02E, Mar 9.
YUAN DONG 101	bulker	CHN	—	9,765	16,631	1976	Reported Mar 14 in collision with <i>Eastern Dragon</i> at Chang Jinang Kou. Damaged on port side forepart.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AEGEAN SUN (Greece)

London, Mar 10 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Ro/ro *Aegean Sun* completed a Class inspection and was cleared to proceed on its normal schedule Mar 9.

Piraeus, Mar 13 — Ro/ro *Aegean Sun* which struck the pier at Chios port on Mar 8, sailed during the evening of Mar 9, with a destination of Piraeus. — Lloyd's Agents.

AL MANARA (St. Kitts-Nevis)

Seychelles, Mar 16 — General cargo *Al Manara* is still anchored at Port Victoria outer anchorage. The crew's welfare is being looked after by the Seychelles Government and local NGOs. The owners, apparently an Iraqi based in Dubai, has yet not arrived in Seychelles. The vessel has accrued expenses, such as towage fees and port dues which have to be settled within 14 days or the Seychelles Port Authority will ask the court to put a lien on it. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALEXANDROUPOLIS (Malta)

London, Mar 9 — Bulk *Alexandroupolis* arrived Amsterdam on Mar 8.

AMADA (North Korea)

Piraeus, Mar 10 — General cargo *Amada* remains at Kalamata port. ETD unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

AMIRAL AKDENIZ (Libya)

London, Mar 10 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1053, UTC: General cargo *Amiral Akdeniz* is still anchored in Skoutari Bay undergoing repairs, ETC not known.

London, Mar 11 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1100, UTC: General cargo *Amiral Akdeniz* is still anchored in Skoutari Bay.

London, Mar 14 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0945, UTC: General cargo *Amiral Akdeniz* remains at anchor in Skoutari Bay.

London, Mar 16 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1027, UTC: General cargo *Amiral Akdeniz* is still at anchor in Skoutari Bay.

AMUR 2525 (Russia)

Tallinn, Mar 14 — General cargo *Amur 2525* (3086 gt, built 1988), while on a loaded voyage from St. Petersburg to Hamburg, sustained damage to her stern and poop deck after being hit by bulk *Ivan Makarin* (14043 gt, built 1981) on Mar 4, shortly after disembarking pilot on the roads. *Amur 2525* arrived at Tallinn Shipyard on Mar 12 and is

currently undergoing repairs which are expected to take at least five days. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 14 — Bulk *Ivan Makarin* was reported passing Dover on Mar 11, on passage from St.Petersburg for New Orleans.

ANG PANGULO (Philippines)

Manila, Mar 15 — Yacht *Ang Pangulo* is still moored unrepaired at Keppel Shipyard, Batangas. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANGLIAN SOVEREIGN (U.K.)

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The master of anchor handling tug/supply *Anglian Sovereign*, which ran aground at Oxna, Scalloway, Sep 3, 2005, has pleaded guilty to being drunk in charge of the vessel. Peter Leask was more than three times over the legal alcohol limit. He also admitted two other charges, including spilling 84 tonnes of diesel oil into the sea after hitting rocks. Lerwick Sheriff Court heard that the repair and clean-up costs were more than £3m. Sentence has been deferred until next month for social inquiry reports. Port manager Jim Dickson said: "The *Anglian Sovereign* was the largest oil spill in UK waters since the *Braer*; fortunately the oil itself was diesel oil, which will evaporate and is light. We managed to recover more than half of it using skimmers and there was minimal damage to the environment." Wildlife in the area suffered from the spill and the vessel was so badly damaged a section had to be rebuilt.

ANTONIS A. (Panama)

Piraeus, Mar 15 — Chemical/oil carrier *Antonis A.* arrived Eleusis Feb 11 and is still in port undergoing repairs, ETD unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

APL PANAMA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: C.c. *APL Panama* stuck in the sand since last Christmas Day is finally free. The vessel, stripped of the containers that had been stacked above deck, floated away from the beach at 0441, today. Tugs pulled the 874-foot vessel free from the sand after a channel had been dredged close to the vessel. After the vessel was freed, the vessel was about two miles offshore in rough seas, held in place by tugs at its bow and stern. Mexican Navy vessels and helicopters remained nearby, as did a containment vessel to pick up any possible oil spills. "It's being taken to a safe anchorage for inspection," APL spokesman Mike Zampa said from the company's regional headquarters in Oakland. "There's no apparent damage to the cargo, no leaks or spills. There's an environmental team on standby to make sure we don't have any problems." The dredger *Francesco di Giorgio* had to be brought up from Nicaragua to dig a channel near the vessel after repeated

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attempts to pull her free with tugboats and other equipment failed.

London, Mar 11 — An APL service status report, dated Mar 10, states: C.c. *APL Panama* has been refloated. It was successfully recovered from shallow water near the port entrance at 0440, local time, today. . Currently the vessel is anchored in the Ensenada Roads undergoing damage inspection. That work is expected to take several days. Once inspection is completed, the vessel will be moved to port, where approximately 500 containers remaining on board will be discharged. We will notify you as soon as the port location is determined and your cargo is discharged. While there is some damage to the ship, propeller blades have been affected, for instance, no material leaks or spills have been observed and there are no signs of cargo damage. Reefer containers continue to receive power.

London, Mar 14 — An APL service status report, dated Mar 13, states: Following the refloating of c.c. *APL Panama*, APL has received the following communication from Richards Hogg Lindley, the general average collection agents: "With the successful refloating of the ship on Mar 10 the salvors have now advised that their security demand for cargo which has not yet been released has been reduced from 75% of CIF values to 60% of values. The general average cash deposit amount of 13% for uninsured cargo will remain for the time being until further information has been obtained. Any party who has provided salvage security in the amount of 75% has the option of reducing their security by application to Lloyd's for any security provided to them or to us if a cash deposit has been paid to us."

B.C. SAFARI (Canada)

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A fisherman is missing after 19-metre fishing *B.C. Safari* (63 gt, built 1972) sank in the waters off Qualicum Beach late yesterday afternoon, after the worst of a storm front had gone through the area. The wind was about 20 knots with four-foot seas when the vessel went down after taking on water. Dennis Komodo of the Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Victoria says the first vessel to respond to the Mayday arrived within half an hour of the distress call. "By the time that vessel arrived, the *B.C. Safari* had already foundered and there was no sign of the skipper of that vessel among the debris. There was a deployed life raft on the surface, but there was nobody inside it." The vessel is registered to the Stanley Fishing Company, based in Burnaby.

London, Mar 9 — Following received from Victoria BC RCC, timed 2215, UTC: Fishing *B.C. Safari* sank yesterday in 400 feet of water. One crew member still missing, feared dead.

London, Mar 10 — Fishing *B.C. Safari* sank in lat 49 23.00N, long 124 26.00W at 1713, PST, Mar 8.

BALTIC BETINA (Malta)

London, Mar 15 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: At 1115, local time, Mar 14, when departing Sandnes, general cargo *Baltic Betina* (2647 gt, built 1983) experienced blackout and made hard contact with the pier at the Port of Sandnes. Only minor damage to vessel and pier and the vessel continued after about 15 minutes, for Bergen.

BANG XING I (Panama)

London, Mar 13 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0635, UTC: Bulk *Bang Xing I*, H8CB, 11641 gt (ex *Bo Xing Hai*, 11641 gt, built 1970), cargo logs, sank in lat 27 20N, long 125 38E, this morning. All crew rescued by a vessel in area and being taken to Taiwan.

London, Mar 13 — Following navigation warning issued today: Numerous logs (from bulk *Bang Xing I*) adrift within three miles of lat 27 10.6N, long 125 32.6E, at 2248, UTC, Mar 12.

BAO CHENG (Cambodia)

Taipei, Mar 14 — According to the news, general cargo *Bao Cheng* (2869 gt, built 1974) departed China Mar 7 for Korea to load a cargo of minerals, then bound for Kaohsiung to discharge. At about 2100 hrs, Mar 12, the vessel encountered stormy weather, wind force around 8 to 9 (gale to strong gale), about 13 nautical miles off Mai-Liao port, Taiwan. Water broke the portholes and entered the engine-room resulting in a power failure. Immediately a rescue helicopter was launched by Taiwan Coast Guard at or around 2200 same day. Thereafter all 15 crew were safely rescued. It was reported by the vessel's master that the last situation of the vessel was drifting, the actual position unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 14 — Following received from Taipei RCC, timed 0220, UTC: General cargo *Bao Cheng* was in lat 22 31N, long 119 18E, at 0345, local time, today. A Coast Guard patrol vessel is nearby monitoring the situation. Tug *Ocean 9* is proceeding to assist.

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated Mar 13, states: Fifteen mainland crew members on board general cargo *Bao Cheng* were rescued yesterday after the vessel "ran aground" off Yunlin, southern Taiwan. The vessel from Liaoning, north-eastern China, loaded with minerals, was heading for Kaohsiung after passing South Korea, when water entered the vessel's cabin amid rough seas last night. The vessel then experienced mechanical failure and was faced with the danger of overturning. The Air Force sent a helicopter after receiving a distress signal and was able to rescue all 15 crew members by midnight. The crew members were sent to Chiayi Air Force base where they underwent medical examinations and were determined to be in sound condition.

London, Mar 15 — Following received from Taipei RCC, timed 0300, UTC: General cargo *Bao Cheng* was towed into Kaohsiung at 1320, UTC, yesterday.

Taipei, Mar 16 — General cargo *Bao Cheng* was berthed at Shen Yun Shipbuilding in Kaohsiung port at 1740, Mar 15 for repairs. The repair is expected to take about one week, then it will be shifted to Kaohsiung pier for cargo discharge. — Lloyd's Agents.

BARBAROS KIRAN (Turkey)

London, Mar 10 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, VA, timed 1531, UTC: Bulk *Barbaros Kiran* is presently in port at Norfolk, and an investigation is under way.

London, Mar 14 — Bulk *Barbaros Kiran* sailed Norfolk 1050, Mar 11, for Turkey.

BARGE ACCIDENT, SEVERN RIVER, ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Reported that all lanes are re-opened on the Severn River Bridge after the earlier barge incident. A runaway unmanned barge that drifted out of control and hit the Severn River Bridge has been removed by a tug. The unmanned barge drifted out of control today and lodged against a bridge on the Severn River near Annapolis, forcing the temporary closure of two bridges and snarling traffic along the busy U.S. 50 corridor. Crews are checking for structural damage on the bridge. The barge lodged between two piers on the bridge that carries U.S. 50 over the Severn River shortly after 1030 hrs, then partially broke loose as workers struggled to control it in the face of a stiff wind blowing down the river. Greg Shipley, a state police spokesman, said police were alerted to the problem about 1025 hrs and were able to clear the six-lane bridge of traffic before it was hit by the barge. Police closed a second bridge lower down the river, next to the Naval Academy, because of concern the barge might break loose and hit it as well. Chuck Gischlar, spokesman for the State Highway Administration, said there was no damage to the deck of the U.S. 50 bridge, but that it would take at least two hours after the barge was under control to inspect the substructure of the bridge for possible damage. It wasn't immediately clear how the barge got loose. Coast Guard investigators and the barge owner were headed to the area today, official said. Coast Guard spokesman Lt. Andrew Ely said the barge belongs to Langenfelder Marine Inc. of Stevensville and was loaded with rocks.

London, Mar 16 — A press report, dated today, states: The unmanned barge that hit the Severn River Bridge yesterday did not break free from its mooring, as initially reported, but dragged the mooring down the river with it, a U.S. Coast Guard investigator said yesterday. The 180-

foot barge was carrying more than 600 tons of rock and tree branches when it struck the bridge at 1032 yesterday, Lt. Connie L. Williamson of the Coast Guard said. U.S. 50 traffic was halted as officials inspected the bridge for structural damage, but the State Highway Administration determined that the bridge was safe and it was reopened two hours later. It is not clear why the barge dragged its mooring, but Williamson noted that high winds out of the northwest could have contributed. She said the wind speeds were at 22 knots with gusts of 28 knots. Langenfelder Marine, based in Stevensville, owns the barge and had leased it to Anderson Marine Construction, a Severna Park company, for shoreline construction work in Luce Creek, Williamson said. Langenfelder moored the barge at the mouth of the river Mar 6, Williamson said. The barge was too big to go into Luce Creek, so construction workers used a smaller vessel to ferry the materials to shore, Williamson said. Coast Guard officials expect their investigation to be complete by the end of the week. If a violation is found, either company could receive a civil penalty, usually a fine ranging from \$1,000 to \$32,500.

BARGE SUNK, DANUBE RIVER, SERBIA

See *BRP-SA-58*.

BETLE NO.3 (Japan)

Yokohama, Mar 10 — Reportedly a hydrofoil fitted on ferry *Beetle No.3* came off due to a shock of the strike against a submerged object. — Lloyd's Agents.

BETELGEUSE (Bulgaria)

Gibraltar, Mar 9 — Chem.tank *Betelgeuse* (2041 gt, built 1989) has been detained in Gibraltar by the Marine Administrator. The vessel sustained some damage to its hull while manoeuvring to go alongside the berth. According to the Marine Surveyor's report, the damage sustained affects the hull, impairing seaworthiness, an open gouge in wing, port cargo tank No. 2. — Gibraltar Port Authority. (Note — *Betelgeuse* arrived Gibraltar Mar 8 from Aveiro.)

Gibraltar, Mar 10 — Chem.tank *Betelgeuse* was released from detention today. It will be sailing for Algeiras for repairs. — Gibraltar Port Authority.

London, Mar 14 — Chem.tank *Betelgeuse* sailed Gibraltar 1550, Mar 10, for Algeiras.

BLACK SWAN (Bahamas)

Port Said, Mar 15 — Bulk *Black Swan* is still under arrest with no further news of its status. — Lloyd's Agents.

BRP-SA-58 (Bulgaria)

Belgrade, Mar 9 — Bulgarian barge *BRP-SA-58*, cargo 1,450 tonnes of coal, sank on the right side of River Danube, at km 944, near port of Kladovo, at 1820, Mar 4 in a depth of about 15-16 metres. Presently the

barge is marked with red buoy. Refloating of the barge not yet decided. Vessel *Stara Planina* is berthed in port of Kladovo, under investigation. — Lloyd's Agents.

Belgrade, Mar 15 — Barge *BRP-SA-58* is still lying sunk and under negotiation to remove the remaining 50-60% of the cargo. Once the cargo is discharged, refloating operations will commence. Vessel *Stara Planina* sailed Mar 13, downbound on the River Danube. — Lloyd's Agents.

BUMI JAYA (Indonesia)

Chittagong, Mar 15 — General cargo *Bumi Jaya* still remains in same position without any developments. — Lloyd's Agents.

CAP NELSON (Liberia)

London, Mar 11 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: C.c. *Cap Nelson* (25709 gt, built 2004) ran aground with the stern in the port of Hamburg on the Norderelbe while being turned around by tugs at 2000, Mar 8. The vessel returned to the quay and rudder damage was found. Repairs to be effected in port.

London, Mar 12 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: C.c. *Cap Nelson* entered repair dock at Blohm + Voss shipyard in Hamburg Mar 11 for repairs after its grounding in the River Elbe.

London, Mar 15 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: C.c. *Cap Nelson* left the floating dock of Blohm & Voss, during the afternoon of Mar 14.

CARINE K. (North Korea)

See "Cyprus" under "Port State Control".

CINNA (Liberia)

London, Mar 14 — Bulk *Cinna* sailed from Davant on Mar 8.

COLLARROY (Australia)

London, Mar 9 — Ferry *Collaroy* will next week have been out of service for nearly six months. Today is the 174th day the ferry has spent in the Balmain shipyard. The accident-prone ferry was stood down for repairs on Sep 19 after slamming into Circular Quay. As Transport Minister John Watkins baulks at allowing the *Collaroy* back on the Harbour, tens of thousands of dollars are being spent every day to charter private vessels. A whale-watching cruiser had been chartered at \$20,000 a day to replace the ferry over summer. Sydney Ferries mechanics say the *Collaroy* has been ready to return to work for months, but Mr Watkins is unwilling to risk another crash or breakdown. Ferries management yesterday issued a statement to explain the *Collaroy's* absence. The organisation - now led by former RAN Rear Admiral Chris Oxenbould after the sacking of chief executive Sue Sinclair a fortnight ago - said the ferry would return once "important safety initiatives are implemented". "The plan includes a series of engineering trials, vessel

specific crew resource management training and long-term planned maintenance," a spokesman said. Mr Watkins defended the *Collaroy's* long holiday as part of a \$6.5 million plan to improve the 30-strong fleet. "Sydney Ferries has advised me that a return to service plan for the *Collaroy* is being developed," Mr Watkins said.

CP VALOUR (Bermuda)

Ponta Delgada, Mar 10 — C.c. *CP Valour* is still grounded in the same position at Faial island, waiting to be dismantled. A number of containers stowed on deck have fallen overboard due to heavy weather/rough seas. No news or developments yet available locally with regards to commencement of dismantling operation. — Lloyd's Agents.

CSL ATLAS (Bahamas)

London, Mar 9 — Bulk *CSL Atlas* arrived Tampa on Mar 8.

DEANNA (North Korea)

London, Mar 14 — General cargo *Deanna* was reported passing through the Dardanelles at 1605 hrs, Mar 10, in a westerly direction, bound for Damietta.

London, Mar 16 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1026, UTC: General cargo *Deanna* (1069 gt, built 1966), Constantza for Damietta with timber, reported water ingress in lat 35 45.2N, long 27 14.4E, at 1030, UTC, Mar 15. The vessel is currently anchored at Karpathos Island, awaiting inspection.

DIAMANT (Russia)

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Trawler *Diamant* (1113 gt, built 2002) sank in the Sea of Okhotsk near the Kamchatka Peninsula today. All the 45 crewmembers were rescued, the Vladivostok rescue centre said. What caused the wreck is not known so far. The vessel "stood in ice" in the sea.

London, Mar 11 — Following received from Vladivostok, MRCC, timed 2325, UTC: Trawler *Diamant*, UFNQ, sank in lat 54 46.5N, long 154 44.5E. All crew rescued.

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Trawler *Diamant* sank in the Sea of Okhotsk near the Kamchatka Peninsula yesterday because of drifting ice floes, specialists said. The head of the main directorate of the Emergencies Ministry for the Kamchatka region, Anatoly Plevako, said that the ship sank because of a hole in the hull, but the exact cause has not been determined yet. The incident happened 30 miles from the western coast of Kamchatka and 150 miles northeast of the town of Oktyabrsky. The ship began to take in water at 1850 hrs (0630, UTC) and sank 15 minutes later. All 45 people onboard the ship escaped on four rescue rafts and were picked up by the trawlers *Arctic Leader* and *Granit*. All of them are safe and sound and need no medical attention, the main

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directorates of the Emergencies Ministry said. The incident was reported to the regional transport prosecutor.

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: About 190 tonnes of fuel and up to 300 tonnes of Alaska pollack and Alaska pollack caviar were onboard trawler *Diamant* that sank in the Sea of Okhotsk. It is impossible to detect a fuel leakage over the remoteness of the incident site and difficult weather conditions, the regional department of the Federal Service for Natural Management Control said today. The trawler registered started sinking at 1850, local time, Mar 11 and sank 15 minutes later. Forty-six people onboard *Diamant* managed to evacuate in liferafts. Trawlers *Arctic Leader* and *Granite* saved them. The rescued crew of the trawler were evacuated by helicopter to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, they do not need medical aid. The transport prosecutor's office of the Kamchatka region has launched an investigation into the sinking of the trawler. According to the preliminary version, the trawler fishing Alaska pollack struck flocs drifting in that area. A hull breach in the port side of the trawler caused it to sink.

DOCERIVER (Liberia)

London, Mar 14 — Bulk *Doceriver* arrived Ningbo on Mar 3, sailing on Mar 7, for Shanghai.

EAST CARRIER (Cambodia)

Antwerp, Mar 14 — General cargo *East Carrier* (2742 gt, built 1967), on its way to Russian ports after completing discharge at the port of Taicang, was in collision with a fishing vessel in CJK in the early morning of Mar 10. The vessel has now dropped anchor at CJK anchorage. — DPS Teamhead Surveyors.

EASTERN DRAGON (Panama)

Antwerp, Mar 14 — Chem.tank *Eastern Dragon* (3385 gt, built 1995) laden with 4,200 tonnes of molten sulphur for Zhangjiagang discharge, in collision with inbound bulk *Yuan Dong 101* (9765 gt, built 1976) at CJK (Chang Jinang Kou). *Eastern Dragon* indents on the starboard shell plate and oil tank, but no oil pollution. *Yuan Dong 101* damaged on portside fore part. — DPS Teamhead Surveyors.

ELISE SCHULTE (Hong Kong)

London, Mar 15 — Crude oil tanker *Elise Schulte* sailed from Port Arthur on Mar 13.

ERIKA (Malta)

London, Mar 15 — French judicial authorities have set aside a two-month period starting on Oct 30 for the trial of those accused of responsibility for the sinking of tanker *Erika* more than six years ago on Dec 12, 1999. The long-awaited dates for the trial, which is scheduled to last until Dec 27, will have to be

confirmed at a *fixingø* hearing scheduled to take place on July 4. On trial before the Paris criminal court will be four corporate defendants, Total and two of its subsidiaries and Italian classification society Rina, and 11 individuals. Among the latter will be: the master of *Erika*, Karun Mathur; its owner, Guiseppe Savarese and his associates, Mauro Clemente and Alessandro Ducci; Antonio Pollara of the shipmanagement company, Panship; Rina director Gianperro Ponasso and Total head of shipping Bertrand Thouilin. The principal charges against the defendants are causing marine pollution and endangering or complicity in endangering human life. In addition, three officers at the maritime prefecture in Brest and one member of staff at the regional surveillance and rescue centre will be on trial on charges of having deliberately failed to take action to prevent a casualty.

EUGENIO

London, Mar 16 — General cargo *Eugenio* sailed from Durban on Mar 8. Prior to departure, the vessel was renamed *Amigo*, under Panama flag.

EVANGELIA M. (Malta)

London, Mar 14 — Bulk *Evangelia M.* passed Dardanelles west Mar 11, Odessa for Jeddah.

EVER DIADEM (Panama)

London, Mar 14 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: C.c. *Ever Diadem* (52090 gt, built 1998) was involved in a minor collision with an oil lighter vessel at Bremerhaven on Mar 10. While the vessel was preparing to depart from the Stromkaje, where it had been berthed with the oil lighter vessel alongside, a crew member on board *Ever Diadem* untied a rope prematurely and the inland oil vessel was turned around by the current and was pushed against the hull of *Ever Diadem* until the second rope also broke. The oil lighter sustained a damaged mast and was towed to a yard in Bremerhaven for repairs after having been brought under control by two tugs. *Ever Diadem* apparently sustained no significant damage.

London, Mar 14 — C.c. *Ever Diadem* sailed Bremerhaven 1445, Mar 10, arrived Thamesport Mar 11 and sailed same day.

FORT GEORGE (U.K.)

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

FREE DESTINY (Marshall Islands)

London, Mar 14 — Bulk *Free Destiny* was reported arriving at Matadi on Mar 10.

GALINA (Cambodia)

London, Mar 10 — General cargo *Galina* remains at Falmouth with tug *Waterman* on scene and it is hoped vessel can be taken in tow tomorrow if weather conditions are favourable.

Falmouth, Mar 13 — General cargo *Galina* sailed Falmouth in tow of tug *Waterman* at 0915, Mar 11, bound for Hadera. — Lloyd's Agents.

GERARDA (Netherlands)

Zeebrugge, Mar 13 — General cargo *Gerarda* (2999 gt, built 2006) sailed Terneuzen at 1100 today and passed Flushing roads at 1202 hrs, bound Steenbank. The vessel subsequently experienced engine trouble near Kaloo Buoy at 1315 hrs. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Zeebrugge, Mar 14 — General cargo *Gerarda* completed repairs and passed Steenbank pilot station at 1646, local time, Mar 13, bound Brake. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

GOLIATH (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Mar 10 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1132, UTC: Tug *Goliath* is now alongside at Falmouth. Tug *Anglian Earl* is currently towing barge *Atlas* into Falmouth, ETA approximately one hour.

Falmouth, Mar 10 — Tug *Goliath* arrived Falmouth at 1800, Mar 9, and berthed at Duchy wharf. Barge *Atlas* arrived Falmouth in tow of tug *Anglian Earl* and berthed at Queens Wharf at 1500, Mar 10. — Lloyd's Agents.

GOOD INTENT (U.K.)

London, Mar 14 — A Maritime and Coastguard Agency press release, timed 1454, Mar 13, states: At 0830 today fishing *Good Intent* (70 gt, built 1978), with three crew on board made a mayday call on VHF channel 16. They were taking water and requested immediate assistance approximately 7.5 nautical miles north-east of Hartlepool. They had about five feet of water in the fish-room and their pump could not reduce the water level. Humber Coastguard immediately responded to their call and requested shipping in the area to proceed to stand by the fishing vessel until the Hartlepool RNLI lifeboat and RAF Rescue Helicopter R131 based at Boulmer could arrive on the scene. The rescue helicopter lowered a pump down to the fishing vessel and the Hartlepool RNLI Lifeboat also placed a pump on board and then escorted the vessel into Hartlepool Fish Quay. The fishing vessel started to take on water but it took all three pumps to cope with the ingress of water and to stabilise the situation. The fishing vessel reported later in the incident that the cause was due to a leak in the wooden hull. Marine surveyors from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's Stockton marine office have been informed.

GOTALAND (Sweden)

Malmo, Mar 10 — Passenger ro/ro *Gotaland* still at Trelleborg harbour due cable fire in engine-room. The cables to be renew and vessel to be in traffic again Mar 12. — Lloyd's Agents.

GRACHTBORG (Netherlands Antilles)

Hamburg, Mar 13 — We have been informed by Norderwerft that repairs to general cargo *Grachtborg* (2820 gt, built 1997) have been completed. However, the vessel has not left the port as no cargo has yet been made available. Peters Schiffbau GmbH at Wewelsfleth advised that repairs to general cargo *Marietje Benita* will be finalised on Mar 24. The vessel's next destination is currently unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 16 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The completion of repair works to the damaged bow of general cargo *Marietje Benita* at Peterswerft, Wewelsfleth, is expected for Mar 25.

GRASMERE MAERSK (U.K.)

Genoa, Mar 13 — C.c. *Grasmere Maersk* (50698 gt, built 2000) berthed in Genoa port Mar 12, due to very strong wind broke moorings and bumped against break-water understand sustaining minor damage. No injuries and no pollution reported. Vessel eventually safely berthed with the aid of tugs on same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 13 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1030, UTC: C.c. *Grasmere Maersk* contacted breakwater in bad weather at Genoa yesterday and the damage sustained to its hull was above the waterline.

Genoa, Mar 16 — At 0855, local time, Mar 12, while c.c. *Grasmere Maersk* was safely moored at the VTE Terminal, Genoa, discharging containers, the weather conditions suddenly changed in the area and winds began to pick up to force seven, with gusts of up to 50 knots (northerly direction). A few minutes later the mooring ropes, both forward and aft, were broken and the vessel started to shift towards the breakwater (about 600 metres from the berth). Intervention of Port Pilots was requested by the master and tugs proceeded to assist. The vessel contacted with the breakwater of Voltri Genoa port at 0915, local time, sustaining heavy mechanical damages to the port side of the hull. No pollution to sea water reported and no people were injured. By request of the owners, all containers still on board, were discharged at Voltri port. The following day, the Class Register surveyor attended on board and after checking the damage, he instructed the master to carry out minor temporary repairs, allowing the vessel to sail (one straight single voyage in ballast condition) to Malta, where permanent repairs will be carried out at the owners' convenience. *Grasmere Maersk* sailed from the VTE Terminal, Genoa, at 1800, local time, Mar 15. ETA Malta on Mar 18. — Lloyd's Agents.

GRIGOROUSSA I (Liberia)

Piraeus, Mar 10 — Crude oil tanker *Grigoroussa I*: All equipment and

salvage personnel are on site in readiness for transshipment. At present, we are waiting for permission from the authorities to commence the operation. — Tsavloris Salvage (International) Ltd.

GULF QUEEN (North Korea)

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated today, states: While conducting maritime security operations in the Persian Gulf Mar 6, USS *Ardent* (MCM 12) responded to a distress call by Iraqi-owned general cargo *Gulf Queen* (786 gt, built 1966). *Ardent* arrived on scene after the crew of the *Gulf Queen* reported via bridge-to-bridge radio that the vessel was dead in the water, with no topside or navigational lighting visible. The Avenger-class mine countermeasures vessel deployed two rescue and assistance (RNA) teams, which performed a security sweep of the disabled vessel and conducted an assessment of its electrical and engineering conditions as well as the welfare of the crew. According to Engineman 2nd Class (SW) John Porter, the engine equipment of the *Gulf Queen* was extremely degraded. "The vessel had no means to repair itself due to the lack of personnel, technical knowledge and few spare parts," said Porter. At the time of the initial boarding, the *Ardent* RNA teams determined that the *Gulf Queen* was still seaworthy but reported its battery power was critically depleted. The team also discovered a crack in the hull which caused flooding in some of the vessel's main spaces. Due to a loss in electrical power, the engineering support team from the *Ardent* was unable to utilise the merchant vessel's main drainage; therefore, the *Ardent* provided two P-100 dewatering pumps to assist in the drainage. "The amount of oil, fuel and exhaust leaks was a serious fire hazard and extremely unsafe for personnel to work around," Porter said. The Navy worked through the Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre (MEMAC) in Kuwait to contact the owners of the *Gulf Queen* to arrange for safe towage. MEMAC is an international organisation among all Arab countries set up specifically to facilitate international co-operation in response to vessels in distress. The *Ardent* remained on station for three days, providing support until the owner of the vessel could arrange for a tug to arrive to tow the damaged vessel to Iraq. During the course of the three-day assist, *Ardent* sailors also supplied the crew of the *Gulf Queen* with food and fresh water. During that time, *Ardent* crew members also continued to dewater the vessel in order to keep it from sinking.

GUNVOR MAERSK (DIS)

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of pounds of damage was caused to Felixstowe port's newest crane today after it was struck by c.c. *Gunvor Maersk* (97933 gt, built 2005). The quayside crane will take months to

repair after being hit by the vessel after it lost power and drifted back to its berth. The vessel sustained a few scratches but the crane was knocked off its wheels and rails. (Note — *Gunvor Maersk* arrived Felixstowe 1556, Mar 11.)

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated today, states: An investigation is under way after c.c. *Gunvor Maersk* crashed at Felixstowe port, putting a multi-million pound new crane out of action. The port's new ship-to-shore gantry crane, which cost about £4 million and was being prepared for use, sustained "significant" damage in the accident at about 0300 yesterday. The collision happened when the vessel lost power as it left the dock and drifted into the quayside. No-one was hurt in the incident but port officials were left counting the cost after plans to put the hi-tech equipment into use suffered a major setback. The crane arrived at the port in November after being transported fully-erected by sea from China, a journey that took nine weeks. It was in the process of commissioning and due to be operational in the near future, but engineers are now examining the crash damage. Paul Davey, port spokesman, said: "The vessel was sailing off berth and it appears to have sustained a mechanical failure. An investigation is taking place. The crane had arrived at the end of last year and it hadn't yet been commissioned. It was due to be put into use in the next few weeks, and that will now be delayed." A spokesman for the vessel's operator Maersk Line said: "We can confirm *Gunvor Maersk* was involved in an incident at Felixstowe port. The vessel's main engine malfunctioned when departing and it drifted into a crane. No-one was injured in the incident and damage is currently being assessed. The vessel has now left the port under its own power."

London, Mar 14 — C.c. *Gunvor Maersk* sailed Felixstowe 0137, Mar 13, and arrived Rotterdam 0225, Mar 14.

HANIFE ANA (Turkey)

London, Mar 10 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1034, UTC: General cargo *Hanife Ana* is still aground. Salvors are currently awaiting a vessel to offload the oil from the casualty.

