

BP refused to charter Erika just weeks before it sank

Courtroom revelation provokes furious exchanges between prosecutor and Total's head of shipping Thouilin, writes Andrew Spurrier in Paris - Friday 2 March 2007

THERE were heated exchanges at the Erikatrial in Paris after it was revealed that BP had declined to approve the ship for use by the group after carrying out a vetting inspection less than three weeks before it broke up and sank.

Following the inspection carried out on in the Sicilian port of Augusta on November 23, 1999, BP indicated that it would not accept the Erika for charter until it had received answers to the observations made by its inspector.

The court heard that Panship Management, the Erika's technical manager, had been in the process of preparing a response to BP's observations but was overtaken by the first reports that the Erika was in difficulty on December 11.

Alexandre Varaut, representing civil claimants at the trial, challenged Total's head of ship-ping Bertrand Thouilin to say whether, on the basis of the BP report, he would have allowed the Erika to work for Total.

When Mr Thouilin replied that he could not speak in the name of the company's vetting service Mr Varaut accused him of refusing to answer his question.

After heated exchanges between civil claimant and defence lawyers, Mr Thouilin finally answered: "The ship could not have been refused for reasons of structure. There was no structural data to authorise us to refuse the ship."

It emerged in the course of the discussion, however, that there had been some misunderstanding of the contents of the BP report.

Mr Varaut and other civil claimants' lawyers had understood that the BP inspector had discovered cracks and heavy corrosion in plating on the Erika's main deck.

But it was explained to the court that the cracking and corrosion referred to a movable main deck scupper plate used to protect against spilling in the course of loading and unloading operations but not part of the vessel's structure.

The court was also told that BP had not rejected the Erika but had simply asked for additional information which the company had been in the process of providing at the time the Erika sank.

Other oil companies had already approved the ship for use after vetting inspections.

Bridge staff told to work with pilots to avoid accidents

By Michael Grey - Thursday 1 March 2007

THE North of England P&I Club, responding to the recent International Group of P&I clubs' report on the extent of "pilotage-related" claims, has called for a greater level of commitment from bridge personnel when a pilot is embarked.

Shipowners, whose insurers faced claims of some \$44m arising from such accidents, need to be reminded of the importance of passage planning while their vessels are under pilotage, suggests the North of England head of risk management Tony Baker.

Mr Baker warned of watch officers relaxing as soon as the pilot boarded a ship, "believing the most onerous task ahead is finding out how the pilot likes his or her tea".

He suggested that a minimum requirement might be "courses laid down on the chart from pilot station to berth and from berth to pilot station, so that any departure from the planned track can be checked with the pilot".

International Maritime Organization guidelines, Mr Baker points out, state the plan should be berth to berth.

The IMO training recommendations for marine pilots require the passage plan to be agreed during the exchange of information between master and pilot, but stresses that it should be regarded as a "basic indication of preferred intention" from which a departure can be made should circumstances require.

The key message, notes the club, is for masters and watch officers to concentrate even more on safe navigation when there is a pilot on board.

Pilots, for their part, are anxious to avoid a passage plan being too prescriptive.

Nick Cutmore of the International Maritime Pilots' Association points out that berth to berth planning is a practice that is impossible to achieve in some busy ports, where the berth may not even have been allocated when the pilot boards.

While pilots are generally enthusiastic about passage planning and in favour of the fullest possible exchange of information between pilot and ship's staff, says Mr Cutmore, "pilotage is by its nature dynamic because of the frequently unpredictable demands of traffic".

A good pilot, he pointed out, "will always keep the bridge team fully informed as to the changing situation".

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>ATLANTIC NAVIGATOR</i>	trawler	FRO	NV	6,809	4,065	1996	Reported Feb 20 hard aground at Kunoyarnes, near Klasvik, Faroe Islands. Refloated same day. Small damage to bottom tank. Repair decision awaited.
<i>CLIPPER LIS</i>	bulker	BHS	ABS	16,041	26,412	1996	Port main engine "collapsed" while manoeuvring to berth at Ponta Delgada Feb 15. Secured by tug to outer roads awaiting inspection/repair. Arrived in port, under tow, Feb 16. ETC Feb 22.
<i>HEIMDAL</i>	general	MLT	BV	6,395	7,148	1989	Sustained major engine trouble after leaving Kotka Feb 18. Towed back to Kotka and at anchor Feb 19. Awaiting spare parts. Due to sail Feb 27.
<i>MISTRAL EXPRESS</i>	passenger/ ro-ro	MAR	BV	20,220	2,392	1981	Grounded in lat 35 16.54N, long 02 55.30W, entrance of Nador port Feb 15. Local tug failed to refloat. Several tanks breached. Tug <i>Remolcanosa</i> en route. Refloated Feb 19. Under tow for Melilla.
<i>NORDSFJERMEN</i>	passenger	NOR	NV	2,191	610	1956	Lost engine power and grounded briefly in lat 61 17N, long 04 46.5E, Feb 22. Towed to Floro.
<i>OSTEDIJK</i>	general	ATG	BV	5,164	7,461	2006	Had cargo combustion in lat 43 34N, long 08 39W, Feb 17 and under tow of two rescue vessels, bound Valencia, 20 miles from Corunna. Cargo to be unloaded at sea.
<i>PANAGIA TINOU</i>	passenger/ ro-ro	GRC	—	1,787	378	1976	Struck the pier during berthing manoeuvres at Paroikia, Paros, Feb 17. Sustained a 70 cm wide and 50 cm high crack on starboard stern, above the water line. Seaworthiness certificate issued. Sailed to Syros.
<i>PROMETEY</i>	tanker	UKR	RS	950	1,621	1975	Grounded near Novorossiysk Feb 17. Pumped dry and refloated Feb 18. Towed to Novorossiysk.
<i>REGAL PRINCESS</i>	passenger	BMU	RI	70,285	7,002	1991	Reported Feb 21 to have touched bottom when leaving Huatulco. Ballast tank damaged. Next cruise cancelled pending repairs.
<i>S.A. HELDERBERG</i>	container	BEL	LR	52,615	48,878	1977	Anchored off Singapore in lat 01 12.7N, long 103 34.1E, following collision with crude oil tanker <i>Ocean Sapphire</i> nearby Feb 17. Some damage and leakage reported. Repairs completed Feb 20.
<i>SUPERFERRY 9</i>	ro-ro	PHL	ABS	7,269	4,546	1986	Had engine problems eight miles off Daog Point, south-west of Negros Island, Feb 20. Taken in tow of <i>Superferry 1</i> to Guimaras Island. Arrived Iloilo and anchored. Operations frozen pending safety certificates.
<i>WELFARE DIANA</i>	general	VCT	—	4,535	7,417	1973	Had fire in bridge at Abu Tartour port, Safaga, Feb 17. Extinguished same day. Bridge severely damaged. Moved to outer harbour to effect repairs

CONTENTS

Reports appear in alphabetical order under the following headings and relevant page number:

Marine, including Overdue & Missing Vessels	1
Port State Control	15
Seizures & Arrests	15
Pipeline Accidents	16
Weather & Navigation	17
Earthquakes	19
Volcanic Activity	20
Political & Civil Unrest	20
Labour Disputes	26
Awards & Settlements	27
Railway Accidents	28
Miscellaneous	28
Fires & Explosions	29
Aviation	30
Space Vehicles	33
Product Recalls	34
Port Conditions	35
Port Conditions charts	35

© Lloyd's MIU 2007 These reports may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photographic, recorded or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Lloyd's
Marine Intelligence Unit



The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ACCORD (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 21 — The bulk of 50,400 bags of rice out of a total of 58,000 bags carried by the grounded general cargo *Accord* has been spoiled because of oil and water seepage into the ship's cargo holds. This was reported by Avega Shipping Services, operator of the vessel. The cargo is owned by state agency National Food Authority which is now negotiating with *Accord's* owner, Matsiya Shipping, on compensation for the cargo loss. The situation is complicated by the fact that the National Food Authority has insured the 58,000 bags of rice with the state Government Service and Insurance System for only Pesos284,549 (US\$5,928 dollars). The rice, however, has a market value of Pesos66.795 million (US\$1.4 million dollars). The National Food Authority reportedly wants Matsiya Shipping to pay for the spoiled rice based on its market value. *Accord* has been trapped in the coral and sand off Malinao town in Albay province since it ran aground on Jan 17. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

AKTI (Panama)

London, Feb 21 — Bulker *Akti* (20468 gt, built 1981), Ashdod for Argentina, 35,000 tonnes potash, had engine failure Feb 16. Vessel was towed to Piraeus under LOF by Tsavlis Salvage. Vessel remains in port at Piraeus under repair.

AL BARAKAT 1 (Bolivia)

Chittagong, Feb 19 — Chemical tanker *Al Barakat I*: Repair work is yet to commence. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALASKA RAINBOW (Greece)

See *Sea Express I*.

ALYSSA M.II

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A second blaze has broken out on a former British navy ship (yacht *Alyssa M.II*, 1159 gt, built 1968) languishing at Nelson since it first caught on fire three years ago. Smoke could be seen spouting from the ship as about eight crews attended the fire about 1430 hrs, quickly bringing it under control. Ship manager Rocka Romcke announced just this week plans to have the vessel towed back to China since it had failed to sell. It was due to leave Nelson on Feb 28 once work had been done to make it watertight and safe.

Wellington, Feb 19 — Toxic-smelling smoke billowed from yacht *Alyssa M.II* as firefighters spent almost four hours battling a fire which broke out on Friday afternoon (Feb 16). The vessel was initially brought to Nelson to be converted into a luxury yacht. A \$15 million refit was a year from completion when fire ripped through

the vessel in April, 2004. The vessel's Hong Kong owner Wing-cheung Fung abandoned the project after the fire and has been trying to sell the vessel for \$2.9 million. It has not sold, and the vessel was due to be towed to China on Feb 26 and converted into a floating club or restaurant. The vessel's manager Rocka Romcke said the vessel was still watertight and safe, and would be going to China as planned. Nelson region assistant fire commander Graeme Daikee said the fire began in the same place as the one that swept through the vessel three years ago. Mr Daikee said heat from welding a support beam on the second-to-bottom deck was conducted through the vessel's steel to the deck above where some cardboard boxes caught fire. The fire was contained within a three-square-metre area, Mr Daikee said. He said the blaze was extremely hot with temperatures touching 500 deg Celsius, and crews of four firefighters with breathing apparatus were going on to the vessel in 15-minute intervals. The fire was contained by 1530 hrs, about an hour after it started, but firefighters were there until 1800 hrs, ventilating toxic fumes from the vessel and cooling it down. One worker was treated at the scene by St John Ambulance staff for smoke inhalation. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANGELIC GRACE (Greece)

Portsmouth, UK, Feb 15 — Crews are investigating a fire at a grain terminal on the Seattle waterfront. The fire started in an overhead conveyer belt at Terminal 86 on Alaskan Way around 0200 hrs, according to authorities. The fire then spread to grain being loaded into the hull of bulker *Angelic Grace* (40609 gt, built 2001). Crews are focusing on a 10x10 foot area, so hot spots are contained to a small part of the vessel. Officials say the rest of the vessel is in good shape. — Correspondent.

Seattle, Feb 15 — Bulker *Angelic Grace* did not sustain any damage as a result of the fire at Grain Terminal, Pier 86, Seattle. Cargo loading operations are not expected to resume before tomorrow as repairs to the shore based loading equipment have yet to be completed. — Lloyd's Agents.

Seattle, Feb 16 — Bulker *Angelic Grace* loading grain at Seattle: No loading has taken place since the grain elevator fire occurred. No loading scheduled today, repair schedule not confirmed. — Lloyd's Agents.

Seattle, Feb 20 — Bulker *Angelic Grace* completed loading and sailed for Taiwan a couple of days ago. — Lloyd's Agents.

ARGONAUT (U.S.A.)

Aden, Feb 17 — Container Carrier *Argonaut* sailed 0115, Feb 16, following completion of repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

ATLANTIC NAVIGATOR (Faroe Islands)

Portsmouth, UK, Feb 20 — Trawler (all types) *Atlantic Navigator* (6809 gt, built 1996) has gone aground in

Receive immediate notice as soon as a Casualty occurs. For further information please contact enquiries@lloydsniu.com or call + 44 (0) 20 7017 4482

Klaksvik, Faroe islands. There are no reports of person injuries. Apparently there was a blackout and the vessel was out of control when it ran aground. Ninety of the crew of 107 have been taken of the vessel that is still hard aground at Kunoyarnes just a few miles from homeport Klaksvik. The coast guard vessel *Brimil* will attempt to pull the vessel off the rock at highwater. — Correspondent.

Torshavn, Feb 20 — Trawler (all types) *Atlantic Navigator* has been refloated. Small damages have been sustained to a bottom tank No damage to cargo. Will decide tomorrow if the vessel is to go to a shipyard or return to service. — Lloyd's Agents.

AUTOPROGRESS (Madeira)

London, Feb 19 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Vehicle carrier *Autoprogress* left Brest for repairs in Emden at 0700, Feb 18, being towed by the tug *Fairplay 23*. The departure had been delayed by bad weather for some days. The vessels are expected in Emden in about four days depending on weather conditions.

BARGE ACCIDENT, GARDEN ISLE BAY, PASS A LOUTRA, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated Feb 17, states: A barge holding about 17,000 gallons of crude oil burst into flames today, leaving one person burned and another missing. The missing person, a welder, was working when the explosion occurred, said Lt. Jeanita Jefferson of the Coast Guard's command center. The second man was taken to a hospital by helicopter and treated for second-degree burns, the Coast Guard said. The barge was moored with a crane barge, which caught fire and was destroyed. It took four and a half hours to put out the fire on the tank barge, Jefferson said. Both barges were owned by Forest Oil of Lafayette, Jefferson said. The accident occurred at Garden Isle Bay near Pass a Loutra, a waterway heading east through the delta at the tip of the Mississippi River, Jefferson said.

London, Feb 18 — Following received from Coastguard New Orleans, timed 0835, UTC: A tank farm barge with about 21,000 gallons of crude oil caught fire about 2038, UTC, yesterday, at Garden Isle Bay, Pass A Loutra, Louisiana. All oil burned off. Barge was moored with a deck barge with crane and both destroyed and total loss. One crew missing.

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated Feb 19, states: The body of a welder on board a barge that exploded and caught fire Saturday (Feb 17) near Venice, Louisiana was recovered yesterday, the U.S. Coast Guard said. The tank barge, carrying about 17,000 gallons of crude oil, burst into flames during a welding operation. One man was killed, another was injured, and an unknown amount of crude oil spilled into the water. A rescue helicopter crew from Coast Guard Air Station New Orleans, the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter *Pompano*, pollution and accident investigation teams from

Coast Guard Sector New Orleans, and the Plaquemines Parish fire boatcrew Authority One responded. The Coast Guard medevaced the injured man to Baton Rouge by helicopter. The cause of the accident is under investigation. Coast Guard Lt. Com. Cheri Ben-Iesau confirmed that a slick of oil was spilled, but it burned off and left no pollution, she said. The barge was moored with a crane barge, which caught fire and was destroyed. It took more than four hours to put out the fire on the tank barge, said the Coast Guard. Both barges were owned by Forest Oil Corp. of Lafayette, Louisiana, which is cooperating with state officials and the Coast Guard in investigating the accident.

BIRKA TRANSPORTER (Aland)

See *Dvina*.

BITUMEN GLORY (Singapore)

Penang, Feb 16 — Asphalt tanker *Bitumen Glory* still in the OPL (off port limit) of Penang. The vessel is expected to be there for another day or two. — Lloyd's Agents.

BLUE STAR (Panama)

London, Feb 15 — Bulker *Blue Star* arrived at Santos at 1535 hrs, Feb 14.

BOW FAVOUR (NIS)

London, Feb 20 — An Odfjell press release, dated Feb 19, states: Chemical tanker *Bow Favour* is presently under tow towards Dubai after the main engine breakdown Feb 4. The towing started late Feb 11. The damages that have been reported are various and complex. However, the major damage has been caused to the crankshaft where we know that on three (out of seven) cylinders the crankshaft webs are twisted on the pin, causing off-align crankwebs/crankpins. The main cause of the damage is very likely to be main engine overspeed. The plan is to tranship the cargo off port limit in Dubai/Jebel Ali and to carry out further inspections of the extent of the damages. The inspection will be conducted by Odfjell personnel in co-operation with experts from the engine manufacturer and manufacturers of governor and propulsion systems. Based on the inspections the plan ahead is to conduct repairs alongside a jetty in the Persian Gulf area. Repairs will consist of replacement of the damaged parts in addition to aligning the crankshaft in situ. The repairs are expected to start at the end of February or the beginning of March.

BRITISH HAWTHORN (Isle of Man)

London, Feb 19 — Lloyd's Casualty Representatives in Piraeus report: NAVTEX reports Crude oil tanker *British Hawthorn* (57567 gt, built 2003) not under command due to engine failure in position lat 37 07.3N, long 24 02.9E, west of Serifos Island at 0500, today.

London, Feb 19 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1040, UTC: *British Hawthorn* has completed repairs and continued on voyage to Oman.

London, Feb 19 — Following received from the managers of crude oil tanker *British Hawthorn*, dated today: *British Hawthorn* had a planned stop to change main engine exhaust valves. It did not experience a main engine failure.

BRUSSEL (Panama)

London, Feb 22 — The owners of vehicle carrier *Brussel* (34960 gt, built 1987) have been fined and prosecuted for an oil spill near Mallacoota in Victoria's east. The vessel was seen trailing a seven-kilometre-long oil slick in October 2003. The vessel's owners have been fined \$30,000 in the Melbourne Magistrates Court. The vessel's master and junior engineer were also fined.

CAMILLA DESGAGNES (Barbados)

London, Feb 19 — It is reported that Roll On Roll Off *Camilla Desgagnes* was due to arrive at Saint Johns(CAN) on Feb 16, to load forest products.

CHACABUCO (Liberia)

London, Feb 16 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 1125, UTC: Container Carrier *Chacabuco* (66280 gt, built 2006) and product tanker *Morning Express* (56285 gt, built 2000) were in collision in the Singapore Straits early yesterday morning. (Note — *Chacabuco*, north Europe for China, was, according to Lloyd's MIU AIS, stationary off Singapore, in lat 01 15 03.61N, long 103 55 54.2E, at 1125, UTC, today. *Morning Express*, Kashima for Singapore, was, according to Lloyd's MIU AIS, stationary off Singapore, in lat 01 15 26.1N, long 103 54 22.68E, at 1016, UTC, Feb 15.)

London, Feb 19 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, container carrier *Chacabuco* was located stationary off Singapore, in lat 01 15 09N, long 103 55 55.8E, at 0945, UTC, today.

Singapore, Feb 22 — Container Carrier *Chacabuco* is currently at Eastern Holding Anchorage A, Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 22 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, container carrier *Chacabuco* was located stationary in lat 01 15 02.26N, long 103 55 41.71E, at 0420, UTC, today.

Singapore, Feb 22 — Product tanker *Morning Express* is currently at Eastern Petroleum Anchorage, Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

CITY OF LIVERPOOL (Mongolia)

Colombo, Feb 22 — General cargo *City of Liverpool* is still at KKS in the north of Sri Lanka, in the custody of the Navy. It is reported that the vessel's port side hull plate was badly gashed. — Lloyd's Agents.

CLIPPER LIS (Bahamas)

Ponta Delgada, Feb 15 — Bulker *Clipper Lis* (16041 gt, built 1996) arrived Ponta Delgada today for repairs on account of a main engine problem. During the port approach for berthing manoeuvring the main engine "collapsed" and the vessel has now been secured by local tug *Pero de Teive* at outer roads waiting for new berthing

scheduled for am tomorrow for the necessary inspections and repairs. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Clipper Lis* sailed Tampa 0700, Feb 3.)

Ponta Delgada, Feb 16 — Understood that during last night topline to bulker *Clipper Lis* broke and new one was passed by tug *Pero de Teive* to the vessel. For security reasons the convoy has proceeded to high seas, where now waiting decisions for the new steps to be taken. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ponta Delgada, Feb 16 — Bulker *Clipper Lis* secured by tug *Pero de Teive* is presently at a position of about 40 nautical miles south from Ponta Delgada and tug is experiencing difficulties with towing hire. Salvage tug *Fotiy Krylov*, which is on salvage station at the Azores, is now proceeding to the casualty in order to tow the it to Ponta Delgada. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ponta delgada, Feb 17 — Salvage tug *Fotiy Krylov* left Ponta Delgada anchorage and proceeded to bulker *Clipper Lis* 1930, local time, Feb 16. Toline connected during last night to *Clipper Lis* in approximately lat 37 18.9N, long 25 21.4W, and convoy arrived Ponta Delgada outer roads about 0900, local time, today, where topline disconnected and passed over to local harbour tugs for berthing manoeuvrings. The vessel was safely put alongside the quay inner the Port of Ponta Delgada 1100, local time, for the necessary inspections and repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ponta Delgada, Feb 20 — Bulker *Clipper Lis* remains in port repairing. Estimated time of completion is Feb 22. — Lloyd's Agents.

DCI DREDGE AQUARIUS (India)

London, Feb 16 — Information received from LaSalle states: A press report, dated Mumbia Feb 12, states: Sethusamudram Corporation Ltd is confident of repairing within one to two months the spud of cutter suction dredger *DCI Dredge Aquarius* which broke during operation in the Palk Straits recently. A 150-ton capacity floating crane, *Thangam* (1948 gt, built 2002), hired to retrieve the spud from beneath the waters also broke in the process and (part of it) sank. "We hope to repair the dredger within one to two months," V.V. Ramamoorthy, Deputy General Manager, Sethusamudram Corporation Ltd, said. "However, work on the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project is in progress." Ramamoorthy would not elaborate on either the delay to the project or the extent of damage to the two vessels. The corporation is inquiring into both the mishaps, it is learnt. SCL is now bringing in a much bigger crane from Visakhapatnam to salve both the spud and the crane. The Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project envisages the dredging of a ship channel across the Palk Straits between India and Sri Lanka. The project will allow ships sailing between the east and west coasts of the country to have a straight passage through the Palk Straits instead of having to circumnavigate Sri Lanka. This will lead to a saving of up to 424 nautical

miles and up to 30 hours in sailing time. The Rs 2,400-crore project is slated for completion by the end of 2008.

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated Jan 29, states: In yet another set back to the dredging work of Sethusamudram ship channel project, a giant crane sent to retrieve the spud that broke from cutter suction dredger *DCI Dredge Aquarius* has also broken and a part of it had sunk in the sea, officials said. The spud of *DCI Dredge Aquarius* had broken last week while cutting the bridge, dealing a blow to the dredging work. With the crane also broken, the project was likely to be delayed further, the officials said. The 150-tonne floating crane *Thangam*, hired for several lakh of rupees a day by the project officials, could not pull out the spud and broke in the process yesterday. The crane's locking-key had broken and it would take another 10 days to retrieve and repair it. Officials were now thinking of bringing floating crane *Hanuman* having 200 tonne capacity from Vishakapatnam to retrieve both the sunken crane and the spud.

DOLORES 835

London, Feb 20 — A press report from the Philippines, dated Feb 21, states: Fishing (general) *Dolores 835* (1382 gt, built 1982), docked at a wharf in General Santos City, suddenly caught fire yesterday morning. *Dolores 835*, owned by RD Fishing Corporation, was docked at Calumpang wharf when the fire broke out at around 1000 hrs. No one was hurt, as elements of the Philippine Navy, Philippine Coast Guard and the General Santos fire department immediately responded to put out the blaze. As of Tuesday, authorities were still investigating the cause of the incident. They are also looking out for possible oil spill as a result of the fire.

Manila, Feb 21 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that fishing (general) *Dolores 835* caught fire yesterday morning while moored at the Calumpang Wharf in General Santos City in southern Philippines. The fire, which started at 1000 hrs was under control after three hours. None of the crew were hurt. The cause of the fire is still being investigated. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 21 — Following received from International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize, dated Feb 20: Fishing (general) *Dolores 835*: The registration of the above-mentioned vessel was cancelled by our administration on Nov 1, 2001, and since this date vessel is not entitled to fly our flag. Please also note that this vessel was registered in Belize for the purposes of undertaking a single delivery voyage only.

DUATEPE S. (Malta)

London, Feb 15 — North to South traffic in the Turkish Straits was temporarily suspended yesterday evening after general cargo *Duatepe S.* experienced engine problems. *Duatepe S.* dropped anchor in the middle of the

canal after experiencing problems in position under the Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge at about 2000 hrs. Traffic was suspended north to south and a salvage operation started at about 2130 hrs. Traffic resumed at 2200, local time. (Note — *Duatepe S.* sailed Yuzhnyy Feb 11, for Thessaloniki, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was at anchor in lat 40 59 09N, long 28 57 35E, at 2359, UTC, today.)

London, Feb 16 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Duatepe S.* stationary in lat 40 59 8.72N, long 28 57 36.38E at 2059, UTC, today.

London, Feb 20 — General cargo *Duatepe S.*, Yuzhnyy for Thessaloniki, passed Dardenelles Feb 18.

DVINA (Russia)

London, Feb 18 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Dvina* (2426 gt, built 1983) and Roll On Roll Off *Birka Transporter* (6620 gt, built 1991) in collision evening of Feb 17 while entering Brunsbuttel Locks, Kiel Canal. Until the damage was assessed the canal traffic was stopped and ships had to wait for passage in the inner harbour of Brunsbuttel. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, *Dvina*, which arrived Ymuiden 0300, Feb 18, was reported in lat 52 15.91N, long 04 39 59.14E, at 1120, UTC, Feb 18. According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, *Birka Transporter*, which sailed Brunsbuttel Feb 14 for Antwerp, was reported in lat 57 26 54.38N, long 17 40 42.11E, at 0814, UTC, Feb 18.)

EBER (Turkey)

Durban, Feb 16 — Bulker *Eber* sailed Durban Feb 15 for India.

EREN C. (Panama)

London, Feb 17 — General cargo *Eren C.*, Karabiga for Mediterranean, passed Dardanells Feb 16.

FANTASY (Panama)

London, Feb 19 — Passenger (cruise) *Fantasy* has sailed from New Orleans and is now at Delaware City.

FEDERAL VENTURE (Hong Kong)

Montreal, Feb 15 — Bulker *Federal Venture* sustained damage in way of hold No 1 port sloping hopper plate ballast water tank, which was permanently repaired at Port Alfred. The vessel sailed Port Alfred Feb 13. — Lloyd's Agents.

FERRY TAKACHIHO (Japan)

Yokohama, Feb 16 — Upon arrival at Tokyo on Feb 15 passenger ro/ro *Ferry Takachiho* was investigated by the Japan Coast Guard on suspicion of colliding with fishing vessel *Yukiyoshi Maru*. *Ferry Takachiho* sailed from Tokyo, same day, for Naha port in Okinawa prefecture. — Lloyd's Agents.

FIONA SWAN

London, Feb 19 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Non specific tanker *Fiona Swan* has subsequently left the River Weser.

Receive immediate notice as soon as a Casualty occurs. For further information please contact enquiries@lloydsmiu.com or call + 44 (0) 20 7017 4482

GARIP (Slovakia)

Istanbul, Feb 16 — General cargo *Garip* refloated by her own means and proceeded to Tuzla for repairs, where presently anchored. — Lloyd's Agents.

GERASIMOS (Bahamas)

London, Feb 16 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1450, UTC: Bulker *Gerasimos* (36559 gt, built 1996), downbound River Mississippi, grounded at Mile 179 on the river at 2200, UTC, Feb 15. Vessel was quickly refloated with the assistance of two tugs and was subsequently restricted to anchorage at Mile 146, pending class inspections. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, *Gerasimos* was located 1.3 nautical miles from Violet, La, in lat 29 51 56.68N, long 89 54 43.21W, at 1456, UTC, today, course 233.6 deg, speed 13.2 knots.)

GERHEIN G. (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Feb 17 — General cargo *Gerhein G.* arrived Rotterdam 0450, Feb 16.

GIULIA

Karachi, Feb 21 — Yacht *Giulia*, 30 metres, built 2003, privately owned safari vessel, was gutted in Kaafu atoll Gulhee harbour in Nepal last Monday (Feb 19) night. It was operated by local firm - Ocean Adventures under an exclusive contract with Italian Seafari Adventures. There were around 26 people onboard when the incident occurred around 1940 hrs. The Maldives Police Service in statement said that no one was injured in the accident but all the tourists' and crews' possessions, including the travel documents of some of the tourists, had been destroyed in the fire. According to the statement released by Ocean Adventures it was estimated that they had incurred damages ranging from \$1 million to \$5 million because of the fire. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

GOLDEN SKY (Cyprus)

Riga, Feb 19 — Bulker *Golden Sky* is stranded for long period. Part of fuel discharged to small tanker, searching possibility to discharge cargo for refloating. — Lloyd's Agents.

GRACE (Netherlands Antilles)

Ferrol, Feb 22 — General cargo *Grace* completed repairs at local shipyard Navantia and sailed at 0800 hrs, this morning, bound to Aviles. — Lloyd's Agents.

HEIMDAL (Malta)

London, Feb 19 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: A few hours after departing Kotka for Kemi, general cargo *Heimdal* (6395 gt, built 1989) sustained major engine problems Feb 18. It was decided then to bring the vessel back to Kotka in tow of the tug *Viikari*. Vessel arrived at anchorage the following night.

Helsinki, Feb 20 — General cargo *Heimdal*: Understand from ship's agent that the vessel's fuel feed pump is broken. The vessel is currently waiting for spare parts and the repair works are therefore interrupted for

approximately two days. *Heimdal* will sail to Greece on Feb 27. — Lloyd's Agents.

ICE STAR (Netherlands)

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1030, UTC: General cargo *Ice Star* (2904 gt, built 1997), Mariager for Stenungsund, cargo salt, touched muddy/sandy bottom in Mariager fjord, in lat 56 41.67N, long 10 11.22E, at 2119, UTC, Feb 19. Vessel refloated itself at high tide at 1100, UTC, Feb 20 and continued voyage with no damage.

JADE ALASKA (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 21 — A press release, issued by the Coast Guard, Juneau, dated Feb 20, states: A Coast Guard helicopter crew rescued three fishermen from a liferaft near the south end of Kodiak Island in the Shelkof Strait at 0750 hrs, today. Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak received a call from the fishing vessel *Chisik Island* reporting the fishing (general) *Jade Alaska* (170 gt, built 1952) was taking on water with three people on board. An HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter crew launched from Air Station Kodiak and located Ralph Henderson, Jessie Cox and John Turnbow in the liferaft. All three men were hoisted into the helicopter and brought to Air Station Kodiak. The three fishermen were taken to Providence Kodiak Island Medical Centre for treatment.

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 2115, UTC: Fishing (general) *Jade Alaska* sank at 1430, UTC, Feb 20, in lat 57 16.14N, long 155 33.52W. All three crew onboard abandoned onto a liferaft and all three were safely rescued by a Coast Guard helicopter.

JAGUAR (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 19 — General cargo *Jaguar* (492 gt) sustained a hole in its side when it smashed into the grounded general cargo *Accord* on Feb 16. *Accord*, with 58,000 bags of rice ran aground near the 625-hectare Curangon shoal in Malinao town, Albay on Jan 17. *Jaguar* had arrived on Feb 14 off Malinao town to take on the cargo of *Accord*. While the rice was being transferred from *Accord* to *Jaguar*, large waves caused *Jaguar* to crash into *Accord*'s side. *Jaguar* is now anchored near *Accord* while the hole is being patched. Reports from the state agency, National Food Authority, indicate that *Jaguar* will attempt to offload more bags of rice from *Accord* once repairs are completed. The National Food Authority is the owner of *Accord*'s cargo. Both *Accord* and *Jaguar* are operated by Avega Shipping Services. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

JAVA SEA (Singapore)

Sydney, Feb 21 — A fire on board general cargo *Java Sea* on May 24, 2005, started when hot pressurised thermal oil came into contact with an unlagged section of the thermal oil heater exhaust piping, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau has found. The fire was further fuelled by the

contents of oil storage tanks near the seat of the fire. The bureau's investigation found that the fixed fire-extinguishing system was ineffective in putting out the fire because the vessel's crew could not close the funnel casing ventilation dampers, the diesel generator was not shut down before the system was activated and the oil tank quick-closing valves were not operated. There were no serious injuries as a result of the fire, which began at about 0540 hrs while the vessel was berthed at Cairns. However, the fire and the associated fire fighting activities significantly damaged the engine-room and accommodation. The vessel had to be towed to Singapore for permanent repairs. The crew tried initially to quell the fire with a fire hose. They then operated the engine-room Halon 1301 system, which proved ineffective. The Queensland Fire Service put out the fire by using high expansion foam injected through a hole cut in the base of the funnel at poop deck level, directly above the seat of the fire. The report made recommendations to vessel owners, managers and masters, with reference to closing arrangements for funnel casing ventilation openings, on-board maintenance and emergency procedure manuals. — "Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News."

