

Singapore seeks release of seized tugs and barges

Indonesia accused of extending sand ban, writes Marcus Hand - Wednesday 7 March 2007

SINGAPORE is seeking the immediate release of 24 tugs and barges carrying granite detained by the Indonesian authorities as shipping becomes caught in a bilateral diplomatic squabble.

Indonesia, which banned exports of sand to Singapore a month ago, has now detained 24 vessels carrying granite chips for export to the neighbouring republic.

"We received reports that the Indonesian Navy was interdicting and detaining tugboats and barges carrying granite chips from Indonesia to Singapore," Singapore's Foreign Minister George Yeo told the country's parliament on Monday.

"As of this morning, some 12 tugboats and 12 barges have been detained, most of which fly the Singapore flag."

Mr Yeo said that Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda had assured him there was no ban on granite exports from Indonesia. Indonesian Trade Minister Mari Pangestu also confirmed there was no ban on granite exports but acknowledged there were several barges carrying granite chips had been detained.

Mr Yeo said Singapore had asked the Indonesian government to take immediate action to release the detained vessels.

Following the ban on sand exports on February 5, shipping would seem to be getting caught up in a political tussle.

A report at the weekend quoted Indonesian Maritime and Fisheries Minister Freddy Numberi as saying: "Politically, we banned the export of sand because we wanted it to have a larger economic value

and we also want to settle our border disputes with Singapore."

The Singapore government said it is seeking urgent clarification of the report.

The ban on sand exports has also been linked to Indonesia putting pressure on Singapore in negotiations over an extradition treaty. Meanwhile, the Indonesian Navy said it had stepped up patrols on the sea border with Singapore to prevent the illegal smuggling of sand.

Commodore Denny Novendy of Western Fleet Command's Sea Security Taskforce said that the price of sand had soared to

S\$50 (\$33) per cu m in Singapore, while it was only S\$6.5 per cu m when the sand exports were still allowed, Indonesian news agency Antara reported.

"So who would not be allured [to export the sand]?" he said. The navy has stationed 18 vessels to watch the country's waters for vessels engaging in illegal export of sand.

It is not the first time Indonesia has banned sand exports to Singapore, or that shipping has got caught in the middle.

In 2002, the Indonesian Navy detained 13 vessels including several dredgers belonging to major international owners.

Rotterdam towage strikers reject Smit offer of mediator

Wednesday 7 March 2007

SMIT harbour towage employees resumed strike action in the port of Rotterdam at 0900 hours GMT yesterday morning, writes Helen Hill in Amsterdam .

Rotterdam firm Smit handles around 70% of the towage in the port. Believed to be a strike of at least 24 hours, the FNV union is expected to decide if it will lengthen the strike this morning. Smit spokeswoman Claudia van Andel said: "We are sad to report that we have had a letter from the union that they do not want a mediator."

The union had rejected the offer of a mediator chosen by the union and on the same day Smit had learned that they were to strike again, she added.

"We can't understand this, what have they got to lose? We thought they wanted to end this."

Around 20 vessels were caught up in the strike action last week. The dispute centres on a row over a pay increase. Negotiations concerning a collective labour agreement have failed so far.

Smit had originally offered its harbour towage employees a 4% structural pay rise, plus an incidental bonus of € 2,000 (\$2,621) for this year and 2008. But this offer was withdrawn following the first strike. The FNV is believed to want an 8% pay rise plus a bonus, but this is only for this year.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
AGATE ISLAND	cargo/ training	KNA	—	12,243	13,021	1977	Sank Feb 25 in lat 29 55.55S, long 32 25.38E, 65 miles east of Durban.
APL CORONADO	general	ATG	GL	3,850	4,620	1997	Reported Feb 4 in drydock at Balboa due bottom damages sustained at Guayaquil.
CHELSEA-4	general	GEO	RS	5,184	5,690	—	In collision with floating crane 2199 <i>ESCTT Carola</i> which was pushed against general cargo <i>Spania</i> , while berthing at Constantza Feb 23. Holes to starboard, some below waterline. Reported Mar 1 repairs complete and loading.
CONTI HARMONY	container	CYP	GL	31,207	38,421	1997	Had machinery failure, stern tube leakage Feb 7. Towed to Osaka. To be towed to Aioi for repairs. ETC Mar 1.
CORONIS	bulker	BHS	ABS	40,485	69,994	2006	Grounded off Copenhagen in lat 55 38N, long 12 41E, Feb 26. Detained. Awaiting divers report. Fuel being removed. Refloated Feb 28. Anchored Koge Bay.
FEDERAL MATANE	bulker	ATG	GL	18,825	27,781	2004	Grounded in the Delaware River, in lat 39 32N, long 75 34W, Feb 25. Refloated by tug same day and anchored. Restricted from sailing pending underwater inspection. Arrived Marcus Hook Feb 25.
GRACECHURCH JUPITER	container	ATG	GL	6,277	7,977	2002	Reported Feb 26 drifting in lat 49 20N, long 06 45W, changing cylinder head. Taken in tow by tug Anglian Princess Feb 27. Arrived Falmouth same day for repairs
ID SYMPHONY	bulker	PAN	NK	14,431	23,716	1995	Had main engine failure and anchored in lat 42 37N, long 70 40W, 6 miles off Gloucester, Massachusetts, Feb 23. Two tugs towing to Portsmouth NH. Arrived Feb 24 for cylinder rebuild. ETC several weeks.
MSC SUEZ	container	PAN	GL	37,071	47,120	1993	Reported an engine-room fire in lat 38 10S, long 140 35E, between Melbourne and Adelaide Feb 21. Extinguished same day. Proceeded for Adelaide Feb 22. Arrived Feb 25.
OCEAN CAROLINE	ro-ro	NIS	BV	2,317	1,458	1973	Reported leaking and in danger of sinking 62 miles north-west of Gdynia Feb 25. Eight of 11 crew evacuated. Listing 45 deg. Water in cargo hold. Under tow to Karlskrona. Arrived Feb 26. Still listing.
PRUDENCE	general	NLD	BV	1,556	1,780	2003	Struck the Goole railway swing bridge in lat 53 42.48N, long 00 50.24W. Heavy damage to port bow. Due in Hull Mar 1 for repairs. ETC 7-10 days.
STENA ADVENTURER	passenger/ ro-ro	GBR	LR	44,200	9,400	2003	Reported Feb 25 out of service between Holyhead and Dublin due engine trouble. Not expected back before Mar 6.
XANADU	bulker	ATG	NK	24,844	42,312	1984	Grounded in the River Orinoco, near Puerto Ordaz Feb 7. Refloated by tugs same day. Propeller damaged. Proceeded to Curacao, where investigation revealed more damage.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AGATE ISLAND (St. Kitts-Nevis)

London, Feb 25 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0800, UTC: Cargo/training *Agate Island* (12243 gt, built 1977), bound India in tow of tug/supply *Rig Deliverer* to be broken up, sank in lat 29 55.55S, long 32 25.38E, time/date unknown.

London, Feb 25 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0810, UTC: Cargo/training *Agate Island* sank at 0603, UTC, today following a leak. Vessel has been sitting off the South African coast for some time, undergoing maintenance work.

London, Feb 26 — Cargo/training *Agate Island* was in tow to the scrapyard and when it sank approximately 65 nautical miles east of Durban at 0805 yesterday. The vessel had been in tow by tug/supply *Rig Deliverer*. Dive Solutions from Durban working off dive support vessel *Ocean Stroom* had attempted to pump the engine-room until it became too dangerous. *Rig Deliverer* had cut the tow at around 0630 hrs.

AKTI (Panama)

Piraeus, Feb 22 — Bulker *Akti* arrived Piraeus Feb 19 from Israel. — Lloyd's Agents.

Piraeus, Feb 26 — Repairs to bulker *Akti* were completed today and it will sail tomorrow for Argentina. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALYSSA M.II

Wellington, Feb 27 — Yacht *Alyssa M.II* and tug *Svitzer Celeste* sailed from Nelson at 1010, this morning, bound for Hong Kong. — Lloyd's Agents.

AMANDA (Netherlands Antilles)

See *Flinterborg*.

ANDREW J.BARBERI (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A federal judge today denied New York city's request to limit the amount of damages it owes in the ferry *Andrew J.Barberi* crash that killed 11 people and injured dozens of others in 2003. Scores of plaintiffs have sued the city for damages that lawyers say could reach billions of dollars, but the city had sought to cap civil claims to a total of \$14.4 million under a 19th century maritime statute. The city has already settled some civil lawsuits over the crash on Oct 15, 2003, when the ferry slammed into a concrete pier. Last year, the city agreed to pay \$3 million to the estate of a woman who died two months after the crash. The largest settlement so far, close to \$9 million, was reached last year with a man who lost both legs. Ferry pilot Richard Smith was sentenced to 18 months in prison for passing out at the helm of the vessel before the crash. The city's former ferry director, Patrick Ryan,

received a year and one day for not enforcing a rule requiring two pilots to operate ferries during docking.

ANNA L. (Greece)

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

APL CORONADO (Antigua & Barbuda)

Balboa, Feb 22 — General cargo *APL Coronado* (3850 gt, built 1997), which arrived at Balboa on Feb 4, is presently in dry dock reportedly in connection with bottom damages previously sustained at Guayaquil. — Lloyd's Agents.

ATLANTIC NAVIGATOR (Faroe Islands)

London, Feb 24 — A Torshavn MRCC report, dated Feb 19, states: Around 2125, UTC, today a large fishing vessel (trawler (All types) *Atlantic Navigator*) grounded on Kunoyarnes. Most of the crew abandoned the ship immediately. Ships and small boat from Klaksvik brought them ashore. Coast Guard vessel *Brimil* and fishing Fagraberg assisted by *Ziska*, have since refloated the fishing vessel and towed it alongside. Duration of operation three hours 51 minutes.

Torshavn, Feb 28 — Understand that trawler (all types) *Atlantic Navigator* has returned to service. The vessel sustained a small dent or fracture in one of the tanks in her bow section. Understand that repairs may have been effected locally. — Lloyd's Agents.

AUTOPROGRESS (Madeira)

Emden, Feb 23 — Vehicle carrier *Autoprogress* arrived Emden Feb 21 from Brest. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Feb 23 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: In the afternoon of Feb 21, tug *Fairplay 23* towed vehicle carrier *Autoprogress* into the Great Sea Lock of Emden, on the way to the Nordseewerke. Here the repair branch is contracted to carry out repairs to the seriously fire damaged machine-room. Towing *Autoprogress* from Brest to Emden had been delayed by some days due to bad weather.

BERGENSFJORD (Norway)

London, Feb 25 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Bergensfjord* (4856 gt, built 2006) had engine trouble at 0800, local time, Feb 23, when anchored at Halhjem Quay, south of Bergen. The ferry had to cancel four voyages and was back in normal service at 1200 hrs, bound for Sandvikvaag.

BLUDANCE (Malta)

See "Australia" under "Port State Control."

BLUE STAR (Panama)

London, Feb 24 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS bulker *Blue Star* was still stationary in lat 19 12 25.19N, long 96 07 30.37W and not as reported in issue of 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

CAMILLA DESGAGNES (Canada)

Halifax, Feb 23 — Roll On Roll Off *Camilla Desgagnes* completed main engine repairs and departed Halifax about Feb 15, bound for Saint John(CAN), to load cargo for the Caribbean. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Camilla Desgagnes* was still reported to be in port at Saint John(CAN) today.)

CANGUE (France)

Portsmouth, UK, Feb 23 — At 0200 hrs, today, fishing (general) *Cangue*, registered at Sables d'Olonne, was hit on the port side astern, in a collision with general cargo *Fione* (2451 gt, built 1967), transporting groundnut seeds between Rochefort and Rouen. Thanks to the action of its motor-driven pumps, *Cangue* was stabilized and could continue its journey, escorted by rescue vessels, to Sables d'Olonne, where it arrived at 0800 hrs. An administrative investigation and an investigation by the Coast Guard are in hand to determine the exact responsibilities. *Fione* should arrive at Rouen during the night of Feb 23/24. — Correspondent.

London, Feb 26 — General cargo *Fione* arrived at Rouen on Feb 24.

CAP ARKONA (Germany)

London, Feb 27 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Trawler (all types) *Cap Arkona*, SD 6, (59 gt, built 1968), home port Friedrichskoog, sank at 0140 yesterday after having caught fire the evening before. The vessel was 12 miles west of Hornum, Sylt, when the electrics failed at 2045, Feb 25. When the master went to the machine room to check what happened, he encountered flames and dense smoke. The ship had departed from Busum am Feb 25 and had intended to stay at sea until Mar 1. As there was no chance to fight the flames the master and the other crew member entered a liferaft and fired off an emergency signal. They were rescued half an hour later by fishing *Liekedeeler*. Both were taken to Amrum. A police boat and the multi purpose vessel *Neuwerk* arrived on scene and started to fight the fire. But although they succeeded in doing so the vessel sank. The completely burnt out wreck had on board five to six tons of fuel oil when it sank. It is not known how much is still on board.

London, Feb 27 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Trawler *Cap Arkona* is lying in a depth of 15 metres.

CAPTAIN HENRY LEE (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: A broken coupling on the rudder of the passenger (cruise) *Captain Henry Lee* (288 gt, built 1992), the state ferry that runs between Bass Harbor and Swans Island, Maine, has sidelined the 130-foot vessel. Operators discovered the problem on the starboard rudder at about 1500, Monday (Feb 19) as the vessel was docking in Bass Harbor, according to Jim MacLeod, manager of the Maine State Ferry Service. MacLeod was on board the *Captain Henry Lee* on

Tuesday afternoon as the vessel was taken to the shipyard at Rockland Marine. "We'll take her out of the water to evaluate the extent of the problem," he said. He estimated it will be a minimum of a week to 10 days before the vessel is back in service.

CAROLA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Miami, Feb 23 — The Port of Miami authorities have advised that general cargo *Carola* is scheduled to depart on or about March 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

CHACABUCO (Liberia)

Singapore, Feb 28 — Container Carrier *Chacabuco* is currently at Eastern Special Pur Anchorage A. — Lloyd's Agents.

CHELSEA-4 (Georgia)

Bucharest, Feb 24 — General cargo *Chelsea-4* (5184 gt), collision with floating crane *2199 ESCTT Carola* and general cargo *Spania* (2265 gt, built 1981): Incident occurred about 1300, Feb 23, during berthing manoeuvre of *Chelsea-4*, 5,223 gt, Georgian flag, IMO No. 9386146, call sign 4LQE, alongside No.131 berth of Constantza South Agigea. *Chelsea-4* drifted in NNW gusts force 7/8 and contacted *2119 ESCTT Carola*, double banking with *Spania*, 2,265 gt, Georgian flag, IMO No. 8027664, call sign 4LKS, moored alongside No. 129 berth. The incident resulted in holes on shell plating of *Chelsea-4* on starboard side, of which one apparently under waterline, between Frames 62 and 68, in way of ballast tank No.6. The floating crane pressed against *Spania*, which shell plating was indented maximum 100 mm over about 1.3 m x 2.4 m between Frames 45 and 48 above waterline, in way of a side ballast tank. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Mar 1 — Repairs to general cargo *Chelsea-4* have been completed, and the vessel was passed by class at 1000 today. Arrangements for commencement of loading onboard *Chelsea-4* are in progress. No repairs have been carried out so far to general cargo *Spania* or to the floating crane, the damage sustained by the latter being minor. — Lloyd's Agents.

CLIPPER LIS (Bahamas)

Ponta Delgada, Feb 23 — On completion of main engine repairs, bulker *Clipper Lis* sailed from Ponta Delgada at 0720, hrs, today, bound for Cork. — Lloyd's Agents.

CLIPPER TOBAGO (Bahamas)

London, Feb 27 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Clipper Tobago* arrived at Barranquilla on Feb 17, sailing one day later for Santa Marta, where it arrived on Feb 20. According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, at 0754 UTC, today, the vessel was in lat 18 13.28N, long 64 00.27W, on a course of 39.1 degs, at a speed of 12.5 knots.

CONTI HARMONY (Cyprus)

London, Feb 26 — Understand container carrier *Conti Harmony* (31207 gt, built 1997), South Korea for Japan, had a machinery failure, stern tube leakage, Feb 7 and was towed to

Osaka. To be towed to Aioi for repairs. (Note — *Conti Harmony* sailed Busan Feb 7, arrived Osaka Feb 11, and left Feb 16 for Aioi.)

Yokohama, Feb 27 — Container Carrier *Conti Harmony*, having engine malfunction, was towed to Osaka port by a tug of Nippon Salvage Co Ltd, on Feb 11. The vessel is now under repairs at Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Co, Aioi. Repairs should be completed on Mar 1. — Lloyd's Agents.

CORONIS (Bahamas)

London, Feb 26 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1100, UTC: Bulker *Coronis* (40485 gt, built 2006), bound Muuga, in ballast, grounded off Copenhagen, in lat 55 38N, long 12 41E, at 0001, local time, today. Vessel remains aground and has also been detained but there has been no leakage or oil pollution. Investigations are ongoing.

London, Feb 26 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1827, UTC: Bulker *Coronis* remains aground and still detained. Awaiting divers report before deciding course of action.

Copenhagen, Feb 27 — Bulker *Coronis*, bound Muuga, has grounded in Oeresund, between Denmark and Sweden, outside Kastrop. The Admiral Danish Fleet has ordered environmental vessel *Mette Miljoe* to the scene. There is no report of leakage. A diver inspection took place yesterday, and results are awaited. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 27 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 0850, UTC: Bulker *Coronis* is still aground. Diver inspection revealed no dents or cracks in visible areas of vessel. It is hoped the vessel can be refloated later today. As a precaution vessel has been instructed to transfer bunkers in bottom tanks to other tanks in vessel.

Gothenburg, Feb 27 — Bulker *Coronis*, in ballast, ran aground yesterday morning in lat 55 38N, long 12 41.4E. Svitzer/Roda Bolaget confirm the incident and are involved. Vessel is still aground with no reported leakage or confirmed damage. Surveyor and DK Board of Shipping inspectors onboard and this pm will commence discharge bunker oil into a barge or small tanker for six to eight hours and then to control status for first attempt to refloat. From tonight tugs *Svitzer Mars* and *Frigga* will attend for the operation and to assist to pull vessel off ground, pending the actual situation after discharge. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Feb 27 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1808, UTC: Bulker *Coronis* is still aground. Salvage plan agreed and vessel needs to empty some bottom fuel tanks before refloating attempted later tonight. Once vessel refloated she is expected to proceed to Koege Bugt, south of Copenhagen, for diver survey and repairs.

London, Feb 27 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 2216, UTC: Bulker *Coronis* is still aground. Removal of fuel continuing.

London, Feb 28 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0950, UTC: Bulker *Coronis* remains aground, with fuel removal operations continuing. After this has been completed, salvage operations will commence, possibly involving the removal of some ballast.

Gothenburg, Feb 28 — According to Svitzer bulker *Coronis* is still aground. Yesterday discharged bunker oil and vessel "slightly moved" in position during the night but not afloat. Roda Bolaget/Svitzer on scene with the two tugs but matter still pending. Vessel does not hinder the main traffic as slightly beside the channel. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Feb 28 — A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV report, dated today, states: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage B.V. assisted in refloating the 225 metre long, 2006 built bulker *Coronis*. The vessel grounded Monday (Feb 26) morning before daybreak close to Copenhagen. Salvage experts were moved in immediately and a SvitzerWijsmuller tug made an on-site inspection. Yesterday (Feb 27) late evening owners ultimately contracted SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage to assist them in the refloating operation. Bunkers were transferred from double bottom tanks to tanks higher up in the vessel and ballast was prepared to be discharged. SvitzerWijsmuller tugs *Svitzer Mars* and *Frigga* remained standby and executed the controlled refloating attempt, freeing the vessel at about 1520, local time, today.

Gothenburg, Feb 28 — Bulker *Coronis* was pulled off the ground by the two Svitzer tugs *Svitzer Mars* and *Frigga* and refloated at 1520, this afternoon. Tugs assisted southbound and vessel anchored at Koge Bay, south of Copenhagen, around 1800, last tug released 1830. Divers survey to be carried out in order to find out if bottom damages require docking or not. — Westax Marine Services AB.

DCI DREDGE AQUARIUS (India)

Kochi, Feb 23 — Cutter suction dredger *DCI Dredge Aquarius* has been subject to drydocking at Cochin Shipyard and the repair work is progressing. We understand that a new spud is being installed and breakages to the dredger's two tanks were also noticed during drydocking. The repair is likely to be completed by the end of March. — Lloyd's Agents.

DJANGO (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 28 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that the Philippine-registered tug *Django*, (67.52 gt, built 1969) had an engine breakdown while passing through Patria Point, Antique island, in central Philippines on Feb 17. She was towing a barge loaded with heavy equipment and steel bars to General Santos City when she lost power. She is now anchored 550 metres off Patria Point. Repairs are now being undertaken on the engine's crankshaft. The tug is powered by a single, 750 hp, six-cylinder Niigata engine. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ELBE (Germany)

London, Feb 23 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: German inland water vessel *Elbe*, 1,421 tonnes, 80 metres, breadth 9.5 metres, caught fire shortly after it entered the East basin of the Elbe harbour Brunsbittel at 2000, Feb 19. Vessel was to take a cargo of copper ore for the "Norddeutsche Affinerie" in Hamburg. When berthing a short circuit in the bow thruster room led to a fire accompanied by dense fume in the electricity so that the bow thruster could not be stopped. The fire brigade in Brunsbittel arrived at 2015 hrs. The tugs *Bugsier II* and *Parat*, both fitted out with fire fighting equipment also arrived. The fire brigade Itzehoe sent divers to the scene. Within short time the fire was under control and completely extinguished at 2200 hrs.

EMMA FOSS (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 22 — A tug worker was killed Tuesday (Feb 20) when she became pinched under heavy rope attached to a barge off the coast of Marina del Rey, authorities said. A male co-worker was seriously injured when the rope swung and hit him. The accident occurred on board tug *Emma Foss* (192 gt, built 1970), operated by Seattle-based Foss Maritime Co. Four crew members were on board the tug as it towed the empty barge *San Pedro* into an anchor position off the coast, said David Selga, manager of petroleum and terminal services at Foss' Long Beach facility. Foss officials identified the female tug operator as Piper Cameron, 26, of Huntington Beach. County firefighters, sheriff's deputies and US Coast Guard officers responded to the calls for help about 1100 hrs. Earlier reports Tuesday indicated the line had snapped, but that was not the case, authorities said.

ERIKA (Malta)

London, Feb 26 — In the course of the second week of the trial, the court set in earnest about the task of trying to discover exactly how the structural deficiencies of the ageing non specific tanker *Erika* were not detected by those with responsibility for doing so. It was presented, notably, with the details of the extensive repairs carried out on the vessel at Bijela in Montenegro between June 18 and August 15. These repairs were concurrent with its five-year special survey and its change of classification society from Bureau Veritas of France to Rina in Italy. It heard how, in the absence at the yard of stocks of 16 mm steel plate corresponding to the thickness of the vessel's original plating, the decision was taken to use 14 mm plate, which Rina assured remained well within its requirement that replaced plating should provide a resistance level equivalent to 90% of that pertaining when the vessel was new. Captain Antonio Pollara, head of the *Erika*'s technical manager Panship Management, even explained that the reduced thickness of the replacement plating would allow for better welding with the surrounding plating which

itself no longer retained its original 16 mm thickness. More surprisingly, the court was told that the amount of steel used on the repairs was 73.5 tonnes compared with an estimated requirement of 273 tonnes in the pre-contract quote for the work. By the same token the cost of the steel replacement work was reduced from more than \$500,000 to \$157,000. In the face of the astonishment expressed by court president, Jean-Baptiste Parlos, Captain Pollara explained that owners preferred to have quotes based on maximum possible plating requirements because this enabled them to obtain discounts on unit prices. For the rest, he said, the difference was simply due to differences between the pre-contract estimate and the work which it was decided really needed to be carried out after inspection at the shipyard. "To have a real assessment you need to be able to go into the tanks," he said. "This can only be done at the last minute in the shipyard." The court was also given the details of the financing of the repairs carried out at Bijela, which came to more than \$1m in total. *Erika*'s owner Giuseppe Savarese explained that he had been able to draw on reserves set aside in advance for the cost of repairs but also on a \$650,000 reimbursement he had received from his insurers for the replacement of a boiler used for heating cargo. He told the court he had been able to have the boiler replaced for \$300,000, allowing him to use the remainder for the cost of other repairs. "I do not know of many insurance companies which would pay \$650,000 for a repair which cost half," observed Mr Parlos drily. Asked by a lawyer representing a civil claimant if he had informed the insurance company that he had used only part of the reimbursement he had received to replace the boiler, Mr Savarese argued that he was within his rights to use the money from the insurance company as he wished. "If it pays me the price of a car and I buy a moped to replace it, I do not have to justify myself to it," he said. Mr Savarese denied suggestions that he had been forced to reduce the scope of repair work because of financial pressure, but said he could not meet a request from another defence lawyer to demonstrate the satisfactory state of his finances by producing the balance sheets of the *Erika*'s owning company, Tevere Shipping, for the years 1998, 1999 and 2000. He did not have such documents, he said, because the Maltese authorities did not require him to produce balance sheets. "You might find this incredible, but it is the case," he said. "Panship gave me the bills for the expenditure incurred and I paid the bills. But I did not have to produce a balance sheet as an Italian or French company might have to." After devoting the best part of two days to its examination of the repair work carried out at Bijela and the circumstances surrounding it, the court turned its attention to the Total oil group and, more particularly, to the group's procedures for vetting the vessels it chartered for the transport of oil and oil

products. The prosecution will seek to prove that the approval of the *Erika* under the group's vetting system had expired when it had chartered the vessel for its final journey from Dunkirk to Livorno, and the vetting system itself was "structurally insufficient" in so far as it did not provide for a physical inspection of the vessel. The court heard that Total operated a two-tier vetting system, which made use of the Ship Inspection Report database established by the Oil Companies International Marine Forum and an internal database called SURF. The group's head of shipping, Bertrand Thouilin, insisted before the court, however, that the vetting systems operated by Total and other oil companies were a voluntary effort on their part to improve ship safety standards which were covered by no legal obligation. They could in no circumstances be seen as an alternative to the work of the classification societies and, in particular, could not vouch for vessels' structural soundness, which was the responsibility of the classification societies. Vetting inspections were generally carried out while vessels were trading, he said, which made inspections of their tanks impossible because of the presence of inert gas or cargo. "It was never the vocation of vetting to replace the work of the classification societies," he said. "We cannot and we do not want that." This week the court is to continue its examination of Total's vetting procedures as well as those of other leading oil companies. Rina estimates discrepancies in the more than 7,000 thickness measurements carried out prior to repairs on the *Erika* in Bijela at "10 at the most" and not 10% as was stated in our report on Wednesday (Feb 21).

FAIRPARTNER (Netherlands)

Port Said, Feb 28 — General cargo *Fairpartner* (15071 gt, built 2004) entered the Suez Canal with the southbound convoy of today and had sudden engine trouble at km 37 at 1130 hrs. Vessel moored in Canal to effect necessary repairs. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Fairpartner* sailed Venice Feb 24 for Ras Laffan.)

FEDERAL MATANE (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Feb 26 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1455, UTC: Bulker *Federal Matane* (18825 gt, built 2004) went hard aground in the Delaware River, in approximate position lat 39 32N, long 75 34W, at 1620, local time, yesterday. Grounding occurred when vessel had to manoeuvre to avoid a tug. Refloating operations, with the use of a tug, were completed successfully at 1900, local time, yesterday and vessel is now anchored. A Captain of Port Order has been issued to restrict the vessel from sailing until an underwater damage assessment is carried out. (Note — *Federal Matane* sailed Varna Jan 5 for Marcus Hook. According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, vessel was stationary at Marcus Hook, in lat 39 48 19.07N, long 75 24 30.07W, at 1435, local time, today.)

London, Feb 27 — Bulker *Federal Matane* was reported arriving at Marcus Hook at 1948 hrs, Feb 25 and sailing at 2212 hrs, Feb 26, bound for Turkey.

FEDERAL ST.LAURENT (Barbados)

London, Feb 28 — Bulker *Federal St.Laurent* (20837 gt, built 1996), in ballast, had a total electrical black out off Cap Maillard, lat 47 15 15N, long 70 34 18W, at 0745, EST, Feb 22. Later, vessel departed from anchor and continued her voyage to Quebec City escorted by tug.

FIONE (Panama)

See *Cangue*.

FLINTERBORG (Netherlands)

Portsmouth, Feb 23 — According to the information of the Finnish administration of navigation, general cargo *Flinterborg* (2474 gt, built 2004) in collision with general cargo *Amanda* (3870 gt, built 2005), in the Gulf of Finland, today. As a result, *Flinterborg* sustained insignificant damages. Vessel sent to Kotka, where it will be inspected in more detail. *Amanda* did not sustain any damage and proceeded on voyage. — Correspondent.

Helsinki, Feb 23 — General cargo *Flinterborg*, cargo pulpwood, was hit by general cargo *Amanda* in an ice fairway, in the Gulf of Finland on Feb 22. The stern of *Flinterborg* was damaged in the collision. However, the vessel managed to sail to the port of Kotka, Halla harbour, where it is currently discharging. A further survey of damages will be carried out after discharge completed. *Amanda* was not damaged and it sailed towards its destination of Spain. Both vessels were sailing from St. Petersburg. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 27 — General cargo *Amanda* was reported passing Brunsbittel at 1426 hrs, Feb 25, bound for Pasajes, where ETA Mar 1. According to Lloyds MIU AIS, at 0722, UTC, today, general cargo *Flinterborg* was reported at St. Petersburg.

GERJA (Dutch)

London, Feb 28 — Dutch inland cargo vessel *Gerja*, built 1929, 512 dwt, owned by Venema of Rotterdam, got into trouble when the cargo of steel rolls shifted in her hold and she had to be set aground in the Oosterschelde (Easter Scheldt) because of a serious list. Tug *Zephyrus* is at the location and is standing by. Tug *Multasalvor* is on her way from Breskens with the floating sheerleg crane *Delta* to give assistance.

GOLDEN GLORY (Bahamas)

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

GOLDEN SKY (Cyprus)

Riga, Feb 28 — Bulker *Golden Sky* is still in the same position. Fuel discharged. — Lloyd's Agents.

GRACECHURCH JUPITER (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Feb 26 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1844, UTC: Container Carrier

Gracechurch Jupiter (6277 gt, built 2002), Portugal for Liverpool, in lat 49 20.8N, long 06 45.2W, drifting 080 (deg) 0.6 knots, changing cylinder head. Tug *Anglian Princess* tasked.

London, Feb 27 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1330, UTC: Container Carrier *Gracechurch Jupiter* was taken in tow by tug *Anglian Princess* at 0233, UTC, bound Falmouth. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, *Gracechurch Jupiter* was located in lat 50 04 16.2N, long 05 00 41.4W, at 1327, UTC, course 349.7 deg, speed 6.3 knots.)

London, Feb 27 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1531, UTC: Container Carrier *Gracechurch Jupiter*: Harbour tugs took over the tow from tug *Anglian Princess* upon entering Carrick Roads. Vessel alongside North Queens Wharf, Falmouth Docks, to undergo assessment and repairs at Falmouth Docks. *Anglian Princess* was tasked at 1852, yesterday and off task at 1451 today. (See issue of Feb 28.)

London, Feb 27 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1815, UTC: Container Carrier *Gracechurch Jupiter* alongside Falmouth at 1500 UTC.

Falmouth, Feb 28 — Container Carrier *Gracechurch Jupiter* arrived Falmouth at 1400 hrs, Feb 27 with engine problems and berthed at Queens Wharf, Falmouth Docks at 1530 to effect repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 1 — Understand salvage services were rendered to Container Carrier *Gracechurch Jupiter* under Lloyd's Open Form by Klyne Tugs (Lowestoft) Ltd.