Brindisi, Mar 13 — General cargo *Hanife Ana* is still in same position. No salvage company has started any operations (bunker removal / refloating) and the vessel still has part of its bunkers (about 70 tonnes of ifo) on board. It is however understood that the harbour master has requested the Ministry of the Environment to start operations to remove the bunkers. All crew have left. The master returned to Turkey yesterday. Captain Cianci, the harbour master, has been appointed the official keeper of the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

HAPPY DAY (Panama)

London, Mar 9 — Bulk *Happy Day* sailed Hamburg 2140, Mar 8, for Brazil.

HASAN ATASOY (Turkey)

London, Mar 15 — General cargo *Hasan Atasoy* was reported passing Istanbul at 2055 hrs, Mar 12, on a loaded passage, Eregli for Iskenderun.

HEBEI MERCY (Hong Kong)

London, Mar 13 — Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 1610, UTC: Bulk/oil *Hebei Mercy* (44921 gt, built 1985) had major oil leak in engine-room, causing SOLAS detention to be applied to it, while en route to Tacoma. Vessel is currently at Tacoma. (Note — *Hebei Mercy* sailed Port Angeles 1100, Mar 10, and arrived Seattle 1828 same day. Vessel sailed Seattle 1234, Mar 12, and arrived Tacoma 1530 same day. According to LMIU AIS, vessel was still at Tacoma, in lat 47 16 29.05N, long 122 26 42.69W, at 1604, UTC, today.)

Seattle, Mar 15 — Bulk/oil *Hebei Mercy* is currently anchored, waiting to berth at Tacoma. The vessel is no longer under US Coast Guard detention. — Lloyd's Agents.

Seattle, Mar 15 — Bulk/oil *Hebei Mercy* is scheduled for a vent survey at Tacoma Mar 20. Departure date from port not yet known. — Lloyd's Agents.

IMANT SUDMALIS (Belize)

See "Canary Islands" under "Port State Control."

IRAN BAYAN (Iran)

Chittagong, Mar 14 — General cargo *Iran Bayan* (9888 gt, built 1974), loaded with 12,500 tonnes of bagged urea fertiliser, arrived Chittagong outer anchorage at 0930, Mar 12 and subsequently berthed at Chittagong River Mooring RM-4. After discharging part of its cargo into a coaster, the vessel was scheduled to shift to main Jetty No 8 at 0840, Mar 13, however, it was unable to heave up its forward port side anchor as the anchor shackle was reportedly fouled with a mooring buoy anchor. The vessel tried to free the anchor using its engine from 0840-1215 hrs but was unsuccessful. A local workshop engineer boarded the vessel at 1900 hrs but was unable to work due to a strong current. The vessel's chief officer reported that the engineer will board the vessel again today to free the anchor. — Lloyd's Agents.

Chittagong, Mar 15 — The chief officer of general cargo *Iran Bayan* has advised that the vessel's fouled anchor chain was cleared, with the help of a diver, at 1130 hrs, Mar 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

IVAN MAKARIN (Russia)

See *Amur 2525*.

JIANG NING GUAN (China)

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo

Jiang Ning Guan (4107 gt, built 1984) grounded on its way into Haiphong port's Bach Dang wharf early today, due to foggy weather. The vessel was carrying 5,300 tonnes of potassium when it ran aground. Rescuers proceeded to the vessel and transported its cargo ashore by barge. The vessel is expected to reach the Bach Dang wharf at midnight.

JIMILTA II (Malta)

London, Mar 11 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Bulk *Jimilta II* (24942 gt, built 1985) ran aground after an engine blackout on the River Elbe while carrying 39,000 tons of grain early Mar 8, just after midnight. The vessel grounded off Finkenwerder. After getting free it was berthed there at the pilings and was not allowed to leave the port of Hamburg until repairs were carried out.

London, Mar 12 — Bulk *Jimilta II* sailed Hamburg 1605, Mar 9, for Port Sudan.

KABALEGA (Uganda)

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A South African firm has asked Uganda Railways Corporation (URC) to pay it \$4 million to salvage *Kabalega*, which sank in Lake Victoria ten months ago. URC managing director Daudi Murungi said that representatives of the firm, which he declined to name, visited Uganda a few weeks ago and located the site where the ferry sank. "They submitted to us a demand note of \$4 million, which we have passed over to the Minister of Transport John Nasasira, who is also the head of the task force for rehabilitation of our ships, for consideration," Mr Murungi said. He said that URC, which, together with Kenya Railways Corporation (KRC) has been offered to a South African consortium to manage under a 20-year concession, did not have the equipment to inspect the sunken vessel. They did not also have the expertise to salvage it and bring it to the surface. Mr Murungi said the Ugandan government had obtained financial assistance from the World Bank to salvage and repair the sunken ferry. He said URC has lost between \$3 million and \$3.5 million in earnings as a result of the sinking of the *Kabalega*.

KAPITAN BOLSUNOVSKIY (Russia)

London, Mar 15 — Following navigation warning issued at 1100, JST, today: Product tanker *Lukomorje* towing fish factory *Kapitan Bolsunovskiy* (4038 gt, built 1993), speed about 0.5 knots.

London, Mar 15 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 2315, UTC: Product tanker *Lukomorje* is towing fish factory *Kapitan Bolsunovskiy* to Busan. Reason for tow not known. Tow proceeding slowly due rough/heavy seas. Latest position lat 41 13.1N, long 140 01.7E.

KEA (New Zealand)

See *Starflyte*.

KENT RELIANT (Panama)

London, Mar 10 — A legal battle over late delivery to China of the salvaged Bulk *Kent Reliant* has ended in victory for Ease Faith, which specialises in the purchase of vessels for demolition. The company had sued Leonis Marine Management, which was hired to tow the salvaged vessel to China. High Court judge Mr Justice Andrew Smith has upheld the claim against Leonis. At the same time, however, he also ruled that Leonis should be entitled to recover most of the damages it will ultimately have to pay from Cloudfree Shipmanagement, owner of the towage tug. Damages have yet to be assessed, but Ease Faith was claiming more than \$100,000 on the grounds that the tug hired to deliver the *Kent Reliant* to China failed to proceed on the voyage with proper dispatch. The judge rejected a counterclaim for "delay payment" by Cloudfree, in which it claimed that it was represented to the company that the *Kent Reliant* was in light ballast condition when the vessel was not. Cloudfree claimed that it had suffered loss because the tug consumed extra bunkers. Ease Faith, however, alleged that the delay was caused in part by the fact that for much of the voyage the tug proceeded on only one of its two engines. And Ease Faith claimed it had incurred additional pilot and escort charges totalling more than \$22,000 because the tug and the *Kent Reliant* arrived at the Shanghai pilot station shortly after the start of the May Labour Day holiday in China. It claimed a further \$101,929 on the basis that, as a result of the delay, it received a reduced price for the *Kent Reliant* from the Chinese purchasers. And it claimed that the Chinese purchasers paid for the vessel later than they otherwise would have done and that in these circumstances it was entitled to damages in respect of that late payment. Supporting Ease Faith's claim, the judge said: "I conclude that, because the tug proceeded at a reduced speed as a result of using only one engine from when she departed Balboa until the order to slow-stream was given on Feb 7, 2004, and again from Mar 23 until at least Apr 10, 2004, Cloudfree were in breach of an implied term of the head towcon." He accepted Leonis' claims that, if it were liable to Ease Faith, the cause was Cloudfree's breach of its agreement, and that in those circumstances Ease Faith should be entitled to pass on any liability to Cloudfree. *Kent Reliant* was a bulk carrier built in 1977 that sustained bottom damage as a result of grounding off Puerto Rico in Sep, 2003. The vessel was salvaged and offered for sale by its underwriters. Ease Faith co-operated with Chenco Marine, which buys vessels for demolition in China, over the purchase and sale of the vessel and bought it for \$530,031 in Novr, 2003.

Chenco was responsible for arranging the purchase and making towage arrangements while Ease Faith was responsible for selling the vessel to Zhanjiagang Wuyu Ship Recycling Co. The vessel was ultimately delivered by a tug called the *Naporistyy* to Zhanjiagang on May 2, 2004, three or four weeks later than the judge found it would have arrived had the tug proceeded with due despatch.

KIM JACOB (Liberia)

Lisbon, Mar 10 — Crude oil tanker *Kim Jacob* is entering the dock today for inspection. Repair date is not known. ETD unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

Caracas, Mar 10 — Crude oil tanker *Kim Jacob* sailed from Venezuela Feb 16 for Trinidad and afterwards continue to Portugal where the repairs would be carried out. The damages sustained was that the vessel grazed its bottom with the bottom of the channel at the outset (perhaps a reduction with stones). It also tore its bottom at the height of the tank one and two, tearing plates from it in an approximate length of three metres and some fifteen cms of width. — Lloyd's agents.

KINDRED (Bahamas)

London, Mar 14 — General cargo *Kindred* was reported arriving at Gabes on Mar 1, from Marsala. The vessel departed on Mar 2, bound for Leghorn.

KIPEROUSA (Malta)

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Salved logs from bulk *Kiperousa* are being loaded this week on board a ship in East London harbour which is bound for China. Bulk *Maritime Master* is currently loading in East London where the salved logs, the entire cargo except for approximately 1,000 logs which remain missing, were accumulated at the harbour for an auction held recently under the hammer of Durban auctioneer Roy Martin (Admiralty Sales). The consignment was eventually knocked down for a low bid of US\$1.8 million, considerably less than the US\$30 million value given for the original cargo. The successful purchaser was a Seattle-based company named Susheen Timber Trading Company, which has resold the timber to Chinese interests.

KRASIN (Russia)

London, Mar 14 — Icebreaker *Krasin* was reported arriving at Busan on Mar 9, sailing the next day, bound for Vladivostok.

LADOGA 13 (Russia)

London, Mar 14 — General cargo *Ladoga 13* arrived Grove Wharf Mar 11.

London, Mar 15 — General cargo *Ladoga 13* sailed from Grove Wharf on Mar 14.

LEONID SOBOLEV (Russia)

Quebec, Mar 12 — Bulk *Leonid Sobolev*: While discharging cargo in Port Alfred Mar 5 the shore gantry

crane made contact with the vessel's main navigation mast (aft) causing damages. Permanent repairs in Port Alfred commenced on Mar 7 with completion date on or about Mar 17. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

LODBROK (Sweden)

Stockholm, Mar 14 — Crane barge *Lodbrok* is under repair at Stockholm and the repairs are estimated to be finished by the end of May. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAINE (Cambodia)

London, Mar 11 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1100, UTC: The situation of general cargo *Maine* has not changed. The vessel is still aground.

London, Mar 14 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1000, UTC: General cargo *Maine* remains aground off Lemnos.

London, Mar 16 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1028, UTC: General cargo *Maine* is still aground.

MANTENHA (Portugal)

London, Mar 9 — Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1528, UTC: General cargo *Mantenha* is still drifting. Tug *Rhea* sailed from Fort Lauderdale Mar 7, ETA on scene Mar 10.

London, Mar 13 — Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1515, UTC: General cargo *Mantenha* received fuel from tug *Rhea* about 0200, UTC, Mar 12, and has resumed voyage for Fall River, where ETA Mar 15.

MARIELLE BOLTEN (Liberia)

Freeport, Mar 13 — General cargo *Marielle Bolten* commenced cargo discharge operations Feb 22. At the present rate of discharge, it is anticipated that cargo operations will conclude on or about Mar 23, at which time the vessel will, presumably, be drydocked for repairs at Grand Bahama Shipyard. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARIETJE BENITA (Netherlands)

See *Grachtborg*.

MARIETTE LE ROCH II (France)

Lorient, Mar 13 — Fishing *Mariette le Roch II* is currently in Concarneau for repairs. The Harbour Master has advised that it will be about three to four weeks before it departs. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARTHA HAMMANN (Germany)

London, Mar 13 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: General cargo *Martha Hammann* (1832 gt, built 1985) arrived in Travemunde on Mar 11, with a list to port, after the deck cargo of crane parts had shifted in the Baltic. The ship is now safely berthed so that the cargo which is hanging over port side can be restowed.

London, Mar 14 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Martha Hammann* left the port of

Travemunde where the crew had fixed the shifted deck cargo on Mar 13 and resumed its voyage, passing Brunsbittel 1620 same day, bound Flushing.

MERCHANT BRAVERY (Jamaica)

London, Mar 11 — Ro/ro *Merchant Bravery* (9368 gt, built 1978) arrived on Merseyside on Feb 18 for inspection by divers. It is off charter to NMF for a week. It was assisted through the Birkenhead Dock system by Svitzer tugs *Shannon* and *Ashgarth*. It is understood that the vessel had come into contact with Heysham harbour north roundhead.

London, Mar 11 — Understand ro/ro *Merchant Bravery* apparently struck the Heysham north roundhead when entering Heysham harbour. Damage to the recently repaired Heysham roundhead was at the lower level, and not serious. *Merchant Bravery* came off worst, it is understood that its port screw, propeller shaft, rudder and hull were damaged probably when it moved past the roundhead and contacted the bottom in the dredger quay area. It may have initially touched with its bow, then sheared-off to cause the stern to contact.

Liverpool, Mar 14 — Ro/ro *Merchant Bravery* underwent repairs at Cammell Laird and returned to service Mar 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

MIJARA II

See *Premship X*.

MOLDA (NIS)

London, Mar 10 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1514, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Molda* was cleared to sail on Mar 8. The anchor has been recovered.

MOLOKAI PRINCESS (U.S.A.)

Honolulu, Mar 15 — According to Molokai-Maui Ferry, passenger *Molokai Princess* broke down Mar 5 due to engine problems. It was escorted back to its mooring by the U.S. Coast Guard and a sister vessel. Repairs were completed, sea trials were completed the following morning with Lt. Jensen of the U.S. Coast Guard on board and it was found to be in compliance. — Lloyd's Agents.

MONTE ROSSO (Malta)

London, Mar 14 — Crude oil tanker *Monte Rosso* sailed Piraeus Mar 10 for Egypt.

MORANT BAY (Panama)

Novorossiysk, Mar 13 — Ro/ro *Morant Bay* did not sustain any damage and is now discharging the balance of its cargo. On completion of cargo operations, the vessel will continue trading as normal. — Lloyd's Agents.

MSC GRACE (Panama)

Zeebrugge, Mar 15 — General cargo *MSC Grace* (13258 gt, built 1991) sailed Antwerp 0331, local time, today, passed Flushing roads, outward, at 0628 hrs, and grounded

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

north of the W10 buoy, at 0630 hrs. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — According to LMIU AIS *MSC Grace* was stationary in lat 51 26 16.8N, long 03 33 04.56E, at 0626, UTC.)

Maassluis, Mar 15 — At approximately 0630 hrs, today, general cargo *MSC Grace* ran aground north of bouy w10. Tugs are underway. However, owners are understood to have refused the use of tugs. A decision will be made by the authorities at 1400 hrs. It is not known whether the vessel has been damaged. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Mar 15 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1108, UTC: General cargo *MSC Grace* is still aground. A tug commenced refloating attempts at approximately 1030, UTC.

London, Mar 15 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1117, UTC: General cargo *MSC Grace* was refloated at approximately 1110, UTC, and will proceed to Flushing for inspection.

London, Mar 15 — According to LMIU AIS, general cargo *MSC Grace* was in lat 51 41 52.26N, long 03 13 34.8E, at 1744, UTC, today.

MSC IRIS (Panama)

London, Mar 13 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: C.c. *MSC Iris* (21586 gt, built 1982) had to do an emergency anchoring on the Dutch river Schelde at buoy 46, Mar 10. At 1530 hrs the vessel had encountered a machine blackout before. The tug *Union Ruby* was the first on scene, second the *St. Annastrand*. At 1745 hrs vessel had restarted its engine and it was decided to escort the *MSC Iris* to Vlissingen where it berthed. The tugs *Holland* and *Anton V* assisted too. (Note — *MSC Iris* sailed Antwerp Mar 11 and according to LMIU AIS to lat 49 28 15N, long 0 9 54.48E at 0619, UTC, today.)

London, Mar 14 — C.c. *MSC Iris* arrived at Le Havre on Mar 13.

NAPOCOR POWER BARGE NO.106

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

NAPOCOR TUGBOAT NO.1 (Philippines)

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

NEDLLOYD DE LIEFDE (Liberia)

Balboa, Mar 13 — C.c. *Nedlloyd De Liefde* arrived Cristobal from Manzanillo International Terminal at 1100, Mar 11 and berthed at 1340 same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

Balboa, Mar 13 — C.c. *Nedlloyd de Liefde* reportedly sustained engine-room fire Mar 7, en route Manzanillo International Terminal (Panama) and subsequently berthed MIT for cargo operations. Upon completion of discharge the vessel was shifted Mar 11 with tug assistance to Pier 15 Cristobal, where repairs are being effected by a local company. Repairs likely to take about 45 days to complete. — Lloyd's Agents.

NOVA SPIRIT (Malta)

Varna, Mar 13 — Understand from the agents of general cargo *Nova Spirit* that the vessel has completed permanent repairs but is still at KRZ Odessos Shiprepair Yard, Varna. Understand the vessel was due to sail today but has been delayed due to strong winds. — Lloyd's Agents.

Varna, Mar 15 — General cargo *Nova Spirit* sailed from KRZ Odessos Shiprepair Yard, Varna, at 1130 hrs, Mar 14, with a destination of Constantza. — Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN SOVEREIGN (U.K.)

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated today, states: An investigation is under way after fishing *Ocean Sovereign* (174 gt, built 1951) was severely damaged by fire in Shetland this morning. Fire services were alerted by port staff at Scalloway harbour when they saw smoke billowing out of the vessel at around 0800 hrs. Fire fighters were tackling the blaze in the engine-room of the vessel for almost four hours after the fire re-ignited and fire fighters experienced difficulties in getting to the cause of the fire due to the confined area. It is believed that an electrical fault behind a partition in the engine-room is to blame for the fire. Shetland chief fire officer Duncan MacDougall said: "We initially used a hose reel jet and water and that knocked down the fire considerably. But we couldn't get in to the back where it was burning behind the oil tanks, so we had to use foam. We used one jet of foam and that knocked it down even further. The fire has been extinguished and now we are waiting to ventilate the engine-room to get in there to establish the cause of the fire." She was lying berthed at Scalloway Pier ready to discharge her catch for tomorrow's fish market. No one was injured as the crew had gone home to the north-east of Scotland over the weekend.

OCEAN THERESE (Panama)

London, Mar 14 — General cargo *Ocean Therese* sailed Gdansk Mar 10.

Poznan, Mar 14 — General cargo *Ocean Therese* sailed from Gdansk at 1230 hrs, Mar 10, bound for Klaipeda. — Lloyd's Agents.

ONEGO TRAVELLER (Netherlands)

London, Mar 12 — General cargo *Onego Traveller* arrived Liverpool Mar 10.

OTILIA (Denmark)

London, Mar 13 — Product tanker *Otilia* sailed from Bremerhaven at 0040 hrs, Mar 12, bound for Hamburg, where it arrived later that day, at 1225 hrs.

OUR HERITAGE (U.K.)

London, Mar 10 — Following received from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, timed 0820, UTC: At just after 0600 today Clyde Coastguard received an emergency call from the agent of Oban fishing

Our Heritage reporting that the vessel was in difficulty at Calf Island in the Sound of Mull and that the three men on board were getting into a liferaft. The vessel was on passage from Oban to fishing grounds off Coll at the time and had departed from Oban at just after 0300 today. The Coastguard Rescue Team from Tobermory as well as the local lifeboat were both asked to attend as the initial report suggested the vessel was sinking close in to the shore. A Mayday signal was rebroadcast from Clyde Coastguard requesting assistance from any other vessel who may be in the vicinity. Shortly after it was discovered that all three men had made it ashore but were at the top end of the Island and needed picking up from this location. There were no reports of injuries. Tobermory's RNLi lifeboat has now picked them up and is proceeding back to the boat shed. About 6,000 litres of light fuel on board the vessel and the concern is now that with local fish farms in the area the semi submerged vessel is salvaged with minimal loss of fuel. There is no reported pollution at this time. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch has been informed by Clyde Coastguard.

London, Mar 10 — Fishing *Our Heritage*, semi submerged at Calf Island in the Sound of Mull, fishing no. FR237, 16.89 metres, 53 tonnes, built 1976.

London, Mar 11 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 1204, UTC: Fishing *Our Heritage* was successfully salvaged and was reported safely alongside at Tobermory at 2054, UTC, Mar 10.

Glasgow, Mar 14 — Fishing *Our Heritage* proceeded to Oban for assessment, then to Mallaig, where slipped this afternoon. Repairs expected to be around 10 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

OVERSEAS COLMAR (Marshall Islands)

London, Mar 16 — Following received from the managers of crude oil tanker *Overseas Colmar*, dated today: *Overseas Colmar* is still under repair at Changjian, and is expected to complete repairs in approximately one month.

PACHENA NO.1 (Canada)

London, Mar 15 — Fishing *Pachena No.1* (95 gt, built 1977) experienced steering pump failure near Higgins Passage, Laredo Sound, BC, in lat 52 28N, long 128 39W, at 0745, PST, Mar 14.

PACIFIC HARMONY (Singapore)

London, Mar 15 — Lpg *Pacific Harmony* arrived at Chiba on Mar 14.

PANAM TRINITY (Bahamas)

St. John's, NF, Mar 10 — According to INNAV chem.tank *Panam Trinity* docked at Beaconcour this morning. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 15 — Chem.tank *Panam Trinity* departed from Becancour on/about Mar 12.

PANDION (Sweden)

Gothenburg, Mar 10 — Asphalt tanker *Pandion* discharged around 650-700 tons to get off the ground. Another 500 at berth but very slow and difficult. Tonight a barge will arrive and commence discharge with two pumps, around 4,500 tons left to go. Expect to discharge around 3,000 tons and the remaining quantity to be left on board for yard and to get heating facilities in order and close the gap in outer hull and discharge when able to keep proper temp-approximately 170C. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Mar 14 — Asphalt tanker *Pandion* sailed at 1730 yesterday from Holmsund for Tallinn, for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

PELIKAN (Lithuania)

See "Canary Islands" under "Port State Control."

PIGEON POINT (Panama)

London, Mar 13 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1530, UTC: Chem.tank *Pigeon Point* (29654 gt, built 2005), outbound, was in contact with two moored barges at Port Arthur around 0930, Mar 10. The *Pigeon Point* sustained scrapes to its starboard hull while one of the barges, loaded with petcoke, sustained minor damage above the waterline. The other barge was empty.

London, Mar 14 — Chem.tank *Pigeon Point* arrived Houston 0630, Mar 12.

PIRIN (Bulgaria)

Edinburgh, Mar 11 — Bulgarian pusher tug *Pirin*, with barges *SB-28* and *SB-29*, was in collision with Serbia and Montenegro-registered barges *71749* and *71757*, both loaded with cereals, in the port of Constantza South (Agigea) at approximately 2000, Mar 10. The damage was not serious and all barges are now being repaired in the port of Constantza. — "Danube Research."

PREMSHIP X (Philippines)

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A cargo vessel carrying about 17,000 bags of rice and 22 people sank off the Cebu Harbour yesterday after colliding with another vessel, the Philippine Coast Guard said today. General cargo *Premship X* (193 gt) sank near the north entrance of Cebu harbour, or about 1.5 nautical miles off the PKS Shipyard in Tayud, Consolacion, after colliding with general cargo *Mijara II* about 1800 hrs, yesterday, according to a report from the Coast Guard. Fortunately, all four officers and 18 crewmembers of the ill-fated vessel were saved, with the *Mijara II* helping in the rescue operations. However, the bags of rice were not retrieved. According to the Coast Guard, the incident occurred while *Premship-X* was on its way to Catbalogan, Eastern Samar. The *Mijara II*, was on passage to the PKS shipyard for minor repairs. The government's National Food Authority

bought the rice from Vietnam and chartered the *Premship-X* to transport it from Cebu to nearby Catbalogan town in Eastern Samar province, director Rex Estoperez of the government food agency told the Associated Press. Coast guard officials were investigating the cause of the collision.

London, Mar 12 — Following received from Coast Guard Manila, timed 1055, UTC: General cargo *Premship X*, 193 gt, 101 nt, owned by Premier Shipping Lines Inc., Cebu, is currently lying in a semi-submerged condition. No particulars have been received of *Mijara II*.

Manila, Mar 12 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that general cargo *Premship X*, Cebu for Catbalogan, Samar, loaded with 17,000 bags of rice, sank after a collision with general cargo *Mijara II*, Kiwalan, Iligan, for Cebu, near the north entrance of Cebu harbour around 1900, Mar 11. The *Premship X* had left Pier No 4 of Cebu port about an hour before the collision. The vessel was chartered by the state-owned National Food Authority to deliver the rice to Catbalogan. The *Mijara II* was on its way to the PKS shipyard in Cebu for minor repairs. The *Premship X* sank 30 minutes after the collision. All 22 crewmen were rescued by the *Mijara II*. The cause of the collision had still to be determined, the Coast Guard said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated Mar 13, states: General cargo *Premship X* and general cargo *Mijara II* collided at the north entrance to the Mactan Channel Saturday (Mar 11) night resulting in the sinking of the smaller of the two vessels. *Premship X*, of Premiere Shipping based in Cebu City, was on its way to Catbalogan, Eastern Samar to deliver 17,000 bags of NFA rice when it was hit by *Mijara II*, which was on its way to the dry dock in Liloan, Cebu from Iligan City. From the initial investigation conducted by the Philippine Coast Guard, it was found that the 400-ton *Mijara II* hit the superstructure at the middle portion of the starboard side of *Premship X*. The collision took place at the Bantolinao Point between buoys 3 and 6 near the boundary of Mandaue City and Consolacion town, which is already very close to the destination of *Mijara II*. Except for slight injuries sustained by the master of the ship that sunk, no one else was reported injured in the incident. Cebu Coastguard station commander Manolitio Malig-on said that *Mijara II*, which is owned by the *Mijara East Venture Inc* based in Cotabato City, left Kiwalan Pier in Iligan City last Friday night. It was headed to Cebu as the ship was already scheduled for dry-docking at the PKS Shipyard in barangay Tayud in Liloan town. Olympio Jugalbot, skipper of *Premship X*, reportedly decided to declare "abandon ship" 20 minutes after the incident when he saw the extent of the damage brought by the

collision. There were 22 crewmen - three officers and 18 sailors - on board *Premship X*. The crew of *Mijara II* skippered by Jovencio Granados rescued the 22 men. After pulling the crew of *Premship X* to safety, *Mijara II* went straight to the PKS Shipyard sustaining only a minor damage on its bow. Malig-on said that *Premship X* might have sustained a large hole after the collision, which caused the ship to submerge. Although the Coast Guard is yet to determine where exactly the hole is, they are certain that the ship sustained a hole because of the oil spill in the seawaters where the incident happened. An oil boom has been set up in the area while the Coast Guard has sprayed chemicals that aid in making the oil evaporate. Malig-on said that they are waiting for the ship masters of both ships to file their marine protest so they can start the investigation. Although, the two skippers have only been given 24 hours to submit such, they have been given until this morning so that they can have their marine protests notarised. Malig-on said that his men have already put markings on the sight were the ship submerged yesterday for the safety of other ships so that they can avoid passing in the place where the incident took place.

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The National Food Authority (NFA) today said the 17 tons of rice lost during a collision between general cargo *Premship X* and general cargo *Mijara II* in Cebu will not affect the country's rice supply. NFA spokesman Rex Estoperez said the rice shipment is covered by insurance and will be replaced in due time. "The shipment is fully documented and automatically covered by insurance through GSIS. The book value of the shipment is P17.1 million and the insurance replacement cost is around P22.2 million," Estoperez said. He said that the shipment was imported from Vietnam and was among the arrivals covered by the bidding in December and February. Estoperez said *Premship X* was supposed to take the rice shipment to Catablogan, Samar, in preparation for the lean months. The Philippine Coast Guard said it will form a board marine inquiry to probe the collision.

Manila, Mar 13 — The National Food Authority, charterer of general cargo *Premship X* reported today that the cargo of rice which was lost when the vessel sank, was covered by insurance. The Authority said that the rice had a market value of Pesos 1.7 million (US\$33,000) but was insured for Pesos 2.2 million (US\$43,000). — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Mar 13 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that the Philippine-registered general cargo *Mijara II*, 440 gt, proceeded to its destination after incurring only slight damage to its bow in a collision with general cargo *Premship X*. *Mijara II* originated from Iligan on Mar 10 and was on passage to the PKS Shipyard

in Consolacion, Cebu for repairs when it struck the *Premship X* on its mid-starboard side while navigating through the North Entrance of Cebu Harbour. *Mijara II* is now at the PKS Shipyards awaiting drydocking. The vessel is owned by Cotabato City-based *Mijara East Ventures, Inc.* — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) today ordered the swift retrieval of general cargo *Premship X* which sank after it collided with another vessel off Consolacion, Cebu. Vice-Admiral Arthur Gosingan, PCG chief, said the cargo ship, which was loaded with 17 tons of rice when it sank, is causing delay in sea travel. Gosingan said vessels en route to Cebu could not pass Mactan Channel because of the sunken vessel. Floating markers and lighting devices were put up at the site to warn vessels that pass the Mactan Channel from traversing the area, he added. He said the immediate retrieval of the vessel could also prevent a possible oil spill.

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Fearing an oil slick in the Mactan Channel, the Cebu Coast Guard yesterday set up a containment device at the site where general cargo *Premship X* and general cargo *Mijara II* collided on Saturday night (Mar 11) off Consolacion town, Cebu. The Coast Guard's Marine Environmental Protection Unit dispatched its oil spill boom to the mishap site, while the Special Board of Marine Inquiry began an investigation into which of the two vessels had violated the rules of the road at sea. National Food Authority Cebu manager Raul Chong said the government would not be at the losing end over the loss of 17,000 bags of rice, as they were insured with the Government Service Insurance System. Although the cargo was worth pesos 17 million, at P1,000 per sack, the insurance coverage could reach up to P22 million to cover the tariff, landing and labor costs, he said. Cebu Coast Guard Chief Manolito Malig-on said the shipping firm was planning to retrieve the rice bags first so the vessel would be lighter and easier to lift to the surface. To avert an oil spill, MEPU's oil spill boom was deployed to contain used fuel from *Premship X*, said Commodore Alejandro Flora, commander of the Coast Guard's Central Eastern District. Floating markers and lighting devices were put up at the site to prevent vessels that pass the Mactan Channel from traversing the area. NFA Cebu Operations Officer Jesus Dunque said the shipment's landed cost, which include purchase price, customs tariff and freight, from Vietnam to Cebu was P1,200 per sack of well-milled rice. NFA Cebu, however, will file insurance claims at P1,300 per sack because of other incidental expenses such as cargo handling fees in the transfer of the rice from a foreign vessel to the local vessel.

Manila, Mar 16 — The Philippine Coast Guard has issued a second order to the owners of the general cargo *Premship X* urging them to immediately remove the wreck of the vessel, which is restricting passage along the busy Mactan Channel leading to Cebu Harbour. "I have issued a second order today as work has not yet started on its removal," Cebu District Coast Guard Commander Lito Malic-on said. Cdr. Malic-on said that Premiere Shipping Lines, owner of the *Premship X*, was awaiting approval from the insurers before hiring a salvor. P&I coverage is provided by Trinity Insurance. He said that Premiere Shipping had to fulfill a number of conditions before Trinity Insurance would release funds for the retrieval. He did not say what these conditions were. Cdr Malic-on said that he would continue to put pressure on Premiere Shipping as the wreck posed both a navigational and environmental hazard. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PRINCESS ABA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Mar 14 — General cargo *Princess Aba*, Galatz for Diliskelesi, passed Istanbul Mar 11.

PROTECTOR (Panama)

Maputo, Mar 11 — Bulk *Protector* has now sailed for Nacala for further cargo discharge and will then sail for Mombasa, where repairs to damage sustained during the accident will be undertaken. — Lloyd's Agents.