JIN TONG LONG NO.33 (Taiwan)

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated today, states: The U.S. Navy is responding to Taiwanese fishing vessel *Jin Tong Long No.33* that is engulfed in flames approximately 640 miles east-northeast of Guam, according to Coast Guard search and rescue specialist Lee Putnam. The vessel caught fire earlier today and the crew of at least 11 sailors are this hour preparing to evacuate the ship into life rafts. A Navy aircraft is circling the ship and will keep watch over the escaping crew until they can be picked up by AMVER system merchant vessel *Vic Rose*. Putnam said the ship is expected to reach the vessel crew by 7 a.m. tomorrow. "Everything after the forward bow has been consumed by flames," Putnam said. "At this time we don't have any reports on the status of the crew."

London, Feb 18 — Following received from Coastguard Honolulu, timed 1215, UTC, today: Crew of *Jin Tong Long No.33* have left the vessel in two seven-man liferafts and are adrift. Aircraft on scene, waves 3 m and winds 10-15 knots. Vessel had explosion and fire and understood destroyed/sunk.

London, Feb 18 — Following received from Taipei RCC, timed 1220, UTC: *Jin Tong Long No.33* had fire/explosion in lat 14 40N, long 155 42W. Vessel is about 112 gt and call sign CT51637.

London, Feb 19 — A press report, dated today, states: After a terrifying odyssey at sea, the crew of a Taiwanese fishing vessel is safely on land. The twelve-man crew of fishing *Jin Tong Long No.33* was huddled on the deck of the vessel, which had caught flame and was sinking. The US Coast Guard and US Navy dropped life rafts, which crewmembers boarded and then floated

to safety before being picked up. The vessel was about 640 miles to the east-northeast of Guam, and it's unknown at this time what may have caused the initial fire. The fishing vessel exploded shortly after the crew were rescued and brought to a safe distance away.

JUMBO CHALLENGER (Netherlands)

London, Feb 19 — A press release from the United States Coast Guard, dated yesterday: At 1615, today, the U.S. Coast Guard, Los Angeles Port Police, Los Angeles Fire Department, and Los Angeles Police responded to general cargo *Jumbo Challenger* (6555 gt, built 1983) in the port of Los Angeles. While conducting offload operations, one of the vessel's two cranes gave way and dropped the top portion of a 638 metric ton petroleum reactor onto the pier. The reactor, which is used in the oil refining process, was destined for the BP Oil Refinery in Carson, Calif. The vessel sustained damage to its hull and crane and will require repairs prior to departing Los Angeles. No injuries have been reported. The Coast Guard and Port of Los Angeles are currently working with the cargo facility and vessel's representatives to safely move the heavy cargo. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

K.PEGASUS (Fiji)

Noumea, Feb 20 — Fishing (general) *K.Pegasus* departed, in tow of a vessel of the same ownership, at 0900 hrs, today, destination Fiji. — Lloyd's Agents.

KAI LI (Belize)

Shanghai, Feb 16 — Fish factory *Kai Li* had fire on board while at Rui Ke Shipping Company effecting repairs. The fire was reportedly caused by a spark in the oil waste in the tank. There was considerable damage to vessel's equipment. The *Kai Li* might be still in the same terminal for repair work; not known at present when the vessel is expected to complete repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

KAITAKI (New Zealand)

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

KAPITAN ARTYUKH (Russia)

Portsmouth, UK, Feb 19 — Container Carrier *Kapitan Artyukh* left Petropavlovsk-Kamchatka today for its home port Vladivostok. The container carrier sustained several holes when leaving from the port Jan 15. The Joint Stock company ("Petropavlovsk shipyard") carried out the repairs. The total area of holes repaired was approximately 12 square metres. Further repairs will be conducted when the vessel arrives at Vladivostok. — Correspondent.

KAPTAN NEVZAT KACAR (Turkey)

London, Feb 20 — Bulker *Kaptan Nevzat Kacar* arrived Bejaia about Feb 17.

KATSHESHUK II (Canada)

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Crew members on board disabled fishing (general) *Katsheshuk II* (1885 gt, built 1995) were waiting for help early this morning, after the vessel's diesel engine failed. The Canadian Coast Guard said the engine failed on the *Katsheshuk II* at about 1800, yesterday evening. The vessel is about 200 nautical miles east of St. John's, and has 25 people on board. Coast Guard vessel *Leonard J. Cowley* is keeping watch on the trawler while its owner - St. John's-based Katsheshuk Fisheries Ltd. - arranges to send a tug. The vessel does not appear to be in any immediate danger, but winds are high in the area.

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1155, UTC: *Katsheshuk II* is still adrift due to engine failure, waiting for its owners to arrange tug assistance. Understand weather in the area has improved.

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1620, UTC: Fishing (general) *Katsheshuk II* is presently in lat 47 32N, long 47 35W, with Coast Guard vessel on scene standing by until a tug is arranged.

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 2238, UTC: Fishing (general) *Katsheshuk II* remains in lat 47 32N, long 47 35W, with a Coast Guard vessel still standing by. *Atlantic Enterprise* has been tasked and ETA on scene 1200, UTC, tomorrow.

KILINDINI (Kenya)

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: There was panic at the Likoni Channel in Mombasa after roll on roll off *Kilindini* (565 gt, built 1990) developed mechanical problems for the third time on Tuesday (Feb 20). Mombasa residents are now fearing the worst because the same vessel stalled a week ago triggering a wave of panic among hundreds of passengers who were on board the vessel. The Kenya Ferry Services Public Relations Officer, Mr Adonija Baraza, said the prow failed to land on the ramp. Mr Baraza said yesterday that the vessel had picked up at least 800 passengers from the Likoni side. He said no one was injured as the passengers disembarked from the vessel. Mr Baraza said thorough repairs would be carried out on the vessel. "Following the three incidents, the company has decided to withdraw the ferry for inspection and repairs," he said.

KIOWA SPIRIT (Bahamas)

London, Feb 19 — Crude oil tanker *Kiowa Spirit* is still at Saint Johns(CAN) for repairs.

KITION (Bahamas)

London, Feb 19 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, crude oil tanker *Kition* was located stationary at Baton Rouge, in lat 30 26 14.82N, long 91 12.48W, at 1034, UTC, today.

KOPALNIA BORYNIA (Malta)

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1005,

UTC: Bulker *Kopalnia Borynia* (8893 gt, built 1989), Police for Cotonou, cargo fertiliser, is not under command with fuel pump problem in lat 53 33N, long 04 56E, since 0930, UTC. Vessel is trying to carry out repairs by own means but if it is unable to successfully do so, a tug will be required.

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1525, UTC: Bulker *Kopalnia Borynia* is currently anchored in lat 53 34.18N, long 04 57.68E, still effecting repairs, ETC unknown. Coast Guard vessel *Waker* is proceeding to the area as a precaution.

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1757, UTC: Bulker *Kopalnia Borynia* completed repairs and has resumed passage to Contonou.

KYROS (Cook Islands)

London, Feb 22 — General cargo *Kyros* arrived and sailed Kristiansund Feb 17.

LABE 10

London, Feb 18 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Inland water craft Unknown *Labe 10* was in danger of sinking in the morning of Feb 18 on the Elbe. The ship had suffered a gash of 30 cm length in the hull close to Hamburg-Wilhelmsburg. Fire fighters prevented it from sinking with additional pumps and patched the leak. The ship (length 79 m), which carried a cargo of soy, was then taken to a yard in Hamburg.

LADOGA 11 (Russia)

London, Feb 20 — General cargo *Ladoga II* passed Skaw southbound Feb 18, ETA Paljassaare Feb 21.

LADY MOURA (Bahamas)

London, Feb 20 — Yacht *Lady Moura* passed Dover Strait Feb 17, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was reported at Gibraltar at 0736, UTC, today.

LADY OF GRACE (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Divers found the body of a crewman on sunken fishing (general) *Lady of Grace* in Nantucket Sound today, and the search for two more men ended because debris in the wreck made more dives too hazardous. State police said the divers searched the entire vessel today except the engine room, which was blocked by debris. The unidentified body was found in a bunk room.

LAOLA (Dominca)

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

LEVINA 1 (Indonesia)

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire broke out on a ferry carrying 350 passengers Thursday (Feb 22), killing at least seven people and prompting a massive rescue operation, the navy said. The vessel, *Levina I* was heading from the capital, Jakarta, to Bangka island near Sumatra, a nearly daylong journey,

Receive immediate notice as soon as a Casualty occurs. For further information please contact enquiries@lloydsniu.com or call + 44 (0) 20 7017 4482

when the blaze started before dawn, a Navy statement said. Two children were among the dead, it said. At least 210 passengers were rescued, Lt. Col. Hendra Pakan told el-Shinta radio, but it was unclear how many were still onboard. Authorities were trying to determine the cause of the fire as two warships, three helicopters, a tug boat and nine cargo vessels were dispatched to the scene, about 50 miles north of Jakarta's port. Port spokesman Hambar Wiyadi said the ferry's log indicated it was carrying 228 passengers but tallies are often incomplete and boats overloaded.

LINE (NIS)

London, Feb 16 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, Container Carrier *Line* was located stationary at Wismar, in lat 53 54 09.54N, long 11 27 24.36E, at 0859, UTC, today.

Aarhus, Feb 16 — Container carrier *Line* grounded at 1115 hrs, Feb 14 and refloated under own power at 1900 hrs, same day. Divers inspection revealed no damages and the vessel sailed for Rostock at 1500 hrs, Feb 15. — Lloyd's Agents.

LOKYS (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Feb 22 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1019, UTC: General cargo *Lokys* (1934 gt, built 1982), Jorf Lasfar to Kings Lynn, cargo ammonium phosphate, engine piston or cylinder fault and drifting in lat 49 34.4N, long 03 55.5W at 0900, today. Vessel appears to have broken down in the French sector at 1515, UTC, yesterday and drifted into British area of co-ordination. Requires tug assistance to Falmouth.

MAERSK DENTON (Germany)

London, Feb 20 — Container Carrier *Maersk Denton* arrived New York Feb 1 and sailed Feb 2. Vessel subsequently arrived Los Angeles Feb 16 and sailed Feb 16 for Oakland.

MAERSK DRESDEN (Germany)

Busan, Feb 20 — Following completion of repairs at Busan, container carrier *Maersk Dresden* sailed Busan at about 1702, Feb 16, bound for Shanghai. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MAERSK VIENNA (Cyprus)

London, Feb 16 — Container Carrier *Maersk Vienna*, Kalinigrad for Gioia Tauro, passed Cape Finisterre 1156, Feb 14.

MAKOURIA (Guyana)

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: General cargo *Makouria* (560 gt, built 1959), which had to go to Georgetown after the driveshaft broke and the propeller fell off, was expected to be back at Berbice from today. Officials at the Transport and Harbours Department had hired personnel to look for the propeller but they were unsuccessful. The propeller was, however, replaced.

MARIA LOURDES (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 20 — General cargo *Maria Lourdes* was refloated Feb 16 and towed to Mayon Docks in Tabaco for drydocking. The vessel is now moored off the shipyard, awaiting available space at the graving dock, vessel owner Candano Shipping reported. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

MELDERSKIN (Norway)

London, Feb 19 — Following received from Sandnes, dated today: Roll On Roll Off *Melderskin* is still at Wartsila, Rubbestad, undergoing repair. ETC unknown.

MELISSA LYNN (U.S.A.)

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

MERCHANT BRILLIANT (Jamaica)

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Crew members of a ship previously detained in Dublin Port for nonpayment of wages have barricaded themselves in the ship and claimed they are owed arrears. The Russian and Latvian crew of the Latvian-owned, Jamaican-registered Roll On Roll Off *Merchant Brilliant* (9368 gt, built 1979), now outside Heysham, England, have barricaded themselves into a section of the ship along with two ITF inspectors, Ken Fleming and Bill Anderson, because, Mr Fleming said, they "are in fear of our lives". The International Transport Federation (ITF) is to make an application to the Admiralty Marshall in England to have *Merchant Brilliant* arrested. If that were to happen, the ship would be immobilised in its current position and a skeleton crew left on board until the issue of the arrears is resolved. Last December, the beneficial owner of the company, ADG Shipping, agreed to pay crew members arrears of E153,000 after the High Court had arrested the ship when the ITF had discovered the arrears. Following the dispute, *Merchant Brilliant*, was switched from the Dublin-Heysham route to Belfast-Heysham. New discrepancies were uncovered by Mr Fleming in Belfast on Sunday. Crew members say they are owed \$200,000 (E150,000) in arrears, and they only agreed to sail on condition that Mr Fleming accompanied them. The crew agreed to leave Belfast and sail the vessel to Heysham, under protest, at the request of Norfolk Lines, which had chartered the vessel for its freight service. However on arrival in Heysham yesterday, Norfolk Lines took the ship off charter, and the harbour-master insisted it leave port to make way for other vessels. It left the port at 200 hrs and has been kept out to sea ever since. Last November, ADG was forced to pay \$167,000 (E127,000) in back wages to crew on another vessel, *Merchant Bravery*, to settle a claim of underpayment supported by the ITF. *Merchant Bravery* no longer operates in Irish waters.

London, Feb 20 — Following press statement received from Norfolkline,

charterers of Roll On Roll Off *Merchant Brilliant*: The International Transport Worker's Federation (ITF) have been asked to examine claims that some members of crew have not been paid in full by the vessel's owners ADG. While Norfolkline, as charterer, do not have responsibility for the crewing or technical management of the vessel, we do take these issues extremely seriously. Norfolkline has a strong relationship with the ITF and recognises the importance of the work they undertake. The charter agreement between Norfolkline and the owner of *Merchant Brilliant*, ADG clearly stipulates that the vessel be operated in accordance with ITF guidelines. Talks between the owner of *Merchant Brilliant* and the ITF are ongoing, and we are hopeful that a fair and satisfactory conclusion to this matter can be reached in as short a time as possible. However until such a time, Norfolkline has decided to suspend the hire of the vessel. The vessel was requested to move from her berth at Heysham by the port authorities in order to free up the berth, and is currently at anchor in the harbour. Two representatives from the ITF are on board at the request of the crew, and are in ongoing discussions with owners' representatives who are also on board. The company would like to apologise for any disruption caused by this withdrawal and hope to operate a full service in the very near future.

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A ship management company has agreed to pay money owed to 11 crew members of Roll On Roll Off *Merchant Brilliant* who wish to leave the ship and return home. The pay amounts to about \$60,000. The remaining seven crew members have indicated that they do not wish to be paid off. Efforts to arrange flights for the men who wish to leave the ship are under way. The International Transport Workers' Federation had planned to apply to the Admiralty Marshall in England to have the ship arrested. It has been moored 5 km off Heysham since shortly after 2000 yesterday, and the crew were barricaded into a section of the vessel with two ITF inspectors. The crew had agreed to leave Belfast and sail the vessel to Heysham, under protest, at the request of Norfolk Lines, which had chartered the vessel for its Ro-Ro freight service. The ITF says they are owed o150,000 in arrears. On arrival in Heysham yesterday Norfolk Lines took the ship off charter and the Harbour Master insisted it leave port to make way for other vessels. The new discrepancies were uncovered during an ITF inspection in Belfast on Sunday.

MICHEL (U.K.)

Bilbao, Feb 16 — Understand that trawler (all types) *Michel* is being scrapped in situ, at Saturaran beach where she is grounded. — Lloyd's Agents.

MISTRAL EXPRESS (Morocco)

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 2315, UTC:

A report was received at 1525, UTC, that passenger ro/ro *Mistral Express* (20220 gt, built 1981), with 87 crew and 39 passengers on board, was aground in lat 35 19.9N, long 02 55.5W, close to Nador port. The vessel is still aground on sand. A refloating attempt by a Moroccan tug was unsuccessful. Spanish tug *Remolcanosa Cinco* is en route and due on scene in about one hour. All passengers and crew have been taken off the vessel. There is no apparent damage to the vessel. The weather is fine. Divers will carry out a bottom inspection sometime tomorrow. (Note — *Mistral Express* operates between Almeria and Nador.)

London, Feb 16 — Following received from Rabat MRCC, timed 0930, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Mistral Express* is still aground at the entrance to Nador. Initial refloating attempts have been unsuccessful and are continuing.

London, Feb 16 — Following received from Rabat MRCC, timed 2025, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Mistral Express* remains aground in the same position.

London, Feb 19 — Following received from Rabat MRCC, timed 1520, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Mistral Express* refloated at 1430, UTC, today and a decision is awaited with regards to whether vessel will be towed to Nador or Melilla.

Ymuiden, Feb 19 — SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage B.V. this afternoon succeeded in refloating the grounded passenger ro/ro *Mistral Express* off the Spanish enclave Melilla in Morocco. The vessel had grounded in the joint Spanish/Moroccan port last Thursday (Feb 15) and had breached numerous tanks, including one of the inner fuel tanks. The SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage team, consisting of a salvage master, technicians, divers and a naval architect, immediately set to work to prepare the vessel to be refloated ahead of worsening weather conditions. Regaining buoyancy techniques were used to deal with breached tanks, oil was transferred from the breached fuel tank to other tanks and the general weight distribution on board of the casualty was adjusted to allow the vessel to be refloated. In close co-ordination with the Spanish Authorities two ETV's and a smaller tug were made available and a first controlled attempt was planned today during high water. Under command of the SvitzerWijsmuller salvage master and his team the vessel subsequently at about 14.15 LT was refloated. She was to be brought outside of the port for stabilisation purposes, where after it was planned to berth her alongside inside the port again. — SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV.

MOGAMIGAWA (Japan)

London, Feb 20 — Crude oil tanker *Mogamigawa* has now left Singapore and was reported off Port Klang, under way, as of Feb 16.

MORNING EXPRESS (Panama)

See *Chacabuco*.

MSC NAPOLI (U.K.)

London, Feb 15 — A Maritime and Coastguard Agency press release,

timed 1900, UTC, today, states: At approximately 1530 this afternoon Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* lost a further seven containers during bad weather. A set of three linked 40ft containers, two 20ft linked containers and two 40ft linked containers were all lost. There were no dangerous goods amongst the cargo lost today, the containers contained a variety of goods including electrical appliances, King Edward potatoes, engine parts and used office supplies. The seven containers have all come ashore in the highly inaccessible and rocky area between Branscombe and Sidmouth. Coastguard rescue teams and contractors are on site with security officers and the police ensuring the area is completely shut off to the public.

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated today, states: In spite of complex salvage precautions, seven more containers crashed into the sea from Container Carrier *MSC Napoli*, adding chocolate biscuits, potatoes and mounds of soggy paper to the mess onshore. The containers were all washed on to the tideline between Branscombe and Sidmouth, but the tally of lost containers from the vessel has now reached 46. The salvors have already warned that clearing the vessel's deck and holds of the 2,000-odd remaining containers may take a year, and the process of hoisting them by a crane barge on to a shuttle recovery vessel is proceeding at a snail's pace. By yesterday 342 had left the ship, 212 salvaged but the rest washed overboard. The ship's operators, Zodiac Maritime, said an estimated 100 tonnes of fuel oil remained to be pumped off, following a week of bad weather which stopped salvage work. Hoisting of 20ft and 40ft containers restarted on Wednesday (Feb 14), when 28 were taken to Portland by the shuttle barge. The National Trust is preparing emergency summer plans for beaches in south Devon and Dorset, where staff say fallout from the wreck has not been removed, only hidden. Looters who pillaged the first containers to be washed ashore after the vessel was beached have until Tuesday to report takings to the Receiver of Wreck. Police and coastguards threw a cordon round the newly beached containers and warned people to stay away. (See issue of Feb 19.)

London, Feb 18 — Following received from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated today: Container Carrier *MSC Napoli*: Littlecombe beach has now been re-opened at the Sidmouth end following the removal of containers and parts of container from the beach. Ten containers were lost from the *MSC Napoli* on Thursday night (Feb 15)/Friday morning. Two of them had already lost much of their (non-hazardous) cargo and sunk on contact with the water. The other eight were washed up on Littlecombe Shoot Beach. Of these, two were severely damaged and the contents, of paper and biscuits, deposited on the beach. The other six, which contained personal effects, electrical goods, machine parts and

insulation materials, remained intact. The six intact containers and the two parts of container have now been removed from the beach, along with a large quantity of debris. A significant amount of debris remains on the beach and will be cleared by contractors. The situation is now stable and the security closing off the beach at the Sidmouth end has now been removed. There is also limited access at the Branscombe end of the beach, dependent upon continued clean-up operations which will continue this week. The public are requested to stay well clear of contractors working in the area and follow the advice of attending security personnel and police.

London, Feb 20 — A press release from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, dated yesterday, states: The list of the Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* has reduced to eight degrees easing the recovery of containers. Work to recover the remaining oil from the vessel is progressing well. Clear water is showing up during the oil recovery, a sign that that oil coverage has reduced. There have been no further losses of containers. 553 containers have been discharged to date. 293 containers remain on deck. All beached containers have now been removed. Access has been opened up on affected beaches, although areas around heavy machinery remain closed because of health and safety.

NISSHIN MARU (Japan)

Sydney, Feb 15 — Fish factory *Nisshin Maru*, on fire off the coast of Antarctica, has sparked fears of an environmental disaster if the vessel's 1,000 tonnes of fuel oil and chemicals leak. The fire broke out at about 0500, New Zealand time, today on board *Nisshin Maru*, the flagship of the Japan whaling fleet. One crewman is missing. New Zealand maritime authorities said anti-whaling protesters in the Southern Ocean, which clashed with the whalers on Monday (Feb 12), were not involved as they are more than two days' sail away. The fire, fuelled in part by whale oil, had been contained below deck and the Japanese crew were now simply waiting for it to burn itself out, said Maritime New Zealand. It was unclear whether the vessel, currently disabled, would be able to restart its engines. If it remains disabled the vessel will continue to threaten the environment if calm weather in the Southern Ocean, known for massive storm seas, turns bad. "We don't need to stress that this is an extremely pristine environment with high biodiversity values," New Zealand Conservation Minister Chris Carter told a news conference in Wellington, New Zealand. "We think there is up to 1,000 tonnes of heavy fuel oil on board the vessel, as well as many other chemicals. From an environmental point of view we are very concerned should there be any leakage into the Ross Sea," said Carter. He said if an oil leak occurred, an international response would be launched involving New Zealand, Australia and the United States, which

all have Antarctic bases. Maritime New Zealand said the cause of the fire was unknown, but there had been reports of explosions below deck. Three other Japanese whaling ships have come to the aid of *Nisshin Maru*, taking 126 crew off the vessel, while 31 are fighting the fire, said Maritime New Zealand spokesman Steve Corbett said. "The master advises he has the situation under control," said Corbett, but added "there is some potential to escalate again". "The fire is below decks, below the bridge and above the engine-room," Corbett said. "It is not out, it is still going, but its contained in the factory space. It's a serious fire. What they have done is seal off the area and they will let it burn itself out. The temperature is dropping, that's good news." No international assistance had been requested or sent to the area, 265 nautical miles north of the US McMurdo Base in Antarctica, said the New Zealand government. "We are doing everything we can to protect the lives of the Japanese sailors," said Carter, adding New Zealand, Australia, the United States and Britain were forming a contingency plan to aid the stricken whalers. — Reuters.

London, Feb 15 — Fish factory *Nisshin Maru* on fire off Antarctica is leaking polluted water into the ocean, but the crew say no oil has spilled into the Southern Ocean. One crew member is still missing after the fire started in a processing room just after 0500, today in the engine-room in the Southern Ocean. A total of 127 crew have been evacuated to other ships in the whaling fleet, but 30 people are still on board and have contained the fire. The New Zealand Rescue Coordination Centre, which is in contact with the vessel, says six crew members managed to get into the room and douse the flames. However, it says the smoke was too thick and they have sealed the area up and will not go back in until tomorrow. Conservation Minister Chris Carter says a lot of water has built up in the vessel because of the firefighting activities. He told Checkpoint the water is toxic and spilling into the ocean. However, the crew say none of the 1,300 kilolitres of oil on board has leaked. The owners of the vessel says its plans are being considered in case the vessel can no longer operate. Spokesperson Glenn Inwood says the company is speaking with the New Zealand-owned *Pacific Chieftain*, the closest available towing vessel. Mr Inwood says it would take the *Pacific Chieftain* six and half days to get to the Ross Sea, and New Zealand authorities remain concerned that if the *Nisshin Maru* sinks it will spill tonnes of heavy fuel into a pristine part of the ocean. The whaling company has already ruled out asking for help from Greenpeace - which has a ship just two days away - because the Japanese consider Greenpeace a terrorist organisation.

Canberra, Feb 16 — The crew of fish factory *Nisshin Maru* hope to get below decks today to search for a missing crewman as fears ease of an environmental disaster, New Zealand

rescue authorities said. The blaze in the processing area of the vessel had dropped in intensity overnight, lowering concerns of an oil or chemical leak spill from the ship. "They have managed to pump off excess water from the fire fighting, so the ship is no longer listing, but they haven't managed to re-enter the space to find the crewman or assess damages," Maritime New Zealand spokesman Steve Corbett said. The fire, fuelled in part by whale oil, had been contained below deck and the Japanese crew were now simply waiting for it to burn itself out, said Maritime New Zealand. Corbett said the fire was burning in a whale processing area above the engine-room and below the ship's bridge. About 30 people were still on board to fight the fire and it was thought a missing crewman had perished on board. "They have to wait until it's cooled down enough to get inside and look for the missing crewman. We don't believe he's gone overboard, so the fear is that he was trapped inside and perished in the fire," Corbett said. It is unclear whether the ship, currently disabled, will be able to restart its engines. — Reuters.

London, Feb 16 — A New Zealand Government press release, timed 1524, local time, today, states: New Zealand has approached the Japanese government urging it to act in the best interests of the fish factory *Nisshin Maru*'s crew and the sensitive Antarctic marine environment and take immediate action to move its stricken ship. "Japan has cancelled the distress call for the *Nisshin Maru* because the fire on board is contained, the internal temperature is dropping, and the ship is no longer listing," Conservation Minister Chris Carter said today. "However, based on the limited information available, it appears unlikely propulsion can be restored to *Nisshin Maru*. Electrical equipment has burnt out, including the main switchboard. It is effectively immobilised and without power in one of the most extreme marine environment's in the world. "New Zealand believes it is imperative that *Nisshin Maru* is towed further away from the Antarctic coast, the neighbouring penguin colony, and the perilous ice floes in the ship's vicinity," Mr Carter said. "At present there is a window of good weather which may last for two days. New Zealand has today contacted the Japanese government in Tokyo, and I have spoken to the Japanese Ambassador in Wellington, urging Japan to make the most of the benign weather and move *Nisshin Maru* out of Antarctic waters in the safest and most practical way. "Our information is *Nisshin Maru* is currently lashed between two other Japanese whaling vessels, product tanker *Oriental Bluebird*, which is carrying fuel, and research *Yushin Maru No.2*. These vessels are helping the ship avoid icebergs, but Maritime New Zealand fears this arrangement could become very dangerous if the weather turns and the seas become

violent," Mr Carter said. "New Zealand has made arrangements through the United States Antarctic base in McMurdo Sound to get pictures to improve our assessment of the ship's situation. We are very pleased to welcome this cooperation from the US." The pictures are dependent on the weather.

Canberra, Feb 16 — Fish factory *Nisshin Maru*, on fire off the Antarctic coast, was lashed between two other vessels today to avoid drifting into ice as its crew worked to contain a blaze below deck. Fire teams were unable to get to the fire on the vessel, despite it having lost some of its intensity in freezing conditions, emergency officials said. "There are still hot spots and they still cannot get down beneath the deck," Maritime New Zealand spokesman Lindsay Sturt said, adding that the vessel had been lashed alongside a fleet supply vessel and another whaling ship. "Because they haven't got any power, there are icebergs and all sorts of stuff, so they don't want it just floating around. The plan is to move the ship north where it will be safer." Fears were easing of an oil or chemical leak spill after the crew managed to pump off excess water and correct the list to the vessel, Sturt said. "They are trying to starve the fire as much as they can. Once they get in there they can start to search for the missing crewman and assess the damage," he said. The fire on the vessel, fuelled in part by whale oil, was burning in a factory area above the engine-room and below the bridge. Environmental group Greenpeace offered to tow the stricken vessel with its converted salvage ship *Esperanza* as the *Nisshin Maru* drifted without power less than 100 nautical miles from the world's largest Adeline penguin colony. "Our first thoughts are for the missing crewman and the rest of the people on board. This is not a time to play politics," Greenpeace expedition leader Karli Thomas said. Amid reports Japan had rejected offers of help from environment "terrorists," Hideki Moronuki at the Japanese Fisheries Agency said Greenpeace had not been in contact. About 30 people were still on board to fight the fire and it was thought a missing crewman had perished on board. It is unclear whether the vessel, currently disabled, will be able to restart its engines. If it remains disabled the *Nisshin Maru* will continue to threaten the environment if calm weather in the Southern Ocean, known for massive storm seas, turns bad. Jun Hoshikawa, executive director of Greenpeace Japan, said that the *Esperanza* could reach the *Nisshin Maru* tomorrow morning. "We'll put aside our campaign for however long is necessary," he added. "Let's put life and the environment first now." — Reuters.

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: The fire on board fish factory *Nisshin Maru* in Antarctica has been extinguished. Maritime New Zealand spokesman Lindsay Sturt said the vessel had a supply ship from the Japanese whaling fleet moored alongside to provide

power. "Ventilators have been installed to clear the decks of smoke so that a search can be made for one crewman who is missing," Sturt said. He said the ship was not leaking fuel and refused offers of help from Greenpeace members protesting the whaling actions.

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A Japanese crew member who has been missing since fish factory *Nisshin Maru* caught fire off Antarctica has been found dead, Kyodo News agency reported today. One crew member went missing after fire broke out below deck on Wednesday (Feb 14). Fisheries officials have said they may have to cut short the season's whale hunt due to the ship's damage. Kyodo said missing crew Kazutaka Makita was found dead inside a whale processing plant on board, where the fire is believed to have started.

Tokyo, Feb 17 — Japan has turned down an offer from Greenpeace to tow fish factory *Nisshin Maru* caught fire off the Antarctic coast, recalling that activists of the conservation group had boarded the same vessel almost a decade ago. Japan's Fisheries Agency said in a statement that the fire had killed at least one Japanese seaman on board. Maritime authorities said anti-whaling protesters in the Southern Ocean, which clashed with the whalers earlier in the week, were not involved. "The fire has almost been extinguished," Hideki Moronuki, a Japanese Fisheries Agency official in Tokyo, said today. "But it will take a while before we can go into the engine-room and see whether the engines are okay and the vessel can sail on its own." Greenpeace had offered yesterday to tow the stricken boat with its converted salvage ship *Esperanza* as the *Nisshin Maru* drifted without power. "We would appreciate their offer but I don't think we will accept such an offer," Moronuki said, recalling that the vessel had been boarded by Greenpeace activists in New Caledonia in 1998 as it lay in port after another fire. He said that if the vessel failed to set sail on its own, Japan would ask for help from a Japanese tanker sailing close by. Moronuki denied news reports that the ceiling of the engine-room had burned down and there was a threat of sea pollution. "These are malevolent reports. The *Nisshin Maru* is not carrying chemicals at all, except for fuel, and the ceiling of the engine-room was not burned down," he said. "There has been no oil leak and there will be no oil leak." The fire, fuelled in part by whale oil, burned in a factory area above the engine-room and below the vessel's bridge. Maritime New Zealand spokesman Lindsay Sturt said yesterday that fears were easing of an oil or chemical leak spill after the crew managed to pump off excess water and correct the list to the vessel. — Reuters.