GRACIA (Malta)

London, Feb 28 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0930, UTC: Bulker *Gracia* (16100 gt, built 1979) was reported not under command in high winds caused by cyclone "Gamede" in lat 24 15S, long 51 35E, at 1642, UTC, Feb 27. Crew abandoning vessel. (Note — *Gracia* sailed Singapore Feb 6 for Dakar.)

London, Feb 28 — Following received from Reunion MRCC, timed 0950, UTC: Bulker *Gracia* is still afloat with crew still on board. Container carrier *Ever Gaining* has just arrived on scene to try and rescue the crew from *Gracia*. At the moment a situation report is awaited from *Ever Gaining*.

London, Feb 28 — Following received from Reunion MRCC, timed 1748, UTC: Bulker *Gracia*, cargo bagged rice, is adrift now near lat 24 09S, long 51 11E. All 23 crewmembers have been rescued by container vessel *Ever Gaining*, which is now proceeding to Durban.

GUO TONG (Cambodia)

London, Feb 24 — Following navigation warning issued at 0700, JST, Feb 21 : Kanmon Passage: Navigation and staying prohibited due to sunken wreck (general cargo *Guo Tong*) removal works until further notice. Area bounded by lat 33 55 44.4N, long 130 56 03.1E, lat 33 55 53.3N, long 130 56 07.6E, lat 33 56 02.1N, long 130 56

12.1E, lat 33 56 04.7N, long 130 56 03.0E, lat 33 55 49.4N, long 130 55 52.0E.

HAGONOY (Philippines)

Manila, Mar 1 — There will be a slight delay in the completion of repairs to tanker *Hagonoy*. The repairs to *Hagonoy*, which is drydocked at Herma Shipyard, Mariveles, were originally scheduled for completion on Feb 28, however, the completion date has been moved to Mar 7 because structural work on the bridge and storage tanks is taking longer than anticipated, owners/operators Herma Shipping and Transport Corp reported. — Lloyd's Correspondent.

HOHEWEG (Germany)

London, Feb 27 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The German "Bundesstelle für Seeunfalluntersuchung" (federal investigation authority for accidents on sea) said yesterday it would be necessary to raise the wreck of the sunken fishing (general) *Hoheweg* to find out the cause of the sinking. When this will be done and how much it would cost was still unclear. The owner have given up the vessel, so it is also unknown who will be responsible for the salvage. Meanwhile the investigations against the owners by prosecutors in Oldenburg were stopped yesterday as it could be proved that the ship was in a seaworthy state when it sank.

HOOP OP ZEGEN (Netherlands)

London, Feb 23 — Following received from Kiel dated today: The rescue vessel *Vormann Jantzen* rescued fishing (general) *Hoop op Zegen*, length 18.5 m, during the night of Feb 22/23. The rescue vessel from List/Sylt proceeded to the fishing vessel which had a net entangled in its propeller and was drifting off the Frisian coast, 20 miles west of Sylt. The vessel, with two crew, had asked for help at 2140 hrs, in winds of up to force 10. Another Dutch fishing vessel twice failed to take *Hoop op Zegen* in tow. *Vormann Jantzen* towed the vessel into the Danish port of Havneby "within nine hours".

HSC GOTLANDIA (Sweden)

Gothenburg, Feb 23 — Ferry *HSC Gotlandia* remains at the same berth in Falkenberg yard. — Westax Marine Services AB.

HYDRA (Netherlands)

London, Feb 28 — Reported 23 Feb that suction dredger *Hydra* (1070 gt, built 1975) had an engine-room fire at Uijerschootweg quay, Middelburg. The blaze was quickly extinguished by the Fire Brigade. No injuries reported.

ID SYMPHONY (Panama)

Boston, (MA), Feb 23 — We have received a report that the bulker *ID Symphony* (14431 gt, built 1995) has sustained main engine failure approximately six miles off the coast of Gloucester, Massachusetts. The vessel is at anchor in approximately 50 metres of water, and is holding at the

approximate position of lat 42 40 55N, long 70 27 25W. Two tugs have been dispatched from Constellation Towing of Boston, under the direction of Smith Marine, the salvage company in charge of the operation. They are expected to reach the vessel at 1130, local time. Upon approval of the tow plan by the US Coast Guard, will proceed to tow the vessel to the destination port of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 23 — Following received from Coast Guard New England, timed 2335, UTC: Bulker *ID Symphony* is being towed to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, by the tugs *Cygnus* and *Phoenix*. The vessel is expected one mile off Portsmouth at 2000, local time, today where the vessel will anchor overnight and then be towed into Portsmouth tomorrow morning.

Boston, Mass, Feb 28 — Bulker *ID Symphony* was towed into Portsmouth, NH, and arrived alongside at approximately 1300, Feb 24. It appears that the main engine, Mann Diesel, 6 cylinder, may require a near complete rebuild, which will likely take several weeks. The Port Captain has issued orders that repairs must be completed to the satisfaction of the flag state or classification society prior to departure from the port. — Lloyd's Agents.

ILANIA STAR (Cambodia)

Copenhagen, Mar 1 — General cargo *Ilania Star* (3095 gt, built 1978) has been lying at Frederikshavn since Dec 13, when it was towed to the port after having lost part of its rudder on a voyage from St. Petersburg for Rotterdam. The accident occurred somewhere in the Kattegat. The vessel is now alongside the dock at the Orskov Yard with 1,000 tons of aluminium bars and steel plates on board, awaiting the production of a new rudder, which is expected to take some four months. In the meantime the Dutch receiver of the aluminium bars arranged for discharge of that part of the cargo and then transported it to Holland on lorries. — Correspondent. (Note — *Ilania Star* sailed St. Petersburg Dec 7.)

INVIKEN (Bahamas)

London, Feb 26 — At 0925, EST, Feb 23, while bulker *Inviken* (17313 gt, built 1986) unloading in port of Quebec, lat 46 49 20N, long 71 12 18W, a crack was found on the ship side plating in No.2 cargo hold.

IRIS (Panama)

London, Feb 26 — Understand Container Carrier *Iris* (36452 gt, built 1983), China, Thailand and Singapore for South Africa, had an engine failure Feb "15". (Note — *Iris* arrived Singapore Jan 30, from, Laem Chabang, sailed 1345, Jan 31, for Durban, and returned to Singapore 0700, Feb 16 and was still at the Western Working Anchorage, Singapore, Feb 25.)

JAGUAR (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 27 — General cargo *Jaguar* is scheduled to leave today (Feb 27) for Tabaco Port in Albay where will

deliver the 4,900 bags of rice it unloaded from the grounded *Accord*, Avega Shipping Services reported. Avega Shipping operates both the *Jaguar* and *Accord*. The original plan was for the *Jaguar* to resume unloading the remaining rice from the grounded *Accord* after the hole in *Jaguar's* hull was patched. *Jaguar* sustained damage to its hull after it collided with *Accord* during offloading operations on Feb 16. Avega, however, ordered *Jaguar* to discontinue cargo transfer operations and instead bring the rice it has already offloaded from *Accord* to Tabaco Port. According to Avega officials there was no point in unloading the remaining rice in *Accord* since much of it had been spoiled by seawater and fuel oil. They are now awaiting word from the cargo owners, National Food Authority, on what to do with the remaining rice. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

JIN TONG LONG NO.33 (Taiwan)

London, Feb 26 — Following received from Coastguard Honolulu, timed 2025, UTC: Fishing *Jin Tong Long No.33*. All 12 people rescued and safe. No sightings of vessel and presumed sunk.

JUMBO CHALLENGER (Netherlands)

Los Angeles, Feb 26 — General cargo *Jumbo Challenger* is currently at LA240 undergoing repairs and, per vessel's agents, Norton Lilly, repairs will continue for another seven to 11 work days from today, with work anticipated to complete somewhere between Mar 6 and 12. — Lloyd's Agents.

KAMAL XXVIII (India)

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated Feb 27, states: The Cochin Port Trust (CPT) has issued notice to the company that owns cutter suction dredger *Kamal XXVIII* (774 gt, built 1973) that struck the Venduruthy bridge on Saturday (Feb 24), asking it to provide compensation for the damage caused to the rail and road portions of the bridge. A senior official in the CPT said that the dredger will be permitted to leave Kochi only after Gujarat-based Jaisu Shipping, its owner, paid for the repair works of the damaged portions of the bridge. A court case has been pending against the firm for the very same dredger striking and badly damaging the bridge over two years ago, when it arrived in Kochi for dredging. "The vessel is an insured. It has damaged a pile of the rail portion of the bridge. A joint team of experts from the Public Works Department, Railways, port and Navy are making all-out efforts to ensure that heavy vehicles can use the bridge," he said. With only two and three wheelers being allowed through the bridge, people who depend on private buses and cars to reach mainland Kochi have to take diversion from Thevara and reach the Mattancherry bridge through the Alexander Parambithara Bridge. KSRTC buses and many private buses plied through Vytilla and the Kundanoor bridge, to reach places in

West Kochi. The State Water Transport Department plied an additional boat from the city to Fort Kochi. Ernakulam area manager of Railways C.M. Chandrasekharan Nair said that two or three piers have to be constructed to support the bridge. "It may take around three months to complete the work. The Chief Minister has convened a meeting today to ensure that repair works are carried out fast." With the rail bridge damaged, goods from rail containers are now being transported in lorries. Three goods trains used to ply to Harbour Terminus railway station every day, till Saturday. Their bogies and an engine are now trapped in the island. Sources said that ammonia that had been loaded onto a goods train, is now being unloaded. Any delay will result in the compartments bursting. Executive engineer of PWD (Roads and Bridges), S. Mohankumar said that the road portion of the bridge too has sustained damage. "A high-level technical committee meeting was held yesterday, to speed up work on repairing the bridge. Tendering is over and rate analysis has started. Work will be awarded by Mar 2." He said that rivet in the bridge's bracing will soon be examined. Preliminary investigation proved that three piers were damaged when the dredger hit the bridge. The passage of heavy vehicles may cause damage to the other piles, unless they move at less than 10 km/hour. Naval divers have taken underwater videos of the piers and they were being examined. The expertise of Prof. Aravindan of the IIT-Chennai and of the chief bridge engineer of Railways, too has been sought to urgently repair the bridge.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: The Venduruthy Bridge will be repaired and opened to traffic within two months. This was decided at a meeting of those concerned yesterday, with Chief Minister V.S. Achutha-nandan in the chair. The meeting decided that the Cochin Port Trust would carry out the repairs. The trust and the Government would conduct separate inquiries into the damage caused to it when a dredger (cutter suction dredger *Kamal XXVIII*) hit the structure.

KAPITAN BUGA (Russia)

See *Novaya Zemlya*.

KARIM I (Cambodia)

Bucharest, Feb 28 — General cargo *Karim I*, which is under arrest, has been abandoned to salvors Atriamar SRL, who intend to sell the vessel as scrap. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Karim I* sank near Sorena Constantza facility on May 29, 2006, and was refloated Jul 19.)

KASHMIR (Malta)

London, Mar 1 — Chemical tanker *Kashmir* sailed from Setubal on Feb 24.

KATSHESHUK II (Canada)

London, Feb 22 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1455, UTC: Fishing (general) *Katsheshuk II* was reported in lat 47 15N, long 47 10W, at

1130, UTC. Coast Guard vessel is on scene and tug *Atlantic Enterprise* is due in around three to four hours.

London, Feb 22 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 2218, UTC: Fishing (general) *Katsheshuk II* is now under tow of tug *Atlantic Enterprise* and proceeding to Grace Harbour, where ETA at approximately 1800 hrs, Feb 23.

London, Feb 23 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1420, UTC: Fishing (general) *Katsheshuk II*, under tow of tug *Atlantic Enterprise*, was located in lat 47 45N, long 51 17W, at 1204, UTC, today, ETA St. John's, NF, about 2200, UTC. (See issue of Feb 26.)

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1417, UTC: Fishing (general) *Katsheshuk II*, under tow of tug *Atlantic Enterprise*, arrived Harbour Grace about 2200, UTC, Feb 23.

KEVIN (Panama)

St. Vincent, Cape Verde, Feb 26 — General cargo *Kevin* completed repairs and sailed for Nouakchott Feb 17. — Lloyd's Agents.

KIMBERLY JANE (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: The lower Ohio River was closed to traffic near Brookport, Illinois, on Wednesday (Feb 28) after a tow boat hit a lock and a barge leaked a petrochemical into the waterway, said the US Coast Guard. Tug *Kimberly Jane* (249 gt, built 1972) Lock 52 on Tuesday at about 2230, local time, (0430, UTC, Wednesday). It was pushing a barge carrying 960,000 gallons of cumene or isopropylbenzene, a colorless liquid used in paint thinners, motor fuels and rubber. The river was closed about 0900, Wednesday, 1500, UTC, when it was discovered the barge had leaked 7,000 to 8,000 gallons of cumene, which is flammable, said Lt. Wayne Chapman at the Marine Safety Unit in Paducah, Kentucky. The closure was from mile marker 938 to 940. As of Wednesday afternoon, the spill did not appear to pose a serious threat to area residents or marine life, and there had been no evacuations, Chapman said. The barge hit a guide wall puncturing one of several storage tanks, said Chapman, of the coast guard's Marine Safety Office in nearby Paducah, Ky. The damaged tank held around 164,000 gallons, he said. The company that owns the barge, Houston-based Kirby Inland Marine said the spill did not pose a significant risk. "I would say it's not particularly dangerous," company spokesman Mark Buese said. The barge was en route from the Gulf of Mexico to a port somewhere in the Midwest, though Buese did not know its precise destination. He said no one was injured in the accident and its cause was under investigation. The Ohio River was closed to traffic for a mile in either direction as crews pumped the remaining cumene out of the damaged tank, Chapman said. River traffic was expected to reopen on Wednesday night, he said. He said the fast-flowing river was expected to safely disperse

any cumene that couldn't be contained. Cumene, also called isopropyl benzene, is used in the manufacture of plastics, Buese said. Inhaling it can cause headaches and dizziness and irritate the eyes, nose and throat, according to the National Institutes of Health Web site. It also can be damaging to animals directly exposed to it, according to the EPA. As a precaution, local authorities requested the closure of Fort Massac State Park, near the spill site, Illinois Emergency Management Agency spokeswoman Patti Thompson. The Kentucky Department of Highways temporarily restricted traffic to one lane westbound on the Interstate 24 Ohio River Bridge to enable environmental officials to set up an air monitoring station on the bridge. It was reopened Wednesday afternoon.

London, Mar 1 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 0845, UTC: Tug *Louie Leone* (369 gt, built 1970) which was pushing a barge to lighter a grounded barge, which being pushed by tug *Kimberly Jane*, struck the same guide wall as the barge and was holed. Pumps are keeping up with the water ingress to *Louie Leone* which has now left the scene for repairs. The barge it was pushing was not damaged in the incident.

KING OF SCANDINAVIA (DIS)

London, Feb 27 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: In the morning of Feb 26 passenger ro/ro *King of Scandinavia* (31788 gt, built 1987) was in collision with a quay in Ijumiden. The ship was caught by SE winds of 10 m/sec when entering the harbour. It drifted to the opposite side of its berth and crashed into the quay. The ship was damaged at the port side of the stern. The quay was also damaged. In spite of the dents the vessel sailed same day for Newcastle.

KOSTAS (Honduras)

London, Feb 27 — As of Feb 26, general cargo *Kostas* was still in port at Skikda.

L/B JUAN (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 28 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1500, UTC: Supply *L/B Juan* has been successfully lifted and is now undergoing repairs at Intracoastal City, La.

LADY GLORIA (Italy)

Cadiz, Feb 27 — General cargo *Lady Gloria* (6204 gt, built 2000) is being towed to Cadiz for repairs following engine breakdown at Algeciras. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Lady Gloria* was in lat 35 59 38N, long 06 03 19.5W, at 1350, UTC, today, speed 4.1 knots, course 272.3 degrees, and not under command.)

LADY HELEN (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: The 87-foot fishing (general) *Lady Helen* (143 gt, built 1978), laden with around 100,000 pounds of croaker, grounded yesterday

in the Oregon Inlet (North Carolina). The vessel, hailed from Carteret County, was headed for Wanchese yesterday night after two profitable days at sea. It was almost there, but struck bottom in Oregon Inlet, a waterway known for its quick currents and ever-shifting shoals. With holes ripped along its port side, the vessel began taking on water. So much water, said Petty Officer Adam Witt with the Oregon Inlet Coast Guard Station, that they couldn't help the vessel. *Lady Helen's* call for help came at about 2130 hrs, he said, and the three men on board - none of them injured - were taken back to shore. The trawler sat lopsided in about eight feet of water just west of the Herbert C. Bonner Bridge at noon today, starboard side down. After patching the holes, men rigged pumps among mounds of croaker, hoping to get the water out and *Lady Helen* back up. They did, about 1730 hrs, Witt said. David Gaskill, a crewman on board the trawler, said the croaker were worth at least \$20,000. Gaskill said the vessel's captain is Russell Williams. Williams' father, Forrest Williams, owns the vessel, he said. Gaskill said the trawler goes about 10 miles off the Outer Banks coast twice a week this time of year for the croaker.

LANGELAND (NIS)

Malmo, Feb 23 — At 1800, local time, Feb 21, while general cargo *Langeland* (1881 gt, built 1971) was departing from Landskrona, she ran aground at the entrance of the harbour. The vessel refloated herself, but subsequently grounded again. A tug arrived to assist and when the line was connected the tug contacted *Langeland* to her port side resulting in a 10cm crack to the ballast tank. Swedish Maritime divers inspected the bottom and only a scratchmark was found. The crack was temporarily repaired and at 1330, local time Feb 23, the vessel departed for Karlshamn. Permanent repairs are to be effected on the next periodic survey. — Lloyd's Agents.

LARGO (Netherlands)

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Corsen MRCC, timed 0920, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Largo* (3998 gt, built 1990), Kemi for Bilbao, cargo paper products, broke down in lat 48 46N, long 05 48W, at 0209, UTC, Feb 22. Vessel regained partial power and proceeded into United Kingdom waters.

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0925, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Largo* is currently located 14 to 15 miles south of Lizard, proceeding for Falmouth Bay under reduced power at two knots in order to anchor for repairs. Emergency Towing Vessel, tug *Anglian Princess*, is in Falmouth Bay standing by. The weather is expected to worsen later today.

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1011, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Largo* located in lat 49 46.05N, long 04 58.15W, at 0945, UTC, with engine overheating problems. Vessel has

3,311.50 tonnes of paper products on board. If it proceeds within Falmouth harbour limits it will have to have tug standing by; otherwise it will have to tie up at Carrick Roads buoy. At its present rate of progress, it will not reach Falmouth for another 11 or 12 hours.

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1909, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Largo* escorted into Falmouth harbour for repairs to overheating engine.

Falmouth, Feb 25 — Roll On Roll Off *Largo* arrived Falmouth 1700, Feb 24 with engine problems and berthed Queens Wharf, Falmouth Docks, to effect repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 27 — Roll On Roll Off *Largo* sailed from Falmouth at 2230 hrs, Feb 25, bound for Bilbao.

Bilbao, Feb 28 — Roll On Roll Off *Largo* arrived at Bilbao on Feb 27 from Kemi. — Lloyd's Agents.

LEVINA 1 (Indonesia)

Jakarta, Feb 23 — The Indonesian navy plans to tow ferry *Levina 1* from the Java Sea towards port or a nearby island today, officials said, amid confusion over how many passengers were on board and may still be missing. The official count from the sea accident remains 16 dead and 17 missing based on the manifest for the ferry, which says 307 people were on board. However, officials fear there were many stowaways on the vessel. "It is common for people who have no ticket to force their way on board using whatever way they find," said Lieutenant Colonel Hendra Pakan, spokesman of the Indonesian navy's western fleet that has deployed vessels to rescue the passengers. "There is a plan to tow the boat today and (it) will be escorted by a navy ship," he said. Tanjung Priok port administrator Sato Bisri said the towed ferry might not end up in Jakarta but on an islet in the Thousand Islands archipelago off the Indonesian capital. "We want to clear it up and pull it to the port but if that is impossible, we would beach it on the closest islet," he said. Officials said preliminary findings lead to the possibility the fire started from a truck with inflammable chemical cargo and spread throughout the ferry. Many of the passengers hurled themselves off the blazing vessel into the sea to escape the flames and searing heat. Heri Asmedi, an Indonesian Red Cross official, said most of the dead had wet clothes and no burns. He added that up until this morning, relatives were still looking for information on a total of 123 people. Some of them may have been saved without their rescue having been recorded and a number of them may not have been listed on the manifest. At the Red Cross post, photographs of the dead who had not been claimed by relatives covered a wooden billboard, while relatives of the missing poured over a posted list of the passenger manifest over and over again. Transport Minister Hatta Rajasa said it was too early to be clear on the cause of the blaze on the ferry. — Reuters.

Jakarta, Feb 22 — Sixteen people died and 17 were missing after a fire broke out on an Indonesian ferry off Jakarta Bay today, with desperate passengers hurling themselves off the blazing vessel into the sea. Some of the missing could still be trapped on the vessel, ferry *Levina 1*, Lieutenant-Colonel Hendra Pakan of the Indonesian navy's western fleet said. "There's a possibility people are still trapped in the ship, because 17 people are still listed as missing," he said. However, he thought most on board would have tried to get off. "Navy ships are still searching for victims in the sea around the location because we believe people would rather jump into the sea than be trapped in a ship on fire," Pakan said. The *Levina 1* was on its way to Bangka island off Sumatra with about 300 people on board when it caught fire soon after dawn 80 km from Jakarta's Tanjung Priok port. TV footage of the stricken vessel showed plumes of thick black smoke emerging from the ferry's lower decks, while a fire-fighting ship alongside tried to douse the blaze. At some points during the day officials had said the fire was out, but Pakan said his information late today was that it was still burning. One of the first survivors brought back to Jakarta described panic when the crew told passengers the fire had broken out in the lower deck, loaded with motorcycles and cars. Bobby Mamahit, an official at the centre for navigation at the transport ministry, told reporters at the port in the afternoon that 16 people had died, 17 were missing and 274 had survived. He said the ferry was 27 years old and built in Japan. Speaking to Reuters several hours later, he said the dead and missing figures were unchanged, and he thought only crew trying to fight the blaze were likely to have been on the lower decks, "so the possibility of passengers who were trapped in the ferry is small." Despite the smouldering fire, officials were optimistic the ferry would stay afloat and eventually be towed back to port. "We are going to tow the ferry using a navy tugboat when the situation allows us, maybe in one or two days," Pakan said. Transport Minister Hatta Rajasa said it was too early to be clear on the cause of the blaze but according to search co-ordinator Sato Bisri the ferry's engineer and captain said the fire started in a truck. Colonel Didin Z.A, who headed the navy rescue team, told reporters in the port that the dead included three children. — Reuters.

Manila, Feb 23 — Police authorities today arrested the master of ferry *Levina 1*, Andi Kurniawan. Police said that they were holding him to ensure that he could shed light on the circumstances surrounding the fire on the ferry yesterday. It is not clear if charges will be filed against him. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Jakarta, Feb 24 — Understand ferry *Levina 1* is being towed by tug *Jayakarta III* from accident location to the port of Tanjung Priok at 0150, local time, today with eta 1500, local time, today. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry *Levina 1* that caught on fire was being towed to Jakarta's Tanjung Priok harbour for further investigation, while authorities held out little hope of finding at least 17 people still missing, a navy official said today. "The ship was towed early this morning and will arrive at the port later today," Lieutenant Colonel Hendra Pakan, a spokesman for the Indonesian Navy's Western Fleet, said. Indonesian Navy ships mounted an around-the-clock search in the Java Sea for the missing after a fire on the ferry on Thursday, but officials conceded they might not find any more survivors. "Although the chance to survive might be slim, we will still continue to search for the missing passengers," Pakan said. The confirmed death toll from the disaster was 16, but it was unknown exactly how many were missing because of conflicting reports about the total number of people onboard. Transportation Minister Hatta Radjasa said authorities suspected that electric sparks from a truck laden with chemicals parked on the vehicles deck caused the fire and enabled the flames to spread rapidly, the state-run Antara news agency reported.

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll in the ferry *Levina 1* disaster rose to 20 as the navy continued a massive search for about 120 people still missing and a probe was launched into the tragedy. Two more bodies arrived on board navy vessel *KRI Viper*, at Jakarta's Tanjung Priok harbour late yesterday, according to an official from the relief coordinating centre at the port, bringing the death toll so far to 20. A team set out to begin an investigation into the disaster today. The ship's master and first officer are being held by police. The precise number of people who were on board the ship remains unclear but estimates put the total at well over 300. About 250 were rescued, most after jumping into the sea, but rescuers fear many passengers may have been trapped on the burning ship. "As of 1400 yesterday, the master and the first officer of the ship have been officially declared as suspects and will face charges of negligence and falsifying documents," the head of the Jakarta air and sea police, Adjunct Senior Commissioner Frederick Kalembang said. The master, Andi Kurniawan and the first officer, Sunaryo, were now detained at the air and sea police headquarters in Tanjung Priok, he said. Kalembang said that the two would face charges of negligence leading to loss of life as well as providing false information on official documents. He said that the manifest showed a total of 275 people, including 17 crewmen, were on board *Levina 1* when it left Tanjung Priok early on Thursday but the number of passengers found dead and alive so far had already reached 313. "Therefore there were at least 38 of them who were unregistered. This is a major negligence," Kalembang said. The ferry's skipper and first officer, the other 15 crew members and 13

passengers have been questioned over the incident. He said that transport authorities had also suspended the Tanjung Priok harbour-master, who was currently being questioned by police. A team from the National Transport Safety Committee (KNKT) today headed towards *Levina 1*, which had been towed from the site of the fire, some 60 nautical miles from Jakarta to a spot some seven nautical miles north of Tanjung Priok, KNKT chairman Setyo Raharjo said. "Our team has left for the ship today but we are not sure yet whether the ship is now secure enough to be boarded," Raharjo said. He said that it was unclear whether the ship was still too hot to board. "We will try to determine whether there were chemicals or dangerous material on board when the fire broke out," he said. Early investigations suggest the fire was sparked by one of the lorries on the ferry's vehicle deck. Kalembang also said that search and rescue efforts involving seven navy ships were continuing and rescuers were combing the area east of the site of the fire. The government has already revoked permits for the ferry's operator for declaring fewer passengers on its manifest than it was actually carrying.

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from the fire on board ferry *Levina 1* more than doubled to 41 after navy warships and fishing boats found 21 bodies drifting at sea, a navy spokesman said today. "Some were picked up directly from the sea by the warships while others were found by fishermen around two nearby islands," Lt-Col Hendra Pakan said. "They were all discovered about 30 miles away from the scene."

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The fire on ferry *Levina 1* that claimed at least 41 lives last week may have claimed three more today. The burned out remains of the vessel sank today as it was being towed back to port with about 16 police, reporters and investigators on board. A cameraman and two police officers are missing. At least four others were seriously hurt in the scramble when the vessel suddenly rolled over. The number of bodies recovered is more than the number of people reported missing. The ferry's operator has acknowledged that many children weren't included on the passenger manifest. Indonesia police have filed negligence charges against the captain and navigator.

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry *Levina 1* sank today, while investigators and journalists were on board inspecting the damage from a fire last week. At least one cameraman drowned and three other people were missing. The gutted wreckage had been anchored near Jakarta's port when it suddenly listed and sank with 16 people on board, several of the journalists said. A cameraman was killed, while another and two police were missing. Four people were seriously injured. "We all rushed for our own safety as the ship suddenly tilted and submerged," Mardianto, a journalist, said. The

incident occurred hours after fishermen and navy officers recovered the bodies of 22 people killed in Thursday's (Feb 22) fire, raising that death toll to 42. *Levina 1* was carrying at least 330 passengers when the fire broke out in a truck on the car deck, sending hundreds of people jumping into the sea, some clinging to young children. More than 290 people were rescued in waters 50 miles north of Jakarta. Divers searching the sunken ship found none of the victims from Sunday's accident, said Dadang Arkuni, chief of the Jakarta Search and Rescue Agency. "It happened so quickly," Lt. Col. Hendra Pakan said. "The ship almost completely disappeared into the sea." Authorities provided life vests but the reporters chose not to wear them.

London, Feb 26 — Indonesia's government has revoked the licence of the operator of ferry *Levina 1* that caught fire last week, leaving at least 16 dead. Transport minister Hatta Rajasa confirmed that the operator, Praga Jaya Sentosa, had failed to include babies and children in the vessel's manifest, making it difficult to determine how many people were on board. Officially, 16 people are dead and another 17 missing according to the vessel's manifest which said 307 were on board at the time of the fire. But officials fear that many others had pushed their way on to the vessel. "One hundred and twenty-two people are still reported missing by their families," Heri Asmedi of the Indonesian Red Cross told AFP. Some survivors may have drifted away in the strong current while others might still be trapped in the vessel, Hendra Pakan, spokesman for the navy's western fleet, said.

Jakarta, Feb 26 — Ferry *Levina 1* sank at Muara Gembong, Bekasi, at 1330, local time, Feb 24. According to the information gathered, the leakages might have been the main cause of the sinking. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from ferry *Levina 1* which caught fire on Thursday last week from the Indonesian capital has reached 49, officials said. The Indonesian Red Cross said the number could be nearly three times that according to relatives still seeking lost ones. Meanwhile, authorities vowed today to investigate why accident investigators and reporters were allowed to board a fire-gutted Indonesian ferry that then capsized, killing one person and leaving three others missing.

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescue workers today recovered the bodies of three people missing after the charred wreckage of ferry *Levina 1* sank earlier this week while investigators and journalists were on board. The two police officers and a TV cameraman drowned in the bizarre accident on Sunday (Feb 25), officials said. Today's recoveries raised the death toll from both disasters to 54, said Hidayat, an official with the National Search and Rescue Agency, though the final number could go higher. Colonel Didin Zainal Abidin, an official with the Navy

search team, told the Jakarta-based Elshinta radio station the bodies of the police investigators - Adjunct Commissioner Langgeng Widodo and Commissioner Widiatoro - were found floating at 0800 hrs and 0845 hrs respectively, about 500 metres from where the ferry sank. Lieutenant Colonel Hendra Pakan, spokesman for the Indonesian Navy's Western Fleet, told Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa that the body of a cameraman from Indonesia's SCTV was found by a local fishing boat at 1715 hrs. Authorities said the exact number missing from the fire was unknown because different agencies issued conflicting figures on the total number of passengers onboard the ferry, ranging from at least 307 to 400. Several Navy ships, fishing boats and other vessels continued searching for survivors and bodies today, however, they were again forced to suspend operations in the afternoon due to bad weather, combined with strong currents and poor visibility underwater that hampered divers. They will resume searching at daybreak tomorrow. Authorities suspect electric sparks from a truck laden with unauthorized chemicals parked on the boat deck caused the fire and enabled the flames to spread rapidly. Jakarta's city police chief, Inspector General Adang Firman, said a third man, an executive with the ferry company, had also been named a suspect in the blaze. The police had earlier declared the ship's captain and navigator suspects in the fire disaster. "The three have now been arrested, while a number of pieces of evidence were seized," the state-run Antara news agency quoted Firman as saying. "We have enough evidence to arrest them." He said the three would be charged with negligence and falsifying documents on the passengers manifest and the cargo on board, and could face up to five years in prison. The Ministry of Transportation has questioned the Tanjung Priok harbour master, who was suspended from his post shortly after the fire, but he has not yet been declared a suspect.

LIAFJELL (Norway)

London, Feb 27 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Fishing (general) *Liafjell* (359 gt, built 2002) was in danger of sinking at Breivoll Quay, Ibestad, (lat 68 47N, long 17 07E) after ingress of water at 2000 yesterday. It appeared the vessel had problems with its vents. The situation was brought under control.

LOKYS (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Feb 22 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1515, UTC: General cargo *Lokys* was located in lat 49 39.6N, long 03 55.5W, at 1503, UTC. Tug *Kingston* is proceeding, ETA 2100-2200, UTC, while our emergency towing vessel, tug *Anglian Princess*, will stand by as a precaution until *Lokys* is taken in tow.