RASILL (Cyprus)

London, Mar 11 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1045, UTC: At 0916, UTC, today, c.c. *Rasill* (2882 gt, built 1992), Rotterdam for Zeebrugge, reported losing four containers overboard in lat 52 03.82N, long 03 43.9E, due heavy weather. Thirty minutes later, the vessel reported another two containers had been lost. All six containers were 40 feet in length and all six were reported to be empty.

London, Mar 11 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1540, UTC: C.c. *Rasill*: Two containers have sunk and four are still adrift. Vessel is continuing passage southwards towards Zeebrugge. All containers are empty.

London, Mar 13 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1050, UTC: All containers lost overboard from c.c. *Rasill* have sunk and negotiations are currently under way with insurers regarding salvage of the containers.

London, Mar 14 — C.c. *Rasill* arrived Zeebrugge Mar 13 from Rotterdam.

RED FALCON (U.K.)

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven people were injured when an Isle of Wight ferry smashed into a car ramp in Southampton. The passenger ro/ro *Red Falcon* (3953 gt, built 1994) crashed into the on-off ramp at the

Red Funnel terminal this afternoon. A spokesman from the company said four people were hurt - including one crew member and one member of the public, who is thought to have spinal injuries. There are no ferries running to the Isle of Wight due to the damage caused to the terminal. The ferry is due to reberth at dock gate four.

London, Mar 10 — A Maritime and Coastguard Agency press release, timed 1753 hrs, states: Solent Coastguard are currently assisting other Agencies after passenger ro/ro *Red Falcon* struck the link span at Southampton's Town Quay earlier this afternoon. Coastguards have been dispatched to the scene and both passenger and crew injuries have been reported. Two Surveyors from the Agency's Southampton Marine Office have also been sent to the scene after it was reported that the vessel's bow doors have been significantly damaged. The top deck has been cleared and passengers are being disembarked. No water has been taken in. Investigations are on going to determine if there are any vehicles on board which may be leaking petrol or chemicals into the water column, and the MCA are co-ordinating their activities with company personnel. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch has been informed.

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Around nine passengers were injured today when passenger ro/ro *Red Falcon* struck a dockside ramp at Town Quay in Southampton. The nine passengers were removed by ambulance crews from *Red Falcon* after it crashed into the docks this afternoon with 130 passengers on board. A spokesman for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency said there were a number of other walking wounded, some on board and some who had now come ashore. The lower deck of the ferry had been cleared and coastguards were attempting to clear the top deck before moving the vessel, the spokesman said. "Nine casualties have been taken off by Hampshire ambulance service," the spokesman said. One was in a neck brace but walking and another was on a stretcher. A crew member who was knocked unconscious was also among the injured. The spokesman said 24 people remaining on board the ship were being looked over by ambulance staff to decide if they needed treatment or could be released. Meanwhile one person who was in an ambulance being transported across from the Isle of Wight for hospital treatment has been removed from the ferry - although the ambulance itself remained on board. The Red Funnel car ferry, which transports vehicles and passengers between Cowes and Southampton hit the Link Span ramp at Southampton Docks as it was docking at 1640 today. A Solent Coastguard spokesman described it as "quite a major incident" and said it was "fairly chaotic". Hampshire Police said the ferry port had closed following the accident, adding that

the incident would lead to "considerable disruption". The MCA said the vessel's bow doors were believed to have been "significantly damaged". No water had been taken in to the ferry. The agency said: "Investigations are ongoing to determine if there are any vehicles on board which may be leaking petrol or chemicals." The Marine Accident Investigation Branch has been informed.

London, Mar 13 — Ferry operators are having to run a reduced service after a vessel crashed into a ramp, injuring nine people. Passenger ro/ro *Red Falcon*, which crosses between Cowes on the Isle of Wight and the Red Funnel terminal in Southampton, crashed as it came into dock on Friday (Mar 10). An investigation into what caused the incident is continuing. Operators Red Funnel have said they will operate a single boat service throughout today, with a revised timetable in place. A spokesman said: "Red Funnel's hi-speed service is completely unaffected and is operating normally. Foot passengers who would normally use the vehicle ferry service are advised to switch to the hi-speed service to and from West Cowes. Every endeavour will be made to resume a normal vehicle ferry timetable as soon as possible and customers who are booked on cancelled sailings will be contacted."

London, Mar 14 — A press release from Red Funnel, the operators of passenger ro/ro *Red Falcon*, dated today: Following the incident on Mar 10 which resulted in damage to *Red Falcon*, Red Funnel can announce that of the eight people with minor injuries, seven were treated at the scene and required no further medical attention, one crew member was treated in hospital for minor head injuries and discharged later the same evening. A patient, who was being transferred by ambulance from the Isle of Wight, was placed in a waiting ambulance at Southampton and her condition is not believed to have been affected by the incident. Red Funnel is currently operating a reduced vehicle service today between Southampton and East Cowes, Isle of Wight. The vehicle timetable will return to a scheduled two-vessel service on Mar 14 when passenger ro/ro *Red Eagle* returns to service. The Hi-Speed Red Jet passenger service between Southampton and West Cowes is unaffected and is running normally. *Red Falcon* is undergoing repairs, which are expected to be completed before the end of the month. The linkspan at Southampton Terminal One is being assessed and it will be known in the next few days how long repairs will take. In the meantime, Red Funnel's vehicle ferry service is operating from 25 berth in Southampton's eastern docks, accessed via Dock Gate 4. Red Funnel is cooperating fully with The Marine Accident Investigation Bureau-led investigation and has launched its own enquiry into the incident. In line with standard

practice, the vessel's Master and Mate have been suspended on full pay pending the outcome of the investigation. The results of the investigation will be published in due course.

RIGA SAILOR (Malta)

London, Mar 10 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Bulk *Riga Sailor* (10133 gt, built 1975) struck a jetty during the morning of Mar 9 while manoeuvring to moor at the mining installations of Milos Island. The vessel sustained a fracture in its hull in the area of the bunker tanks, resulting in pollution over an area of 350 square metres. Personnel from the installation, under Coast Guard supervision, carried out anti-pollution operations, including placing an oil boom around the slick. Milos Port Authority has prohibited the vessel from departing and has launched legal proceedings against those responsible.

Piraeus, Mar 13 — bulk *Riga Sailor* struck the pier during berthing maneuvers at the premises of S & B Industrial Minerals S.A., at Milos island, on the morning of Mar 9. The vessel sustained a crack in her fuel tank which caused a fuel-oil spillage of 350 square metres. Clean-up operations have reportedly been completed. There were no injuries to the crew. The local port authorities prohibited the vessel's departure until an inspection by its class surveyor and repair of the damages. — Lloyd's Agents.

Piraeus, Mar 15 — Bulk *Riga Sailor* sailed from Milos Mar 13 and arrived at Syros Shipyards the same day. The vessel is still at the shipyard undergoing repairs, ETD Mar 17. — Lloyd's Agents.

RIO (Comoros)

London, Mar 9 — According to LMIU AIS general cargo *Rio* was in lat 44 10 13.82N, long 28 39 16. 65E, course 355.1 degrees, speed two knots at 1313, today.

London, Mar 11 - According to LMIU AIS general cargo *Rio* was stationary in lat 44 10 14.58N, long 28 39 16.34E (Constantza).

Bucharest, Mar 16 — At the time that general cargo *Rio* lost steering and refuged to Constantza outer anchorage on Mar 7, she was actually en route from Odessa to Durres loaded with about 2,000 tonnes of steel profiles. During the night Mar 8/9, while at Constantza outer anchorage, the vessel faced high seas and lost one of the anchors and was eventually towed to berth 13 of Constantza port on Mar 9 by tug *Hercules*. At present the vessel is still in Constantza port to carry out repairs to rudder/engines and to replace the lost anchor. It would also appear that the vessel was meanwhile visited by Port State Control, who issued a detention order. *Rio* will apparently remain in Constantza port for a few more days. Unconfirmed reports are that after discharge of cargo at Durres, the

vessel will be subject to permanent/major repairs in a Greek shipyard. — Lloyd's Agents.

RODANTHI (Greece)

Piraeus, Mar 13 — Passenger ro/ro *Rodanthi* (6710 gt, built 1974) arrived at Piraeus on Mar 11, with mechanical failure of the left main engine. The local port authorities prohibited the vessel's departure until an inspection by its class surveyor and repair of the damages. — Lloyd's Agents.

Piraeus, Mar 15 — Passenger ro/ro *Rodanthi* is scheduled to return to service at 2000, Mar 16. — Lloyd's Agents.

ROUGH 47/3B

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The operators of a major North Sea gas storage rig hit by a fire on February 16, say it will not be back in full use until May. The Bravo rig, *Rough 47/3B*, in Centrica's Rough field, 20 miles off Withernsea on the East Yorkshire coast, stores North Sea gas for UK consumption. Centrica says power has now been restored and repair work is continuing on the platform. The company says staffing levels have been increased over the past week and damage assessment and investigations into the cause of the event are now fully under way. The Health and Safety Executive is also looking into the incident, said the firm. "Based on our current state of knowledge as to the extent of the damage at this time, we still estimate that the Rough facility will be unavailable for both injection and production until at least May 1, 2006," Centrica said.

RUNNER 4 (Dominica)

London, Mar 14 — General cargo *Sv.Apostol Andrey* arrived Wismar Mar 8.

London, Mar 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Finland has sent two vessels to Estonian waters to help clean up an oil spill near the country's north coast. Tanker *Hylje* and research *Seili* were dispatched on Tuesday evening (Mar 14) but did not reach the area until yesterday afternoon due to difficult ice conditions. Ice in the Gulf of Finland is 30-50 cm thick and, in places, packed ice makes for very difficult sailing. Finland sent the two vessels as "fraternal aid" at its own expense, before any official requests came from Estonia. The spill was so extensive, that Finnish authorities wanted to start cleaning it up well before any of the oil reaches Finnish waters. Officials believe that the oil came from general cargo *Runner 4*, which sank when another vessel (general cargo *Sv.Apostol Andrey*) struck it while both were in a convoy escorted by a Russian icebreaker. The vessel was carrying 35 tonnes of light fuel oil and over 100 tonnes of heavy fuel oil when it sank. Jouni Pirttijarvi, an inspector from the Finnish Environment institute, who is on

board *Seili*, said yesterday that the Finns had found oil, as well as two liferafts in the ice. The discoveries were made about 20-30 nautical miles west of where *Runner 4* went down. Pirttijarvi said the Finnish vessels had not been able to use their oil-fighting equipment because of the massive buildup of pack ice in the area.

RUTH BORCHARD (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Mar 14 — C.c. *Ruth Borchard* passed Cape Finisterre Mar 12 north for Rotterdam. (Note — According to LMIU AIS, *Ruth Borchard* was in lat 51 38 15N, long 02 26 56.4E at 0724 today.)

London, Mar 15 — C.c. *Ruth Borchard* arrived at Rotterdam at 1250 hrs, Mar 14.

SALVATORE LAURO (Italy)

London, Mar 13 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At 1230 hrs Mar 12, Gythion Port Authority personnel located floating objects with the name of ro/ro *Salvatore Lauro* (447 gt, built 1944) written on them, in the area of Gerolimena, South Peloponnese. Following investigation it was found that *Salvatore Lauro* had been under a tandem tow with passenger ro/ro *Capri Express* towed by tug *Saint James*, which had departed from Naples bound for Aliaga, Turkey. During the tow the tug lost *Salvatore Lauro* 10 nautical miles south-west of Gerolimena and the vessel had sunk there. The tug operators and the skipper confirmed that from the incident there were no injuries and the sunken vessel does not contain any fuels or petroleum products to cause pollution. Following the incident the tug continued the voyage to Aliaga towing *Capri Express*.

Piraeus, Mar 13 — Ro/ro *Salvatore Lauro* sank 10 nautical miles south-west of Gerolimena Bay, Peloponnese, at 1230, Mar 12. The said vessel was being towed, together with passenger ro/ro *Capri Express*, by tug *Saint James*, which had sailed from Naples for Aliaga in order to deliver the two vessels for breaking. The *Salvatore Lauro* was detached from the tug and subsequently sank. No injuries or pollution were reported. Reportedly the tug is continuing its voyage to Aliaga towing the *Capri Express*. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAMHO PRINCE (South Korea)

London, Mar 15 — Chem.tank *Samho Prince* arrived at Taichung on Mar 3, sailing the next day, bound for Kaohsiung. It arrived later the same day and departed on Mar 6, bound for South Korea.

SANKO BREEZE (Panama)

London, Mar 10 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1512, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Sanko Breeze* (56172 gt, built 2005), in ballast, grounded at Mile Marker 128, Lower Mississippi, at 0021, UTC, Mar 10. The vessel was

refloated with the assistance of three tugs and proceeded to anchor at the Bonnie Carie Spillway Anchorage.

London, Mar 14 — Crude oil tanker *Sanko Breeze* was reported sailing from Ama Anchorage on Mar 11.

SANTA REGINA (New Zealand)

London, Mar 16 — A press report, dated today, states: The master of passenger ro/ro *Santa Regina* is to be censured over a fatal accident near Picton Harbour last May when his vessel and a private launch collided. Norman Macfarlane, 66, died when his 10-metre launch *Timeless* turned into the path of the ferry at night time and in heavy rain. A Maritime New Zealand report said *Santa Regina's* master would be censured for poor bridge-keeping practices, although they had little bearing on the collision. New rules were introduced after the accident which require ferries to have four people on the bridge at night.

SC BALTIC (DIS)

London, Mar 13 — Following received from Sandnes, dated today: At 2000 hrs, Mar 12, general cargo *SC Baltic* (3382 gt, built 1975) bound for Bergen, grounded on Skaaretreboen near Kvalen Light. The vessel refloated by its own means and proceeded to Haugesund for inspections. Only minor damages were sustained. (Note — *SC Baltic* departed London at 1508 hrs, Mar 10, bound for Bergen.)

SESAM (Belgium)

London, Mar 11 — Following received from Coastguard Liverpool MRSC, timed 2035, UTC: General cargo *Sesam* (1499 gt, built 1981) is broken down with fuel pump problem in lat 54 12.6N, long 04 59.4W, tug required due prospect of bad weather in the next few hours.

London, Mar 12 — A Maritime and Coastguard Agency press release, timed 0053, today, states: Liverpool and Belfast Coastguard have today been co-ordinating efforts to assist general cargo *Sesam*, which has broken down and is drifting in the Irish Sea. Initially, a call was received just after 1300, Mar 10 from *Sesam* when it was west of the Isle of Man and was unable to restart its engines. It currently has six people on board and was travelling from Bromborough to Coleraine with a cargo of steel coils in the hold with the deck remaining clear. Throughout the afternoon and early evening its progress has been monitored by both Liverpool Coastguard and Belfast Coastguard while its owners and agents have sought suitable tugs locally. Various tug brokers were also advised given the deterioration in the weather overnight. The winds are currently south easterly, force 7 (near gale) and due to strengthen to a severe gale 9 overnight. Its rate of drift has been closely monitored and is now estimated to be about three knots in a north westerly direction. It is currently about 14 miles due west of

Peel on the Isle of Man. During the evening, after some language difficulties were encountered, Belfast Coastguard began to use an interpreting service, and identified with the crew that there were 30 tonnes of bunker fuel on board. Late tonight, the Irish Lights Vessel *Granuaile* set sail from the Irish Republic and is due to arrive on scene during the early hours of the morning, and will be able to take the disabled cargo vessel under tow to a suitable port. Brett Cunningham, Area Operations Manager for the West of Scotland and Northern Ireland said: "We are very grateful to the Commissioners of the Irish Lights in releasing this very capable vessel to assist us in this incident. "We are concerned about the worsening weather situation, and it is clear in our contacts with the crew through the interpreting service that although they have an on board generator, their main engine cannot be fixed on board and they urgently require a tow. The difficulties earlier seem to be that there was not one locally with enough capability to handle a ship of this size on those conditions - hence our gratitude to the Commissioners."

London, Mar 12 — Following received from Coastguard Liverpool MRSC, timed 0640, UTC: General cargo *Sesam* is still adrift. Irish Lights vessel *Granuaile* is due on scene at approximately 0900, UTC, and it will take *Sesam* in tow probably to Belfast.

London, Mar 12 — Following received from Coastguard Belfast MRSC, timed 1250, UTC: General cargo *Sesam* was taken in tow by Irish Lights vessel *Granuaile* at approximately 0930, UTC. The vessels are now entering Belfast Lough. They will initially anchor in the vicinity of Bangor Bay, where a decision will be taken as to whether the vessel can effect repairs there or whether it will have to be towed into Belfast for repairs.

London, Mar 12 — Following received from Coastguard Belfast MRSC, timed 1735, UTC: General cargo *Sesam* is currently anchored in Bangor Bay. Surveyors have been out to the vessel, which is expected to proceed into Belfast harbour tomorrow for repairs.

Belfast, Mar 13 — General cargo *Sesam* was reported as having engine failure during the afternoon of Saturday, Mar 11. The vessel drifted off the County Down coast before being towed by the Irish Lights vessel *Granuaile*, with the Larne and Donaghadee lifeboats in attendance. The vessel has been towed into Belfast Lough where latest reports indicate that it is still at anchor awaiting repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 14 — According to LMIU AIS, general cargo *Sesam* was anchored off Carrickfergus, in lat 54 37 31.36N, long 05 53 44.57W, at 1439, UTC, today.

Belfast, Mar 15 — General cargo *Sesam* was brought into Belfast with the assistance of two Svitzer tugs, and

berthed at Richardson's Wharf around 0900, Mar 14. The vessel sailed for Coleraine pm, same day, following repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

SILVA (Cambodia)

Esbjerg, Mar 14 — General cargo *Silva* is still in port at Esbjerg. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOFIA (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Mar 14 — General cargo *Sofia* arrived at Cork on Mar 6, departing the next day for St. Petersburg.

SPIRIT OF RESOLUTION (New Zealand)

London, Mar 13 — While entering the swinging basin adjacent to Onehunga Wharf, Manukau Harbour, Auckland, general cargo *Spirit of Resolution* (3850 gt, built 1997) lost steerage and overshot the channel on Feb 23. The vessel ran onto the mud 30 metres north east of Reef Beacon. *Spirit of Resolution* remained aground until it was refloated with the assistance of tug *Tika*. *Tika* had been ordered and was standing by to assist in the berthing of the vessel at the time of the accident. The forepeak tank was emptied and no damage was noted. (Note — *Spirit of Resolution* subsequently arrived Lyttelton Feb 26 and sailed Feb 28.)

STADUM (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Mar 9 — General cargo *Stadum* arrived Kiel at 0645 hrs, today.

STAR OHIO (Bahamas)

London, Mar 14 — Crude oil tanker *Star Ohio* arrived Loop Terminal Mar 10.

STAR OSHIMANA (Singapore)

Maassluis, Mar 11 — Part c.c. *Star Oshimana* (36324 gt, built 2003), from Berth 750/752, Antwerp, bound Aaheim, contacted the Berendrechtshuis, Antwerp, at 1245 today. The vessel has a tear from four to five metres, a few metres above the waterline. At 1525 today it was reported that it would return to Berth 11 for possible repairs. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — According to LMIU AIS, *Star Oshimana* was in lat 51 15 09.76N, long 04 21 15.71E, at 1732, UTC, today.)

Maassluis, Mar 14 — Part c.c. *Star Oshimana* is still at Berth M 11, in the port of Antwerp. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

STARA PLANINA (Bulgaria)

See BRP-SA-58.

STARFLYTE (New Zealand)

London, Mar 10 — An investigation is underway after the Devonport ferry, *Kea*, carrying 38 passengers, collided with ferry *Starflyte* (172 gt, built 1999) in Auckland this morning. *Starflyte*, was berthed at its Auckland Viaduct terminal at the time. The Transport Accident Investigation Commission has launched a probe into the collision. It says the *Kea* had a

mechanical or electrical failure prior to the crash, causing it to lose steering. The *Starflyte's* hull planking was cracked in the collision. None of the passengers on board the *Kea* were injured.

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigations are continuing into a passenger ferry collision in Auckland harbour yesterday. Ferry *Kea* (341 gt, built 1988), carrying 38 passengers, struck ferry *Starflyte*, berthed at the downtown terminal. No one was injured, but some sailings were delayed. *Starflyte's* hull planking was cracked in the collision. Fullers Ferries says an electrical failure caused *Kea* to lose steering. The Transport Accident Investigation Commission has launched an inquiry. Investigator, Captain Doug Monks, says *Kea* was not damaged in the incident and has since returned to service. He says he will interview the crew and examine the vessel's electrical systems. Captain Monks says he hopes his initial investigation will be completed today.

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The Transport Accident Investigation Commission (TAIC) has completed its initial probe into the collision between ferry *Starflyte* and ferry *Kea*. The hull planking of the *Starflyte* was cracked in the collision. Fullers Ferries said an electrical failure caused the *Kea* to lose steering. TAIC investigator, Captain Doug Monks, said he had examined the ferry's electrical systems and spoken with the crew of the *Kea*. He said a final report on the crash could be five months away.

STENA EXPLORER (U.K.)

London, Mar 13 — Following received from the owners of passenger ro/ro *Stena Explorer*, dated today: *Stena Explorer* has completed repairs and will return to service Mar 14.

STENA LEADER (Bermuda)

London, Mar 11 — Understand the Marine Accident Investigation Branch is carrying out a preliminary investigating of ro/ro *Stena Leader* (12879 gt, built 1975) in respect of damage to stern ramp on the ferry when mooring lines parted in strong winds Feb 27. (Note — *Stena Leader* operates between Larne and Fleetwood.)

London, Mar 11 — Ro/ro *Stena Leader* went to NSL, Birkenhead, for emergency repairs to its stern door which was damaged at Larne after the vessel was blown off berth in high winds.

Liverpool, Mar 14 — Ro/ro *Stena Leader* resumed normal service Mar 6. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUAD N. (North Korea)

Piraeus, Mar 10 — General cargo *Suad N.* was renamed *Nazim M.*, Georgia flag, and sailed from Piraeus port Mar 1 for Turkey. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUNSHINE (Singapore)

See "Oil Cargo Dispute, Mombasa, Kenya" under "Miscellaneous".

SUPERFERRY 12 (Philippines)

Manila, Mar 10 — Damage to cabins of passenger ro/ro *Superferry 12* was more extensive than earlier reported by owner. Damage assessment upon reaching the port of Cebu revealed that nine cabins were burned and 30 cabins waterlogged when sprinkler systems automatically activated. This was reported by ship owner, Aboitiz Transport System, Corp. Early reports by Aboitiz Transport indicated that only six cabins were burned. Despite the damage, the vessel was found seaworthy by local maritime authorities as hull, propulsion, steering systems and other vital structures of the vessel were not affected by the fire. The vessel left Cebu Port at 2300, Mar 9 for Cagayan de Oro in southern Philippines. The vessel had arrived in Cebu at 1930, Mar 9, to disembark its Cebu-bound passengers and unload cargo. Barely five hours after reaching Cebu the vessel was allowed by authorities to proceed on its next port of call. Aboitiz Transport System Corp. said that clearance to sail was issued by authorities as it was determined to be seaworthy. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: The Philippine National Police (PNP) is eyeing arson in the fire that struck passenger ro/ro *Superferry 12* yesterday morning, DZMM reported today. A DZMM report said the PNP Maritime Group in Cebu arrested three persons suspected of starting the fire that struck the vessel at noon yesterday while en route to Cebu from Manila. The vessel was able to limp toward Cebu port at about 2000, yesterday night. All 639 passengers and 145 crew of the vessel arrived safely in Cebu. Armie Santiago, chief of the Cebu maritime group, said the three suspects, two males and a female, occupied the cabin where the fire started. Santiago declined to identify the suspects who are now undergoing tactical interrogation. Reports said the fire started while the vessel was sailing the seas off Daanbantayan in northern Cebu. The vessel was put on anchor in the Bulalagui Point, 60 nautical miles from Cebu port, while rescuers were fighting the fire. Crew members said they put out the fire before 1500 hrs. SuperFerry said it will co-operate with the Philippine Coast Guard, which is investigating the accident.

Manila, Mar 14 — The owners of passenger ro/ro *Superferry 12* have filed charges of "destructive arson" against a 58-year old male passenger for allegedly causing the fire which struck the vessel on Mar 9. The charges were filed by Aboitiz Transport System, Inc. against Meynardo Dagno of Cagayan de Oro City at the Cebu Regional Trial Court on Mar 10. Initial police investigation indicated that the passenger was the

sole occupant of cabin 206 from where the fire started. The police reported, that the passenger, who appeared to be mentally unbalanced, had admitted throwing a cigarette butt into a trash bin. The resulting fire destroyed several passenger cabins on the top deck. Arrested with Mr. Dagno when the vessel docked at Cebu Port on Mar 9 where two other passengers. One of the passengers, a woman, was released due insufficient evidence. The other passenger, an enlisted man with the Philippine Marines, was cleared of arson charges but detained for petty theft. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Mar 15 — Passenger ro/ro *Superferry 12* will carry on normal operations despite a fire which destroyed several first-class passenger cabins on Mar 9. "The vessel has been certified by maritime authorities as seaworthy. It will continue to ply its regular routes so as not to inconvenience the riding public," Aboitiz Transport Systems, Inc. Assitant-vice President for corporate communication, John Rojo said yesterday. Repairs are expected to take place during the quiet season between June and August. In the meantime, the burned out areas will be blocked off, he added. He indicated that "afloat" repairs will most likely be carried out while the ship is in port. A carelessly disposed lighted cigarette butt sparked the blaze which damaged 39 cabins. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SUPERFERRY 9 (Philippines)

Manila, Mar 14 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that ro/ro *Superferry 9* (7269 gt, built 1986) was stranded for several hours after it developed steering problems off Balbagon island, near north-eastern Panay, in central Philippines on Monday (Mar 13) morning. The vessel had left Manila, Sunday afternoon and was on its way to Bacolod city, in central Philippines when its steering mechanism jammed at around 1015 hrs the following day. *Superferry 9* was forced to anchor off Balbagon island to await a vessel to tow it to port. The vessel was taken in tow by *Superferry 2* and at Breco Port in Bacolod City at 1500 hrs, Mar 14. All 1,299 passengers and 132 officers and crew are safe, Aboitiz Transport System, Inc., owners of the vessel, said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SV.APOSTOL ANDREY (Malta)

See *Runner 4*.

SYMS ZHUIJANG (Cyprus)

London, Mar 10 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, dated today: C.c. *SYMS Zhuijang* arrived Naha at 0250, Mar 8.

TEKLIVKA (Malta)

London, Mar 9 — Following received from Malta RCC, timed 1809, UTC: General cargo *Teklivka*: According to MRCC Cairo 12 crew members were rescued and three remain missing. The vessel sank in lat 32 20.9N, long 31 26.4E.

London, Mar 9 — Sea Management Ltd regret to report the loss of the general cargo *Teklivka* under its management just after midnight on Mar 8-9. *Teklivka* of 4168 tonnes dwt carrying 161 containers was en route from Izmir to Port Said with a crew of 15. The vessel encountered bad weather in the East Mediterranean and at about 2200, Mar 8 a distress signal was sent reporting a substantial list in a position approximately 75 miles north of Port Said. The crew abandoned the vessel at about that time and vessels in the vicinity were requested to assist. The Cairo emergency rescue centre (RCC) subsequently co-ordinated the rescue effort for saving the crew, but at about 0000/0015 the vessel is believed to have sunk. Two of the vessels in the proximity namely the *Searose G.* and *Hyundai No.205* responded to the distress call and managed to pick up nine crew and three crew respectively with one crew member known to have died and a further two crew still missing. Of the survivors three are believed to be in good health and nine possibly suffering from hypothermia. A helicopter rescue operation is currently underway for the missing crew members.

London, Mar 10 — Following received from Malta RCC, timed 1029, UTC: Three crew members from general cargo *Teklivka* are still missing.

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The Merchant Shipping Directorate of the Malta Maritime Authority is investigating the sinking of general cargo *Teklivka*, which occurred off the Egyptian coast early Thursday morning (Mar 9). Search and rescue operations by the Egyptian authorities are currently under way for three crew members who are still reported missing following this accident. The remaining 12 crew members have been rescued by two merchant vessels which proceeded to the scene after acknowledging the distress signal sent by the Maltese vessel. The *Teklivka* was on its way to Port Said, loaded with containers, when it encountered severe weather conditions. No pollution was reported by the Egyptian authorities. This investigation is being carried out in terms of IMO Assembly Resolution A.849 (20) and two of the Directorate's worldwide inspectors are assisting in the investigation.

TENERIFE (Belize)

See "Canary Islands" under "Port State Control."

TERN ALPHA

London, Mar 16 — A Maritime and Coastguard Agency press release, timed 0312, UTC, states: At just after 0045 this morning Aberdeen Coastguard received a call from the offshore installation *Tern Alpha*, 264 miles north-northeast of Aberdeen, reporting a fire in the gas generator module. A total of 184 persons are on board the installation, the plan will

be to evacuate 135 non essential personnel to a nearby installation, and assist with the containment of the fire. The fire is reported to be now in control, and so far no injuries have been reported. Aberdeen Coastguard have requested the assistance of four helicopters, Coastguard Rescue Helicopter Oscar Charlie and Rescue 137 from the RAF, the Gullfaks Helicopter is also proceeding to the scene as is a BP Jigsaw helicopter. The helicopters are being supported by a Nimrod aircraft callsign R51. The Offshore Installation facility is operated by Shell Exploration and Production. George Downie, Watch manager, Aberdeen Coastguard said: "We are coordinating the response to this distress situation. The weather is relatively good for the time of year which is positive for the air bound teams. We are working closely with everyone involved to continue to carry out search and rescue and evacuation procedures, until all personnel on board are out of harms way."

London, Mar 16 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 0405, UTC: *Tern Alpha* is in lat 61 16.6N, long 00 55.2E. Of 184 persons 56 remain on board. The fire is well under control.

London, Mar 16 — More than 130 workers were evacuated by helicopter after a fire broke out on an oil platform in the North Sea off Scotland today, the Coastguard said. Oil major Royal Dutch Shell Plc, which operates the platform, said it had shut in 25,200 barrels per day (bpd) of North Sea crude following the fire. A spokeswoman said there was no time frame for resumption of the shut-in crude as Shell was still investigating the cause of the electrical fire, extinguished early today. Helicopters were scrambled to the *Tern Alpha* platform, 265 miles off north-east Scotland, after a report of a fire in a generator, a Maritime and Coastguard Agency spokesman said. "The fire is virtually out," he said. "There's still some smoke, no flames and the heat is really well diminished. Local platform fire teams are investigating the area." About 135 non-essential workers have been taken by helicopter from the platform, leaving 56 staff behind, he added. In a statement, Aberdeen Coastguard's watch manager George Downie said rescuers were being helped by relatively good weather for the time of year. "We are working closely with everyone involved to continue to carry out search and rescue and evacuation procedures, until all personnel on board are out of harm's way," he said. — Reuters.

TERRA NOVA FPSO (Canada)

London, Mar 10 — Floating production *Terra Nova FPSO* (81455 gt, built 1999) is currently operating at reduced production levels owing to a combination of factors. The drilling of a production well in the Far East block has been delayed largely due to equipment issues. The production well is now expected to be on stream by the end of March. In addition, a six-day

unscheduled shutdown in February for repairs and a mechanical failure in the gear box of one of the two main power generators have reduced production on the FPSO. Replacement of the generator gear box is expected to be completed by the end of the second quarter. As a result, Petro-Canada now expects Terra Nova gross production to average approximately 77,000 barrels per day in the first quarter of 2006, approximately 42,000 barrels per day lower than originally expected. Second quarter gross production is expected to average approximately 83,000 barrels per day, down approximately 32,000 barrels per day. Petro-Canada's share of Terra Nova production is expected to average approximately 26,000 barrels per day in the first quarter of 2006, approximately 15,000 barrels per day lower than originally expected. Second quarter production is expected to average 28,000 barrels per day, down by approximately 11,000 barrels per day. The Terra Nova oil field is operated by Petro-Canada, and is located 350 kilometers east-southeast of St. John's, NL.