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated Feb 17, states: Fish factory *Nisshin Maru*, stranded in Antarctic waters, was on an even keel today after pumps cleared water used to douse the

fire that crippled it, a government official said. Meanwhile, the body of a 27-year-old crewman lost in the blaze on board the vessel on Thursday (Feb 15) has been found, an official said today as the crew continued to refuse a Greenpeace offer to tow the stricken vessel from the ice-strewn Southern Ocean. Kazutaka Makita's body was recovered, Japanese government-affiliated Institute of Cetacean Research spokesman Glenn Inwood said. Officials are still investigating and have not yet determined the cause of the blaze. *Nisshin Maru* is the only vessel in the fleet able to process whale carcasses and the season may have to be abandoned if the vessel is inoperable. New Zealand officials and environmentalists have expressed concern that the *Nisshin Maru* — left without engine power by the fire and carrying 132,000 gallons of heavy oil and 211,000 gallons of furnace oil — could threaten the Antarctic's biggest penguin rookery at Cape Adare, about 100 miles away. Overnight, the vessel's crew pumped out the water used in the firefighting effort and a 03-deg list had been corrected, New Zealand rescue official Steve Corbett said today. He said because the vessel was virtually dead in the water, the main worry was that it could founder if the sea became rough. It was secured to two other Japanese whaling vessels but they would have limited control if the seas rose, Corbett said. For that reason, the New Zealand government, which is responsible for rescues in the region, wanted the stricken vessel towed north away from the Antarctic coast. Research *Esperanza* arrived within sight of the stricken vessel early today, but the Japanese had refused offers of a tow, Greenpeace spokesman Steve Shellhorn said.

London, Feb 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Japan has turned down an offer from Greenpeace to tow fish factory *Nisshin Maru*, which caught fire in Antarctic waters, recalling that activists of the conservation lobby group had boarded the same vessel in 1998. Fire broke out on board the vessel on Thursday (Feb 15). Japan's Fisheries Agency said in a statement on Saturday that the fire had killed at least one seaman on board. The vessel is still disabled. Greenpeace had offered on Friday to tow the stricken ship with its research *Esperanza*. A Fisheries Agency official in Tokyo said the vessel was previously boarded by Greenpeace activists in New Caledonia in 1998 after another fire. He said that if the vessel failed to set sail on its own, Japan would ask for help from a Japanese tanker close by. The United States Coast Guard found no signs of environmental pollution from the vessel yesterday. Icebreaker *Polar Sea* was sent to the area in the Ross Sea at the request of the New Zealand government.

London, Feb 19 — Following received from Wellington MRCC, timed 0014, UTC: Fish factory *Nisshin Maru* reported at 0800, local time, today that the fire had been fully extinguished. The vessel's crew are working to repair

the main engine, and have restored one generator. Five Japanese vessels are standing by.

London, Feb 19 — A press report, dated today, states: New Zealand warned Japanese whalers yesterday they face international condemnation if their crippled fish factory *Nisshin Maru* causes an environmental disaster on the Antarctic coast, where it lost all power in a fire last week. The *Nisshin Maru* has been disabled since the fire early Thursday (Feb 15) and is lashed to two other whaling vessels near the Antarctic coast. Officials in New Zealand and environmentalists are concerned the vessel could begin leaking some of the 500,000 litres of heavy oil and 800,000 litres of furnace oil it is carrying. Japanese officials say the fire did not cause any structural damage to the vessel and there is no current danger of an oil spill. One crew member died.

Canberra, Feb 19 — Ice threatened to trap fish factory *Nisshin Maru* stranded off Antarctica, anti-whaling activists said today, raising fears of an environmental disaster close to a major penguin colony. The Japanese have rejected offers from environment watchdog Greenpeace to tow the stricken vessel to port in favour of attempting repairs but activists monitoring fast-moving ice floes on behalf of the vessel warned time was running out. "There is a big finger of ice to the east of us, which is moving up and across, and there is a concern that if the wind changes and pushes that towards us, then we'll all get pinned in along the continent," Greenpeace spokeswoman Sarah Holden said by satellite phone from the area. Crew on the *Nisshin Maru* had restarted one generator on the vessel to restore power and heating but the engines were still dead and the ship lay lashed between two other whaling vessels, Maritime New Zealand spokesman Steve Corbett said. "Our concern and our wish is that they move north as quickly as possible," he said. — Reuters.

London, Feb 20 — Following received from Wellington MRCC, timed 0012, UTC: The crew of fish factory *Nisshin Maru* are continuing with repair work, and hope to restart the main engine in two to three days. (See issue of Feb 20.)

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Wellington MRCC, timed 0013, UTC: The crew of fish factory *Nisshin Maru* are continuing repair work.

London, Feb 22 — Following received from Wellington MRCC, timed 0223, UTC: The crew of fish factory *Nisshin Maru* are continuing repair work and hope to restart a second generator later today.

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Repair crews have restarted the main engine of Japanese fish factory *Nisshin Maru* crippled by a fire a week ago near Antarctica, but the vessel has not yet moved under its own power, an official said Thursday (Feb 22). The *Nisshin Maru* was stricken by a fire last Thursday that killed one crew member, burned out its main switchboards and engulfed its whale

processing deck. The cause of the fire has not been determined. The vessel's engine was started overnight, said Glenn Inwood, spokesman for the Japanese Institute of Cetacean Research. "The last report we had was that the engine was going. They'd replaced all the wiring, and checked all the gauges and the mechanics of it," Inwood told New Zealand's National Radio. "It hasn't moved yet, it's still undergoing safety checks (and) they hope to make some decision to move it today," he said. Inwood added that if the processing deck, where whales are cut up, wasn't repaired, then the hunt for 945 whales under Japan's so-called "scientific whaling" program was likely over. A decision still has to be made as to whether the processing deck can be used, he added.

NORDKAPP (NIS)

London, Feb 19 — Passenger ro/ro *Nordkapp* has now arrived at Montevideo.

Montevideo, Feb 21 — Passenger ro/ro *Nordkapp* arrived at Montevideo from Port Stanley on Sunday Feb 18. The vessel's agents report that preliminary repairs were made in Antarctica after the grounding. Three different repair docks (Brazilian, Argentinean and Uruguayan) are in the process of quoting for repairs, and they are also evaluating if repairs will be necessary at this stage. — Lloyd's Agents.

NORDSTJERNEN (Norway)

London, Feb 22 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 0950, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Nordstjernen* (2191 gt, built 1956), with 46 passengers on board, lost engine power and grounded briefly in lat 61 17N, long 04 46.5E, at 0300, local time, today. Vessel was taken in tow and is expected at Floro in about 15 minutes from now.

NORTH FIGHTER (Panama)

London, Feb 20 — Chemical tanker *North Fighter* (11662 gt, built 2006), upbound, had a total blackout in the vicinity of Quebec City, in lat 46 51N, long 70 51W, at 0720, EST, Feb 19. Vessel subsequently docked at Section 29, Port of Quebec.

Montreal, Feb 21 — Chemical tanker *North Fighter* stopped at Quebec at 1929 hrs, Feb 19. The electrical power been restored and she resumed her passage at 1600 hrs, Feb 20. *North Fighter* safely arrived in Montreal, section No.74, at 0516 hrs, today. — Lloyd's Agents.

O UN CHONG NYON HO (North Korea)

London, Feb 16 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1930, UTC: General cargo *O Un Chong Nyon Ho* (6706 gt, built 1981) has an engine problem in about lat 32 28S, long 18 02E since yesterday.

London, Feb 17 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0910, UTC: General cargo *O Un Chong Nyon Ho* completed repairs at 2138, UTC, Feb 16, and proceeding Durban, where ETA 0800, UTC, Feb 20.

Durban, Feb 21 — General cargo *O Un Chong Nyon Ho* arrived Durban Feb 20 from Santos and sailed same day for Chennai. — Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN SAPPHIRE (Singapore)

See *S.A.Helderberg*.

OSTEDIJK (Netherlands)

London, Feb 17 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1740, UTC: General cargo *Ostedijk* (5164 gt, built 2006), Porsgrunn for Valencia, cargo 6,000 tonnes of fertilisers, had cargo combustion earlier today and is presently under tow of two rescue vessels 20 miles from Corunna, in lat 43 34N, long 08 39W.

Madrid, Feb 17 — Toxic gas is rising from the fertiliser-laden general cargo *Ostedijk* off the north-west coast of Spain after a fire, Spanish media reported today. A regional Galicia government spokesman confirmed media reports that said the vessel was under tow to move it away from inhabited coastal areas. The vessel, making for Valencia, sent out a distress call early today when it was off the port of Corunna and it is currently 12 miles off the Spanish coast. — Reuters.

London, Feb 18 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 0003, UTC: General cargo *Ostedijk* is now proceeding on voyage to Valencia, escorted by a tug. A surveyor will board the vessel on arrival at Valencia.

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Toxic gas is rising from general cargo *Ostedijk* stranded off the north-west coast of Spain after a fire, Spanish media reported. The regional Galicia government said *Ostedijk*, and a national government spokesman confirmed media reports that said the ship was under tow to move it away from inhabited coastal areas. The ship, making for Valencia, sent out a distress call early yesterday when it was off the Spanish port of La Coruna, and is currently 19 km off the Spanish coast.

London, Feb 19 — A press report, dated Feb 18, states: Spanish maritime rescue services evacuated four ill crew members from general cargo *Ostedijk* off north-west Spain after reports that gases had seeped out of a hold containing fertilisers, officials said today. The four crew members complained of nausea and dizziness. The vessel's master radioed for a helicopter to take the four men for medical treatment, a spokesman for the Finisterre rescue services said. The vessel was under tow 29 miles off Cape Vilan on the north-western tip of Spain, the spokesman said. The master had previously radioed that there was a "chemical reaction" in his vessel's cargo yesterday, leading him to stop engines. Spanish maritime authorities then decided to have the vessel taken in tow by a tug, the spokesman said. The vessel was transporting 6,000 tons of a fertilizer called NPK 151515C from Porsgrunn to Valencia. Eight crewmen remained on board the vessel, the spokesman said. Images taken by coast guard aircraft showed what appeared to be plumes of smoke coming from the vessel's cargo hold.

London, Feb 19 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1625, UTC: General cargo *Ostedijk* is currently in lat 43 53.6N, long 07 32.9W, being held away from the land by a tug, which has a line on board. Fumes are still coming from vessel's hold, therefore it is likely that it will need to be kept in the same position for some time to prevent fumes being blown ashore.

Ferrol, Feb 19 — At 0500 hrs, Feb 17, when approximately 50 miles west of Corunna, general cargo *Ostedijk*, on a voyage from Norwegian ports to Valencia, loaded with 6,012 tonnes of fertilizers, requested assistance due to toxic fumes apparently caused by the fermentation of the cargo, affecting the vessel's engine room and accommodation. Salvage tugs *Ibaizabal I* and *Don Inda* proceeded to the scene and vessel was towed by the stern, against the wind, to prevent fumes from getting inside the accommodation area. Some hours after, it was ascertained that the fumes had reduced and the Master was authorised to continue the voyage. However some time later, the fumes increased and the Authorities determined that the vessel should be taken to a position some five miles off Punta de la Estaca (lat 43.47N, long 07.41W), where it was more protected from south winds and the sea. The crew was transferred to *Don Inda*. The authorities were considering cooling down the cargo and they have declared there is no risk of contamination. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: The Spanish Government has said that work will start today to take the fermenting cargo of fertilizer off general cargo *Ostedijk*, which is currently five miles of the Galician coast. The owners of the Dutch vessel have asked for three more days to solve the problem, but the crisis committee has said they do not want to wait. Six thousand tons of the decomposing fertiliser will be taken off the vessel using cranes while on the high sea, in an operation which is expected to take up to three days to complete.

Ferrol, Feb 21 — General cargo *Ostedijk* remains some five miles off Punta de la Estaca. The master was landed yesterday and is now in Corunna to meet the Authorities, together with the Owners' representative, whose proposal to have the vessel enter into a port to discharge the cargo, has been rejected. The owners are now required to present another alternative. The Spanish Administration will only act if there is negligence on the part of the Owner or if there could be a risk to the environment or the population. Salvage tug *Alonso de Chaves* is currently watering the No.2 hold hatch-covers to cool down the surface. There is still smoke coming out of same. — Lloyd's Agents.

OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 16 — Passenger ro/ro *Our Lady of Medjugorje* is now undergoing repairs at the port of Manila's Pier no. 15, South Harbour Terminal. Owner-

operator, Aboitiz Transport System, said all voyages of the vessel have been cancelled until repairs are completed by early March. The vessel services the route between Puerto Princesa and Coron in Palawan and Manila. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

OVERSEAS HOUSTON (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 19 — At approximately 1130 hrs, Sunday (Feb 16) product tanker *Overseas Houston* (29242 gt, built 2007) sustained a main engine failure in Florida waters. †The ship is currently anchored 40 miles north of Tortugas, Florida. †The ship is not carrying cargo and there were no injuries reported. The ship was heading towards Tampa at the time of the incident. A tug has arrived on scene. The current plan is to have the tug either tow the vessel to Tampa or accompany it if the crew can fix the engine problem. The owners of *Overseas Houston* are working closely with Coast Guard officials during this incident.

London, Feb 21 — product tanker *Overseas Houston* arrived safely in the port of Tampa at 0736 hrs, today, under tow, where she will undergo previously scheduled modifications and complete a thorough investigation into the causes of the engine shut down which occurred Sunday (Feb 18). A team from the engine manufacturers as well as representatives from Aker and OSG will attend the ship when safely berthed.

PANAGIA TINOU (Greece)

Piraeus, Feb 20 — Passenger ro/ro *Panagia Tinou* (1787 gt, built 1976), struck the pier during berthing manoeuvres at Paroikia, Paros on Feb 17. It resulted in a crack above the water line, approximately 70cm wide and 50cm high, on the right stern side of the vessel. No injuries or pollution reported. The Paros port police authorities restricted its departure. A seaworthiness certificate was provided and it sailed with destination Syros. — Lloyd's Agents.

PASHKOVSKIY (Russia)

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing (general) *Pashkovskiy* (163 gt, built 1977) is in distress in the Sea of Okhotsk about 10 nautical miles west of the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia's Far East, the Emergency Situations Ministry said today. "A cable is wound around the vessel's screw propeller" a spokesman for the ministry said. "There are 13 people on board the vessel, which is currently drifting towards the shore." The spokesman said that two rescue ships are ready to set off from the Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky port to evacuate the crew from the distressed vessel, but poor weather conditions, particularly strong winds and high waves, are hampering rescue efforts. He added that special headquarters for the rescue operation has been set up and currently rescuers are considering using air-sea rescue services.

PING YANG NO.8 (Belize)

Yokohama, Feb 16 — General cargo *Ping Yang No.8* was towed to Ise Bay after the fire came under control on Feb 2 and arrived at the No. W-66 quay in Nagoya port. Reportedly, her cargo hold totally burned out. — Lloyd's Agents.

PIZ SEDLEY (Germany)

London, Feb 20 — In the evening of Feb 16 non specific tanker *Piz Sedley* ran aground between Wentdorf and Mueggendorf on the Elbe. It had come from Magdeburg where it had discharged a cargo of oil. All attempts to get free with own power failed. On Feb 17 a pusher tug tried unsuccessfully to refloat the ship. In the morning of Feb 18 pusher tug *Jan* from Tangermünde came and stabilised *Piz Sedley* to avoid damage to its propeller. With the second attempt, *Piz Sedley* was refloated. The ship was then investigated without results regarding possible damage but was ordered to enter the next available yard within four days to ensure that no damage were sustained. Elbe traffic was not affected by the grounding.

PRIDE OF AMERICA (U.S.A.)

See "United States" under "Weather & Navigation".

PRIDE OF BILBAO (U.K.)

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: A 61-year-old ferry officer has appeared in court today charged with the manslaughter due to gross negligence of three sailors found dead after their yacht disappeared in the Channel. Michael Hubble faced a preliminary hearing at Winchester Crown Court on the charges relating to the deaths of James Meaby, Jason Downer and Rupert Saunders from yacht *Ouzo* between Aug 20 and 23. Hubble was the officer of the watch on board passenger ro/ro *Pride of Bilbao* when it is alleged the vessel was involved in an incident that led to the disappearance of *Ouzo* in the English Channel and the deaths of the men. *Ouzo* had left Bembridge on the Isle of Wight on Aug 20 to sail to Devon for the Dartmouth Regatta but it never arrived. All three men were found in the sea off the Isle of Wight a few days later. The 25-foot sloop they were sailing has never been found, and no alarm was raised from it prior to its disappearance. Hubble was employed as an agency worker on *Pride of Bilbao* at the time of the alleged offences. The ferry was en route from Portsmouth to Bilbao at the same time as the disappearance of *Ouzo*. Speaking only to confirm his name, Hubble was told he was due back at Winchester on Mar 30 for a plea and case management hearing. The court was told the trial was likely to last up to four weeks sometime later this year. Hubble was released on unconditional bail. An inquest, which was opened and adjourned into the deaths of the three men, heard that two of them had time to inflate their lifejackets. The hearing was told Mr Meaby and Mr Downer were found with their lifejackets

manually inflated. The third crew member, Mr Saunders, who owned and skipped the yacht, was wearing a lifejacket which had automatically inflated. The body of Mr Meaby was discovered in the sea ten miles south of Nab Tower on Aug 22 and the bodies of Mr Downer and Mr Saunders were located south of St Catherine's Point a day later. The cause of death for Mr Meaby was a combination of drowning and hypothermia, while the other two died of drowning.

PROBO KOALA (Panama)

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: Dutch judicial authorities said late yesterday they had made two arrests in connection with an August, 2006, toxic waste scandal in Ivory Coast and had issued an arrest warrant for the master of the vessel involved. The two arrested are employees the company Amsterdam Port Services, which tested the waste on board combined bulk and oil carrier *Probo Koala* in July last year and tendered to remove it for treatment. The company chartering the vessel, Dutch-registered Trafigura Beheer, declined the tender of a reported \$625,000, and the vessel left for Estonia before sailing on to Ivory Coast. The APS staff members are suspected of contravening the rules governing the import and export of toxic substances as well as of falsifying documents. Prosecutors said also that they aimed to find the vessel's master, who is not in the Netherlands, and that investigations were proceeding into Trafigura. *Probo Koala* arrived in Amsterdam on Jul 3 and left two days later. It arrived in Abidjan on or around Aug 19, when the local company Tommy agreed to deal with the waste aboard. The waste ended up in ditches and on dumps in a poor part of Abidjan. The deaths of 10 people are attributed to the subsequent pollution. Thousands fell ill. This week, the Ivory Coast government struck a \$200-million compensation deal with Trafigura.

Abidjan, Feb 17 — Ivory Coast has confirmed the deaths of five more people from exposure to toxic waste dumped in Abidjan last August, taking the death toll to 15. Thousands of people fell ill with breathing difficulties, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea after slops were unloaded from combined bulk and oil carrier *Probo Koala*, chartered by international oil trader Trafigura and dumped at mainly open-air sites in the densely-populated city. Trafigura denies any wrong-doing, saying it entrusted the waste to a registered Ivorian company but agreed a 100 billion CFA (US\$200 million) settlement with the West African state on Tuesday (Feb 13) which ended legal action the government was pursuing. "The death toll of victims of the toxic waste ... is rising. The latest figures tell of 15 deaths caused by this waste," said a statement from the prime minister's office. The five deaths, the latest of which occurred last November, were not initially included in the toll because

most had died at home making it more difficult to establish the cause of death than with the first 10 who died in hospital, the statement said. Most of the waste has now been collected by French hazardous waste specialists Tredi International and shipped to France for processing. Much of the \$200 million Trafigura agreed to pay to the Ivorian government will be used to pay for the cost of the clean-up and medical care for tens of thousands who sought medical treatment after the waste was dumped. — Reuters.

PROMETHEY (Ukraine)

Novorossiysk, Feb 19 — Non specific tanker *Promethey* (950 gt, built 1975) grounded while vessel changed its position near Novorossiysk on Feb 17. Salvage operations were completed on Feb 18. There are 947 tonnes of fuel and 427 diesel oils onboard. No spillage. Extent of damage are not known. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 19 — A press report, dated Feb 18, states: An oil tanker carrying 1,400 tons of diesel and heating oil ran aground late Saturday (Feb 17) near the Russian Black Sea port of Novorossiysk, but was later pumped dry and towed to safety. Interfax news agency quoted Russian disaster authorities as saying Sunday the vessel, *Promethey*, was towed into Novorossiysk after all the oil was pumped clear, and none leaked. The vessel ran aground as a result of a navigation error when the position of the vessel's anchor was being changed, Interfax quoted the authorities as saying.

PROPONTIS (Greece)

Helsinki, Feb 15 — Crude oil tanker *Propontis* has discharged its cargo and will proceed to Germany, where it will be docked. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Feb 15.)

London, Feb 17 — Crude oil tanker *Propontis* sailed Skoldvik Feb 15 for Hamburg. (See issue of Feb 19.)

London, Feb 20 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Crude oil tanker *Propontis*, which ran aground off Finland on Feb 9, is expected at Blohm & Voss Yard, Hamburg for repairs of bottom damage around Feb 24.

QUETZALCOATL (Mexico)

Coatzacoalcas, Feb 15 — Product tanker *Quetzalcoatl*: Investigations are still being carried out. The damage particulars are kept by Pemex. — Lloyd's Agents.

Coatzacoalcas, Feb 20 — Product tanker *Quetzalcoatl* is still under investigation by the District Attorney. Vessel is still under scrutiny by the District Attorney. A new master has been assigned and has started to clean up the vessel which he found to be uninhabitable. After the vessel is released by the District Attorney, tank cleaning will have to be carried out in order to place various interior reinforcements on missing bulkheads to recover structural strength. Understand that there is also a large crack in the bottom of the hull which must be

patched if the vessel is to be moved. No decision has been taken over to whether the vessel will be scrapped, repaired or sunk. — Lloyd's Agents.

REGAL PRINCESS (Bermuda)

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Regal Princess* (70285 gt, built 1991), which "touched bottom" as it was departing the Mexican port of Huatulco, has cancelled a cruise and sent some 1,500 cruise passengers home from Acapulco after discovering one of its ballast tanks had been damaged. *Regal Princess* had been scheduled to sail from Acapulco on Feb 19 on a 10-night Panama Canal cruise but the cruise ship was held in the port while crewmembers assessed the damage. The line subsequently decided the vessel needed immediate repairs and cancelled the cruise. While 1,552 guests had boarded the vessel, Princess decided to send the passengers home, announcing that all would receive a full refund including airfare, plus additional compensation in the form of a credit equal to 35 percent of the cruise fare paid. *Regal Princess* is expected to head to a dry dock, and the following cruise, a 12-night South America sailing scheduled to depart March 1, may also be impacted though no decision has yet been taken. (Note — *Regal Princess* arrived Acapulco Feb 19.)

ROBERT HUNTER

London, Feb 22 — Fishery protection *Robert Hunter* arrived Melbourne Feb 19.

S.A.HELDERBERG (Belgium)

London, Feb 17 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 1750, UTC: Container Carrier *S.A.Helderberg* (52615 gt, built 1977) is currently anchored off Singapore, in lat 01 12.7N, long 103 34.1E, following a collision with crude oil tanker *Ocean Sapphire* (77356 gt, built 1992) near that position at 0530, local time, today. Some damage reported to the *S.A.Helderberg*. Damage to *Ocean Sapphire* unknown.

Manila, Feb 20 — The oil spill resulting from the collision between the container carrier *S.A.Helderberg* and crude oil tanker *Ocean Sapphire* on Saturday (Feb 17) has been contained, Malaysian news agency Bernama reported today. Southern Region Marine Department Director Hazman Hussein, was reported by Bernama as saying that only two oil spots were still visible about two nautical miles from Tanjung Piai and efforts had been taken to clean them. "The oil spill is not widespread and we hope to complete the (cleaning) work tomorrow," he said. The Department is being assisted by the oil spill control vessel *Seri Endon*. Officials said that the oil spill had come from the *S.A.Helderberg* but with repair work on the vessel completed, the oil leak had been stemmed. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Spilled oil from

Container Carrier *S.A.Helderberg*, which collided with crude oil tanker *Ocean Sapphire* near Pontian on Saturday (Feb 17) is fast spreading. About 50 tonnes of fuel oil had spilled from the bunker tank, after the bow of *Ocean Sapphire* was damaged in the collision. Despite efforts by the Marine Department to clean up the oil slick using booms, at least two streaks of oil were seen floating near the scene of the collision. The winds have kept the oil slick spread from washing to the shore. A spokesman from the Tanjung Piai National Park located just opposite the scene of the collision confirmed that the mangrove swamp there was not affected by the oil spill. Marine Department (southern zone) director, Hazman Hussein when contacted said, the department's patrol boats and oil spill control team had been working to contain the spill since Saturday. "We have managed to contain most of the spilled oil and we're now trying to clear the oil streaks that have spread out in the sea," he said. He also expressed confidence in clearing the slicks by today. The New Straits Times team, which visited the site, saw a gaping hole by the side of the tanker which was undergoing repairs while anchored at the scene of the collision.

Manila, Feb 21 — Oil slicks caused by the collision between Container Carrier *S.A.Helderberg* and crude oil tanker *Ocean Sapphire* Feb 17 have been swept further away from the coast of Tanjung Piai by strong winds. "There is no cause for concern that the oil slick would be washed ashore," Southern Region Marine Department Director Hazman Hussein was quoted by Malaysian news agency Bernama today. He said marine department personnel were now carrying out a final sweep on two oil spots moving toward the Straits of Malacca. Following the collision about 50 tonnes of fuel oil had spilled into the waters of the Malacca Strait threatening the Johor National Park at Tanjung Piai as well as aquaculture breeding grounds along the coast of Tanjung Pelepas. — Lloyd's Agents.

SALINE (Netherlands)

Brest, Feb 19 — General cargo *Saline* sailed Brest Feb 15 for Lisbon. — Lloyd's Agents.

SANDRA (Netherlands Antilles)

Valencia, Feb 20 — Agent of general cargo *Sandra* informs that repairs are expected to be completed next Friday, Feb 23 and departure is expected next day. The port of destination has not been advised. — Lloyd's Agents.

SCL BERN (Switzerland)

Valletta, Feb 22 — Understand that part containerised general cargo *SCL Bern* is now expected to complete repairs at the end of April. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA BARON (Panama)

London, Feb 20 — Roll On Roll Off *Sea Baron* passed Port Said Feb 10, bound Gijon.

SEA EAGLE (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 16 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1505, UTC: Tug *Sea Eagle* (693 gt, built 1999), with a barge, came into contact with an unmanned, single-case platform in West Cameron Block 305, Gulf of Mexico, in lat 29 15N, long 93 38W, earlier today. Part of a pipeline from the platform caught fire. The vessel has undergone initial inspections, which have not revealed any damage.

London, Feb 16 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1515, UTC: Tug *Sea Eagle*: The fire in the pipeline is not a serious concern as the pipeline has an automatic shut off and just residual oil is being burned off. Confirmed no damage to tug.

SEA EXPRESS 1 (U.K.)

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: A full investigation is to be carried out into how passenger ro/ro *Sea Express 1* collided with bulker *Alaska Rainbow* on the River Mersey. *Sea Express 1*, travelling from the Isle of Man, collided with *Alaska Rainbow* in fog, close to the Alfred Dock in Liverpool. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch has completed a preliminary inquiry into the crash on Feb 3. It said a full investigation was needed to properly look into the cause of the collision. None of 294 passengers on board *Sea Express 1* were injured. An operation was launched to pump water from the vessel as it started to sink into the Mersey. It is now at a shipyard in Birkenhead for repairs. The Steam Packet's ferry services between Liverpool and the Isle of Man are still suspended while a suitable replacement vessel is found.

London, Feb 21 — Bulkier *Alaska Rainbow*, La Pallice for Nouakchott, passed Cape Finisterre Feb 17, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 27 42 25.74N, long 15 10 46.2W, 19.2 nautical miles from La Salineta, Canary Islands, at 1053, UTC, Feb 20.

SEA WORLD NO.101 (South Korea)

Montevideo, Feb 15 — Fishing *Sea World No.101* reported having sustained hull damage due to explosion caused by ammonia gas, "during unloading operations" at Montevideo on Feb 14. A number of crew members were killed, and others were severely injured. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated Feb 15, states: Four crew members killed and 25 intoxicated including rescue workers was the final toll of an ammonia escape/explosion on board fishing (general) *Sea World No.101* moored at the port of Montevideo. *Sea World No.101* called Montevideo Tuesday (Feb 13) to unload frozen squid, acquire supplies and was scheduled to leave for the South Atlantic today. The ammonia gas escape and explosion occurred mid afternoon yesterday when the vessel was preparing to leave today and several of the 35 crew members were

ashore. Firemen, port personnel and Coast Guard members helped combat the flames and rescue crew members, but the toxicity of ammonia gas left its toll. Finally four crew members were found dead in the engine-room another 16 were severely intoxicated as well as nine rescue workers, most of which remain in intensive care units in different Montevideo hospitals. Uruguay's Fire Department spokesperson Carlos Nicola said the origin of the fire has not been determined and was possibly an explosion but "our immediate task was to rescue the crew and later we'll determine the origin of the accident". A security area has been established around the vessel and dock 10 where it is moored has been cleared of all other vessels. If there are risks of further escapes or explosions the vessel "will be towed out to the bay", said Alberto Diaz head of Prevention Policies Department from the Port of Montevideo authorities. A criminal investigation into the incident has begun under magistrate Daniel Tapie who a few hours later were at the scene of the accident with two coroners.

Montevideo, Feb 16 — Fishing (general) *Sea World No.101*: Attendance onboard is not yet allowed, after work performed by firemen, the vessel will be 24 hours ventilating in order to clean the area of any ammonia gas. The press reports four crewmen who were in the engine-room died at time of the explosion and one crewman died in hospital, and over a dozen persons intoxicated. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: An ammonia gas leak on fishing (general) *Sea World No.101*, anchored in Uruguay, killed five sailors, including a Vietnamese. Eight other Vietnamese sailors were among the 24 people who collapsed during the accident, including rescue workers, the Vietnam News Agency reported. They were in intensive care in various hospitals in the capital Montevideo. The Vietnamese Embassy in Argentina had sent an official to Montevideo to assist its nationals. The newspaper quoted the Uruguayan media as saying the vessel had arrived in Montevideo Tuesday (Feb 13) to unload frozen squid and acquire supplies and had scheduled to leave for the South Atlantic Thursday. The leak of ammonia gas, which is used for refrigeration, had occurred mid-afternoon Wednesday. Uruguayan authorities said the origin of the leak had not been determined, adding they were focusing on rescuing the crew first. If there was a risk of further leaks, the vessel would be tugged out of Montevideo, they said.

Montevideo, Feb 21 — Attendance onboard fishing (general) *Sea World No.101* has not yet been possible. The Port Authorities are working on re-conditioning the vessel. On Monday Feb 19, the level of ammonia onboard was 180 ppm. To date they have emptied the bilges and continue ventilating the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEAFALCON (Singapore)

London, Feb 15 — Product tanker *Seafalcon* sailed from Singapore at 2348 hrs, Feb 14, bound for Tanjung Pelepas.

SEINE HIGHWAY (Bahamas)

Bremen, Feb 15 — Vehicle carrier *Seine Highway* (23498 gt, built 2007), outbound from Bremerhaven, experienced a machinery black-out between Buoys 49 and 47 on the River Weser and had to anchor. The vessel will return to Bremerhaven with tug assistance. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 16 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS vehicle carrier *Seine Highway* was stationary in lat 53 53 36.36N, long 09 08 41.7E, at 2358, UTC, Feb 15.