London, Feb 22 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 2238, UTC: Tug *Kingston* is now on scene and preparing to take general

cargo *Lokys* in tow. Tug *Anglian Princess* will be released once *Lokys* is taken in tow.

London, Feb 23 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 1321, UTC: Following received from tug *Kingston* on VHF Channel 73 at 1230, UTC, today, confirm general cargo *Lokys* alongside at 50 berth in Portland port.

London, Feb 28 — Following received from Portland Port Authority, dated today: General cargo *Lokys*, which arrived Portland Feb 23 for engine repairs, remains at Berth 50 here.

LOUIE LEONE (U.S.A.)

See *Kimberly Jane*.

MAERSK VIENNA (Cyprus)

London, Feb 26 — Container Carrier *Maersk Vienna* arrived at Malaga on Feb 22, sailing later the same day for Lome, where ETA Mar 2.

MAGGIE CAT (Australia)

London, Feb 27 — One of Sunferries' new multimillion-dollar catamarans has been pulled from the water less than two months after its maiden voyage. The A\$3.2 million passenger (cruise) *Maggie Cat* has been grounded on dry land for repairs after it hit a navigation beacon while leaving Nelly Bay harbour on Sunday. Sunferries general manager Darin McDonald said while it was only a minor incident, the safety of passengers was Sunferries' first priority. He said a decision had been made to take the boat from the water indefinitely until technicians could arrive from Brisbane to start repairs. Mr McDonald downplayed Sunday's (Feb 25) mishap, saying it appeared a fault with the electronic gear selector had caused the vessel to crash into the beacon. Mr McDonald said the vessel was travelling at six knots when it hit the beacon just after it left the harbour at 0945 hrs. No one was injured in the incident and the new vessel received minor damage.

MAKOURIA (Guyana)

Georgetown, Guyana, Mar 1 — Ferry *Makouria* has been repaired and is back in service. — Lloyd's Agents.

MERCANDIA IV (Denmark)

See *Sundbuss Pernille*.

MERCHANT BRILLIANT (Jamaica)

Liverpool, Feb 22 — Roll On Roll Off *Merchant Brilliant*: Understand that the dispute is now over and the vessel has had a partial crew change. *Merchant Brilliant* will be sailing from Heysham late tonight. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 26 — Roll On Roll Off *Merchant Brilliant* arrived Dublin 0659, UTC, today.

MERMAID II (Latvia)

Hamburg, Mar 1 — Repairs of the jetty at Lubeck, damaged by passenger ro/ro *Mermaid II*, will amount to approximately E5,200.00 and will be concluded in about four weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

MIKHAIL CHEREMNYKH (Russia)

London, Feb 25 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: General cargo *Mikhail Cheremnykh* (3527 gt, built 1973), Murmansk for Rotterdam, asked for permission to anchor near Utsira at 1135, local time, Feb 23, because she took water. Vessel was assisted by tug *Haabull* and rescue vessel *Halfdan Grieg* to Kopervik for pumping and temporary repairs. Vessel arrived Kopervik at 1400 hrs. Vessel proceeded to Rotterdam at 2100, local time, and is now currently in lat 58 039N, long 05 41E, knots 1.5 with ETA Rotterdam 1800, local time, Feb 26.

London, Feb 27 — General cargo *Mikhail Cheremnykh* has now arrived in Rotterdam.

Maassluis, Feb 28 — General cargo *Mikhail Cheremnykh* arrived in Rotterdam on Feb 27. Understand from the agent that there was nothing wrong with the vessel, no reports of taking water. She will be shifting in port today. — Lloyd's Agents.

MIKHAIL DUDIN (Malta)

Riga, Feb 28 — General cargo *Mikhail Dudin* remains at Ventspils awaiting spare parts. — Lloyd's Agents.

MISTRAL EXPRESS (Morocco)

London, Feb 22 — The following press release, issued by SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV, dated Feb 21, states: After having successfully refloated the 145 metre long passenger ro/ro *Mistral Express* on Monday Feb 19, the vessel was redelivered yesterday back to her owners in the port of Melilla/Nador in Morocco. After the refloating the vessel was brought alongside and the SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage B.V. team further secured the vessel and made the necessary dive inspections and temporary repairs. Upon redelivery SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage staff and salvage equipment will remain involved on board of the vessel during her planned trip to a repair port.

London, Feb 27 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, passenger ro/ro *Mistral Express* was located stationary at Melilla at 1513, UTC, today.

MONTROSE (Liberia)

London, Feb 28 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1510, UTC: Bulker *Montrose* (38731 gt, built 2002) grounded on soft bottom south-west of Sharps Island Light (which is located in lat 38 37N, long 76 22W), entrance to Choptank River, Chesapeake Bay, at 1215, UTC, today. Vessel remains aground in way of port bow. No known damage or pollution.

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The 700-foot bulker *Montrose* has run aground at the mouth of the Choptank River near Cambridge, officials said. U.S. Coast Guard crews tried several times today to free the freighter from the muddy Chesapeake Bay floor. Coast Guard spokesman Kip Wadlow said the Guard was notified around 0915 hrs that *Montrose* was stuck in the mud. He said crews waited with a couple of tugs

until high tide this afternoon and even tried moving cargo around to shift the weight on the vessel. Wadlow said an inspection of the nearly 39,000 ton vessel found no holes.

London, Mar 1 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 0825, UTC: Bulker *Montrose* is still aground on soft bottom with no sign of any damage.

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Montrose*, loaded with coal, ran aground yesterday morning in the Chesapeake Bay off Tilghman Island after its crew tried to navigate through waters too shallow for its deep draught, the Coast Guard reported. Tug crews were attempting last night to free the vessel. *Montrose* had been travelling from the Sparrows Point terminal, heading south along the bay's deep main channel to reach the Atlantic Ocean, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Jeff Cheek. But somehow, he said, it ended up near the mouth of the Choptank River about four miles off Tilghman Island, its bow to the shoal. Coast Guard officials say it is rare for such a large ship to run aground in that area of the bay, especially because those who navigate large vessels are usually very experienced. The Coast Guard received an alert at 0815 hrs from a Chesapeake Bay pilot, who was not onboard, that the vessel had run aground. Officials determined later in the morning that the vessel was not blocking shipping traffic Coast Guard officials were investigating last night why the ship ran aground. Two Coast Guard marine inspectors were on the scene last night as crews were attempting to free the ship, said Lt. Isaac Saenz. If the tugs are unable to free the ship, Saenz said, the Coast Guard would look at other options, including off-loading the coal.

MORSKOY PRIBOY (Russia)

See *Novaya Zemlya*.

MSC NAPOLI (U.K.)

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Tins of dried milk, cosmetics and nappies have washed up on beaches almost a hundred miles away from the grounded container carrier *MSC Napoli*, according to coastguards. Debris from the vessel has been found scattered on Bournemouth, Highcliffe and Christchurch beaches, in Dorset, and on the Isle of Wight. Mark Clark, Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) spokesman, said: "None of it is proving a threat, there's no danger to the public. We are just advising people to inform the coastguard if they find anything. "Some of the material on the beach on the Isle of Wight is covered in oil, which is why we are advising people not to touch it." The latest debris of around 400 tins of baby food, cosmetics and shampoo began washing ashore about 85 miles away at Blackgang Chine, Ventnor, on the Isle of Wight, yesterday. Similar items have washed up, along with nappies, along the beaches at Bournemouth, Highcliffe and Christchurch. The local authorities have been tasked with clearing away

the debris, Mr Clark said. The MCA said so far 643 containers have been removed from the deck of the listing vessel — they are being transferred by sea to Portland Port. There are 1,556 containers still on the vessel, 203 of which are on deck. A total of 116 containers have been washed overboard since the vessel grounded. The MCA said 73 washed ashore, 30 had not been located and were presumed sunk and 11 submerged containers had been located. Two containers were initially lost in French waters. Contractors are now using electro-magnets in the huge clean up of Branscombe beach. Mr Clark said the latest items were from breached containers still on board the listing vessel. He said: "The wind and waves have breached some of the containers. We believe some of the debris has come out of these containers from the deck of the ship."

London, Feb 26 — A press release from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated Feb 23, states: There has been no change to the condition of Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* and no further containers have been lost. Pumping from the marine diesel oil tank in the engine-room continued yesterday. Some items from the vessel have begun to wash up on the beaches at Bournemouth, Highcliffe, Christchurch and the Isle of Wight. These are mostly food stuffs and are being cleared local authorities. 643 containers have been removed to date. There are now less than 200 containers on deck.

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: The risk of a major oil pollution incident from Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* has passed, the Government has announced. Stephen Ladyman, the shipping minister said "virtually all" the heavy fuel oil had been removed from the vessel. Only "residual amounts" were left in hard-to-reach spaces and removal of diesel oil was continuing, he added. In a written statement updating MPs on the salvage operation, Mr Ladyman continued: "The risk of a major oil pollution incident with the potential to cause widespread environmental damage has therefore passed." Mr Ladyman said all 853 containers had now been removed from the decks and work was under way to remove them from the holds. Vessels with sonar are searching for lost containers that are believed to have sunk and several have already been located.

MSC SUEZ (Panama)

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0300, UTC: Container Carrier *MSC Suez* (37071 gt, built 1993), Melbourne for Adelaide, reported an engine-room fire at 2230, UTC, Feb 21 in approximately lat 38 10S, long 140 35E. Carbon dioxide was used to extinguish the fire. The vessel then waited for things to cool. Vessel then reported it was underway at 1930, UTC, Feb 22 bound Adelaide where it should arrive in approximately 24 hours. The vessel has not reported the extent of damage.

London, Feb 25 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS Container Carrier *MSC Suez* was anchored in lat 34 48 27S, long 138 17 05E, at 2325, UTC, Feb 24.

Adelaide, Feb 25 — Container Carrier *MSC Suez* arrived Adelaide today from Melbourne. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *MSC Suez* was still moored at Adelaide at 0749, UTC, today.)

MSC YOKOHAMA (Greece)

See "Drugs Found On Greek Vessel, Freeport, Bahamas" under "Miscellaneous".

NATIONAL STAR (Egypt)

Aleppo, Feb 28 — Our Tartous office reports general cargo *National Star* (5741 gt, built 1982), loaded with a consignment of iron from Ukraine, struck Tartous Port quay No.13, depth 12 metres, Feb 22, causing serious damage. A committee estimated the cost of repairing the quay to be more than US\$ 500,000, and no vessels are permitted to berth at the quay before repairs are carried out. Tartous Port consider the vessel liable for the damage and the vessel's master presented a sea protest considering the pilot and the small tugs used are liable for the damage. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *National Star* had sailed Nikolayev Feb 16 for Tartous.)

NAVOYSK (Russia)

Portsmouth, Feb 26 — Fishing (general) *Navoyak* (638 gt, built 1980), with five crew members, has run aground in the Avacha Bay near Kamchatka. No one is hurt, and there is no fuel leak either, a source at the Kamchatka maritime search-and-rescue centre told Itar-Tass yesterday. The source blamed an ice shift for the accident. Tugss can not reach *Navoyak* because of ice jams but the situation is under control. The crew are not sending May Day signals and can wait until the weather improves. She was seized for illegally catching crab in the Sea of Okhotsk and convoyed to the Avacha Bay for investigation. — Correspondent.

NEW HORIZONS (Guyana)

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated Feb 24, states: Guyana product tanker *New Horizons* (2758 gt, built 1958) that sailed to Guyana with a cargo of fuel destined for a company in the Dominican Republic will not be leaving port any time soon as the vessel has to be fumigated and a new crew might have to be selected. BK International is demanding that an advisory that was issued by the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) alleging that the ship stole the cargo of fuel be withdrawn immediately. BK International yesterday explained that the ship was forced to dock in Guyana with the cargo because members of the crew, stricken with chicken pox, had mutinied. According to the Interpol advisory *New Horizons* was heading to Guyana with a view to stealing a huge consignment of bunker C fuel oil, which

was destined for a company in the Dominican Republic. An official at BK International said yesterday that the claim by Interpol was not true. The official said the vessel returned to Guyana because members of the crew forced the master to bring them home after there was an outbreak of chicken pox on board. The crew members said they were not accessing treatment and the situation had become unbearable. The vessel is currently anchored at the mouth of the Demerara River with the cargo sealed and intact, the official said. According to Interpol, the vessel was contracted to ship a consignment of fuel oil worth US\$1 million from Barranquilla to Rio Haina, DR. Interpol said the vessel, which was to have arrived in the Dominican Republic on Feb 6, had not reached its destination nor has the company which contracted it been in receipt of any correspondence from the owners of the vessel regarding its whereabouts and the status of the cargo. As such Interpol advised all authorities not to allow the vessel to land and discharge the cargo at their ports. The agency is also looking for the vessel's master, owner and the operations manager of the company. According to reports, the vessel returned to Guyana on Feb 12 and has been docked at the mouth of the Demerara since. The official said following the Interpol advisory, management made contact with the company the cargo was consigned to and efforts were being made to contact Interpol to amend the advisory. The company said the crew members went to Colombia November last year and some of them had contracted chicken pox and were not receiving proper treatment for their ailment. As a result, the crew began protesting and commanded the master to bring them home to Guyana. The master, D. Motta a Colombian had written to BK International, explaining how he was threatened by the infected crew members. The company official yesterday said a team from the Guyanese Ministry of Health would fumigate the vessel today and it would be approximately four days before the vessel could be occupied again. The official noted that the infected crew would also have to be fully recovered before they boarded the ship again. "This means that we might have to hire another crew to get the vessel back," the official said. In addition to the outbreak, there were also fears that the Dominican Republic company that the fuel was destined for had some financial problems. Once the vessel arrived in Guyana on Feb 12 the 35,000 barrels of fuel on it were declared and the boat remained in-transit.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: BK International has told the police that the Dominican Republic firm, to which a consignment of bunker fuel was headed when product tanker *New Horizons* turned back two weeks ago, owes it some US\$402,000 and as a result the company ordered the master and crew to return to Guyana with the fuel. The company had earlier said that some

members of the crew were stricken with chicken pox and because they were not getting medication they became angry and threatened to kill the master, forcing him to bring them back home. Crime Chief Heeralall Makhanlall said Monday (Feb 26) that the police investigations so far have revealed that the owner of the ship is saying that the Dominican Republic company to which the fuel was supposed to be taken owed BK International US\$402,000. As a result the owner of the vessel requested that it be brought to Guyana with the intention that the Dominican Republic firm would then pay off the debt and the fuel would be released. Makhanlall said that the matter was still under investigation and the police are awaiting information from the company and then it will seek legal advice on the way forward. BK was also demanding that an advisory issued by the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) alleging that the ship stole the cargo of fuel be withdrawn immediately. It is not clear whether this was done, but the ship is still anchored at the mouth of the Demerara River.

NISSHIN MARU (Japan)

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Fish factory *Nisshin Maru* has got its engines going, Greenpeace says. Anti-whaling campaigner Cindy Baxter said observers on the Greenpeace vessel *Esperanza* saw *Nisshin Maru* separate from the two vessels it had been tethered to about 1700, local time, today. "It steamed for about two miles at about 12 knots. It has stopped again," Ms Baxter said. Ms Baxter said Greenpeace hoped the fact that *Nisshin Maru* had disengaged from tanker *Oriental Bluebird* and the hunter vessel was a strong signal that the fleet is ready to leave. Yesterday, New Zealand Conservation Minister Chris Carter pleaded for the ship to be moved. The government urgently wanted it out of the area to avoid the potential for a huge environmental disaster if the weather deteriorated and the vessel foundered. "That vessel is still stationary in the water. It has got 1,100 tonnes of toxic oil in it and we want it out of there," he said.

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Fish factory *Nisshin Maru*, which has been stranded in the Southern Ocean for the past nine days, has restarted its engines and plans to move out of Antarctic waters. The crew have been working to repair the engines amid growing pressure from the New Zealand Government to move the ship further north in case it starts leaking oil. A spokesman for the Japanese Institute of Cetacean Research says the ship will stay in Antarctic waters for the next few days to make sure it is able to travel long distances.

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated Feb 25, states: Fish factory *Nisshin Maru* is moving again, but a definitive answer on whether the boat will resume its whaling is not expected

for some days. Greenpeace Australian Pacific chief executive Steve Shallhorn said observers research *Esperanza* reported the whaling vessel began testing its engines earlier this afternoon. The vessel then moved in a northward direction, along with five other vessels in its fleet, at about 2235, local time, he said. Greenpeace believe the fleet is now headed back to Japan, but spokesman for the Institute of Cetacean Research, Glenn Inwood, said they would make a final decision on Tuesday or Wednesday (Feb 27/28). Institute of Cetacean Research director general Hiroshi Hatanaka tonight confirmed *Nisshin Maru* had "successfully recovered full power". She had to pass all the necessary requirements the skipper needed to be done before she could depart the Ross Sea, and needs some more time for adjustment and testing of the vessel's equipment, he said.

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The Institute of Cetacean Research said today that fish factory *Nisshin Maru* had "successfully recovered full power following a fire that damaged the ship and took the life of a crew member." The Director General of the Institute of Cetacean Research, Dr Hiroshi Hatanaka, said that crew had worked tirelessly day and night to restore the vessel to working order since the fire. He said they had worked professionally and responsibly, checking all electrical and mechanical systems, safety aspects and all requirements for making a vessel fully seaworthy, taking advantage of fine and calm Antarctic weather, to get the vessel going again. Answering concerns voiced over the delay in the vessel's departure he continued, "The *Nisshin Maru* had to pass all the necessary requirements the skipper needed to be done before she could depart the Ross Sea, and we need some more time for adjustment and testing of the vessel's equipment. It has been our goal to get the vessel under way as soon as possible, but in a way that ensured the safety of everyone involved. The decision to remain in the same position while the vessel was repaired was made with the safety of the crew and scientists in mind," Dr Hatanaka said. On accusations that the vessel represented a danger through instability or worsening weather, and that the ship would have to accept outside help, he said there was never any indication that the Antarctic environment was in any way under threat from the accident, "despite regular accusations to the contrary from Greenpeace and the New Zealand Conservation Minister, Chris Carter."

London, Feb 26 — Following received from Wellington MRCC, timed 0210, UTC: Fish factory *Nisshin Maru* is now reported underway. Yesterday the vessel was reported 200 nautical miles north of its original position.

Sydney, Feb 26 — New Zealand officials have expressed concern over the seaworthiness of Japanese fish factory *Nisshin Maru*, damaged in a fatal engine fire. *Nisshin Maru* posed a great threat to the Antarctic

environment following the fire, New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clarke told local media today (Feb 26). Conservation minister Chris Carter has warned about a potential catastrophe if it lost its fuel, a claim the vessel's owners said was exaggerated. *Nisshin Maru* has undergone repairs while sitting dead in the water for 10 days. It moved out of the Ross Sea yesterday. "When you have a boat disabled like that, with a chance it could sink and go down with all that fuel on board, and there was a lot of it, that poses a huge risk to the Antarctic environment," Miss Clarke said. "We consider the Antarctic environment was put at risk." — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Fish factory *Nisshin Maru* has begun moving away from the Antarctic coast under its own power, an official said Sunday (Feb 25), 10 days after fire crippled it and left it stricken near the world's biggest Adelie penguin rookery. "*Nisshin Maru* is moving northward at the moment, away from the coast," said Glenn Inwood, a spokesman for Japan's Institute for Cetacean Research. It was not known yet whether the vessel will continue with this season's hunt. "They're not leaving the Antarctic," Inwood said, despite mounting pressure from New Zealand and environmentalists for the vessel to depart the area. *Nisshin Maru* crew will spend the next two to three days checking and testing all systems on the whale processing vessel, including engines, steering and navigation, Inwood said. "By Wednesday they expect to make a decision to either stay or leave the Antarctic. "Ideally they can stay down there and spend the next two to three weeks completing the research," he said. Japan says its whaling is conducted as scientific research.

London, Jan 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Japan's whaling fleet has cut short its hunt in the Antarctic after a fire two weeks ago crippled the main boat. The controversial annual hunt, which Japan says was carried out for research purposes, was meant to continue until the end of March. But Japan's Institute of Cetacean Research said that fish factory *Nisshin Maru* could not be fully repaired at sea. Japanese government officials said the fleet had caught 508 of this season's target of 860 whales. The six-vessel fleet had been dogged by anti-whaling activists since it set sail in December. But an unrelated fire on board *Nisshin Maru*, which killed one crew member and left the boat without power for 10 days, proved a bigger problem. "Far from an embarrassment, the situation in the Antarctic was an unfortunate event that no-one could have predicted," said Hiroshi Hatanaka, director general of the ICR. He said much of the boat's whaling equipment had been damaged. The government of New Zealand and the environmental group Greenpeace protested to Japan after the boat had floundered off Antarctica, near a large penguin colony. Fears of a fuel oil leak

prompted an offer from Greenpeace to tow the vessel out of the area which Japan rejected. Japan is strongly opposed to the international ban on commercial whaling. It hunts whales every year under what it describes as a scientific research programme. Japanese officials said the research hunting would resume in December.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated Mar 1, states: Greenpeace says it will continue to put pressure on Japan to permanently stop its whaling program after the country abandoned the remainder of this year's hunt. Yesterday, Japan recalled its six vessels from the Southern Ocean after a fire onboard fish factory *Nisshin Maru* two weeks ago caused the death of a 27-year-old crew member and extensive damage to processing equipment. Japan's Fisheries Agency says the fire has damaged the vessel's main winch, scales and meat processing equipment, making it too difficult to continue whaling. Greenpeace Australia Pacific chief executive officer Steve Shallhorn says the decision will save around 500 whales.

NITALKO (North Korea)

Piraeus, Feb 26 — Following received from Piraeus RCC: General cargo *Nitalko* is reported aground in lat 35 53N, long 27 12E. Vessel has a crew of five persons. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Five crew members of a cargo vessel were rescued by Greek Coast Guards near Karpathos island, yesterday. The crew of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-flagged vessel, *Nitalko*, were brought to Karpathos, before it lost steering power and was adrift off the island. The vessel, carrying marble from Turkey to Greek islands of Rhodes and Crete, was halfway to its destination when stormy weather stranded it off Karpathos island.

London, Feb 26 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At 0820, Feb 25 general cargo *Nitalko* (320 dwt, built 1963) was reported by NAVTEX grounded, then anchored in lat 35 53N, long 27 12E, the north part of Karpathos Island. The vessel is now missing, and a tug is in the area attempting locate it.

London, Feb 27 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1125, UTC: General cargo *Nitalko*: Vessel has not been sighted and some debris, lifejackets, etc, have been observed in the area where vessel was last seen.

London, Mar 1 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1050, UTC: General cargo *Nitalko*: Search is still under way for vessel, but nothing has been sighted and it is strongly believed it has sunk.

NORDSTJERNEN (Norway)

Oslo, Feb 23 — Passenger ro/ro *Nordstjernen* did not sustain any hull damage and has been put back on schedule heading for Tromso. — Lloyd's Agents.

NOVA (Netherlands)

London, Feb 23 — A press release Marine Accident Investigation Branch,

dated today: General cargo *Nova* (1978 gt, built 2002) made contact with a training wall in Rye Feb 21. (Note — *Nova* arrived Rotterdam at 1435, Feb 22 from Rye.)

NOVAYA ZEMLYA (Slovakia)

London, Feb 27 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: Refrigerated general cargo *Novaya Zemlya* (4440 gt, built 1986) was damaged when it was "sandwiched" between fish factory *Morskoy Priboy* (4379 gt, built 1981) and fish factory *Kapitan Buga* (4407 gt, built 1994) in the port of Kollafjordur, Faroes, Feb 25. The accident was caused by strong north east winds. On Feb 26 the ship was berthed with clearly visible signs of the contact in the sound.

NYALA (Liberia)

Kingston, JAM, Feb 23 — Bulker *Nyala* completed repairs and sailed Kingston Feb 17, for New Orleans. — Lloyd's Agents.

OANA CRISTINA (Romania)

London, Feb 28 — Understand general cargo *Oana Cristina* (2598 gt, built 1990), Eregli for Birkenhead, has put into Setubal with steering problems. (Note — *Oana Cristina* sailed Eregli Feb 13, passed Gibraltar 2232, Feb 22 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was still at Setubal at 1027, UTC, today.)

OCEAN CAROLINE (NIS)

Gdynia, Feb 25 — Polish navy helicopter on Sunday rescued eight of an 11-man crew from roll on roll off *Ocean Caroline* (2317 gt, built 1973), in danger of sinking in the Baltic off the Polish coast. "Our helicopter has removed eight crew members from the *Ocean Caroline* some 62 miles north-west of Gdynia," Navy spokesman Bogdan Zajda said. "The master and two assistants have decided to remain on board for the time being to secure the vessel as rescue boats await nearby," he added. According to marine rescue spokeswoman Mirosława Wieckowska, the vessel began taking on water after springing a leak at the hold level. — Reuters.

Gothenburg, Feb 25 — Today, eight crew of 11 people on Roll On Roll Off *Ocean Caroline* picked up by Polish rescue team but master and two crew tried to save the ship but finally gave up and also brought over to a tug. The Norwegian master has not yet given up the hope to save the vessel, but Polich MRCC requested all crew to evacuate since vessel unstable at the point. The Norwegian MRCC south got the first alert at 0748 today. Vessel had a list of approximately 45 degrees but master tried to save vessel as long as he could. The cargo consisted of timber from Klaipeda bound for Norwegian port. All crew seem to be OK and now trying to support and tow the vessel to nearest port. The rescue team was co-ordinated by Gdynian MRCC. Polish navy vessel *Afrodite* has been supporting the vessel and crew the entire day, but confirm water entered into cargo hold. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Feb 25 — Information received from Sandes, dated today, states: Roll On Roll Off *Ocean Caroline* left Klaipeda 2140, local time, yesterday for Sandnes, where ETA was early Feb 26. The vessel is loaded with 225 pallets with firewood for Sandnes.

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Roll On Roll Off *Ocean Caroline*, which had begun sinking off Poland's Baltic coast earlier in the day, was being towed to Sweden, the Maritime Economy Ministry said in a statement today. "*Ocean Caroline* is being towed to Sweden by a Swedish cutter. The master and two officers, who had remained on board, were transferred to a Swedish cutter after being fished out of the water by a Polish rescue vessel," the statement said. Eight of the ship's 11-man crew had been evacuated earlier by a Polish naval helicopter, leaving the three officers to secure the disabled vessel and its cargo. *Ocean Caroline* began listing after springing a leak 62 miles (100 km) north-west of Gdynia, but the exact cause was not immediately identified.

London, Feb 25 — Following received from Gdynia MRCC, timed 1912, UTC: At 1224, local time, Roll On Roll Off *Ocean Caroline* was in position 55 43.36N, long 17 37.27E. Fishing (general) *Toron*, G204, took *Ocean Caroline* in tow and, at 1906, UTC, was in position lat 55 50.3N, long 16 40E, heading towards the Swedish coast at four knots. The destination has not yet been decided.

London, Feb 26 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 0930, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Ocean Caroline* is now being towed by a tug, name not known, to Karlskrona.

Gothenburg, Feb 26 — At 1030 hrs Roll On Roll Off *Ocean Caroline* is approaching Karlskrona with tug and Coast Guard vessel assisting and is to berth at Verko. Another tug is waiting inside port. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Feb 27 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1500, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Ocean Caroline* was towed into Karlskrona Feb 26.

London, Feb 28 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The Swedish trawlers *Toron* and *Torland* succeeded in towing the leaking Roll On Roll Off *Ocean Caroline* into the port of Karlskrona at 1000 hrs, on Feb 26. It was escorted by a Swedish coast guard ship. It was berthed with port side to quay in Verko, with *Toron* still attached to its starboard side to stabilise the still seriously listing vessel. The list which had temporarily increased to 45 degrees could then be reduced to about 35 degrees to port. Investigations and dewatering works started immediately after reaching the harbour. *Ocean Caroline* had been underway from Litva to Norway when it sprang a leak 100 km off the Polish coast on Feb 25 due to a fracture of shell plating and had to be abandoned by its crew of eleven.

OCEAN OTTER III (Canada)

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Two fishermen are safe after some tense moments early today off Newfoundland's south coast. The men issued a distress call at about 0300 hrs, after their vessel, fishing *Ocean Otter III* (47 gt, built 1982), began taking on water south of the Burin Peninsula. The men then abandoned the longliner for a liferaft. The fishermen were picked up shortly afterward by the Canadian Coast Guard cutter *Jackman*, sailing out of Burin. The Coast Guard said *Ocean Otter III* was still afloat, but had keeled over on its side.

London, Feb 28 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1130, UTC: Fishing *Ocean Otter III* was abandoned in lat 46 48.5N, long 55 21W. It is not known whether the vessel is still afloat.

London, Feb 28 — Fishing (general) *Ocean Otter III* was reported taking on water in lat 46 48.30N, long 55 21.00W, 4 nautical miles south of Ferryland Head, Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, at 0635, UTC, today. Crew abandoning to a life raft. Crew recovered by Canadian Coast Guard vessel *Jackman* and brought to Burin. *Ocean Otter III* is presumed sunk.

OCEAN SAPPHERE (Singapore)

See S.A.Helderberg.

OLVY-01 (Panama)

Labuan, Feb 24 — General cargo *Olvly-01* is still aground and no salvage operations have been carried out to date. — Lloyd's Agents.

OSIRIS II (Bolivia)

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Coast Guard Cutter *Tahoma* returned home to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (Virginia) yesterday following a 54-day mission in the Caribbean during which the crew seized about \$14 million worth of heroin and cocaine onboard Bolivian general cargo *Osiris II* on Feb 4. The Coast Guard responded to the disabled 120-foot vessel in the central Caribbean. They towed the vessel for six days and 500 miles to the Coast Guard base in San Juan, Puerto Rico. While towing the vessel, teams of about five to seven officers boarded it to conduct a routine inspection to find out the source of the engine malfunction. The inspection proved anything but routine as on the first day, Coast Guard officials seized a personal stash of heroin. This prompted a top-to-bottom search of the vessel and the Coast Guard discovered 1,000 pounds of cocaine and 66 pounds of heroin.

OSTEDIJK (Netherlands)

London, Feb 22 — The following press release, issued by SvitzerWijismuller Salvage BV, dated today, states: SvitzerWijismuller Salvage B.V. was instructed by owners of the 2006 built general cargo *Ostedijk* to assist in the salvage operations involving their vessel. The 120 metre long vessel was loaded with some 6,000 tons of fertilizer and first developed cargo problems in one of her holds last

Saturday, Feb 17. A day later the crew was taken off while the vessel was located off the northwesterly Spanish coast, being monitored by the Spanish emergency response authorities. SvitzerWijismuller Salvage specialists in the course of the week were requested to move in and today, were contracted to provide the necessary assistance to take over control from the Spanish emergency response authorities. Further salvage team members will arrive overnight while salvage and fire fighting equipment is being mobilised in. One of SvitzerWijismuller's salvage/firefighting tugs from the Lisbon operations is being mobilised in as well.

London, Feb 26 — A SvitzerWijismuller Salvage BV report, dated Feb 25, states: SvitzerWijismuller Salvage B.V. in co-operation with the Spanish Emergency Response Authorities has brought the situation on board general cargo *Ostedijk* under control. SvitzerWijismuller Salvage teams have taken over as from Feb 22. Fire fighting salvage tug *Svitzer Leixoes* arrived on site this morning, and has taken over duties from the Spanish ETV while further necessary salvage equipment was placed on board yesterday. The cargo has been treated in the core of the hot spots with special injection pipes to prevent excess free water in the holds as much as possible and at the same directly influence the affected areas. Plans are set into motion in conjunction with the shipowners to restart the normal ships' systems and to deliver the cargo to a destination.