TIGER (U.S.A.)

Portland, OR, Mar 15 — Understand tug *Tiger* has completed basic repairs and is currently being employed by Diversified Marine Inc, Portland. — Lloyd's Agents.

TOR FLANDRIA (Sweden)

Gothenburg, Mar 10 — Ro/ro/c.c. *Tor Flandria* has been in dry dock in Gothenburg. Repairs completed and back on her normal schedule as of Mar 9. — Lloyd's Agents.

TRACER (Netherlands)

Gijon, Mar 10 — General cargo *Tracer* rearranged the stow and is now ready to sail for Fos su Mer. — Lloyd's Agents.

Gijon, Mar 11 — General cargo *Tracer* departed from Gijon at 1430 hrs, Mar 10.

TRANSFER (Antigua & Barbuda)

Belize City, Mar 15 — Part c.c. *Transfer* is still aground at Lighthouse Reef. — Lloyd's Agents.

TWIN STAR (Panama)

Rotterdam, Mar 10 — Bulk *Twin Star*: We are continuing the operation to remove bunkers and are presently halfway through this task. In addition, we are continuing to work on the engine-room and everything is on schedule. Visibility in the area is poor, which increases the difficulty of the operation. — SMIT Salvage BV.

TY ORCHID (South Korea)

London, Mar 11 — Following received from Beijing MRCC, timed 0110, UTC: General cargo *Ty Orchid* (4391 gt, built 1999) sank in lat 39 36N, long 124 02E, at 0503, UTC, Mar 9. Vessels were sent to search for the crew and 13 crewmembers were rescued.

ULUSOY-1 (Turkey)

London, Mar 9 — Ro/ro *Ulusoy-1* sailed from Novorossiysk on Mar 8 bound for Samsun.

VERTIGO (Jamaica)

London, Mar 16 — As at Mar 15, bulk *Vertigo* was reported to be still at Szczecin.

VINGA SAFIR (Sweden)

See "Sarpsborg, Sweden" under "Pollution."

VITA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Gothenburg, Mar 13 — General cargo *Vita* has been in drydock at Cityvarvet, Gothenburg and temporary repairs have been carried out. As the vessel was fully loaded it continued its voyage to a UK port for discharge, after completion of the temporary repairs. It is, however, expected back to Gothenburg today and drydocking is planned for tomorrow, when permanent repairs are scheduled. It is not known when these repairs will be finished. — Lloyd's Agents.

VOC ENDEAVOUR (Bahamas)

London, Mar 9 — Bulk *VOC Endeavour* arrived at Novorossiysk on Mar 7 from Poti.

VOLGONEFT 120 (Russia)

Mariupol, Mar 10 — According to the last Ship Agent's information product tanker *Volgoneft 120* is expected to complete repairs between Mar 18 and 25. — Lloyd's Agents.

WAN HAI 266 (Singapore)

London, Mar 14 — C.c. *Wan Hai 266* arrived Port Klang Mar 9 and sailed Mar 9.

WATERMAN N (Panama)

London, Mar 11 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Bulk *Waterman N* reportedly resumed voyage as soon as its engine was started.

WAVE (Honduras)

London, Mar 15 — General cargo *Wave* was reported passing through the Dardanelles at 2023 hrs, Mar 5, in a westerly direction. On Mar 12, the vessel was reported transiting the Suez Canal.

WOLGASTER (Isle of Man)

London, Mar 12 — Chemical/oil carrier *Wolgaster* sailed from Bremerhaven at 1425 hrs, Mar 3, bound for Kaliningrad, arriving on Mar 7. The vessel departed the following day.

YEMEN STAR 1 (Ghana)

Aden, Mar 14 — Non specific tanker *Yemen Star 1* arrived Aden Feb 23 and sailed Feb 25. — Lloyd's Agents.

YUAN DONG 101 (China)

See *Eastern Dragon*.

ZEUS (Netherlands)

London, Mar 14 — Information received from Kiel, dated today,

states: At 2235, local time, Mar 12, general cargo *Zeus* (6142 gt, built 2000), Kotka for Vlissingen, ran aground on the northern embankment, at Neuwittenbek, in the Kiel Canal after a rudder failure. The vessel refloated under its own power after 50 minutes and resumed its voyage. Just one hour later *Zeus* stopped again at the passing point Rade due to technical problems. It continued its voyage after repairs in the morning of Mar 13. The vessel arrived at Brunsbuttel in the afternoon, where police boarded for inspections.

London, Mar 15 — General cargo *Zeus* was reported arriving Flushing 1700 hrs, Mar 14.

ZIM MEXICO III (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Mar 14 — C.c. *Zim Mexico III* arrived Tampa Mar 9 and sailed Mar 10 for Kingston.

Port State Control



CANARY ISLANDS

Tenerife, Mar 10 — Product tanker *Imant Sudmalis* (1864 gt, built 1968) arrested by the Tenerife Harbour Master's Office after having detected deficiencies on board that has converted her into a "risk" vessel. Due to the numerous anomalies detected, the Belize Merchant Navy has decided to take away her flag and carry out disciplinary measures with the owners. Vessel has been operating as bunker supply vessel to the fishing factory vessels based on the Mauritanian coast. — Lloyd's Agents.

Tenerife, Mar 10 — Chem.tank *Tenerife* (2289 gt, built 1975) arrested by the Tenerife Harbour Master's Office after having detected deficiencies on board that has converted her into a "risk" vessel. Due to the numerous anomalies detected, the Belize Merchant Navy has decided to take away her flag and carry out disciplinary measures with the owners. Vessel has been operating as bunker supply vessel to the fishing factory vessels based on the Mauritanian coast. — Lloyd's Agents.

Tenerife, Mar 10 — Chemical/oil carrier *Pelikan* (1589 gt, built 1969) arrested for anomalies/deficiencies found on board after inspection. — Lloyd's Agents.

Tenerife, Mar 10 — Chemical/oil carrier *Pelikan* was released from detention after correcting the deficiencies, and sailed Tenerife Mar 9. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 14 — Following received from the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize, dated today: Product tanker *Imant Sudmalis* and chem.tank *Tenerife* were prohibited from sailing from the Port of Santa Cruz de Tenerife on Feb 16 and 27 respectively by the

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

International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize. These Prohibition from Sailing Notices were sent to the Capitanía Marítima de Santa Cruz de Tenerife and, as a result of the notices, the Capitanía Marítima de Santa Cruz de Tenerife boarded the vessels and informed us that they had “retained” these vessels. After prohibiting the vessels from sailing, we instructed our Recognised Organization, the Russian Maritime Register of Shipping, to survey the vessels in order to ensure the compliance of *Imant Sudmalis* with the requirements for “Laid Up Class”, in other words, as an inactive vessel only, with no cargo on board and to ensure that there is no possibility of any pollution resulting therefrom. The necessary surveys were completed by the Russian Maritime Register of Shipping on Mar 3 and the vessel remains “Prohibited from Sailing” by our Registry which controls it. *Tenerife* was prohibited from sailing pending a Safety Management Audit of the vessel and its operators by the Russian Maritime Register, as well as our own Flag State General Safety Inspector. As a result of the findings of the audits/inspections, the International Safety Management Certificates for the vessel and its operators were withdrawn on Mar 2. In addition, we have decided to take disciplinary action against the owners of the two vessels, including fines and their deregistration. Neither vessel will be permitted by our Registry to sail from Santa Cruz under the Belize flag.

CYPRUS

Limassol, Mar 13 — Passenger *Olympia* (5119 gt, built 1953), which arrive at Limassol on Mar 5, has been under Dept. of Merchant Shipping detention since Mar 8. — Lloyd’s Agents.

London, Mar 14 — General cargo *Carine K.* sailed from Limassol on Mar 13, bound for Tripoli, Lebanon.

IMANT SUDMALIS (Belize)

See “Canary Islands” under “Port State Control”.

OLYMPIA (North Korea)

See “Cyprus” under “Port State Control”.

PELIKAN (Lithuania)

See “Canary Islands” under “Port State Control”.

TENERIFE (Belize)

See “Canary Islands - Psc - Tenerife (Blz)” under “Port State Control”.

UNITED KINGDOM

Falmouth, Mar 16 — General cargo *Saruna* was released from detention on Mar 14. The vessel left Cross Roads Buoy at 1500, UTC, Mar 15, but experienced a further engine failure. It has been re-secured to Cross Roads Buoy and has been re-detained. — Lloyd’s Agents.



AGIOS CONSTANTINOS (Cambodia)

Tenerife, Mar 9 — General cargo *Agios Constantinos* is still under arrest under judicial custody. — Lloyd’s Agents.

AGIOS DIONYSIOS (Greece)

Piraeus, Mar 10 — General cargo *Agios Dionyssios* remains under arrest at Larimna. No auction is set up to date. — Lloyd’s Agents.

ATLANTIC MERCADO (Antigua & Barbuda)

Durban, Mar 15 — General cargo *Atlantic Mercado* has completed repairs and has passed necessary tests. Handover to owners will take place by noon tomorrow pending payment of remaining funds. — Lloyd’s Agents.

AUDREY

Bahrain, Mar 16 — Tug *Audrey* is still under detention. Understand from the vessel’s agent that there is a dispute between the vessel’s owners and charterers. — Lloyd’s Agents.

CHEN LONG (Panama)

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing *Chen Long*, caught off northern Australia with hundreds of tonnes of fish on board, is being released after investigators failed to make a case against the crew. The failure to prosecute the crew of the *Chen Long* is a setback for the federal government after it trumpeted the vessel’s capture as a win in the fight against the alarming increase in illegal fishing in northern waters. Fisheries Minister Eric Abetz now wants the law changed to prevent Australian waters being used as a safe haven for illegal operators carrying catches from neighbouring marine territories. The Australian Fisheries Management Authority found the *Chen Long*’s catch came from Indonesian waters, leaving the government unable to prosecute. Senator Abetz said the government had decided to release the *Chen Long* after the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions advised a successful prosecution was not possible. “Detailed investigations confirmed all of the 639 tonnes of fish on board were taken in Indonesian waters, despite the fact that the vessel was operating without a current licence,” Senator Abetz said in a statement. “However, current laws prevent Australia from taking action unless there is sufficient evidence that fish product has been illegally transhipped or caught inside Australia’s Fishing Zone. “The Australian government makes no

apologies for its decision to bring the vessel into port for investigation.” The *Chen Long*, a 75-metre Panama-registered vessel, is the biggest fishing vessel caught off northern Australia. It was apprehended last month off the Northern Territory coast with the huge catch stored in its freezer holds. Authorities suspected around 270 tonnes of the catch came from Australian waters, and that the vessel was a mother ship for smaller illegal fishing boats. The vessel was intercepted north-west of Cape Wessels on Feb 12 and escorted to Darwin. Its crew of 18 Chinese nationals will be transferred from South Australia’s Baxter immigration detention centre to Darwin, where they will be free to leave port on the *Chen Long*. Senator Abetz said the government will now consider changing the law to stop Australian waters being used to harbour illegal foreign fishers. “The Australian government will urgently consider changes to legislation to allow Australia to act against illegal, unregulated or unreported vessels carrying fish products in our waters, regardless of the origin of the catch,” he said. Australian operators accuse the government of not doing enough to stop illegal fishing in northern waters.

CHUAN FA SHENG NO.128 (Taiwan)

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The federal court yesterday ordered the arrest of a foreign fishing vessel that was intercepted by the U.S. Coast Guard for allegedly engaging in illegal fishing in the CNMI waters. U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson directed the U.S. Marshal to arrest fishing *Chuan Fa Sheng No.128*, a 100-foot Taiwanese “long-line” fishing vessel. Munson also commanded the U.S. Marshal to arrest the boat’s engines, machinery, tackle and appurtenances. The judge issued the order after the U.S. government, through assistant U.S. attorney Mikel W. Schwab, filed a complaint for forfeiture of the vessel. Schwab stated in the complaint that vessel is a “long-line” fishing vessel of Chinese-Taiwan Registry Hull no. CT4-2528, being captained by Hsu Mu-jung and Chen Gwo Vian. Schwab said the boat was fishing at a position of approximately lat 22 N, long 144 33.6E, which is within the exclusive economic zone contiguous to the territorial sea of the U.S. The vessel, the prosecutor said, was fishing within the EEZ without a valid, applicable permit issued by the U.S. He said the vessel, including its fishing gear, furniture, appurtenances, cargo and catch of fish, was seized by agents of the U.S. Coast Guard on Thursday (Mar 9) within the EEZ. The vessel was transported to Saipan. “The defendant vessel, including its fishing gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores, cargo, and catch of fish is subject to forfeiture to the United States,” Schwab added.

DEMRE (Turkey)

La Spezia, Mar 13 — General cargo *Demre* (4014 gt, built 1978) is currently under arrest at La Spezia. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Demre* arrived La Spezia Feb 24.)

DURSUN CEVAHIR (Turkey)

London, Mar 16 — General cargo *Dursun Cevahir* sailed from Tripoli, Lebanon, on Feb 20, destination Mersin. The vessel arrived there on Feb 21, sailing on Feb 25.

GLAROS (Panama)

La Spezia, Mar 13 — General cargo *Glaros* is currently still under arrest at La Spezia. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

JOHN CHEEK (Falkland Islands)

Buenos Aires, Mar 9 — Our Sub-agents at Comodoro Rivadavia report fishing *John Cheek* remains under arrest at that port. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated Mar 10, states: Fishing *John Cheek* remains under arrest in Argentina. Jan Cheek of Petrel Trawling Company Ltd, the vessel's owners said she has received "no real news." She said no charges have yet been brought and, "our understanding is that under Argentine law the vessel can be held for 60 days without charge." Mrs. Cheek said the company has seen various allegations in the Argentine press but added, "we are confident that our vessel was fishing in international waters."

KUM YANG NO.102 (South Korea)

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated Mar 11, states: South Korean fishing *KumYang No.102* (793 gt, built 1991) supposedly poaching in Argentine waters arrived Mar del Plata this afternoon escorted by the Argentine Navy corvette *Guerrico*. According to an Argentine Navy release *Kum Yang NO.102* was sighted operating 197 miles offshore Peninsula Valdes by an Orion P3 aircraft which then contacted the corvette. Apparently the sighting took place Thursday (Mar 9) afternoon and the arrest was done midnight in adverse weather conditions with 55 miles gales. Captain Hector Varela from *Guerrico* said that although the jigger did not resist the arrest it turned the lights off and tried to dump most of the squid overboard. "They tried to dump the squid overboard but we managed to recover some samples as evidence", said Captain Varela. Argentine authorities must now decide whether the jigger committed an offense or was infringing the Fisheries law, which is a more serious crime entailing a heavy fine and auctioning of the cargo and fishing equipment. Officials are also trying to determine if *Kum Yang No.102*, which is registered with the Korean Deep Sea Fisheries Association, was licenced by the Falkland Islands government.

LUCKY DOLPHIN (Panama)

London, Mar 14 — Offers for the purchase of general cargo *Lucky Dolphin*, which is currently under arrest at Eilat, are invited by the receiver of the vessel, appointed by the Admiralty Court in Haifa. Offers should be submitted in writing not later than 1000, Apr 4.

PREVEZE (Turkey)

Genoa, Mar 13 — General cargo *Preveze* is still moored at Garibaldi Pier, inside La Spezia Commercial Harbour. The La Spezia Courts arrested the vessel due to litigation raised by departing crew members about their wages and the guarantee of obtaining payment. Understand the parties found a positive solution in order to end the disagreement. Further understand that more crew members will be signing onto the vessel shortly, after which it will sail from La Spezia. — Lloyd's Agents.

RIKA (Estonia)

Tallinn, Mar 16 — General cargo *Rikais* still at Meeruse (Bekkeri) Harbour, Tallinn, under arrest. Prospects of release unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAFMARINE PAKISTAN (Cyprus)

Kochi, Mar 14 — C.c. *Safmarine Pakistan* is still laid up at Kochi port for investigation. Examination of all import containers intended for Kochi Port has been completed by various investigating agencies. The containers destined for Tuticorin and Colombo are now being examined. — Lloyd's Agents.

SENTINEL (Comoros)

Genoa, Mar 10 — General cargo *Sentinel* is still under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

ST.CLAIR**(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Batumi, Mar 9 — General cargo *St. Clair* was released at 1200, Mar 1. According to Georgian Coast Guard representatives, the vessel's next port of destination was Gelendzhik. — Lloyd's Agents.

UGO FOSCOLO (Greece)

London, Mar 10 — A report in the Mar 10 issue of "Newsfront" states: Passenger ro/ro *Ugo Foscolo*, seized by a private creditor in pursuit of Euro 25,000 claim against the registered owners, ANEZ.

YUAN HE (Panama)

London, Mar 11 — General cargo *Yuan He* (4018 gt, built 1977), 3FHL5, which arrived at Hong Kong at 2355 hrs, Mar 10, is today reported to be at South West Lama Anchorage, Hong Kong, under arrest.

London, Mar 13 — General cargo *Yuan He* sailed from Hong Kong at 1146 hrs, today.

Pipeline Accidents**BASHKORTOSTAN, RUSSIA**

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: About 5,000 barrels of crude oil spilled from a burst pipeline in a central Russian republic yesterday, local emergency officials said. The Nizhnevartovsk-Kurgan-Kuibyshev pipeline ruptured in Bashkortostan, in the southern Ural Mountains, spraying oil over an area of some 5,400 square feet, officials said. They said the leak presented no threat to public health. More than 120 people are involved in an ongoing cleanup operation.

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Updated reports from Bashkortostan said at least 2,000 cubic metres of petroleum products leaked in the latest pipeline rupture incident and that the cleanup operation will last five days, the press service of the Emergency Situations Ministry's regional department told Itar-Tass today. "It's three times as much than the previous estimates. The contaminated area totalled 6,000 square metres," an emergency official said. Earlier reports said the operation would be finished by tomorrow. By today, 1,800 cubic metres of spilt oil were collected and taken out of the area, along with 160 cubic metres of contaminated soil. A thaw has complicated the operation, turning the incident area into a bog, with the equipment sinking in the mud.

CAMISEA PIPELINE, PERU

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Camisea gas pipeline in the Peruvian Amazon has leaked for the fifth time in 18 months according to Reuters. Two people were injured and a small fire was ignited by the spill of 750 cubic metres of gas. The controversial pipeline is located in the Peru's Amazon rainforest, one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world. Since it began pumping gas to the capital city of Lima in mid-2004, the pipeline has leaked five times, including a rupture that spilled 6,000 barrels into the jungle last November. The continuing leaks have raised concerns among local communities and triggered a government threat to cancel the pipeline operator's (Transportadora de Gas del Peru) operating contract.

**PORTLAND HARBOUR, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Mar 9 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC,

timed 1547, UTC: The oil spilled from naval auxiliary *Fort George* has now been assessed as approximately 100 litres maximum. The majority of the oil has been recovered and discharged into a road tanker. The boom will be left in place overnight to contain absorbent pads in the water.

PRUDHOE BAY, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated today, states: An oil spill discovered at Prudhoe Bay field is the largest ever on Alaska's North Slope region, US officials say. They estimate that up to 267,000 gallons of crude leaked from a corroded transit pipeline at the state's northern tip. The spill was detected on March 2 and plugged. Local environmentalists have described it as "a catastrophe". "I can confirm it's the largest spill of crude oil on the North Slope that we have record of," Linda Giguere from Alaska's state department of environmental conservation was quoted as saying by the Associated Press news agency. The estimate is based on a survey conducted several days ago at the site where the leak was discovered, officials say. The spill covers about two acres of the snow-covered tundra in the sparsely-populated region on Alaska's north coast, some 1,040km north of the state's biggest city, Anchorage. The source of the spill was a hole caused by internal corrosion in the pipeline, officials say. It remains unclear when the leak started.

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated Mar 13, states: Cleaning up the estimated at up to 267,000 gallons of oil spilt in the Prudhoe Bay oil field has been slow going because workers are having to take frequent breaks to protect themselves against extreme conditions. In recent days, the wind chill factor dipped to more than 70 degrees below zero, barely warming to 44 below today. About 60,000 gallons of crude have been recovered since the leak from a ruptured transit line was discovered March 2 at a site operated by BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. Crews used a vacuum truck to recover oil that pooled in some places and carried fresh snow to other spots to absorb the crude. After transferring the contaminated snow to a concrete pad, the mixture will be melted and separated. The crude will ultimately be treated and sold, according to BP officials. The goal is to collect at least 90 percent of it. Officials emphasise the spill bears a small imprint, taking up a size smaller than two football fields in a vast industrial hub traversed by a network of pipelines, oil gathering stations and power plants. Despite the numbing conditions, the weather is actually helping recovery, turning oil as thick as honey, so it doesn't spread as quickly as it would in warmer temperatures. The source of the spill was a quarter-inch hole apparently

caused by corrosion inside the three-mile line that leads to the trans-Alaska oil pipeline. Workers on Saturday (Mar 11) repaired the rupture, welding a metal sleeve on a six-foot section of the line. Crews are inspecting the line to determine if it can withstand resuming production. The plant, 650 miles north of Anchorage, usually processes 100,000 barrels of oil daily. Full production is not expected to resume for a week or more, said BP incident commander James Fausett. For now, a six-inch pipeline is being used for production of 5,000 barrels daily. BP also is looking at a plan to reroute the crude through another pipeline. The pipeline is equipped with a leak detection system, but officials do not know when the crude began trickling out of the line. BP will investigate whether the system was working at the time, Fausett said. The extent of regulatory penalties BP faces is unknown. Officials with the state DEC said the company could be fined close to \$2 million.

SARPSBORG, NORWAY

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A fuel oil spill from a chemical plant in southeastern Norway threatened hundreds of birds in a salt water nature preserve yesterday, while snow and ice hampered a cleanup operation. The leak was traced to the Borregaard plant in the town of Sarpsborg. A statement from the plant, owned by Norway's Orkla ASA group, said nearly 200 barrels leaked during the transfer of fuel oil from a vessel on Saturday (Mar 4). "Because of ice in the harbor area the oil was not visible and was not discovered before the ice broke up on Wednesday," the statement said. By then, oil had been carried on the Glomma river to an ocean inlet, near a major bird sanctuary and a popular coastal vacation area. Scores of birds had already died and hundreds more, including at least 80 swans, had been contaminated by the spill, local wildlife authorities said. Ice, cold and strong currents rendered traditional oil spill containment equipment such as floating booms useless. "None of the traditional tools work," said local Fire Chief Ludvig Olsen. The spill had reached waters near Fredrikstad, the main town in the area, about 55 miles south of Oslo and near the Swedish border.

SARPSBORG, SWEDEN

Fredrikstad, Mar 10 — Product tanker *Vinga Safir* (1685 gt, built 2000): A broken pipeline on shore spilled about 11m³ of heavy fueloil at Borregaard Fabrikker, Melloes Quay, Sarpsborg, River Glomma, 2330, Mar 3. About 1m³ cleaned up. Clean-up operations continue. (Note — *Vinga Safir* arrived Oslo Mar 6 from Borg Harbour.)

Weather & Navigation



BRAZIL

Vatican City, Mar 13 — Local Church officials in Rio Branco, the capital of Brazil's Acre region in the north-west, report that as many as 8,000 families have been made homeless by flooding in the area, where parishes are co-ordinating with local officials to bring in emergency food and relief supplies. The displaced families are currently being sheltered in schools, churches, gymnasiums, and other public buildings, or are being taken in by host families, according to parish reports received by Caritas Brazil. The Acre River in the Amazon had already overflowed some weeks ago and the continuous rain for the last two weeks shows no sign of abating. The region is passing through the peak of its rainy season. According to official reports yesterday, more than 30,000 people, or a tenth of the city, have had to abandon their homes because of the flooding. Last week, Rio Branco Mayor Raimundo Angelim declared a state of emergency when floodwaters reached parts of the city closest to the river. — Reuters.

EGYPT

London, Mar 9 — Due to bad weather and poor visibility in the Suez Canal, seven vessels in the first southbound convoy with a draught of more than 12.8 metres were not permitted to enter the canal today, Mar 9. These vessels are expected to join the first southbound convoy tomorrow. No other delays have been experienced.

INDIA

Bhopal, Mar 10 — Lightning killed 11 people and injured eight in the past 24 hours in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, hit by unseasonal rain and hailstorms, officials said today. The latest deaths, including a 10-year-old girl, brought the death toll due to bad weather to at least 35 since Mar 1. More than 100 people have been injured and thousands of hectares of mustard, lentil and wheat crop damaged. "As per preliminary reports, 720 villages in 30 districts have been affected by the unseasonal rains and hailstorms, and crops in 31,850 hectares of land has been lost," the state's Chief Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, said. Six policemen were hurt when strong winds uprooted their tents and they were pelted by hail in western Madhya Pradesh overnight. Scores of trees have been ripped out by strong winds. Rain and hailstorms have lashed India's key wheat-growing regions for the past two days and traders fear it may hit the country's output for grain. — Reuters.

MALAWI

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated Mar 9, states: Flash floods from the heaviest rains in 20 years have swept the south and central parts of Malawi, leaving more than 8,000 people homeless, officials said today. Flooding from a rain-swollen river in the southern district of Mangochi displaced more than 6,000 people yesterday, district officials said. The waters cut villages off and washed away bridges, making the area inaccessible. The flooding left 2,000 more people homeless in the Salima district, some 60 miles east of Lilongwe, the capital of the east African nation. Most lost their livestock in an area where people are surviving on bamboo seeds. The homeless were being sheltered in schools, churches and mosques, said local disaster official, Hebert Manthalu. Manthalu said that maize fields had also been destroyed.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Mar 10 — The Sulina Channel was reopened at 0800, Mar 9, and closed again at 0700, Mar 10, due to bad weather. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Mar 13 — The Sulina channel was re-opened at 0615 hrs, Mar 12. It was closed again at 0610 hrs, today, due to strong winds, north-northeast, force seven, sea five-six. Midia port was closed at 0445 hrs, today, due to bad weather, winds east-northeast, force seven-eight, sea four-five.

Bucharest, Mar 14 — Constantza port was reopened at 0830, today. Midia and Mangalia ports and Sulina channel are still closed. — Lloyd's Agents.

RUSSIA

London, Mar 10 — Power and water supply has been restored in all populated localities of Russia's North Ossetia republic that were hit by a strong hurricane, aide to the republic's emergency situations minister Vladimir Ivanov said today. "There are still small problems in two settlements, however energy workers have promised to cope with them before noon," Ivanov said. "Restoration efforts continued throughout the night despite a heavy rain with snow," the emergency minister's aide said. North Ossetian Prime Minister Alexander Merkulov said the republican departments are conducting expert examinations of their facilities in order to get compensations for the damage from the federal centre. The damage inflicted by the hurricane that was raging in North Ossetia for a day is estimated at 50 million roubles in Vladikavkaz alone.

TROPICAL STORM "KAJIKI"

Manila, Mar 14 — Barge *Napocor Power Barge No.106* is still alongside Keppel Shipyard, Batangas, with no repairs in progress. It is understood the shipowner has made no decision

yet as to when the repairs will be effected. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, Mar 14 — Tug *Napocor Tugboat No.1* is still at Keppel Batangas Shipyard after sea trials conducted on Mar 1 revealed defects in the vessel's electrical system. "The vessel's electrical system is now undergoing fine-tuning at Keppel Batangas Shipyard," National Power Corporation spokesperson Dennis Gana said today. — Lloyd's List Correspondents.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry services in Shetland took a battering from the wind yesterday as gusts as strong as 85 mph led to cancelled sailings and disrupted services. The last ferry out of Whalsay was at 1745 on Sunday (Mar 12) and although there was hope of sailing yesterday and the situation was reviewed several times, a decision to suspend all sailings was finally taken last night. A restricted service was operating to Yell and Unst with a few crossings in the early morning and several more in the afternoon but there were no sailings to Fetlar at all. No ferry has made it in or out of Skerries for two days. Both Fair Isle and Papa Stour had no scheduled sailings yesterday and today's sailings will be weather dependant. The Fair Isle aircraft did not fly either. The NorthLink ferries to and from Aberdeen are running a reduced service. While passenger ro/ro *Hrossey* is in dry dock and with the high winds and rough seas, passenger ro/ro *Hjalmland* is not sailing from Aberdeen until 1700 tonight, earlier than scheduled so that it can call at Orkney. The first sailing to Aberdeen this week will be leaving Lerwick at 1730pm tomorrow. There were a few disruptions at Sumburgh airport but an airport spokeswoman said all the affected passengers made it on to later flights. The Edinburgh "night stopper" did not get in on Sunday so there was no early Edinburgh flight yesterday and the 0630 hrs Aberdeen flight was also cancelled. The strong to severe gale force south to south-easterly winds which have been causing the problems were due to ease overnight and the rain is expected to become light and patchy this afternoon.

UNITED STATES

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated Mar 9, states: Storms moving across the southern Plains today brought winds strong enough to rip off roofs and blow apart barns. Thousands of people lost power in Arkansas, and a lightning-sparked fire killed a man. Southern Oklahoma had baseball-sized hail and surrounding states saw heavy rain as the front moved east across the Mississippi River. Around Little Rock, the high wind rolled over a mobile home and damaged about a dozen

other homes, and trees and power lines were down around the state. About 7,600 homes and businesses lost electricity when power lines went out after being hit by trees or other power lines, and the wind kept workers from making immediate repairs. Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee said he will declare five counties disaster areas, entitling them to state money for the cleanup. In Mississippi, students at Lockard Elementary School in Indianola were ordered into hallways just before a tornado struck, assistant principal Valerie Simpson said. No one was hurt, but the storm caused roof damage to three buildings and blew out windows. Winds as high as 80 mph took off roofs and otherwise damaged homes in Bolivar and Panola counties, said Lea Stokes, spokeswoman for the state emergency agency. The rough weather was caused by a storm system moving from the northwest ahead of a cold front. The main storm system was moving into the rest of the South this afternoon, and other thunderstorms were possible from another system expected to be centered in Missouri. Storms were expected through Monday (Mar 13).

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Severe storms across the Midwest packed winds that knocked over airplanes, ripped roofs off homes and spawned tornadoes that killed three people. A twister, which roared up to a half mile wide, killed a woman seeking shelter in her mobile home and displaced about 150 residents in western Missouri last night, officials said. Six people were injured and two were missing after the tornado cut a path more than 16 miles long through the town of Sedalia, said Rusty Kahrs, Pettis County presiding commissioner. Tornadoes also touched down yesterday in Arkansas and in central Illinois. There were no immediate reports of injuries in either state. Storms rolled through northeastern Kansas earlier in the day with fierce winds that lifted a cargo container off the airfield at the Kansas City International Airport, authorities said. At the Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport, some private airplanes tied down on the airfield were "spun around," spokesman Joe McBride said. The University of Kansas in Lawrence canceled classes today after 60 percent of its buildings were damaged by the storm, school officials said. The roof of the nondenominational Danforth Chapel, which has been the site for thousands of weddings on campus, was torn off almost completely. The storms followed powerful tornadoes that ripped across southern Missouri and southern Illinois Saturday night, destroying homes along a path of more than 20 miles and killing a married couple whose pickup truck was blown off a rural road about 80 miles south of St. Louis, officials said.

During the night, several people were injured as the storm system pounded the central Mississippi Valley with hailstones as big as softballs, high wind and torrential rain. It was not immediately clear how many tornadoes struck the area.