London, Feb 19 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, vehicle carrier *Seine Highway* was located stationary at St. Petersburg, in lat 59 52 06.06N, long 30 13.91E, at 1010, UTC, today.

SERTOSA DIECISEIS (Spain)

London, Feb 20 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1240, UTC: Tug *Sertosa Dieciseis* (211 gt, built 1974) in tow of a tug, sank in lat 30 53.3N, long 12 09W at 0100, UTC, today. Reason for the sinking is not known.

SIERRA NAVA (Panama)

Cadiz, Feb 16 — Refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Nava* is still grounded in Algeciras Bay waters. SvitzerWijismuller Salvage are carrying out operations to empty vessel's fuel tanks and there is no news at present as to when refloating operations will start. — Lloyd's Agents.

Cadiz, Feb 20 — Emptying of fuel tanks of refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Nava* ended yesterday. The owners have informed port authority/harbour master office that they are considering the vessel a total loss, which will result in the breaking up of the vessel, whether it is partial or complete. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOLAR 1 (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 21 — Italian underwater engineering and operations company Sonsub is now mobilizing for its operation to retrieve the remaining fuel in the sunken non specific tanker *Solar 1*'s fuel tanks. Sonsub has contracted *Allied Shield*, an offshore support vessel with dynamic positioning capabilities to recover the cargo of the *Solar 1*, which sank in central Philippine waters, company officials said in a briefing. *Allied Shield* is expected to arrive in Singapore from Port Klang on Feb 28 where it will be outfitted for the recovery operation. Loading of equipment and preparation of the vessel is expected to take about five days after which it will leave for Iloilo port in central Philippines. Granting that all permits from Philippine authorities are secured, the *Allied Shield* is scheduled to begin retrieval operations on Mar 14. The vessel will head to a spot 15 nautical miles south-west of Guimaras Island where *Solar 1* sank in 620 meters of

water. Once there it will dynamically position itself and launch a remote operated vessel (ROV) to reach the tanker. The ROV will drill two holes on the deck of the tanker to allow the water to come in through one hole and for the remaining oil to come out the other. The oil will be suctioned by "hoppers", sealed containers shaped like inverted buckets, and transferred to tanks on board *Allied Shield*. The operation is expected to last anywhere from 20 days to one month depending on the amount of oil left in *Solar 1*. The Coast Guard estimates that around 250,000 litres of bunker fuel have leaked from the total cargo of two million litres. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Feb 22 — Work to recover over one million litres of oil on non specific tanker *Solar 1*, which sank off the coast off Guimaras island in central Philippines, will start Mar 14, local oil refiner Petron Corp said today. The vessel is believed to have leaked around 500,000 litres of bunker oil, affecting more than 40,000 people and more than 200 km of coastline in central Philippines. The bulk of the two million litre cargo of oil remains trapped in the tanker, buried about 640 metres under water off Guimaras, which is renowned for its coral reefs, mangroves and sweet mangoes. Italian salvage firm Sonsub will recover the oil. "We will be operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week to hasten the recovery of any trapped oil in *Solar 1*," Robin Galletti, project director of Sonsub, said. The cost of the operation, expected to last about three weeks, was estimated at \$6 million. — Reuters.

STAR FERRY 1 (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 15 — According to Regina Shipping Lines bad weather conditions have forced salvors to postpone patching work on the grounded Roll On Roll Off *Star Ferry 1*. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

STEN NORDIC (NIS)

London, Feb 20 — Following received from Turku RCC, timed 1025, UTC: Combined chemical and oil tank *Sten Nordic* (11935 gt, built 2005), carrying 11,000 tonnes of gas oil, ran into the stern of general cargo *Zillertal* (5602 gt, built 1996) in the Gulf of Finland near the island of Hogland, today. No oil or personnel damage has been caused. Understand both vessels sustained minor damage and proceeded on voyage.

Helsinki, Feb 20 — At 0200 hrs, Feb 20, combined chemical and oil tank *Sten Nordic*, St. Petersburg for Hamburg, with 11,000 tons of gas oil, hit a cargo ship (general cargo *Zillertal*) in the Gulf of Finland, while both vessels were sailing in an ice fairway. *Sten Nordic* collided with the stern of *Zillertal* which was proceeding in front. No leaks or injuries were reported. Russian authorities surveyed *Sten Nordic* and allowed her to sail to Tallinn for further inspection. According to Neste Oil, the double hull tanker sustained damages on her side, to the ballast tank. — Lloyd's Agents.

St. Petersburg, Feb 21 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Sten Nordic* contacted with general cargo *Zillertal* near Gogland Island Feb 20. Neither vessel sustained significant damage, only scratching. After examination they continued to Tallinn. No water pollution was noted. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUI YUAN YU 28 (China)

Suva, Feb 19 — Fishing (general) *Sui Yuan Yu 28* was towed to Walu Bay wharf by sister vessel, fishing *Sui Yuan Yu 21*. The fire broke out at around 0600, Feb 12, and was contained with the help of Suva Fire Brigade and shore staff at around 0900 hrs. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUMATRA (Argentina)

Buenos Aires, Feb 16 — According to our sources at port of Mar del Plata, trawler (All types) *Sumatra* arrived in port Feb 8 and left in order to continue her fishing operations Feb 13. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUNNA (NIS)

London, Feb 15 — General cargo *Sunna*, under tow of tug *Sveasund*, arrived at Bremerhaven at 0940 hrs, Feb 14.

London, Feb 19 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Sunna* berthed at the Bredo Yard in Bremerhaven on Feb 14 for repairs. On Feb 15 insurance experts and members of the German Lloyd investigated the damage so that the amount of repair works needed could be assessed. (See issue of Feb 19.)

Bremen, Feb 19 — General cargo *Sunna* presently in dock No.1 of Bremerhaven Dock GmbH. New owner has not yet arrived in Bremerhaven. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUPERFERRY 9 (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 20 — Roll on roll off *Superferry 9* stalled eight nautical miles off Daog Point, south-west of Negros Island, at around 0200 today. The vessel, with 492 passengers and 124 crew, was en route from Bacolod to Iligan when it experienced engine problems, owners Aboitiz Transport System reported. A sister vessel, roll on roll off *Superferry 1*, arrived on scene at around 0716 hrs to render assistance and to tow the vessel to Guimaras island. The latest bulletin from Aboitiz Transport System indicated that *Superferry 1* was manoeuvring to take *Superferry 9* under tow. Upon arrival at Guimaras island, a chartered tug will take over towing duties from *Superferry 1* and bring *Superferry 9* to Iloilo, where repairs will be carried out. Aboitiz System said that all passengers and crew were safe. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Feb 21 — Roll on roll off *Superferry 9* arrived Iloilo in tow of a commercial tug at around 0600 today. The vessel is now at anchor and will dock as soon as docking space is available, the owners reported. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Feb 21 — The Philippine's maritime regulatory agency is freezing operations of Roll On Roll Off

Superferry 9, which stalled Tuesday (Feb 20) while travelling between Bacolod and Iligan, in central Philippines. The Maritime Industry Authority, MARINA, said that it was in the process of cancelling the vessel's safety certificate and certificate of public convenience to prevent the vessel from operating commercially. MARINA said that it would not allow the vessel to resume operations until repairs have been undertaken and it passes a safety inspection to be conducted by MARINA safety inspectors. The 21-year old *Superferry 9* has had a history of frequent engine breakdowns causing concern among maritime regulatory officials about its seaworthiness. The vessel is now anchored off Iloilo port awaiting an available berth to unload its 492 passengers. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Feb 22 — Roll On Roll Off *Superferry 9* safely docked at Iloilo port at around 1300 hrs, Feb 21. All 492 passengers are safe and have transferred to roll on roll off *Superferry 5*, which will take them to Cagayan de Oro city, in southern Philippines. *Superferry 5* left Iloilo port at 0150 hrs, today and is expected to arrive in Cagayan de Oro city at around 2000 hrs, tonight, shipowner- Aboitiz Transport System, Inc. reported. From Cagayan de Oro City, the passengers will be moved by bus to their final destination in Iligan city. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

THANGAM (India)

See *DCI Dredge Aquarius*.

THOR SENTRY (Faroe Islands)

Esbjerg, Feb 19 — Fishing *Thor Sentry* left Esbjerg at 1500, local time, Thursday (Feb 15). Vessel left for Skagen, and would from there go to the Faroe Islands. In the future the vessel will be working for the Norwegian sector. — Lloyd's Agents.

TONG CHENG (China)

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 2130, UTC: General cargo *Tong Cheng* is still at Barbers Point, effecting repairs, ETC unknown.

TORANI (Guyana)

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: Passengers who used the Rosignol to New Amsterdam ferry service at around 0530 yesterday complained that they were delayed for some time after general cargo *Torani* (560 gt, built 1960) drifted away from the stelling. The passengers said when the vessel almost reached New Amsterdam, it passed the stelling and took a while to get back to the spot to moor. They said they did not reach their destination until about 0700 hrs. The vessel reportedly developed a problem with the compressor, causing the air pressure to drop and the engine to cut off. The problem was rectified and the vessel started working normally again, a source said. However, at around 1300 yesterday, after the vessel left the Rosignol stelling, one of

the engines failed and it was operating on only one. The engine was reportedly fixed before the vessel reached the New Amsterdam stelling.

TRANS FREJ (Antigua & Barbuda)

Bremen, Feb 16 — Repairs to general cargo *Trans Frej* are estimated to take at least another two weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 18 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Trans Frej* was repaired in Bremerhaven. The ship had run aground in the outer Oxeloesound, Sweden, close to Runnskaersground. Here it stuck fast for more than a week in lat 58 40.906N, long 17 13.669E. The hull was damaged on a length of 55 m. While travelling to Bremerhaven the machine had stopped several times.

VESSEL CAPSIZED IN GULF OF ADEN

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: A vessel loaded with more than 200 Somali and Ethiopian migrants capsized in the Gulf of Aden during a treacherous night crossing and at least 112 people drowned, a Yemeni official said today. The vessel was among a group of four vessels carrying migrants from the Horn of Africa to Yemen, a UN official and a Yemeni human rights activist said. When the it capsized late Monday (Feb 12), smugglers in the other vessels forced their passengers into the sea so they themselves could return quickly to shore, said the human rights activist, whose group helped survivors from the capsizing. At least 169 survivors made it to shore in the coastal region of Shabwa province, east of Aden, the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said. Bodies also washed ashore in the region and were buried in several mass graves by residents. "The bodies were in a very bad condition, as many of them were missing limbs or mutilated because they were crashing against stones," Mohammed bin Mubarak, a Shabwa resident who helped bury 10 bodies, said. An official in Shabwa's provincial council said between 112 and 115 had been found dead so far. Many of the survivors said they were fleeing violence in Somalia, where government forces recently battled a radical Islamic movement with the help of troops from neighbouring Ethiopia, according to the UNHCR. The vessel sunk far off the Yemeni coast, leaving the migrants drifting in the high seas, said Ron Redmond, spokesman for the UN high commissioner for refugees. "The people were in the water for several hours before the Yemeni military came to their rescue," he said in Geneva, where UNHCR has its headquarters.

WARBABY FOX (Bermuda)

See "Bermuda" under "Weather & Navigation".

WELFARE DIANA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Port Said, Feb 18 — General cargo *Welfare Diana* (4535 gt, built 1973) arrived at Abu Tartour Port, Safage, at

1000, Feb 17. Vessel caught fire on its bridge while waiting to load cement. Safage Port Authority tugs proceeded immediately to the vessel and the fire was extinguished after about two hours. There were no casualties but the vessel's bridge was severely damaged. The vessel was removed from its berth to the outer harbour to effect repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

WESERSTERN (Isle of Man)

Malmö, Feb 20 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Weserstern* arrived at Karlshamn on Feb 4 and sailed the same day to Gdansk for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 21 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Weserstern* arrived Gdansk Feb 5, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was still in port at 0738, UTC, today.

WITTENBERGEN (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Feb 17 — General cargo *Wittenbergen*, Piraeus for Diliskelesi, passed Dardanells Feb 16.

Piraeus, Feb 20 — General cargo *Wittenbergen* completed repairs and sailed on Feb 15 for Italy. — Lloyd's Agents.

WUNMA (Australia)

London, Feb 19 — Bulker *Wunma* sailed Weipa Feb 18.

ZENITH LIGHT (South Korea)

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Japanese patrol ships are seeking six crew members, including three Koreans, still missing today, one day after general cargo *Zenith Light*, Kisarazu for Pohang, cargo 3,000 tons steel plate, sank in off Japan's southeast coast in bad weather, the Korea Coast Guard said. Japanese maritime police have collected the bodies of one South Korean and two Myanmar crewmen near the scene during a search operation that began yesterday evening, a coast guard official said. *Zenith Light* sank and disappeared in waters nine miles off Nagoya amid high seas and strong winds yesterday, with 11 crew members on board. Two other Myanmar seamen were rescued in one of the three life rafts floating in the sea. Still missing are three South Koreans, two Indonesians and a Myanmar. The vessel, owned by Daeho Shipping Co., sent SOS radio messages citing bad weather conditions to the company's headquarters in Seoul around 1520 yesterday, but ceased communication soon afterwards, according to local maritime officials. The Japanese Maritime Safety Agency dispatched an airplane and three patrol boats to the scene soon after receiving the message, they said. It resumed operations early today, mobilizing eight more planes, including two from the Japanese Self-Defense Forces.

ZILLERTAL (Netherlands).

See *Sten Nordic*.

Port State Control



UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 22 — General cargo *Laola* (2323 gt, built 1980) arrived King's Lynn Feb 2. It was detained for 15 days and sailed Feb 17. (Note — *Laola*, according to Lloyd's MIU, stationary in lat 43 19 9N, long 1 54 39W, 1.6 nautical miles from Pasajes, at 1159, today.)

UNITED STATES

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: Fishing vessel *Melissa Lynn's* sojourn from Fort Myers Beach was cut off by the Coast Guard yesterday, according to public affairs officials. *Melissa Lynn* was stopped for inspection 13 miles west of Fort Myers Beach, according to a Coast Guard press release. The life raft inspections on the vessel were expired, a violation of the Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Act. The ship was forced to moor at the Trico Shrimp docks and can not resume its voyage until a new safety inspection is done.

Seizures & Arrests



ANNIE SIERRA (Cyprus)

Karachi, Feb 22 — The Sindh High Court is expected to adjourn on Feb 23, to hear case against bulker *Annie Sierra*, which was filed by the vessel's crew for non-payment of their wages for the last six months. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

CHERYL ANNE (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 20 — The Philippine Department of Justice has thrown out a petition by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the filing of criminal charges against the owners of barge *Cheryl Anne* and tug *Jacob I* for violating the country's anti-pollution laws. The Department of the Environment charged that the owners and officers of Goldmark Sea Carriers Inc, owners of *Cheryl Anne*, OSM Philippines, Inc, owners of *Jacob I*, and Powerzone Petroleum Products Corp, the importer of *Cheryl Anne's* cargo, conspired to bring used oil into the country without the proper permits. Used oil is classified as hazardous waste and its entry is strictly regulated. The Department of Justice, however, issued a provisional dismissal of the case because of the failure of the Department of Environment to include the company which brokered the deal, Fuel Zone, Inc, on the charge sheet. "Our case was dismissed on a technicality but this is just a temporary

setback as we will be resubmitting the case by next month," Attorney Dennis Guerrero of the Department of Environment said. *Cheryl Anne* and *Jacob 1* were seized by Customs officials on Sep 1 last year at Surigao for attempting to smuggle 440,000 gallons of used oil into the country. The two vessels are still detained at Surigao. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

JOSE BREEZE (Panama)

Maassluis, Feb 19 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Jose Breeze* sailed Rotterdam Feb 18 for Puerto la Cruz. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

JU BAO MEN

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Feb 16 — Part containerised general car *Ju Bao Men* sailed from Hong Kong at 2007 hrs, Feb 15.

NORDLAND

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Bilbao, Feb 15 — General cargo *Nordland* remains under arrest at Santander. To be auctioned for scrap. — Lloyd's Agents.

OCT CHALLENGER (Finland)

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated Feb 15, states: National Police from Madrid have completed their search of general cargo *OCT Challenger* which was boarded at sea off the coast of Almeria on Tuesday (Feb 13) evening. They found more than 3.5 tons of cocaine hidden in the vessel's water tanks, but believe up to another 11 tons could have been thrown overboard. Reports indicate that it was bound for Croatia. The ship's seven crew members have all been taken into custody: they are five Greek nationals and two men from Italy. Further arrests have not been ruled out.

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated Feb 15, states: Spanish police said today that they had seized at least four tonnes of cocaine on a ship flying the Finnish flag. Reuters reported that the ship, *OCT Challenger*, had been intercepted off the south coast of Spain and forced to dock at the port of Almeria. The ship had until recently been owned by based OCT Shipping. However, the company's chief executive, Ove Eriksson, said the company had sold the ship to a Croatian shipping company in January. Mr Eriksson said that the Spanish police had been misled as the ship no longer sailed under the Finnish flag. "I suspect they have used old documents to mislead the police. This ship does not have anything to do with Finland or OCT Shipping," Mr Eriksson said.

PANIC (Greece)

Piraeus, Feb 16 — Passenger (cruise) *Panic* remains under arrest at Eleusis. — Lloyd's Agents.

PATRICIA (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 22 — Non specific tanker *Patricia* is still under arrest, with no prospect of early release. — Lloyd's Agents.

PROGRESS (Cambodia)

Portsmouth, UK, Feb 19 — Coast guards in Primorye detained fishing (general) *Progress* (690 gt, built 1987) for violating fishing rules and trespassing the state border yesterday in the course of the Typhoon 2007 operation. A patrol ship found the fishing vessel flying the Cambodian flag in the Peter the Great Bay in Russia's territorial waters, a source in the territorial border department told Interfax today. The crew ignored orders to stop. "The fishing boat was chased for about two hours and surrendered only when coast guards threatened to open fire," the department press service said. Inspectors found crab traps and herring bait in the hold. The crew did not have a fishing permit, and the vessel was convoyed to Nakhodka for further investigation. — Correspondent.

SENTINEL (Comoros)

Genoa, Feb 20 — General cargo *Sentinel* remains under arrest at Genoa. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUNGAI JULAN 1 (Malaysia)

Manila, Feb 19 — Philippine authorities have opted not to detain the captain and chief engineer of the Malaysian-registered tug *Sungai Julan 1* during the duration of their trial for oil smuggling, the Philippine Bureau of Customs reported. The two officers have been given the option to either stay with their vessel, or transfer to a hotel. They have chosen to remain with their vessel which remains moored at at Poro Point Port in La Union province. The two officers are facing charges before a La union provincial court for selling part of their tug's bunker fuel supply to local buyers while their vessel was docked at Poro Point Port on Jan 1. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TRINITY SIERRA (Cyprus)

Savannah, Feb 21 — Bulker *Trinity Sierra* is still in Savannah. The earliest sailing time is now Monday, Feb 26, dependent upon receipt of funds and settlement of claims. No information from local counsel on destination. — Lloyd's Agents.

WENG TENG NO.688

South Korea)

Suva, Feb 21 — Fiji Customs are still investigating fishing *Weng Teng No.688*'s change of name. Legal action has not yet been taken. — Lloyd's Agents.

EXELAND AREA, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Crude oil that spilled from a broken pipeline and into a construction pit seeped deep enough to contaminate the water table in a rural area of northern Wisconsin, a state regulator said today. No homes were immediately at risk for polluted drinking water, said John Robinson, a regional supervisor for the Department of Natural Resources' spill recovery team. The contamination was discovered Monday (Feb 12), some 10 days after oil gushed from the pipeline because of a construction accident, he said. It's not known how much oil got into ground water. The spill in Rusk County was one of two by Houston-based Enbridge Energy Co. since the beginning of the year that resulted in the release of at least 176,000 gallons of crude oil in northern Wisconsin. The company is expanding its 320-mile pipeline from Superior to near Whitewater by adding more lines to ship oil from Canada to refineries near Chicago. The U.S. Office of Pipeline Safety and the state Department of Natural Resources are looking into both spills.

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated Feb 17, states: A pipeline explosion sent flames shooting into the air in north-west Harris County this evening, KPRC Local 2 reported. Shortly after 1400 hrs, a worker driving a bulldozer hit a 31-inch gas line belonging to El Paso Energy's subsidiary, Tennessee Gas, in a field near Fry Road and FM 529. Investigators said the driver kept the engine running when he fled after discovering he hit the line. At about 1830 hrs, the gas ignited, causing an explosion. A shelter-in-place was issued for a short time. Witnesses reported seeing the flames all across the Houston area. Officials said by 2100 hrs, the threat was gone. The explosion ignited several grass fires near neighborhoods in the area. No one was injured and there was no structural damage, according to authorities. An investigation is under way.

NORTHSTAR OIL FIELD, ARCTIC OCEAN

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: BP PLC has shut down an offshore oil field in the Arctic Ocean after a small leak was detected in a gas line, a company official said. The shutdown of the Northstar oil field has taken about 40,000 barrels of oil offline each day since Friday (Feb 16) or Saturday (Feb 17). Company officials were not sure when the field would resume operations, but said that the facility had to be shut down in order to fix it. There was no environmental damage and no safety hazard associated with the leak, which was found in an eight-inch (20-centimetre) pipe that is used to handle extraneous gas from the field, reports indicated. The pinhole-sized leak was discovered



BARSONI AREA, INDIA

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

during a routine inspection of Northstar's wells and processing facilities, which sit atop a man-made gravel island six miles off the northern coast of Alaska. The 27-square-mile field is located 39 feet beneath the ocean surface.

PRUDHOE BAY, ALASKA

London, Feb 16 — BP PLC told lawmakers yesterday that it plans to take tax deductions and credits for repair work to corroded pipes on the North Slope. In a letter to members of the House and Senate, Doug Suttles, president of BP Exploration Alaska Inc. writes: "BP follows the law when it files its taxes. Accordingly, BP will assume appropriate deductions & credits for the costs associated with the repair and replacement of the Prudhoe Bay Oil Transit Lines." BP figures it will be able to deduct about \$11 million from its 2006 taxes because of the repair work. Lawmakers, anticipating this move from BP, have introduced bills in the Senate and House that would prohibit deductions for facility repairs they believe are the product of neglectful maintenance. More than half of the 60 lawmakers in the House and Senate support the bills. Sen. Tom Wagoner, R-Kenai, introduced his bill last Friday. "All I want the bill to do is give the state another tool to give a thorough review of situations such as we are in," Wagoner said. Corrosion was blamed for two oil leaks in Prudhoe Bay pipeline operated by BP for majority partners Exxon Mobil Corp. and ConocoPhillips. The first leak — one that spilled more than 200,000 gallons of oil— occurred last March. The second in August forced a partial shut down of the Prudhoe Bay field that lasted for weeks. BP is currently replacing 16 miles of pipeline in Prudhoe Bay, at a cost of about \$250 million. During the shut down, lawmakers passed a new taxing system, but a group of senators and representatives failed to get a provision taking into account neglectful maintenance



BERMUDA

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated Feb 19, states: Hurricane-force wind gusts as high as 66 knots knocked ferry *Warbaby Fox* (317 gt, built 2006) out of service yesterday. *Warbaby Fox*, which serves commuters from the East End, suffered a busted main cabin window when she hit a massive wave just off Fort St. Catherine at around 0645 hrs, according to the Department of Marine and Ports. It will be out of service "until further notice." No passengers was on board at the time and none of the five crew was hurt. Evening commute Ferries out of Hamilton were also cancelled, according to signs posted on the doors

of the Hamilton Ferry Terminal. Meteorologist Declan O'Connell said the worst of the weather hit the St. George's area around 0600 hrs with close to 50 knot winds sustained for approximately two minutes at a time. As a major squall passed gusts surged to 66 knots. The Causeway did not close during the morning commute. And the runway at the Bermuda International Airport remained open thanks to the wind's north-westerly direction. There were cancelled flights, but that had more to do with continuing weather problems on the US east coast than any weather trouble here in Bermuda. Jetblue finally got its aircraft moving, after several days of traffic control problems, but its daily flights in and out, but were delayed for four hours. The Bermuda Weather Service said at one point yesterday morning the mercury plummeted to 48 degrees which is just one degree shy of the record set on Feb 19, 2003.

Hamilton, Bermuda, Feb 21 — Ferry *Warbaby Fox* was involved in an incident on Monday morning, Feb 19. The ferry had been travelling in an easterly direction along the north shore when it was hit a large wave, which caused damages to the hull. — Lloyd's Agents.

CANADA

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: This season's worst snowstorm blanketed southern Ontario today, forcing several flight cancellations and school closures, and tormenting drivers as it swept eastward. In Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, dozens of flights, mostly to large American cities, were cancelled, according to airport authorities. Several cars slipped off icy roads in Ontario and Quebec provinces, where visibility was poor, as strong winds kicked up swirls of snow, transport officials said. "It's the first big storm of the year. It's not commonplace, but at the same time, it's not the end of the world," Denis Heroux, an Environment Canada meteorologist at Montreal airport, told AFP. Almost 25 centimetres of snow was expected to fall in Montreal today, and up to 40 centimetres was likely in southern Quebec, along the Canada-US border.

INDONESIA

London, Feb 15 — Businessmen claimed they lost around Rp 8 trillion because of the recent floods in Jakarta. The general chairman of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, MS Hidayat, said today the loss was incurred by damage of distribution lines and supporting infrastructure. He said Indonesia's exports were valued at US\$56 billion, including 40 percent through Jakarta. Hidayat did not know how much small- and medium-scale businessmen had lost. He said he had asked the government to give the small- and medium-scale businessmen some kind of assistance because their losses were not covered by insurance companies.

Jakarta, Feb 19 — Landslides triggered by torrential rain hit two

places on Indonesia's main Java island over the weekend (Feb 17-18), leaving eight people dead and six missing, government officials said today. Eight bodies were pulled out of the muck in a hillside village near the Central Java town of Magelang while rescuers are still trying to find two buried residents, a local official said. "It happened yesterday morning when they were working together building an irrigation system. They could not anticipate that the land could collapse," said Joko Suhartono from Magelang's public safety office. In West Java province, rescuers have been trying since Saturday to find four miners believed to be buried in a lakeside sand pit in Sukalarang district. "Land collapsed on the lake creating a small tsunami that pulled them in. We have been searching for three days but we have not found anything," officer Agus Suherman from the local police precinct said, adding that one miner survived the ordeal. — Reuters.

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated Feb 19, states: Twin landslides hit Indonesia's Java island yesterday, killing at least 12 people after they were buried under mounds of earth, officials said. Rescuers searched for survivors today near Magelang in central Java province, where eight people working on an irrigation project were killed and two others remained missing, said Rustam Pakaya from the Health Ministry's disaster crisis centre. In west Java, four people digging for sand on a hillside were killed in a second landslide, local government officials said. Earlier this month, floods in the capital, Jakarta, killed almost 100 people and paralysed large sections of the city.

London, A press report, dated today, states: Floods in the Indonesian capital Jakarta last month caused nearly \$US1 billion dollars worth of damage. Eighty-five people were killed in Jakarta and surrounding districts. The floods, which hit on February 2, covered much of the city and displaced hundreds of thousands of people. Businesses and private individuals bore the brunt of the flood damage. The floods have been blamed on excessive construction on natural drainage areas.

MADAGASCAR

Antananarivo, Feb 19 — Nearly 25,000 people are in need of humanitarian aid after a series of floods in Madagascar, while another tropical storm threatens the island's southwest region, a government official said today. Rising flood waters have covered houses, cut off main roads, and destroyed an estimated 200,000 tonnes of rice on the world's fourth-largest island. "The number of victims has risen to exactly 24,780 people ... but this number will rise because some affected regions have not yet been able to send their figures," said Jacky Rolland Randimbarison, executive secretary of the island's emergency management agency. So far this cyclone season — which usually lasts between November and March — six cyclones have hit Madagascar, the worst of

Receive immediate notice as soon as a Casualty occurs. For further information please contact enquiries@lloydsniu.com or call + 44 (0) 20 7017 4482

which were "Bondo" and "Clovis" in January, Randimbarison said. He said another tropical storm, "Favio", was threatening southwestern Madagascar. — Reuters.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A storm-tossed Cook Strait crossing left ferry passengers sick and frightened, but the master took the correct decisions during the 10-hour voyage, a safety report has found. A Maritime New Zealand investigation into the Interislander ferry *Kaitaki's* voyage on Oct 24 last year has backed the master's decision to sail from Picton and then seek shelter off the South Island and delay entering Wellington Harbour until conditions eased. "Although it was definitely an uncomfortable crossing, which was frightening to some on board, the vessel, passengers and crew were not placed in any danger during the voyage," the report said. MNZ launched the investigation after passengers told reporters of scenes of children being sick, a crescendo of smashing plates, and chairs and people crashing across cabins. One wave that struck *Kaitaki's* bow was so large the master asked for an inspection of windows in a forward passenger area, though no damage was found. The vessel left Picton at about 1330 hrs and sailed into Cook Strait an hour later. Soon after, with a southerly swell and winds of 90-110 kph recorded at the entrance to Wellington Harbour, the vessel's master decided to take shelter in Clifford Bay in the South Island's northern coastline. The vessel eventually docked at Wellington at about 2315 hrs.

RUSSIA

London, Feb 15 — A snow cyclone approaching from Russia's Far Eastern Primorsky (Maritime) territory the Sakhalin and Kurile islands has caused closure of all airports and the Vanino-Kholmsk ferry service on the islands. A powerful storm has affected the Tatar Strait through which major ferry boats sail, and vessels carrying passengers and cargoes have had to find shelter from bad weather at the Khabarovsk territory coast line. The press service of the main Emergency Situations Ministry department for the Sakhalin region has reported that the ferry service will be reopened as the storm in the north of the Sea of Japan subsides. Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk airport is closed till noon, local time, due to a snowstorm. Meteorologists of Sakhalin have reported that the cyclone will affect the islands during the next day.

London, Feb 19 — A storm warning was declared in Kamchatka over an approaching strong snow cyclone, a source in the Kamchatka hydrometeorology center said today. The hurricane is moving from Japan to Kamchatka with a velocity of 60 kilometres per hour. The cyclone will reach the peninsula by Feb 20. A heavy snowfall and blizzards are expected there. The wind velocity will reach 25-30 metres per second on the south-

western and south-eastern coasts. Stormy winds with the snowfall are expected in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. Hurricane winds of 40-45 metres per second will be registered in the north-western part of the Pacific. Vessels were warned about the approaching cyclone. The impact of the cyclone will be strong in southern Kamchatka for three days. The storm will begin subsiding after Feb 22, specialists said.

London Feb 20 — A cyclone, battering southern areas of Kamchatka with gale winds and blizzards, disrupted the air service between the mainland and the peninsula. Flights to the peninsula by airliners from Khabarovsk and Vladivostok were put off till tomorrow, Itar-Tass learnt at the forwarding service of the Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky airport. A jetliner of the Transaero Company was dispatched to a reserve airport in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. All local airlines also cancelled flights over the cyclone yesterday. However, the Kamchatka main airport operates and is open for reception of aircrafts. A decision on flights is taken by airliners' crews. According to the Kamchatka weather service, blizzards were recorded in all southern areas of the region. Wind gusts up to 40 metres per second were recorded at the southern tip of the peninsula. Vessels should seek shelter at ports. Slopes of the Vilyuchinsky, Kozelsky, Avachinsky and Koryaksky volcanoes are dangerous as well. Weathermen reported that according to preliminary forecasts, the cyclone would be raging in the peninsula till Feb 23.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "FAVIO"

London, Feb 19 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Tropical cyclone "Favio" near lat 26.6S, long 46.5E at 0000, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 270 degrees at eight knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 60 knots, gusts 75 knots. Forecast position lat 26.4S, long 44.8E, at 1200, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 60 knots, gusts 75 knots. Forecast position lat 25.7S, long 42.9E, at 0000, UTC, Feb 20. Maximum sustained winds 60 knots, gusts 75 knots.