Ferrol, Feb 28 — Following presentation by owners to local authorities of general cargo *Ostedijk's* Sewaworthiness Certificate and of the cargo condition, issued by BV class, vessel was permitted to and sailed today at 1630, local time, by own power, under escort of tug *Svitzer Leixoes*, destination Bilbao to discharge. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 1 — A SvitzerWijismuller Salvage BV report, dated today, states: SvitzerWijismuller Salvage B.V. in co-operation with the casualty's owners have succeeded in bringing the situation on board general cargo *Ostedijk* under control. The Spanish authorities have accepted a salvage/control plan that allowed the vessel to leave from its present holding position off Corunna and proceed to the emergency discharge port of Bilbao. The vessel, brought back in an autonomous condition, weighed anchor and departed at about 1500, local time, yesterday. The vessel has a SvitzerWijismuller Salvage expert team and specific salvage equipment on board for contingency purposes and is escorted by the salvage/fire fighting tug *Svitzer Leixoes*. ETA at Bilbao is 1100, local time, today.

OTTON (Panama)

Bilbao, Mar 1 — Fire fighting tug *Otton* remains in the port repairing. — Lloyd's Agents.

OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 27 — Repairs to the Philippine-registered passenger ro/ro *Our Lady of Medjugorje* were completed over the weekend at Manila's South Harbour terminal. Following the completion of repairs, *Our Lady of Medjugorje* left the South Harbour terminal yesterday, on a special voyage without any passengers, carrying just cargo, to Dumaguete on Negros island and Tagbilaran in Quezon province. The vessel is due back in Manila on Friday (Mar 2) morning. In the evening, the vessel will resume its regular voyage between Manila and Coron and Puerto Princesa, both on Palawan island. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Feb 28 — The Maritime Industry Authority or MARINA reported Wednesday that it would restore passenger ro/ro *Our Lady of Medjugorje's* safety certificate to full term status if the vessel returned to the port of Manila without any problems. MARINA, the Philippines maritime regulatory agency, said that it had issued a provisional safety certificate to *Our Lady of Medjugorje* to operate as a cargo vessel on a single voyage. The passenger-cargo ferry left Manila on Monday (Feb 26) for Dumaguete in Negros island and Tagbilaran in Quezon province without any passengers but with a full load of cargo. The four-day voyage will serve as a shakedown voyage to see if it's engine can operate normally under both calm and heavy sea conditions. The vessel's single Mitsui engine had to be overhauled after its lube oil pump tripped off during a trip between Palawan and Manila on Feb 2. The ship had to be towed to Manila where it underwent afloat repairs. Engineers working on the engine found no damage to the lube oil pump, but the engine sustained serious damage when it ran out of lubricants. Aboitiz Transport System, operator of *Our Lady of Medjugorje*, said that the vessel is scheduled to back in Manila on Friday. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

OVERSEAS HOUSTON (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 1 — Understand product tanker *Overseas Houston* has sailed from its berth at the mouth of the Hillsborough River, at East Bay, Alafia and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS in lat 27 38 6.11N, long 84 41 6.97W at 0425, Feb 28, speed 13.8 knots.

PACIFIC ANGEL (Panama)

London, Feb 27 — A press release from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, timed 1724, UTC, states: Humber Coastguard assisted fishing *Shaligar* (8.73 gt, built 1997) and vehicle carrier *Pacific Angel* (26914 gt, built 1983) today after they were in collision in the entrance to the River Tyne. *Pacific Angel* was outbound from the River Tyne at 1410 hrs when it was in collision with *Shaligar*. *Shaligar* broadcast a mayday message which was picked up by Humber Coastguard. The Coastguard maintained

communications with both vessels and requested the Tynemouth RNLI lifeboat to launch. The two crew on board the fishing vessel were uninjured, although their fishing vessels bow was badly damaged. However, there was no ingress of water, so the vessel was able to make its own way into Fish Quay at North Shields, escorted by the lifeboat. There was no significant damage to the car carrier and no injuries. It was able to continue on passage to Teesport. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch has been informed. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, *Pacific Angel* was in lat 54 49 53.22N, long 00 55.35.22W, at 2234, UTC, today.)

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Two fishermen had a lucky escape after their boat, fishing *Shaligar*, collided with vehicle carrier *Pacific Angel* after it left South Shields. An investigation has been launched into the collision off the mouth of the Tyne yesterday. Tynemouth RNLI's all-weather lifeboat was scrambled at 1420 hrs by Humber Coastguard, after the boat's skipper made a mayday call. The 10 metre *Shaligar*, from North Shields, started taking on water after colliding with *Pacific Angel*, which had earlier sailed from the Nissan terminal, bound for Teesport. Tynemouth RNLI spokesman Adrian Don said: "When we got to the scene, five miles off Tynemouth, the skipper of *Shaligar* radioed to say that he and his crewman were shocked, but otherwise unharmed. "*Shaligar* sustained considerable damage to the deck, railings and rigging, caused by it having scraped along the side of the much bigger ship. "Once we made sure the boat and its crew was in no immediate danger, we escorted it back to safety at North Shields."

PALESTEL 29 (Belgian)

London, Feb 28 — Belgian motor tanker *Palestel 29*, built 1962, 80 metres long, 1227 dwt, homeport Charleroi, and push tug *Lehkering 20*, built 1976, 40 metres long, with four pushbarges connected, owned by Handel- en Scheepvaart O. Slokkers in Zwijndrecht, were in collision on the River Waal, near Weurt, Netherlands, at about 0600, local time, today. The collision happened just opposite the entrance of the Maas-Waal Canal. The tug with the four pushbarges loaded with ore was on a voyage to Germany and the loaded tanker was just leaving the outer harbour of the Canal, also bound for Germany. The tanker was hit by the front barge on her starboard side and sustained a tear in her hull of about 30cm long, through which diesel oil was running into the river. The crew of the tanker pumped part of the cargo from the damaged tank into the other tanks to stop the leaking. She then returned to the outer harbour of Weurt. The push tug with her four barges anchored in the river to wait for the river police to make the necessary inquiries.

PETROVSK (Liberia)

See "Chiriqui Grande Bay, Panama" under "Pollution".

POLAR KING (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 28 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 1900, UTC: Tug *Polar King* (198 gt, built 1974), Honolulu for Seattle, lost tow of a barge after towline parted in lat 28 50N, long 153 11W at 2230, local time, yesterday. *Polar King* will reconnect tow this morning and return to Honolulu. Winds 20-25 knots, seas eight-to-ten feet. (Note — *Polar King* sailed Honolulu Feb 25 for Seattle.)

PORT REVAL (Bahamas)

Gothenburg, Feb 23 — Drill platform *Port Reval* (13297 gt, built 1976) with 286 persons onboard is being evacuated in the North Sea after two anchor supports were torn off in the heavy weather conditions. At lunchtime today, TOTAL decided to evacuate the platform, allowing a minimum crew for safety to remain onboard. Winds are considered to be "full hurricane force" but are expected to decrease this evening. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Feb 23 — By 1530 hrs, around 80 persons had come ashore from drill platform *Port Reval*, located approximately 230 km north-west of Stavanger and it is expected that it will take until this evening until all the remaining personnel, with the exception of those emergency personnel remaining on board, have been evacuated off the rig. A total of 12 anchors were holding the rig, but two out of three in one corner failed and broke. The wind is currently over 60 knots and the sea between 10 to 15 metres. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated Feb 24, states: By late Friday evening, all but 40 of the 324 workers on the accommodation platform *Port Reval* were safely airlifted to shore, after two of the platform's 12 anchor chains had snapped in the storm. No one has been injured in the storm or during the evacuation. The platform is being used by Total Norge, and information director Dag Olaf Ringe says the 40 persons remaining on board will try to secure the platform. They will be assisted by several anchor-handling vessels now on their way to the platform. The weather is still rough in the area. The AWILCO-owned rig is located near the Frig Field in the North Sea, near the British Sector, 230 km north west of Stavanger.

PRINSESSE RAGNHILD (Norway)

London, Feb 23 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Color Line passenger ro/ro *Prinsesse Ragnhild* (35438 gt, built 1981) sustained technical problems with its wave stabilisers at Hirtshals on Feb 22. Seven hundred and eighty-nine passengers due to sail to Stavanger had to wait in Hirtshals until repairs were effected.

London, Feb 23 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The departure of passenger ro/ro *Prinsesse Ragnhild* from Hirtshals to Stavanger on Feb 22 had to be cancelled. Three hundred and sixty passengers with this destination were

taken to Kristiansand on board passenger ro/ro *Christian IV* during the night and taken to Stavanger from there with buses. Four hundred and twenty-nine passengers destined for Bergen had to stay in Hirtshals and were to be taken to Bergen on board passenger ro/ro *Color Festival* via Fredrikshaven and Oslo on Feb 23. *Prinsesse Ragnhild* will have to be repaired at the Wartsila Yard in Hirtshals. Passengers were irritated as for hours it was unclear whether the ship would sail on Feb 22 or not, until it became clear that larger repairs would have to be carried out.

Aalborg, Feb 28 — According to ColorLine Norway, passenger ro/ro *Prinsesse Ragnhild* completed repairs after a couple of hours in Hirtshals and sailed for Bergen without passengers. — Lloyd's Agents.

PROPONTIS (Greece)

London, Feb 23 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: After a stopover in the Koehlfleetharbour in Hamburg, crude oil tanker *Propontis* will enter Drydock 11 at the Blohm & Voss Yard at 2000 hrs, today.

PRUDENCE (Netherlands)

London, Feb 25 — Following received from Humber Coastguard MRSC, timed 0058, UTC: VTS Humber informed MRCC Humber at 0051, UTC, that general cargo *Prudence* (1556 gt, built 2003), on passage to Howdendyke, cargo 1,600 tonnes of fertiliser and with a pilot and six crew on board, had struck the Goole railway swing bridge, lat 53 42.8N, long 00 50.4W, at 2359, UTC, Feb 24. The vessel is now safely berthed alongside at Howdendyke reporting no pollution or injuries, but has sustained heavy damage above the waterline to its port bow. Network Rail is aware of the incident and accessing the damage to the bridge. The vessel has no sailing orders at this time. (Note — *Prudence* sailed Antwerp 1325, Feb 23 for Howdendyke.)

Hull, Feb 27 — General cargo *Prudence* contacted the Goole Bridge at 2350, Feb 24. The vessel will arrive in Hull tomorrow/Thursday to commence extensive repairs. It is expected the vessel will remain in Hull approximately seven to 10 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

PXXI

London, Feb 23 — Titan, Crowley Maritime Corporation's salvage and wreck removal company, successfully completed the refloating and scuttling of the oil rig *A Turtle*, ex *PXXI* earlier this month at Tristan da Cunha, one of the world's most remote islands in the South Atlantic Ocean. The 10,500-ton rig, went aground on the island in Trypot Bay in May, 2006, after being separated from a tug, which was towing the rig from Brazil to Singapore for rebuilding. Titan did a preliminary survey at the end of October, and determined that the platform could be repaired and refloated. A tender for removal was issued in November and Titan was selected as wreck removal contractor. In December a "No-Cure,

No-Pay" contract was agreed to with the owner and underwriters of the *A Turtle*. Titan's salvage team arrived at the site of the casualty Dec 22, after a 1,743-mile-trip on the chartered vessel *Kelso*. The remainder of the 20 person Titan salvage team arrived seven days later on the chartered tug *De Hong*. Over the next 50 days, the salvors repaired extensive damage to the pontoons and legs of the platform, about 70 percent of which were damaged in the grounding and subsequent extreme weather. The operation originally scheduled for 30 days, took longer due to the additional damage that had occurred from the time of the October survey and the start of the project at the end December. In addition, the platform supports began to suffer stress fatigue during the first week of February. The refloating plan called for removal of the heaviest components from the topside of the rig and discarding them at an approved disposal site. By the time the rig was removed from the rocks, more than 800 tons had been cut away. This lightening effort, along with regaining buoyancy in the damaged subsea structures, eventually allowed the platform to be towed off the reef at Trypot Bay. Salvage Master, Rich Habib, and his team of salvors refloated and removed the *A Turtle* from the reef on Feb 10 and the deepwater disposal occurred on the following morning. The refloating and sinking was made possible by the Governor of St. Helena, who also exercises executive authority for Tristan da Cunha, issuing a permit under the Environmental Protection (Overseas Territories) Order 1988, for the stranded rig to be disposed of at sea, with due regard to meeting environmental concerns.

REGAL PRINCESS (Bermuda)

Mexico City, Feb 22 — Passenger (cruise) *Regal Princess* reportedly sustained double bottom damage at Huatulco, 500 km south of Acapulco. Temporary repairs were carried out at Acapulco, and the vessel sailed today for Panama, for permanent repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

Balboa, Feb 28 — Passenger (cruise) *Regal Princess* arrived Balboa Feb 26 and berthed prior entering dry dock last night reportedly in connection bottom damages sustained while departing a Mexican Pacific coast port. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 1 — A Princess Cruises release, dated Feb 21, states: Following further assessment of the damage to passenger (cruise) *Regal Princess* after it touched bottom on Feb 18 upon departure from Huatulco, it is now necessary to cancel the Mar 1 South America voyage departing from San Juan. The time required to make the necessary repairs is longer than originally hoped. As a result of this cancellation, we will give passengers a full refund, including air fare. We will further provide passengers with a future cruise credit equal to 25% of the cruise fare paid for this voyage. The ship will proceed tomorrow to a dry

dock where repairs will be undertaken. The next sailing, a 12-day South America voyage between Lima and San Juan, will operate as scheduled on Mar 13.

RMS KIEL (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Feb 24 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Part containerised general cargo vessel *RMS Kiel* is still at Wilhelmshaven, ready to go into service once the operators are ready to commence.

London, Feb 24 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Part containerised general car *RMS Kiel* is still berthed in Wilhelmshaven as during trials the four exhaust catalysators overheated and were destroyed. As no replacement is available in short time actually another temporary solution is sought. Apart from some minor works the ship would be ready for delivery if this problem had not occurred.

RODSHER (Latvia)

Gothenburg, Feb 24 — General cargo *Rodsher* (2021 gt, built 1977), with 11 persons on board, in position east of southern part of Oland, got a list of around 20 deg, due to shifting of the deck cargo of timber/sawn wooden products, and approximate half the deck cargo fell overboard, after lunch, and general situation was critical, as per rescue coordination centre at 1600 hrs, today. One hour later they confirmed situation improved and list between five to ten degrees. The weather was rough, but not hard, and wind around 18 metres per second, from the south-east. Nobody was injured. A rescue vessel from coast guard is supporting the vessel to lee of Oland island and heading for Kalmar, where vessel to reload and re-secure the cargo. MRCC in contact with master, who confirm the situation improved and vessel steady to proceed. Helicopters attended but returned to base to stand by. The floating timber may cause problems to other vessels. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Feb 28 — General cargo *Rodsher* arrived at Kalmar at 2034 hrs, Feb 24 and sailed at 2022 hrs, Feb 26. According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, at 0711, UTC, today, the vessel was in lat 54 04.17N, long 09 18.52E, on a course of 196.1 degs, at a speed of 8.4 knots.

ROKIA DELMAS (Panama)

Nantes, Feb 23 — Roll On Roll Off Container Cargo *Rokia Delmas* is still in the same position. Understand some cargo remains on board. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Jan 26.)

ROZEN

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

S.A.HELDERBERG (Belgium)

London, Feb 24 — A Safmarine press release, timed 1030, UTC, Feb 20, states: At approximately 0514, local time, Feb 17 Container Carrier *S.A.Helderberg* was involved in an incident with crude oil tanker *Ocean Sapphire* off the coast of Singapore. No

members of the crew onboard *S.A.Helderberg* were injured. No damage was sustained to any of the cargo onboard the ship. *S.A.Helderberg* sustained some damage on its starboard side with water inflow, but this is under control and a pump is being used to discharge ingress. A SvitzerWijmsmuller tug is alongside vessel and has lifted additional salvage pumps and power pack on board as a precaution. Some oil has leaked from *S.A.Helderberg*'s fuel tanks into the sea. Malaysian Marine authorities boarded the vessel 1730, Singapore time, Feb 17, am Feb 18, and yesterday evening to check progress and the vessel is within the Malaysian Territorial water (12 mile) limit. These authorities have taken over pollution control, placing a boom around the vessel to ensure no fuel escapes from area. Two Malaysian anti-pollution vessels are on standby next to *S.A.Helderberg*. The previously appointed anti-pollution vessel *Salvixen*, has stood down and returned to Singapore Feb 17. Singapore authorities also have vessels on stand by in case any oil enters within Singapore waters. Every effort is being made to ensure the impact on the environment is minimised and Safmarine is in close contact with all relevant authorities with regard to this matter. A survey of the damage sustained by *S.A.Helderberg* is being made by divers and class and P&I surveyors have also been onboard and have commenced assessing this damage. Damage sustained by *Ocean Sapphire* is unknown at this stage. *S.A.Helderberg* is managed and operated by Safmarine Container Lines N.V. and is on a bareboat charter from Danaos Corporation. The vessel is deployed on the Far East / South Africa (Safari II) service.

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated Feb 23, states: The damage to Container Carrier *S.A.Helderberg*, which was in collision with crude oil tanker *Ocean Sapphire* shortly after sailing from Tanjung Pelepas in Malaysia, appears to be more serious than at first thought. According to sources in South East Asia the damage to the hull of *S.A.Helderberg* requires drydocking. The ship had commenced its voyage in South Africa and it is likely that it was carrying cargo from this country and this will in all likelihood be discharged once the vessel reaches Singapore. Safmarine is believed to have already made arrangements for a replacement vessel to take its place on the Safari II service between the Far East and South Africa.

London, Feb 24 — A Safmarine press release, dated, Feb 23, states: Container Carrier *S.A.Helderberg* sustained some damage on its starboard side with water inflow, but this is under control and a pump is being used to discharge ingress into the 5,000 tonne chartered barge *Mariott International*, with a smaller vessel ferrying bilges to a safe disposal area unit on shore. Following the impact, some oil leaked from a fuel tank from *S.A.Helderberg* into the sea. The

Malaysian authorities took control over anti-pollution measures, deploying Two Malaysian anti-pollution vessels to disperse the oily sheen, and placing a boom around the vessel to ensure no further fuel escapes from area. The Malaysian authorities are satisfied with the pollution control measures already taken and as of 2025, local time, Feb 22 have ordered stand-down of their own pollution dispersal vessels. Nevertheless, an anti-pollution vessel is being retained by the vessel charterers for any contingency, and the boom remains in place around the vessel. A complete survey of the surrounding coastal area has been made on Feb 22 with P&I club appointed specialists, and so far, there are no findings of any oil appearing on coastal areas. Investigations and inspections from the air and on the coastline are ongoing, as are preventative measures against this happening. A SvitzerWijmsmuller vessel is also in attendance with divers and additional salvage equipment, and repairs are being made in order for *S.A.Helderberg* to be able to safely come alongside the port of Singapore for cargo discharge and full repairs. At the moment essential repairs are now being made to the starboard area affected by the impact. The vessel is stable and continuing to generate its own power. All reefer containers remain operative. Total containers onboard include 412 FFE (forty foot equivalent units) full cargo and 730 FFE empty units to be discharged in Singapore. There are 39 live reefers on board and are up and running, with just one hazardous IMO class 9 UN code 3082 20 foot equivalent unit loaded. The commodity is confirmed as Dodecanol which is a constituent for different oils such as edible oils. All containers are safely stored on board. We can confirm that there were South African goods onboard, mainly semi-finished commodities. Following the completion of essential repairs and with approval of the relevant authorities of Malaysia and Singapore, the vessel will leave its current position for the port of Singapore, where its cargo will be discharged for onward transportation to their final destinations. With the necessary construction of a cofferdam and its fixation to the vessel at sea, subsequent authorisation from the Singapore Maritime Authority (MPA) and actual transfer of the ship from current position to the port of Singapore, our estimate for commencement of discharging the cargo onboard is a minimum of 10 days from the afternoon of Feb 22 onwards. The vessel owners have advised that the ship will then undergo dry dock repairs. At this stage the cause of the collision has not been confirmed. P&I surveyors are on the scene examining all aspects of the incident. The process will include inspection of both vessels and statement of facts in each case by the appointed Malaysian authorities responsible for the official investigation as to what happened. P&I representatives as well as legal

representatives are present on the scene. The chartered Container carrier *Luetjenburg* has been called in as a replacement vessel, meaning all westbound cargo booked on the Safari service is unaffected. In fact a delay of two days prior to departure from Shanghai has been factored in due to the need for shippers to make necessary changes in their documentation for customs purposes. The Port Louis, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town estimated times of arrival remain unchanged.

London, Feb 25 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS crude oil tanker *Ocean Sapphire* was at anchor in lat 01 14 31N, long 103 35 27E, at 1509, UTC, Feb 24.

London, Feb 26 — A SvitzerWijmsmuller Salvage BV report, dated Feb 24, states: SvitzerWijmsmuller Salvage B.V. was called in to assist Container Carrier *S.A.Helderberg* following the collision that had taken place just south of Tanjung Pelepas and west of Singapore on Feb 17. A salvage tug, salvage equipment and a salvage team were sent in immediately from the Singapore based SvitzerWijmsmuller Salvage Asia office. Further team members were moved in during the following days from the SvitzerWijmsmuller Salvage South African office in Cape Town; the vessel being controlled from South Africa. Assistance is continuing to be provided in order to control water ingress, prevent pollution and stabilise the vessel in order to get it into a discharge and repair port as soon as possible in close co-ordination with relevant authorities and the vessel owners/operators.

SACHUEST (Bahamas)

Port Said, Feb 26 — Combined bulk and oil carrier *Sachuest* (59850 gt, built 1986), which entered the Suez Canal with the southbound convoy at 0400 today, went aground due to engine "blackout" at km 76, Toussem station, in the canal at 1100 hrs. Suez Canal Authority succeeded in refloating vessel, and are towing it to Suez. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Sachuest* sailed Klaipeda Feb 1, passed Gibraltar 0418, Feb 18 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was anchored in lat 30 22 24.3N, long 32 22 48.4E, at 1308, UTC, today.)

Port Said, Feb 27 — Combined bulk and oil carrier *Sachuest* was towed by Suez Canal Authority tugs to the Great Bitter Lakes to effect the necessary repairs and obtain the seaworthiness certificate to resume its passage. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Said, Feb 28 — Combined bulk and oil carrier *Sachuest* completed repairs and was granted seaworthiness certificate. Vessel resumed its passage and cleared Canal from Suez at 2130 yesterday. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAGRADO CORAZON (Argentina)

London, Feb 24 — Following navigation warning issued Feb 23: Fishing (general) *Sagrado Corazon* (100 gt, built 1987) adrift in lat 39 13S, long 58 43W.

SANDRA (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Feb 27 — General cargo *Sandra* was reported arriving at Fos on Feb 26.

SANTIAGO STAR (Bahamas)

London, Feb 28 — Understand that a fire broke out at the Lalbagh Shipyard, at Kumira, Chittagong early Jan 21, burning refrigerated general cargo *Santiago Star* (14512 gt, built 1973), owned by the SM Corporation. The fire originated from a gas cutter.

SEA WORLD NO.101 (South Korea)

Montevideo, Feb 23 — Attendance onboard fishing (general) *Sea World No.101* was authorized at approximately 1500 hrs, yesterday. The explosion took place in the refrigeration engine-room, causing the death of four crewmembers and spreading ammonia gas onboard. Five more crewmembers were hospitalized. A further six crewmembers and one visitor were hospitalized and released. The port side ammonia gas accumulator from the refrigeration system, cracked in way of a vertical bead weld. The cause of the explosion is still being investigated. — Lloyd's Agents.

SENOPATI NUSANTARA (Indonesia)

Manila, Feb 23 — Indonesia formally ended search and rescue efforts for the survivors of the sunken ferry *Senopati Nusantara* today. The National Search and Rescue Authority announced that it had closed down the Mission Coordinators Command Post at the Indonesian Navy's Eastern Fleet Command headquarters. The Mission Coordinators Command Post had managed search and rescue efforts for the survivors of the ferry. All naval vessels involved in the search operations have also been ordered to return to base. Some 349 passengers are still missing. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SHALIGAR (United Kingdom)

See *Pacific Angel*.

SHUNFENG NO.3 (China)

Portsmouth, UK, Feb 26 — General cargo *Shunfeng No.3* stranded in the Chongqing section of the Yangtze River, at 1200 yesterday interrupting transport on the water route. Chongqing Evening News reports the ship, carrying logs aboard, ran aground in the Zhuerqi area as it proceeded upstream, being trapped at a riffle by numerous cobblestones. The local waterway administration sent a rescue boat to the site soon after the accident, planning to move the ship back to deep water. But the effort failed due to the weight of the shipload. A worker with the administration imputed the accident to a ship sinking last November. He said the wreck led to a change in the river's current and stone deposits. A boat has been dispatched to dredge up the waterway around the sinking spot, the worker said. But it will have a hard time since it is now

the low water season. The worker warned that traffic through the area may be suspended as long as the ship remains unmoved. A local professional salvage company had been taking part in the rescue as of yesterday afternoon.

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated Feb 26, states: A drought is approaching crisis proportions in and around Chongqing. Local water officials said today all reservoirs are only half full and many water intakes from the Yangtze River are above the waterline, China's state Xinhua news agency reported. Apart from a shortage of drinking water for the region's 28 million people, the drought has also affected 250,000 acres of farmland and left nearly one million head of livestock short of water, the report said. The declining river level was also blamed for a cargo ship (? general cargo *Shunfeng No.3*) carrying 1,400 tons of timber running aground yesterday close to Chongqing's Xinggang port, requiring five hours of salvage operations. The Chongqing municipal flood control and drought relief office predicts the drought will last until after the rainy season begins in May but will return in the middle of summer.

SIDER BLU (Italy)

See "Australia" under "Port State Control."

SIERRA LARA (Panama)

Gothenburg, Feb 28 — Refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Lara* left the shipyard in Falkenberg this afternoon. — Westax Marine Services AB.

SIERRA NAVA (Panama)

London, Feb 28 — A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV report, dated Feb 26, states: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage B.V. and partners Sea Salvage have completed the removal of the oil from refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Nava*. Some 325 tons of pollutants were recovered, not counting the other more solid pollutants removed. Preparations for a removal of the vessel are in progress, during which attention will continue to be given to mop up traces of oil that may surface.

SKANDI CARLA (Bahamas)

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Diving support *Skandi Carla* (4456 gt, built 2001) was seen drydocked at Malta Shipyards Dock 2, Valletta, after encountering problems with one engine. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, *Skandi Carla* was anchored at Valletta at 0555, this morning.)

SONGA HUA (Marshall Islands)

Seattle, Feb 28 — Bulker *Songa Hua* (40437 gt, built 2002) at anchor Seattle, reported oil spill during bunkering operations. Clean-up crew on site. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Songa Hua* arrived Seattle 2248, Feb 27, from Pohang.)

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: About 42 gallons of fuel spilled from bulker *Songa Hua*, being refueled by a barge on Elliott Bay early Wednesday (Feb 28), the Coast

Guard reported. Another 126 gallons that spilled were contained on the deck of the vessel, said a Coast Guard spokesman, Petty Officer David Marin. The fuel "burped" from a vent on the ship as it was being fueled from a barge about 0415 Wednesday, offshore from the grain terminal and Pier 90, said Larry Altose, a spokesman for the state Ecology Department. The crew of the barge and tug deployed a 2,000-foot boom to contain most of the spill. The fuel was believed to be bunker fuel, which is heavy enough to be recovered by skimmers, Altose said. The Coast Guard and state Ecology Department were overseeing the cleanup work. Altose called it a relatively small spill, but said any pollution causes some environmental damage. The Washington State Maritime Cooperative, which represents the shipping industry, hired the Marine Spill Response Corp. for the clean-up work, he said.

London, Mar 1 — A press release from the United States Coast Guard dated yesterday, states: Response teams continue to clean up an oil spill near Pier 90 at Smith Cove in Elliott Bay today. The Chinese bulker *Songa Hua*, spilled approximately 42 gallons of oil into the bay early this morning while at anchor and refueling from a barge operated by the Olympic Tug and Barge Company. The Coast Guard and Washington State Department of Ecology are overseeing the response effort. The Washington State Maritime Cooperative (WSMC) a non-profit cargo vessel owners group representing the vessel, was initially hired as the spill management agency for the vessel and deployed cleanup contractors. WSMC was replaced by The O'Brien's Group at 1500 hrs to continue the clean up. Three oil skimming vessels, seven other vessels, and shore crews have deployed 7,000 feet of oil containment boom and are recovering oil between the Elliott Bay Marina and Pier 91. The cause of the oil release that occurred during an oil transfer operation between the *Songa Hua* and the barge is under investigation by the Coast Guard and the Department of Ecology. Approximately 168 gallons of Intermediate Fuel Oil, a heavy dark oil, escaped from a tank air vent on the *Songa Hua*. Most of the oil remained on deck. The fuel barge crew immediately stopped refueling and set out oil spill containment boom. The Department of Ecology's recently adopted fuel-transfer rule requires such preparation for a spill emergency. A King County Sheriff's Office helicopter flew over the spill at first light this morning and the Coast Guard responded with a 41-foot utility boat crew from Station Seattle. A Coast Guard Pollution Investigator was taken on a WSMC helicopter overflight of the area at approximately 0730 hrs. The main area of impact of the oil appears to be contained in the vicinity of and underneath Piers 90 and 91 of the Port of Seattle. The clean-up will be coordinated with the Port of Seattle. The assessment and clean-up of the impacted shoreline is to continue into tomorrow.

SPANIA (Georgia)

See *Chelsea-4*.

SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE (Bahamas)

London, Feb 26 — Following received regarding passenger (cruise) *Spirit of Adventure* (9570 gt, built 1980) at 1136, UTC, today: *Spirit of Adventure* had a steering gear failure at approximately 0850, UTC, today while en route St Mary Island, Madagascar to Mauritius. At 0900, UTC, today, *Spirit of Adventure* was in lat 14 48S, long 53 51E. Vessel is currently battling heavy winds and seas and is now steering north into the head wind at five to six knots. Vessel has power to both engines. Please urgently contact all the tug/salvage companies for immediate response.

London, Feb 27 — Following received from Saga Shipping, timed 0900, UTC, today: Passenger (cruise) *Spirit of Adventure*. The situation has improved dramatically. Vessel's steering gear has been repaired by vessel's crew. Weather is improving. Instead of going to Mauritius it is now heading north east for Antsiranana, Madagascar, where due 0100 tomorrow.

London, Feb 27 — Following received regarding passenger *Spirit of Adventure*: It appears as though the vessel is heading under its own power to Madagascar for temporary repairs. Therefore it appears that no tug assistance is required.

STAR FERRY 1 (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 27 — Roll On Roll Off *Star Ferry 1* was refloated Feb 22. The vessel was towed to Mayon Docks Shipyard in Albay Province where it is now undergoing afloat repairs to the passenger accommodations. *Star Ferry 1* will also enter Mayon Docks graving dock once this becomes available. A marine survey will be conducted to determine the damage to its hull, propellers and rudder. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

STAR LANGANGER (Singapore)

Zeebrugge, Feb 27 — General cargo *Star Langanger* (29275 gt, built 1986) sailed Antwerp at 0149, local time, today, anchored at Flushing roads at 0603, local time with engine trouble. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Zeebrugge, Feb 27 — Reported at 0743 hrs, general cargo *Star Langanger* had resolved its engine problems and had proceeded to Wandelaar. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

STEN NORDIC (NIS)

London, Feb 25 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Sten Nordic* arrived Hamburg 1027, Feb 23, from St. Petersburg and sailed 0519, Feb 24, for Szczecin.

STENA ADVENTURER (U.K.)

London, Feb 25 — Understand passenger ro/ro *Stena Adventurer* (44200 gt, built 2003) is out of service with engine trouble and is not expected to return to service before Mar 6. (Note — *Stena Adventurer* operates between Holyhead and Dublin.)