Chicago, Mar 14 — Violent storms that spawned a record number of tornadoes killed 10 people across the Midwest, including nine in Missouri where twisters, high winds and baseball-sized hail wrecked homes, authorities said yesterday. The other death was a drowning victim in Indiana, emergency management officials said. An estimated 113 tornadoes touched down on Sunday (Mar 12), breaking a 16-year-old record for any day in March, the National Storm Prediction Centre said. Damage and power outages from the storms and twisters extended across Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana. Four people died in and around Moberly, Missouri, when their homes were struck by a powerful twister on Sunday. Other victims were reported in Sedalia and Marionville. Missouri's emergency management agency said 29 of the state's 114 counties sustained storm damage. Ohio, Kentucky and Pennsylvania absorbed the brunt of the storm system as it moved eastward yesterday, while another round of storms hit Minnesota and Wisconsin with snow, ice and wind. The unsettled weekend weather included freak snowfalls in normally balmy sections of California and relief from the record 143-day drought gripping Phoenix. Wind, hail, lightning and downpours hit the Midwest. Officials at the University of Kansas said the main campus in Lawrence sustained about \$6 million damage on Sunday but there were no injuries. Classes for the 26,000 students were canceled yesterday, spokesman Todd Cohen said. More than half the buildings on the campus experienced some damage, ranging from blown-in doors to ripped-off roofs. The soccer stands were left a twisted wreck, he said. On Saturday, 17 tornadoes were reported across the region, contributing two fatalities to the weekend death toll. — Reuters.

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated Mar 13, states: Powerful storms spawned tornadoes in five states, leaving nine people dead in Missouri and one in Indiana. High winds from storms yesterday damaged about 60 percent of the buildings on the University of Kansas' Lawrence campus. University Chancellor Robert Hemenway estimated damage at between \$6 million and \$7 million, but because the state insures its buildings, it will get have to pay the cost of repairing them, Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said during a Statehouse news conference. Elsewhere in Lawrence, city and utility crews were out in force after dawn restoring power and resetting poles downed by the storm.

Earthquakes



INDONESIA

Jakarta, Mar 14 — An earthquake of 6.4 magnitude rocked remote parts of eastern Indonesia today but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, the Meteorological and Geophysics Agency said. The quake's epicentre lay in the Banda sea about 80 km west of the Banda city, which lies about 2,300 km south-east of the capital Jakarta, Nugroho Dwiputranto, an official from the agency, said. He said the quake struck at 0657, UTC, today and was felt in Ambon city. — Reuters.

MOZAMBIQUE

Maputo, Mar 15 — Two tremors shook central Mozambique today in what officials described as aftershocks of a powerful earthquake that killed four people in the southern African nation last month. No deaths or injuries were reported from the tremors, which occurred about two hours apart in the central province of Manica, the same region that was hit by the Feb 23 earthquake. The first tremor today measured 5.3 on the Richter scale and was followed by a second one measuring 5.6.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, Mar 12 — A former Afghan president who heads a government commission seeking to encourage Taliban defections survived a suicide car bomb attack today that killed two bombers and two civilians, officials said. Sibghatullah Mojadidi, who also chairs the upper house of parliament, or Senate, was in a car being driven on a busy main road when attackers detonated a car laden with explosives near his vehicle. "The aim of the attack was Mr. Mojadidi," Zalmay Oryakhel, the senior police officer for the area, told Reuters. Witnesses said two vehicles in Mojadidi's convoy were damaged but an official of President Hamid Karzai's office said Mojadidi was not injured. An Interior Ministry spokesman said two suicide attackers and two civilians were killed. Oryakhel said police suspected an al Qaeda militant allied to the Taliban rebels carried out the attack. — Reuters.

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated Mar 12, states: Four US marines have been killed by a roadside bomb blast in Afghanistan's Kunar Province. The soldiers died after an improvised explosive device

ripped through their convoy while on patrol, the US military said in a statement. It was the deadliest attack on US forces in a month. Local governor Assadullah Wafa blamed militants from the former Taliban regime for the attack. The US soldiers were on patrol, conducting operations to keep a road open.

Spin Boldak, Afghanistan, Mar 13 — A Taliban spokesman said today four kidnapped foreigners had been executed on the orders of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar. The Taliban said they kidnapped the four in the Afghan south on Saturday (Mar 11). The Taliban said three were Albanian and one was German. An official at the ECOLOG services company in Kabul said four of its workers had gone missing but said they were all Albanian. Taliban spokesman Qari Mohammad Yousuf said the four had been killed and their bodies had been dumped in the Kandahar-Helmand area of the south. There was no independent confirmation of the claim. — Reuters.

BANGLADESH

Dhaka, Mar 10 — One of Bangladesh's top Islamist militants, captured last week, has confessed to involvement in a wave of bomb attacks that killed at least 30 people, a senior officer of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) force said today. Lt-Col Gulzaruddin Ahmed, intelligence chief of the elite RAB, said Shayek Abdur Rahman, now in police custody and being interrogated by a joint task force, had admitted that his outlawed Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen group was mainly responsible for the explosion of hundreds of small bombs since August 2005. At least 30 people were killed and over 150 wounded in the attacks. Shayek, supreme leader of the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen, was captured in the northeastern town of Sylhet on Mar 2 following a siege of the house where he lived with his family. Formal charges against Shayek, which may include sedition and murder, will be laid later, officials said. He could face the death penalty if convicted. Shayek has already been sentenced to 40 years in prison while in hiding for his role in the killing of two judges in January in southern Jhalakathi town. Last Monday another of Bangladesh's most wanted militants, Siddikul Islam Bangla Bhai, was captured during a gunbattle in the northern district of Mymensingh. Wounded in the battle, Bangla Bhai, chief of another outlawed group called Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh, is now being treated at an armed forces hospital in Dhaka. Security officials said today his condition was improving and he would be fit for questioning in a few days. The two groups are fighting for introduction of sharia law in Bangladesh, a mainly Muslim democracy. — Reuters.

Dhaka, Mar 12 — At least 50 people were injured in the Bangladeshi capital today in clashes between police and opposition activists during

a demonstration for electoral reforms, police and witnesses said. The clashes erupted as hundreds of opposition workers pushed through a police barricade and marched to the election commission's office, demanding the resignation of the election commissioner, who they said was biased. Police fired tear gas shells and used water canons to break up the protest, launched by a 14-party alliance led by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina to compel the government to make the election commission more independent before elections next year. Police said at least 20 opposition workers were detained after they burnt a bus and damaged vehicles during the protest today, which is a working day in Muslim Bangladesh. Traffic resumed on the streets after opposition activists left the scene and hundreds of police in riot gear stood guard outside key government buildings, a police officer said later. In protest against police action, the opposition has called for a fresh countrywide protest on Tuesday (Mar 14), to be preceded by an eight-hour nationwide strike from 0600 tomorrow. Awami Juba League, the youth front of Awami League, called for the strike earlier yesterday, to protest against price hikes of commodities and short supply of utilities. Opposition leaders said they had planned a peaceful protest and blamed the authorities for the violence. — Reuters.

Dhaka, Mar 12 — A suspected militant, his wife and two children were killed in a bomb blast after Bangladesh security forces besieged a house while searching for fugitive Islamist radicals, security officials said. "They died in an apparent suicide bomb blast," said a commander of the elite Rapid Action Battalion force. The blast occurred on the outskirts of Comilla town, 150 km south of the capital, Dhaka. Two RAB members were also injured, police said. They said the dead man was a bomb maker and he used several aliases, such as Omar or Selim. Police said two militants were arrested at the badly damaged house, including the son of previously captured top militant Shayek Abdur Rahman. Shayek led the outlawed Islamist group Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen, which is blamed for a wave of suicide bombings, police said. Police said today's operation aimed to capture Mohammad Salahuddin, a close associate of Shayek Abdur Rahman, who surrendered on Mar 2 in the north-eastern town of Sylhet. — Reuters.

BRAZIL

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated Mar 20, states: Drug gangs in a notorious Rio de Janeiro shantytown clashed today with soldiers looking for weapons stolen from an army depot - the first time the gangs have attacked during daylight hours since the massive military response to the thefts. The two sides exchanged fire - with gang members lobbing grenades -

today in the downtown Providencia shantytown, the army said. The occupation by some 1,600 troops came in response to the robbery of 10 assault rifles and one pistol stolen from army barracks last Friday (Mar 3) by seven gunmen wearing army-issue camouflage gear and ninja masks. Police now say some 20 people were involved in that robbery, with 13 others outside the barracks providing cover. None of the weapons has been recovered, but many in Rio have long yearned for the military to take over the city's shantytowns, which are controlled by armed drug gangs who frequently light up the night sky with tracer bullets. Prosecutors in Rio de Janeiro, however, said the operation was unconstitutional and sought an injunction in federal court today to have it halted. The injunction request was later denied by a judge. Army officials insisted the operation did not represent an attempt to seize control of the shantytowns or to disarm the gangs and that soldiers would leave as soon as the weapons were recovered. Today, soldiers pulled out of two of the eight shantytowns they had been occupying. The scale of the operation has left many here puzzled by what they see as a disproportional response to the weapons theft. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva defended the army's efforts. "We don't know who entered into the army barracks and stole the weapons. We can't allow this to continue," Silva told reporters in London yesterday. Rio is one of the world's most violent cities, with an annual homicide rate of nearly 50 per 100,000 people.

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated Mar 13, states: The Brazilian army has ended a nine-day occupation of slums in Rio de Janeiro aimed at recovering weapons stolen from an army base. The occupation was carried out by 1,500 troops with support from helicopters and tanks but failed to recover any of the weapons. The army says it will continue to mount further operations to find the weapons. The occupation led to daily shootouts with armed drug gangs which left several people injured.

BURUNDI

Bujumbura, Mar 13 — The Burundian government will not immediately give credence to an offer by the country's remaining rebel group, the Forces nationales de liberation (FNL), to enter into negotiations until it receives the input of a regional initiative aimed at bringing lasting peace to the country, the government's spokesman said today. Reacting to reports that the FNL had offered on Saturday (Mar 11) to enter into unconditional peace talks with the government, Ramadhan Karenga said in Bujumbura that the offer was not the first by the rebel group. Speaking at a news conference in Tanzania's commercial capital, Dar es Salaam, FNL leader Agathon Rwaswa said his movement was ready for talks at "any time for the sake of

peace in Burundi." He added: "We are ready to negotiate with the current government in Burundi on what to do to stop hostilities in our country. We want lasting peace." He accused the Burundian government of fuelling continued instability in the country, saying its troops were attacking, torturing and killing several members of the FNL. It was not immediately known when the proposed talks would start, although Tanzania's foreign minister, Asha-Rose Migiro, who held talks with Rwaswa, said her country would continue to provide facilitation. Speaking in Bujumbura today, Karenga said it was not for Rwaswa to call for negotiations. He said the government would take into consideration the view of the regional initiative, the only forum mandated by the international community to help bring lasting peace to Burundi. Karenga said Tanzania's mediation team would hear the FNL and report to the chairman of the regional initiative, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, who would be entitled to call a meeting. After a meeting with Burundian Vice-President Martin Nduwimana on a visit to Dar es Salaam last week, Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete told reporters that the FNL issue would be settled in few months. Kikwete said the mediation team had convinced the movement that fighting was not an option. Leaders of some Burundian political parties hailed the FNL move but called on the movement to respect its pledges. The chairman of the Front pour la democratie au Burundi, Leonce Ngendakumana, said the FNL's offer could help Burundi recover lasting peace. The spokesman of the Movement for the rehabilitation of citizens, Laurent Nzeyimana, said the government and the FNL should first negotiate a ceasefire. The government of Pierre Nkurunziza had expressed its readiness to negotiate with the FNL. Soon after his inauguration in August 2005, Nkurunziza set up an eight-member team for this purpose. However, the FNL had until Saturday rejected negotiations with the government, calling, instead, for talks with the Tutsi community, for what it calls a "social contract". — Reuters.

CHAD

London, Mar 16 — A press report, dated Mar 15, states: Chadian troops have foiled an attempt to oust President Idriss Deby, Chad's communications minister has said. Hourmadji Moussa Doumgor said a plan to shoot down Mr Deby's plane on his return from abroad had been discovered. Two senior army officers have been arrested and the coup bid blamed on the president's twin nephews and a general who defected to rebels in the east, but a key rebel leader denies it was a coup attempt saying rebels had planned a "mass desertion" of soldiers. A large number of army officers have deserted to join a coalition of rebel groups called the United Front for Democratic Change

(FUCD), led by Mahamat Nour from bases in Darfur on Sudan's border with Chad. Analyst Andrew Manley said that in recent months President Deby has been looking increasingly vulnerable, faced with the growing rebellion in the east and a loss of support among neighbouring countries and traditional allies like France. Mr Doumgor said forces marching towards the capital, N'Djamena, were intercepted in the early hours of this morning, after the plan was discovered. He said they fled on seven vehicles, two of which were "neutralised" and Col Eggrey Mahamat and Commander Ali Anour were arrested. The masterminds of the plot - General Sedi Aguid and the Erdimi twins, all of whom have joined the eastern rebellion - were not amongst those arrested. However, Yaya Dillo, part of the FUCD coalition, told the BBC's French service that it had been an operation to allow army officers to desert to rebel ranks. Before the desertion of the president's nephew's last year, Tom Erdimi was in charge of the national oil project and Timane Erdimi headed the cotton industry. A heavy presence of troops has been reported in the capital, which is calm. People have been at work as usual, but had been wondering about what was going on as mobile phones have been down for more than 12 hours. Landlines are still operational though. President Deby was attending a two-day summit of the Central African Economic and Monetary Union (Cemac) in Equatorial Guinea, when he left hurriedly yesterday night after the first day's session.

COLOMBIA

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated Mar 10, states: A paramilitary leader wanted by the United States for drug trafficking laid down his weapons along with hundreds of his gunmen today as part of a peace agreement. Rodrigo Tovar Pupo and 2,200 members of the Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, or AUC, relinquished their arms during a disarmament ceremony in northern Colombia, government officials said. Twelve foreign diplomats travelled 420 miles north from Bogota to attend the ceremony, in the Caribbean village of La Mesa. Since 2004, more than 28,000 right-wing fighters have laid down their arms and sworn off violence in exchange for amnesty and a monthly stipend of about \$180. The number of demobilized combatants is double what the government expected when the peace process started in July 2004, a fact the United Nations and other observers say is evidence the AUC is trying to convert their military gains into political currency. Tovar Pupo, who's accused of several massacres against civilians as well as being a major drug-trafficker, reigned over much of Colombia's Caribbean coast, deciding who could and could not run for public office. Tovar Pupo and the rest of the paramilitary leadership face a maximum of eight

years in prison for their crimes, which they must confess under the peace accord.

Bogota, Mar 11 — Colombian rebels killed eight soldiers and a policeman in three separate attacks today, part of a show of force before a legislative election that has left dozens dead, authorities said. Colombia will elect a new Congress tomorrow, determining the amount of legislative support that President Alvaro Uribe would get if, as expected, he wins a second term in May. Five soldiers died when they stepped on land mines planted by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, near Venezuela in the province of North Santander, an army spokesman said. Mines killed three soldiers in Putumayo province near Ecuador, and a police officer was shot and killed by the FARC in Antioquia Province near the Caribbean coast. — Reuters.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Kinshasa, Mar 10 — Supporters of Democratic Republic of Congo's leading political opposition party clashed with armed riot police in the capital Kinshasa today during a protest over preparations for landmark elections. It was the first protest police have broken up since the adoption of a post-war constitution enshrining free speech and the right to demonstrate after an overwhelming endorsement in a December referendum, the first free nationwide vote in 40 years. The clashes coincided with the first day of registration for candidates in a Jun 18 presidential election. A reporter saw police drag at least 10 demonstrators into the back of blue police trucks during the protest by supporters of veteran opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi's UDPS party in Kinshasa's city centre. Armed police with plastic riot shields staged a series of charges at hundreds of demonstrators, beating some with batons and firing tear gas from close quarters to disperse them but protesters quickly regrouped, some throwing stones at police. Organisers said they intended to march to the headquarters of the UN mission in Congo, the world body's largest peacekeeping mission with 17,000 soldiers and police, to present a memorandum pressing the party's demands regarding the polls. "The march will continue as it is legal. Under the new constitution all we have to do is inform the authorities of our plans, and we did this," said one organiser, Franck Diongo. Apart from political wrangling, fighting continues in Congo's east despite efforts by UN peacekeepers and the chaotic national army to halt looting, rape and killing. — Reuters.

Bunia, Mar 13 — Congolese soldiers have killed 13 militiamen and captured two others following a clash in the embattled north-eastern district of Ituri, Orientale Province, Governor Lola Kisanga said. He said "many" of the soldiers were wounded

during the fighting on Friday (Mar 10) in Bogoro, 25 km south of Ituri's main town of Bunia. The fighting took place at a strategic crossroad, which provides access to Lake Albert, Bunia and Tcheyi Zone, 60 km south on Bunia. Tcheyi is a stronghold of the Front des nationalistes et intÉgrationnistes (FNI) militia group. The captured militiamen were in military uniform and armed with AK-47 assault rifles. An army jeep paraded the prisoners on Friday throughout Bunia. "These militia were 37 and attacked the FARC's (Congolese army's) Bogoro position," Kisanga said. He said the militia group was led by Ngujolo Chui, who attacked Bogoro from his Mandro base, a village 12 km east of Bunia. During their advance on Bogoro, the militiamen passed through the villages of Ezekere, Likoni and Zumbe, urging the Lendu population to join them. Fearing exactions, the residents of these villages, estimated at 10,000 people, fled into the bush. "Everyone refused to join (the FNI fighters)," a man displaced by Friday's fighting, said in Bunia. — Reuters.

Kampala, Mar 14 — Uganda has stepped up monitoring of its border with the Democratic Republic of Congo after renewed clashes there between government forces and militiamen, a Ugandan military spokesman said today. The latest violence broke out last week in lawless eastern DRC's Ituri region, triggering fears anti-Ugandan rebels based in its jungles might slip across the border to launch attacks. "We have increased our surveillance in the area because we suspect the enemies would use the confusion in the Congo to infiltrate us," Ugandan army spokesman Lt Tabaro Kiconco said. — Reuters.

ECUADOR

London, Mar 16 — A press report, dated Mar 15, states: Ecuador's president has urged Ecuadoreans to stand together after nationwide protests threatened to destabilise the country. In a televised address, Alfredo Palacio said democracy should be protected and that he would not bow to the protests. The demonstrations have been sparked by ongoing talks with the United States over a possible free trade agreement. Today, the country's interior minister resigned over the government's handling of the crisis. Alfredo Castillo said he had warned the government that the protests - which come just days after a strike by oil workers - could lead to a coup. Mr Castillo is the third interior minister to resign from the post in just 11 months. However, President Alfredo Palacio said the protests, led by indigenous communities, were designed to create chaos and to lead to the overthrow of his government. Protesters say a pact with the US will affect their livelihood and are demanding a referendum on the issue. Since Monday (Mar 13), they have blocked major roads with

burning tyres, rocks and trees. Reports say the blockades have already led to a shortage of provisions and a rise in prices in the capital, Quito, and other central provinces. Thousands of police and troops have been mobilised as the protests have spread across the country. Police have fired tear gas in an attempt to disperse the thousands of Indians who have taken part in the blockades. At least six people have been arrested and 14 others injured in minor scuffles with security forces, according to police sources. Indigenous groups say a deal with the US would harm their economy and their culture. Indigenous leaders earlier rejected an offer by a government minister to set up a commission to look into their demands, calling it a new smokescreen. Mr Palacio said Ecuador needed to be open to the world, and stressed he would only sign a deal which was in the national interest. The government has described calls for a referendum as premature. Ecuador is set to enter a final round of the free trade talks on March 23. Colombia and Peru already having signed similar deals with the US.

INDIA

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: An unknown militant outfit yesterday claimed responsibility for the serial blasts that rocked the holy city of Benaras in northern India on Tuesday (Mar 7). A spokesperson of Lashkar-e-Kahar, or Destroyers, telephoned the private television channel in Srinagar, summer capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state, to claim responsibility for Tuesday's explosions. The three blasts in Varanasi in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh had left at least 20 dead and over 100 injured.

Imphal, Mar 11 — Seven people, including a civilian caught in a crossfire, were killed in gunbattles between rebels and Indian troops in the troubled northeastern state of Manipur today, police said. Soldiers attacked a well fortified rebel camp 95 km east of the state capital, Imphal, early today, killing four separatist guerrillas in a more than two hour gunbattle. One civilian was also killed when a stray bullet hit him. "The militants have been identified and they belonged to the People's Liberation Army," a police spokesman said. In a separate encounter, security forces killed two other militants in Imphal. — Reuters.

IRAQ

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen wearing commando uniforms of the Shiite-dominated Interior Ministry on Wednesday (Mar 8) stormed an Iraqi security company that relied heavily on Sunni ex-military men from the Saddam regime, spiriting away 50 hostages. The ministry denied involvement and called the operation a "terrorist act." Yesterday, a roadside bombing targeting an Iraqi patrol

killed at least nine civilians and injured six, police said. The blast missed an army patrol in Amariyah, a mostly Sunni neighbourhood in west Baghdad, according to Interior Ministry Maj. Falah al-Mohammedawi. Another bombing was aimed at a police patrol in Jihad, a mostly Sunni western neighbourhood, and injured three bystanders, said police Lt. Mohammed Kheyoun. At least three other explosions were heard across the city, but police did not immediately have reports on damage or casualties. Meanwhile, police and the US military reported finding the bodies of 24 men garroted or shot in the head, most of them in an abandoned bus in a tough Baghdad Sunni neighbourhood. They also reported the deaths of at least 15 others across Iraq, including a US soldier and two Marines. Iraqi authorities hanged 13 insurgents yesterday, marking the first time militants have been executed in the country since Saddam Hussein was ousted, the government said. A series of explosions, including a car bomb that struck a Sunni mosque, and a shooting killed 16 civilians and wounded 31 as a dust storm enveloped the capital. The US military, meanwhile, confirmed claims that a mass abduction from a security firm was the work of kidnappers masquerading as Interior Ministry commandos. (See issue of Mar 9.)

Falluja, Iraq, Mar 10 — A suicide truck bomb struck a checkpoint manned by US soldiers and Iraqi security forces in the former Sunni stronghold of Falluja today, killing at least 11 people, including five police, police said. There was no immediate word from the US military on the blast in eastern Falluja, 50 km west of Baghdad. Police said six civilians were killed as the bomb ripped through a line of vehicles. — Reuters.

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated today, states: An American who was among four peace activists kidnapped in Iraq last year has been found shot dead in Baghdad. Tom Fox's body was found on Thursday (Mar 9) in the affluent Mansour district, Iraqi police said. There were signs that he had been beaten before being killed. Mr Fox was seized last November, along with Briton Norman Kember and Canadians James Loney and Harmeet Singh Sooden. A video tape showing the other three men was released on Tuesday (Mar 7), but Mr Fox did not feature on it. Mr Fox, 54, had been working with Iraqi human rights organisations for the past two years. The four men were travelling with Canadian-based international peace group Christian Peacemaker Teams when they were seized by a group calling itself the Swords of Truth. After seizing the four, the kidnappers demanded the release of all prisoners being held in Iraq, and have so far released four videos of the hostages. However, Mr Fox did not appear on the last one, which was shown by al-Jazeera TV on Tuesday, and dated February 28. The silent

video appeared to show the other three men pleading for their governments to secure their release. There has been no further word on the condition or whereabouts of the remaining three hostages.

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Bomb blasts, rocket and gunfire killed at least 10 people and injured 23 in the Iraqi capital as the work week got under way today, police said. The low thud of mortar fire could also be heard, but it was not immediately clear where the shells were landing. A roadside bomb exploded this morning in a busy west Baghdad street, killing at least six people and injuring 12, said police Lt Thayer Mahmoud. The blast targeted a police patrol in the mostly Sunni Qadissiyah neighbourhood. Three policemen were among the dead and three were injured, Mahmoud said. The rest of the victims were civilian bystanders. Another bombing near the Mustansiriyah University in east Baghdad injured five policemen, said police 1st Lt Mohammed Khaiyoon.

Baghdad, Mar 12 — At least 36 people were killed and more than 100 wounded in three apparently co-ordinated car bombs at two markets in Baghdad's Shi'ite district of Sadr City today, police said. It was one of the worst days of violence in the capital in recent months. The bombs exploded as political leaders, struggling to form a government of national unity, held talks. Two car bombs exploded in one market while a third blew up almost simultaneously at another. Police said they had found a fourth car bomb at a third market and defused it. Ten people were killed in a series of mortar blasts and roadside bombings in Baghdad earlier today and the trial of Saddam Hussein and seven co-accused on charges of crimes against humanity resumed after a 10-day break. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Mar 13 — Iraq's president pressed political parties today to move faster to form a coalition government after deadly car bombings he said were aimed at inflaming sectarian tensions and triggering civil war. A government of national unity encompassing Kurds, Shi'ites and Sunnis is widely seen as the best chance to bring stability to the country, but three months after elections political leaders are deadlocked over who should be prime minister. Blasts ripped through the east Baghdad stronghold of a major Shi'ite militia yesterday, killing or wounding 250 people and raising fears of fresh sectarian bloodletting. The U.S. military said today that the death toll had reached 52. President Jalal Talabani, a Kurd, said the bombings had been designed to "inflame sectarian strife and fan the fires of civil war". It is the duty of the political blocs to intensify their efforts to form a government and establish a broad front to achieve security and stability," he said in a statement. Radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr said he would not order his militia to

strike Sunni al Qaeda militants after yesterday's bombings in his Sadr City stronghold. "I could order the Mehdi Army to root out the terrorists and fundamentalists but this would lead us into civil war and we don't want that," the youthful Sadr told a news conference in the Shi'ite holy city of Najaf. Police discovered the shot and tortured bodies of four Shi'ites in Sadr City. Next to the bodies was a sign bearing a single word: "Traitors". The Mehdi Army was accused of leading reprisals on Sunni mosques and clerics after the February 22 bombing of a major Shi'ite mosque unleashed a wave of sectarian violence that killed hundreds in a few days. Sadr has denied the charge. Sadr City has previously been relatively immune from Sunni insurgent attacks. Some speculate that was because Sadr, who led two uprisings against U.S. forces in 2004, had won respect among Sunnis with his anti-American rhetoric. As a rising kingmaker within the Alliance, Sadr has been more critical of Sunni militants lately, including in a lengthy interview aired on U.S.-backed state television on Friday (Mar 10). Police said that in addition to the dead, 204 people were wounded in at least three car bomb blasts at two markets in Sadr City yesterday. Some police sources said there were six bombs. Mehdi Army militia manned checkpoints on roads into the sprawling east Baghdad slum, home to two million people, searching cars for possible explosives and weapons. Yesterday's blasts erupted as political leaders, shepherded by U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, met yet again without obvious result to discuss forming a unity government. Sunnis, Kurds and secular leaders have been blocking accord with a demand that Ibrahim al-Jaafari, the Shi'ite who has led the interim government for the past year, be dropped as the Shi'ites' choice of premier for the new, four-year term. Politicians said they were not hopeful of striking a deal by Thursday (Mar 16), when parliament is due to meet for the first time. In more violence, four policemen and one civilian were killed in a bomb blast targeting a police patrol in central Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's home town. Two policemen were killed and four wounded when two car bombs exploded in attacks on two police patrols in the northern oil city of Kirkuk, police said. Saddam's trial continued, with the judge who oversaw the trial of 148 Shi'ite men accused of plotting to assassinate the former Iraqi leader taking the stand. Awad Hamed al-Bandar, former head of Iraq's Revolutionary Court, acknowledged he had issued a death warrant for the 148 and insisted it was legal. "They attacked the president of the republic and they confessed," he said in testimony. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Mar 14 — the bodies of 15 strangled men were found in west Baghdad today as Iraqi leaders, under heavy pressure from Washington, began intensive talks to form a

national unity government. The unidentified bodies were discovered in an abandoned vehicle in the Khudra area, hands and feet bound and showing signs of torture, not far from where the bodies of 18 men killed in similar fashion were found in a minibus a week ago. The killings came as Iraqi politicians started talks to form a broad-based government, widely seen as the best chance of bringing stability to Iraq, but participants played down the chance of any breakthrough. "We are not optimistic at all. There will be no result out of this meeting, just preliminary discussion on the speaker, president and prime minister posts," said a senior source in the Sunni Accordance Front, the main Sunni political grouping. "Nobody is willing to compromise," he added. — Reuters.

Tikrit, Iraq, Mar 15 — Eleven members of an Iraqi family were killed in a US raid today, police and witnesses said. The US military said two women and a child died during the bid to seize an al-Qaeda militant from a house. Television pictures showed 11 bodies in the Tikrit morgue — five children, two men and four women. A freelance photographer later saw the bodies being buried in Ishaqi, the town 100 km north of Baghdad where the raid took place. "Troops were engaged by enemy fire as they approached the building," US spokesman Major Tim Keefe said. "Coalition Forces returned fire utilising both air and ground assets. There was one enemy killed. Two women and one child were also killed in the firefight. The building ... (was) destroyed." Major Ali Ahmed of the Ishaqi police said US forces had landed on the roof of the house in the early hours and shot the 11 occupants, including the five children. "After they left the house they blew it up," he said. — Reuters.

ISRAEL

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Israeli troops have taken control of a prison in the West Bank town of Jericho, firing on the jail, destroying its walls and killing a guard. They are trying to seize militant Ahmed Saadat, blamed for the killing of a minister. He is refusing to surrender. The Israeli raid in Jericho has sparked a series of clashes and protests in Gaza, and at least one kidnap. It has been reported that there has been Israeli tank and helicopter fire on the jail. An Israeli bulldozer could be seen demolishing walls outside the prison. A number of Palestinian guards and Mr Saadat, are still holed up in part of the prison. In related events: The International Red Cross has confirmed that its director in Gaza has been kidnapped. A British cultural centre in Gaza has been set ablaze and an EU compound stormed and hundreds of people in Gaza and Jericho have been demonstrating against the Israeli raid. Palestinian militants from the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades in Gaza

City have warned US and UK nationals to leave the Palestinian territories immediately. Reports from Jericho said Mr Saadat, of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and several of his colleagues were refusing to come out of the prison. Mr Saadat is normally guarded by British and US prison monitors, in addition to Palestinian jailers, but they were withdrawn today for what they described as security reasons. Mahmoud Abbas has condemned the raid and said the US and UK warders were responsible for the prisoners' safety. He said the withdrawal of the British and US guards who normally observe the prison was a grave violation of agreements with the Palestinians. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the PA had ignored repeated British requests for guarantees regarding the security of the prison guards. Mr Saadat was arrested in connection with the killing of right-wing Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi by PFLP gunmen in 2001, an attack which itself was to avenge the assassination of Mr Saadat's predecessor by Israel. Mr Saadat has been in Palestinian custody since early in 2002 - being moved to Jericho under international supervision in a deal to lift Israel's siege of Yasser Arafat's Muqataa compound in May of that year. The following month the Palestinian High Court ordered his release, saying there was no evidence to link him to the Zeevi assassination. Israeli officials said Mr Saadat would be killed if he was freed, and the Palestinian cabinet blocked the release.

Jenin, West Bank, Mar 16 — Israeli soldiers and Palestinian gunmen fought each other in the West Bank city of Jenin today, hours after gunmen shot and wounded two Israeli motorists near a Jewish settlement. The spike in violence followed the army's capture of six Palestinian militants in a West Bank prison raid on Tuesday (Mar 14). In Jenin, soldiers came under heavy fire from gunmen holed up in a house in the city during an operation to arrest them. The army declined to comment on whether there were Israeli casualties in the raid. Palestinian residents said a fierce gun battle was under way at the house where a group of gunmen from the Islamic Jihad militant group were trading fire with troops surrounding the building. Earlier today, Palestinian gunmen shot and wounded two Israeli motorists near a Jewish settlement in the northern West Bank. The Israelis were taken to hospital with light to moderate wounds, the army said. — Reuters.

NEPAL

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Three soldiers were killed and six people including one civilian injured when bombs exploded at a security check point in mid-western Nepal yesterday, the military said. The blasts occurred in

Dang district, about 400 kilometres southwest of Kathmandu, it said. No one has claimed responsibility for the blasts but the military blamed warring Maoist rebels for the explosions.