Maputo, Feb 20 — Officials warned flood-ravaged Mozambique today to brace for a tropical cyclone bearing down on the country, threatening high winds and heavy rains in a region already struggling with disastrous flooding. Cyclone "Favio" was located in the Indian Ocean less than 200 kilometres from the Mozambican Channel and was intensifying, with winds forecast to strengthen to 160 km an hour, the national meteorology agency INAM said. Tembe said the cyclone could also affect Zambia, Malawi and parts of Zimbabwe if it struck land. — Reuters.

London, Feb 22 — Very intense tropical cyclone "Favio" struck Mozambique as an intense tropical cyclone at about 0000, GMT, today. Data supplied by the US Navy and Air Force Joint Typhoon Warning Center

suggest that the point of landfall was near lat 23.0S, long 36.2E. "Favio" brought one-minute maximum sustained winds to the region of around 203 km/h. Wind gusts in the area may have been considerably higher. — Reuters.

London, Feb 22 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone "Favio" near lat 23.0S, long 36.2E at 0000, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 300 degrees at 10 knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 110 knots, gusts 135 knots. Forecast position lat 21.7S, long 35.1E at 1200, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 95 knots, gusts 115 knots. Forecast position lat 20.1S, long 34.1E at 0000, UTC, Feb 23. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots.

Maputo, Feb 22 — A powerful tropical cyclone with winds of up to 230 km per hour (144 mph) surged ashore in southern Mozambique today, uprooting trees, knocking over electric pylons and raising fears of new floods. Cyclone "Favio," the strongest to hit the southern African country, is heading towards the Zambezi River valley where it is likely to worsen floods which have already killed some 40 people and driven 120,000 from their homes. Now rated a category four storm, cyclone "Favio" hit the tourist town of Vilanculos early today, destroying a number of houses built of flimsy material, officials said. The National Meteorology Institute, INAM, said Favio's strong winds and rains were concentrated in the province of Inhambane but were felt as far away as Xai-Xai, the capital of nearby Gaza Province. "The cyclone is now over land, hitting the tourist town of Vilanculos, and is likely to worsen in the next few hours," said INAM spokesman Helder Sueia. The cyclone has caused widespread damage at the holiday resort of Tofo Beach, uprooting palm trees and destroying electric pylons around the area which has become a favourite of backpackers and scuba divers, Radio Mozambique said. Sueia said the storm was moving northwards at an average speed of 50 km per hour, taking aim at the central Zambezi River valley which is already struggling with a serious flood disaster. "It's moving so fast and by tomorrow it will strike the central port city of Beira as it heads towards the already flood stricken region in Caia," Sueia said. "It's accompanied by torrential rains which may worsen the flooding situation along the Zambezi valley." Mozambique's cyclone early warning system said a storm of this magnitude could bring widespread destruction of homes, buildings and industrial structures including power grids, as well as crops and trees. Flooding in central Mozambique has already displaced more than 120,000 people, with tens of thousands of them in temporary shelters which officials are already having difficulty keeping supplied with food and fresh water. "Our disaster management team is currently busy responding to the

floods,” Mozambique Red Cross General Secretary Fernanda Teixeira told national television this week. — Reuters.

TROPICAL CYCLONE “GAMEDE”

London, Feb 22 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated otday, states: Tropical cyclone “Gamede” near lat 14.3S, long 65.3E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 260 degrees at 15 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots. Forecast position lat 14.7S, long 62.6E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 70 knots, gusts 85 knots. Forecast position lat 15.0S, long 59.9E at 0600, UTC, Feb 23. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots.

UGANDA

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated Feb 14, states: Four people died and property worth millions of shillings destroyed in floods that hit several parts of Bundibugyo. Rashid Mwesige, the LC3 chairman of Bubandi sub-county, said the floods resulted from the heavy rains that have been raging since the beginning of this month. “The worst day was Feb 7 when floods swept through Busunga, Bundigoma, Mulungitanua and Bundikayali parishes,” Mwesige said. Mwesige added that there were also fears that the rains might trigger land slides.

UNITED STATES

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: JetBlue Airways Corp tried to calm a maelstrom of criticism today, after passengers were left waiting on aircraft at a New York airport for as long as nine hours during a snow and ice storm. The airline said 10 incoming and outbound flights at John F. Kennedy International Airport were “significantly delayed” with customers on board during yesterday’s storm. Reasons included congestion, frozen equipment and an effort to keep aircraft ready to go in case the weather broke, said JetBlue spokesman Bryan Baldwin. More than 250 of JetBlue’s roughly 500 flights nationwide were cancelled yesterday, but “fairly normal” service resumed today, he said. Calling yesterday’s delays “unacceptable,” the airline planned to offer the affected passengers refunds and free flights. Baldwin said the jam arose as the airline sent outbound flights to the runway - so they could leave immediately if the weather let up, while incoming flights filled up the gates. The problem grew as some equipment used to tow aircraft away from gates froze to the ground, he said. “We ended up with a gridlock situation where we couldn’t move any of the aircraft at the gates,” he said. The airline stopped incoming flights by midafternoon, Baldwin said. By about 1500 hrs, the airline gave up hope that the weather would allow the aircraft on the runway to take off and started arranging for buses to bring passengers back, he said. However, the icy weather made that a slow process, he said.

JetBlue will review the day’s events to determine whether it could have handled the storm differently and how to prevent similar problems from arising again, Baldwin said.

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated Feb 14, states: Deadly tornadoes this month affected the jobs of as many as 300 workers and damaged 40 businesses in Volusia County, Florida, economic development officials said on Monday. The workers affected by the tornado damage experienced temporary or long-term lay-offs, according to the county Department of Economic Development. Businesses sustained about \$19.5 million in storm-related damages, according to the county Property Appraiser’s Office. Businesses had physical damages ranging from light to severe, with 10 of the 40 businesses experiencing spoilage from the loss of electrical power. Tornadoes killed 20 people in Lake County and caused more than \$60 million in property damage in Volusia County. Thirty-three workers affected by the storms have filed for regular unemployment compensation in Volusia County and another 11 workers have filed for disaster unemployment assistance, said Sharon Warriner of the Workforce Development Board Center for Business Excellence. Warriner said employees from the Department of Children & Families, the Sheriff’s Office and the Department of Health were sent to work in other locations after their offices in Woodland Plaza were damaged. Others were working from home, she said. The state approved \$1 million in bridge loans to help businesses affected by the tornado. The program provides temporary loans up to \$25,000 to businesses interest free for six months.

London, Feb 22 — Passenger (cruise) *Pride of America* sailed Kahului Feb 20 and subsequently arrived and sailed Kailua Kona Feb 21.



CHILE

London, Feb 20 — A report, dated Feb 19, states: A magnitude 5.5 earthquake in the region of Antofagasta, Chile, occurred in lat 23.07S, long 70.53W, depth 10 km, at 1924, UTC, today.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, Feb 19 — A magnitude 5.7 quake shook eastern Congo’s Lake Albert region today near the Ugandan border, a preliminary report from the U.S. Geological Survey said. The tremor also was registered by the Volcanic Observatory of Goma in eastern Congo. According to the USGS, the earthquake hit at 0433, local time, some 1,120 miles from Congo’s capital, Kinshasa. Measurements taken by the observatory showed the quake lasted for nearly five seconds.

INDONESIA

Jakarta, Feb 20 — Indonesia issued a tsunami warning today after a strong earthquake struck off the Moluccas islands in the country’s east. The magnitude 6.6 quake occurred at 0804, GMT, with the epicentre 45 km south-west of Labuha in North Maluku province, the Indonesian Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said in a telephone text message. It had the potential to cause a tsunami, it added. The U.S. Geological Survey separately put the earthquake at 6.5 magnitude and at a depth of 31 km in a bulletin on its Web site. — Reuters.

JAPAN

Tokyo, Feb 17 — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.6 hit Japan’s northern island of Hokkaido on Saturday, the Meteorological Agency said. There were no reports of damage or casualties. The agency said the earthquake, which struck south-eastern Hokkaido, about 900 km north of Tokyo, at 0903 today, would not trigger a tsunami. The area rocked by the tremor is sparsely populated and dotted with farming and fishing towns facing the Pacific Ocean. “There were shakes from side to side for about 20 to 30 seconds,” said Masafumi Shishihara, an official in Uraho, the area hit hardest by the quake. “But nothing fell off from the shelves and the tremor itself was not so big.” — Reuters.

TURKEY

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: A moderate earthquake shook south-eastern Turkey today, injuring a woman who was trapped under rubble in one of several buildings that were damaged, officials said. The quake registered a preliminary magnitude of 5.9 and was centred in the town of Sivrice in the province of Elazig, the Istanbul-based Kandilli observatory said. The US Geological Survey put the quake’s preliminary magnitude at 5.7. Rescuers pulled the woman from beneath the rubble of a collapsed building in the village of Kayalar in Elazig province, Governor Muammer Musmal said, adding that she was hospitalised but that her injuries were not serious. The quake caused panic and partly collapsed a building in the village of Kayapinar while slightly damaging a primary school and a post office in the town of Sivrice, Musmal said. Soldiers and police were trying to reach remote mountain villages while a paramilitary helicopter made an assessment, CNN-Turk television said. Five aftershocks, the strongest with a magnitude of 3.6, followed as authorities warned residents not to enter damaged buildings. The quake was also felt in the neighbouring provinces of Diyarbakir, Tunceli and Malatya, reports said.

VANUATU

London, Feb 20 — A report, dated today, states: A magnitude 5.8 earthquake has occurred in Vanuatu in lat 20.224S, long 173.109E, depth 10 km at 1433, UTC, Feb 19.

Receive immediate notice as soon as a Casualty occurs. For further information please contact enquiries@lloydsniu.com or call + 44 (0) 20 7017 4482

Volcanic Activity



MOUNT NEVADO, COLOMBIA

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated Feb 19, states: Colombian authorities ordered villages evacuated today after the Mount Nevado volcano in the south-western province of Huila belched ash, and increased seismic activity threatened to trigger larger eruptions. “We expect the volcano to continue erupting,” said Alberto Nunez, head of Colombia’s Geology Institute. The evacuation order affects towns located near rivers in Huila and three other provinces that could be hit by landslide caused by a major eruption. Nunez said today’s eruption caused a landslide on the banks of one river and more were feared. No casualties were immediately reported.

SHIVELUCH, RUSSIA

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated Feb 20, states: A powerful discharge of ash from the crater of the Shiveluch volcano has been registered on Russia’s Kamchatka Peninsula. The ash column rose to an altitude of five kilometres above sea level. The discharge plume stretched for 100 km north-west of the volcano at an altitude of 3.5 km, specialists at the Kamchatka branch of the Geophysics Service of the Russian Academy of Sciences told Itar-Tass today. Shiveluch has been actively erupting since Dec 5 last year. According to the regional centre of the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations, the eruption poses no danger to nearby populated localities. However, there is danger to local air flights in the vicinity of the volcano, experts said.

Political & Civil Unrest



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Days of clashes between the army and Rwandan and Congolese militias in eastern Congo have killed at least 23 combatants and forced thousands to flee, the army and U.N. officials said today. Fighting broke out four days ago in North Kivu province, which borders the frontiers with Rwanda and Uganda, and continued today, said Col. Delphin Kahindi, a top army commander responsible for the volatile province. Rwandan and Congolese fighters were trying to stop Congo’s fledgling national army from being deployed in the area, Kahindi said. “We are determined to totally secure the province,” Kahindi said.

GUINEA

London, Feb 16 — The port of Conakry has been closed to shipping following a state of emergency and curfew which has been declared across Guinea. The US are said to be organising an evacuation of some of its diplomatic staff and US citizens in the West African country.

Conakry, Feb 17 — Guinea’s unions today called off talks with the government aimed at ending protests in which more than 120 people have died, saying they would not negotiate until President Lansana Conte lifted martial law. Union leaders had been due to meet senior government officials amid growing international calls for the veteran Conte to end his five-day-old state of emergency and negotiate a political settlement with unions opposed to his 23-year rule. “There are still killings and lootings in the neighbourhoods, there is still martial law and we cannot negotiate under these circumstances,” union negotiator Boubacar Biro Barry said. Amid concern that growing protests could shatter a fragile calm in a volatile region, Nigeria’s former military ruler General Ibrahim Babangida led a delegation from the West African regional body ECOWAS to the coastal capital Conakry today. — Reuters.

Conakry, Feb 18 — Hundreds of people have been arrested in Guinea since President Lansana Conte imposed martial law this week, opposition leaders and human rights groups said today. Conte declared the state of emergency on Monday (Feb 12) to counter a wave of violent protests and a general strike called by unions opposed to his 23-year rule in the West African country, which is the world’s top exporter of bauxite, used to make aluminium. More than 120 people have been killed, almost all of them civilians, in protests since the start of the year. Human rights groups accuse security forces of firing on unarmed crowds, beating protestors, looting and raping civilians. “We have counted 278 arrests since the start of martial law,” said Mohamed Diane, secretary general of the opposition Assembly of the People of Guinea. Thierno Maadjou Sow, president of Guinea’s Human Rights League, said: “We have been informed of hundreds of arrests but we are still in the process of checking to have our own precise figures.” Sow said his organisation was also investigating reports of the death of 22 prisoners in the town of Nzerekore, in Guinea’s volatile south-eastern border area with Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast. Measures taken by the military, including an 18-hour curfew, have restored relative calm across the former French colony but foreign governments have called for an end to the heavy-handed tactics and for political dialogue. Union leaders pulled out of talks with the government yesterday, saying they would not negotiate as long as martial law and human rights abuses continued. A senior police officer said that media reports of nearly 500 arrests were

exaggerated. “We do not have enough space in Guinea for that many prisoners,” he said. — Reuters.

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated Feb 19, states: The head of Guinea’s military relaxed a nationwide curfew yesterday, an indication the government believes the threat of violence following last week’s deadly rioting and protests has subsided. The move may also be a peace offering to union leaders who have demanded that the government lift the “state of siege” imposed last Monday night (Feb 12) that put the country under martial law. Guinea is in the midst of a general strike called by unions demanding the president step down or relinquish some of his power. Talks between union leaders and government officials were scheduled to resume today. In declaring martial law, President Lansana Conte warned that the country was in danger of erupting into civil war following days of anti-government protests that led to riots and looting. Government buildings were ransacked throughout the country, and scores died when youths calling for their longtime president to step down clashed with security forces who fired guns. Army Chief of Staff Gen Kerfalla Camara announced in a speech broadcast on radio and television that citizens would be allowed to move freely between 0600 and 1800 hrs, starting today. The curfew originally only allowed Guineans outside for four hours a day, and was later lengthened to six hours. Martial law, which is set to expire Feb 23, also prevents public gatherings and allows security forces to perform random searches. Since its imposition, roadblocks have been set up throughout the capital and military trucks full of arrested youths have become a common sight on the streets. Soldiers have been accused of shooting and raping civilians. The government says it has ordered an investigation into the charges. Guinea has been in varying degrees of turmoil since mid-January, when the country’s two strongest unions called a general strike that they said would last until Conte agreed to leave office. Conte has exercised strict control over the country since seizing power in a coup in 1984. More than 100 people have died since in two waves of clashes with security forces — the first during the strike in January and the second last weekend after Conte apparently violated a compromise deal in which he would share power with an independent prime minister. Conte instead named a Cabinet member and longtime ally to the post. Guinea has not had a prime minister since Conte fired Cellou Dalein Diallo from the post in April. The unions have complained of economic problems and demanded salary increases and arrears of months of unpaid wages. Recently, they have become increasingly political, saying the country’s hardships are symptoms of a corrupt government that neglects its people.

London, Feb 20 — Following last week’s state of emergency declared by the Guinean government, the port of

Conakry remains closed to shipping and a strict curfew is being imposed on the city. The port gates are firmly locked and although a few vessels have entered the port and used their own gear to discharge containers, these remain on the dockside and have added to the general congestion of the port.

INDIA

London, Feb 16 — Miscreants damaged the Guwahati-Barauni oil pipeline of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) by cutting it open near Barsoni under Dagarua police station of the district. Thousands of litres of crude oil have spilt in area. While theft of crude oil seems to be the most likely intention of the miscreants, the police are not ruling out the hand of anti-national forces from neighbouring Assam in the pipeline sabotage. An 8-member team led by Superintending Engineer Gautam Thakur of Pipeline Maintenance Department, Sonapur, West Bengal, has been at the site for the last several hours to repair the damaged part of the pipe. DSP of Baisi said that the police were investigating the sabotage from all possible angles. Though the DSP refused to identify the miscreants, he could not rule out the involvement of anti-national forces in the incident. This was the third time in recent months that subversive elements had caused damage to the Assam-Barauni pipeline and pilfered thousands of litres of crude oil.

London, Feb 19 — At least 66 people have been killed after explosions on a train bound from India to Pakistan sparked a fire that swept through two carriages. Passengers said they heard two blasts as the train passed near Panipat, about 80km north of Delhi. The train - the Samjhauta Express - is part of a service taking passengers from Delhi to Lahore in Pakistan. The Indian and Pakistani governments have both said the blasts were "an act of terrorism" aimed at disrupting ties. The blasts happened a day before Pakistan's Foreign Minister was due in Delhi for talks with Indian leaders. The minister, Khurshid Kasuri, said the explosion was a "horrendous act of terrorism" but it would not change his plans to visit India from 20 to 23 February. Innocent men and women had been killed, he said, a sentiment echoed by Indian Railways Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav who told a news conference that the blast were aimed at undermining relations between the two countries. "It is an effort to destabilise peace between India, Pakistan, Islamabad said most of the dead were Pakistanis and foreign ministry spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam demanded India act. "We expect Indian authorities to punish the perpetrators," she said, stressing that it was India's responsibility to ensure proper security for the twice-weekly service which runs from the Indian capital to Lahore in Pakistan. After a two-year gap, the service was restarted in 2004 as part of the peace process between the two countries. A couple of small blasts took place in two carriages at about

midnight, as the train reached a station in the village of Deewana. The train came to a standstill and a ball of fire then engulfed the two coaches.

INDIA-PAKISTAN

London, Feb 19 — A press report, dated today, states: India and Pakistan have condemned a train bombing that killed at least 66 people as an act of terrorism aimed at disrupting their peace process. Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf vowed the attack would stiffen their resolve to reach a sustainable peace. The train, running from Delhi to Lahore in Pakistan, was hit by two blasts at about midnight (1830, UTC, Sunday) near Panipat, 80km from Delhi. The ensuing fire swept through two carriages of the "Friendship Express". It is thought three-quarters of the 750 people on the train were Pakistanis, as were most of the dead. President Musharraf said the attack was a heinous crime. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh expressed "anguish and grief" and vowed the culprits would be caught. The blasts happened a day before Pakistan's foreign minister was due in Delhi for talks with Indian leaders. The minister, Khurshid Kasuri, said the explosion was a "horrendous act of terrorism" but it would not change his plans to visit India from February 20-23. The reaction from both governments suggests the prime suspects might be groups such as Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad - the main Islamic militant groups who have been blamed for many high-profile bombings. However, the fact that so many of the dead on the train were Pakistani Muslims may indicate that the devices were intended for a different target, or exploded prematurely. Initial investigations suggest explosives in suitcases ignited bottles of paraffin to start a blaze. Shiv Ram, a police railway constable, was one of the first officials on the scene. "The coaches were totally engulfed in flames," he said. Many train windows in India are barred for security reasons. The burnt-out carriages were moved to a railway siding a couple of kilometres away for forensic examination. The rest of the train continued on its journey to the border station of Attari where passengers switched to another train to travel on to Lahore. The Indian High Commission in Islamabad said arrangements were being made to process visas immediately for Pakistanis who had relatives on the train and wished to go to India. The twice-weekly service from the Indian capital to Lahore was restarted in 2004 after a two-year gap as part of the peace process between the two countries.

IRAN

Tehran, Feb 16 — Clashes broke out between police and an armed group following a bomb explosion in south-east Iran today, the semi-official Fars news agency reported. "The bandits were shooting at people after the bomb went off at a school. Clashes are still

going on between police and the armed bandits," Fars said. The agency said that after the explosion at about 1830, UTC, in the city of Zahedan, capital of Sistan-Baluchestan province, electricity was cut off. "Police have cordoned off the area and shooting can be heard in the area," Fars said. The bombing in Zahedan was the second there in three days. A booby-trapped car blew up a bus owned by Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards on Wednesday (Feb 14), killing at least 11 people. Responsibility for the Wednesday attack was claimed by a shadowy Sunni group, Jundallah (God's soldiers), which Iran has said is linked to Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network. Tehran has blamed Jundallah for past killings in the area, bordering Pakistan. Iran has accused Britain and the United States of supporting ethnic minority rebels operating in the sensitive border areas in an attempt to destabilise the country. — Reuters.

IRAQ

Baghdad, Feb 16 — US and Iraqi forces are meeting little resistance as they sweep through Baghdad, a US officer said today, a day after Iraq's president said a Shi'ite militia had ordered its leaders to leave the country. The head of al Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Ayyub al-Masri, was wounded yesterday when Iraqi forces intercepted a group of al Qaeda militants heading to a volatile town north of Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said. Two Interior Ministry sources said an aide of Masri had been killed in the clash, which one of the sources said occurred on a road when the militants were travelling to the town of Samarra. The US military said it was unable to confirm the reports. In Baghdad, Iraqi and US troops were out in force today, manning checkpoints and searching vehicles for weapons under a new crackdown that Iraqis hope will stabilise the city after four years of war and worsening sectarian chaos. US Major Steven Lamb, a spokesman for US forces stationed in Baghdad, said the offensive was going well. "I wouldn't say there has been a high level of resistance ... we had relatively few incidents yesterday but that may change today," Lamb said. "It's really too early to say if this is going to be a success or ... failure. But so far everyone is very pleased." Lamb said sweeps had been conducted in known hot spots, such as the Shi'ite stronghold of Kadimiya, Sunni-dominated Adhamiya and the districts of Rusafa, Karrada and Rashid. — Reuters.

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated Feb 17, states: A twin bombing left 11 dead in northern Iraq and US aircraft went into action today against Sunni insurgents west of Baghdad, as Iraqi officials claimed early success in the campaign to restore order in the capital. The bombers struck in a Kurdish neighbourhood of the oil city of Kirkuk, about 180 miles north of Baghdad, as streets were filled with cars and pedestrians. Police and witnesses said the first blast occurred

near shops and a bus depot. Minutes later, a suicide car bomber attacked the same area. Eleven people were killed in the two blasts and 65 were wounded, police Brig Gen Sarhat Qader said. Sunni Arabs and Kurds have laid rival claims on Kirkuk and its oil wealth. In Ramadi, 70 miles west of the capital, US jets strafed gunmen after they ambushed a US patrol, said 2nd Lt Roger Hollenbeck, a Marine spokesman. Hours later, US aircraft destroyed a car with gunmen who were trying to escape after they attacked an Army patrol, Hollenbeck said. There were no US casualties, but Hollenbeck said eight insurgents were killed, four in each attack. The attacks north and west of the capital contrasted with a lull in major violence in Baghdad as US and Iraqi forces tried to regain control from sectarian militias and criminal gangs. Some US officers believe Sunni and Shiite extremists have fled Baghdad to avoid the crackdown, citing an increase in attacks in provinces that border the city. The US military said today that a Marine was killed the day before in Anbar province, which includes Ramadi. Iraqi authorities said they foiled a would-be suicide attack near Karbala, about 50 miles south of Baghdad. A minivan came under fire after the driver failed to slow at a checkpoint, and then detonated the explosives and was killed, said Karbala police spokesman Rahman Mishawi. There were no other casualties. Police said the bodies of only five apparent victims of sectarian death squads were found today across the capital, in contrast to the scores that were recovered daily in the weeks before.

Baghdad, Feb 18 — Two car bombs tore through a packed shopping area of a mainly Shi'ite district of Baghdad today, killing 60 people in the worst attack since US and Iraqi troops launched a crackdown in the city five days ago. Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki had on Friday (Feb 16) declared what he called the "brilliant success" of Operation Imposing Law in quelling the sectarian violence that has turned the capital's streets into killing fields. The two car bombs exploded in quick succession near a busy, pedestrianised market area of New Baghdad, a mainly Shi'ite district in eastern Baghdad, killing 60 people and wounding 131, police said. A third car bomb today killed two people when it exploded near a police checkpoint in Sadr City, a stronghold of radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's Mehdi Army militia, blamed by Sunni Arab leaders for many death squad killings. British forces clashed with gunmen armed with machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades in a Mehdi Army stronghold in the southern Iraqi city of Basra today, killing at least three gunmen, Iraqi police said. The battle erupted during a crackdown by 3,000 Iraqi and British troops in the oil port on violence by criminal gangs and feuding Shi'ite militias. It is linked to the Baghdad offensive. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Feb 19 — More than 30 people died in a string of attacks today in and around Baghdad as militants

kept up pressure on a US-backed crackdown aimed at improving security in the capital. Ten people died in bombings in the city, a day after two bombs killed 60 people in a Shi'ite market area, the bloodiest attack since the crackdown began on Wednesday (Feb 14). Violence flared today in nearby parts of Iraq, leaving more than 20 people dead, including 13 members of one family ambushed near Falluja on their way home from a funeral. In today's deadliest attack, suspected al Qaeda militants pulled the family of mourners from a minibus in daylight and gunned them down, including two young boys, after finding out they were from a Sunni tribe opposed to al Qaeda, police said. In Ramadi, capital of Anbar, two suicide bombers killed 11 people when they targeted the house of Sattar al-Buzayyi, a tribal leader who has led a government-backed effort to fight al Qaeda. One suicide car bomb hit the blast walls outside his house, then a bomber blew up his truck near the house, witnesses said. To the north of Baghdad, a suicide car bomber targeting the house of a local army chief killed five people, including a soldier, and wounded 10. In central Baghdad, four people died when a bomb tore through a minibus in Karrada district, a mostly Shi'ite area where Christians also live. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Feb 19 — Iraqi insurgents, using a suicide bomber to explode a fuel tanker, launched one of their biggest assaults in months on a joint US and Iraqi outpost today, killing two US soldiers and wounding 17 others. The attack, north of Baghdad, was part of a day of bombings and shootings by militants as tens of thousands of US and Iraqi forces fanned out in the capital in a new operation to crack down on rampant sectarian violence. Three US soldiers were killed and two others wounded in a roadside bomb blast south-west of Baghdad, the US military said. More than 40 Iraqis were killed, including 10 in bombings in Baghdad, in other attacks. Near Falluja in the west, 13 members of a single family were shot dead by suspected al Qaeda militants while in nearby Ramadi two suicide bombers killed 11 people in an attack on the home of a tribal leader who had opposed al Qaeda. Iraqi police said a suicide bomber at the wheel of a fuel tanker blew himself up as US forces entered an Iraqi police station in the town of Tarmiya, which US troops use as an outpost. The self-styled Islamic State in Iraq, an al Qaeda-linked group, claimed responsibility for the attack via a Web statement. The town is a Sunni Arab insurgent stronghold some 40 km north of Baghdad in the notoriously violent province of Salahaddin. US military helicopters hovered over the area transporting the wounded after the blast, which almost demolished the police station. A US military statement said US soldiers secured the area and evacuated the wounded. It was not known if any insurgents were killed. More than 3,100 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in 2003.

The violence by militants came a day after two bombs killed 60 people in a Shi'ite market area in Baghdad in the bloodiest assault since the new crackdown by US and Iraqi forces began on Wednesday (Feb 14). Violence also flared to the north and west of the capital, leaving more than 20 people dead including the 13 near Falluja who were returning from a funeral. In that attack, suspected al Qaeda militants pulled the family of mourners from a minibus and gunned them down, including two young boys, after finding out they were from a Sunni tribe opposed to al Qaeda, police said. The western city of Falluja is in the Sunni Arab insurgent bastion of Anbar province. Among the Baghdad attacks, four people died when a bomb tore through a minibus in Karrada, a mostly Shi'ite area where Christians also live. More than 110,000 Iraqi and U.S. security forces are taking part in Operation Imposing Law, aimed at curbing sectarian violence by Sunni insurgents and Shi'ite militias. The campaign does appear to have sharply reduced the number of killings by death squads in Baghdad, from 40-50 a day, to three reported today. However, US generals, mindful of similar crackdowns last year that failed, have been more cautious and have warned that militants were adapting their tactics. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Feb 20 — Two car bombs killed 11 people in southern Baghdad today, police said, as insurgents kept up the pressure despite a major U.S.-backed security crackdown aimed at stabilising the Iraqi capital. The first car bomb exploded near a fuel station in the district of Saidiya, killing five people and wounding 11 more, police said. Another police source, however, said three were killed and 12 wounded in that attack. Another car bomb exploded in Doura, in the south of Baghdad, killing five people and wounding seven at a vegetable market. Security forces foiled another car bomb attack, blowing up a vehicle near a police checkpoint in Doura, police said. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Feb 20 — A bomb in a lorry carrying chlorine gas killed at least five people north of Baghdad and injured scores more, including many women and children poisoned by the gas, police said today. The lorry bomb exploded near a restaurant at a rest stop on a main highway in Taji, 20 km north of the capital. Twisted metal and debris littered the ground in front of a tyre repair shop after the blast, which sent out toxic fumes that caused scores of people to be taken to hospital. Police said five people were killed by the blast, and the total number of wounded including those sickened by the chlorine gas as well as those hit by the explosion was 139. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Feb 21 — A U.S. Black Hawk helicopter that went down north of Baghdad today is believed to have been shot down, the military said. A statement from the U.S. military said all nine people on board were evacuated and there were no serious injuries. "The indications are now,

again it's preliminary, but the indications are now that it was brought down by small arms fire and RPGs — rocket propelled grenades," said Major-General William Caldwell, the chief U.S. military spokesman in Iraq. Iraqi police captain Mahmoud al-Mashhadani said he saw some type of projectile hitting the helicopter before it came down in a rural area known as the Line, 30 km north of Baghdad. — Reuters.

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: Insurgents exploded a truck carrying chlorine gas canisters today — the second such "dirty" chemical attack in two days — while a US official said ground fire apparently forced the downing of a Black Hawk helicopter. All nine aboard the aircraft were rescued. Lt Col Christopher Garver, a US military spokesman, said initial reports indicated the chopper was brought down by "small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades" north of Baghdad, but gave no further details. All nine on board were taken away on a rescue helicopter, he said. In Baghdad, a pickup truck carrying chlorine gas cylinders was blown apart, killing at least five people and sending more than 55 to hospitals gasping for breath and rubbing stinging eyes, police said. Yesterday, a bomb planted on a chlorine tanker left more than 150 villagers stricken north of the capital. More than 60 were still under medical care today. In Washington, two Pentagon officials said the tactic had been used at least three times since Jan 28, when a truck carrying explosives and a chlorine tank blew up in Anbar province. More than a dozen people were reported killed. It was unclear whether the confluence of new insurgent tactics - attacking isolated combat posts, targeting helicopters more intensely and using chlorine bombs - was coincidental or in response to the US troop increase. In Najaf, meanwhile, a suicide car bomber killed at least 13 at a police checkpoint. The blast hit while streets were filled with morning shoppers. At least seven of the victims were police and the rest civilians near a checkpoint, part of the city's security cordon that includes Mahdi Army militiamen, who battled US forces in the area in 2004. More than 40 people were wounded in the blast. In Baghdad, another Mahdi Army centre was hit. A car bombing in the teeming Sadr City district killed at least three. More than 10 people died in blasts across Baghdad, adding to the more than 100 victims of bombings in attacks in and around the capital since Sunday (Feb 18). A US Marine was killed in fighting in the volatile Anbar province and a soldier was killed by gunfire in a neighbourhood of Baghdad, the military said today. The Marine was killed yesterday during combat operations in the insurgent stronghold. The soldier was hit by small arms fire in a northern district of Baghdad yesterday, a statement said. At least 3,149 members of the US military have died since the Iraq war started in March, 2003.