SUNDBUSS PERNILLE (Sweden)

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated Feb 28, states: The collision between passenger (cruise) *Sundbuss Pernille* and passenger ro/ro *Mercandia IV* on Sep 11 was caused by lack of attention from the navigators on the two ferries sailing in dense fog at the time. The collision occurred in the early hours of the morning with only a few passengers on board. The damage on *Mercandia IV* was minor, but *Sundbuss Pernille* sustained serious damage to the superstructure. Both units managed to sail in to safe ports after the collision. The Danish Maritime Authorities concludes in the report, that the collision could have been avoided if both ships had used the AIS to control the position of the other ship. Also if both had been listening better to the information given on the VHF, and if they used the sound signal in the foggy weather, the chance for avoiding the collision would have been better. Furthermore *Sundbuss Pernille* was sailing at a too high speed under the circumstances.

SUNNA (Norway (Int. Register))

Bremen, Feb 28 — General cargo *Sunna* will leave the dock tomorrow and will be moored at the quay. The repair yard was not in a position to give any indication as to the end of the repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUPERFERRY 9 (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 27 — Afloat repairs have started on roll on roll off *Superferry 9* at Iloilo port. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Mar 1 — The owners of Roll On Roll Off *Superferry 9* have applied for a special permit to navigate, with the Maritime Industry Authority or MARINA, to enable the vessel to travel from Iloilo to Cebu for drydocking. The vessel had to be towed to Iloilo after it stalled on Feb 20 while travelling between Bacolod and Iligan in central Philippines. Engine inspection revealed an overheating crankshaft had caused the engine to stall. Engineers attempted afloat repairs but were unable to replace defective bearings. It was decided that the only way the ship's single 13,500 hp, 18 cylinder Pielstick engine could be repaired was at drydock. Before it could leave, however, *Superferry 9* had to apply for a special permit to navigate as the MARINA had imposed a hold departure order on the vessel and cancelled its safety certificate. Officials of Aboitiz Transport System, Inc., owner of *Superferry 9*, said that they were hoping to have the permit to navigate released within the week. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, Mar 1 — Roll On Roll Off *Superferry 9* left Iloilo port at 1700 yesterday under tow after it was granted a special permit to navigate by the Maritime Industry Authority. The vessel is estimated to arrive at Keppel Cebu Shipyard at around 1800, Mar 2, Aboitiz Transport Systems, Inc. reported. *Superferry 9* will be drydocked at Keppel Cebu Shipyard where its engine will be repaired. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SUSAKI WING (Panama)

London, Feb 27 — Investigations are underway following a minor oil spill at the port of Tauranga after a quantity of lubricating oil was accidentally discharged from bulker *Susaki Wing* (19738 gt, built 1997) that was preparing to depart for Japan yesterday. Environment Bay Of Plenty's pollution response team was at the scene within 30 minutes. Maritime manager Carl Magazinovic estimates less than 500 litres were spilled. He says luckily it was confined to an area beneath the wharf, and weather conditions aided the clean-up efforts. Initial indications are that an engine-room malfunction is to blame for the spill. (Note — *Susaki Wing* sailed Tauranga at 1918, Feb 26.)

TEKEZE (Ethiopia)

London, Feb 24 — General cargo *Tekeze* arrived Djibouti Feb 11.

TONG CHENG (China)

London, Feb 23 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 2150, UTC: General cargo *Tong Cheng* is still at Barbers Point, effecting repairs. The vessel has a tentative ETD of Feb 25.

London, Feb 26 — Following received from Coastguard Honolulu, timed 2025, UTC: Removal of debris etc from general cargo *Tong Cheng* continues. Expect repairs complete and able to proceed Mar 15.

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The "Heavy Lifters" of Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) 1 responded to a request Jan 19 from the U.S. Coast Guard to provide assistance to the general cargo *Tong Cheng* when it reported hull damage and progressive flooding. According to *Tong Cheng's* initial report, it had sustained hull damage, and that the condition had progressed to a point where the vessel and her 26 crew were in jeopardy. Navy Divers from MDSU 1, with the help of translators, completed an open ocean, underwater hull survey. The survey team conducted a thorough inspection of the ship's hull and identified several large cracks. The team then developed a plan for a temporary patch using a two-part epoxy and after four hours of cure time, returned to find the patch intact and holding. "The two-part epoxy was the only option available and while [we were] optimistic, we were also skeptical that the patch would hold during *Tong Cheng's* 80 nautical mile transit to anchorage," said Navy Diver 1st Class Jason Mette, a dive team member. After applying the temporary patch, MDSU 1 divers turned their efforts towards stabilizing the vessel. They began assisting the USCG Strike Team with dewatering operations. When *Tong Cheng's* installed pumps became inoperable, and due to limited options for access to the effected cargo hold, MDSU 1 deployed a surface supplied dive team that embarked an ocean barge and completed the staggered installation of HOT TAPs

(underwater flange and valve assemblies) at 14, 21, and 28 feet below the waterline used to dewater the vessel. MDSU 1 continued to dewater the vessel, removing in excess of 210,000 gallons of fuel-contaminated water and restoring the ship's draft to 35 feet, the minimum required for safe entry into Barber's Point Harbor where permanent repairs could be made.

TORANI (Guyana)

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: Ferry *Torani* was taking in water on Thursday (Feb 15) night and workers at the stelling (at New Amsterdam) spent about two hours trying to bail the water out. A private company was also called in to pump out the water. But that pump broke down after a while and the next morning another pump arrived from the Transport & Harbours Department in Georgetown. In the meantime the pontoon *Sandaka* had to load and offload through the *Torani*. According to reports workers had to use sandbags to prevent the water from seeping in. They also used cement to block the hole where the water was coming in. Recently *Torani* was taking in water and the NA fire tender had to be summoned to get rid of the water.

Georgetown, Guyana, Mar 1 — Ferry *Torani* has been repaired and is back in service. — Lloyd's Agents.

TRICOLOR (NIS)

London, Feb 28 — Norwegian P&I insurer Gard has paid Belgium Euro 2m (\$2.6m) to cover the clean-up costs of the oil spill resulting from the 2002 vehicle carrier *Tricolor* disaster. The Oslo-based club, acting on behalf of the shipowner Wilh. Wilhelmsen, said the payment was a "full and final settlement" for the *Tricolor* damage and had been reached following "amicable" negotiations with the Belgian government. The payment does not involve any admission of liability, said Christen Guddal, Gard's head of claims. Similar talks are now underway with the governments of the Netherlands and France. *Tricolor* went down after a collision with container carrier *Kariba* off Dunkirk on Dec 14, 2002. Much of the fuel oil on board was successfully removed, though a reported 170 tonnes spilt into the sea.

TURID KNUITSEN (NIS)

London, Mar 1 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1255, UTC: Combined chemical and oil tanker *Turid Knutsen* (15687 gt, built 1993), in ballast, reports it has been at anchor in lat 52 20N, long 03 16E since 0600 this morning with engine trouble. Vessel cannot repair engine so owners are trying to arrange tug assistance. (Note — *Turid Knutsen* was due Antwerp today from Amsterdam.)

UNDEN (Netherlands Antilles)

Gothenburg, Feb 26 — General cargo *Unden* is still under repairs which are expected to be completed during Thursday this week. — Lloyd's Agents.

UNION MARS (Isle of Man)

London, Feb 26 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1345, UTC: General cargo *Union Mars* (2601 gt, built 2001), from Halmstad, arrived Thyboron am Feb 24 with cracks in cylinder head. Vessel is likely to be in port for another two to three days. (Note — *Union Mars* sailed Halmstad Feb 14 and passed Skaw 0236, Feb 16, believed bound Wicklow.)

Esbjerg, Mar 1 — General cargo *Union Mars* has a crack on its cylinder head. New spare parts have been ordered, and will be delivered and installed tomorrow. The vessel is due to depart Saturday (Mar 3). — Lloyd's Agents.

VENTO DEL GOLFO (Turkey)

London, Feb 27 — Container Carrier *Vento Del Golfo* now named *Esra A.*, but still under Turkish flag, was reported passing Istanbul on Feb 25, bound for Constantza, where she arrived on Feb 26.

WARBABY FOX (Bermuda)

See "Bermuda" under "Weather & Navigation".

WESERSTERN (Isle of Man)

Poznan, Feb 23 — Repairs to combined chemical and oil tank *Weserstern* are now being finished and tomorrow the vessel will leave the repair dock and sail to Gdansk for loading. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 27 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Weserstern* sailed from Gdansk at 2145 hrs, Feb 26, bound for Paldiski, Estonia.

WILSON MUUGA (Cyprus)

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated Feb 20, states: Two eiders were found with oil in their feathers yesterday near Gardskagaviti, a lighthouse on Reykjanes peninsula. The oil is believed to have leaked from stranded bulker *Wilson Muuga* that ran ashore shortly before Christmas. Last weekend about 100 oil laden birds were spotted in the same area. "We have to find the origin of the oil and investigate the state of the birds in the area in more detail," biologist Gunnar Thor Hallgrimsson said. "At least dozens of birds will be killed but it is impossible to tell what the consequences will be at this stage, whether the pollution will affect certain species or the birdlife in the area in general," Hallgrimsson added. A 10 to 20-metre large oil spot was found in the ocean by *Wilson Muuga* which has still not been moved since it ran ashore. Most of the oil it was carrying was pumped out of the ship in late December. The oil spot is in an area where eider and other shorebirds look for food. Biologists fear more birds could also have oil in their feathers. The birds found yesterday were taken to Reykjavik Farm Animal Zoo to be cleaned and cared for.

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of oil laden birds were found at south Iceland's shores last week. It has now

been confirmed that the oil had leaked from the stranded bulker *Wilson Muuga*. Most of the oil in the ship had been pumped out shortly after the stranding to prevent an environmental accident. But according to a research by the Environment and Food Agency of Iceland some oil had remained in the vessel and leaked into the ocean, harming the local birdlife. The Environment and Food Agency is not concerned about further leaks, as there is almost no oil left in the stranded ship. It has not yet been decided when the ship will be removed or who is to pay for the operation.

XANADU (Malta)

London, Feb 27 — Following received from the managers of bulker *Xanadu* (37722 gt, built 1999), dated today: *Xanadu* was part loaded with a cargo of coal at Puerto Ordaz and departed Feb 7 for the entrance to the River Orinoco to complete loading. However, vessel grounded same day, shortly after departure from Puerto Ordaz with a pilot on board. Tugs helped to refloat vessel late that day and an underwater inspection revealed damage to propeller, as well as stern tube problems caused by water getting into the system. Vessel sailed under reduced power to Curacao Feb 12, where a further inspection revealed that it would not be able to continue in service due to the propeller and shaft damage. Therefore, vessel requires towage to Spain for cargo discharge and permanent repairs.

YM GLORY (Liberia)

Port Said, Feb 26 — Container Carrier *YM Glory* (29872 gt, built 1980), which entered the Suez Canal with the southbound convoy at 0130 today, went aground at km 101, in canal, at 1000 hrs due to engine trouble. Suez Canal Authority tugs proceeded to help vessel to refloat. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *YM Glory*, Ambarli for Singapore, passed Dardanelles 0615, Feb 21 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was stationary in lat 30 23 33.48N, long 32 21 54.36E, at 1300, UTC, today.)

Port Said, Feb 27 — Suez Canal Authority succeeded in refloating Container Carrier *YM Glory* at 0200 today and vessel is still awaiting the divers to examine its bottom. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Said, Feb 28 — Container Carrier *YM Glory*: Suez Canal Authority divers inspected vessel's bottom and found no damage sustained. Vessel resumed its passage and cleared the Canal at 0400 today. — Lloyd's Agents.

ZILLERTAL (Netherlands)

London, Feb 24 — General cargo *Zillertal* arrived Gdansk 2330, Feb 21.

Poznan, Feb 28 — General cargo *Zillertal* is at repair shipyard in Gdansk. The repairs are currently in hand and are expected to be completed on Mar 12. — Lloyd's Agents.

Piracy



SOMALIA

London, Feb 25 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 0850, UTC: General cargo *Rozen* (2250 gt, built 1976) was attacked by pirates, who are believed to have boarded vessel, off Somalia in lat 11 50N, long 51 35E, at 0620, UTC, today. Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur and Kenyan Navy have been alerted; unable at present to contact vessel.

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Rozen*, delivering United Nations food aid to north-eastern Somalia, was hijacked today. *Rozen* had just unloaded more than 1,800 tons of food aid in the Puntland region, 900 metric tons of aid to Berbera and another 900 metric tons to the port of Bosaso and was returning to Mombasa when the pirates attacked. It was not immediately known if any of the 12 crew members on board were injured in the attack. The pirates have not made any demands yet, according to Andrew Mwangura, of the Seafarers Assistance Program. *Rozen* was chartered by the World Food Program to deliver food aid to Somalia and is currently being held close to the island of Ras Afun, just off the Puntland coast. Contact has been lost with the vessel.

Nairobi, Feb 26 — A US warship is approaching the area off the Horn of Africa where Somali pirates have anchored the hijacked general cargo *Rozen* chartered to carry UN food aid, a UN spokeswoman said today. Gunmen wielding AK-47s stormed the *Rozen* yesterday, taking hostage its six Kenyan and six Sri Lankan crew after intercepting the freighter by speedboat. Penny Ferguson, World Food Programme spokeswoman in neighbouring Kenya, said the United Nations understood the vessel was anchored off Bargal, a port in Somalia's semi-autonomous Puntland region. "We also understand a US warship is heading to that area but that it is still in international waters," Ferguson said. "There has been no contact yet from the pirates and our biggest concern remains for the safety of the crew." The vessel, chartered by WFP from Mombasa-based Motaku Shipping Agency, was seized after unloading 1,800 tonnes of food aid at two northern Somali ports. A Motaku director confirmed there had been no word yet from the hijackers and said the company was waiting for any news. Experts say a band of pirates based in Harardheere port have regrouped and are thought to have been behind yesterday's attack and two unsuccessful hijacking attempts earlier this year. — Reuters.

Nairobi, Feb 27 — Somali authorities have arrested four men they said were members of a gang of pirates who

hijacked general cargo *Rozen*, chartered to carry UN food aid and are still holding the crew, a UN agency said today. Gunmen used speedboats to intercept the *Rozen* on Sunday (Feb 25), storming the vessel and taking hostage its six Kenyan and six Sri Lankan crew, in the first hijacking reported since a December war ousted Islamists from Somalia. The vessel, chartered by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP), has been anchored off Bargal, a port in Somalia's semi-autonomous Puntland region, since the hijacking. The WFP said four men were arrested when they went ashore to buy supplies, leaving four other gang members aboard the ship. "The arrest is welcome news but the safe release of the crew and the vessel remains our chief concern," WFP Somalia's country director Peter Goossens said in a statement. "We very much hope this ordeal will finish soon. We are appealing for the safe return of the crew and the vessel as soon as possible, and for people to respect the need for humanitarian delivery corridors." The WFP said there were reports the vessel was surrounded by five police boats and was sailing southwards. A maritime group said authorities were negotiating with the hijackers, who had apparently attacked the wrong vessel. "Negotiations are going well," Andrew Mwangura, director of the Mombasa Seafarers Assistance Programme, said. The *Rozen*, chartered from Mombasa-based Motaku Shipping Agency, was seized after unloading 1,800 tonnes of food aid at two northern Somali ports. — Reuters.

Port State Control



AG BLESS (Panama)

See "Cyprus" under "Port State Control".

AUSTRALIA

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Sider Blu* (17264 gt, built 1986) loading logs at the Burnie port has been impounded because of what a union official says is its shocking condition. The Italian-flagged vessel arrived in port late on yesterday to load whole logs for export to Korea. But Maritime Union of Australia state secretary Mike Wickham said the *Sider Blu* wouldn't be going anywhere until conditions on the vessel were improved. "It is one of the worst cases I have ever seen in respect of the deck conditions," Mr Wickham said. He said the boat was riddled with rust and cracks and faulty equipment. Mr Wickham said the vessel had been surveyed and the master had been left with clear instructions that until certain improvements were made it wouldn't be leaving port. He said items like life boats weren't properly operational, and two hadn't been tested on the water for

more than three months. "One of the lifeboat engines couldn't be started," he said. "We have significant issues with the ship. I wouldn't expect to see any more work until significant work is done on the vessel. "It really is up to the inspectors at this stage, but if they won't force the issue then the International Transport Federation will."

London, Feb 22 — A press report from Australia, dated Feb 23, states: Maritime officials say they have impounded bulker *Sider Blu* in the northern Tasmanian town of Burnie after discovering inhumane conditions on board. The Maritime Union says the ship has broken toilets, no hot water for showers, faulty lifeboats and fire equipment, as well as a number of structural faults. Union spokesman Mike Wickham says more substandard ships are visiting Tasmania than ever before. He says the companies that hire them must take more action. "It's not going anywhere until it's rectified. It's currently got a class inspector on board. It's had AMSA, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, on board and they're going over it now fairly thoroughly to see what repairs need to be done."

Sydney, Feb 26 — The International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) had "blown way out of proportion" the extent of problems onboard two vessels berthed at the port of Burnie on Saturday (Feb 24), according to Monson Shipping's Tasmanian manager Bruce Monson. Lloyd's List DCN reported on Friday that the ITF and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) were inspecting the Italian-flagged bulker *Sider Blu* amid concerns about working conditions aboard the vessel and its ability to carry a shipment of logs. *Sider Blu's* agents, Monson Shipping, downplayed the issues raised by the ITF. Mr Monson said the issues had been raised by AMSA, while the vessel was berthed at Geelong and had now been addressed without any additional input from the ITF. Repairs had now been carried out on the deck stanchions and other concerns had been addressed before the vessel left port on Saturday, he said. The ITF's Tasmanian representative, Mike Wickham, agreed that most of the issues relating to the *Sider Blu* were now resolved but said that there were even more significant problems onboard bulker *Bludance* (16041 gt, built 1995), which had also berthed at Burnie last week. Mr Wickham said efforts by inspectors to talk to *Bludance's* largely Filipino crew on Saturday had been unsuccessful as the captain had refused the ITF access. The vessel left the port at 1900 hrs yesterday, carrying copper to Indonesia, despite objections from the ITF. Mr Wickham said that 12 of 19 discrepancies listed by AMSA had been resolved before the vessel left the port. Mr Monson denied that there were issues relating to *Bludance*. "There was no issues on the *Bludance*, no issues at all that I was aware of," Mr Monson said. "That ship was in quite good condition." Mr Monson said a five-day

delay at the port was not related to AMSA's involvement. "It was nothing to do with repairs or AMSA, it was just between the charters and the owner of the ship," he said. Mr Monson denied that ITF inspectors were restricted in their access to the crew, adding that the vessel was not subject to the ITF code. Mr Wickham said the ITF inspectors were "thrown off the ship", despite the Filipino crew apparently wishing to speak with them. The ITF had earlier raised concerns about the *Sider Blu*, which the ITF said had faulty fire pumps and lifeboats that were not in working order. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News. (Note — *Bludance* arrived Burnie Feb 21.)

London, Feb 27 — Bulker *Sider Blu* was reported departing from Burnie on Feb 24.

London, Feb 27 — Bulker *Bludance* was reported sailing from Burnie on Feb 25.

CYPRUS

Limassol, Feb 28 — General cargo *Liberty A.* remains under detention at Limassol. — Lloyd's Agents.

Limassol, Feb 28 — General cargo *AG Bless* (3905 gt, built 1980), which arrived at Limassol on Jan 26, has been detained by the Port Authority. — Lloyd's Agents.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, Feb 27 — Roll On Roll Off *Superferry 1* (9184 gt, built 1975) was prevented from departing Pier No.15, South Harbour terminal, Manila, by Philippine Coast Guard officials today. Coast Guard officials said that the vessel was being confined to port after a safety inspection revealed safety deficiencies and "technical problems." The vessel was supposed to leave on its regular voyage for Cebu at 2130 hrs. Prior to its departure Coast Guard officials ordered the vessel out on sea trials around Manila Bay. Not satisfied with the vessel's performance, the Coast Guard decided to keep the vessel in port for further inspections. To avoid inconveniencing passengers, most were disembarked and transferred to other vessels. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, Feb 28 — Maritime regulatory authorities allowed Roll On Roll Off *Superferry 1* to proceed on its voyage to Cebu, Wednesday (28 Feb), after repairs were completed on the vessel. *Superferry 1* left the Port of Manila's Pier no.15, South Harbour terminal at around 1600 hrs. *Superferry 1* was prevented from departing by Maritime Industry Authority and Philippine Coast Guard authorities yesterday after oil was seen leaking from it's hull. An underwater hull survey showed a hole near the aft steering gear. A patch was applied to the hole and authorities allowed the vessel to leave. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

UNITED KINGDOM

Swansea, Feb 25 — On Thursday, Feb 22, the Maritime and Coastguard agency detained bulker *Golden Glory* (36433 gt, built 1990). *Golden Glory*,

was boarded by a team of surveyors from the MCA's Liverpool Marine Office, who arrived to conduct a Port State Control inspection following a report from Customs regarding crew conditions on board. Inspection of the vessel by the surveyors found the overall condition of the vessel to be very poor. The vessel had incurred heavy weather damage, but this had not been reported to the MCA or to the vessels Classification Society. To date the inspection has revealed in excess of 30 deficiencies, some of which include: Serious crack in the forward starboard deck, Cracked stiffeners on the port side, sounding pipe sheared at deck level, fire main holed and leaking, seawater pipe-work for domestic fridge condenser leaking, insufficient generator power, defective fire doors, insufficient food on board for crew, multiple radio equipment deficiencies. In addition to the technical deficiencies, a major non-conformity was raised against Safety Management System, under section 10 of the ISM Code, namely maintenance of the ship and equipment, due to the large number and serious nature of deficiencies found. The Port State Control inspection has now been suspended and *Golden Glory* will remain under detention until the deficiencies have been rectified and a satisfactory audit has been carried out by the Recognised Organisation that issued the ISM Certificates. This vessel was also detained in Hamburg on Jan 8, this year. Pat Dolby, Head of the MCA's Inspection Branch observed, "This is a classic case of serious neglect by the vessel's owners and operators, and to allow the *Golden Glory* to continue to trade in its present condition would pose an unacceptable risk to the safety of its crew and other seafarers. Operators who are not prepared to maintain their vessels in accordance with internationally agreed standards must appreciate that the Maritime and Coastguard Agency will not hesitate to detain dangerously substandard vessels." — Maritime and Coastguard Agency. (Note — *Golden Glory* arrived Liverpool on Feb 19.)

London, Feb 28 — Lloyd's Register has threatened to suspend bulker *Golden Glory* detained in the UK last week as "a classic case of serious neglect" - unless maintenance substantially improves. The classification society has also revealed that it carried out an unscheduled survey on the ship at Liverpool before Maritime and Coastguard Agency surveyors arrived, resulting in the imposition of a condition of class. The moves will add to the pressure on bareboat charterer Golden Ocean, after some 30 deficiencies were found on board the 65,652 dwt ship built in 1990. It now seems that the Fredriksen bulker concern will change managers for both *Golden Glory* and the other five former bulkers that it took over the bareboat charters for last year. Lloyd's Register chairman David Moorhouse said in a statement that the vessel was detained for International Safety

Management Code-related items. He stressed that the ABS, rather than Lloyd's Register, issued ISM certification for the vessel. Mr Moorhouse also pointed out that the vessel was subject to a previous port state control detention in Hamburg in January 2007, with both ISM-related and statutory deficiencies discovered. "As a result of the concerns raised by this detention and our surveyor's general concern about the standard of maintenance onboard the vessel, we authorised an unscheduled survey to take place in Liverpool," he said. "The surveyors who attended imposed a condition of class, which required that all defects and repairs be dealt with prior to the vessel sailing. "Our surveyors were already on board and these actions had been taken before the Maritime and Coastguard Agency carried out its port state control inspection." Mr Moorhouse described it as "a matter of course and procedure" that unscheduled surveys are imposed whenever it is suspected that an owner or operator is not maintaining a vessel to the required standard. The vessel is currently undergoing repairs in Liverpool. Lloyd's Register has pledged to monitor the situation and determine whether any punitive action is required. "The vessel will now be subject to a three-month survey cycle for as long as deemed necessary," said Mr Moorhouse. "If the maintenance on board the vessel does not show substantial improvement by the next survey, we would make a strong recommendation to our Classing Committee to suspend the vessel's class."

UNITED STATES

London, Feb 26 — following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1445, UTC: Bulker *Anna L.* was detained in New Orleans area Feb 22 due SOLAS deficiency, involving starboard lifeboat lowering davit. Vessel is not scheduled to depart until Feb 28.

Seizures & Arrests



AETOS (Liberia)

Maassluis, Feb 22 — Product tanker *Aetos* sailed Rotterdam 1905, Feb 21. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ANNIE SIERRA (Cyprus)

Karachi, Feb 23 — Understand from the Pakistan Seamen's Union (PSU) that due to their intervention, the owner of bulker *Annie Sierra* and her crew have reached an out of court settlement over the wages issue. The counsel for the 21 crew members will also withdraw the case in the next hearing of Sindh High Court (SHC), Mr. Adam Panjri, General Secretary of PSU said and added that the crew had already received wages and left for

their countries. Earlier, the court ordered the arrest of the vessel at Port Qasim on an admiralty case filed by the vessel's crew for non-payment of their wages for the last six months. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Mar 1 — Understand from the Karachi based shipping agent WMA Shipcare Services (Pvt) Ltd, that another admiralty case has been filed by Port Qasim Authority (PQA) in local court against the owner of bulker *Annie Sierra*, for settlement of port and other charges of rupees 7.2 million. A case by charter for \$500,000 is also pending against the owner of vessel for the damage to cargo due to loading and off-loading during its arrest period at Port Qasim. The vessel owner recently made an out of court settlement with crew to resolve wages issue. The vessel is still arrested at the port — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ARCTIC SUNRISE (Netherlands)

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: It has been three days now since the Greenpeace yacht *Arctic Sunrise* (949 gt, built 1974) was seized by British military authorities and detained at the Faslane naval base on the Clyde. The vessel had sailed from Greenock to the base along with a flotilla of small craft, intent on raising awareness of Britain's plans to renew the UK's nuclear deterrent. Protestors were arrested after they breached the security zone and hung banners on the protective boom that surrounds the dock area where Britain's nuclear submarines are berthed. After a stand off where the vessel refused to leave the area despite requests from Mod police, she was hustled by naval tugs and then boarded by a team from the base, who stormed its bridge. The vessel's anchor chain was cut and it was seized and taken into the base. All aboard were arrested. Three days later and it is still held there.

ASIAN EXPRESS (Maldives)

Kochi, Feb 23 — General cargo *Asian Express* is still lying at Tuticorin under arrest and there is no progress reported so far with regard to the release of the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

BIGA (Canary Islands)

Bilbao, Mar 1 — General cargo *Biga* is still under embargo at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

BOREAS (Cyprus)

Bilbao, Mar 1 — General cargo *Boreas* is still under embargo at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

CGY SVETLANA (St. Kitts-Nevis)

Bari, Mar 1 — General cargo *CGY Svetlana* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

CONGER (Antigua & Barbuda)

Zeebrugge, Feb 28 — Container Carrier *Conger* (3999 gt, built 1995), which arrived at Antwerp on Feb 25, was embargoed/arrested on Feb 26. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ERMIS THALASSA (Greece)

Piraeus, Mar 1 — Understand that Roll On Roll Off *Ermis Thalassa* was released from arrest on Jan 22. — Lloyd's Agents.

ICE PRINCESS (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Zeebrugge, Feb 22 — General cargo *Ice Princess* sailed Antwerp 1409, Feb 22, for Jorf Lasfar. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

KAZAKH (Russia)

Zeebrugge, Feb 28 — General cargo *Kazakh* (4182 gt, built 2006), which arrived at Antwerp on Feb 24, was embargoed/arrested on Feb 26 and sailed on Feb 28. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

OTAPAN (Mexico)

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Tank barge *Otapan*, that was refused entry to Turkish waters because it was carrying far more asbestos than was listed on its export licence, is now shaking up the new coalition government in Holland. Under pressure from Greenpeace, the Dutch Council of State has ruled that the *Otapan* should have never been permitted to leave Dutch waters. Pieter Van Geel, former Minister of the Environment and leader of the Christian Democrats will be called upon to account for the *Otapan* case. *Otapan*, currently back in Amsterdam, is to be taken to a breaker's yard in Rotterdam on Friday (Mar 2).

PROTON (North Korea)

Piraeus, Feb 27 — General cargo *Proton* is under arrest at Ambelaki due to a distress applied against her owners. No auction is set up to date. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA PARK (Panama)

Durres, Feb 27 — General cargo *Sea Park*: The situation remains the same. Vessel is berthed at Durres Shipyard with a minimum number of crew. — Lloyd's Agents.

SILVER CONSTELLATION (Marshall Islands)

London, Feb 22 — Bulker *Silver Constellation* (75668 gt, built 1986), which arrived Mesaieed Nov 23, was subsequently arrested there. Vessel has now been released and has sailed. According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, it was located off Durban on Feb 17.

SZAP 5 (Cook Islands)

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Trawler *Szap 5* has been for sale by tender since the middle of last year but no one has said they want it, according to Port Nelson chief executive Martin Byrne. The vessel, owned by Tasmanian businessman Harold Adams, has been berthed in Nelson since September 2004 when it arrived to discharge fish. It was arrested by Port Nelson in April 2005 for non-payment of berthage back-fees and the port company later put it up for sale to recover tens of thousands of dollars owed. Mr Byrne said Port Nelson

hoped to dispose of the vessel at sea within two to three months. Port Nelson had approval from Maritime New Zealand to sink the vessel in waters near Wellington where other vessels had also been scuttled, he said. Mr Byrne said the port company was still working out how much it would cost to get rid of the vessel at sea but it would be a "significant amount". He said there had been a number of inquiries about the *Szap 5* from potential buyers but given its poor state taking it on would have been too expensive for them. Various people looked at buying the ship to sell for scrap metal but even the costs associated with that — such as carting the vessel overseas — were too high, he said. Having the trawler scuttled was a last resort for Port Nelson. Before it was scuttled it had to be stripped of all equipment or items on board that could float up and become a navigation hazard, he said.

TALAVERA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Venice, Feb 27 — General cargo *Talavera*: Departure is likely to take place towards the end of next March. — Lloyd's Agents.

TIAN CONG (China)

London, Feb 23 — General cargo *Tian Cong* (1972 gt, built 2005) which arrived at Hong Kong at 1640 hrs, Feb 22, is today reported at South West Lamma Anchorage, Hong Kong, under Bailiff's Office, Admiralty & High Court arrest.

TRINITY SIERRA (Cyprus)

Savannah, Feb 27 — Bulker *Trinity Sierra* is still in Savannah. — Lloyd's Agents.

VESSELS SEIZED BY INDONESIA

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated Feb 27, states: West Navy Fleet Commander Col. Denny Noviandy said Saturday (Feb 24) the Indonesian Navy has seized 13 vessels when they were heading to Singapore to smuggle sands. The government issued a regulation to ban exports of sand and top soil since Feb 6 to prevent excessive sand shippings of the construction materials to Singapore. Denny said the 13 vessels carried some 39 tons of sand. They were arrested on Feb 6 and 22. "We will continue to carry out patrols because continuous exploitation and exports of sand will cause great losses for Indonesia," Denny was quoted as saying. Denny said that patrols to monitor the movements of cargo vessels were not only involving vessels but also helicopters to carry out monitoring activities from the air. "We need to carry out air patrols to know that ships carrying sands are moving to Singapore or not," he added. Trade Minister Mari Elka Mangestu recently issued regulation No. 02/M-DAG/PER/I/2007 on sand export, which hampered construction business in Singapore. But there are still many vessels, which still illegally smuggled sand to Singapore.

Pipeline Accidents



ORENBURG REGION, URALS, RUSSIA

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: About five metric tons of oil have spilled from a pipeline in a southern Urals region, a local emergency service said today. The incident happened yesterday afternoon in the Orenburg Region, but caused no fire, the regional department of the Emergency Situations Ministry said. Most of the spillage reached the ice of the Bolshaya Kinel River, 22 kilometres from the town of Buguruslan. A total of 40 people and special machinery have been involved in the clean up effort at the scene.