Kathmandu, Mar 14 — Roads across Nepal were deserted today, the first day of an indefinite blockade of Kathmandu and other major towns called by Maoist rebels mounting pressure on King Gyanendra who seized full power last year. The Maoists, fighting to overthrow the Hindu monarchy and set up a single party communist republic, have ordered the closure of all roads to the capital, disrupting the movement of people and goods to the city of more than 1.5 million. Police officer Thaneswor Dhakal said army escorts would be provided for vehicles if they were prepared to run and the government has offered compensation for any attacks. Residents in Nepalgunj and the tourist town of Pokhara in west Nepal and the key business towns of Butwal and Birgunj in the southern plains said trucks and buses had been locked up in garages and roads were empty of vehicles. Police said there were no reports of violence. Analysts said the blockade was part of a Maoist strategy to take their fight to the country's cities, which the rebels had vowed after ending a unilateral truce in January. The conflict has, so far, raged mostly in the countryside. "The blockade distracts the army as they are needed to guard the highways. Meanwhile the Maoists can infiltrate into the cities," said Kunda Dixit, editor of the "Nepali Times" weekly. Officials said Kathmandu had enough foodgrains for two months and enough petrol, kerosene and diesel for two weeks. The Maoists are also closing road transport to district capitals and major towns and following it up with a nationwide strike from Apr 3 to try to bring down the king. — Reuters.

Kathmandu, Mar 15 — Millions of Nepalis have been affected by a 20-day nationwide blockade of towns and cities organised by Maoist rebels who have been waging an armed rebellion against the state for more than a decade. In the capital Kathmandu, from where nearly 600-700 buses and taxis leave every day to reach other towns and cities throughout the Himalayan kingdom, tens of thousands of Nepalese were left stranded. However, the situation in other Nepalese cities and towns was much the same, with the primary concern being how long basic supplies would last. In Nepal each urban area and town generally depends on the other for the supply and transport of necessary commodities, including petrol, kerosene, cooking gas, and food supplies. The rebel blockade has created a sense of fear among public transport owners following the destruction of a bridge in eastern Nepal and the abduction of a local bus driver and his helper. According to a report by local human rights group, Insec, the bus was also set aflame. — Reuters.

NIGERIA

Lagos, Mar 9 — Nigerian militants killed four soldiers and one policeman in an unsuccessful attempt to capture a fuel tanker in the southern delta, military officials said today. The militants, who are holding three foreign hostages, said they killed seven soldiers in a 45-minute firefight with troops on Wednesday evening (Mar 8), but a Navy spokesman said only four soldiers and one policeman died. "There was an attempt by militants to seize the tanker and there was an exchange of fire. They are probably running out of fuel in their camps," the spokesman said. The militants, who say they are fighting for more local control over the delta's oil resources, had earlier described the firefight as an attack by the army on their patrol boats in the Escravos River area of the vast wetlands region. It was the latest in a series of confrontations between troops and the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, whose attacks on the oil industry have cut oil exports from the leading OPEC nation by a fifth. An army spokesman said the tanker was carrying refined fuel and was due to berth at Warri in the southern Delta state, where the state oil company has a refinery. The militants released six hostages last week, but are still holding two Americans and one Briton taken during a series of attacks on Feb 18, which forced Royal Dutch Shell to shut 455,000 barrels a day, or one fifth of Nigerian output. On Wednesday, the militants named an ethnic Ijaw activist as mediator for talks with the government, raising hopes of a speedy resolution to the three-month-old crisis. It followed the removal of the head of the military in the Niger Delta on suspicion of involvement in the theft of crude oil, government sources said. The army said his removal was a routine redeployment. Both sides have accused each other of being involved in the illicit trade, estimated to be worth hundreds of millions of dollars every year, and diplomats say it is at the root of much of the insecurity in the region. The militants said they had received reports of army patrols firing indiscriminately into Ijaw communities near the village of Odidi. "In the light of this, we are considering what further actions to take against the military and Shell installations in Forcados and Odidi," the militants said. Shell has already evacuated all its staff from the Forcados region, and shut all its production from the western side of the delta. — Reuters.

PAKISTAN

Islamabad, Mar 10 — At least 26 people, mostly women and children, were killed as a trailer carrying a wedding party hit an anti-tank mine today morning in Pakistan's restive southern province of Balochistan, according to officials. "We know that 26 people died and seven were injured when the tractor trolley carrying

them hit at least one anti-tank mine at Rakhni (about 300 km east of the provincial capital Quetta)," Raziq Bugti, a spokesman for the Balochistan provincial government, said from Quetta. Bugti said the injured were being shifted to Dera Ghazi Khan city in the neighbouring province of Punjab. Paramilitary troops had sealed off the site of the explosion, he added. Bugti blamed the attack on "terrorist" tribal militants who are waging an insurgency to win more autonomy and a greater share of the gas-rich region's vast natural resources. "The government of Balochistan condemns this act of sabotage in which innocent people were killed. Those behind the attack are terrorists and we are dealing with them with an iron hand," he added. Security officials say there has been an escalation in violence in the province since the government ordered a fresh crackdown in December 2005 after rockets hit the town of Kohlu during a visit by President Pervez Musharraf. — Reuters.

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 25 people have been killed in an operation in the Pakistani city of Miranshah near the border with Afghanistan, the military reports. Army spokesman Gen Shaukat Sultan said those killed were militants but there has been no independent confirmation. Last week the area, in the tribal region of North Waziristan, saw deadly clashes between government forces and suspected pro-Taliban militias. Reports say as many as 140 people were killed in that fighting. Gen Sultan said the latest security operation was carried out on receiving intelligence that pro-Taliban militants were storing arms and explosives inside a residential compound to launch a big offensive. He said helicopter gunships were called in to assist the ground forces in what he described as a highly coordinated attack to destroy the militants' hideout. Gen Sultan said between 25 and 30 militants were killed in the rocket and mortar attack, and most of their arms and ammunition destroyed. According to him several of those killed were foreigners but he did not give their nationalities. The military spokesman said apparently a huge quantity of arms and explosives were stored in the compound. Even after the initial attack, secondary explosions had continued inside the building for several hours.

Peshawar, Mar 12 — Pakistani authorities further eased an eight-day-old curfew in the capital of a tribal region bordering Afghanistan today after soldiers killed dozens of Islamist militants in air and ground attacks. The military said security forces killed up to 30 pro-Taliban foreign militants and their local supporters in a village about 10 km west of Miranshah, capital of the North Waziristan tribal area, on Friday (Mar 10) night. Sporadic small

arms fire, apparently from security forces, was heard yesterday night from outside the town, but there were no reports of any more casualties. Three rockets fired by militants landed in an army base in the town of Bannu about 50 km to the west overnight, but these also caused no casualties, officials said. According to the government, nearly 200 pro-Taliban militants have been killed in the violence, as well as five soldiers. Today, officials circulated notices to residents warning that they could be arrested, fined or have their houses bulldozed if they assisted militants or refused to give them up. Local people have faced threats from militants as well as from the authorities. The bullet-riddled body of a man was found today near the town of Mirali, about 20 km west of Miranshah, with a note attached that said: "He was an enemy of Islam and a supporter of the government. This will be the fate of anybody who is against Islam and supports the government." Nevertheless, officials said the situation was improving and announced a seven-hour break in a curfew imposed for the past eight days. "The situation is now returning to normal," North Waziristan's top government official, Zaheerul Islam, told Reuters. "As soon as the situation improves further, we will do away completely with the day-time curfew, but we will continue the night curfew for some time." The curfew was initially around the clock, but there was a five-hour break on Friday and for six hours yesterday. — Reuters.

SPAIN

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Judge Grande-Marlaska of the Audiencia Nacional, Spain's highest criminal court, has subpoenaed illegal ETA-front party Batasuna leader Arnaldo Otegi to testify on the street violence that occurred in the Basque Country yesterday as a result of the general strike called by Batasuna. Marlaska said that the strike was not backed by any legal political parties, and therefore had "no justification." Meanwhile, ETA terrorist group set off two bombs yesterday on roads in the regions of Cantabria and Navarra. Two other bombs did not explode. Otegi, who is out on Euro400,000 bail from other charges, will testify on Monday (Mar 13), and the judge will consider revoking his bail. Marlaska also subpoenaed Juan Maria Olano, former spokesman for ETA-front group Gestoras Pro Amnistia, to testify yesterday. Today the secretary-general of the ETA-front labor union LAB, Rafael Diez Usabiaga, ETA lawyer Arantza Zulueta, and Batasuna leaders Juan Jose Petrikorena and Pernando Barrena will testify. The judge's decision reads: "Yesterday various criminal acts took place in the Basque Country and nearby regions, including placing bombs, blocking public access, and blocking public streets,...which have put not only public peace but

constitutional order in danger." According to Judge Marlaska, the general strike was not justified, as it had nothing to do with workers' rights. The placing of the four bombs by ETA, he said, demonstrates that ETA and Batasuna are working toward the same goal on different fronts. Therefore, Otegi and the other subpoenaed witnesses are suspected of inducing others to violate the law. Meanwhile, the French daily Le Figaro reported yesterday that the Spanish police's theory that there is "a significant reduction of ETA's organizational activity in France" is false. According to the story's headline, "ETA is still active on this side of the Pyrenees." Spanish employer's association president Jose Maria Cuevas said that the "confusion we are in while seeking peace" in the Basque country "demoralizes businessmen," and causes a reaction in business and investment in the region.

THAILAND

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A homemade bomb exploded yesterday in front of the residence of former Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanond in Bangkok, injuring a British tourist and causing minor damage, local media reported. The blast occurred at around 1400 at an unmanned police guardpost at the entrance to the compound of Prem's house. Shrapnel from the blast slightly injured the 28-year-old British passerby and damaged parked cars, the reports said.

London, Mar 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Five people have been killed after suspected Islamic militants opened fire on a local government building in one of Thailand's restive southern provinces, police said. The militants used automatic rifles to riddle the building with bullets in the village of Pado in Pattani province and then fled the scene, police said. Police were unable to reach the building immediately because the attackers left spikes in the road. "Initial reports indicate five people were shot dead and one is in critical condition, but as of now police cannot reach the site because the militants left spikes and possibly a bomb," police Lieutenant Choke Srinualchan said.

TURKEY

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated Mar 9, states: At least three people were killed and 19 others were injured after a bomb planted by suspected Kurdish rebels exploded in the city of Van in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish southeast region. A police officer, a civilian and a suspected suicide bomber were killed in the blast that targeted a police vehicle as it drove past the local governor's office. Turkish security officials say they believe the bomber had strapped the device to his body. Three of the injured are reported to be in critical condition. The attack comes

only days after rebels of the separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party or PKK killed four police officers in the southeastern town of Batman.

Van, Turkey, Mar 10 — Two members of Turkey's security forces were killed today in fighting with Kurdish rebels in south-eastern Turkey, security officials said. "The fighting is still going on. The security forces' operation is also being supported from the air (by military helicopters)," one official said. CNN Turk television said five people soldiers were also wounded in the fighting, in a remote rural area of Sirkak Province near the Iraqi border. — Reuters.

Diyarbakir, Turkey, Mar 12 — A member of Turkey's security forces was killed fighting Kurdish rebels in south-eastern Turkey late yesterday, the third to die in a week-long operation, officials said today. The helicopter-backed sweep against rebels in the mountainous Sirkak province near the Iraqi border continued today, the security officials said. On Friday (Mar 10) two security men were killed in the same operation, which has also injured five, while on Monday police said rebels from the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) killed two policemen in an ambush in the southeastern city of Batman. — Reuters.

Diyarbakir, Turkey, Mar 13 — The outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) said one of its members had carried out a suicide bombing in south-east Turkey last week in which two other people were also killed. "It has been determined that the action in Van on Mar 9 was undertaken by Devrim Solduk, codenamed Dengtav, on his own initiative and decision," the group said in a statement late yesterday, adding that the explosion had been an "accident." "In a letter our friend left, he said he would carry out such an action because the Turkish state launched a destructive process against our leader Apo," it said. Apo is the codename of Abdullah Ocalan, the PKK leader captured by Turkish security forces in 1999 and sentenced to life imprisonment on an island near Istanbul. — Reuters.

Diyarbakir, Turkey, Mar 15 — A bomb exploded outside a branch of British-based HSBC bank in Diyarbakir, south-east Turkey, today and one person was injured, security officials said. The bomb was planted in an automated teller machine and caused serious damage, the officials said. — Reuters.

Labour Disputes



ARGENTINE AIRLINE PERSONNEL

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated Mar 9, states: Two unions representing pilots and mechanics launched a 24-hour strike against

Aerolineas Argentinas today, one day after Argentina's flagship carrier rejected workers' wage increase proposals. The pilots union posted a Web site statement declaring it would completely halt activities until midday tomorrow. The pilots and a mechanics union had gone on strike for eight days late last year to demand higher wages. The unions and the company negotiated a 90-day truce that expired Monday (Mar 6), and subsequent negotiations have been rocky. Aerolineas Argentinas issued a brief statement late today saying the strike grounded 10,100 of the 19,500 passengers that had tickets booked for the day. The company cancelled 29 flights. The carrier didn't estimate the financial damage nor say how many passengers would be affected tomorrow. In the U.S., the airline flies to Miami and New York. Late yesterday, Aerolineas Argentinas rejected union counterproposals for a solution.

London, Mar 10 — Two unions representing pilots and mechanics launched a 24-hour strike against Aerolineas Argentinas yesterday, one day after Argentina's flagship carrier rejected workers' wage increase proposals. The pilots union posted a Web site statement declaring it would completely halt activities until midday today. The pilots and a mechanics union had gone on strike for eight days late last year to demand higher wages. The unions and the company negotiated a 90-day truce that expired Monday, and subsequent negotiations have been rocky. Aerolineas Argentinas issued a brief statement late yesterday saying the strike grounded 10,100 of the 19,500 passengers that had tickets booked for the day. The company cancelled 29 flights. The carrier didn't estimate the financial damage nor say how many passengers would be affected today. In the U.S., the airline flies to Miami and New York. Late Wednesday, Aerolineas Argentinas rejected union counterproposals for a solution.

BRAZIL

London, Mar 9 — The Portocel terminal specialized in shipping pulp is at a standstill today as stevedores continue a two-day strike launched yesterday in protest against the port management's hiring policy.

CYPRUS

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of passengers were left stranded after Cyprus Airways pilots staged a wildcat, 24-hour strike over fears of deep wage cuts under a restructuring plan for the state-owned airline. Management scrambled to find accommodation for the passengers caught on the Mediterranean resort island by the stoppage, which was not due to end before midnight (2200, UTC). Cyprus Airways General Manager Christos Kyriakides said the strike forced management to cancel a total of 17 flights, stranding some

2,700 passengers. He said most passengers would depart on re-scheduled flights aboard other carriers. Some passengers would be flown to their destinations aboard two jets from Cyprus Airways' subsidiary Eurocypria. Pilots had only announced their wildcat action late Friday (Mar 10) saying they had lost patience with management's failure to address their concerns over the restructuring plan. The Pasypi pilots' union pleaded with the general public to understand its members were fighting for their livelihood and apologized for the disruption. "We want to apologize to the public for the hardship and we ask for their understanding, but its a matter of survival and of safeguarding our dignity and of fair treatment," Pasypi general secretary Adamos Sourkounis said, but at the Larnaca airport, angry passengers showed little patience for the airline or the union. The pilots charge that management is making them bear the brunt of the restructuring plan, with salary cuts of 25 percent despite previous promises they would face a maximum reduction of 15 percent. Management was forced to agree to a survival package of wage cuts and job losses to ensure the European Union approved a 60 million Cyprus pound (\$130 million) government loan guarantee to keep the loss-making company afloat. Since unions agreed to the restructuring plan in early January, the company has prepared 385 redundancy notices to streamline its 1,600-strong workforce and help stem losses of 25 million Cyprus pounds (54 million dollars) a year.

FRANCE

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Staff at strategic Gas de France (GDF) locations throughout France went on strike yesterday in protest at the Suez/Gas de France merger. About 70% of the staff are reported to be observing the strike. Unions have also give notice of another national strike in protest against the merger, planned for March 23.

GREECE

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Greece has been all but paralyzed by a 24-hour national strike called by two leading labour unions protesting against government economic reforms today. Air, sea and rail traffic was disrupted across the country, and government offices, schools and banks were closed, as thousands of workers took to the streets in Athens, Salonika and other cities. The General Confederation of Greek Workers (GSEE) and the country's Civil Servants Union (ADEDY), boasting 2.5 million members, or 60 percent of Greece's workforce, called the general strike in protest at government efforts to liberalise the labour market. They also demanded pay rises and job security. The Greek government is taking measures to cut the 2006

budget deficit below the 3 percent European Union limit, or face penalties. The government has announced below-inflation wage rises.

ISRAEL

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: Ashdod Port operations workers initiated disruptions and sanctions last night in a dispute with management on the workers' financial demands. Ships can not be loaded or unloaded as a consequence. The disruptions and sanction utterly contravene the Ashdod Port workers committee's commitments to preserve industrial quiet under the ports reform agreement. The sanctions are severely affecting the port's regular operations, and, most of all, its reputation among its customers. Shipping Chamber of Israel president Reuven Zuck said: "This is a gross violation of the labour agreements under which the workers committee promised industrial quiet for five years. These sanctions are sending the Ashdod Port back to time that we'd all prefer to forget. It harms the port's achievements and its opening to international lines and commercial ties with huge shippers." The Shipping Chamber of Israel today warned shipping agents and companies about operational disruptions at Ashdod Port. Tensions between Ashdod Port's management and workers intensified in recent months, and reached a peak yesterday. The operations workers claim that management, headed by Ashdod Port Co. chairperson Iris Stark, is not honoring agreements. Ashdod Port Company CEO Shuki Sagis said in response: "This morning's strike is an illegal wildcat strike by the port's workers, and violates industrial quiet that is basis of the ports reform agreement signed by both the workers and the Histadrut (General Federation of Labour in Israel)."

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Activity at the Ashdod port went back to normal this morning when scores of operations workers, mysteriously sick yesterday, returned to the job. Ashdod Port Company CEO Shuki Sagis said: "The employees' behaviour raises deep concern about their grasp of the meaning of reform. We demand one basic thing from the workers: to honor labor agreements. We also want them to help us move the reform in the port forward. Obviously, their so-called illness was deliberate." After deliberations, the Ashdod port management decided to defer an inquiry into disciplinary measures against employees, one of the reasons for the strike, and to resume them only after consulting with the Histadrut (General Federation of Labor in Israel). Next week, the port management will meet with the port's workers committee and the Histadrut to solve the crisis in the port's labour relations. Ashdod Port's customers, including the Shipping Chamber of Israel, the Israel Manufacturers

Association, and the Israel Shippers Council, yesterday protested the breach of industrial quiet and the harm to the port's operations, not to mention its image. The reform of Israel's ports came into effect in February 2005. Under the reform, three ports companies were set up, one each for the Ashdod, Haifa and Eilat ports, plus the Israel Ports Development & Assets Company Ltd.. One of the reform's important achievements was industrial quiet and regular operations at the ports. Yesterday, Ashdod Port workers launched labour sanctions, rendering it impossible to unload container ships, causing a backlog of ships and delays.

JORDAN

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers at the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) yesterday continued a strike they began the day before as the company refused to meet their demands for improved working conditions. On Wednesday (Mar 8), more than 3,500 JPRC workers staged a strike during which they demanded the resignation of the JPRC board of directors and the implementation of the articles of an agreement signed between the company and the JPRC workers last month. The agreement entails the increase of workers' salaries, and improvements in their health insurance coverage and housing loans. Khaled Ziud, head of the General Trade Union of Petroleum and Chemical Workers, said yesterday that a meeting was held between the company and the workers' association in the presence of Minister of Labour Bassem Salem, Minister of Interior Eid Fayez and Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Azmi Khreisat. "The meeting was to no avail. Talks with the company reached a deadlock as they refused to meet the workers' demands; therefore we will continue with the strike," Ziud said. He added that JPRC asked the workers to call off their strike and said it would meet their demands a week after the strike is cancelled, but the union insisted that the company meet the workers' demands first.

SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg, Mar 10 — Workers at South African rail and logistics group Transnet will strike nationwide on Monday (Mar 13), possibly disrupting exports as they protest against the company's plans to sell non-core assets, unions said. The four unions, representing 50,000 of state-owned Transnet's 85,000-strong workforce, held staggered work stoppages across the country last month that analysts estimated cost the country 100 million rand a day. "The four Transnet unions are ready for solid united action on Monday in the ports, railways and road freight operations of the group," the unions said in a joint statement. The strike, initially scheduled for last Monday, was postponed as it clashed with the rape trial of sacked deputy

president Jacob Zuma. The strike is expected to bring the Durban container terminal — Africa's busiest harbour — to a standstill and could also affect other ports, freight and rail operations. That would hit the export sector, which accounts for about a third of the country's gross domestic product. Unions are worried that the disposal of non-core assets, excluding national carrier South African Airways (SAA), could cost about 30,000 jobs. They met Public Enterprises Minister Alec Erwin yesterday to discuss the matter. "While the meeting with the minister ... might make it possible for mediation to recommence, there would still be a long way to go before the dispute is resolved," the unions said. The government, seeking to raise economic growth to 6 percent by 2010 from about 4.9 percent now, to halve unemployment and poverty, has identified Transnet as one of the vehicles to achieve this goal. — Reuters.

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Transnet unions are again exercising a national strike today with focus on the port container terminal operations at Durban and Cape Town and rail commuter services in the main cities. Members of Satawu, Utatu, Uasa and Sarwhu said in a statement on Friday afternoon that 50,000 workers were ready for united action following the breakdown of talks between the four unions and Transnet. They described today's strike a further effort on their part to get Transnet management to seriously reconsider its position over the transformation of Transnet "Our members have been further incensed this week by intimidatory letters which have been pushed under the noses of Metrorail workers, giving them an ultimatum to resign from their defined benefit pension fund. Transnet has once and for all exposed its lies. For workers being transferred there are no guarantees of their conditions, contrary to the statements management has been making to the public." In their statement the unions said there can be no settlement until the Apr 1 deadline for the transfer of Metrorail workers is lifted. The demands stated that Transnet would also have to lift the Mar 24 deadline for transfers between group companies and instead agree to consult this issue at the Transnet Restructuring Committee, and Transnet should engage on the so-called non-core business units including Freightdynamics, Viamax, Autopax and Housing. They also require Transnet to abide by existing agreements including consultation over Spoornet's low and light density railway lines (branch lines) and the transfer of Blue Train workers (Lux Rail) to the private sector. In addition the joint unions said they had met with the minister of Public Enterprises, Alec Erwin to discuss the issues relating to the dispute. Erwin would be meeting again with the unions this afternoon. There were

hopes that this meeting might lead to a resumption of mediation which had been disrupted before it was able to begin by Transnet's announcement of the signing of the transfer of Metrorail.

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated Mar 13, states: South African rail and port workers embarked on a one-day strike Monday to protest restructuring of the national transport corporation. Commuters in all major South African cities were left stranded by the strike as some 50,000 transport workers failed to report for duty. Durban harbour was also disrupted but ports in other coastal cities operated normally. Four unions have called their members out in protest to planned restructuring at Transnet, South Africa's rail and logistics group. Transnet plans to sell off some non-core assets to the government and private buyers. This includes the metro rail networks.

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The one-day national Transnet strike went off yesterday with mixed results and no clear indication whether the next step is to be backward or forward. In Johannesburg marching workers at least had the satisfaction of handing their memorandum to Transnet chief executive Maria Ramos (she was not available on a previous occasion), although her response was non-committal. Elsewhere striking workers brought train services to a halt, making thousands of workers late for duty and leading to largescale traffic congestion in places. For the ports it was a very mixed package, with the Durban container terminals operating on a skeleton staff with only three of the container cranes manned and operating (roughly one sixth of the total). However, as a SA Port Manager pointed out, the terminal was quiet anyway with few ships so the effect on overall operations was much less than perhaps the unions might have hoped. The SA Chamber of Business however forecast that the strike would cost the economy up to R200 million, which seems high and will be disputed by Transnet. According to Jane Barrett, spokesperson for the four unions, train services on the Sishen - Saldanha iron ore railway came to a complete stop and those on the Richards Bay coal line were severely disrupted with train drivers being forced to take their trains back to their home depots. She said there was no activity at Spoornet's Kazerne yard in central Gauteng and none at Freightdynamics' City Deep depot also in central Gauteng. "Trains stations throughout the country are absolutely dead, despite Metrorail's claim that 30% of trains are operating," she said. Barrett said that a memorandum had been delivered to various Transnet representatives in Durban, East London, Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein, Kimberley, and Cape Town. "The same memorandum was delivered personally to Maria Ramos at the headquarters of Spoornet in

Braamfontein, Johannesburg.” “Management will be given 48 hours in which to respond to the demands. Should the response simply repeat the same arrogant intransigence that we have experienced before, we will not hesitate to call on our members to embark on more protracted action.” Meanwhile a glimmer of hope came from yesterday afternoon’s meeting between the minister of Public Enterprises Alec Erwin and the four unions. According to Erwin’s spokesperson government will bring about a resolution to some of the pension issues relating to the transfer of Metrorail. Government would respond to the unions by 20 March after which the unions would meet to decide which way ahead.



MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Rugby player who suffered a massive stroke after his GP failed to refer him to a specialist for medical treatment has won £3 million in damages. Adrian Bowe, 31, of Dearham, was once a promising young sportsman, but he had to abandon his sporting ambitions and his career as a mechanic after the stroke in April 2000 left him permanently paralysed down one side. His disability means he will need professional care for the rest of his life and will never work again. The out-of-court settlement - one of the biggest in Cumbria in recent years - came after a High Court judge ruled that Hesket Newmarket GP Dr Michael Townend was negligent in failing to refer his case to a specialist. Mr Bowe first went to the doctor’s surgery at Fitz Road Medical Practice in Cockermouth to complain of dizziness and blurred vision. Dr Townend incorrectly diagnosed a migraine and his diagnosis remained unchanged despite Mr Bowe making further visits to Dr Townend in January 1999. A year after that consultation, Mr Bowe’s mother Patricia found him collapsed at his home. He had suffered a massive stroke. In court, Mr Bowe’s solicitors argued that the GP should have referred him to a neurologist for further medical investigation of his symptoms, which were classic warning signs of the stroke that happened on April 19 2000. A neurologist would have prescribed Mr Bowe a blood thinner so that the stroke would have been avoided. Mr Bowe actually had a hole in the heart, which had led to small clots of blood forming and then travelling up to his brain. The resulting brain injury had a devastating effect on his life, cutting short his career as a scrum-half with Cockermouth Rugby Union

Club and leaving him unable to work. He can now walk only short distances with sticks, while at other times he must use a wheelchair.

PERSONAL INJURIES, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated Mar 14, states: A woman severely disabled after a car knocked her unconscious has won damages of £3.5m at the High Court. Jessica Morgan, from Tredegar, was a 19-year-old college student when she was involved in the accident in Rhymney, south Wales, in 1999. Severe head injuries left her unable to speak, with limited mobility, and needing round-the-clock care. The award included £100,000 for “pain, suffering and loss of amenity” and almost £2m to fund her future care. Ms Morgan had hoped to develop a career in IT and multimedia before the accident. She was left in a semi-coma for months after she was hit by a car driven by Paul Phillips from Pontlottyn, in March 1999. She claimed compensation via her father Graham, 54, from Mr Phillips’ insurers. As part of the settlement, Ms Morgan was awarded compensation for lost earnings, and costs of accommodation, which will enable her family to move from their “entirely unsuitable” council house into a specially-adapted bungalow. Ms Morgan lives with her father, a former taxi driver, mother Florence, 53, and her 13-year-old sister in Tredegar, Blaenau Gwent. Ralph Lewis QC, speaking on behalf of Mr Phillips’ motor insurers, had argued the damages claim was too high. He said Ms Morgan was entitled to a “great deal of state-funded care” from the local authority as well as a council home appropriate to her needs. Mr Lewis also claimed the intensive care regime she was receiving was “excessive”. Judge Richard Seymour said he based his £3.5m award on findings that her current life expectation was 74 and that, but for the accident, she would have successfully passed a degree course and gone on to a job as an information technology technician.

POLLUTION, SOUTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated Mar 9, states: Six years after one of South Carolina’s worst industrial pollution incidents forced a Lexington County utility to shut down, a chemical company has been forced to pay more than \$20 million in damages. A jury awarded the Lexington County Joint Municipal Water and Sewer Commission about \$1.7 million in actual damages today, according to Melinda Powers, law clerk for Circuit Court Judge Larry Patterson. The actual damages against Tin Products Inc. include approximately \$640,000 to replace the treatment plant. The jury also recommended the utility receive a total of \$20 million in punitive damages, an amount Patterson then

approved. That amount breaks down to \$10 million levied against Tin Products itself and \$10 million levied against former Tin Products president Charles Sanford, Powers said. Tin Products made chemicals used in vinyl siding and plastic plumbing and jars. From 1999 to 2000, those chemicals contaminated a 12-mile stretch of the Red Bank Creek and the Congaree River, killing fish and shutting down Cayce’s water treatment plant. Water-use restrictions were imposed on 55,000 residents, and federal officials spent \$2.1 million to clean up the 45-acre manufacturing plant. After trying to prosecute the case, Attorney General Henry McMaster said the state had to turn it over to the U.S. Attorney’s Office because South Carolina did not have the authority to gather necessary records. Lawmakers then pushed through legislation, which Gov. Mark Sanford signed into law last May, giving the state the power to prosecute environmental crimes. The law says an engineer hired by the Department of Health and Environmental Control would have to determine if the damage in such cases exceeds \$2 million before the state could intervene.

PREMATURE TERMINATION OF CONTRACTS, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated Mar 10, states: The city of Santa Clara agreed to pay Enron Corp. creditors \$36.5 million to settle a lawsuit over terminated electricity contracts with the city’s municipal utility, the two parties said today. Enron, the scandal-plagued power supplier that collapsed into bankruptcy in 2001, sued Santa Clara the following year, claiming officials owed it \$147 million for terminating two electricity contracts ahead of schedule. Santa Clara stopped paying Enron in December 2001 after the company ceased delivering promised electricity, said Junona Jonas, utility director for Silicon Valley Power, the city-owned electricity utility. While Silicon Valley Power contended it was Enron that ended the contracts when it couldn’t deliver electricity, the utility settled to avoid further legal costs. “We aren’t happy we had to pay,” said Jonas. “We feel we had a strong case. We had to weigh it against the cost of continuing litigation.” The settlement calls for Santa Clara to get an unsecured bankruptcy claim of \$4 million. In bankruptcy, unsecured claims are typically among the last in line for payment - after banks but before shareholders. Santa Clara spent \$5 million fighting the suit, which was filed in bankruptcy court in New York, Jonas said. The settlement must be approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which has oversight over the terminated contracts, and the judge overseeing Enron’s bankruptcy proceedings.

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

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, AUSTRALIA

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A security guard subjected to bullying and racist jibes while working at media group News Limited has been awarded more than A\$3.5 million in damages. The NSW Supreme Court today ordered News Ltd pay Devandar Naidu almost A\$2 million and the guard's former employer, Group 4 Securitas, pay him at least \$1.7 million. The final payout is expected to be more after interest is calculated on the Securitas payout. The Fijian security guard successfully sued News Ltd and Group 4 Securitas for negligence during the five years he was the target of racial abuse and bullying by a superior. The court was told that from 1990 to 1998 he was contracted by the security company to work for News Ltd at its Sydney premises in Surry Hills, Chullora and Parramatta. He said his immediate boss at News Ltd, the company's then security and fire manager, Lance Chaloner, had bullied him and taunted him with racist insults. Justice Michael Adams last year found News Ltd and Group 4 Securitas liable for Mr Naidu's psychiatric injuries. Today, the judge ordered News Ltd to pay Mr Naidu almost \$1.8 million, plus exemplary damages of \$150,000. "The effects of the intimidation and vilification were considerable distress, humiliation and accumulating stress, anxiety and unhappiness," Justice Adams said. He also found that Group 4 Securitas should pay Mr Naidu at least \$1.6 million in damages, plus \$100,000 for breach of contract. However, the final sum to be paid by Group 4 Securitas will depend on the calculation of interest due.