Ramadi, Feb 22 — U.S. forces killed at least 12 insurgents and wounded three in a six-hour gunbattle in Ramadi involving heavy machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and air strikes, the U.S. military said today. 1st Lieutenant Shawn Mercer, a spokesman for U.S. Marines operating in western Iraq, said the battle started this evening when gunmen attacked U.S. forces in the east of Ramadi, a Sunni insurgent stronghold in Anbar province. A civil defence official and an ambulance driver, both of whom declined to be identified, said as many as 26 people were killed, including some women and children. — Reuters.

ISRAEL-LEBANON

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: Lebanese anti-aircraft guns fired at Israeli warplanes over southern Lebanon today, a military spokesman said, indicating that Lebanon's army is taking a new assertiveness toward Israel. The Israeli planes had "violated Lebanese sovereignty, posing a challenge to UN Resolution 1701," the spokesman said, referring to the Security Council resolution that ended Israel's 34-day war with Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon last August. The Lebanese guns did not appear to have hit any Israeli aircraft, but the incident was the first time that the Lebanese military had fired at Israeli aircraft since the war. Israeli warplanes have flown reconnaissance missions over Lebanon for years, despite protests from the Beirut government. Israel, which often declines to comment on the operations of its air force, has defended the over-flights since the war as necessary to check that Hezbollah is not being re-armed in violation of the cease-fire. On Feb 7, Lebanese troops fired at an Israeli military bulldozer after it allegedly crossed into south Lebanon. The Israeli army fired back, but later said the bulldozer was still on the Israeli side of the UN-demarcated border. After the war, the Lebanese army deployed some 16,000 troops in southern Lebanon, where Hezbollah guerrillas had previously been in control. The United Nations has sent more than 12,000 peacekeepers to the area to monitor the cease-fire.

NIGERIA

Port Harcourt, Feb 19 — Gunmen kidnapped three Croatian oil workers from a bar in Nigeria's oil city Port Harcourt, oil industry security sources said today. The abduction, in the city's Iwofe district late yesterday, raised to nine the number of foreigners held by different armed groups in the Niger Delta, Africa's top oil-producing region. An American engineer and his Nigerian driver were released by their captors on Saturday. "They were taking a drink in a bar outside the base when militants stormed the area and took them away," an oil industry security source said of the abducted Croatians. River State Police Commissioner Felix Ogbaudu confirmed that some Croatians had been kidnapped, but said he was still awaiting details from the men's employer. — Reuters.

Lagos, Feb 21 — A Lebanese employee of Italian oil company ENI, who was kidnapped by militants in Nigeria was freed today because of poor health after 11 weeks in captivity, authorities said. Two Italians, also working for ENI, are still in the hands of the kidnappers, who took them from the Brass crude oil export terminal in the southern state of Bayelsa on December 7. Hostages in the delta often suffer from diarrhoea because of the poor quality of drinking water and malaria from the mosquitoes that are endemic in the tropical swamp. The latest release leaves eight foreign hostages in the hands of various armed groups in the vast wetlands region. — Reuters.

PAKISTAN

Quetta, Pakistan, Feb 17 — A suicide bomber in Pakistan killed 15 people, including a judge, in a courtroom in the city of Quetta today, the latest in a series of suicide blasts across the country. Intelligence officials have attributed other attacks to sectarian Sunni militants linked to al Qaeda and groups operating from tribal areas, regarded as hotbeds of support for the Taliban. Police made a string of arrests this week, including two suicide bomb teams caught in southern Pakistan. The bomb in Quetta exploded while a lower court was in session. A senior judge and six lawyers were among those killed, police in the capital of Baluchistan province said. "According to our reports a man entered the room and blew himself up. A head has been found," Baluchistan province Chief Minister Jam Mohammad Yousuf said. "It could be a continuation of what is happening in other parts of the country." At least 25 people were injured and police chief Rahu Khan Brohi said six of them were in a critical condition. The suicide attacks started after an army air strike on a militant base in South Waziristan tribal region in mid-January. Including the death toll from Quetta, nearly 45 people have been killed in bomb attacks since then, as militants have sought to destabilise President Pervez Musharraf's government and weaken his resolve to confront the Taliban, al Qaeda and their allies. Police arrested two suicide bomb teams in southern Sindh province yesterday and identified them as factions of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a Sunni Muslim sectarian militant group that has established ties with al Qaeda. One team of three militants was captured after a gunfight in the southern city of Karachi, and another team of three was caught in the evening boarding a train at Sukkur, 515 km north-east of the port city. "We found explosives, splinters, circuits and jackets used in suicide bombings, as well as Jihadi literature on them," district police officer Mazhar Nawaz said from Sukkur. Police said the militants arrested in Karachi and Sukkur had been planning attacks on Pakistan's Muslim Shi'ite minority at the end of the holy month of Muharram, which falls in the first week of March. — Reuters.

London, Feb 19 — Suspected militants blew up a 16-inch diameter pipeline yesterday, supplying gas to the Purification Plant, in the Pir Koh area of Dera Bugti. Repair work on the pipeline was in progress till midnight.

Quetta, Feb 20 — Suspected rebels blew up a gas pipeline in southwestern Pakistan today, cutting supplies to a power plant and several areas, a gas company official said. Baluch nationalist rebels in Pakistan's biggest but poorest province accuse the central government of exploiting the province's resources without sharing the benefits among its people. They frequently attack gas pipelines in their campaign for autonomy. No one was hurt in the early morning blast in the outskirts of Quetta, capital of the province which is Pakistan's main source of natural gas. "They planted explosives under an 18-inch (0.45 metre) pipeline that blew out a 4-foot piece of the pipe," said Sheikh Nawaz, General Manager of the state-owned Sui Southern Gas Company. Gas supplies were cut to four districts near Quetta and a 95 MW city power plant. Supplies might be restored to some areas within 24 hours, Nawaz said. — Reuters.

Karachi, Feb 21 — Pakistan State owned gas utility, Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), said that gas supply to four districts of Balochistan and a private power plant was restored around 0200 this morning. A spokesman said that it was suspended due to blast on Tuesday (Feb 20) as unknown terrorists has blown up a main pipeline in Akhtarabad, a suburb of Quetta, in western part of Pakistan. It was an 18-inch diameter pipeline supplying gas to Mastung, Kalat, Ziarat and Pishin districts, gas utility official said and added that about a three-foot long portion of the pipeline blown up in the explosion. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Feb 21 — The rail link between Quetta and the rest of the country was cut off as terrorists blown up a main railway line near Quetta city in western Province of Pakistan late on Tuesday night (Feb 21). According to local media, quoting police Officials: "A portion of about two feet of railway track was blown up in the powerful explosion that also rocked the entire Quetta city". Railway authorities also confirmed the damage to the main railway line and said all Quetta-bound trains coming from Lahore, Karachi, Rawalpindi and Peshawar would be stopped at different stations until the track was repaired. Meanwhile, railway engineers have started replacing the damaged portion of the track that would be restored by Wednesday morning. Police registered a case against unnamed people. No arrest was reported so far in this regard. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Feb 22 — The gas supply to purification plant owned by state owned Pakistan Petroleum Ltd (PPL) was again attacked by terrorists at Sui district in eastern part of Balochistan Province of Pakistan yesterday. According to media report, in the latest incident, the militants planted a

powerful explosive device beneath the pipeline and blew it up. A two-ft portion of the 8-inch diameter pipeline from well No.32 was damaged in the explosion. However, sources in the Sui plant while confirming the incident said that the functioning of the plant was not affected as it was also getting supply from other wells. The gas supply was not affected to any area, they said but added it caused loss. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SOMALIA

Mogadishu, Feb 19 — The Somali government has formed a new rapid reaction force to combat almost daily guerrilla-style attacks in the capital Mogadishu, the government said today. The announcement comes amid a spate of rocket and mortar strikes that have challenged the government's bid to impose security on a city that has resisted it for 16 years, including a rocket attack today that wounded four people. Deputy parliament speaker Mohamed Omar Dalha said the rapid response unit included specially trained police and military personnel equipped with heavily armed "technicals" — pickup trucks with heavy weapons that are Somalia's version of a tank. "A rapid response unit has been formed to specifically respond all cases of insecurity. They will be on call 24 hours to respond to any threats or attacks anywhere in the capital," Dalha said. Underscoring the challenges the new unit will face in Mogadishu, unknown gunmen today fired a rocket at a car full of policemen on a busy road, but missed and wounded four civilians instead. Government soldiers with Ethiopian military help have boosted patrols and checkpoints in the city to help curb the guerrilla attacks — which could be coming from any number of assailants with military weapons and an anti-government grudge. The government says they are being carried out by remnants of the Islamist movement whom they ousted with the help of Ethiopian tanks and planes in a two-week war in December. Ugandan soldiers are due to deploy in Mogadishu soon as the first contingent of an 8,000-strong African Union peacekeeping force to replace the Ethiopian presence, which infuriates many Somalis who view Ethiopia as a centuries-old rival. Also today, Somali intelligence ordered three private media groups in Mogadishu — HornAfrik Media, Shabelle TV and radio and Banadir radio — to stop reporting on the unrest in the capital, attendees at the meeting said. — Reuters.

Mogadishu, Feb 20 — Mortar bombs hit several parts of Mogadishu before dawn today, killing at least 10 people. The hilltop presidential palace, Villa Somalia, and the coastal city's defence headquarters were among the targets hit. "They showered us with rockets and a mortar also hit the compound. Luckily no one was hurt," said a government soldier who was in Villa Somalia during the attack but declined to be named for fear of reprisal. "Our troops and those from our ally Ethiopia

were forced to fire heavy artillery," he told Reuters. "We had to retaliate. These elements are being paid to cause all this destruction." A woman living nearby said several people were wounded in the surrounding streets, and a Reuters TV cameraman saw five bodies in a western neighbourhood also hit by mortar rounds. At one Mogadishu hospital alone officials said there were more than 40 wounded, three of whom died of their injuries. Deputy Defence Minister Salad Ali Jelle accused Islamist remnants of paying the attackers. "The insurgents are paying \$100 a day to whoever fires rockets and mortars at the government and people," he said. But Jelle said a 24-hour rapid response paramilitary unit that was unveiled yesterday would soon show results in its fight to stop the wave of guerrilla-style attacks. "The plan is expand our control in the city so the extremists are no longer safe anywhere," he said. — Reuters.

Mogadishu, Feb 20 — A wave of pre-dawn mortar attacks pounded Mogadishu and killed at least 16 people today in one of the most brutal bombardments since an Islamist movement was forced out of the Somali capital last month. The hilltop presidential palace, Villa Somalia, and the coastal city's defence headquarters were among the targets hit in attacks that struck many quarters of Mogadishu and sent hundreds of residents fleeing to outlying towns. "They showered us with rockets and a mortar also hit the compound. Luckily no one was hurt," said a government soldier who was in Villa Somalia during the attack. "Our troops and those from our ally Ethiopia were forced to fire heavy artillery," he said. "We had to retaliate. These elements are being paid to cause all this destruction." A spate of near-daily attacks have challenged the government's effort to impose security on the city recaptured in December by government forces and their Ethiopian allies from Islamists who controlled it for six months. The death toll climbed throughout the day today as more reports came in from across the chaotic capital, with witnesses and officials putting the total at 16 — all of them civilians. At one Mogadishu hospital alone officials said there were more than 40 wounded and those with lesser injuries were sent home. The city's taxis, buses and trucks were packed with residents heading out of town. Deputy Defence Minister Salad Ali Jelle accused Islamist remnants of paying the gunmen in the impoverished city where jobs are scarce and being a hired gun has long been one of the steadiest sources of employment for young men. "The insurgents are paying \$100 a day to whoever fires rockets and mortars at the government and people," he said. However, Jelle said a 24-hour paramilitary unit introduced on Monday would soon demonstrate its effectiveness: "The plan is to expand our control in the city so the extremists are no longer safe anywhere." Ugandan soldiers are due to deploy in Mogadishu soon as the vanguard of an 8,000-

strong African Union peacekeeping force to replace the Ethiopians. — Reuters.

SRI LANKA

Colombo, Feb 16 — Sri Lanka's navy destroyed two suspected Tamil Tiger boats off the island's north-west coast today, killing four fighters, a military official said. Navy patrol boats sank the two small boats near a series of small islands off the coastal district of Puttalam, and said divers recovered bomb-making equipment they were carrying. "The navy detected two suspicious boats this morning coming from the Indian side and ordered them to stop. They fired at us and we destroyed the two with four occupants on board," said navy spokesman Commander D.K.P. Dassanayake. "Navy divers recovered 28 bags which contained 1.5 million steel balls made in India, which are used for Claymore mines," Dassanayake added. Suspected Tiger bombers have used Claymore fragmentation mines in a series of deadly ambushes in the past year amid a new chapter in a two-decade civil war. In a separate incident, air force jets bombed a suspected Tiger mortar position near the border that separates the rebels' north-eastern de facto state from the besieged army-held northern Jaffna peninsula. — Reuters.

Colombo, Feb 21 — Suspected Tamil Tiger rebels killed three people and wounded 16 with a roadside bomb in Sri Lanka's restive east, the military said today, the latest in a spree of deadly attacks amid renewed civil war. A police inspector and two civilians were killed in the blast near Valachchenai in the island's eastern district of Batticaloa, while four police, two soldiers and 10 civilian passers-by were wounded. — Reuters.

SUDAN

Khartoum, Feb 15 — One of the biggest Darfur rebel factions said today it would respect a cease-fire and was ready to resume peace talks with the government to try to halt violence in the region that has killed some 200,000 people. Peace talks have faltered in the past, and only one of three main rebel factions signed a 2006 deal. Since then the rebels have fragmented into numerous factions, but the group which has agreed to the cease-fire is one of the largest. "We will respect the ... cease-fire and ... once we have our commanders conference we will attend peace negotiations," rebel commander Jar el-Neby told Reuters. U.N. Darfur envoy Jan Eliasson and his African Union counterpart Salim Ahmed Salim earlier met Darfur rebel commanders who rejected the 2006 deal. The U.N. Security Council is expected to consult next week on proposals for a mission to protect civilians in eastern Chad, where attacks launched from Darfur have exacerbated ethnic conflicts and displaced tens of thousands. At a French-African summit in the southern French resort Cannes today, Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic agreed not to support rebels attacking each other's territory, Sudanese

Foreign Minister Lam Akol said. "There is a commitment in this agreement that each country will respect the sovereignty of the other countries and no country will support any rebellion within its territory," Akol told reporters after the meeting. The Darfur rebels have in the past said they want the 2006 agreement to be scrapped but the government has refused to allow any changes or additions to the accord. Eliasson told a news conference that those extreme positions seemed to have softened during their talks, and "that leaves diplomatic space." Rebels have in the past rejected AU mediation in any new talks on the ground that the first peace deal, which the pan-African body mediated, was biased. "We will now be happy with mediation from the United Nations and the AU," said Neby. The joint team has not yet met the other large rebel faction, the National Redemption Front, whose political leadership is divided. Eliasson said the NRF had wanted to meet in Chad, but logistics prevented his team from travelling there. Divisions among Darfur's rebel factions have been a factor in delaying peace talks with Khartoum, and an oft-delayed conference to try to unite their positions is now due to start on February 19. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said today that he was awaiting a report from Eliasson and a reply from Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir on a hybrid peacekeeping force of U.N. and African Union troops in Darfur. Sudan has agreed to a hybrid force but has objected to more troops coming to Darfur than the 7,000-strong African Union force now on the ground. The United States is putting pressure on African governments to offer troops for the hybrid force. Most of the AU soldiers now on the ground would be incorporated into a new mission the United Nations hoped would have some 17,000 troops. But until plans are settled, few other countries, except for Bangladesh, have volunteered to send soldiers or logistic personnel Western nations are to provide. Ban also said he was disappointed Sudan had broken its promise to allow a U.N. human rights mission into Darfur. He urged Sudan to cooperate fully, adding that if Bashir "believes that there is no problem, then he should be able to receive the human rights fact-finding mission." — Reuters.

THAILAND

Bangkok, Feb 18 — Nearly two dozen bombs exploded across Thailand's Muslim south today, killing three people and wounding at least 46 in attacks on karaoke bars, a hotel and other targets in mainly urban areas, the police and army said. Most of the 23 bombs went off around 1900 hrs across the four southern provinces of Narathiwat, Yala, Pattani and Songkhla, near the Malaysian border, where more than 2,000 people have been killed in a three-year separatist insurgency. "These incidents clearly show that the militants are targeting more populated areas," army

spokesman Colonel Acra Tiprote said. The latest violence in the Muslim-dominated deep south of predominantly Buddhist Thailand came just two days after Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont said his government wanted to hold talks with Muslim insurgents. After replacing Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted by a coup last year, Surayud's military-appointed government has embarked on a peace offensive in the rebellious far south but insurgent attacks have not diminished. In Narathiwat today, one person was killed and 22 wounded in blasts at five karaoke bars in the border town of Sungai Kolok, a popular destination for Malaysian tourists. Yala was hardest hit, with two killed and 24 wounded in attacks on bars, a small hotel, petrol stations and a golf driving range, army and police said. Some areas of Pattani, including the provincial capital, were plunged into darkness after a bomb disabled a power substation. Earlier today, two people were shot dead by militants in Pattani, the provincial governor told ITV. Police radio also reported arson attacks on three schools in Narathiwat and on scores of homes in the four provinces. — Reuters.

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected Muslim insurgents in southern Thailand set fire Wednesday (Feb 21) to a warehouse storing rubber, a cornerstone of the region's economy, police said. Police said suspected rebels set fire to the largest rubber warehouse in Yala province, owned by the Southern Land Rubber Co., a joint venture between Thai and Malaysian businessmen, shortly after midnight and it was still burning more than eight hours later. Smoke blanketed large areas of Yala province as more than 30 fire trucks struggled to douse the flames, police Col. Phumphet Pipatpetphum said. The fire followed an assault by separatist rebels that killed eight people and wounded nearly 70 over a 24-hour period beginning Sunday night. Three people were arrested shortly after the attacks, Lt. Gen. Viroj Buajaron, regional commander for the south, said Tuesday. Kiert Kitikulseritham, the company manager, said all 5,000 tons of rubber were believed to have been destroyed in the blaze, with losses estimated at \$11.8 million. He said the company's 500 workers may lose their jobs.

YEMEN

Sanaa, Feb 21 — About 15 Yemeni government soldiers and an unspecified number of Shi'ite Muslim rebels were killed in clashes over the past two days, a Yemeni official said today. "There were definitely dozens of killed and injured among the ranks of the rebels, but we cannot give exact numbers because we don't have free access to the area," the official said. The latest deaths brought to about 55 the number of soldiers killed since sporadic clashes broke out on January 27 with the followers of Shi'ite rebel Abdul-Malik al-Houthi. The clashes were taking place in a mountainous area in the

northern province of Saada. Residents say Houthi's men were stationed on hilltops using machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades, making it difficult for troops to drive them out. Officials said last week that 80 of the rebels had been killed, but an aide to Houthi said the figure was exaggerated. Opposition sources said today about 40 Houthi followers had been arrested across the country. The official confirmed the arrests but did not give a figure. — Reuters.

Labour Disputes



CANADA

Ottawa, Feb 15 — Forestry firm Canfor Corp. said today it will curtail production of certain wood product operations in late February, due to poor market conditions compounded by a strike by Canadian National Railway conductors. The impact on production represents about 80 million board feet of lumber and 300 million square feet of oriented strand board on an annualized basis, the company said. — Reuters.

Winnipeg, Feb 16 — Canadian Pacific Railway declared force majeure on shipments to some terminals at the Pacific port of Vancouver because of traffic snarls related to a strike at Canadian National Railway Co., shippers said today. Problems with shipments to and from the north shore of Vancouver's Burrard Inlet were beyond CP Rail's control, it said in a memo sent to shippers declaring force majeure on contracts starting on Feb 14. "Interchange traffic and co-production with CN on the north shore is not moving smoothly and has been experiencing congestion related to events beyond CPR's reasonable control, including the strike by conductors employed by the CN," the memo said. Officials from Canadian Pacific were not available for comment. The terminals at Vancouver's north shore handle grain, chemicals, wood products and fertilizers. Owners include the Canadian division of Dow Chemical Co. as well as Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, Canada's No. 2 grain shipper. Canadian National has been using managers to try to keep trains running, but chemical companies and the Canadian Wheat Board have complained about slow-downs and asked the federal government to step in to end the strike.

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated Feb 17, states: CN customers are growing impatient with delays in delivery from the strikebound railway, but the company insists things are going relatively smoothly. The rail line has recently said service is running up to 80% of pre-strike levels, but the United Transportation Union says that number is exaggerated. "I wouldn't say service is being maintained," said the Agricore supervisor, who asked that his

name not be used. "We have about 100 rail cars full of grain that we loaded Feb 3 are still sitting here waiting to go to the west coast." Agricore isn't paid for its shipments until they are unloaded on the coast en route to foreign markets. Media reports out of Kamloops, B.C. say Petro Canada officials have complained of delayed shipments of diesel fuel, creating a shortage at retail pumps.

London, Feb 20 — The Canadian Wheat Board is paying US\$300,000 a day just to keep vessels waiting for grain at anchor off the West Coast — money that will be taken from farmer's pocketbooks — as the Canadian National Railway Co. rail strike enters its 10th day.

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated Feb 19, states: Canadian National Railway Co. asked labor regulators today to declare a strike by 2,800 workers illegal, while customers of Canadian National, the country's largest railway, complained of service disruptions. Canadian Labour Minister Jean-Pierre Blackburn called the situation untenable, and said the minority Conservative government would look at "every option" to end the dispute. A Canadian National spokesman said the railroad would prefer a negotiated settlement. Canadian National says the strike, which began on Feb 10, is illegal because it was not authorized by the United Transportation Union's international headquarters in the United States, which is the workers' official bargaining agent with CN Rail. But the UTU's Canadian negotiators, who have been at odds with the union's international leaders, say the strike was properly authorized under Canadian labour law. The union's contract with CN expired at the end of 2006. Rex Beatty, the UTU's Canadian general chairman, has said the striking freight conductors and switching yard workers will return to their jobs if the Canada Industrial Relations Board declares the strike illegal. The board continued hearings in Montreal on Monday on the legality of the strike. The workers, who are demanding higher wages and work rule changes, have not been receiving strike pay because of the intra-union dispute. Canadian National said today it has resolved service issues that forced Ford Motor Co. of Canada to idle some production at its St. Thomas, Ontario, assembly plant, and is deploying resources to resolve service problems elsewhere.

MEXICO

Mexico City, Feb 19 — Mexico's mine union said almost all of the country's mines and metals plants were shut today as workers took part in a one-day national strike in memory of 65 men killed by a coal shaft explosion a year ago. Carlos Pavon, a union leader, said 90 percent of unionised operations were closed by the strike. "The miners didn't go to work, they protested with assemblies, religious masses and marches," he told Reuters by phone from the Pasta de Conchos mine, the

site of the accident. At least three Penoles' mines were closed, including its Fresnillo silver mine, considered the world's richest deposit. Arcelo Mittal's Lazaro Cardenas steel plant was also shut by the strike, Pavon told Reuters. Major copper producer Grupo Mexico said its operations were almost entirely unaffected by the walkout, with only a few workers not showing at its San Martin zinc mine. Penoles' Francisco I. Madero zinc mine, the largest in Mexico, along with the smaller Sabinas zinc mine, were also closed by the national one-day strike called to mark the anniversary of the blast that ripped through Grupo Mexico's Pasta de Conchos mine last year. Only two bodies have been recovered from Pasta de Conchos, near the Texan border, and relatives and workers are angry that no one has been prosecuted for the tragedy. Grupo Mexico, one of Latin America's biggest miners, says the blast was an unfortunate accident and has compensated victims' families, spending \$30 million on trying to find the 63 remaining miners. Miners walked off the job in pits across 10 states, including 7,000 miners and smelter workers in the northern state of Coahuila, where the disaster happened last year, Mexico's national mine union said. — Reuters.

NETHERLANDS

London, Feb 21 — Due to a continuing unresolved dispute, towage unions at Rotterdam will go on strike from 1800, local time, today. This comes after the unions and port management failed to make any steps towards a constructive conclusion to Collective Labour Agreement negotiations. It is currently unclear how long the strike will last.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 15,000 workers downed tools at the Impala Platinum mine in Rustenburg today, the National Union of Mineworkers said. NUM spokesperson Eliphus Ngoepe said workers were demanding the dismissal of the mine hospital manager Dr John Andrews. Ngoepe said workers marched to Impala hospital two weeks ago demanding Andrews' dismissal. "Dr Andrews has no respect for patients at the hospital who are our members." He said there were a lot of other reasons workers wanted Andrews to go, including the issue of antiretroviral (ARVs) drugs. Ngoepe claimed Andrews was holding up the process of rolling-out ARVs to patients. He said that after the march, mine management allowed Andrews to address the media instead of responding to their grievances.

London, Feb 20 — Miners had returned to work at the Modikwa platinum mine after a strike that lasted more than three weeks, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and joint mine owner Anglo Platinum (Angloplat) said yesterday. "The strike was suspended yesterday". They started with the morning shift," said Onis Serothwana, the regional coordinator for the NUM. About 3 000

workers walked off the job on Jan 26 at the mine, which is jointly owned by top platinum producer Angloplat and African Rainbow Minerals (ARM). Angloplat spokesperson Simon Tebele said the strike had cost the mine more than R100 million, but he would have a final figure only later in the day. The mine owners had previously said the strike was costing an estimated R5 million a day in lost revenue. Based on that, the 24-day strike would have cost R120 million. Serothwana said the two sides still had to hammer out final details on continuous operations at the mine, which the union opposed.

Awards & Settlements



DISCRIMINATION, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 19 — A press report, dated Feb 13, states: Abbott Laboratories must pay \$6 million to a woman who alleged the company discriminated against her by refusing to fairly consider her for a job because of her age and disability, a federal jury decided on Friday (Feb 9). The jury awarded \$5.4 million in punitive damages and \$600,000 in compensatory damages to Carol Tomao, who had worked at a North Chicago-based Abbott facility as a contract employee classified as an asset tech. Tomao alleged in the civil suit that after being assured for several years she would be converted to an Abbott employee once she proved herself in the position and the health care products company made the position permanent, she was denied the opportunity after she was diagnosed with Lupus. During an interview for the position, a job that entails physical activity, Abbott's manager told Tomao that "we're all getting older and can't do things we used to" and asked her if she could still "get out there and climb around anymore," said Tomao's attorney Noelle Brennan. Abbott filled the position with a "non-disabled twentysomething-year-old" and when Tomao complained, she was out of a job within days, her attorneys said. Tomao, who is 68, was 64 at the time. "Abbott believes there is no basis for this verdict and plans to appeal the decision," said company spokesman Jonathon Hamilton.

FRAUD, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated Feb 14, states: A Houston construction crane company executive defrauded Austin-based Texas Mutual Insurance Co out of millions of dollars in workers' compensation insurance premiums and must pay more than \$8 million back, a Travis County court ruled this month. District Court Judge Orlinda Naranjo awarded Texas Mutual an \$8.2 million judgment against United Crane Inc executive Gary Quintinsky on Feb 6 after a jury

found he committed fraud by misrepresenting the payroll value of several companies in his control. Texas Mutual used that payroll amount to determine Quintinsky's workers compensation premiums at prices significantly lower than they should have been, said its lawyer, Bob O'Boyle with Austin law firm Strasburger & Price LLP. He said Quintinsky underrepresented payroll amounts by tens of millions of dollars through an elaborate conspiracy with other individuals and companies. Together, he said, they created false financial records and forged Texas Workforce Commission reports to avoid paying lawful premiums and to avoid the companies' poor claims history. O'Boyle said the damage award includes a "very unusual" \$2.5 million in exemplary damages against Quintinsky, meant to make an example out of him. Texas Mutual is the state's workers compensation insurer of last resort, set up by the legislature to provide workers' comp insurance to employers — usually high-risk or dangerous businesses — who cannot secure it on the open market. Quintinsky's lawyer, Bogdan Rentea in Austin, said his client fully intends to pursue an appeal, and would not be paying the judgment any time soon. Quintinsky has 30 days to file a motion for a new trial before appealing the verdict to Austin's Third Court of Appeals.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DISPUTE, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: A Pinellas, Florida, jury yesterday awarded \$36 million in damages in an intellectual property case, making it one of the largest verdicts in the county's history. The case involved a fight over a mathematical formula that compresses data for satellite transmissions. In April, 1999, Brent, Glenn and Joy Kovar — the majority shareholders of Satellite Access Systems Inc — sold their stock to another technology firm, Net Command Tech Inc. Brent Kovar, the inventor of an algorithm that compresses data for easier transmission between satellite and receiver, then tried to sell his technology to another bidder, said the plaintiff's lawyer David Sockol, who represented Satellite Access Systems, whose employees became shareholders in Net Command Tech. "And then after he sold it, six months later, he just decided he didn't like the deal," said Sockol. After more than an hour of a deliberation, a six-person jury found the technology was no longer Kovar's to sell and awarded SAS \$12 million. Jury awards in Florida can be tripled if clear and convincing evidence is presented that proves criminal intent.

MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated Feb 19, states: A teenager was awarded £6.6 million damages today for a birth injury which left him severely brain-damaged. Ryan

Garrigan, of Oxford, has cerebral palsy and mental impairment after he was born at the city's John Radcliffe Hospital in November, 1991. He will never walk but he has a near normal life expectancy. Deputy Judge Nicholas Wilkinson QC, at London's High Court, heard that wheelchair-bound Ryan would never be independent, would never enter the paid workforce and would need assistance 24 hours a day. Ryan was starved of oxygen towards the end of his mother's labour, but the signs were not heeded and his delivery delayed. By the time he was born by emergency caesarean section, he had already suffered brain damage. Ryan and his mother Justine were at court to hear the judge approve the settlement of their claim against Thames Valley Strategic Health Authority.

PATENT INFRINGEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated Feb 19, states: Genencor International Inc's parent Danisco A/S is liable to pay damages of \$8.2 million in a patent infringement case related to an enzyme product, according to a Delaware court ruling in favor of Novozymes A/S. The Danish firm said that, under the ruling, the damages would be paid in the form of royalty, plus interest and a share of the opposing party's legal fees. The parties have 10 days to agree on a form of the judgment reflecting the decision, and either party may appeal 30 days after the final judgment. Danisco officials said the company would assess the legal reasoning of the decisions with regard to liability and damages. Last August, Genencor voluntarily withdrew its enzyme product used in ethanol production, following the patent infringement ruling in favor of Novozymes.

WRONGFUL DEATH, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: A jury found Brookwood Medical Centre at fault in the suicide of a psychiatric patient who jumped to his death from a hospital parking deck, and awarded the man's family \$12 million. The jury decided yesterday that the hospital, owned by Dallas-based Tenet Healthcare Corp, was responsible for the death of Vaughn Hollon, 53, who was admitted in October, 2003, as a suicide risk. He died two days later. Hospital spokeswoman Debbie Hollenstein said Brookwood did nothing wrong and would appeal. According to testimony, Hollon scaled a fence in an outdoor area of a psychiatric ward, broke both legs after an initial fall to a parking deck, then died from a second jump 80 feet to the ground after escaping the grip of a nurse who tried to restrain him. "He did not receive the proper care," Hollon's mother, Mary Ellen Hollon, told The Birmingham News. According to the Alabama Jury Verdict Report, the \$12 million in punitive damages is the largest civil judgment in Alabama so far this year.

**WRONGFUL DISMISSAL,
UNITED STATES**

London, Feb 19 — A press report, dated Feb 14, states: A New Mexico state district court jury has awarded \$4.3 million in punitive damages to a fired Sandia National Laboratories cybersecurity analyst who went to federal authorities with information about national security breaches. The jury determined yesterday that the handling of Shawn Carpenter's firing was "malicious, willful, reckless, wanton, fraudulent or in bad faith." In addition to the punitive damages, the jury awarded him \$35,661 for lost wages and benefits, \$1,875 for counseling costs and \$350,000 for emotional distress. In a statement, Sandia said, "We are disappointed with the verdict but still maintain that when employees step beyond clear boundaries in a national security setting there should be consequences." An appeal is under consideration, lab officials said. Jurors found that Carpenter had been fired in violation of public policy that favours the reporting of stolen security information to appropriate federal officials. His job involved finding breaches in Sandia's computer networks. He followed the trail of hackers around the world in 2004 and discovered stolen documents about troop movements, body armour and more. He testified that his bosses told him to concern himself only with Sandia. Eventually, he shared his findings with the FBI. Carpenter told supervisors he was working with an outside agency, but it was not until the FBI talked to Sandia counterintelligence that the lab fully learned of his work. Three months later, he was fired.