Pollution



CHIRIQUI GRANDE BAY, PANAMA

London, Feb 27 — Crude oil tanker *Petrovsk* arrived at Houston at 1650 hrs, Feb 25.

Weather & Navigation



BERMUDA

Bermuda, Feb 22 — Damages to ferry *Warbaby Fox* consist of a damaged window, a door, and water logged carpet inside the cabin. *Warbaby Fox* will under go temporary repairs now and should be back in service by the end of next week. When the new doors and windows arrive from overseas suppliers, they will then be fitted, which should be around April, 2007. — Lloyd's Agents.

BOLIVIA

La Paz, Feb 22 — The most devastating floods to hit Bolivia in 25 years have cut off a north-eastern city and local officials said today that more rain forecast for the coming days could put residents at greater risk. Aid is starting to arrive after nearly three months of heavy rains, which have killed at least 35 people, destroyed thousands of homes, and mangled crops and roads throughout much of the South American nation. Most of the sparsely populated Beni region, which is roughly the size of the United Kingdom, is under water, and its capital, Trinidad, is surrounded by water. Local authorities said they fear that if the walls protecting the city collapse, tragedy would ensue. "If this

happens, we are going to be in dire straits," Beni's governor, Ernesto Suarez, was quoted as saying by local daily "La Prensa." Suarez said that some 6,000 people had been evacuated from Trinidad's outskirts and that the worst flooding is yet to come. "They are saying the hardest blow will come after Feb 28. If this happens, Trinidad will be in serious trouble," he was quoted as saying. Local TV networks broadcast dramatic images of people being evacuated in run-down dinghies in Beni, carrying whatever household belongings they could rescue from their homes. The national weather service forecasts more rain throughout the country over the next few days. Flooding has also affected the eastern province of Santa Cruz, the country's agricultural heartland. The region's farming chamber said nearly 200,000 hectares of crops — including 155,000 hectares of soy, the country's main agricultural export — have been destroyed by flooding. — Reuters.

London, Feb 27 — Bolivian Finance Minister Luis Arce affirmed yesterday the humanitarian aid to victims from heavy rains and attention to material damage could result in a fiscal deficit this year. Arce noted a surplus was expected, but the government is sparing no resources to provide health attention and proper food for Bolivians affected by the floods. According to the minister, the departmental governments and affected municipalities may immediately use the 680 million dollars in their bank accounts for recovery tasks. The 2006 fiscal surplus, estimated at 1.10 billion dollars, could also be used to reactivate the economy of the eight departments battered by the heavy rains over three months, Arce pointed out. Press estimates reveal the floods have caused 105 million dollars in losses so far in Beni department, the most affected region.

CHINA

London, Feb 28 — A sandstorm with hurricane-strength wind gusts derailed a train in China's far west today, killing at least four people and injuring another 30, state media said. The 11-car train had just left a station in Turpan, in the Xinjiang region's east, when it was hit by wind at 0200 hrs, the Xinhua News Agency said. "A strong sandstorm cracked window panes soon after the train left Turpan, and blew some of the cars off the rail when we were trying to plug up the windows," Xinhua quoted passenger Su Chuanyi as saying. Sandstorms fed by the deserts of Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia blow toward Beijing and the eastern seaboard each spring powered by vigorous winds. Sometimes, the dust blows out across the Pacific, clouding the skies of South Korea and occasionally drifting as far as the western coast of the United States. At least 100 rescue workers, doctors and police were at the scene of the derailment, which disrupted operations of the Southern Xinjiang Railway, it said. The train had been running between the capital city of Urumqi and Aksu, in the west.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Feb 23 — Sulina Channel / Bar was closed 0900, this morning, due to weather conditions, wind north north-east force 8-9 (gale-severe gale), sea 6-7. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Feb 23 — Constantza, Mangalia and Midia Ports were closed at 1445, today, due to weather conditions — Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Feb 26 — The Sulina Channel / Bar was reopened at 1215 hrs, Feb 24. Constantza, Mangalia and Midia ports reopened between 0415 hrs and 0530 hrs on Feb 24. — Lloyd's Agents.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "FAVIO"

Maputo, Feb 23 — A powerful tropical storm killed four people and injured at least 70 in Mozambique's resort town of Vilanculos, where thousands of homes were destroyed along with the hospital and power grid, officials said today. Cyclone "Favio" was downgraded to a tropical storm today as wind speeds dropped from a peak of 270 kph to between 60 and 80 kph but officials fear rains from the storm could still dramatically worsen an existing flood disaster in the centre of the country. Vilanculos Mayor Selmane Amugy said the deaths occurred when "Favio" came ashore early yesterday, hitting people's homes as they were sleeping. "Four people were killed, 70 others seriously injured and some 2,000 homes were destroyed," he said. "All 600 prisoners escaped when the local jail was destroyed and we had to evacuate some 120 patients from the rural hospital," he said. Amugy said many key buildings in Vilanculos were damaged and the local airport was closed. "We had to call off all operations at the airport ... trees at Tofo Beach were uprooted and homes destroyed and this worsened erosion," he said. Bazaruto Island, another popular Mozambican tourist destination which is reachable only by boats and helicopters, was still cut off from communications as the regional electricity grid was wrecked. The government has dispatched an emergency team of medical personnel, engineers and technicians to assess the damage. Mozambique's national weather agency INAM said the weakened storm was headed northwards towards the port city of Beira, where its outer edges struck today. "It's no longer a tropical cyclone now, it's a tropical depression meaning it has weakened but still accompanied by heavy rains ... it has winds of between 60 and 80 kilometres per hour," INAM spokesman Helder Sueia said. Sueia said the storm unearthed trees and blew off rooftops in Beira's densely populated suburb of Pontagea today. — Reuters.

London, Feb 23 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Tropical cyclone "Favio" near lat 20.2S, long 34.0E at 0000, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 325 degrees at 10 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Forecast position lat

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18.5S, long 32.9E at 1200, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 30 knots, gusts 40 knots.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "GAMEDE"

London, Feb 23 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone "Gamede" near lat 16.1S, long 60.6E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 240 degrees at 11 knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots, gusts 110 knots. Forecast position lat 16.4S, long 58.3E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 105 knots, gusts 130 knots. Forecast position lat 16.5S, long 56.1E at 0600, UTC, Feb 24. Maximum sustained winds 110 knots, gusts 135 knots.

London, Feb 26 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone "Gamede" near lat 18.4S, long 53E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours west at three knots. Hurricane-force winds of 65-95 knots and very high to phenomenal seas exist within a 40-nautical-mile radius of the centre. Storm-force winds of 50-60 knots and high to very high seas exist within a 90-nautical-mile radius of the centre. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Feb 27: Position lat 19.2S, long 51.7E, maximum winds 80 knots.

London, Feb 27 — Madagascar is bracing for yet another cyclone as "Gamede" makes its way across the Indian Ocean. "Gamede" has already taken its toll in the neighbouring Indian Ocean islands of Mauritius and La Reunion claiming two lives and injuring nine respectively. According to Gianluca Ferrera, deputy director of the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) in Madagascar, the authorities "are absolutely on alert and closely monitoring the direction it is going to take." "All prevalent information indicates Gamede has turned south but a number of coastal towns have already been affected," Ferrera said.

Mauritius, Feb 27 — Intense tropical cyclone "Gamede", diameter 600 km with gusts of 250 km/hr near its centre approached dangerously Mauritius on Friday (Feb 23) afternoon, and all offices were closed as from 1700 hrs and public transport stopped at 1900 hrs. It passed at its nearest distance of the island i.e 210 km to the North North West of Mauritius on Sunday morning causing cyclonic winds of 120 km/hr during few hours and torrential rainfall of approx. 500 mm during 48 hrs. Highest gust recorded was 158 km/hr at Fort William. 2% of the telephone net work is out of order 40% of the population is deprived of Electricity supply and Central Electricity Board has promised to reinstate 90% of network by yesterday afternoon. Some roads have been obstructed by trees and branches but the Special Mobile Force have already removed same, few houses and roads have been flooded and damaged. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 27 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Gamede" located near lat

19.5S, long 52.6E, at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 200 deg at eight knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds 85 knots with gusts to 105 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 45 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 80 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 160 nautical miles. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Feb 28: Position lat 22.5S, long 51E. Maximum sustained winds 100 knots with gusts 125 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 50 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 80 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 160 nautical miles.

London, Mar 1 — Tropical cyclone "Gamede", now moving across the Indian Ocean east of Madagascar, has altered course and is heading south-east parallel to the coast on a course that may see it skirt the island. "Gamede" has already left one man dead in Mauritius and a number injured in La Reunion. Although Reunion was not directly in the centre of the cyclone, winds caused damage to farms and houses across the island. Nine motorists were injured when they also ignored warning to stay indoors. Elsewhere on the island a 520m bridge was swept away and over a hundred thousand people are without electricity.

London, Mar 1 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Gamede" located near lat 28.6S, long 49.5E, at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 195 deg at 10 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds 70 knots with gusts to 85 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 25 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 45 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 150 nautical miles. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Mar 2: Position near lat 31.3S, long 49.1E. Maximum sustained winds 60 knots with gusts 75 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds: 35 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 130 nautical miles.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "ODETTE"

London, Feb 28 — A cyclone forming off Queensland is threatening to cause some serious damage between the Whitsundays and Fraser Island. The cyclone is expected to form overnight before developing into a severe system, the Bureau of Meteorology says. A low pressure system was today 650km north-east of Mackay and was expected to form into tropical cyclone "Odette" overnight, forecaster Peter Otto said. He said it was then expected to form into a severe cyclone - category three or above - by the weekend. "Track prediction is always difficult with cyclones but at this stage it's expected to head towards the Whitsunday coast then head down south to the Fraser coast eventually, so it could cause quite a few problems as it does so," he said.

TURKEY

London, Feb 23 — Traffic in the Istanbul Strait was suspended between

0410 hrs and 1030, local time, this morning, due to dense fog.

UNITED STATES

New York, Feb 22 — The Houston Ship Channel was closed to inbound vessels this morning due to a dense sea fog that made navigation unsafe, the Houston Pilots Association said. "Inbound traffic is still shut until the fog lifts. We started opening up outbound traffic around 1000 hrs (1600, UTC)," a spokesman said. The pilots association closed the waterway feeding the nation's busiest oil and petrochemicals port to both inbound and outbound traffic at about 0120 hrs (0720, UTC). — Reuters.

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Dozens of homes and businesses looked like they were shredded by "high explosives," the Arkansas lieutenant governor said Sunday (Feb 25) as he surveyed the damage a day after a powerful storm injured 40 people. State police said all residents were accounted following a door-to-door search of Dumas, where a tornado cut a swath through town. Two children, ages 5 and 7, were critically injured when the storm flipped their mobile home and trapped them inside, Desha County Sheriff Jim Snyder said. The storms in Arkansas were part of a massive system that also caused blizzard conditions in the Midwest. Snyder said weather forecasters told him the storm packed winds estimated between 158 and 207 mph. Damage was reported along a five-mile-long, half-mile-wide swath south and east of Dumas. In all, 43 houses and 50 mobile homes were destroyed or damaged around Dumas; and nine had major damage, the Department of Emergency Management said. A general merchandise store and a pet-food factory were among the 25 businesses leveled in the town of 5,300 people. Nine other businesses had major damage, the state Department of Emergency Management said. Halter, acting governor while Gov. Mike Beebe is out of state, said the county would be declared a disaster area. He estimated damage in the millions of dollars. In northwestern Louisiana, a tornado with winds of up to 100 mph snapped trees and damaged up to 60 homes, the National Weather Service reported. There were no serious injuries reported.

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated today, states: The remnants of a huge winter storm plowed toward the East Coast on Sunday (Feb 25) after dumping as much as two feet of snow in the upper Midwest, grounding hundreds of airline flights and closing major highways on the Plains. Eight traffic deaths were blamed on the storm, seven in Wisconsin and one in Kansas. Utility crews laboured Sunday to restore power after the storm blacked out hundreds of thousands of homes and business in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska and Ohio. Street and highway crews, nearly 300 snow removal trucks and plows in Chicago, worked to clear pavement of snow and ice. Moist air the storm system pulled from the Gulf of Mexico fueled violent

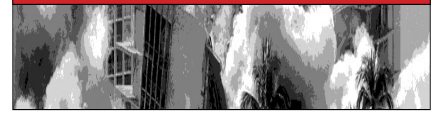
thunderstorms in the South, sweeping cars off roads, crumpling businesses and sending mobile homes flying. Tornadoes were reported in Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana. By midday Sunday, snow was dwindling but still falling from the eastern Dakotas across the Great Lakes to the Washington area. As the system stretched eastward, a dwindling band of snow extended from the eastern Dakotas across the Great Lakes to the East Coast. Six inches of snow had fallen by Sunday evening in Frederick County, Md., and Fairfax County, Va.; the District of Columbia declared a snow emergency, banning parking on major routes to make room for snow plows. Three to four inches of snow was expected in the Washington area and motorists in the region were warned the snow could turn to ice overnight. In New York, sanitation workers were preparing for 4 to 6 inches of snow expected to begin Sunday evening. Some 2,000 plows and the sanitation department's 365 salt spreaders were ready to clear streets and roads citywide, authorities said. Snow and ice forecasts prompted Pennsylvania to activate its Emergency Operations Center, but no problems had been reported. Roads were treacherous Sunday across parts of Michigan, causing accidents and snarling traffic. The storm's snow, sleet and freezing rain led airlines to cancel hundreds of flights Sunday at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and dozens more at Midway Airport, said Wendy Abrams, a spokeswoman for the Chicago Department of Aviation. That was on top of more cancellations on Saturday, and Abrams estimated that about 1,000 stranded passengers spent the night at O'Hare. Utilities in Iowa reported more than 250,000 customers without electricity Sunday, most because heavy ice had brought down miles of power lines and utility poles. "It could be at least three days if not more than one week before we get all the customers back on," Alliant Energy spokesman Ryan Stensland said of conditions in Iowa. "We've got close to 2,500 poles down, over 500 miles of line down." More than 83,000 customers were without power Sunday morning in Illinois, utilities said. Crews for Mid American Energy reported ice two inches thick coating power lines in Illinois' Mercer County, said spokesman Allan Urlis. On the Plains, Colorado and Kansas on Sunday reopened Interstate 70, a major cross-country route. The highway had been closed for about 400 miles in both directions since Saturday from just east of Denver to Salina, Kan., because of blowing snow and slippery pavement. The National Weather Service reported seven-foot snowdrifts in western Kansas. As much as two feet of snow fell around Winona, Minn.

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: JetBlue cancelled 66 flights because of snow yesterday and tested the airline's customer bill of rights created after an uproar of criticism from the Valentine's Day storm that grounded more than 1,000

flights. However, the carrier wasn't alone this time as other airlines also grounded flights in and out of the Northeast. JetBlue's cancellations at John F. Kennedy International Airport affected flights to or from Columbus, Ohio; Richmond, Va.; Washington, D.C., Portland, Maine; and Chicago. The company also cancelled flights into and out of Chicago and the Washington area during the weekend. But as the storm brought as much as 4 inches of snow to the New York metropolitan area, Delta Air Lines Inc. reported 175 cancelled flights throughout the Northeast. American Airlines cancelled 20 flights in and out of JFK and was experiencing slight delays of 15 to 20 minutes by afternoon, said spokesman Ned Reynolds. JetBlue representatives declared the airline's handling of the storm a success, arguing that the early decision to cancel a fifth of its John F. Kennedy International Airport flights yesterday allowed it to ensure crews and aircraft were in place to resume normal operations by the afternoon.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: City officials in Soldotna, Alaska, say damage to city infrastructure from an ice jam this winter will tally \$1.6 million. Parks and Recreation director Andrew Carmichael told the Soldotna City Council that huge chunks of ice destroyed a large portion of the city's river access stairways and fishing walkways this winter. "One hundred percent of the river access stairs have been damaged," Carmichael said. The extent of damage to the old walkway at Soldotna Creek Park is still unknown because it remains under the ice, he said. Flowing ice and flood waters damaged public and private property along and near the Kenai River between Jan 25 and Feb 5, causing an estimated \$5 million in damage, borough officials have said. Debris ripped from the shoreline is now frozen in place along a stretch from the mouth of Skilak Lake. Borough officials say the debris is likely to cause more problems with the spring thaw. Because river access is considered crucial to Soldotna's summer economy, many of the walkways will be repaired or replaced this spring, according to officials. Repairs costing about \$160,000 will be done first at Centennial and Swiftwater campgrounds; \$140,000 worth of repairs is then scheduled for new Soldotna Creek Park; Rotary Park is planned to be reopened, with \$400,000 in reconstruction coming in the fall; and \$600,000 in repairs will also be done next fall at upper Soldotna Creek Park. Both the city and the Kenai Peninsula Borough have issued disaster declarations, which could bring state and federal money to address millions of dollars' worth of damage to shoreline caused by an ice jam. In issuing the borough's declaration last week, Borough Mayor John Williams also formally requested that Gov. Sarah Palin declare a state disaster and provide assistance to Soldotna and individual assistance to affected property owners.

Earthquakes



CHILE

London, Feb 24 — A report, dated Feb 23, states: A magnitude 5.6 earthquake in the region of Aisen, Chile, occurred in lat 45.260S, long 72.019W, depth 23 km, at 1955, UTC, today.

INDONESIA

London, Mar 1 — A strong 5.9-magnitude earthquake struck the Indonesian province of Aceh today, but there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties, a seismologist said. The undersea quake, which hit at 0201, GMT, was centered 170 kilometres under the seabed off the western coast of Aceh, a staff member at Indonesia's meteorology agency said. The quake occurred roughly 65 kilometers southwest of Sinabang, which lies on the island of Simeulue, and was felt in Banda Aceh, the provincial capital, the agency said.

PERU

London, Feb 24 — A report, dated today, states: An earthquake occurred at 0236, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.2 event has been located in north coast of northern Peru in lat 06.915S, long 80.320W, depth 15 km.

Volcanic Activity



KLYUCHEVSKAYA SOPKA

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Black volcanic ash has covered a village 40 kilometres away from Eurasia's highest volcano on the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia's Far East, local geophysicists said today. The Kamchatka department of the Geophysical Services of the Russian Academy of Sciences said that the volcano had begun erupting almost two weeks ago and that more than 400 earthquakes had occurred near Klyuchevskoi (15,580 ft) over the past 24 hours. With an increase in the volcano's activity, experts forecast lava descents and mud flows, which could pose a danger to those in close vicinity to the volcano. The last time the volcano erupted was in January 2005 and lasted to May 2005, when lava flowed down its western and northern slopes.

MOUNT NEVADO, COLOMBIA

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: A Colombia volcano had a major eruption yesterday, shooting ash thousands of feet into the air. The eruption of the Nevado del Huila volcano triggered a series of tremors that in turn set off landslides. Villagers living near the

volcano have begun evacuating. The Paez River has been contaminated with volcanic ash for days.

STROMBOLI, ITALY

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency plans have been put into operation after two new craters opened on the summit of the volcanic Italian island of Stromboli. One of the new lava streams created on the island, just north of Sicily, has already started flowing into the sea. Coastguard patrol boats have been deployed and the population of 750 people has been urged to stay away from the danger areas. The last major eruption in 2002 caused a collapse that led to a small tsunami. The new lava flow is heading down the west flank of the volcano and at the moment poses little risk. But experts say it has to be watched closely. A member of the civil defence authorities for the Aeolian Islands told Reuters news agency: "There's a general alert. The emergency services are monitoring the situation, clearing zones at risk. But at the moment we don't foresee an evacuation."

London, Mar 1 — Due to continuing eruptions of the Stromboli Volcano near Milazzo port, all vessels loading/unloading at Milazzo Refinery must clear the jetty immediately after cargo operations are completed. Additional paperwork will be carried out once vessels are at anchor inner roads in Milazzo. Further, masters of vessels waiting at anchorage or berthed during cargo operations are recommended to keep the engines on and be ready to move in case of emergency. All fire wires must also be fastened and constantly checked to enable tug towing in case of emergency.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, Feb 27 — A Taliban suicide bomber killed up to 12 people at the main US military base in Afghanistan today in an attack the rebels said was aimed at Dick Cheney, but the visiting US vice president was not hurt. An American and South Korea soldier were killed, as well as a US government contractor whose nationality was unknown, NATO and Korean officials said. NATO said 27 people were wounded. A photographer at the scene at Bagram Airbase, 60 km north of Kabul, saw eight bodies in addition to NATO's tally of four dead, putting the toll at 12. "We wanted to target ... Cheney," Taliban spokesman Mullah Hayat Khan said by telephone from an undisclosed location. Soon after the blast, Cheney — who officials say was never in danger from the blast at the sprawling base — went ahead with talks with Afghan President Hamid Karzai in the capital. The

meeting had been scheduled for yesterday but was delayed when Cheney was snowed in at Bagram soon after arriving from Islamabad on a visit shrouded in secrecy because of security. Karzai and Cheney met one-on-one for 45-50 minutes at the presidential palace in Kabul — longer than the planned 30 minutes — before an expanded meeting with staff and advisers. — Reuters.

ALGERIA

Algiers, Feb 26 — Algerian police arrested eight people suspected of involvement in seven deadly bomb attacks which a branch of al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for, a government-backed newspaper said today. Al-Qaeda Organisation in the Islamic Maghreb, previously known as the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), claimed responsibility for the bombings, which took place almost simultaneously on Feb 13 in two neighbouring provinces east of the capital Algiers. Six people were killed in the attacks. It came a few weeks after a bomb on a bus carrying foreign oil workers near Algiers killed two people and wounded eight. The arrested people were taken into custody on Saturday (Feb 24) on charges of "membership of a terrorist group, participation in making explosive devices, assassination and attempted assassination," among other charges, daily "El Moudjahid" said, citing local security officials. The detained people were members of a rebel support network operating in the provinces of Tizi Ouzou and Boumerdes, the newspaper added. The GSPC said it adopted the Al-Qaeda name last month after Osama bin Laden approved the name change. Police dismantled another network believed to be supplying weapons to the GSPC and involving French, Tunisian and Algerian nationals in the eastern province in Constantine, newspaper Liberte said on Saturday, citing unnamed sources. — Reuters.

COLOMBIA

Bogota, Feb 28 — Colombian rebels have snatched nine peasants working in a logging camp in a northern jungle province where militia gunmen and guerrillas battle for control of timber and drug routes, authorities said on today. The kidnapping took place near Rio Sucio in Choco, where last year the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia or FARC massacred 10 loggers and kidnapped more than 100 more in a show of force as President Alvaro Uribe began a second term. "The loggers were working in the area when their labor was stopped by a group of armed men," the state ombudsman's office said in a statement calling for their release. "One of them escaped and made it to main town in Rio Sucio. Nine were taken, six men and three women, all adults." A police spokesman confirmed nine loggers were taken by rebels in the area. — Reuters.

GUINEA

London, Feb 22 — Guinea's port of Conakry is facing a heavy backlog of containers now that it is reopened thanks to a calming of the situation in the West African country and a reduced curfew.

Conakry, Feb 23 — Martial law and a nationwide general strike have flooded Guinea's fragile franc currency, sending prices soaring and threatening to punch a big hole in government finances, economists said today. As Guinea's second general strike this year entered its 12th day, with shops and businesses shuttered, the U.S. dollar climbed ever higher on "Wall Street" — the potholed Conakry thoroughfare which serves as the currency black market. The dollar, which was worth 5,200 francs in late January after the end of the previous strike, jumped to 6,350 francs as Guineans scrambled for safety this week. With inflation already at more than 30 percent, the slumping currency has pushed up prices even further, hurting the majority of Guinea's 10 million people who live on less a \$1 a day. Many stallholders in Conakry's central market laid out their merchandise on today but prices for everything from fish to cooking oil have soared. A 50-kg sack of rice worth 87,500 CFA francs before the strike now cost 115,000 francs. Officials are concerned the strike could create a major shortfall in the \$500 million national budget — roughly a quarter of which comes from bauxite mining. A two-week general strike in June caused a loss of \$30 million in state revenues, according to the Finance Ministry. National bauxite firm Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinee has seen roughly a week of production disrupted so far this year between the two strikes. — Reuters.

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Guinea's new prime minister, Lansana Kouyate, flew home to take up his post today as Guineans returned to work after the end of a general strike, wary but hopeful the country's political crisis was over. President Lansana Conte named Kouyate, a respected career diplomat, as consensus prime minister late yesterday under a deal to end the latest two-week-old stoppage against his 23-year rule, which has triggered widespread violence. Traffic jams blocked roads and queues formed outside banks and shops in the oceanside capital Conakry as life returned to normal, while scores of well-wishers turned up at the airport to welcome home Kouyate, who has spent most of his career abroad. Opposition politicians and some diplomats warned Kouyate would only be effective if he genuinely had a free hand. Guinea is the world's top exporter of bauxite and although the industry has restarted, officials are concerned the strike could have created a major shortfall in the \$500 million national budget. In the centre of Conakry, banks were overwhelmed with customers trying to withdraw money for the first time in weeks while main road arteries, which

have stood largely empty since the start of the year, were clogged. In other parts of the city, the scars of the unrest are still visible. In the Kipe suburb the burnt-out wrecks of cars stand next to a battered police station set on fire during the protests. Hospitals are still treating those wounded by bullets.

London, Feb 28 — Amidst reports from the UN Regional Information Networks (IRIN) that Guinea's union leaders have lifted the strike that paralysed the West African country, including shutting the port of Conakry, come separate indications that the port has reopened although it remains heavily congested. It is anticipated that it will take several weeks or longer to clear the backlog of cargo that was discharged hurriedly in the port shortly before the state of emergency was imposed earlier in February. From all accounts the country's parliament voted against extending the state of emergency.

IRAQ

Baghdad, Feb 24 — A fuel tanker rigged with explosives killed 40 people when it blew up near a Sunni mosque in western Iraq today, a day after the mosque's imam had criticised al Qaeda militants, police and residents said. The bomb exploded in a market in the town of Habaniya in the restive province of Anbar, where US forces are battling Sunni Arab insurgent groups, including al Qaeda. Local police said they believed the mosque was the target, adding that the market had been destroyed and 64 people wounded. In Baghdad, more than 20 loud explosions in quick succession rocked a southern district of the capital after night fell. The US military said the cause of the blasts were "indirect fire." Brigadier Qassim Moussawi, spokesman for Iraqi forces in the capital, said the blasts were the result of military operations by Iraqi and US forces conducting a major security crackdown in Baghdad. Residents said the imam of the mosque in Habaniya had criticised Sunni al Qaeda during Friday prayers. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Feb 25 — A car bomb killed one person and wounded four in central Baghdad today, police said. The blast was about 100 metres from the Iranian embassy but police said the diplomatic mission did not appear to have been the target. The embassy compound was not damaged. An informed source told Iran's official IRNA news agency the car bomb was not near the embassy. No Iranian diplomats were hurt, the source added. — Reuters.

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Insurgent bombers launched yet another blitz across the Iraqi capital yesterday, killing at least 22 people outside a business school and setting off a minibus bomb near the Iranian embassy. Doctors at the Imam Ali hospital in the Sadr City district of east Baghdad said they had received the bodies of 22 people and were treating more than 30 seriously wounded after a suicide bomber attacked a crowd of students. The bomber triggered his explosive vest

outside the School of Economy and Administration in east Baghdad, where the students are mainly Shiites. In another attack, Iranian officials said their compound had not been deliberately targeted, but a minibus exploded only a short distance away, amid mounting tension over Tehran's relations with its war-torn neighbor. The blast erupted at 0845 during the busiest period of the morning rush hour, when nearby roads were packed with motorists and pedestrians heading for work, many of them in nearby Iraqi ministries. The Iranian embassy was not damaged, but amid the wreckage could be seen at least four unexploded artillery shells rigged to the bomb. An Iraqi defence ministry official confirmed that two civilians died in the blast and said eight more were wounded. Later, a car bomb had wounded five shoppers in the busy Karrada district, defence and medical officials said.

Baghdad, Feb 26 — A blast at an Iraqi ministry during a ceremony attended by Vice President Adel Abdul-Mahdi killed six people today but the vice president was unhurt, a ministry employee and police said. Police said six people had been killed and 31 wounded. The employee said he had seen four dead bodies. Two police sources said the blast happened inside a hall at the time Abdul-Mahdi, a Shi'ite leader, was at the Public Works Ministry building. — Reuters.

Mosul, Feb 27 — A suicide truck bomber targeting an Iraqi police station in northern Iraq killed six policemen and wounded 25 people today, police said, adding the death toll could rise. Witnesses said the blast in the city of Mosul destroyed the police headquarters. — Reuters.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A car bomb killed at least 10 people in a crowded Baghdad market Wednesday (Feb 28), police said. US forces killed eight suspected militants in a raid north of the city, and captured six others in separate operations around Baghdad, the military said. The car bomb hit at midmorning in Baiyaa, one of Baghdad's most popular shopping districts in a mixed Sunni-Shiite neighbourhood. At least 10 people were killed and about 20 wounded, police and hospital officials said. A US soldier was killed Tuesday by small arms fire during a joint patrol with Iraqi police in western Baghdad, the military said. In the southern city of Basra, a British soldier was killed in a small arms attack the same, Britain's Defence Ministry said. Police said at least four roadside bombs exploded south of Baghdad on Wednesday, killing two people in separate blasts. Two brothers of a leading Sunni lawmaker were gunned down in Muqadiyah, a volatile city about 60 miles north of Baghdad, a relative said.

ISRAEL

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Israeli Army kills militants in West Bank. The Israeli Army has killed three militants following a raid in the Palestinian town

of Jenin in the occupied West Bank. The Israeli army say the Palestinians who died were from Islamic jihad and they included two senior officials. They claim one of the men was responsible for a failed suicide bombing in Tel Aviv last week. The Israeli military says the soldiers were carrying out an operation inside a refugee camp in Jenin to arrest a wanted man when they were shot at, so they returned fire. The Palestinians say the men were killed by an undercover Israeli unit without any warning.

NIGERIA

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Yet to be identified gun-men in Rivers State, yesterday, opened fire on two Lebanese workers, killing one. The duo were driving in their company's (a construction firm) car to inspect a project at Isiokpo when they unexpectedly came under attack. The one died on the spot while the other and the driver, a Nigerian were severely injured. They were subsequently rushed to an undisclosed hospital. Also yesterday two Italian technicians were yesterday abducted during a shootout near Port Harcourt according to Italy's Deputy Foreign Minister, Franco Daureli. Lucio Moro and Luciano Passarin, who work for the construction firm Impregilo, were kidnapped after the clash some 40 kilometers from Port Harcourt. Spokesperson for Rivers state police confirmed the incident. "The Italians were kidnapped this morning in Ogoniland. We still don't have the details," Ireju Barasua said. An industry source said the Lebanese nationals who came under fire were employees of AUC, a construction firm in Port Harcourt. He said the men were attacked on Isiokpe road in Ikwerre Local Government Area, adding that the wounded Lebanese was in the hospital for treatment.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Feb 27 — The Balochistan railway links with rest of the Pakistan suspended when the main railway track near Dera Murad Jamali, some 250km east of Quetta city was blown up late on Monday night (Feb 26). According to local media, this was second incident of terrorists activities in 24 hours. About three feet of the rail track near village Sona Khan Bugti was blown up when an explosive device went off, according to Nasirabad District Police Officer Qazi Hussain Ahmad. All up and down traffic on the main line had been stopped, also confirmed by officials of the Pakistan Railways. As a result, trains that left Quetta for upcountry had been halted at Nautal and Dera Murad Jamali railway stations, they said, adding that those coming to Quetta from Karachi and Peshawar had been stopped at Jacobabad and Dera Allah. The repair work is going on. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PHILIPPINES

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Six Abu Sayyaf

rebels were killed and an undetermined number of the rebels were wounded in an encounter with Philippine government forces in the southern island province of Sulu yesterday afternoon, said the military today. Government forces encountered about 40 fully armed groups believed to be combined Abu Sayyaf Group and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) breakaway group in Indanan, Sulu, said Brigadier Ruperto Pabustan, commander of a special operations task force of the Philippine military.