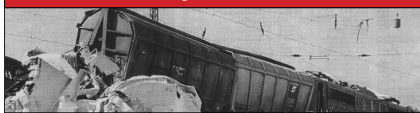
ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: The mother of an infant who suffered severe brain damage in a car wreck last June has been awarded \$6 million to settle a lawsuit against the driver of the other car. Colton Youngblood was 5 months old when his father's car was struck by Peter Robbins, a 61-year-old Patagonia resident, on State Route 83 south of Interstate 10. According to the Arizona Department of Public Safety, Robbins blacked out and crossed the center line in his 1997 Dodge pickup truck. Colton's mother, Deborah Youngblood, sued Robbins in Pima County Superior Court on behalf of Colton and her 13-year-old son, Ricardo, who suffered a broken leg in the accident. The baby's brain damage left him permanently blind and unable to eat without the aid of a feeding tube, said Steven D. Copple, one of Youngblood's attorneys. The settlement will be used to pay for Colton's medical care, Copple said. Robbins' lawyer, Daryl Audilett, blamed the accident on a then-undiagnosed seizure disorder. Robbins' insurance will cover the cost of the settlement, Audilett said.

WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: The city of Boston has reached a record settlement with a man wrongly imprisoned for more than a decade. Neil Miller was freed in 2000 after D-N-A evidence showed he couldn't have been the man who raped and robbed an Emerson College student in 1989. Miller sued prosecutors and Boston police in 2003, claiming they pushed the victim to identify Miller as her attacker and ignored evidence that could have cleared him. The \$3.2 million settlement is the largest for a civil rights conviction in state history. Last year, a Boston man, Larry Taylor, pleaded guilty to three rapes, including the one for which Miller was wrongly convicted.

London, Mar 10 — A man who spent 10 years behind bars for a rape he did not commit was awarded \$3.5 million yesterday. DNA testing has proved that Neil Miller was wrongfully convicted. Miller was released from prison in June 2000. Four days before Miller's lawsuit was scheduled to go to trial, the city agreed to the award. Miller's lawyers said that Boston police committed criminal misconduct. "The head of the crime lab) was committing perjury in criminal cases where he would intentionally misrepresent scientific data to help prosecutors get a conviction, even when he knew that that data was false," said attorney Peter Neufeld, of the Innocence Project. Miller's attorneys were even more pointed about Deputy Superintendent Margo Hill. "The victim's identification was the result of suggestions by Margo Hill," said Howard Friedman, Miller's attorney. "Margo Hill deliberately buried exculpatory evidence from the district attorney," Neufeld said. Miller was sentenced to up to 45 years in prison.

Railway Accidents**BLACKPOOL, LANCASHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Ten people were injured when two trains collided at a railway station early this morning. Lancashire Police said the train from Manchester Airport crashed into the back of a stationary carriage at Blackpool Station. Police said 10 people were hurt in the collision on platform four but said their injuries were minor. British Transport Police and the Rail Accident Investigation Board are investigating the crash.

GARBAGNATE MILANESE, MILAN, ITALY

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated Mar 14, states: Two local trains collided head-on outside a station

near Milan today, killing at least two people, news reports said. Firefighters were at the scene of the crash near the Garbagnate Milanese station, 10 miles from Milan, and they provided the casualty figures, the ANSA news agency said. The report said the cause of the crash was not immediately determined. Firefighters in Milan confirmed the crash had occurred. Two local trains were involved, one of them connecting Malpensa airport with Milan.

Robberies & Thefts**CASH FROM SECURITY DEPOT, TONBRIDGE, KENT, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: More than a third of the £53 million stolen during the Securitas depot robbery has been found, police confirmed. A total of £19.7 million has been recovered from a number of different locations, Kent Police said. The latest find, of £8.6 million, was in a garage in Southborough, near Tunbridge Wells on Sunday (Mar 5), just a few miles from the Tonbridge depot where the raid took place, officers said.

Miscellaneous**OIL CARGO DISPUTE, MOMBASA, KENYA**

Mombasa, Mar 10 — Product tanker *Sunshine*: There was a dispute between the fuel marketers Kenol/Kobil and Kenya Pipeline Co but this was resolved and the vessel was allowed to discharge Mar 3. It left Mombasa port the same day for Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

Jakarta, Mar 10 — Bird flu has killed its 22nd human victim in Indonesia, a 12-year-old girl, according to tests by the World Health Organisation's Hong Kong laboratory, an Indonesian health ministry official said today. The confirmation came just hours after Indonesia reported its 21st human bird flu victim, a three-year-old child, according to tests by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. The official said the 12-year-old girl had had contact with poultry. The three-year-old boy who died earlier this month in Indonesia's Central Java Province had also been in contact with fowl, according to initial information. — Reuters.

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The lethal H5N1 strain of bird flu has been detected in

Cameroon, making it the fourth African country to be hit by the virus. A government statement said it had been found in a duck on a farm near the northern town of Maroua, on the border with Nigeria. H5N1 had previously been detected in poultry in Nigeria itself, Niger and also in Egypt. Cameroon banned all imports of Nigerian poultry last month. The tests from the farm near Maroua had been carried out in Paris, the Cameroonian government statement said.

Bangkok, Mar 13 — Myanmar has reported what is believed to be the secretive country's first case of bird flu, while Afghanistan was checking today to see if it is the latest country to be infected by the deadly disease. Military-ruled Myanmar is seen by some international health experts as a potential black hole in the global fight against the disease but a U.N. official in Yangon said authorities were cooperating. "They have carried out some tests and they believe that they have identified H5N1," Laurence Gleeson, of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Bangkok, told Reuters. The case emerged on March 8 after 112 chickens died on a farm near Mandalay, about 430 miles north of Yangon. Officials destroyed a flock of 780 birds and sent samples for testing at government laboratories in Mandalay and Yangon. In impoverished Afghanistan, the government and the United Nations said the H5 subtype of the bird flu virus has been found in a small number of poultry but it was not yet known if it was the deadly H5N1 strain. Afghanistan had satisfactory facilities to detect outbreaks but containing them would be a concern, said FAO representative Serge Verniau. The World Health Organisation has confirmed 176 people infected with bird flu around the world since 2003, of whom 97 have died. This does not include a possible cluster of 10 cases in Azerbaijan that were still being investigated. — Reuters.

Baku, Mar 14 — Azerbaijan said yesterday bird flu had killed three people in the country's first known cases in humans. The infected people were thought to be members of a family from the Salyan region in southern Azerbaijan who died in hospital this month. They had kept poultry in their house, a common practice in rural Azerbaijan. "Initial analysis from the laboratory shows that the three people who had died did so as a result of bird flu," said Health Ministry spokeswoman Samaya Mamedova. The results came from a mobile laboratory brought into the country from Cairo yesterday. The World Health Organisation said yesterday that the virus had killed at least 98 people worldwide since late 2003, confirming that a girl in Indonesia was the 22nd killed by the virus there. — Reuters.

Copenhagen, Mar 15 — Denmark has found the first case of the highly

pathogenic H5 bird flu virus in a wild fowl, officials said today. The Ministry for Family and Consumer Affairs, which is in charge of food safety, said it would give further details at a news conference at 1100, UTC. "At the news conference the authorities will inform about the measures taken as a result of the bird flu," it said in a statement. Danish poultry farmers produce about three billion crowns worth of mostly chickens per year with two thirds going to export. Sweden and Germany are the two biggest export markets for Danish poultry. — Reuters.

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities in the western Indian state of Maharashtra will begin slaughtering tens of thousands of chicken after some fresh cases of bird flu were detected. Tests on poultry from Jalgaon district confirmed the H5 strain of the virus, but more tests were on to check whether birds had the deadly H5N1 strain. Over 70,000 chickens in the region are to be slaughtered, officials say. Hundreds of thousands of birds were destroyed in Maharashtra after India's first bird flu outbreak last month. The virus later spread to some poultry farms in the neighbouring Gujarat state. The fresh cases have been detected in poultry in four villages of Jalgaon district, federal farm minister Sharad Pawar told the parliament. Four of the 22 samples sent for testing from these areas had tested positive, he said. The detection of bird flu in India last month led to sharp falls in the sale of poultry and poultry products. India's parliament, military, railways and major airlines temporarily stopped serving chicken and eggs, despite government reassurances that they were safe to eat if cooked properly.

Yangon, Mar 15 — Thousands of chickens have been slaughtered on five more farms in central Myanmar after hundreds of birds died of bird flu-like symptoms, the UN food agency said today. The five farms are in the same area in Mandalay Division, 430 miles north of Yangon, where the country's first outbreak of the H5N1 virus was found on two farms on Mar 8. Initial tests had found the presence of the virus but further tests were needed, Tang Zhengping, the country representative for the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), said. He said samples had been sent to a laboratory in Bangkok and the results were expected in two or three days. "Seven hundred chickens have now died of suspected bird flu on seven farms in Mandalay and 5,000 chickens from these farms were destroyed to help contain the disease," Tang said, referring to the total number of farms affected since last week. Myanmar health authorities say there is no evidence of human infections from the H5N1 virus, which has killed about 100 people in Asia and the Middle East since late 2003. Myanmar has appealed for international help and the first shipment of emergency gear from the FAO arrived today. "It

includes 100 sets of personal protection equipment, 500 litres of disinfectant, 50 sets of sprayers and two containers for shipping samples," Tang said. He said an FAO adviser was due to visit Mandalay tomorrow to assess Myanmar's needs to contain the outbreak. An expert from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was also being sent to the former Burma. "With support from international agencies and the international community I think they can contain the situation," Tang said. — Reuters.

Kabul, Mar 16 — A strain of bird flu found in dead chickens in Afghanistan has been confirmed as the deadly H5N1 strain, the government and the United Nations said today. "The H5N1 strain of avian influenza has today been confirmed in Afghanistan in six samples," they said in a statement. The samples came from dead birds found in the capital, Kabul, and in Nangarhar province, on the Pakistani border in the east, and were tested at laboratories of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation in Italy. Another six samples from Kandahar province in the south and Kunduz province in the north had tested negative, they said. Culling would begin immediately in affected areas and markets selling poultry and poultry products in these areas would be closed and disinfected, they said. Farmers would be compensated for their culled chickens and efforts to increase public awareness of the disease were underway, they said. — Reuters.

Mumbai, Mar 16 — Four Asian nations today confirmed the presence of the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu, while China said it faced a long struggle to contain the disease before the arrival of flu-carrying migratory birds in spring. Afghanistan, India and Myanmar said tests had now confirmed H5N1 caused recent outbreaks in birds, while Malaysia reported two new cases in a wild bird and dead chickens. In India, veterinary workers began culling more than 70,000 birds to try to control the latest outbreak there. Hundreds of people were also tested for fever. Bird flu has spread with alarming speed in recent weeks across Europe, Africa and parts of Asia, leaving some impoverished nations such as Afghanistan and Myanmar appealing for protective clothing and other basic equipment. The more it spreads, the greater the fears of the virus mutating into a form that could easily pass from one person to another, triggering a pandemic in which millions could die. "Now the virus is becoming crazy. The virus is becoming unpredictable," said Nouredin Mona, the Food and Agriculture Organisation's representative in Beijing, referring to bird flu's rapid spread in recent weeks. Although hard to catch, people can contract bird flu after coming into contact with infected birds. Denmark became the latest European country to report a case of highly pathogenic

bird flu in wild fowl yesterday, but it has yet to confirm it is H5N1. Neighbouring Sweden confirmed its first outbreak yesterday. Three young women who died in recent weeks in Azerbaijan are thought to be the latest human victims of the virus. So far, no human cases have been reported in India, Afghanistan, Myanmar or Malaysia but hundreds of people near India's latest outbreak in western Maharashtra state have complained of fever. Doctors say they are most likely suffering from dengue but further tests are being done. Indian health authorities said they were not taking any chances and had sent dozens of medical teams looking for people with flu-like symptoms to every household of the affected area. In Myanmar, officials have slaughtered more than 5,000 birds, temporarily closed poultry markets and banned bird movements in two bird flu-hit townships, state media said. A Bangkok laboratory confirmed the findings of Myanmar officials who announced the country's first outbreak in the Mandalay Division on Monday (Mar 13), a UN official said. The Afghan government and the United Nations also confirmed the presence of H5N1 in the South Asian nation. Malaysia reported its latest cases in central Perak state and a senior veterinary official said bird culling had begun within a one-km radius around the sites of the two new cases. In China, where 10 people have died of bird flu, health and government officials say the vast nation faces an uphill struggle to contain bird flu ahead of an expected spike in infections during spring once migratory birds return on their way north. The Asian Development Bank today unveiled a \$38 million programme to help poor countries plug gaps in their bird flu defences. Myanmar and Azerbaijan were likely to be the first recipients. — Reuters.

Fires & Explosions



APARTMENT BUILDING, SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A 225-bed apartment complex being built at Gonzaga University was destroyed in a spectacular fire early yesterday. The Kennedy Apartments, a \$10.4 million complex for upper-division students, caught fire just after midnight yesterday morning. No one was injured, and the cause of the fire has not been determined, said Gonzaga spokesman Peter Tormey. "It appears it will be a total loss," Tormey said. The three-building complex on the edge of campus was insured and will likely be rebuilt, he said. The Spokane Fire Department and agents from the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,

Firearms and Explosives are investigating, Tormey said. The 75 three-bedroom apartments had been scheduled to open in July. Fire Chief Bobbie Williams said the fire call came in at 0005 hrs. When firefighters arrived, one of the three buildings was engulfed and another was on fire. By 0130 hrs, much of the complex had collapsed.

HUNAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A coal mine explosion and fire today in central China killed three miners and left six others missing, the government said. Two miners escaped and another was rescued at the Shuijingtou Coal Mine in Hunan, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The cause of the blast is being investigated, the agency said. The blaze hampered rescue efforts and rescuers were still searching for the six missing miners hours after the blast, it said. China's coal mines are notorious for their lax safety records and claim about 6,000 lives each year in fires, explosions, floods and other disasters. The blast and fire today occurred in Shaodong County, about 125 miles from Hunan's provincial capital, Changsha, Xinhua reported. It said the Shuijingtou Coal Mine belongs to the state-owned Lianshao Mining Group Co., Ltd.

INTERNATIONAL ARRIVAL HALL, POLONIA AIRPORT, INDONESIA

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: An early morning fire swept through Polonia Airport's international arrival hall in Medan, North Sumatra, yesterday, disrupting scheduled arrivals and causing financial losses estimated in billions of rupiah. Nobody was hurt in the fire, which is believed to have been caused by an electrical short circuit at about 0330 hrs. The fire, which was extinguished within half an hour, disrupted several scheduled incoming flights. Services returned to normal at 1100 hrs, with arriving flights and passengers shifted to the departure hall. The operations and technical director of airport management company PT Angkasa Pura II, I.G.M. Dordi, said the decision to cancel landings was made for security reasons because all the immigration data in the hall was destroyed. "In the meantime, services for passengers arriving from abroad were conducted in an emergency situation. We used the international departure hall to check all of the incoming passengers," said Dordi, who did not say when the hall would reopen. Deputy chief of North Sumatra Police, Brig. Gen. Rubani Pranoto, said there was no initial indication of arson although the investigation into the cause continued. He said the fire began in a waiting room and spread throughout the hall.

MARINA, CREEKWOOD, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: With flames and

smoke that could be seen for miles, 13 boats housed at the Creekwood Marina on Sanders Ferry Road burned Wednesday (Mar 8) in a fire that officials say could have been caused by a small electrical fan. Hendersonville Fire Marshall Joe Bowman said fire officials have identified the boat, owned by Sam Moore, where the blaze began. However, they will not be able to determine an exact cause until its wreckage can be removed from the bottom of Old Hickory Lake. "The boat where the fire originated from burnt from top to hull and has sunk, so right now it's undetermined," he said. Bowman added the fire may have been caused by a small electrical fan that was left running at all times. No one had been on the boat for three or four days before the fire, according to Bowman. In all, 13 boats were destroyed by a blaze that required every available man in the fire department to contain. An additional 12 to 15 boats received minor damage resulting from the heat and ash created by the fire. Fire officials estimate the cost of the damage to be in the neighborhood of \$1.5 to \$2 million. Hendersonville Fire Chief Jamie Steele said officials believe the fire began around 1030 hrs, as an eyewitness reported seeing the fire inside a boat and attempting to put it out. Steele said the man said he attempted to call 911 immediately, but could not get through. Firefighters were also faced with a moving fire scene as three burning boats that flames had caused to come loose from the dock drifted across the channel running aground and causing a grass fire at 207 Cherokee Road. Firefighters finally gained control of the marina fire around 1430 hrs. An engine company remained on the scene throughout the night and suppressed at least six separate flare-ups, said Hendersonville Fire Inspector Bob Galoppi. Steele said yesterday that he planned keep firefighters on the scene throughout the day in case of other flare-ups. In addition to replacing the boats that were lost, Galoppi said at least one-third of Creekwood's D dock would have to be replaced.

OIL RIG, SOUTH LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 11 — A press release, issued by Grey Wolf, Inc., Houston, dated Mar 10, states: Grey Wolf, Inc., announced that early this morning it experienced a fire on one of its drilling rigs: Rig 84, a 2,000 horsepower diesel electric rig, was drilling under a daywork contract in South Louisiana when the incident occurred. No personnel were injured in the fire, however the rig sustained extensive damage. The losses are covered by insurance, less the Company's standard deductibles, and the Company is evaluating the condition of the rig.

PREMISES, BOATS & BRUSH, SOLOMONS, MARYLAND, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 16 — A press report, dated Mar 15, states: High winds fanned a fire that destroyed two restaurants and two boats and sparked a brush fire in downtown Solomons this afternoon, authorities said. Damage was estimated at \$5 million. The State Fire Marshal's office say the fire started about 1230 hrs near a dock connected to Bowen's Inn and spread to the Lighthouse Inn. Both buildings, including several apartments on the second floors, were destroyed. There was also damage to the outside of a third building. It took more than 70 firefighters from four counties and the U.S. Coast Guard about two hours to control the fire. Embers sparked a small brush fire near the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory and set ablaze an old boat that was stored on land. The cause is under investigation, but the State Fire Marshal's Office says there is no evidence that the fire was set.

PREMISES, QUEENS, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated Mar 13, states: A fire in a row of stores raged for five hours and injured 10 people before it was brought under control this afternoon, the fire department said. Firefighters were called to the stores on Sutphin Boulevard in the Jamaica section of Queens around 1130 hrs, department spokesman Farrell Sklerov said. About 200 firefighters battled the blaze until just after 1600 hrs. The fire spread to five stores, including a supermarket and a pizzeria. Six firefighters, three police officers and one civilian suffered minor injuries, Sklerov said. The cause of the blaze was under investigation.

TURKEY FARM, DASHWOOD, ONTARIO, CANADA

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated today, states: An early-morning blaze that torched a major turkey farm yesterday did Can\$1 million damage. The incident occurred at Hayter's Turkey Products, in Dashwood. No one was hurt and no turkeys lost. The damage was contained to the straw-filled shed, which is about 27 metres long, and farm equipment. Nearly 20 hours after the blaze first started, Dashwood's volunteer firefighters were still soaking the straw to prevent the smouldering flames from re-igniting. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT, WANTAGE, OXFORDSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated Mar 14, states: A major fire has today almost destroyed a water treatment plant in Wantage that serves hundreds of homes in Oxfordshire. The Environment Agency has reassured residents that no chemicals have leaked into local water

supplies. Thames Water said residents would now receiving their water from an alternative station. The cause of the fire, which was tackled by 30 firefighters, is not yet known but it is not thought to be suspicious.

WILDFIRE, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 10,000 acres of prairie burned in southeastern Kansas yesterday, forcing the evacuation of an elementary school and a neighbourhood, authorities said. No injuries were reported and the blaze was brought under control by late afternoon, fire officials said. Governor Kathleen Sebelius declared Butler County a state of disaster emergency. One unoccupied house used to store antiques was destroyed and another home sustained minor damage. The fire burned at least three oil storage tanks and a few outbuildings. Oil Hill Elementary School north-west of El Dorado was evacuated. Kathy Guy, assistant director of Butler County Emergency Management, said about 100 homes were evacuated as a precaution. At one point, the fire closed both the Kansas Turnpike at El Dorado and Kansas 196 from Potwin to K-254. Those highways were reopened by late afternoon, the Kansas Highway Patrol said. Guy said the blaze started when the tongue of a trailer popped off its hitch and dragged on the pavement, kicking up sparks.

WILDFIRES, AUSTRALIA

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters in Tasmania's north-east will work through the night to control a fire that has burnt about 1,600 hectares since Saturday (Mar 4). Fire crews say the threat to the town of Gladstone has eased. Parks manager Chris Ems says Parks and Wildlife, and Tasmania Fire Service crews are using bulldozers and helicopters to try to control the blaze.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Massive wildfires raced across the dry southern plains early today, burning more than half a million acres in Texas, leaving at least seven people dead and injuring at least seven more. Four people died in a chain-reaction crash on Interstate 40 east of Groom as smoke obscured the road. Three others died in fires near Borger, north-east of Amarillo. "This is probably one of the biggest fire days in Texas history," said Warren Bielenberg, a spokesman for the Texas Forest Service. The fires scorched more than 663,000 acres, far eclipsing the deadly wildfires that prompted Governor Rick Perry to declare a statewide drought disaster in January. Early today, the fires burned near the border of Gray and Donley counties in the Panhandle. Officials were not certain what sparked the wildfires, but wind gusting up to 55 mph and low

humidity made conditions ideal for the fires to quickly spread. The parched region around Amarillo has had just three-tenths of an inch of rain since February, nearly an inch below normal, and no rain is expected for at least another week. "With these windy conditions and dry grasses, there was nothing to stop the fires," said J.J. Brost, a forecaster with the National Weather Service in Amarillo. Cooler temperatures today should help firefighters, but the winds are still forecast around 15 mph, Brost said. Wildfires forced the evacuation of eight small towns over the weekend (Mar 11-12), although some residents were allowed to return to Skellytown and Lefors late yesterday. Near Borger, two people died trying to escape a grass fire that consumed their home, fire Capt Mike Galloway said. Eight to 10 structures were destroyed near Borger, about 40 miles north-east of Amarillo, Galloway said. Firefighters worked through the night to try to contain the blazes. Another person died in Hutchinson County, said Sheriff's Deputy Aaron McWilliams. Volunteer firefighter Danny Whittington said 15 to 20 structures were lost in a fire between Pampa and McLean. Low visibility from the dense smoke forced officials to close an 89-mile stretch of Interstate 40 from Amarillo to Shamrock for six hours, said Daniel Hawthorne, a spokesman for the Department of Public Safety in Childress. Traffic was initially diverted down State Highway 70 to US 287, until that road was closed because of the fires. Fires also menaced southeastern New Mexico, where a 70,000-acre grass fire prompted evacuation orders for up to 200 people yesterday and injured one man, who was hospitalised in stable condition, officials said. Several smaller wildfires also burned in Oklahoma, where some people were evacuated from the central Oklahoma town of Carney.

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated today, states: At least seven people have been killed by wildfires in the drought-hit US state of Texas, officials say. Firefighters are battling to put out the wind-fuelled blazes, which started at the weekend. Nearly 2,000 people in seven counties have been evacuated, and more than 700,000 acres of grasslands have been destroyed. Nine firefighters have been injured, according to officials. The US National Weather Service said dry conditions were expected to persist today, but fire crews' efforts could be aided by lighter winds. Four of the fatal victims died on Sunday (Mar 12) in a traffic accident while trying to flee a fast-moving blaze, authorities said. There was no immediate estimate of the number of homes damaged or destroyed.

London, Mar 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Wildfires that have scorched nearly a million acres of the bone-dry Texas Panhandle spread even farther, fanned by strong wind gusts that reached as high as 52

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mph. Authorities said the fires traveled as far as 40 miles to the north-east yesterday, marching close to the Oklahoma border. Authorities urged residents in six towns to evacuate, and cautioned that the fire could reach Oklahoma. "When fire is advancing at 40 mph, you can't put it out," Borger Fire Chief Gayland Darnell said. The winds, which blew away ash and then created sandstorms, were the strongest since wildfires fueled by 60 mph winds started racing across the plains north-east of Amarillo Sunday (Mar 12). Nearly 3,000 residents in Lipscomb, Higgins, Barton Corner, Booker, Darrouzett and Follett were asked by fire officials to evacuate after a blaze that started near Borger began spreading. At least 10 homes in Lipscomb County were threatened, said Rachael Novier, a spokeswoman for Gov. Rick Perry. Lipscomb County Judge Willis Smith declined to order mandatory evacuations. There were 10 active fires yesterday, and firefighters responded to more than 200 new fires for a second consecutive 24-hour period. Eleven people have died in the fires that have scorched about 840,000 acres since the first day, and animal health officials have estimated the number of dead horses and cattle at 10,000. Perry is scheduled to tour the area today. Slight relief came yesterday afternoon with brief rain in the Borger and Pampa areas, overcast skies and higher humidity, but state officials said conditions remained critical because of the strong winds. In their efforts to quell the wildfires, some departments have used soapy water because it sticks to vegetation better and doesn't evaporate as quickly. Firefighters also have set back fires and used bulldozers to clear land in an effort to rob advancing fires of fuel. Helicopters have dropped hundreds of thousands of gallons of fire retardant and water along firelines.



ACCIDENT, ISLAMABAD AIRPORT, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Mar 14 — A spokesman for Pakistan International Airlines said today that one of its Boeing 747 aircraft, with 113 people on board, was grounded after a Shaheen Airport Service coach struck it and damaged one of its engines on the runway at Islamabad International Airport yesterday. He said a technical team examining whether to replace the engine or repair it. PIA flight PK785, bound for London, was taxiing for take-off at 1140 yesterday when the coach struck its No 4 engine while it was returning to the terminal after ferrying passengers to another flight. As a result, the engine and the coach's windscreen were damaged. The

passengers and the coach driver were unhurt. The passengers were transferred to another aircraft which took off at 1410 hrs. An enquiry has been ordered. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

AIRCRAFT GROUNDED AT JOHANNESBURG AIRPORT, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated Mar 14, states: A Ukrainian cargo airplane was grounded at the Johannesburg International Airport by a court order, the Airports Company of SA (ACSA) confirmed today. ACSA Communications Manager Solomon Makgale said: "We can confirm that there is an aircraft that has been grounded by air traffic control due to an order by the Pretoria High Court." Makgale said the plane, which was owned by the Ukrainian government, had arrived in the country on Sunday (Mar 12) and was due to leave tomorrow. "The plane will remain grounded until it is given clearance by air traffic control and that will only happen once the issue of the court order has been resolved." He said he could not comment on whether the plane had been grounded due to debt owed to a South African company or information that it was bound for Afghanistan with vehicles for the Canadian army.

AIRCRAFT HIT BY TURBULRNCE ON A FLIGHT FROM DETROIT TO RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 16 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Three passengers aboard a Northwest Airlines jetliner were injured by severe turbulence today, and they were taken to a hospital after the aircraft landed. The aircraft had been heading to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport from Detroit but was diverted to Washington Dulles International Airport in suburban Virginia after the incident. The injured passengers were taken to Reston Hospital, said Tara Hamilton, a spokeswoman for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. There was no immediate word on the nature of the injuries.

C-GNAY

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: One pilot died and another was seriously injured when a small cargo aircraft crashed while landing at Powell River during the late-winter storm that blasted southwestern B.C. yesterday. The twin-engine Piper Chieftan belonging to Orca Airways overshot the runway and crashed into a ravine just before 1700 hrs while trying to land on a flight from Vancouver. There were no passengers on board. There were strong winds at the time of the crash. Transportation Safety Board spokesperson Bill Yearwood says investigators will look into whether the storm was a factor. "We will try to get information on radar data, on

weather, voice communication etcetera, to try and determine the aircraft profile before landing," he said.

London, Mar 15 — Piper PA-31-350 (Navajo Chieftain) C-GNAY, operated by Orca Air, crashed at Powell River, British Columbia, at 1635, PST, Mar 8, while on a flight from Vancouver, BC, to Powell River. One of the two persons on board was killed and the other was seriously injured.

CRASH, KASHMIR, INDIA-PAKISTAN

London, Mar 9 — A helicopter of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) crashed today in the earthquake-hit Kashmir, injuring the pilot and the co-pilot, an ICRC spokesman said. Raza Hamdani, the spokesman, told the Geo television that the helicopter was engaged in relief operations in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir when it crashed in the Bandey Fateh Jang area of Neelum valley around noon, local time. There was no immediate word about the causes of the crash. Pilots Dave Peterson and Mike Church from South Africa were injured, when they jumped from the chopper, the spokesman said. They were flown to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) in Islamabad by an ICRC rescue helicopter, Hamdani said. They were shifted to the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital, he said. "Their condition is stated to be out of danger," the ICRC spokesman said. He said the copter was chartered from South Africa and had been operational in the earthquake devastated areas since Oct 18. He said that a team of ICRC was also dispatched to the area to investigate into the incident. Doctors said that the pilots have received injuries in legs as the wreckage of the helicopter fell on them.

CRASH, MAUI, HAWAII

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Hawaii Air Ambulance officials said a crew member reported no problems aboard the company's Cessna 414A four minutes before it crashed into a Kahului car dealership Wednesday (Mar 8) night. Assistant Chief Flight Nurse Brien P. Eisaman's last radio transmission from the aircraft gave no indication of anything unusual, Andrew Kluger, Hawaii Air Ambulance chief executive officer, said yesterday. Last contact had been with Medical Director Robert Bonham, a conversation that had ended at 1911 hrs. "At that point, Brien indicated that he had already seen the airfield to land and that he would get back to Dr. Bonham in a few minutes to discuss the patient," Kluger said. "He then ceased contact with the aircraft, and it went down between 1911 and 1915 (hrs)."

CRASH, MILDURA, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated today, states: One person is

dead after a light plane crashed in Victoria's northwest tonight. John Mullen from Rural Ambulance Victoria said the sole occupant of the plane died in the crash in Mildura shortly after 2000 hrs. He said early indications were that the plane was coming in to land at the Mildura Airport when it crashed into racks used for drying fruit. "It burst into flames and one person on board was deceased at the scene," Mr Mullen said. A Country Fire Authority spokesman said crews were still fighting the blaze. A spokesman for the Mildura Airport refused to comment.

CRASH, NEW KUSH AREA, SUDAN

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated Mar 15, states: An insurance firm says it will pay Uganda \$3m (£1.7m) for the presidential helicopter that crashed killing former Sudanese rebel leader John Garang. The firm's decision, deeming the crash an accident, should draw a line under the tragedy, a Ugandan minister said. Mr Garang's death last July sparked days of rioting in Sudan by supporters who accused the government of having a hand in the crash. The results of an official inquiry into the crash have been hit by delays. Mr Garang had been Sudan's vice-president just three weeks when he was killed flying home after talks with Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni. The Nigerian-owned National Insurance Corporation said it had conducted its own investigation and was satisfied the crash had been an accident.

D-ETRA

London, Mar 13 — Beechcraft C24R (Sierra), D-ETRA, was destroyed following a Mayday transmission by the pilot, and disappearance of the aircraft from radar approximately 10 nautical miles off the south-west Danish coast, near Ribe, Denmark, at approximately 1515, UTC, Mar 7. The pilot, the sole occupant of the aircraft, was fatally injured.

EC-JAX

London, Mar 11 — Cessna 421C EC-JAX, owned and operated by Aerotaxi Los Valles, S.L. was destroyed upon impact with "Chiquito" mountain near Labiano, Spain, while executing a missed approach at Pamplona-Navarra Airport. at approximately 1525, UTC, Mar 7, The pilot, first officer and four passengers were killed.

EMERGENCY LANDING, CHARLOTTE/DOUGLAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft was rolled back to a hangar after making an emergency landing yesterday afternoon at Charlotte/Douglas International Airport. The Charlotte Fire Department says the landing gear on the six-passenger aircraft would not

come down so the pilot was forced to make a belly landing. The pilot was the only person on board. No injuries were reported. The aircraft is registered to Durham-based Bellefonte Incorporated. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating.