Railway Accidents**MEMPHIS AREA, TENNESSEE,
UNITED STATES**

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated Feb 19, states: A train derailed on the Illinois Central/Canadian National railroad line near Warford and Chelsea in North Memphis this morning. Authorities on the scene reported no hazardous materials were involved, nor were there any injuries. Although there was one HAZMAT car, it was empty and posed no threat. Railroad officials stated that the cause of the accident was due to a broken rail on the track. Crews were expected to take most of the day righting 10 of the train's cars and repairing the track.

**MOKAMBO AREA, DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven Zambians are among 22 people who died yesterday in a train accident in Mokambo town, in Katanga Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo, near the Zambian border. The accident

happened when a Lubumbashi-bound goods train from Sakanya, carrying cement, sugar and timber in 11 wagons, derailed 10 km from Mokambo. The people were sitting on top and when the goods train reached a curve, it lost control. A total of 22 people were confirmed dead and seven of them were suspected to be Zambians. The Immigration Department was still trying to verify if there were more Zambians who had lost their lives. The driver of the train was admitted to Ronald Ross Hospital in Mufulira. The death toll was expected to rise as rescue teams were still trying to remove bodies that were trapped under the mangled coaches. Most of the people involved in the accident are believed to be cross-border traders, mainly from the mining towns of the Copperbelt.

NORTHERN PORTUGAL

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: At least one person was killed and two others were presumed dead after a passenger train derailed and plunged into a river earlier this week in northern Portugal. The train was carrying five passengers when it plunged down a hillside on the Tua Line on Monday evening (Feb 12) and into a river. The rugged terrain has made rescue operations difficult. Rescue workers believe the bodies of the two other passengers may be trapped beneath the heavy wreckage of the train or were possibly washed away by the river. A full investigation has been launched into the accident, with officials at Portuguese Rail saying they had spent Euros two million on renovating the Tua Line during the course of the last year.

POZNAN AREA, POLAND

London, Feb 21 — Eight tankers with fuel-oil have gone off the rails at the side track in the locality of Swarzedz near Poznan, western Poland. As a result, 30 tons of the substance has leaked out to the nearby drainage ditches. According to the local fire department, two ponds may have been contaminated as a result although water resources for inhabitants have been untouched. Fifteen fire fighting teams have continued rescue operations throughout the day. A special investigative commission has been set up to examine the cause of their derailment.

PRAGUE AREA, CZECH REPUBLIC

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated Feb 17, states: A EuroCity train bound for Warsaw derailed at the points between Prague Main Railway Station and the Liben district shortly before 1030 today, Jan Kucera, director of rail inspection, said. The engine and five carriages went off the rails, but there were no injuries. However, the accident has caused serious complications for railway traffic, as the most-used part of the rail system in the Czech Republic has been blocked, Kucera said. "Alternative transport by other means will be secured for the passengers from the train EC 107

'Praha'. According to the latest information, the delay will last until this evening," Czech Railways spokesman Ales Ondruj said. The accident blocked the line for trains bound for Ostrava, North Moravia, Brno, Decin, North Bohemia, Mlada Boleslav, Central Bohemia, and Hradec Kralove, East Bohemia, he added.

**RAYMONDVILLE AREA, TEXAS,
UNITED STATES**

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated Feb 17, states: A Union Pacific train derailed just north of Raymondville, Texas, today, spilling corn all over the scene. The incident happened in Kenedy County at around 1100 this morning. Investigators said one of the rail cars tipped over and created a domino effect, causing a total of thirty-three cars to derail. The train, which was headed southbound, was carrying raw corn. About 1600 feet of train track was damaged due to the accident. Trains that would normally use that route are being re-routed until the tracks are fixed.

Miscellaneous**COLLAPSE OF BUILDING,
ISTANBUL, TURKEY**

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A five-story apartment building collapsed in Istanbul early today, killing at least two people and injuring more than two dozen others, authorities said. A city worker who chanced to walk by shortly after midnight saw the building swaying and alerted people inside by shouting and throwing stones at the windows, said Istanbul Mayor Kadir Topbas. Some people managed to safely flee, but the dead and injured had become trapped on a stairway as the building toppled, said Ali Karahan, chief of Istanbul firefighter department. Rescuers pulled out the body of a woman from the rubble, while another woman died of her injuries in hospital, the Istanbul mayor's office said. Istanbul Gov. Muammer Guler said that a 7-year-old girl who was believed dead had been taken to hospital where doctors found she was still breathing. "She is alive and connected to a respiration machine," Guler said. Guler said at least 27 people were living there and several people were in a coffee shop in the basement. There was no immediate word on the condition of the injured.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

Diyarbakir, Feb 16 — Bird flu has spread to 10 villages in southeast Turkey, where four children died of the virus a year ago, but no human cases have been reported, agriculture officials said today. Provincial agriculture officials said bird flu had been detected today in two villages in Diyarbakir, one of two neighbouring

provinces in the poor and rural southeast where the virus has hit. More tests were needed to determine whether it was the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus, which was detected in the region last week. The two villages were quarantined and 340 birds were destroyed, the officials said. — Reuters. (See issue of Feb 15.)

Moscow, Feb 16 — The H5N1 strain of bird flu has killed poultry in the Moscow region for the first time, Russia's chief sanitary expert and head of a consumer watchdog was quoted by RIA news agency as saying today. "The pathogenicity of this virus for people has not been confirmed. Vets have detected it, they confirm it is the H5N1 strain," Gennady Onishchenko said. Last month Russia recorded its first cases this year of the H5N1 strain in dead domestic birds, detected in the southern Krasnodar region. Russia recorded more than 90 cases of bird flu last year. Most were in southern regions, particularly the North Caucasus area that borders Georgia and Azerbaijan. Several cases were also found in the Siberian regions of Novosibirsk and Omsk. The virus was detected in a house in the Pavlovsky settlement of the Domodedovo area near Moscow. The house was being disinfected, Onishchenko said. Workers on two farms near Moscow have been taken to hospital suspected of having the bird flu, Interfax agency cited the acting governor of the Moscow region, Alexei Pantelyeyev, as saying. He added that a few dozen birds had been culled. — Reuters.

Moscow, Feb 17 — Poultry farms around Moscow were under tight control today when two cases of bird flu near the capital were confirmed as being the deadly H5N1 strain. Russia's animal and plant health watchdog, Rosselkhozadzor, said the positive tests came from dead birds found in two villages near Moscow. "It was confirmed as H5N1," said Alexei Alexeyenko, press secretary for Rosselkhozadzor. "Tomorrow we will do more tests and be able to determine how dangerous the virus is." No human cases of bird flu have been recorded in Russia. The outbreak is Russia's second this year and the first ever recorded close to the capital. The highly pathogenic H5N1 strain killed poultry in three settlements in the southern region of Krasnodar last month. People who had been in contact with the more than 30 dead birds were taken to hospital as a precautionary measure but showed no signs of any illness, he said. Alexeyenko said the dead birds had been traced to a market on the outskirts of Moscow and had been brought there from other Russian regions. Poultry which had been in contact with the dead birds had been culled and strict sanitary measures were in place in the two affected villages — Pavlovskoye, south of Moscow, and Shikhovo, to the west, Vlasov said. Moscow Region Vice-Governor Alexei Panteleyev was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying a third case had been found on a private farm near Podolsk, south of Moscow,

where 44 birds had died. He said the owner had bought the birds at the same market, which had been closed since this morning. **STRICT MEASURES** Five people have died from eight cases in neighbouring Azerbaijan. Interfax news agency quoted Nikolai Savenko, the Moscow region's minister of food and agriculture, as saying strict measures were in place at all major poultry plants in the area. "We have tightened control on access to the main poultry plants. At every poultry plant, we will introduce daily monitoring of the condition of birds and the people working with them," the regional minister was quoted by Interfax as saying. Russia recorded more than 90 bird flu cases in chickens and other birds last year, mostly in the North Caucasus region that borders Georgia and Azerbaijan, and also in Siberia's Novosibirsk and Omsk regions. — Reuters.



COAL MINE, HULUDAO CITY, LIAONING PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Feb 19 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: Seven miners were killed and eight others injured in a coal mine gas explosion in north-east China's Liaoning province yesterday, local officials said today. The blast occurred at 1340 yesterday in the Qiupigou Coal Mine of Nanpiao Mining Administration in Huludao City of Liaoning province when 15 miners were working underground, said officials of local authorities. Four of the eight were severely injured and are still in hospital while the other four have been discharged, according to latest official resources. One of the severely injured was burned in the respiratory tract and cannot speak now. Two of the other three suffered burns to the face and hands while one suffered carbon dioxide toxicosis, said the hospital attached to Nianpiao Mining Administration. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

ELEVATOR, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

Seattle, Feb 15 — A fire broke out overnight in an elevator at Pier 86, Seattle. The extent of damage is not presently known. — Lloyd's Agents.

FACTORY, SHELBYVILLE, INDIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 16 — Smoke from a fire at a fiberglass plant in Shelbyville this morning could be seen for a time for about ten miles along Interstate 74. Firefighters from a half-dozen departments tried to snuff out the fire a Knauf Insulation, Shelbyville's largest employer. All employees were able to get out safely. Firefighters also battled below-zero temperatures and frozen fire hydrants. Officials say the

fire began about 0230 hrs in the oldest part of the plant. The cause of the fire isn't known. Television helicopter video showed flames and smoke billowing high in the air at the plant 20 miles south-east of Indianapolis. According to the company website, Knauf began a more than \$200 million renovation of the plant in 2005. The fire did not damage the four production lines in the plant, said Knauf Insulation executive Bob Claxton. He said operations in the plant would resume in one to four days.

LIBRARY, WEIMAR, GERMANY

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: A historic German library that was gutted by fire in 2004 will reopen in October following a \$15.8 million restoration, officials said today. The Duchess Anna Amalia Library in Weimar is to reopen with a ceremony on Oct 24, and the building "will look different inside and out from how we remember it," said Hellmut Seemann, president of the Foundation of Weimar Classics. The Sept 2, 2004 fire tore through the roof and top floor of the 16th-century rococo palace, which houses the library in the city where the nation's most revered writer, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, spent much of his life. Work on the facade is already complete, but Seemann said it is continuing on wooden paneling inside the building. The fire destroyed about 50,000 books, and damaged about 62,000 more, whose restoration is expected to cost \$26 million. Work to restore 30,000 books severely damaged by water and fire is expected to continue until 2015.

OIL REFINERY, DUMAS, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: A fire broke out at a West Texas refinery today, injuring at least three people and sending a huge black cloud billowing into the sky. The blaze at Valero McKee Refinery in Dumas began after an explosion, a sheriff's dispatcher in Moore County said. No other information was immediately available. A nursing supervisor at University Medical Centre in Lubbock said two patients were flying in, but their status was not known. Another injured person was taken to an Amarillo hospital, officials said. Valero Energy Corp operates 17 refineries — 16 in North America and one in Aruba. The McKee refinery, one of six in Texas, has a capacity of 170,000 barrels per day. Dumas is located about 50 miles north of Amarillo.

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: An explosion rocked a West Texas refinery today, injuring at least 13 people and sparking a blaze that sent a huge black cloud billowing into the sky. Three people with burns were in critical condition tonight, a nursing supervisor said. Ten others were in hospital, mostly for smoke-inhalation, a hospital official said. No fatalities were reported and all employees at the Valero McKee Refinery were accounted for, said Valero Energy Corp. More than 400

Receive immediate notice as soon as a Casualty occurs. For further information please contact enquiries@lloydsniu.com or call + 44 (0) 20 7017 4482

workers were evacuated from the Valero McKee Refinery after the explosion, authorities said. Paul Jenkins, fire chief in the nearby community Dumas, said Valero's fire brigade was fighting the blaze. The refinery was shut down after the blast, as were pipelines in and out of the facility, the company said. Smoke could be seen from 100 kilometres away. Valero said the fire was believed to have started at the refinery's "propane deasphalting unit," where fuel is processed at high temperatures.

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A small fire continued to burn this morning after an explosion the day before at a West Texas refinery injured nearly 20 people and sent a billowing cloudy into the sky that could be seen from 60 miles away. No fatalities were reported and all employees at the Valero McKee Refinery were accounted for, Valero Energy Corp said yesterday. One contract employee and two Valero workers with burns were transferred to University Medical Center in Lubbock, home of the regional burn unit. By today, two of the men had been upgraded to serious condition, a nursing supervisor said. Valero said yesterday that, of the 16 others taken to the hospital, only four remained hospitalised for chest pains, anxiety and stress. Valero said in a statement yesterday that the fire was believed to have started at the refinery's "propane deasphalting unit," where fuel is processed at high temperatures.

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Texas Firefighters are dousing the last flames at a west Texas refinery. An explosion on Friday (Feb 16) injured 19 people and produced a billowing cloud of smoke that could be seen 60 miles away. No deaths are reported. All employees at the Valero Energy Corporation refinery have been accounted for. The refinery was shut down after the blast, as were pipelines in and out of the facility.

PREMISES, KARACHI, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Feb 18 — A huge fire broke out in 15-storey building, owned by Pakistan National Shipping Corporation, at Moulvi Tameezuddin Road, Karachi, Sindh Province of Pakistan, this morning. According to Central Fire Brigade sources, fire started at PNSC building around 0920 today and is being extinguished by over a dozen fire tenders of the Karachi, Pakistan Navy and Karachi Port Trust. It said fire started at 11th storey of the PNSC building also spread to the 10th, 12th and 13 floors. Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping Senator Babar Khan Ghorri, has reached the spot to supervise fire fighting operation which is still going on. Officials of police and Rangers were also reached to the spot. The building house the head offices of state owned shipping corporation - PNSC, a leading fertilizer company-Engro Chemical Fertilizer, banks, and other multinational and local companies. A helicopter is called to pick up the trapped people from the top of uilding. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Feb 19 — The Central Fire Brigade and Karachi Port Trust said that a fire at the 15-story head office building of Pakistan National Shipping Corporation in Karachi was brought under control at around 0700 this morning, after 22 hours of firefighting operations. The top five floors were completely gutted, causing immense losses to the state owned shipping corporation. The control room was completely burned out, leaving the corporation facing difficulties in maintaining contact with vessels. The company's head office has been temporarily shifted to the Director General of Ports and Shipping's office in Karachi. An inspection team of different government departments, headed by a committee formed by the Minister for Ports and Shipping, will visit the building today to determine the cause of the fire. Initial estimates put the loss in millions of dollars. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Feb 19 — A huge fire broke out at the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation Building on Sunday (Feb 18), causing damage to many offices including that of the federal minister for ports and shipping and some multinational companies. The fire broke out on the 11th floor at about 0915, gutting it completely and then engulfing the 12th, 14th and 15th floors before affecting the rooftop. Firefighter thought they had the fire under control after two hours however, flames flared up again and started engulfing other areas. The Pakistan Navy despatched an Alouette helicopter, which airlifted the six stranded people on the roof. PNSC officials said that the 14th floor has been completely gutted. — Lloyd's Agents.

Karachi, Feb 20 — A inspection team of Karachi Building Control Authority and a special committee formed by Pakistan government visited 15-storey building of Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) to ascertain losses and damages caused due to huge fire on Sunday (Feb 18). The building structure needs immediate repair, initial finding suggested. According to Karachi Central Fire Station, the PNSC building is located in the territory of Karachi Port Trust (KPT) and it was their prime responsibility to control the fire. However, Karachi Central Fire Brigade provided all possible support to extinguish the fire. Five floors were completely gutted and government and private suffered a huge losses. The government official data about losses is awaited. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

REFINERY, NANTICOKE, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 15 — Imperial Oil Limited emergency response crews are battling a fire at the Esso Refinery in Nanticoke. The fire started shortly after 0800 hrs in the crude processing unit. The exact cause is under investigation. To contain and correct the incident a combined team of Imperial and the Haldimand Fire department are responding. Some residual oil is burning on the ground,

and the fire is contained. No one was hurt and all employees have been accounted for.

REFINERY, ONTARIO, CANADA

London, Feb 21 — Esso stations are running short of gasoline this week after accidents at both of Imperial Oil's refineries in Ontario. The shortages, which yesterday affected 75 of the company's 400 gas stations in the province, are being rotated to spread the pain. A number of gas bars have also been closed outright by Canadian Tire, which relies on Imperial Oil for its supply. There was an explosion and fire in December at the company's refinery in Sarnia, which provides gasoline to Imperial's own stations, as well as Canadian Tire stations and a number of independent companies. And last week, a fire at the company's Nanticoke refinery slashed its gasoline production. The facility southwest of Hamilton can now produce only half its normal 40,000 litres a day. The day after the fire, which was put out after two hours and caused no injuries, a company spokesman said the refinery would not take in new crude oil to process until it had assessed the full extent of the damage. The Nanticoke blaze was "the straw that broke the camel's back," Mr. Theberge said. "There are some service stations that will, from time to time, be without product for a few hours in the next 10 days."

STORAGE STATION, COCHIN SHIPYARD, INDIA

London, Feb 15 — A major fire broke out at the Acetylene storage station of the Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL), Feb 13 following gas leak but nobody was injured as there were no workers inside the station. The station houses 150 gas cylinders which were parallelly connected to a pipeline to supply gas for cutting steel and welding works. The leakage was suspected to be from one of the cylinders, fire force sources said. There was a bang and smoke as the asbestos roof of the station was blown off. The CSL sources said the cause of the blaze was being investigated. About 25 fire tenders from the Navy, CSL and Kerala Fire Force fought for nearly two hours to control the blaze. Fire Force sources said the gas cylinders were cooled by spraying water and they along with CSL technicians went inside the storage station and closed the valves of each cylinder.

WAREHOUSE, YALA PROVINCE, THAILAND

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



ACCIDENT, JUANDA AIRPORT, SURABAYA, INDONESIA

See PK-KKV.

**AIRCRAFT HIJACKED,
NOUAKCHOTT, MAURITANIA**

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A passenger aircraft of Air Mauritanie, servicing an interior route, this afternoon was hijacked soon after take-off in Nouakchott. Passing Western Sahara, the aircraft finally landed in the Canary Islands, where Spanish police raided it and detained the hijacker. A motive is yet to be established. The Spanish Foreign Ministry this afternoon confirmed that no one had been harmed in the raid on the hijacked Air Mauritanie Boeing 737 that had landed in a controlled way at the Las Palmas international airport on the Spanish island Gran Canaria. Spanish security sources have confirmed that the individual probably is a man of Moroccan nationality - although this has not been officially confirmed. The man is now held by Guardia Civil investigators in Las Palmas, where he is being interrogated over the incident. There are do far no indications over the hijacker's motives, but his alleged insistence to head to Paris have fuelled speculations that the hijacking was yet another spectacular emigration attempt. There are so far no indications of an attempted terrorist action. The Mauritanian aircraft was hijacked only 45 minutes after takeoff from the capital, Nouakchott. The domestic flight was said to have 71 passengers and a cabin crew of eight.

Las Palmas, Feb 15 — Passengers overpowered a suspected armed hijacker who had commandeered a Mauritanian plane today when he was knocked off his feet during a hard landing, a source close to the Mauritanian presidency said. The Air Mauritania Boeing 737 was on an internal flight in Mauritania when the hijacker, armed with pistols, demanded to be flown to France, officials said. The pilot landed in Spain's Canary Islands instead, where Spanish police arrested the man. "When the pilot landed he deliberately braked very hard. The man fell to the ground and was jumped on by passengers. He fired two bullets but there are no serious injuries," the Mauritanian source told Reuters. A spokeswoman for the Spanish emergency services said 20 people suffered minor cuts and bruises but added she knew of nobody being injured by gunfire, as one emergency services source had reported earlier. Spain's Interior Ministry said security forces arrested the hijacker and freed all 71 passengers and eight crew after the plane touched down at Gando airport on the island of Gran Canaria. Media reported the hijacker was North African. Air Mauritania's Director General Mohamed Ould El Moctar said the crew told him nobody was hurt and that the hijacker had acted alone. The plane was hijacked while on its way to the northern Mauritanian port of Nouadhibou from the capital Nouakchott and stopped for fuel in Morocco's Western Sahara after being seized. It then flew on to Las Palmas in the Spanish Canary Islands. The plane

had been originally scheduled to fly from Nouadhibou to the Canaries. — Reuters.

**AIRCRAFT MISSING, FERNANDO
DE NORONHA, BRAZIL**

London, Feb 16 — A small twin-engine aircraft heading from northeastern Brazil to Africa disappeared today near a remote Atlantic Ocean island. The Piper PA-34 Seneca took this morning from the city of Natal and was headed for Senegal, said Luciana Wacelawowsky of Brazil's National Civil Aviation Agency. The plane went missing when about 70 kilometres from the Brazilian island of Fernando de Noronha, which lies about 250 kilometres off Brazil's coast. Three Brazilian air force planes were dispatched to search for the plane. There was no immediate information available from authorities on how many people were on the aircraft - which can carry a pilot and five passengers.

C-GHPW

London, Feb 21 — While en route from Churchill, Manitoba, to Kugaaruk, Nunavut, on Feb 19, the crew of a First Air Lockheed L382 Hercules aircraft, Flight FAB701, got a low level oil indication warning from the No.2 engine. A visual examination of the engine confirmed oil streaming from the engine cowling. A precautionary engine shutdown was accomplished and the aircraft returned to Churchill without incident. Maintenance personnel inspected the Allison 501-D22A engine and found a higher than normal level of carbon in the oil scavenge filter. The filter was replaced and the aircraft was ferried back to the carrier's base in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. The engine is in the process of being replaced.

**CRASH INTO ATLANTIC,
FERNANDO DE NORONHA AREA,
BRAZIL**

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: A German pilot was killed after his aircraft crashed in the ocean off Brazil's north-eastern Atlantic coast, Brazilian media reported today. The aircraft crashed into the ocean 60 kilometers from the archipelago of Fernando de Noronha, the Folha news agency reported. The pilot was found adrift in a life raft near the aircraft wreckage and died on the way to a hospital, the Web site of the Globo TV network reported. The pilot had been flying a twin-engine Seneca and was beginning a solo trans-Atlantic flight from the north-eastern Brazilian city of Natal to Dakar, Senegal, Folha reported. An hour after takeoff this morning, the pilot radioed for permission to land in Fernando de Noronha and then disappeared from the radar, Folha said.

CRASH, CUIABA AREA, BRAZIL

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: A small aircraft carrying an air force colonel and his pilot crashed shortly after take-off in

western Brazil, killing both, authorities said today. The private single-engine aircraft crashed yesterday afternoon near the city of Cuiaba, 1,850 km north-west of Sao Paulo, Brazil's National Civil Aviation Authority said. The victims were identified as air force Col Carlos Octavio Xavier, who was on leave, and pilot Juliano Cutarelli. Aviation spokeswoman Fabiana Castro said authorities were investigating.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, KANSAS
CITY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT,
UNITED STATES**

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated Feb 19, states: An American Airlines flight to Chicago returned to Kansas City International Airport shortly after takeoff today when the crew reported smelling smoke in the cockpit. The emergency landing was a precaution and no injuries were reported, airline spokesman Tim Wagner said. It was not known what caused the smell. Wagner said the 120 people on board were transferred to another aircraft and took off a short time later. The original flight had departed about 1130 hrs.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, KARACHI,
PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Feb 20 — According to local media, an aircraft of state-owned Pakistan International Airlines, flight PIA PK 350, bound for Peshawar from Karachi with 90 passengers on board, stuck a bird soon after it took-off at 1315, yesterday. As a result one engine of Airbus was partially damaged. The Capt. Naveed Khan immediately informed the Air traffic controller and requested permission of emergency landing. The Captain first de-fueled the aircraft in air and safely landed at 1340 hrs at Karachi International Airport. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, LENSK,
YAKUTSK, RUSSIA**

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A fuel leak forced a Mi-8 helicopter with four crew and nine passengers make an emergency landing in the Yakutian town of Lensk, but nobody was injured, the regional emergency centre said today specifying the incident took place yesterday morning. It said the helicopter en route from Lensk to Vitim took off at 1035, local time, and the fuel leak was detected 34 minutes later. The pilots decided to return and safely landed after 44 minutes of flight.

**INCIDENT AT LONDON CITY
AIRPORT, LONDON,
UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated today, states: London City Airport closed its runway early today after tyres on an Air France-KLM Group SA aircraft burst on landing. The 55 passengers and five crew on the aircraft were taken safely to the terminal after the tyres burst at about 0835 hrs, London time, the airport said in an e-mailed statement, without saying how many wheels were affected. The airport later opened for departures

only, it said in a statement e-mailed at 1600 hrs. The aircraft was moving more quickly than normal as it landed and hit the ground hard. Passengers felt at least one tyre blow, and the aircraft veered to the left and then the right before coming to a halt about 10 yards short of the landing lights at the end of the runway and 200 yards from the water of the docks. Dozens of incoming and outbound flights were cancelled early today before the airport opened for departing aircraft. At 1615 hrs the airport's Web site listed as cancelled seven flights scheduled to leave after 1600 hrs, as well as seven due to arrive. Authorities are "optimistic" the airport will be open in time for evening flights, airport spokeswoman Jenny Lloyd said in a telephone interview. The aircraft involved in today's incident was operated by City Jet, a unit of Air France, Europe's largest airline. After landing, the pilot told passengers there had been a problem with the landing brakes and a flat tyre, according to the Bloomberg reporter aboard. About five minutes after the aircraft came to a halt, fire trucks arrived, and 15 minutes later, passengers were able to disembark, he said, adding that they saw the four tyres on the aircraft's underbelly had blown out. "The airport is now working with the aircraft operator, City Jet, to organize the recovery of the disabled aircraft; we expect this to take several more hours," the airport said earlier. "An investigation into the cause of the incident is under way and will continue once the aircraft has been fully recovered." Airlines affected by cancellations included Air France, British Airways Plc and Deutsche Lufthansa AG, Europe's three largest carriers.

N111SC

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: A Cessna twin-engine aircraft crash this evening in a field south-east of the Council Bluffs airport left at least two people dead. Pottawattamie County sheriff's officials said. Officials declined late this evening to say who or how many people died, only that there were fatalities. A witness reported seeing the aircraft crash at 2130 hrs and saw an explosion and flames. The aircraft was last verified to be three to four miles southeast of Council Bluffs when it went off the radar. Sheriff's officials and Council Bluffs airport officials were at the scene tonight. Cause of the crash was being investigated. A fast-moving winter storm was pushing through the area when the aircraft went down, bringing wind gusts of up to 53 mph, snow and poor visibility, according to the National Weather Service.

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated Feb 17, states: Federal Aviation Administration investigators were expected at the scene today to investigate the crash of a small aircraft that killed four people south-east of Council Bluffs Airport. Sgt Sam Arkfeld of the Pottawattamie County

Sheriff's Office confirmed late this morning that the fourth body had been found. An FAA spokesman, Tony Molinaro of Chicago, said earlier today that three bodies had been found and that a search was under way for a fourth. He said the flight originated at Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport in Bentonville, AR. The aircraft, a 1977 Cessna 340A, was registered to Color Ink of Council Bluffs, Molinaro said. The names of the victims have not been released, Arkfeld said, but Color Ink officials had been notified. A witness reported seeing the aircraft crash at 2130 yesterday and saw an explosion. The aircraft was last verified to be three to four miles south-east of Council Bluffs when it went off the radar. Molinaro said it could take up to a year for investigators to verify why the aircraft crashed. London, Feb 21 — Cessna 340A N111SC crashed near Council Bluffs, Iowa, at 0303, Feb 17, while on a flight to Council Bluffs. The aircraft was destroyed. The four persons on board were killed.

N1162M

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated Feb 19, states: One person is dead as a result of a plane crash in northwest Travis County. The single-engine crashed on private land in very rough terrain near the Lago Vista airport around 1600 hrs, today. Just off the northwest end of the runway, it drops down between 300-400 feet. That's where the wreckage of the plane was. A spokesperson from the Texas Department of Public Safety said one body was found in the wreckage, badly burned. Investigators are trying to determine if the windy conditions were a factor in the crash.

London, Feb 21 — Cessna 210K (Centurion) N1162M crashed near Lago Vista, Texas, at 2105, Feb 19, while on a flight from Lago Vista to Houston, TX. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N160TR

London, Feb 16 — Piper PA-31T N160TR, was destroyed when it crashed into a field near Rieschweiler, Germany, at 0920, UTC, Feb 2. A post crash fire ensued. The pilot, the sole person on board the aircraft, was fatally injured. The flight originated at Zweibrücken, Germany, and was en route to Split, Croatia.

N168CK

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Experts have removed flight recorders from the Canadair CL-600-2B19 Challenger 850 (N168CK), which crashed at a Moscow airport on Tuesday (Feb 13), and will hand them over to the International Aviation Committee, a committee spokesman said today. "Both flight data and cockpit voice recorders have been found and removed. It is still too early to judge their condition, but they will be opened at the committee," the spokesman told RIA Novosti. The aircraft, belonging to US company FortAero Business Aviation, crashed at

Vnukovo-3 Airport at 1630, Moscow time (1330, UTC), while taking off in a heavy snowstorm for a flight to Berlin. Three crew members — two Russians and a US citizen — were hospitalised. Alexander Badenkov, the acting transportation prosecutor of the Moscow Region, told RIA Novosti yesterday: "Two crew members are in serious condition in a coma." He said the US citizen, who is of Indian origin, was in worse condition. "We are checking all the possible scenarios, including pilot error in difficult weather conditions," he said.

N2195B

London, Feb 16 — Piper PA-34-200T N2195B, owned by the pilot, was destroyed when it crashed near Gresse-en-Vercors, France, at 1306, UTC, Feb 10. The pilot and two passengers were fatally injured. The flight originated from Shoreham Airport, United Kingdom.

N3875R

London, Feb 15 — Ranger (Vigilant) 109, N3875R, on landing, bounced and hit hangar and ended up on the side of the runway at Monticello, GA, at 2200, Feb 12. Damage is substantial.

N47480

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A Piper Cherokee aircraft piloted by a Pennsylvania man made an emergency landing yesterday at Dutchess County Airport. No one was injured. The aircraft, piloted by Marlin Lantz, made an emergency landing about 1050 hrs. The aircraft took off from Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania, en route to Sky Acres Airport in the Town of Union Vale. The flight itself was problem free, but during the final approach to the runway, the aircraft's right landing gear hit a snow bank and was damaged. The pilot then aborted the landing, and rerouted to the Dutchess County Airport. The pilot diverted to Dutchess because it has a longer runway, emergency apparatus and staff, said Deputy Peter Gerardi. The aircraft belongs to the Lehigh Valley Flying Club, of which the pilot is a member. Damage to the aircraft included the right side landing gear and right wing. A small amount of fuel leaked onto the tarmac, but was quickly contained with foam from the fire apparatus. Runway number 24 was closed for about four hours, but the remainder of the airport was reopened soon after the emergency landing. The Dutchess County Airport and New Hackensack Fire Departments responded to the scene along with the Dutchess County HazMat Team. There were no injuries. The FAA was on scene and investigated.

London, Feb 21 — Piper PA-28-181 (Cherokee Archer II) N47480 made an emergency landing at Dutchess Airport, Wappinger, New York, at 1548, Feb 17, while on a flight from Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania, to Unionvale, NY. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The three persons on board were not injured.

N600XL

See PR-GTD.