RUSSIA

Moscow, Feb 23 — A blast in Russia's southern republic of Chechnya killed at least five policemen today, Interfax news agency reported, citing an unidentified law enforcement source. The blast rocked an Interior Ministry base in the Gudermes region of Chechnya, the agency reported. Interfax gave no further details. — Reuters.

SOMALIA

Mogadishu, Feb 22 — Mortar bombs crashed into Mogadishu's international airport today and two government soldiers were killed in clashes with gunmen, in the latest attacks in and around the increasingly violent capital. The two soldiers died in a gunfight with local clan militiamen just outside Mogadishu in Laanta Bur, resident Ismail Yusuf said by telephone, adding he did not know the cause of the fight. The government had no immediate comment. A government security source said four fighters — and it was not clear whether they were government soldiers — were wounded in a battle with local administration militiamen at Mogadishu's Globe Hotel — often host to government officials. The shootouts happened after three mortar rounds fell in Mogadishu's seaside airport, hitting the runway and a parking lot, witnesses said. No one was wounded. Gunmen also shot dead a district commissioner in Mogadishu late yesterday. Mohyadin Hassan Haji, commissioner for the city's Yaqshid district "was killed last night around 8.30 p.m. near his home. Two gunmen assassinated him," said a government security source who spoke on condition of anonymity. — Reuters.

Mogadishu, Feb 23 — Somali government troops and their Ethiopian allies used tanks and heavy artillery to battle gunmen who struck a military base at the former defence ministry in Mogadishu today. At least three civilians were killed by stray bullets and retaliatory fire as the violence spilled over into the nearby neighbourhoods of Bar Ubah and Gupta. "The government soldiers and Ethiopians fired back using heavy artillery as well as tanks. The fighting continued for close to 20 minutes," said a resident, who declined to give his name for fear of reprisal. Interior Minister Mohamed Mahamud Guled "Gamadheere" confirmed the attack, but said there was no solid casualty figure yet. Homes in the area were struck by stray bullets and shells as

the government forces and a vigilante group fired back at the attackers in Bar Ubah, witnesses said. — Reuters.

SRI LANKA

Colombo, Feb 22 — Sri Lanka said its navy sank two suspected Tamil Tiger boats, killing nine rebels today, on the fifth anniversary of a largely ignored ceasefire. Navy spokesman Commander D.K.P. Dassanayake said one of the sunken craft off the island's northwest coast was fitted with heavy weapons and the vessels were "definitely the Tigers. Nine of their cadres died". Mediator Norway called on both sides today to respect the truce and said the onus was on President Mahinda Rajapakse's government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to halt the renewed fighting. "Massive human rights abuses, grave humanitarian suffering and the displacement of over 200,000 people are among the results," Erik Solheim, Norwegian Minister of Development Cooperation, said in a statement. The government has vowed to wipe out the Tigers' military machine and has driven the rebels from a key eastern enclave they controlled under the terms of the truce. Civilians caught in the crossfire are paying a heavy price. An estimated 1,300 have been killed in the past year alone. Suspected Tigers have carried out a number of bomb and grenade attacks on the peninsula in recent months, and the military and rebels fight sporadic artillery duels. Food and basic goods are in short supply. Some civilians now have to walk barefoot, unable to find shoes their size. The government has vowed to produce a power-sharing proposal within weeks aimed at ending the conflict, but Rajapakse has rejected Tiger demands for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east, and many fear the gap between the two sides is too great to bridge. — Reuters.

Colombo, Feb 27 — The Italian and US ambassadors to Sri Lanka were slightly hurt today when Tamil Tiger rebels shelled a delegation of diplomats led by the island's human rights minister to the restive east, officials said. Hospital officials in the eastern district of Batticaloa said Italian Ambassador Pio Mariani had a small piece of shrapnel lodged in his head outside his skull, but that it was a minor wound. US Ambassador Robert Blake's arm was grazed either by shrapnel or a stone, the military said, but he was not taken to hospital and his embassy said he was fine. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said they were sorry the envoys were hurt by their fire but blamed the army for putting them in harm's way. The attack came as helicopters carrying Disaster Management and Human Rights Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe as well as ambassadors from the United States, European Union, Japan, Germany and France landed in Batticaloa on a goodwill mission. The minister and the other ambassadors, who were visiting the area on a needs assessment trip for

thousands of refugees displaced by a new chapter in the island's two-decade civil war, were unharmed, military and embassy officials said. Nine security service personnel and a civilian were also hurt. The Tigers said they had not been advised foreign diplomats were being transported into what they called a military operational area and accused the army of firing at them first. The military said the Tigers fired mortars rounds and artillery shells. — Reuters.

Colombo, Feb 28 — Sri Lanka's navy fired at a large vessel suspected to be transporting arms for Tamil Tiger rebels today, officials said, adding the 70-75 metre long vessel was ablaze off the island's south coast after a series of explosions. "We fired warning shots and they fired at us," said Navy spokesman Commander D.K.P. Dassanayake. "The ship is on fire and we can see a series of explosions. It is a big ship and is about 190 nautical miles (350 kms) south of the port of Galle." He said the incident took place in Sri Lankan waters and away from international shipping lanes. — Reuters.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: The Sri Lanka navy fired and destroyed a 70 metre long arms carrying vessel of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) off the Dondra point of the Southern province of Sri Lanka. The vessel caught fire and was sinking slowly in the Indian Ocean about 190 nautical miles South of the port of Galle, a Navy spokesman said. Fishermen in the area reported they heard a series of explosions in the sinking vessel indicating that the LTTE vessel was carrying large hauls of explosives. "We fired warning shots and they fired at us," said Commander D K P Dassanayake, a Navy spokesman. "The ship is on fire and we can see a series of explosions," he further said. Dassanayake said the confrontation took place in Sri Lanka's territorial waters and away from international shipping lanes. The Ministry of Defense in a statement said, "The vessel sailing in deep seas around 185 nautical miles off 'Dondra Point' without a flag was detected by the Navy around 0430, today (Feb 28). The vessel had completely ignored the warning shots fired by the Navy patrol craft to stop. Instead the vessel had opened fire towards the Naval units. Subsequently the Navy retaliated with gun fire at the suspected vessel at about 0830. The attack came after the navy engaged a flotilla of Tamil Tiger boats off the island's northeast and sank one boat, killing 15 rebels. In a land confrontation in the island's northwestern district of Mannar, three rebels were shot dead on Wednesday morning, the military said. The pre-dawn confrontations with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) off Pulmoddai wounded at least two sailors on the navy side, the spokesman said, adding that rebel casualties were not immediately known. The clash came one day after the Tigers shelled two military helicopters carrying ambassadors from

France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States, European Union and the heads of UN agencies. The Italian and US ambassadors and the UN resident coordinator were lightly injured.

Labour Disputes



CANADA

London, Feb 22 — The strike at CN Rail can't end soon enough for Winnipeg car dealers, who say shipments of new vehicles have virtually stopped. The labour disruption, which began Feb 10, has resulted in fewer cars being shipped to dealers, and that means lengthy delays for car buyers. Jared Beyko, general sales manager of Jim Gauthier Pontiac in Winnipeg, says a handful of his customers are waiting for cars to arrive directly from the factory. "One person ordered a Pontiac Grand Prix back in December, and the car was due to be here first, second week of February, and of course now their car is sitting on a train somewhere, can't be shipped to them," he said. Beyko said his dealership usually receives one or two truckloads of cars per day, but "right now it's down to a trickle," with only one load per week arriving. "I believe it's lined up in the rail yards of CN themselves," he said. He doesn't know how long it would take his shipping company to make up the backlog once the labour dispute ends. Meanwhile, the association that represents grain companies in Western Canada hopes the strike will prompt a government review of rail practices. Wade Sabkovich, spokesman for the Western Grain Elevator Association, told CBC there were problems with rail service in Canada long before the strike. Sabkovich said grain companies would struggle to get enough rail cars delivered to elevators in time to meet their demand, a situation that has only grown worse during the 13 days of the labour disruption. Sabkovich said in the short term, the Western Grain Elevator Association needs the strike to come to an end before grain companies run into serious costs with delayed shipments. "Vessel demurrage is costing the industry hundreds of thousands of dollars a day," he said.

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The federal government moved ahead with legislation yesterday to order striking CN Rail employees back to work before their walkout triggers economic "chaos." But the move didn't come soon enough to prevent the Ford St. Thomas assembly plant from cancelling another day of production for lack of parts. Labour Minister Jean-Pierre Blackburn said there was some progress yesterday in talks to end the strike by 2,800 conductors and yard workers. At least 500 CN workers in Eastern Canada had already returned to work this week, joined by 200 in Manitoba.

Blackburn told the House of Commons yesterday allowing the strike to continue would cause economic chaos. Ford's St. Thomas plant, which builds Crown Victoria and Grand Marquis sedans, has operated on short shifts for two weeks because of the strike. Imperial Oil has said the strike is exacerbating its own problems distributing gasoline and heating oil in Ontario after a refinery fire last week. It could take until Thursday (Mar 1) for the government to pass the back-to-work bill because of New Democrat opposition. Canadian National has used management crews to replace the striking workers, but shippers say service is operating at less than half capacity. CN has pushed for government intervention because of deep splits within the leadership of the United Transportation Union (UTU), which has complicated talks. The UTU's international leadership this week suspended its original negotiating team, alleging they had been using the strike as part of a bid to split off the union's Canadian locals so they would join the rival Teamsters Union. But many union locals in Eastern Canada, including one in London, have backed the deposed negotiators and have returned to work at their direction in a bid to head off the back-to-work legislation.

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated Feb 24, states: CN and the United Transportation Union say they have reached a tentative deal to end a strike by 2,800 railway conductors and yard-service workers. The union says it is maintaining its strike mandate but is urging its members to return to their jobs pending a ratification vote. Results of the vote will not be available until near the end of March. Union members will be mailed a copy of the tentative agreement along with a ballot on Monday (Feb 26), and they will have until Mar 26 to mail in their ballots. The ballots will be counted in Ottawa the same day. "The 2,800 employees and members of the union, which are conductors and yard-service employees, remain on strike pending ratification," Mark Hallman, spokesman for CN management, told The Canadian Press late today. UTU spokesman Frank Wilner confirmed that the transit union would be encouraging its workers to return to work. "We are asking our members to go back to work immediately," said Wilner.

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A tentative deal was reached this weekend to end the strike at Canadian National Railway. The two-week strike had impacted a host of U.S. and Canadian industries, most notably the automotive and chemical sectors. A statement released by Canadian National said details of the agreement between the 2,800 members of the United Transportation Union and Canadian National were not immediately available and the deal hinged upon ratification by the union. The tentative deal averts the Canadian government's intervention in the talks, which was in the works. According to Reuters, the government had planned

for parliament to vote on the legislation on Thursday or Friday if no contract agreement was reached.

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Freight train service was improving across the country yesterday, following an agreement-in-principle reached with striking workers this weekend, said Canadian National Railway Co. "We've seen increasing numbers of workers coming back and we're encouraged by that," said CN spokesman Mark Hallman. The United Transportation Union, representing 2,800 striking conductors and yard workers, reached a one-year deal staving off a legislated settlement by the federal government. While the workers have until Mar 26 to vote on the agreement, "all UTU locals have been instructed to take down their pickets and return to work," said union spokesperson Frank Wilner in an e-mail. With workers coming back even before the weekend, for fear of a legislated deal, Abitibi Consolidated Inc. spokesperson Seth Kursman said the forestry company has already seen a huge improvement in service, despite a backlog at the Port of Vancouver. The one-year deal gives the UTU time to resolve infighting that led to the suspension of four Canadian union leaders and prompted some dissident members to sign cards with the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference. The deal would give workers, who earn \$75,000 on average, a three per cent raise and \$1,000 signing bonus. CN also agreed to drop demands like extending shifts from eight to 10 hours.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Port of Vancouver was scrambling yesterday to get a handle on an estimated \$1-billion backlog of cargo in the aftermath of the two-week strike at CN Rail.

EGYPT

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated today, states: The strike at the Suez Canal Authority's Port Said Shipyard by workers demanding improved conditions has been called off after five days after the Government agreed to listen to their grievances. Shipyard staff are after pay increases, more health benefits and the right to own the houses they rent from the SCA.

NEPAL

Kathmandu, Feb 26 — Traffic on highways in Nepal's southern plains ground to a halt today as members of an ethnic group seeking regional autonomy called a week-long transport strike to force concessions, officials said. Thousands of bus passengers were stranded after activists of the Madhesi People's Rights Forum urged all drivers to stay off the roads to further a campaign for greater political and economic power. The group aims to shut all 22 trading points along Nepal's border with India, the entry point for the bulk of the landlocked Himalayan nation's essential goods and fuel. "There is no import or export today because no vehicle is moving," said Yogendra Ojha, a customs official in

Biratnagar, a key trading point in south-east Nepal. Residents said most businesses were open despite the strike. "We have completely stopped supplies from coming into Nepal from India," said Upendra Yadav, head of the Madhesi group. The Madhesis, which comprise about a third of Nepal's population, are demanding more jobs in government, the army and police, and more seats in parliament to end what they call the dominance of the country's hill dwellers. At least 25 people have been killed this year in protests by Madhesis in the southern Terai region, Nepal's agricultural and industrial hub, where they dominate. The group suspended protests after Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala agreed to meet some of their demands. However, it refused a meeting with government officials, insisting Home Minister Krishna Prasad Sitaula, accused of ordering excessive force during the protests, resign. It is also demanding an investigation into police crackdowns. During the past few years of their revolt, Nepal's Maoist rebels, who signed a peace deal last year, often closed down roads leading into Kathmandu in an attempt to trigger protests against the rule of King Gyanendra. — Reuters.

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Normal life and business operations at customs points across Nepal came to halt today, the second day of the strike in transport service and customs check points announced by the Madhesi Janadhikar Forum. According to a Nepalnews report, vehicles remained off the road in a number of eastern and western Terai districts and the import and export of goods also affected due to the strike. Sunsari, Sarlahi, Mahottari, Janakpur, Siraha, Bara, Parsa, Rautahat, Nawalparasi, Rupandehi, Kapilvastu, Banke and Bardiya were the worst affected districts by the strike. Transaction in Birgunj, Biratnagar and Nepalgunj customs offices was nil, though business in Bhairahawa customs office was normal, the report said. The MJF announced protest programme saying the government failed to fulfill its demands and has demanded Home Minister's resignation as a pre-condition for talks. Meanwhile, Chepangs today announced a transport strike in four different districts in central and western development regions, demanding a separate "Chepang Autonomous Region." Transport services have been halted and bazaars remain closed in Makwanpur, Chitwan, Dhading and Gorkha district due to the protest. There are nearly 15,000 Chepangs in the country.

NETHERLANDS

London, Feb 23 — Towage services provided by SMIT towage at Rotterdam are unavailable today due to a 24-hour suspension of service from 0630, this morning until 0630, tomorrow. This industrial action comes after the failure of negotiations between unions and port authorities to reach an accord on a Collective Labour Agreement.

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers at port services group Smit in Rotterdam are to stage a second 24-hour strike on tomorrow in support of their pay claim. The union is demanding a E45 a month rise, and one-off payout towards travel expenses and health insurance. Smit has offered a E30 rise for this year and E40 for 2008. The group carries out some two thirds of the towage activities at Rotterdam port.

London, Feb 28 — Towage services provided at Rotterdam by SMIT Towage will again be suspended for 24 hours starting this morning as the dispute over the Collective Labour Agreement (CLA) continues. Although services resumed at 0630, Feb 24, after the initial 24-hour suspension of service Feb 23, CLA negotiations have since failed to make any progress towards an accord. As a result, another 24-hour suspension of services has been announced from 1000, this morning. The unions have stated that they reserve their right to extend further suspension without prior notice, if they deem necessary.

London, Mar 1 — The 240 employees of SMIT Salvage went on a 24 hour strike at 1000, yesterday, demanding a better collective labour agreement. According to the expectations, about 35 vessels will be without towing service.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Feb 27 — The ship breaking of seven imported vessels at Gaddani Shipbreaking Yard, near Hub, in Balochistan province, has been stopped following strike by about 500 labour of all categories for the last two days. They went on an indefinite strike to press their demands for increase in wages and other facilities. Understand from Mr. Azam Malik, Chairman of Pakistan Ship Breakers' Association that leaders of labour union of Gaddani were invited for negotiations and appropriate step will be taken under the guide lines of general body meeting of association. The labour, gas cutters, welders, crane operators, loader and other workers have stopped their ship breaking work, which is causing loss of million of rupees daily while supply of metals scrap to industry were also suspended. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

UNITED STATES

London, Feb 23 — Workers at Harley-Davidson Inc.'s largest plant approved a new contract, ending a 3-week-old strike that cost the company an estimated \$11 million a day. Frank Larkin, a spokesman for the International Assn. of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, said the contract, which will raise workers' pay 12% over three years, was approved by more than 80% of the members of the union's Local 175.

Awards & Settlements



MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A teenager who was born severely brain damaged is to get almost £2m in compensation. The 18-year-old from Wiltshire was delivered prematurely at the Royal United Hospital in Bath in 1988. His family claimed it was the hospital's decision to perform an emergency caesarean section so early that it left him disabled. The Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority has settled the case without admitting liability.

PATENT INFRINGEMENT, UNITED STATES

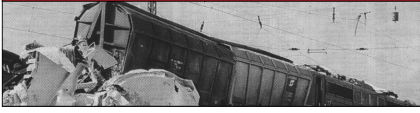
London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A US federal jury found that Microsoft Corp infringed audio patents held by Alcatel-Lucent and should pay \$US1.52 billion in damages, Microsoft said. Microsoft said it planned to first ask the trial judge to set aside the ruling and would appeal if necessary. It said the verdict was unsupported by the law or the facts. Alcatel-Lucent had accused the world's biggest software maker of infringing patents related to standards used for playing computer music, or MP3, files. "We made strong arguments supporting our view and we are pleased with the court's decision," said Alcatel-Lucent spokeswoman Joan Campion. Microsoft said it had already properly licensed the MP3 technology from a German company called Fraunhofer for \$US16 million (\$A20.26 million). "We are concerned that this decision opens the door for Alcatel-Lucent to pursue action against hundreds of other companies who purchased the rights to use MP3 technology from Fraunhofer, the industry-recognised rightful licensor," Tom Burt, Microsoft's deputy general counsel, said in a statement. Microsoft and Alcatel are locked in a number of patent disputes including a suit over the video-decoding technology in Microsoft's Xbox 360 video game console.

POLICE CORRUPTION, CHICAGO, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A jury awarded \$9.5 million in damages today to a husband and wife who claimed a smear and terror campaign was aimed at them after they accused a police officer of corruption while working as federal agents. The verdict ended a five-week civil trial focusing on Joseph Miedzianowski, sometimes described as Chicago's most corrupt police officer, who is now serving a life sentence. Diane Klipfel and Michael Casali said Miedzianowski smeared them with misconduct allegations and terrified

them with threats after they accused him of corruption in 1992 while working in the Chicago office of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Railway Accidents



BIHORO, HOKKAIDO, JAPAN

London, Mar 1 — A passenger train derailed today in northern Japan after slamming into a truck at a railroad crossing, leaving dozens of people injured, officials said. The 12-ton truck and the train collided in the town of Bihoro and the train went off the tracks but did not overturn, JR Hokkaido, the company that operates the train, said in a statement. About 40 people have been taken to nearby hospitals, including two or three who were believed to be seriously injured, said local fire official Kimio Yusa. Kyodo News agency put the injury toll at 48.

EAST ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: CSX Transportation Inc. has identified a broken rail as the cause of the CSX train derailment in East Rochester on Jan 16. The broken rail caused nine train cars to come off the tracks, damaging nearby property and power lines. No one was injured. CSX had performed a visual inspection on the tracks on Jan 15. However, the crack that caused the accident was internal, called a transverse fissure, and did not show up on electronic screening and was not apparent during the visual inspection. East Rochester Mayor David Bonacchi said he wanted CSX to reduce the train speed limit through the village from 60 mph to 30 mph. CSX said it is willing to talk about the idea. US Senator Charles E. Schumer released a statement on the findings of the CSX investigation. Schumer is the author of the bi-partisan Rail Crossing and Hazardous Materials Transport Act.

GOLDEN AREA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency crews are at the scene of a CP Rail train derailment that's causing some environmental concern near Golden in southeastern British Columbia. Five cars from an eastbound freight train jumped the tracks early Wednesday (Feb 28) about five kilometres east of the town in the Canadian Rockies. CP Rail spokesman Ed Greenberg says three of the cars are tankers, two carrying sodium hydroxide and one with hydrogen chloride that reportedly is leaking. Officials are "assessing the scene" to ensure the spilled product doesn't reach a small tributary of the Kicking Horse River. But for the

moment, Greenberg says there doesn't appear to be a public health danger. Hydrogen chloride is a highly corrosive and toxic colourless gas that forms white fumes on contact with humidity while sodium hydroxide is an alkaline compound used in the manufacture of chemicals and soaps, and in petroleum refining. Later in the morning, Kyle Hale, the emergency program co-ordinator for the area, said the spill was contained to a ditch and there was no public emergency.

GOSHEN AREA, INDIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: Authorities said an eastbound Norfolk Southern train derailed today and struck the side of a westbound train, causing diesel fuel to leak from the locomotives. South Bend TV station WSBT reported that the Elkhart County hazardous material team was able to contain the diesel fuel. Norfolk Southern spokesman Rudy Husband said none of the railroad cars were leaking any hazardous materials. Fourteen train cars were derailed in the accident near the waste water treatment centre in Goshen, 25 miles southeast of South Bend. Husband said the cause was not immediately known. One person injured in the collision was taken to hospital.

KENDAL AREA, CUMBRIA, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 24 — An elderly woman was killed and five people were seriously injured when a high-speed London-to-Glasgow train was derailed in farmland near the town of Kendal on the edge of England's Lake District last night. Firemen working in torrential rain were for a time unable to reach many passengers trapped in overturned train carriages, because of live power lines on the track. However, a spokesman for Virgin Trains said later all had been taken off the state-of-the-art Pendolino tilting train, which crashed at a speed of 95 mph and slipped down an embankment. Police Superintendent John Rush said an elderly woman died and five people were seriously injured. Asked about the cause of the crash, he said: "We are unsure how that exactly has happened." Media reports of a broken rail or a landslip could not be confirmed. Rush said the line would be closed for up to six days. "You were suddenly aware of a jolt and the train started swaying really quite dramatically," one passenger said. She said the train then flipped over and came to rest on its side. "The emergency vehicles are coming up and there are a lot of flashing lights. One carriage is lying quite dramatically ... off the line," she said from the scene. Royal Air Force Sea King helicopters ferried the injured to hospital. Twelve ambulances and 80 firefighters were rushed to the scene of the crash. Firemen searched through the overturned carriages with thermal imaging equipment. Police cordoned off the area and helped scores of "walking

wounded" who first took refuge in local farms. A Virgin spokesman said: "This is the first incident involving a Pendolino train and we have to very quickly understand why this has happened." However, he said there was no question of withdrawing the trains from service. The Pendolino (Italian for "tilting") was developed in Italy by Fiat Ferroviaria, which was bought by French firm Alstom in 2000. Virgin uses Pendolinos on its mainline routes. — Reuters.

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The inquiry into the Cumbria rail crash in which one person died will focus on a set of points, police have said. Chief Superintendent Martyn Ripley of British Transport Police said the points could prove "significant." An eighty-year-old woman was killed and five other passengers were seriously hurt when the train derailed. Several carriages were left on their sides after a Virgin London to Glasgow service crashed at Grayrigg, near Kendal, at 2015, UTC, while travelling at about 95 mph. Police said 22 people went to hospital and dozens more were "walking wounded." The train had about 120 people on board, Supt Jon Rush, of Cumbria Police, told a news conference. He said 22 passengers had been taken to three hospitals. The Royal Lancaster Infirmary and the Royal Preston Hospital took the most serious casualties. A total of five people had serious injuries. The leader of the Rail Maritime and Transport Union, Bob Crow, said: "All our indications are that people on the scene are saying that it was a points failure. "And I think people can dismiss the idea that it was a cow on the track or vandalism." All but one of the train's carriages had totally come off the tracks, a Cumbria Ambulance Service spokeswoman said. Speaking at just after midnight she added that all nine train carriages had been cleared of passengers. She said there were 65 people with minor injuries who were treated at the scene and a nearby farm, before being taken to the Castle Green Hotel in Kendal. Emergency crews said they faced difficult conditions, with pouring rain, waterlogged ground and narrow country lanes around the crash site.

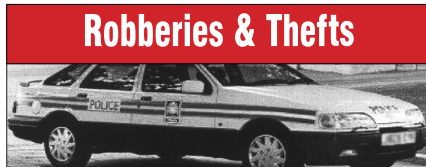
London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators are due to publish their first report into the Cumbria train crash which killed an 84-year-old woman and seriously injured eight other people. They will reveal their initial findings about what may have caused the Virgin Pendolino to derail near Kendal but will not make any firm conclusions. The inquiry is focusing on a set of points to the south of the crash site. Network Rail said it had found nothing of concern after checking 700 similar points in the wake of the crash Friday (Feb 23). Four people remain in a serious but stable condition in hospital after the London to Glasgow service derailed at Grayrigg. John Armitt, Network Rail's chief executive, said that disruption to the line was expected to last for

between 10 days and two weeks while the investigation was carried out. Addressing reports the crash could be linked to maintenance issues, he said: "I've no doubt that the people we are employing are qualified and competent to carry out the particular tests we require them to do." He said the additional checks were a precautionary measure that any responsible organisation would undertake. Work on removing the train carriages from the site is not expected to begin until the end of the week. Contractors are currently building two temporary roads across muddy fields to allow heavy lifting gear access and cranes will take about 48 hours to set up. "We have been doing a finger-tip search of the site, trying to work around the carriages which, although stable at the moment, we are mindful of the fact that it's a very unstable environment," said Ch Supt Martyn Ripley, of the British Transport Police. Thomas Edwards, who is leading the inquiry for the Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB), said two black box data recorders had been recovered from the wreckage and information from them would now be analysed. He said, as well as looking at the points, investigators would also be examining the track between the points and where the train slipped down the embankment, signal boxes and the train itself. A forensic examination carried out by the British Transport Police, the RAIB and Her Majesty's Railway Inspectorate is expected to continue at the site for several days. Meanwhile there have been calls for an independent public inquiry into the crash. Margaret Masson, 84, of Glasgow, died after the crash, and Mrs Masson's daughter and son-in-law Margaret Langley, 61, and Richard Langley, 63, were among those seriously injured. Both are now in a serious but stable condition at the Royal Preston Hospital. Iain Black, 46, the train driver, who suffered a broken collar bone and a broken bone in his neck, is also said to be in a serious but stable condition. Another patient is undergoing neurosurgery. While the crash investigation continues, buses are being laid on from Lancaster, Preston and Carlisle to replace suspended rail services.

London, Feb 27 — The fatal derailment of a UK passenger train, thought to be caused by faulty points, will trigger at least £155m of liability insurance, led by QBE Insurance (Europe). QBE confirmed yesterday it is the lead insurer on a policy for state-backed Network Rail, which is responsible for the maintenance of the track network. This is believed to be public liability policy, though the insurer would not confirm this. The insurer also confirmed it is "involved with the insurances" of Virgin Trains which owned and operated the express train that derailed and crashed in Cumbria killing one person and seriously injuring three others Feb 23.

XANTHI AREA, GREECE

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated Feb 23, states: Train journeys in and out of Thrace, north-eastern Greece, were cancelled yesterday because a freight train transporting armored personnel carriers derailed near Xanthi. The driver was slightly injured when the train left the tracks as it was travelling between Thessaloniki and Alexandroupolis. It was not immediately clear what caused two rail cars to derail. The army was called in to recover the armored vehicles as railway workers began to repair the damage to the line. Normal train service is due to return on Sunday.



PAINTINGS, PARIS, FRANCE

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: At least two Picasso paintings with a combined value of 50 million euros have been stolen from his granddaughter's home in Paris. A portrait of the Spanish painter's daughter, Maya with Doll, and one of his second wife Jacqueline Roque were taken on Monday (Feb 26) night, police said. There was no evidence of a break-in at the home of Diana Widmaier-Picasso, in Paris's seventh arrondissement. The organised crime squad of the Paris police force is investigating.



DRUGS FOUND ON GREEK VESSEL, FREEPORT, BAHAMAS

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated Feb 26, states: Bahamian police officials joined in an international investigation over the weekend to ascertain the identity of the person or persons responsible for a multimillion-dollar drug shipment en route through the Freeport Container Port. Grand Bahama police reported that a joint team of drug unit officers from that island, acting on information, travelled to the container port facility around 1430, Friday afternoon (Feb 23) where they conducted a search of a 40-foot container that had arrived on board Container Carrier *MSC Yokohama* (30249 gt, built 1979) from Guayaquil. According to police reports, it was during that search that the officers discovered 132 kilos, or 315 pounds, of packaged cocaine. The drugs have an estimated street value of \$4 million. Police reported that the illegal narcotics were found in two large bags packed behind two Fiat cars. The container was in transit to Rio de

Janeiro, Brazil, according to officials. According to police reports, the officers interviewed the vessel's captain and crew, however, no arrests were made. (Note — *MSC Yokohama* according to Lloyd's MIU AIS, in lat 9 1 1.3N, long 79 36 44.72W, 0.6 nautical miles off Balboa, at 2332, UTC, Feb 28.)

DRUGS SEIZED ON BOLIVIAN VESSEL IN THE CARIBBEAN

See *Osiris II* under "Marine."

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Feb 27 — Vietnam has confirmed a new bird flu outbreak in a northern province, two weeks after the country declared the H5N1 virus under control in its poultry population, state media and officials said today. Tests of more than 100 chicks that died on a farm in Hai Duong province, 50 kilometres east of Hanoi, tested positive for H5N1, according to the province's animal health department director, Dong Van Chuc. The new outbreak marks the first time that bird flu has appeared in northern Vietnam for more than a year, according to Vietnamese newspaper Thanh Nien.

London, Mar 1 — A farmer in south-east China has contracted the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu, state media reported today. Xinhua News Agency said it was China's first human case of bird flu since Jan 10, when the government said a 37-year-old farmer in Anhui province in eastern China had contracted bird flu but had recovered. In the latest case, in coastal Fujian province, Xinhua said a 44-year-old farmer with the surname Li was diagnosed on Feb 18 after he developed a fever and began coughing. Xinhua said tests by the provincial disease control and prevention centre showed Li had been infected with the H5N1 virus strain and that the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed the result on Feb 27. The report did not say whether the farmer worked with poultry or whether infected birds were found.



ABATTOIR, PORT WAKEFIELD, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated Feb 25, states: More than 400 jobs are under threat after fire gutted a pig abattoir and processing plant at Port Wakefield. The blaze, estimated to have caused \$15 million damage at the Primo Smallgoods plant, is believed to have been started by an electrical fault before 2100 on Friday (Feb 23). No one was injured and there were no live animals on site. More than 50 CFS firefighters from as far afield as Ardrossan on Yorke Peninsula and Burnside in Adelaide rushed to the site and battled fires in the slaughter and chiller buildings for several hours before bringing it under control. But

late yesterday, firefighters wearing gas suits fitted with breathing apparatus were still attempting to contain ammonia leaking from fire-damaged pipes in the chiller building. While the outside of the plant showed little damage, the CFS said the inside of the chiller and slaughter buildings were blackened by flames so hot they had twisted metal structures. Primo Smallgoods is the largest employer in the Adelaide Plains and Yorke Peninsula region, with 368 employees and up to 100 other contractors.

COAL MINE, DONETSK, UKRAINE

London, Feb 23 — An underground fire broke out in a shaft of the Severnaya mine of the Makeevugol mining company today. Fifty-six miners happened to be in the fire area. All of them were evacuated to the surface, no one was hurt during the evacuation. Rescuers from five teams of the Ukrainian state military highland rescue service managed to examine only 650 metres of the one-kilometer-deep ventilation shaft. Heavy fumigation and a high temperature made rescuers to stop further examination of the shaft. Meanwhile, the central headquarters of the rescue service said continued methane blasts are going off in the fire area.