EMERGENCY LANDING, GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated today, states: An SN Brussels Airlines Avro RJ85 passenger aircraft made an emergency landing at Gothenburg's Landvetter airport yesterday evening. Sparks were seen coming from the front landing gear of the aircraft and passengers were evacuated on slides. The Belgian aircraft had 22 passengers and four crew on board, according to a spokesperson at Landvetter. It had capacity for 80 passengers. No one was injured during the evacuation and the aircraft did not catch fire. It became obvious at an early stage that the aircraft, on its way from Gothenburg to Brussels, had problems. A warning light indicated that the front wheel had not retracted and the pilot conducted a fly-past of the airport control tower, where they confirmed that the wheel was still out. The alarm was raised and airport emergency services took their positions. When the aircraft landed it became clear that the front wheel could not be retracted because they were turned sideways. The sparks seen on landing came most likely from the landing gear. "The fuselage of the aircraft never hit the ground," said Niclas Henningson, spokesman for Landvetter. The emergency slides were used to evacuate passengers.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MUMBAI, INDIA

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A Los Angeles bound Air-India flight from New Delhi, carrying 256 passengers and 15 crew members, made an emergency landing at Mumbai airport today after a minor snag developed during take-off. The aircraft landed safely and all passengers and crew were safe, an A-I spokesperson told PTI here. "The aircraft, AI 317, landed safely at Mumbai airport at 1325 hours after being recalled as pieces of rubber from the tyre came out at the time of take-off from Delhi," A-I Director (Public Relations) Jitendra Bhargav said. The flight was headed to Los Angeles via Frankfurt and was recalled to Mumbai as it happened to be the airline's technical base, he said.

INCIDENT AT ATATURK AIRPORT, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated Mar 13, states: An Iranian Airlines aircraft arriving from Tehran to Istanbul could not stop and overshot the runway after landing at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport this morning. No casualties were reported. The aircraft, carrying 202 passengers and 16-member crew, entered the

"stop way," at the end of the runway, after landing at the airport at 0938 hrs and the passengers were safely taken to the terminal. The aircraft was later carried back to the runway. Officials said that there was no problem regarding the aircraft's brake system, adding that an investigation into the incident was underway.

INCIDENT AT BANGALORE, INDIA

Mumbai, Mar 12 — Indian low-cost carrier Air Deccan said today one of its new planes had been damaged in a rough landing, but said all passengers had escaped unhurt. An airline spokeswoman said the state-run aviation regulator and the domestic airline were holding two separate inquiries to find out why the ATR 72 plane veered off the runway and burst a tyre on yesterday in the southern city of Bangalore. "It took off smoothly from Coimbatore. The aircraft was brand new. The plane had a rough landing and has suffered some damage," Vijaya Menon said. Menon added none of the 40 passengers had suffered any serious injuries, but some had been bruised. She said that it was too early to say whether there was a problem with the plane's machinery or a pilot error.

INCIDENT AT WELLINGTON AIRPORT, NEW ZEALAND

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Qantas passengers were delayed at Wellington Airport this morning when a Boeing 737's wing clipped against an airbridge while it was being pushed out for take-off. A Qantas spokesperson said 73 passengers were transferred from flight QF4004 to another flight bound for Auckland, which took off an hour later. "When the engineers pushed the aircraft back from the stand with the tug - before the engines were turned on - they clipped an airbridge," she said. There was no damage to the bridge and "extremely minor damage" to the aircraft. She said the plane was due to return to service early in the afternoon.

INCIDENT, GUERNSEY AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Guernsey Airport has been reopened after repairs to instruments in the main runway landing system. Passengers were delayed because the system needed to be examined after the airport was closed because a freight aircraft overshot the runway. The Emerald Airways twin-engine HS748 freight aircraft ended up in mud near the system's aeriels yesterday. Deputy Airport Director Simon McPhail said flight schedules were being brought back to normal. All flights were suspended after the aircraft overshot the runway yesterday morning. Neither the pilot nor the co-pilot on board the aircraft was hurt. The aircraft remains at the airport and will stay on site until air accident investigators have carried out checks

to determine what went wrong. Passengers also experienced delays on Tuesday (Mar 7) because of weather conditions.

LA PAZ AREA, BOLIVIA

La Paz, Mar 9 — An Argentine government aircraft crashed today as it was taking off from El Alto airport near La Paz, a Bolivian air force official told local radio. The official said Argentine officials were on the aircraft but it was not immediately clear who they were, and there was no information about casualties. The aircraft was heading to Buenos Aires. — Lloyd's Agents.

N16JR

Los Angeles, Mar 13 — A former television game show host and his wife were killed today when their light plane crashed in the ocean off the coastal suburb of Santa Monica. Peter Tomarken, 63, host of the 1980s series "Press Your Luck," and his wife, Kathleen, had just taken off in their Beechcraft about 0945 hrs, (1745, UTC) when the engine failed and the plane went down near Santa Monica Pier. The Tomarkens reported engine trouble soon after take-off, according to federal officials. A rescue boat was quickly on scene, and the bodies were recovered. There were no other people on board. They were bound for San Diego, to bring back a cancer patient for treatment. — Reuters.

London, Mar 14 — Beechcraft Bonanza A36 N16JR crashed into the ocean off Santa Monica, California, at 1745, Mar 13, while on a flight from Santa Monica to San Diego, CA. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were killed.

N235G

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: The reason a Piper PA-28-235 (Cherokee) (N235G) crashed in Fairview Township in June, killing a woman and two children and critically injuring the pilot, remains a mystery. According to the National Transportation Safety Board accident brief, the probable cause of the accident was a partial loss of engine power for an undetermined reason, which resulted in a forced-landing after takeoff and collision with some mobile homes. The Jun 25 crash occurred shortly after Nashville, Tenn.-area flight instructor Andrew Lee and his family left Capital City Airport. Lee's wife and two children died. Authorities said they could not examine some parts of the engine because of damage from the fire after the crash.

N370RL

London, Mar 15 — Bell 206L-1 LongRanger II N370RL crashed near Patterson, Louisiana, at 1335, Mar 14, while on a flight from Patterson to an offshore platform. The aircraft was destroyed. Two of the four persons on board were killed and the other two were seriously injured.

N5601C

Honolulu, Mar 9 — A Hawaii Air Ambulance twin-engine Cessna 414 crashed into a parking lot on the island of Maui, Hawaii at approximately 1915, Mar 8. The twin-engine crashed in the lot of a BMW auto dealership near busy Hana Highway. There were no survivors, all three were employees of the Hawaii Air Ambulance. No one on the ground was injured. It was reported the aircraft departed from Honolulu and was scheduled to land at Kahului Airport at 1910 hrs to pick up a patient. The cause of the crash is under investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board. — Lloyd's Agents.

N8446F

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated Mar 12, states: A small plane crashed near the Old Bridge Airport tonight, injuring several people. It was not immediately known if any one was killed. The single-engine plane apparently went down around 2245 hrs. and burst into flames upon impact, authorities said. It was not clear how many people were on board or how seriously they were hurt, but the injured were being treated at nearby hospitals. It was not clear if the plane was trying to land at the airport at the time of the crash, Old Bridge police Sgt. George Stader said, adding that the cause of the crash had not been determined.

London, Mar 13 — Piper PA-34-200T (Seneca II) N8446F crashed near Old Bridge, New Jersey, at 0400, Mar 13. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. Two of the four persons on board were killed and the other two were seriously injured.

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated Mar 13, states: A Brooklyn couple died yesterday after their aircraft (Piper PA-34-200T Seneca II N8446F) crashed near a New Jersey airport. The Ben-Hanania family was apparently returning from a vacation in Florida last night when their aircraft went down just outside Old Bridge Airport in Middlesex County. Investigators are still trying to determine if thick fog was a factor in the crash.

Space Vehicles



DELAYED LAUNCH OF SPACE SHUTTLE, CAPE CANAVERAL, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated Mar 14, states: NASA today postponed the launch of space shuttle Discovery from May until at least July because of an all-too-familiar problem: a faulty fuel tank sensor. NASA said it needs the time to open up the spacecraft's hydrogen fuel tank and replace the sensor, which gave an

electrical resistance reading that was slightly off. The space agency plans to replace the three other sensors in the tank, too, to be safe. The fuel gauges are designed to prevent the main engines from running too long or not long enough, during the climb to space. An engine shutdown at the wrong time could prove catastrophic, forcing the astronauts to attempt a risky emergency landing overseas, or leading to a ruptured engine. "We wish it had worked out differently, but it's first and foremost that we fly safely," said Wayne Hale, NASA's shuttle programme manager. "It was prudent to change these sensors out." Despite the delay, Hale said he was still confident NASA will be able to launch three shuttles this year. Replacing the sensors will take three weeks and require a worker to enter through the bottom of the 153-foot tank while it is upright. The space agency had been working a tight schedule to meet the May launch date and had little room for any technical problems that might crop up. The fuel tank sensor was not the only problem facing the space agency. Discovery's robotic arm was removed yesterday after a small crack was found in it over the weekend. NASA managers had been debating whether to replace or repair the robotic arm. The launch delay now gives them time to ship the robotic arm back to Canada for repairs, but Hale said no decision had been made. Technicians discovered the crack over the weekend using a visual magnifier and ultrasound equipment. The inspections were ordered after a work platform bumped the robotic arm more than a week ago while the workers were trying to clean up glass in the shuttle's payload bay.

Product Recalls



CAMERAS, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 14 — A press release, dated today, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Olympus America Inc., of Melville, N.Y., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 1.2 million various Olympus-Brand 35mm Film Cameras. A defect with the flash circuit in these cameras can cause it to smoke and overheat when the camera is turned on. This poses a possible burn hazard to consumers. Olympus America Inc. has received 21 reports of camera or flash circuitry overheating in the U.S. with no reports of injuries. The recall includes the Infinity Twin, AF-1 Twin, Infinity Zoom 200 series, AZ 200 series, and Quantary Infinity Zoom 222 Olympus-brand 35mm film cameras. Manufactured in Japan, the cameras were sold at department, electronic

and camera stores, and mail-order retailers nationwide from January 1989 through to December 1995 for between \$220 and \$365.

HOLDEN MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Mar 14 — Local car producer Holden has recalled more than 120,000 cars to fix a problem with the side airbag system. Holden today said the recall involved 89,167 cars sold in the domestic market and 34,552 export vehicles built in Australia between April 2003 and December 2005. The list included Commodore, Statesman, Caprice, Monaro and Crewman models sold in Australia and similar vehicles sold in various countries, badged as other brands and models. Holden said the recall only affected cars fitted with a side airbag system as a standard feature or an optional extra. It had been issued following reports that side impact airbags had inflated under circumstances which did not warrant inflation. "This may be caused by static electricity charge, generated in particular conditions, which stimulates the airbag inflator if an earthing wire under the seat has come loose," the company said. "Such conditions can be generated only when the car is stationary and the person is exiting or has exited one of the front seats, as sufficient charge must be generated and the outer side seat bolster compressed to reach the side airbag inflator." Holden said the problem would be fixed free of charge with the installation of an additional earth spring at the front of each height adjustable seat to correctly earth any charge. It said there had been 13 reports of incorrect airbag inflation since 2003 but no reports of any

accidents as a result. Holden's executive director of engineering, Tony Hyde, said inflation would occur only while the car was stationary. "Electrostatic charge accumulation usually requires some sort of moving activity which is generated while swinging out of a seat," Mr Hyde said. "This action also brings the occupant closer to the side impact airbags as the backrest side bolster is compressed when getting out of the seat. "The bolster will not be sufficiently compressed while driving to allow any charge to reach the inflator." Holden said owners with affected cars would be contacted individually.

ISUZU MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Isuzu Motors Ltd. told the transport ministry today it will recall a total of 2,716 trucks it had manufactured under three models due to possibly defective exhaust pipes. The vehicles were made between June 2002 and October 2004, and were sold under three model names — Isuzu's Elf, Nissan Motor Co.'s Atlas, and Nissan Diesel Motor Co.'s Condor. Isuzu said in its report submitted to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport that it has found the welding on these vehicles' exhaust pipes are not strong enough and the pipes may crack, causing exhaust leaks.

LOTUS MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Mar 10 — LCI Ltd, the Japanese sales agent for Britain's Group Lotus PLC, is recalling 311 Lotus cars for replacement of defective shift levers in Japan, the transport ministry said today. Subject to the recall are Elise 111R and Exige cars built between February 2004 and

April 2005. The shift levers bent in two cases and broke in one case, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport said.



ASHDOD

See "Israel" under "Labour Disputes."

AUSTRALIA

London, Mar 13 — Vessel loading and berthing at Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal has been disrupted by a power cut caused by a lightning strike at 2330, local time, yesterday. It is hoped that power will be fully restored to the terminal by 1700, local time, today.

ITALY

Genoa, Mar 13 — Port situation: Genoa: No vessels awaiting berths. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. Savona: One vessel waiting for special berths. No vessels waiting for normal berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

NIGERIA

London, Mar 10 — Movements will be restricted to between 0800 and 1600 hrs throughout Nigeria during the national census which will be conducted from Mar 21 to Mar 25.

SYRIA

Lattakia, Mar 11 — The waiting period for Lattakia port is currently 24 hours and for Tartous it is three days. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

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
Australia		
Abbots Point	15-Mar-2006	Coal: 12 vessels due by 2/4.
Brisbane	15-Mar-2006	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 2 vessels due by 31/3; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	15-Mar-2006	Coal: DBCT berth 1: 2 vessels waiting; 1 vessel due 15/3; DBCT berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; DBCT berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 4 vessels waiting, not scheduled; 25 vessels due by 28/3.
Dampier	15-Mar-2006	Iron ore: Parker Point A berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 4 vessels due by 16/3; Parker Point berth 2: 1 vessel waiting; 6 vessels due by 18/3; Parker Point berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 1 vessel due 19/3; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 11 vessels due by 18/3.
Esperance	13-Mar-2006	Iron ore: 3 vessels due by 25/3; no delays expected.
	15-Mar-2006	Grain: 6 vessels due by 6/4, 5 to load wheat, 1 other grain; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Geraldton	15-Mar-2006	Mar 13:Iron ore: 1 vessel due 25/3. Mar 15:Grain: 1 vessel waiting to load wheat; 3 vessels due by 28/3, 2 to loadwheat, 1 other grain; up to 12 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Gladstone	13-Mar-2006	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 1 berthed and waiting, 22 waiting, 33 vessels due by 11/5; shiploader No. 2 will be shut down for maintenance from 3-7/4; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 10 vessels due by 24/4; up to 10 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Grain: 1 vessel due 26/3 to load wheat; no delays expected.
Hay Point	15-Mar-2006	Coal: Berth 1: loading operations due to resume by mid-April; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 6 vessels due by 17/3; 3 vessels due by 26/3, not yet scheduled for berthing.
Newcastle	15-Mar-2006	Mar 13:Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 3 vessels berthed and loading, 9 waiting; 45 vessels due by 2/4; 5-7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 9 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 21 vessels due by 30/3; 5-7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 4 vessels off port awaiting coal. Mar 15:Three vessels due by 20/3, all to load wheat; up to 11 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Hedland	15-Mar-2006	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthing, 2 vessels waiting; 5 vessels due by 21/3; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 7 vessels due by 22/3; shiploader will be shut down for 36 hours for maintenance ca. 14/3; 6 other vessels due by 29/3, no eta received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 3 vessels due by 23/3; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 6 vessels due by 23/3; Cockatoo Island: 2 vessels due by 19/3.
Port Kembla	15-Mar-2006	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting at anchor; 10 vessels due by 8/4; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Mar 15:Grain: 1 vessel due 15/3 to load barley; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Walcott	15-Mar-2006	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 6 waiting; 10 vessels due by 18/3; there is a 48 hour shiploader maintenance shutdown on berth 3.
Whyalla	15-Mar-2006	Iron ore: 5 vessels due by 14/4; no delays expected.
Azerbaijan		
Apsheron	13-Mar-2006	Oil products: Two vessels discharging crude oil at berth; 1 vessel due 14/3 to discharge crude oil.
Baku	13-Mar-2006	Oil products: Bay of Baku: No information; Azerneftiyag terminal: no information; Azertrans terminal: Nobel Avenue: port open; no vessels; Sangachal District: port open; no vessels.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	13-Mar-2006	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 iron profiles, 2 coils, 1 pig-iron, 1 copper concentrate, 1 copper cathodes, 1 copper anodes), 1 discharging equipment; no vessels in roads; 9 vessels due, of which 4 to load (2 coils, 1 wheat, 1 steel sheets), 5 to discharge (2 equipment, 1 metals, 1 iron ore, 1 iron ore pellets).
Varna	13-Mar-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 6-12 March: Thirty-five vessels in port operating of which 19 loading (3 scrap, 1 chamotte/kaolin, 2 bulk wheat, 2 bulk sulphuric acid, 8 soda, 2 bulk clinker, 1 sunflower seeds), 9 discharging (3 bulk coal, 2 containers, 1 equipment in packing cases, 1 copper slag, 1 copper concentrate, 1 miscellaneous cargo), 7 discharging/loading (6 containers, 1 bagged silica sand/1 bulk feldspar); no vessels waiting in roads.

Port Conditions

Chile

Antofagasta	13-Mar-2006	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 19 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Arica	13-Mar-2006	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 20 vessels due this week.
Iquique	13-Mar-2006	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 21 vessels due this week.
Puerto Montt	13-Mar-2006	Two vessels at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 9 vessels due this week.
Punta Arenas	13-Mar-2006	Five vessels at terminal, 2 berths vacant; 14 vessels due this week.
San Antonio	13-Mar-2006	Six vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 23 vessels due this week.
San Vicente	13-Mar-2006	Two vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 20 vessels due during the week; Steel pier: 1 vessel at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 3 vessels due this week; Coronel pier: 3 vessels at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 5 vessels due this week; Oil terminal: 1 tanker at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 1 tanker due this week.
Valparaiso	13-Mar-2006	Five vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 5 vessels anchored; 20 vessels due this week.

Cyprus

Larnaca	14-Mar-2006	One conventional vessel discharging at berth; 2 conventional vessels due 15/3; no delays expected.
Limassol	14-Mar-2006	Four container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 1 conventional vessel discharging at berth; 5 container vessels, 2 conventional vessels, 1 passenger vessel due 15/3; no delays expected.

Egypt

Adabiya	13-Mar-2006	Eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 2 tankers.
Alexandria	13-Mar-2006	Forty-two vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 31 general cargo, 6 bulk carriers, 2 tankers, 2 container vessels, 1 passenger vessel; 17 vessels dry-docked; 22 vessels at inner anchorage, 12 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	13-Mar-2006	Twenty-two vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 15 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier, 1 reefer, 5 containers; 2 vessels at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage.
Dekhelia	13-Mar-2006	Thirteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 10 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 2 containers; 2 vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	13-Mar-2006	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 4 containers, 1 passenger vessel.
Suez	13-Mar-2006	Eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 1 reefer, 4 passenger vessels; 3 tugs, 1 vessel dry-docked.
Suez Canal	13-Mar-2006	Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 27 Southbound.

Estonia

Tallinn	13-Mar-2006	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 1 fertiliser vessel loading at berth, 1 malt vessel discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 2 vessels due, with 7 days berthing delay expected.
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India

Kolkata	13-Mar-2006	6 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading Containers, 2 vessels discharging (Logs, General Cargo), 2 vessels waiting to load General Cargo; 1 vessel working at midstream to load Iron ore; 2 vessels working at midstream to discharge (Pulses, Crude); 2 vessels under repair; 1 vessel under dry docked; 2 vessels waiting to sail; 2 vessels due (Edible Oil, Containers).
Haldia	13-Mar-2006	14 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading (Iron ore-2, Thermal Coal), 10 vessels discharging (POL, LPG, Crude, Net Coke, Coking Coal-2, Rock Phosphate-2, Project Cargo, Salt), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 7 vessels awaiting berth (6 to discharge, 1 to load); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 4 vessels due (POL, LAMN, Crude, Net Coke).
Paradip	13-Mar-2006	8 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Iron Ore-3, Pig Iron), 4 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, Met Coke, Rock Phosphate); 1 vessel awaiting berth to load; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge.
Visakhapatnam	13-Mar-2006	13 vessels operating at berth of which 7 loading (Iron ore, B.F.Slag, Soya-2, Thermal Coal, Product Tanker, Steel Plates), 5 vessels discharging (Crude Tanker-2, C.P.Coke, Lam Coke, Mathanol), 1 vessel loading and discharging Timber & Steel; 5 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (3 to discharge, 2 to load); 25 vessels due (Iron Ore-3, Steel Cargo-3, Manganese Ore, Granite Blocks-2, Project Cargo, Soya, Product & Crude Tankers-4, LP Gas-2, Caustic Soda, Containers, Coking Coal-4, Rock Phosphate-2).
Chennai	13-Mar-2006	9 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading (Met Ore, IOL, Iron ore), 4 vessels discharging (S.Coal-2, Rock Phosphate, CBFS); 2 vessels loading and discharging (HSD, Containers); 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 2 vessels due (S.Coil/Granite Blocks & Baryies).
Tuticorin	13-Mar-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading (Granite, Sugar, Cement), 2 vessels discharging Thermal Coal; 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge.
Cochin	13-Mar-2006	3 vessels operating at berth of which 2 discharging (Benzene, Copra Cake), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel Safmarine Pakistan had been detained by Customs in Lakshadweep and brought to Cochin Port for having committed of various statutes on the reason for encroaching on our national security.
New Mangalore	13-Mar-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Containers, POL Product-2), 4 vessels discharging (Fertilizers-2, Timber, LPG); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 17 vessels due (Methenol, Iron Ore Fines-6, POL Product-3, POL Crude-4, Cement, LPG, Crude S.Oil).

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

Port Conditions

Mormugao	13-Mar-2006	3 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Iron ore; 2 vessels discharging (Furnace Oil, Met Coke); 4 vessels working at mid stream and loading Iron ore; 2 vessels awaiting berth to load; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 4 vessels under repairs/dry docked (Repairs/dry docking is being carried out by the Western India Shipyard Ltd. in their yard); 7 vessels due (Met Coke, Iron ore-6).
Mumbai	13-Mar-2006	11 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading (Steel Cargo, Bagged SBM, Project Cargo), 8 vessels discharging (Pipes/General Cargo, Rock Phosphate, Machines/ Zinc, Soda Ash/Bagged Salt, Steel/Zinc, POL-2); 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth to discharge; 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge); 6 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 5 vessels under arrest, 1 vessel under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 29 vessels due (Containers-5, Oil, Fertiliser (RM), General Cargo-22).
J.N.P.T	13-Mar-2006.	8 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels discharging (Cement, SKO/HSD/MS), 6 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth to load and discharge; 2 Containers vessel due.
Kandla	13-Mar-2006	17 vessels operating at berth of which 6 discharging (Phosphoric Acid, CPO/CPKO, SBO, Furnace Oil, HR Coils, Timber Logs), 9 vessels loading (Chemical-2, Agriculture Product-5, Cement, Mr.Blocks.), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth to load; 6 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (4 to discharge, 2 to load); 1 vessel under repair; 1 DCI dredger vessel waiting under maintenance work; 1 vessel waiting for crew change.
Ennore	13-Mar-2006	2 vessels operating at berth and discharging Thermal Coal; 2 vessels due (MV Tamil Anna(Thermal Coal), MV Jag Padma(POL Products) due.
Israel		
Ashdod	14-Mar-2006	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 12 vessels discharging at berth (8 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 5 vessels loading/discharging at berth (3 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker); 4 general cargo vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge, 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 22 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	14-Mar-2006	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel discharging at berth; 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; no vessels due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	14-Mar-2006	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel loading at berth, 4 vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 8 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 2 car carriers, 2 tankers); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 4 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 6 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 24 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	13-Mar-2006	Oil products: Four crude oil vessels at berth; 14 vessels in roads, all to load; 3 vessels due by 14/3, all to load.
Mozambique		
Maputo	14-Mar-2006	Five vessels in port operating, of which 1 loading ferro chrome, 3 discharging (1 pipes/vehicles, 1 petrol/diesel oil, 1 bulk maize), 1 loading/discharging containers; 4 vessels due to berth 14/3 of which 1 to load bulk sugar, 2 to discharge (1 bulk maize, 1 rails), 1 to discharge/load containers; 24 vessels due by 26/3 of which 7 to load (1 mineral oil, 2 aluminium, 2 ferro chrome, 1 mineral coal, 1 bulk sugar), 10 to discharge (1 petrol/diesel oil, 1 vegetable oil, 1 pipes, 1 bricks, 1 clinker, 1 transformers, 1 petcoke, 1 locomotives, 1 bagged rice, 1 general cargo), 6 to discharge/load (3 containers, 1 containers/general cargo, 1 containers/petcoke, 1 containers/steel rails), 1 vessel with unknown cargo.
Pakistan		
Karachi	13-Mar-2006	Four vessels loading at berth (2 rice, 1 cement, 1 chemicals), 5 discharging at berth (1 coal, 1 general cargo, 1 steel coils, 1 jute, 1 phosphate), 5 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 4 vessels due (3 containers, 1 coal), with no delays expected.
Port Qasim	13-Mar-2006	One rice vessel loading at berth, 4 vessels discharging at berth (1 palm oil, 1 coke, 1 HSD, 1 wheat), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 1 iron ore, 1 wheat).
Russia		
Novorossiysk	13-Mar-2006	Twenty-four vessels in port operating, of which 20 loading (1 bulk cement, 3 bulk urea, 1 steel billets/WRIC, 1 scrap, 1 pipes/tin plate/steel sheets/vehicles, 1 pipes, 2 copper, 1 steel billets/steel sheets//coils/steel, 1 coils/pipes, 1 steel billets, 1 steel sheets, 1 coils/steel bundles, 1 coils, 1 bulk NPK, 1 aluminium, 2 vegetable oil), 3 discharging (2 bulk sugar, 1 debars), 1 discharging/loading containers; 10 vessels waiting in roads of which 7 to load (2 coils, 1 tin plate, 1 slabs, 2 vegetable oil, 1 bulk urea/bulk NPK), 3 to discharge (1 potatoes, 2 bulk sugar); 75 vessels due, of which 70 to load (3 vegetable oil, 2 HBI, 2 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 H-beams, 1 steel billets/H-beams/steel sheets/coils/tin plate, 1 steel sheets/coils, 2 scrap, 4 aluminium, 7 coils, 10 steel billets, 5 slabs, 1 coils/vehicles, 4 bulk NPK, 4 DRI, 3 pig-iron, 1 cellulose, 7 copper, 1 lead, 3 pipes, 1 steel billets/WRIC, 1 vegetable oil, 1 bulk cement, 1 flowers, 1 steel sheets, 1 spare parts/cars, 1 diesel oil, 1 bulk urea), 3 to discharge

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(1 coils, 1 vegetable oil, 1 equipment), 2 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 1 tanker berthed loading crude oil; 5 tankers in roads, all to load, of which 4 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 5 tankers due, all to load crude oil.

Slovenia

Koper	13-Mar-2006	Port working normally. Ten vessels berthed of which 3 loading sawn timber/ general cargo, 5 discharging bulk cargo, 2 tankers discharging liquid cargo; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 21 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 8 to discharge/load containers, 2 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 1 tanker to discharge liquid cargo, 5 vessels to discharge bulk cargo, 3 to load bulk cargo, 2 to load sawn timber.
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Spain

Bilbao	13-Mar-2006	Nineteen vessels operating (4 tankers, 15 other vessels), of which 3 loading, 7 discharging, 9 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	13-Mar-2006	Twenty-two vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading (1 steel products, 2 bulk fertiliser, 1 cement), 17 discharging (11 steel products, 2 machinery, 1 vehicles, 2 fruit, 1 gas), 1 loading/discharging general cargo; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

Sri Lanka

Colombo	13-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. Five container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 12 vessels discharging at berth (8 containers/ feeders, 1 bagged soya bean meal, 1 Ro/Ro, 1 bulk fertiliser, 1 bulk cement); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 container/feeder, 1 bulk cement, 1 steel cargo); 5 vessels dry-docked; 10 vessels due (8 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement, 1 bulk palm oil), with no delays expected.
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Turkmenistan

Aladja	13-Mar-2006	Oil products: One vessel due 13/3 to load crude oil.
Okarem	13-Mar-2006	Oil products: One vessel loading crude oil at berth; 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	13-Mar-2006	Oil products: One vessel in roads to load gasoline; 1 vessel due 13/3 to discharge crude oil.

Ukraine

Ilichevsk	13-Mar-2006	Ten vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (2 steel products, 1 sunflower seed oil, 1 sunflower seed cake, 1 ethanol, 1 ferro nickel, 1 ferro manganese, 1 iron ore pellets), 2 loading/discharging containers; 4 vessels in roads, of which 2 to load steel products, 2 to load/discharge containers; 20 vessels due, of which 13 to load steel products, 7 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	13-Mar-2006	Seven vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 4 steel, 1 coal, 2 sulphur; 7 vessels in roads, of which 6 to load (4 steel, 1 coal, 1 sulphur), 1 to discharge equipment; 52 vessels due, of which 49 to load (28 steel, 12 coal, 1 sulphur, 3 fire-clay, 2 wheat, 2 bran, 1 sunflower beans/husks), 1 to discharge containers/ equipment, 2 to discharge/load (1 containers, 1 equipment/steel coils).
Odessa	13-Mar-2006	Twenty vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (4 metal, 2 wheat, 1 oil, 1 pig-iron, 1 soya beans), 9 discharging (2 citrus, 2 sugar, 1 meat, 1 vegetables, 1 general cargo, 1 luggage, 1 sand), 1 loading/ discharging containers, 1 passenger vessel; 13 vessels in roads, of which 10 to load (4 metal, 3 timber, 1 pig-iron, 1 ferro alloy, 1 corn), 2 to discharge (1 citrus, 1 vegetables), 1 to load/discharge containers; 61 vessels due, of which 35 to load (28 metal, 1 pig-iron, 1 scrap, 1 pitch, 1 coal, 1 ferro alloy, 1 equipment, 1 oil), 8 to discharge (3 citrus, 1 vegetables, 1 general cargo, 2 bananas, 1 luggage), 18 to discharge/load containers.

USA

Beaumont, TX	14-Mar-2006	No new restriction in draft (40 ft. 0 ins. FW max. channel draft reported); Louis Dreyfus terminal: no delays expected.
Galveston, TX	14-Mar-2006	No new restriction in draft (normal 39 ft. 6 ins. BW max. channel draft reported - 40 ft. 0 ins. with ideal conditions). Channel open under normal traffic. ADM-Farmland terminal: 1-2 days delay expected.
Houston, TX	14-Mar-2006	Channel open under normal traffic. (Normal Max channel draft is 45 ft 0 ins. to Shell.) LDC Dreyfus terminal: 2-3 days delay expected; Cargill terminal: 1 day's delay expected.
Kalama, WA	14-Mar-2006	Kalama export terminal: 4 days delay expected; United Harvest terminal: no delays expected.
New Orleans, LA	14-Mar-2006	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 2-3 days delay expected. Cargill-Westwego: 2 days delay expected. ADM/Ama: 3-4 days delay expected. Bunge/Destrehan: 3 days delay expected. ADM/ Destrehan: 3-4 days delay expected. ADM/Reserve: 3-4 days delay expected. Cargill/Reserve: 1-2 days delay expected. ADM/Paulina: 3-4 days delay expected.

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Portland, OR	14-Mar-2006	Zen-Noh/Convent: 1-2 days delay expected. Cargill/Baton Rouge: No delays expected. Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: no delays expected; Mile 158.0 Myrtle Grove Midstream terminal: 3 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 2 days delay expected. Eighteen-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to crest to 10.0 ft. by 1/4/06 Columbia Grain terminal: 1 day's delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: no delays expected; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays expected.
Seattle, WA	14-Mar-2006	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 1 day's delay expected.
Tacoma, WA	14-Mar-2006	Temco terminal: 3 days delay expected.
Vancouver, WA	14-Mar-2006	United Harvest terminal: 2 days delay expected

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