N6390U

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated Feb 19, states: A California pilot who was killed when his Cessna T210R (N6390U) crashed just after take-off from Rexburg Airport, Idaho, did not suffer a heart attack, the Madison County coroner said. Jan N. Meinzer, of Granite Bay, California, died on Feb 8 when the aircraft he was piloting veered west, crashed and skidded across the road and into some farm equipment. The aircraft then burst into flames. An autopsy showed that Meinzer died instantly from the impact of the crash and not from the subsequent fire. It also ruled out the possibility that Meinzer had suffered a heart attack, Coroner Rick Davis said last week. The Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board continue to investigate the crash. Police said Meinzer frequently flew back and forth from his home in California to Rexburg to check on property he owned in the area.

N862RW

London, Feb 19 — A press report, dated Feb 18, states: A commuter aircraft carrying 74 people ran off the end of a runway after landing at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport today, an airline spokeswoman said. No injuries were reported. The flight, travelling from Atlanta to Cleveland, landed at around 1500 hrs, said Thonnia Lee, a spokeswoman for Delta Air Lines Inc. The flight was operated by Shuttle America, a Delta connection carrier, she said. Lee said she did not know what caused the aircraft to leave the runway or how far it went off.

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated Feb 19, states: Airport Commissioner Fred Szabo said today that snow squalls were so heavy yesterday afternoon that air traffic controllers could not see where a Delta commuter aircraft touched down before the jet skidded off a runway at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating yesterday's bumpy landing of the Embraer 170, operated by Shuttle America. The aircraft was carrying 75 passengers and crew from Atlanta to Cleveland when it landed on the airport's shortest runway and ran off the end, down an embankment and through a fence on West Hangar Road. There were no injuries, although three passengers were examined at Southwest General Hospital in Berea. (See issue of Feb 20.)

London, Feb 21 — Embraer ERJ-170-100 SA N862RW, operated by Shuttle America Delta, ran off the runway on landing at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, Ohio, at 2012, Feb 18, following a flight from Atlanta, Georgia. None of the 74 passengers and two crew were injured.

PK-KKV

London, Feb 22 — Boeing 737-33A, operated by AdamAir, PK-KKV, landed hard on runway 10 at Juanda Airport, Surabaya, causing the fuselage to buckle and break near the wings at 1520, Feb 21. Aircraft written off.

PR-GTD

Sao Paulo, Feb 18 — The cockpit voice recorder from a private jet involved in Brazil's worst ever air crash and dialogues among traffic controllers point to a series of errors and misunderstandings that may have contributed to the accident, a local newspaper reported today. The 290-page transcript of the recordings, obtained by the Folha de S.Paulo, is part of an ongoing investigation into the causes of a mid-air collision between a Legacy business jet (PR-GTD) and a Boeing 737 (N600XL) on Sep 29 that killed 154 people. The Legacy and the Boeing, operated by Brazilian carrier Gol Linhas Aereas Inteligentes, clipped wings at 37,000 feet over the Amazon rain forest. The Gol aircraft crashed into the jungle, killing everyone on board. The Legacy, made by Brazilian jet maker Embraer, made an emergency landing at a remote airstrip after losing a winglet. The plane had just been delivered to ExcelAire, a charter service based in Ronkonkoma, New York. The recordings, parts of which were published by Folha, show that the ExcelAire pilots had trouble understanding the English spoken by Brazilian air traffic controllers. The aircraft was flown by Joseph Lepore, 42, and Jan Paladino, 34, both of New York state. According to the transcript, which Folha translated into Portuguese, the control tower in Sao Jose dos Campos authorised the Legacy before take-off to fly at 37,000 feet but made no mention of other altitudes foreseen in the original flight plan. Apparently unsure of what they heard, the pilots asked three times for clarification without getting a response. The transcript, which was prepared by the National Transportation Safety Board in Washington, also shows that air traffic controllers in Brasilia mistakenly believed that the Legacy was flying at 36,000 feet. The recordings suggest that Lepore and Paladino never saw the Boeing on their radar screen. At the time of impact, one of the pilots said: "What the hell was that?" Almost a half hour passed before they mentioned the possibility that they might have collided with another aircraft. A spokesman for the Brazilian Air Force, which is leading the investigation, would not confirm or deny the content of the transcript. He insisted, however, that the document was not leaked by the Air Force and complained that its publication could hamper the investigation. The transcript appears to corroborate the findings of a preliminary report in November by the Air Force, which pointed to potential problems with the Legacy's Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System. The recordings

confirm that the Legacy's transponder, which tracks an aircraft's position relative to the ground and other aircraft, was either turned off or had malfunctioned. They also show that the pilots did not realize the problem until after the collision. Under Brazilian law, it is the control tower's responsibility to notify a pilot when an aircraft's transponder is not working properly.—Reuters.

RA-85185

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated Feb 17, states: A pilot-in-training who failed to maintain a Russian passenger aircraft's speed was partly to blame for the jet slamming into a Ukrainian field last year, killing all 170 on board, a transport commission said Saturday. The Pulkovo Airlines Tupolev Tu-154 (RA-85185), returning to St. Petersburg from the Black Sea went down on Aug 22 near the south-eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk after its crew sent distress signals as a storm raged in the area. The aircraft's 10 crew members and 160 passengers were killed. The Interstate Aviation Committee said in a report that the pilots were inadequately prepared for flying under the stormy conditions and for their efforts to manoeuvre the aircraft through the storm. The commission also said the training instructions for the aircraft contained no appropriate guidance for flying under those conditions. Alexei Morozov, an investigator for the commission, said that a pilot-in-training was at the controls at the time of the incident and the more experienced pilot failed to assist him. "A lack of control over the aircraft's speed was one of the factors that led to the catastrophic situation and it was the second pilot who was responsible for overseeing this," Morozov said in televised comments. Transport Minister Igor Levitin said the aging Tupolev Tu-134 and Tu-154 aircraft would be phased out of civilian use in the next five years and pilot training requirements increased, according to Russian news agencies. "We will toughen procedures for testing pilots, increasing the number of training hours, especially for co-pilots," Levitin was quoted by RIA-Novosti as saying.

Space Vehicles



SATELLITE LAUNCH FAILURE, PACIFIC OCEAN

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: An oceangoing launch pad returned to its home port today to undergo repairs following the explosion of a rocket during an attempt to loft a communications satellite into orbit last month. Sea Launch Co.'s Odyssey Launch Platform sailed into the Port of Long Beach, the company said. "Plans for repairs on the vessel are moving forward as is the

investigation into the unsuccessful launch of Jan 30," Sea Launch said in a statement. Sea Launch sends the *Odyssey*, a converted North Sea oil drilling rig, and an accompanying mission control ship to the equator to launch satellites into orbit. The latest launch failed, with a huge explosion of the Zenit-3SL rocket enveloping the evacuated platform. The satellite payload was destroyed. Sea Launch said a flame deflector below the launch pad was lost and doors to the platform's hangar were off their supports, but the vessel's main structures were in good condition and its marine systems operational, allowing it to return home under its own power. A final damage assessment will be completed in port. The cause of the blast remains under investigation. Findings of that probe could impact the system's launch schedule, which includes five more this year.



FOOD PRODUCT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 21 — ConAgra Foods Inc. said yesterday its nationwide recall of peanut butter will cost between \$50 million and \$60 million, hurting its third-quarter earnings. ConAgra announced last Wednesday (Feb 14) that it would recall all Peter Pan and Great Value peanut butter made at its Sylvester, Ga., plant. Federal officials have linked the peanut butter to a salmonella outbreak that has sickened almost 300 people nationwide — including at least six in Iowa — since August. No deaths have been reported. The Omaha-based company said the recall costs of 6 cents to 8 cents a share will drag its fiscal 2007 results to the lower end of its recent forecast.

TOYS, WORLDWIDE

London, Feb 16 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Feb 15, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Fisher-Price, of East Aurora, N.Y., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 500,000 "Laugh and Learn" Learning Bunny Toys (an additional 700,000 were sold worldwide). The pink pompom nose can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children. No incidents/injuries have been reported. This recall involves the Laugh and Learn Learning Bunny that measures about 10-inches tall. The yellow bunny with one green and one orange ear has musical and counting sound effects. The words, "Laugh and Learn" are printed on the bunny's shirt. Product numbers involved in the recall are: K0468, K2960, K2961, K2962, K2963, K2964, K2965, K3440, K6898, K7884, L0327, and K5862. The product numbers are located on the fabric tag sewn to the

body of the bunny. Only bunnies with three dimensional pompom noses are included in this recall. Bunnies with flat or embroidered noses are not subject to this recall, manufactured in China, the toys were sold at Discount department stores and toy stores nationwide May 2006 through to December 2006 for about \$15.

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Airlines were investigating why windshields on at least 13 aircraft cracked at Denver International Airport as winds of up to 100 mph whipped through the foothills in Colorado. In Colorado, several major highways that were closed yesterday due to blowing snow and whiteout conditions reopened, though some mountain sections remained closed today. SkyWest Airlines reported cracked windshields on eight aircraft that were taking off or landing yesterday as winds gusted up to 50 mph, spokeswoman Marissa Snow said. One aircraft's windshield cracked while it was airborne. SkyWest, a regional carrier for United Airlines, said the aircraft involved were the Embraer EMB120 Brasilia and Bombardier Canadair Regional Jet, though she did not immediately have numbers. Two Frontier Airlines Airbus aircraft had their windshields crack while airborne, while two other windshields cracked while at the gate, airline spokesman Joe Hodas said. In all instances the aircraft returned to the airport and/or made it to the gate safely. No emergencies were declared and no injuries were reported. Hodas said it was unclear whether the high winds were to blame. Spokesman Steve Snyder said windshields cracked on several different makes and models of aircraft from several airlines, though he did not immediately know which and how many. None of the pilots reported flying debris, Snyder said. At least 55 flights were canceled and others were diverted. In southern Wyoming, parts of Interstate 80 were closed between Cheyenne and Laramie because of windblown snow driven by gusts over 50 mph and icy patches. In Pennsylvania, the last of hundreds of motorists stranded on a 50-mile stretch of Interstate 78 were freed Friday, but several highways remained shut as crews struggled to clear ice and snow following a monster storm that has been blamed for at least 24 deaths in the Northeast and Midwest. At least 24 deaths were blamed on the storm system and accompanying cold: six in Ohio; three in Nebraska; two each in Illinois, Indiana, New York, New Jersey and Delaware; and one each in Missouri, Pennsylvania, Virginia, New Hampshire and Louisiana.

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated Feb 17, states: Thousands of travellers heading to ski areas for the holiday weekend were stalled by giant traffic jams today as highways were blocked by crews removing snow slides. One avalanche at Berthoud Pass on Highway 40, the main road to the Winter Park ski resort, knocked a state maintenance vehicle off the road during the night, said Colorado

Department of Transportation spokeswoman Stacey Stegman. Elsewhere, avalanche crews firing explosive charges to break up potential avalanches dislodged a massive slide that buried Interstate 70, the main access from Denver and the urban Front Range corridor to many of the state's major ski resorts, including Vail and Aspen. "We've just gotten so much snow up there in the last two days," Stegman said. By the time officials reopened I-70 shortly after 1000 hrs, the traffic jam stretched east for 10 miles, Stegman said. The storm, which had moved out of the state today, piled up as much as 18 inches of snow in the mountains, Stegman said. The storm also blasted the metropolitan area with wind as high as 100 mph.

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated Feb 20, states: Passenger (cruise) *Pride of America* (80439 gt, built 2005) broke its bow moorings at Kahului yesterday afternoon, probably due to gusty trade winds that may have exceeded 50 mph. Several hundred passengers, returning from shopping or excursions, were forced to wait on Pier 1 for up to 90 minutes until the vessel could be corralled and tied up again. Kahului Harbormaster Steve Pfister said there were no reports of injuries or serious damage. When the ship pulled away at about 1530 hrs, it broke its water connection and dragged the passenger loading ramp off the pier. Its bow thrusters helped keep it under some control, although it was unable to get itself docked. The harbour assist tug *Pacific Spirit*, which was not manned, was called into emergency service. With the tug pushing and the thrusters working, the vessel slowly manoeuvred itself back alongside Pier 1. By about 1730 hrs, the vessel had tied up again, although with lighter Caribbean lines. (Note — *Pride of America* sailed Kahului Feb 20.)

WATER HEATERS, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 21 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated today, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Water Heating Division of Rheem Sales Company Inc., of Montgomery, Ala. and Paloma Industries Inc., of Oxnard, Calif., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 42,200 Power Vent tankless water heaters. Components inside the water heater may shift during transit, causing an air filter door switch to operate improperly. If the switch fails and the air filter door is out of place, the water heater could continue to operate and dust and lint could build up, posing a carbon monoxide poisoning hazard. No injuries/incidents have been reported. The recall involves indoor models of the Power Vent 199,900 BTUH tankless water heaters. The water heaters have a cream jacket or gray jacket enclosure with the piping on the top and bottom of the unit. The rating plate is a silver label located the front of the unit, in the lower right hand corner. Manufactured in Japan, the heaters were sold by retailers nation-wide and

through plumbing wholesale distributors to plumbers, contractors and consumers from May 2004 through to December 2006 for between \$800 and \$1,300.



BANGLADESH

London, Feb 22 — The persisting tussle between foreign and local ship owners is greatly hampering exports making thousands of tonnes of cargo stockpiled at the ports. Around, 21,000 tonnes of raw jute to be exported to Pakistan piled up at Mongla port

recently due to conflicts between the two groups of ship owners, according to sources. Foreign flag carrier vessels have to take a waiver (no objection certificate) from Bangladesh government before loading any export cargo as the flag vessel protection ordinance 1982 gives priority to local vessels to carry goods from the country. Local ships take advantage of this and create obstacles to foreign vessels in getting waiver from the government and loading export goods. But they (local vessels) often cannot carry those due to various reasons like engine breakdown, lack of capacity, bad weather etc. And sometimes they are reluctant to carry cargo considering the freight unacceptable and the routes not suitable for them, the sources pointed out. There are 28 local vessels including 11 public sector ones which are unable to carry all export cargo

from the country. As a result, those frequently fail to maintain expected time of arrival (ETA) and expected time of departure (ETD). On the other hand, foreign ships cannot load cargo without clearance from the Department of Shipping that there are no local ships to carry the goods or they are unable to carry those

GUINEA

See “Guinea” under “Political & Civil Unrest”.

ITALY

Genoa, Feb 19 — One container vessel and one tanker waiting for berth at Genoa. Average number delays in berthing 12 to 24 hours. La Spezia: No vessels waiting for berth. Savona: No vessels waiting normal berth. Two vessels waiting special berth. — Lloyd’s Agents.

Port Delays

Information received from BIMCO, Denmark and the Indian Ports Association

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	26-Feb-2007	Feb 26: Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 6 vessels due by 14/3
Brisbane	28-Feb-2007	Feb 28: Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth; Ten vessels due by 1/3..
Dalrymple Bay	26-Feb-2007	Feb 26: Coal: DBCT berth 1: 2 vessels waiting; DBCT berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; DBCT berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; other vessels not scheduled: 24 vessels waiting; 27 vessels due by 16/3.
Dampier	26-Feb-2007	Feb 26: Iron ore: Parker Point berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 11 vessels due by 14/3; Parker Point berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 5 vessels due by 12/3; Parker Point berth 3: dredging underway until the end of February; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; 8 vessels due by 8/3.
Esperance	28-Feb-2007	Feb 28: Grain: 4 vessels due by 15/3, 3 to load wheat, 1 unknown grain cargo; up to 10 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Feb 26: Iron ore: 3 vessels due by 9/3.
Geraldton	28-Feb-2007	Feb 28: Grain: 1 vessel due 13/3 to load unknown grain cargo. Feb 26: Iron ore: 3 vessels at anchorage; 1 vessel due 28/2; regular maintenance shutdowns are expected at berth No. 4 during construction of new iron ore berth 5; confirmed first shutdown dates for berth 4 are 3-5/4.
Gladstone	26-Feb-2007	Feb 26: Coal: R.G. Tanna (Clinton) coal terminal: 3 vessels berthed, 10 waiting; 36 vessels due by 5/4; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed, 2 waiting; 11 vessels due by 5/5.
Hay Point	26-Feb-2007	Feb 26: Coal: Berth 1: berth closed for approx. 1 month for maintenance from 19/2; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 8 waiting; 8 other vessels waiting, not yet scheduled and 13 vessels due by 18/3, not yet scheduled.
Newcastle	28-Feb-2007 26-Feb-2007	Feb 28: Grain: 5 vessels due by 23/2, of which 3 to load wheat, 1 canola, 1 wheat/barley. Feb 26: Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 3 vessels berthed and loading, 42 waiting; 43 vessels due by 20/3; 17-23 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; approx. 42 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 24 waiting; 14 vessels due by 20/3; 19-23 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 24 vessels off port awaiting coal.
Port Adelaide	28-Feb-2007	Feb 28: Grain: No. 27 berth: 5 vessels due by 30/4, 1 to load peas, 1 pulses, 2 wheat, 1 barley. The terminal will be closed to export shipping from 14/5 to 3/6 for maintenance to shipping weighers and rain inwards infrastructure.
Port Hedland	26-Feb-2007	Feb 26: Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), “A” berth: 4 vessels waiting; 3 vessels due by 5/3; shiploader maintenance: 48 hrs. from 18.00 25/2 to 18.00 hrs. 27/2; “B” berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 5 vessels due by 1/3; shiploader maintenance: 12 hours from 06.00-18.00 hrs. 2/3; 5 other vessels due by 23/2, no e.t.a. received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) “C” berth: berth undergoing refurbishment and closed until further notice; Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) “D” berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 5 vessels due by 6/3; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel due 1/3.

Receive immediate notice as soon as a Casualty occurs. For further information please contact enquiries@lloydsmiu.com or call + 44 (0) 20 7017 4482

Port Conditions

Port Kembla	28-Feb-2007	Feb 28: Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 14 vessels due by 3/4.
	27-Feb-2007	Feb 27: Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 14 vessels due by 3/4.
Port Walcott	26-Feb-2007	Feb 26: Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 8 waiting; 9 vessels due by 11/3; shippers may experience product shortage which might affect berthing schedules.
Whyalla	26-Feb-2007	Feb 26: Iron ore: 3 vessels due by 15/3; 3 vessels due by 25/4 for transshipping - loading by barge at anchorage; ore jetty belt maintenance from 19-25/3 inclusive.
Azerbaijan		
Apsheron	26-Feb-2007	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 1 vessel due 27/2 to discharge crude oil.
Baku	26-Feb-2007	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: 1 vessel berthed, completed discharging crude oil; Sangachal district: no vessels.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	26-Feb-2007	Three vessels in port operating, of which 1 loading coils, 2 discharging (1 copper concentrate, 1 equipment); 2 vessels in roads, of which 1 to load coils, 1 to discharge gasoil; 17 vessels due, of which 7 to load (4 coils, 1 containers, 1 gasoil, 1 baryte concentrate), 10 to discharge (2 zinc/copper concentrate, 1 copper concentrate, 1 coke, 1 DRI, 1 iron ore, 1 raw sugar, 1 iron ore, 1 containers, 1 gum).
Varna	26-Feb-2007	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 19-25 February: Twenty-five vessels in port operating of which 14 loading (1 miscellaneous cargo/bagged and dense soda, 1 bulk wheat, 1 bulk clinker, 1 bulk maize, 1 packed hardboard, 1 equipment in cases, 2 scrap, 1 TSP/soda, 1 caustic soda solution, 4 soda), 6 discharging (1 raw phosphate, 3 bulk coal, 1 containers, 1 petcoke), 5 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.
Cyprus		
Larnaca	27-Feb-2007	Five conventional vessels discharging at berth; 1 conventional vessel due 28/2; no delays expected.
Limassol	27-Feb-2007	One container vessel discharging/loading at berth, 1 conventional vessel discharging at berth; 6 container vessels, 4 conventional vessels due 28/2; no delays expected.
Egypt		
Adabiya	26-Feb-2007	Three vessels berthed (loading/discharging), all general cargo.
Alexandria	26-Feb-2007	Thirty-seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 29 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 2 container vessels, 1 passenger vessel; 7 vessels at inner anchorage, 17 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	26-Feb-2007	Seventeen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 10 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 5 container vessels; 6 vessels at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	26-Feb-2007	Thirteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 6 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 3 container vessels; no vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	26-Feb-2007	Five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 2 container vessels.
Suez	26-Feb-2007	Five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 3 passenger vessels; 2 tugs, 2 vessels dry-docked.
Suez Canal	26-Feb-2007	Twenty-five vessels transiting Northbound, 28 Southbound.
Estonia		
Tallinn	26-Feb-2007	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 1 coal vessel loading at berth, 1 ammonium nitrate vessel discharging at berth; no vessels anchored; 2 vessels due, with 9 days berthing delay expected.
Georgia		
Batumi	26-Feb-2007	Oil products: 1 vessel loading crude oil; 1 vessel due 8/3 to load gasoil.
Poti	26-Feb-2007	Oil products: 1 vessel in roads to discharge gasoline; 4 vessels due by 3/2, all to load, of which 2 gasoil, 1 jet fuel, 1 unknown cargo.
India		
Kolkata	26-Feb-2007	5 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading General Cargo, 2 vessels discharging (Logs, Edible Oil), 1 vessel waiting to load General Cargo, 1 vessel working at midstream loading Iron Ore, 4 vessels working at midstream discharging (Logs-2, Pulse, Crude); 1 vessel not ready to work at anchorage to discharge; 4 vessels under repair; 1 vessel under dry docked; 1 vessel under arrest.
Haldia	26-Feb-2007	15 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels loading (Iron Ore-5, POL), 6 vessels discharging (Crude-2, Coke, Sulphur, Rock, P. Acid), 3 vessels waiting to load (Iron Ore-2, Containers); 4 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load, 1 to load & discharge), 5 vessels waiting berth at anchorage (2 to discharge, 2 to load, 1 to load & discharge); 4 vessels due (Crude, Thermal Coal, Butadin, Containers).
Paradip	26-Feb-2007	9 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Iron Ore-2, Thermal Coal, Ch. Con, 6 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, N. C. Coal-3, Lime Stone); 11 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (5 to discharge, 6 to load), 4 vessels waiting berth at anchorage (3 to load, 1 to discharge); 20 vessels due.
Vizag	26-Feb-2007	15 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Iron Ore-2, Pig Iron, Thermal Coal, Product Tankers), 10 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, Project Cargo, Ammonia Nitrate, Urea, Met Coke, Steam Coal, Rock phosphate, Product Tankers) ; 10 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (5 to discharge, 5 to load); 1 vessel under arrest; 36 vessels due (Iron Ore-13, Soya-2, BF Slag, River Sand, Cement, Illuminate Sand, Product Tankers, Sulphur, Timber Logs, Coking Coal-8, Steel Pipes, Containers-2, Passenger, Alumina, Liquid Ammonia, Crude).

Receive immediate notice as soon as a Casualty occurs. For further information please contact enquiries@lloydsniu.com or call + 44 (0) 20 7017 4482

Port Conditions

Chennai	26-Feb-2007	17 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (IOL/Iron Ore, High Speed Diesel, Iron Ore), 9 vessels discharging (Wheat, Met Coke-3, Steam Coal-3, Steel/Project/Steel Coil, Scrap), 5 vessels loading and discharging (Project/Granite Blocks, Cars, Containers-3); 3 vessels due (Dredger, Furance Oil, Supply).
Tuticorin	26-Feb-2007	7 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading General Cargo, 5 vessels discharging (R. Cashew, Thermal Coal, Co. Con., D. Oil, Coal); 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load, 2 vessels awaiting order at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load).
Cochin	26-Feb-2007	1 vessel operating at berth loading and discharging Containers.
New Mangalore	26-Feb-2007	6 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (POL Product, Iron Ore Fines), 2 vessels discharging (Fertilizer, Timber); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 16 vessels due (POL Product-2, Phosphoric Acid, Iron Ore (P)-2, Coal-3, POL Crude-2, Methanol, Containers, Timber, Cement, Lime Stone, Cr. Palm Oil).
Mormugao	26-Feb-2007	2 vessels operating at berth loading (Iron Ore, C. P. Coke); 6 vessels working at midstream loading Iron Ore; 2 vessel under dry docked; 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 11 vessels due (Coal, Met Coke, Containers, Iron Ore-8).
Mumbai	26-Feb-2007	11 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Steel, General/Vehicles, Project Cargo), 5 vessels discharging (Bulk Rock Phosphate, Steel Coils/Sheets, POL-2), 1 vessel loading and discharging General Cargo; 3 vessels awaiting order at anchorage to discharge, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to load, 1 to load and discharge); 13 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 5 vessels under arrest; 1 vessel under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 30 vessels due (Containers-5, Oil-3, Fertilizer (RM)-2, General Cargo-20).
J.N.P.T.	26-Feb-2007	12 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading MOL, 2 vessels discharging (Cement, Edible Oil), 9 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to load and discharge; 4 vessels due Containers.
Kandla	26-Feb-2007	15 vessels operating at berth of which 9 vessels loading (Agriculture Product-5, Bentonite, Zinc, Furnace Oil, Chemical), 5 vessels discharging (Timber Logs-2, Coal, Furance Oil, CPO), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 7 vessels not ready to work at anchorage (4 to load, 3 to discharge).
Ennore	26-Feb-2007	2 vessels operating at berth discharging Coal; 2 vessels due (MV Good Season (Coal), MV Wel Yuan (Coal)).
Israel		
Ashdod	27-Feb-2007	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel loading at berth, 12 vessels discharging at berth (7 general cargo, 5 bulkers), 5 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 10 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (8 general cargo, 2 bulkers); 22 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected..
Eilat	27-Feb-2007	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels discharging at berth; 2 general cargo vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; no vessels due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	27-Feb-2007	No labour problems. Four vessels discharging at berth (2 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 13 loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 1 car carrier, 6 tankers, 1 passenger vessel); 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (1 containers, 1 tanker); 7 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 23 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	26-Feb-2007	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, all loading crude oil; 11 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargo; 3 vessels due by 26/2, all to load unknown cargoes.
Pakistan		
Karachi	26-Feb-2007	Four vessels loading at berth (1 petrol, 3 rice), 5 discharging at berth (2 crude oil, 1 coal, 1 general cargo, 1 jute), 6 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 1 chemicals); 6 vessels due (3 containers, 1 general cargo, 1 vehicles, 1 scrap), with no berthing delays expected. .
Port Qasim	26-Feb-2007	One wheat vessel loading at berth, 2 vessels discharging at berth (1 palm oil, 1 rape seed); 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 1 fuel oil, 1 project cargo)
Russia		
Novorossiysk	26-Feb-2007	Thirteen vessels in port operating, of which 11 loading, (1 bulk cement, 2 vegetable oil, 1 bulk urea/bulk NPK, 1 steel billets, 1 pipes/steel billets/coils, 1 slabs/pipes, 1 bulk urea, 1 barley, 2 diesel oil), 2 discharging bulk sugar; 7 vessels waiting in roads, of which 5 to load (1 equipment, 1 pipes, 1 H-beams/steel billets, 2 wheat), 2 to discharge bulk sugar; 76 vessels due, of which 62 to load (3 DRI, 12 steel billets, 6 copper, 9 coils, 1 copper/copper WRIC, 1 steel billets/steel sheets, 2 vegetable oil, 2 pipes, 2 slabs, 2 cellulose, 1 HBI, 1 scrap, 1 barley, 2 WRIC, 1 steel billets/vehicles, 1 lead, 2 pig-iron, 1 UAN solution, 3 aluminium, 1 bulk NPK, 1 tin plate/coils, 1 steel billets/steel sheets/coils, 1 wheat, 1 steel sheets, 1 bulk urea, 3 diesel oil), 12 to discharge (1 pipes, 2 vegetable oil, 3 bulk sugar, 3 bananas, 2 citrus, 1 zinc concentrate), 2 to discharge/load containers. Oil terminal: 2 tankers berthed, both loading, of which 1 crude oil, 1 diesel oil; 5 tankers in roads, all to load, of which 4 crude oil, 1 diesel oil; 10 tankers due, all to load, of which 7 crude oil, 1 fuel oil, 2 diesel oil.

A complete online archive covering the last 10 years of Lloyd's Casualty Week. For further information please call +44 (0) 20 7017 4482.

Port Conditions

Spain

Bilbao 26-Feb-2007 Thirty-one vessels operating (3 tankers, 28 other vessels), of which 7 loading, 11 discharging, 13 loading/discharging.

Sri Lanka

Colombo 26-Feb-2007 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. Seven container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 21 vessels discharging at berth (14 containers/ feeders, 1 bulk fertiliser, 1 bagged fertiliser, 1 Ro/Ro, 3 bulk cement, 1 bagged maize); 2 container/ feeder vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 container/ feeders, 1 bulk cement); 5 vessels dry-docked; 8 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.

Turkmenistan

Turkmenbashi 26-Feb-2007 Oil products: 3 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 2 transhipping HPGO, 1 to load unknown cargo; 1 vessel due 26/2 to load gasoline.

Ukraine

Ilichevsk 26-Feb-2007 Ten vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (2 steel products, 2 iron ore concentrate, 2 sunflower oil, 1 barley), 3 loading/discharging containers; 6 vessels in roads, of which 3 to load (1 steel products, 1 wheat, 1 project cargo), 3 to load/discharge containers; 22 vessels due, of which 14 to load (10 steel products, 1 sulphur, 1 pellets, 1 project cargo, 1 iron ore), 3 to discharge (2 palm oil, 1 general cargo), 5 to load/discharge containers.

Mariupol 26-Feb-2007 Eight vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 4 steel, 3 coal, 1 sunflower seeds; 4 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 3 steel, 1 coke; 38 vessels due, of which 36 to load (27 steel, 1 fire-clay, 5 coal, 1 sulphur, 1 fire-clay/kaolin, 1 equipment), 1 to discharge equipment/containers/heavy lift cargo, 1 to load/discharge containers/steel.

Odessa 26-Feb-2007 Twenty-five vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (7 metal, 1 scrap, 2 pig-iron, 1 barley, 1 wheat), 9 discharging (2 luggage, 1 general cargo, 2 citrus, 1 bananas, 2 sugar, 1 meat), 2 discharging/ loading containers, 2 passenger vessels; 6 vessels in roads, of which 2 to load metal, 1 to discharge metal, 3 to discharge/ load containers; 89 vessels due, of which 44 to load (27 metal, 4 pig-iron, 1 scrap, 1 oil, 1 coal, 1 soya, 3 wheat, 2 barley, 1 rice, 1 general cargo, 1 corn, 1 timber), 10 to discharge (1 metal, 5 citrus, 1 general cargo, 1 bananas, 1 sugar, 1 fish), 35 to discharge/load containers.

United States

Beaumont 27-Feb-2007 Louis Dreyfus terminal: 3 days delay.

Galveston 27-Feb-2007 ADM-Farmland terminal: 3-4 days delay

New Orleans 27-Feb-2007 Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1-2 days delay expected;

Cargill-Westwego: 5 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 10 days delay expected;

Bunge/Destrehan: 3 days delay; ADM/Destrehan: 10 days delay expected;

ADM/Reserve: 10 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 4 days delay expected;

ADM/Paulina: 10 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 1-2 days delay expected;

Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting:

Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: no delays; Mile 158.0 Myrtle Grove midstream terminal: 2

days delay; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: no delays

Seattle 27-Feb-2007 Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 2 days delay.

Tacoma 27-Feb-2007 Temco terminal: 2 days delay.

Published by Lloyd's MIU, Telephone House, 69-77 Paul Street, London, EC2A 4LQ.

Lloyd's MIU does not guarantee the accuracy of the information contained in this publication, nor accept responsibility for errors or omissions or their consequences.

Copyright © Lloyd's MIU. This casualty information is copyright. Unauthorised copying prohibited by law.

ISSN 0047 4908

If subscribers wish to purchase records for networkable or shared use within their company they can contact enquiries@lloydsmiu.com or call + 44 (0) 20 7017 4482

Lloyd's is the registered trademark of the Society incorporated by the Lloyd's Act 1871 by the name of Lloyd's

Receive immediate notice as soon as a Casualty occurs. For further information please contact enquiries@lloydsmiu.com or call + 44 (0) 20 7017 4482