ICE RINK, FIFE, SCOTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 28 — A major ice rink was badly damaged after a huge fire in the early hours of the morning. Firefighters were called to Fife Ice Arena in Kirkcaldy, home of the Fife Flyers ice hockey team. Officers said they were faced with a well-established fire on arrival, and eventually called in a total of seven crews to tackle the flames. Firefighters took about three hours to get the fire under control, which had spread to the seating and floor area. An “extensive” section of the arena, which can hold 3,280 spectators, was badly damaged, a spokesman for Fife Fire and Rescue said. No-one was in the arena at the time of the blaze, and no-one was injured while it was put out. As well as hosting Scotland’s top-ranked ice hockey team Fife Flyers, the rink in Rosslyn Street hosts skating sessions for members of the public as well as sports such as curling. Fife Police said the premises were secure overnight and that there appeared to be no suspicious circumstances at present.

MANUFACTURING PLANT, SALINA, KANSAS, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A leaking propane tank is being blamed for an explosion and fire at Salina’s Exide Technologies plant early Sunday (Feb 25) that plant officials estimate caused \$2 to \$3 million worth of equipment damage. No one was hurt and no hazardous materials were released from the explosion. Portions of the plant remained shut down Sunday night, as workers spent the day cleaning up standing water from the fire sprinkler system and assessing the level of

damage. There was no structural damage to the building, company officials and Salina Fire Department personnel said. Exide’s Salina facility is the world’s largest vehicle battery manufacturing plant. Firefighters were dispatched to the plant about 0150, on a report of a large explosion in the formation area. The formation area is where batteries undergo processing to receive an electrical charge. There were no visible signs of an explosion when Engine Company 3 arrived at the scene, but employees were being evacuated from the plant. All employees were accounted for, and when firefighters entered the plant they found several small fires and extinguished them. The sprinkler system had extinguished most of the blaze before firefighters arrived, fire department officials said.

OIL REFINERY, DUMAS, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: It’s been over a week since the fire at Valero’s McKee refinery near Sunray, and Valero officials have said that they are working on getting the refinery back to normal. A mess tent is part of how Valero deals with any emergency. The tent will stay at the refinery until reconstruction is complete, which could last up to a year. But officials said they hope to have part of the plant up and running by April. The entire refinery has been shut down since the fire, but all employees have been back to work since last Tuesday (Feb 20). A Valero spokesperson said that they’re working to re-commission the steam system, which is needed to power many of the units in the refinery.

OIL WELL, CASHION, OKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Two oil field explosions sent four people, including two emergency responders, to the hospital. Cashion Police Chief Ronald Nelson says two rig workers were flown by medical helicopter yesterday to the Integris Baptist Medical Center, where they were being kept overnight. Nelson says two others who were trying to help the rig workers were hit by flying debris during the second explosion. They were treated and released from Mercy Health Center in Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma Corporation Commission says the accident occurred about 1440 hrs just after a rig crew perforated a gas well. Spokesman Matt Skinner says the workers went to pressure test the well and someone forgot to hit the shutoff valve before they unscrewed the plug to do the test. Nelson says when his crews responded to the scene, a second explosion hurt a second rig worker and injured the two emergency responders, one of whom may have sustained a concussion. The oil well is owned by Titan Partners Corporation and the rig is owned by R-D-T.

PREMISES, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Feb 26 — A huge fire broke out in an 11-storey building (BSEC

Bhaban) at Karwan Bazar in Dhaka, Bangladesh, at 1000 today. The building houses private TV channels, newspaper, banks, airlines and the head offices of other multinational and national companies. According to media, two people were killed and a number of others were trapped in the building. A big loss has been reported. Bangladesh Air Force helicopters were called in to rescue people from top of the building while fire-fighting vehicles of different fire stations were trying to extinguish fire, which started from the second floor of the building. The cause of fire and extent of losses are yet to be determined. Police and other forces have cordoned off the whole area. — Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

Dhaka, Feb 26 — At least three people died and dozens were injured today in a fire that raged through an 11-storey building in the Bangladesh capital Dhaka housing two private television channels and a newspaper office. Two of the victims died of burn injuries in hospital while another died after leaping from the sixth floor of the building to escape the flames, doctors and witnesses said. More than a hundred people have already been rescued but still many were feared still trapped, including in the lifts. Witnesses said fire fighters and air force helicopters were still trying in the early afternoon to put out the blaze and rescue an unspecified number of people stranded inside. Army, police and the elite Rapid Action Battalion force had joined the rescue effort. The cause of the fire and extent of damage caused was not immediately known. “The fire is still raging inside,” a fire fighter said, as thick smoke billowed into the sky. The building, in the Kawranbazar business district of Dhaka, houses NTV and Rtv stations and the Amar Desh newspaper — all owned by a former member of parliament. Survivors said around 2,500 people work in the building on normal work days. The building also houses at least half a dozen other commercial and business offices. — Reuters.

Karachi, Feb 27 — The Bangladesh government formed two separate inquiry committees to ascertain the cause of fire and loss incurred due to a huge fire that broke out in the multi storeyed BSEC building in Dhaka on Feb 26, killing three people and injuring more than 100. Nayeem Ahmed, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner, told media that the fire originated about 1010 hrs from the office of Jamuna Oil Company Ltd which is housed in the first floor of the 11-floor BSEC. The fire quickly started spreading to other floors, engulfing the entire BSEC Bhaban within an hour. At least 11 fire-fighting units along with water cannons and ladders from different fire stations in the city proceeded to the scene and took almost six hours to bring the blaze under control. Besides, troops were called out to aid the firefighters in rescuing hundreds of people feared trapped inside the building. They were assisted by Bangladesh Air Force, Bangladesh

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Navy, Bangladesh Police, and Rapid Action Battalion personnel. Initial findings suggest that the fire completely gutted both production and transmission equipment at the offices of satellite private television channels — NTV and RTV — housed in the sixth and seventh floors of the building. The fire also damaged the offices of the Bangla daily “Amar Desh”, Dandy Dyeing, Dandy Fashion ‘n Food, Islamic TV, Chittagong Stock Exchange Limited, Reliance Insurance Ltd, Fareast Islamic Insurance Company Limited and Kawran Bazar branch of AB Bank Ltd, which housed at different floors. — Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

PREMISES, RAWALPINDI, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Feb 23 — A huge fire broke out in a privately owned number of shops in Rawalpindi, near Islamabad, on Feb. 22. According to media and the fire department, more than 50 shops and cabins, 35 godowns and several residential apartments were either gutted or damaged. It has caused over Rs100 million losses to the traders, the fire department said. The shops contained imported and local goods. The blaze, which started at around 0245, local time, was brought under control by the fire fighters after more than six hours. There was no report of casualties in the fire, a fire official said. — Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

REFINERY, ONTARIO, CANADA

London, Mar 1 — Imperial Oil Ltd., Canada’s largest oil company, said output from a fire-damaged oil refinery in Ontario rose to about 50 percent capacity after repairs. “It’s probably processing crude at about half of its normal rated capacity, somewhere between 50,000 and 60,000 barrels a day,” spokesman Gordon Wong said today in a telephone interview. Output from the refinery in Nanticoke plunged, creating shortages and increasing local gasoline prices, after the Feb 15 fire in an oil-processing unit. The plant, located on the northern shore of Lake Erie, can process as much as about 118,000 barrels of oil a day, or about 25 percent of the company’s total refining capacity. While the increased production will help reopen filling stations shuttered after the fire, pump prices in Canada’s most populous province are unlikely to fall much in coming weeks because of reduced output from other refineries in North America that are switching to making more gasoline for summer, said Michael Ervin, president of MJ Ervin & Associates Inc., a Calgary company that tracks fuel prices. Imperial’s refinery ran at “very minimal rates” following the fire, and the Calgary-based company cut gasoline deliveries to filling stations by about 30 percent and diesel shipments by about 60 percent, Wong said. Imperial delivers fuel to about 400 filling stations in Ontario, and some closed after running out. The Ontario plant may resume producing at full capacity by - March, Wong said.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters battling a 400-acre blaze along the Rio Grande near Belen hope to have it fully contained by tonight. State Forestry Division spokesman Dan Ware said yesterday the Belen Fire was 85% contained. The fire originally was estimated at 500 acres but GPS mapping yesterday put it at 400 acres. The fire was the largest of four blazes that broke out Friday (Feb 24) in Valencia County. Investigators have determined that it was human caused but accidental.



AIRCRAFT MISSING, FERNANDO DE NORONHA, BRAZIL
See D-GOMM.

AIRCRAFT PUTS BACK TO TORONTO, CANADA

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: An hour into it’s flight to the U.K. yesterday, an Air Canada plane turned round and returned to Pearson International Airport, Toronto. Air Canada Flight 858 to London Heathrow took off at 2255 hrs, yesterday, but an hour into the flight the passengers were told they were returning to Toronto because there was a “problem with the airplane’s computer,” said traveller Greg Jarvis, 35. The plane landed around 0100 hrs, today. Air Canada spokesperson Peter Fitzpatrick confirmed today that Flight 858 had been returned to Toronto after takeoff but could not confirm the cause. Fitzpatrick said that extra staff was called in to rebook passengers, most of whom left for England this morning.

CRACKS FOUND IN PIPES ON JAPAN AIRLINES CORPORATION AIRCRAFT

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Japan Airlines Corp. has detected cracks in pipes in the same section of eight MD-90 aircraft, including one which made an emergency landing Feb 17 at Kansai International Airport. The cracks were found during safety checks conducted after the Feb 17 incident. JAL said it will investigate jointly with Boeing Co., the aircrafts’ manufacturer, to determine the cause. The cracks were found on welds of pipes in the aircrafts’ cargo holds. JAL said eight of its 16 MD-90s and one MD-81 had similar problems. All of the cracks have been fixed, JAL said. The pipes are used to send hot air to the wings from the engines to prevent the flaps from freezing, the carrier said. If the flaps become frozen, an aircraft could lack sufficient lift during landing and become unstable. JAL said it suspects there may have been a problem in the welding process.

CRASH INTO LAKE POWELL, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Olympic gold medalist Rulon Gardner was in Cirrus SR22 single engine aircraft that crashed into Lake Powell on Saturday (Feb 24). Gardner, his pilot friend Randy Brooks and Randy’s brother, Les were returning from a day at Lake Powell on Brooks’ house boat. They were making a return flight in Randy Brooks’ aircraft over the lake. Gardner said they decided to fly low over the water. Brooks banked the aircraft to the left. His brother Les said: “Watch the wheels and right as he said that we caught the first wheel the left rear landing gear, and it skipped us and we skipped one more time,” said Gardner, “that’s when we made the direct impact with the water.” The aircraft hit the water at 150 miles per hour. The three men quickly got out of their safety belts and abandoned the sinking craft. It was just past 1430 hrs. After nearly two hours in 44-degree water Gardner and his friends made it to shore. The three men were taken back to Bullfrog Marina where park ranger EMT’s checked them for injuries.

CRASH, AFULA, ISRAEL

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: The pilot of a crop aircraft was killed today after his aircraft crashed into a high voltage cable near the northern city of Afula. The pilot, 61-year-old Gideon Shatil, managed to report an emergency landing just before the aircraft crashed in fields near Kibbutz Geva. After receiving a report of the crash early this morning, MDA crew’s arrived at the site but had trouble reaching the man due to the muddy terrain. After finally receiving clearance to approach the crash site the MDA crew and Afula firefighters reached the cockpit and retrieved the dead pilot. Aviation Administration and Ministry of Environmental Protection teams were sent to the site since the pesticides leaking from the aircraft caused a potent stench in the area. Police reported that the incident would be investigated with the help of the Aviation Administration.

CRASH, HOXTON PARK AIRPORT, WESTERN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The pilot of a light aircraft and his passenger have escaped injury when the aircraft crash-landed in a paddock in western Sydney. Emergency services were called to the field off Cowpasture Road near Hoxton Park Airport at about 1220, AEDT, today after the aircraft came down. Civil Aviation Safety Authority spokesman Peter Gibson said the aircraft was flying from Bathurst, in the NSW central west, to Sydney’s Bankstown Airport when it developed mechanical problems. Mr Gibson said that during an emergency landing the aircraft hit a tree and crash landed. Police said the pilot and passenger were uninjured, but were taken to hospital for checks.

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CRASH, MELBOURNE AREA, AUSTRALIA

London, Feb 23 — Two men are dead after a light aircraft crashed on a farm south-east of Melbourne. A witness told police that pieces from the plane were flying off its body before it crashed into a paddock near Officer South Road in Clyde North about 1740, AEDT, today. The men were thrown from the aircraft as it hit the ground and burst into flames, police said. Country Fire Authority (CFA) crews rushed to the scene just minutes after impact. "Initial assessments indicate that the plane exploded on impact and went up in flames," a police spokeswoman said. "It appears the two male occupants were ejected on impact. The men are yet to be formally identified and police are still to determine the flight path of the aircraft." A CFA spokeswoman said the cause of the crash was unknown.

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Three investigators will today arrive at the scene of last night's light aircraft crash that killed two men at Clyde North, in Melbourne's outer south-east. The aircraft burst into flames after it came down on a farm near Officer South road about 1800, AEDT. The pilot and his passenger were thrown out on impact. Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) spokesman Peter Gibson says the home-built kit aircraft was registered in the west of the state. "It (was) a high performance sport aircraft that was flying from Moorabbin Airport," he said. "We don't know at this stage what caused the accident, there will be a full crash investigation."

D-GOMM

London, Feb 24 — Piper PA-34-200T D-GOMM was destroyed when it crashed into the Atlantic Ocean, approximately 50 nautical miles east-northeast of Natal, Brazil, near the island of Fernando de Noronha at 0607, UTC, Feb 16. The pilot, the sole person on board, was fatally injured. The trans-Atlantic flight originated at Natal and was en route to Dakar, Senegal.

EI-CZG

London, Mar 1 — The wing tip of AirOne Boeing 737-400, EI-CZG, contacted the runway during landing at Alghero Fertilia, Italy, at approximately 0922, local time, Feb 17. There were no injuries to the passengers or crew.

EMERGENCY LANDING, AUSTIN, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A Southwest Airlines flight made an emergency landing as precaution yesterday evening when the flight crew experienced hydraulics failure. A spokesman said Flight 198 from Dallas to Austin landed without incident in Austin and taxied to the gate under its own power. The plane was taken out of service to determine the cause of the hydraulics failure.

EMERGENCY LANDING, NARITA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, JAPAN

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A Continental Micronesia Boeing 737 heading from Japan to Guam has made an emergency landing at Narita International Airport after its cabin pressure plunged. None of the 67 passengers and six crew members on board the aircraft have been injured. An official from Japan's transport ministry says the passengers were alarmed because oxygen masks dropped and the aircraft descended from 10,000 to 3,000 metres to cope with dropping cabin pressure. The flight was heading from the western Japanese city of Okayama for Guam.

EMERGENCY LANDING, PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Some passengers on a JetBlue flight from Pittsburgh to John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York yesterday finished their journey by bus after the aircraft made an emergency landing in Philadelphia. JetBlue spokesman Todd Burke said Flight 1050 from Pittsburgh to Kennedy Airport landed at 0835, Eastern time, at Philadelphia International Airport after the flight crew discovered a problem with an indicator light. With the aircraft awaiting a mechanical inspection, the 54 passengers were given the option to disembark, Burke said. About 15 passengers chose to wait for an airline bus that left for New York about four hours after landing, he said. It's not clear how the airline's new Customer Bill of Rights applies to yesterday's diverted flight, but all passengers are to get a free roundtrip voucher.

N14685

London, Mar 1 — Cessna T182T, N14685, owned by Cessna Aircraft Company, reported engine failure and force landed three miles from Athens, Tx, at 2108, Feb 27. Damage to aircraft is substantial.

N1864X

London, Feb 28 — Cessna 182H, N1864X, hard landing at Jean, Nv, Feb 26. Substantial damage to the aircraft.

N431CA

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: Comair is suing the federal government over last summer's plane crash in Kentucky that killed 49 people. The Delta regional airline based in the Cincinnati area said the Federal Aviation Administration was negligent in having only one air traffic controller on duty at the airport in Lexington. Comair Flight 51-91 (Bombardier CRJ-100 N431CA) mistakenly turned onto a runway that was too short, struggled to get airborne and went down in a field early on Aug 27. Co-pilot James Polehinke was the sole survivor. Comair claims the FAA failed to properly staff the control tower with two air traffic controllers that morning.

N448BP

London, Feb 28 — Robinson R44 II, N448BP, operated by Heli Flight LLC, crashed on takeoff at Covington, Ga, Feb 26. Damage is substantial. Sole occupant received serious injury.

N9115C

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated Feb 23, states: A Cessna 180 with one person on board crashed near Bellingham tonight, the Federal Aviation Administration reported. The condition of the pilot and specific location of the crash weren't immediately available. The aircraft crashed about 2120 hrs and investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board are expected to respond, the FAA said. The aircraft is registered to Western Alaska Sport Fishing Inc. and is based out of Aleknagik, Ala., according to FAA records.

London, Feb 28 — Cessna 180, N9115C, owned by Western Alaska Sport Fishing Inc, crashed on landing at Bellingham, Wa, Feb 23. Damage to the aircraft is substantial.

PK-KKV

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: Indonesian low-cost carrier Adam Air has been forced to ground a third of its fleet, following a hard landing yesterday that literally cracked the fuselage of one of its aircraft (Boeing 737-33A PK-KKV). The Indonesian government called for immediate safety checks on Adam Air's six Boeing 737-300s after the incident at Juanda Airport in Surabaya. The aircraft's centre fuselage section reportedly cracked from the top, leaving the aircraft's tail drooping towards the runway. Until those checks are performed, Adam Air cannot fly the aircraft, a ruling the airline called unnecessarily harsh. "The Adam Air management is surprised by the decision and views it as harsh punishment given to a national airline," the company said in a statement directed at the Transport Ministry. The airline added that strong winds and heavy rain contributed to yesterday's incident, and that the 13-year-old aircraft had undergone thorough checks prior to the accident flight.

Space Vehicles**ATLANTIS**

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: NASA on Tuesday (Feb 27) postponed next month's launch of space shuttle Atlantis after a hail storm left hundreds of small dents on the spacecraft's external fuel tank and on a wing. The launch, which had been set for Mar 15, was pushed back to at least late April to give NASA time to make repairs. NASA technicians

planned to move the orbiter back to a giant hangar to examine the damage and decide if repairs can be made at the Kennedy Space Center. "This constitutes, in our evaluation, the worst damage we have ever seen of hail on the external tank," said Wayne Hale, manager of the space shuttle program. The need to make repairs had raised the likelihood that the launch would be delayed since NASA only had four extra days to spare in its launch-preparation schedule. The damage was concentrated in the upper third of the 153-foot-tall external tank, a section which holds liquid oxygen propellant. During their 11 days in space, Atlantis' astronauts must deliver a 35,000-pound addition to the international space station, the heaviest ever, along with a new pair of solar arrays. Crew members are also supposed to unfurl the solar arrays, fold up an old pair and conduct at least three spacewalks. Monday evening's thunderstorms moved quickly and had winds of up to 60 miles per hour. The size of the hail was between a half inch and two inches and landed only at the NASA space center. The National Weather Service considers three-quarters-of-an-inch-sized hail to be "severe," said David Sharp, a meteorologist with the weather service.

Product Recalls



VOLKSWAGEN MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Feb 27 — Volkswagen of America Inc. said yesterday it would recall 790,000 vehicles because of problems with the brake light switch. The recall involves several vehicles: 1999-2006 model years of the Golf and GTI, 2001-2005 Jettas, 2001-2007 New Beetles and the 2004 R32. It expands upon a recall announced last year of some Jettas and New Beetles because of the same defect. Volkswagen told the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that the brake light switches in the vehicles could malfunction if they were improperly installed. The automaker said the light could either remain on or not function, which would fail to provide other motorists with the proper braking

signal and potentially lead to a crash. In some vehicles with automatic transmissions, a faulty brake light could work in tandem with the shift interlock to immobilize the vehicle and require towing, said VW spokesman Keith Price. Last year, VW recalled 362,000 Jetta and New Beetle sedans because of similar problems with the brake lights. That recall affected Jettas from the 1999-2002 model years and New Beetles from the 1998-2002 model years.

Port Conditions



AUSTRALIA

London, Feb 22 — Record long queues of coal carriers waiting off Newcastle port could take three months or longer to clear once coal-loading rationing is reintroduced at the port. In an about-face the NSW coal mining industry this week agreed to bring back rationing after contentiously voting to dump it last year, only to see queues more than double in size to 62 vessels now. The vessel congestion is costing the industry about \$1 million a day in demurrage, the fee levied by ship owners to compensate them for delays. Vessels are having to wait an average 21 days to load coal, after strong demand and over-ordering by the miners caused an unprecedented number of vessels to descend on the port. The miners are now working to submit an application next week to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to approve modifications to the old rationing system. They are hoping the ACCC can give an interim approval within four weeks. The new rationing system will last until the end of the year, but there are already warnings that with infrastructure capacity yet to catch up with demand, the system may have to be extended into next year. (See issue of Feb 15.)

Sydney, Feb 27 — Coal queues at the port of Gladstone have eased this week, dropping back to 21 vessels this morning after touching on a record 30 in mid-February. Queues at all of Australia's six coal ports had surged since January, an upward trend sparked largely by a high arrival rate. There were 48 bulkers waiting to berth

at the port of Hay Point this morning, up slightly from 46 last week. The Hay Point queue has doubled since early January. Meanwhile, the Hunter Valley Coal Chain Logistics Team expected large stockpile volumes at the port of Newcastle would help it to load slightly more coal before the end of February. The amount of coal waiting on stockpiles at the port has increased, from 662,000 tonnes last week, to just over 1m tonnes yesterday. The coal chain providers had hoped to push through 6.6m tonnes in February, down from 7.6m tonnes in January, because of the phasing in of the \$170m Kooragang Island work and the fact that it is a shorter month. Increased shiploading capacity could see the port ship a monthly record in April, with 7.7m tonnes of coal capacity allocated. The extra capacity cannot come soon enough for coal customers, with a record 68 ships waiting off the coast yesterday. Waiting times have eased to just over 18 days. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

ITALY

Genoa, Feb 26 — Genoa: One bulk carrier waiting for berth, average berthing delay 12 to 24 hours. La Spezia: No vessels waiting for berth. Savona: One bulk carrier waiting for normal berth, average berthing delay 12 to 24 hours. Four vessels waiting for special berth. — Lloyd's Agents.

TANZANIA & KENYA

London, Mar 1 — Tanzania's prime minister Edward Lowassa has reacted to mounting congestion at the Dar es Salaam Container Terminal by giving instructions that steps be taken to immediately reduce the number of containers being stored there. Dar es Salaam Container Terminal has a capacity of 6,000 TEU but is currently storing over 10,000 boxes. As a result of the congestion shipping lines have taken to bypassing the port and taking the Tanzanian-bound containers to Mombassa in Kenya, which is adding to a mounting problem there. As a means of moving the unwelcome containers government says that premises owned by two local companies - one of which is defunct, should be used to store some of the excess boxes. It was also agreed earlier to move additional boxes to the inland Ubongo container depot which has a capacity of 4,000 but so far only a handful have been moved.

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	07-Mar-2007	Coal: Three vessels arrived; 11 vessels due by 28/3; 4-10 days delay expected.
Brisbane	07-Mar-2007	Grain: Four vessels due by 26/3; no delays expected. Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth; Four vessels due by 26/3
Dalrymple Bay	07-Mar-2007	Coal: Two vessels loading at berth; 35 vessels arrived; 21 vessels due by 22/3; 10-20 days delay expected.
Dampier	07-Mar-2007	Coal: Parker Point: Two vessels loading at berth; 5 vessels arrived; 20 vessels due by 17/3; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel loading at berth; 2 vessels arrived; 6 vessels due by 20/3; 6-10 days delay expected at Dampier
Esperance	07-Mar-2007	Grain: Four vessels due by 15/3 (2 wheat, 2 grain). Iron ore: Three vessels due by 14/3
Geelong	07-Mar-2007	Grain: Two vessels due by 21/4, both to load woodchips.
Geraldton	07-Mar-2007	Grain: One vessel due 14/3 to load grain. Iron ore: One vessel at berth, 3 at anchor.
Gladstone	07-Mar-2007	Coal: 15-17 days delay expected; R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Three vessels at berth, 21 vessels arrived; 32 vessels due by 10/5; Barney Point: 1 vessel at berth; 1 vessel arrived; 11 vessels due by 5/5
Hay Point	07-Mar-2007	Coal: Twenty-two vessels arrived; 8 vessels due by 15/3; 10-20 days delay expected.
Kwinana	07-Mar-2007	Grain: Six vessels due by 28/3 (3 grain, 2 wheat, 1 other).
Newcastle	07-Mar-2007	Grain: Four vessels due by 23/3 (2 wheat, 1 wheat/barley, 1 canola); no delays expected. Coal: 20-26 days delay expected; Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: Three vessels loading at berth; 47 vessels arrived; 33 vessels due by 24/3; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels loading at berth; 21 vessels arrived; 18 vessels due by 24/3
Port Adelaide	07-Mar-2007	Grain: Four vessels due by 30/4 (1 barley, 2 wheat, 1 pulses); terminal closed from 14/5 to 3/6 for maintenance.
Port Hedland	07-Mar-2007	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: One vessel loading at berth; 3 vessels arrived; 3 vessels due by 12/3; "B" berth: 5 vessels arrived; 3 vessels due by 10/3; 8 other vessels due by 26/3 at A or B berth; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island "C" berth): berth closed for refurbishment; (Finucane Island "D" berth): 1 vessel loading at berth; 1 vessel arrived; 5 vessels due by 15/3; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel due 10/3; 3-6 days delay expected at Port Hedland
Port Kembla	07-Mar-2007	Coal: One vessel loading at berth; 1 vessel at anchor; 13 vessels due by 3/4; up to 2 days delay expected
Port Walcott	07-Mar-2007	Iron ore: Two vessels loading at berth; 7 vessels arrived; 12 vessels due by 19/3; 8-12 days delay expected.
Whyalla	07-Mar-2007	Iron ore: Three vessels loading at anchor; 1 vessel arrived; 5 vessels due by 22/4.
Azerbaijan		
Apsheron	05-Mar-2007	Oil products: One vessel discharging crude oil at berth; 1 vessel in roads to discharge fuel oil.
Baku	05-Mar-2007	Oil products: Azertrans terminal: Nobel Avenue: One vessel due 6/3 to discharge crude.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	05-Mar-2007	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (2 coils, 1 containers, 1 baryte concentrate, 1 scrap), 4 discharging (1 steel, 1 DRI, 1 zinc/copper concentrate, 1 steel billets); 2 vessels in roads, of which 1 to load coils, 1 to discharge iron ore; 9 vessels due, of which 5 to load (4 coils, 1 pig-iron), 4 to discharge (1 copper concentrate, 1 coke, 1 steel billets, 1 sugar)
Varna	05-Mar-2007	Twenty-eight vessels in port operating of which 17 loading (4 sunflower seeds, 1 bagged chamotte/bulk kaolin/bulk silica sand/bagged kaolin, 1 bagged chamotte/soda, 1 bagged STTP/empty bags, 1 containers, 7 soda, 2 caustic soda solution), 7 discharging (1 raw phosphate, 3 bulk coal, 1 bagged cocoa, 1 pipes, 1 iron bars), 4 discharging/loading (3 containers, 1 bulk kaolin/bulk feldspar); no vessels waiting in roads.
Cyprus		
Larnaca	06-Mar-2007	Three conventional vessels discharging at berth; 2 conventional vessel due 7/3; no delays expected.
Limassol	06-Mar-2007	Seven container vessel discharging/loading at berth, 3 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 9 container vessels, 3 conventional vessels due 7/3; no delays expected
Estonia		
Tallinn	05-Mar-2007	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 3 vessels loading at berth, of which 2 coal, 1 fertiliser; no vessels anchored; 3 vessels due, with 8 days berthing delay expected

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Port Conditions

Georgia

Batumi	05-Mar-2007	Oil products: Two vessels at berth of which 1 loading crude oil, 1 discharging gasoil; 6 vessels due by 12/3 of which 5 to load (1 gasoil, 1 bitumen, 3 crude oil), 1 to discharge gasoil
Poti	05-Mar-2007	Oil products: One vessel loading at berth

India

Kolkata	05-Mar-2007	4 vessels operating at berth discharging (Logs-3, Edible Oil); 3 vessels working at midstream discharging (Pulse-2, Crude); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 4 vessels under repair; 1 vessel under dry docked; 1 vessel under arrest; 2 vessels waiting to sail; 9 vessels due (Containers-3, Lubricant Oil-2, Edible Oil-2, Passenger, Repairs).
Haldia	05-Mar-2007	13 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Iron Ore, Steel), 9 vessels discharging (Crude, Coke-3, Net Coke, MOP, RPXL., POL), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels waiting to load (Iron Ore-2, Containers); 9 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (7 to discharge, 2 to load & discharge), 8 vessels waiting berth at anchorage (4 to discharge, 4 to load); 4 vessels due (Crude, POL-2, Containers).
Paradip	05-Mar-2007	8 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Iron Ore-2, Thermal Coal, Chrome. Ch., Fertilizer), 3 vessels discharging (Coking Coal, High Speed Diesel, Project Cargo); 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 4 vessels waiting berth at anchorage to discharge; 17 vessels due.
Visakhapatnam	05-Mar-2007	9 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Iron Ore-2, Feld Spar, Product Tankers), 3 vessels discharging (Steel Pipes-2, Alumina), 2 vessels lading and discharging (General Cargo & Sand, Containers); 7 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (4 to discharge, 3 to load); 1 vessel under arrest; 32 vessels due (Iron Ore-6, Soya-2, Thermal Coal, B F Slag, Containers, Granite, Crude Trap, Sulphuric Acid, Phosphoric Acid, Coking Coal-9, Caustic Soda-2, Lime Stone, Project Cargo, Petroleum Coke, Alumina, Crude & Product Tanker).
Chennai	05-Mar-2007	12 vessels operating at berth of which 8 vessels loading (Granite Block, Project-2, Bary-2, IOL, Furance Oil, LDO, Iron Ore), 2 vessels discharging (C.P. Oil, Steam Coal), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 6 vessels due (Supply, Containers, C. Oil, Project/ Steel/Baux/J. Bags, General/Container, LSHS/F Oil).
Tuticorin	05-Mar-2007	9 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (General Cargo-3, Sugar), 5 vessels discharging (Logs-2, Thermal Coal, Lime Stone, Coal); 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load, 1 vessel awaiting order at anchorage to load.
Cochin	05-Mar-2007	7 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading General Cargo, 3 vessels discharging (Iron Scrap, Crude, High Speed Diesel), 2 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge.
New Mangalore	05-Mar-2007	7 vessels operating at berth discharging (Coal-2, Timbr-2, Yellow Peas, LPG, POL Crude); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 3 to load); 15 vessels due (POL Product, Pig Iron, Coal-3, Fertilizer-2, LPG, CR Palm Oil-2, POL Crude-3, Iron Ore (P), Mix Xylene).
Mormugao	05-Mar-2007	2 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Iron Ore, 1 vessel discharging C P Coke; 3 vessels working at midstream loading Iron Ore; 2 vessel under dry docked; 5 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (3 to discharge, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 3 vessels due (C. Coal, Iron Ore).
Mumbai	05-Mar-2007	14 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Steel, Bagged Sugar, POL-2), 6 vessels discharging (Bulk Rock Phosphate-3, Palm, Steel/Scrap/Pipes, Pulses/Logs), 3 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel not ready to work at anchorage to load, 4 vessels awaiting order at anchorage to discharge, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load & discharge); 10 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 5 vessels under arrest; 1 vessel under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 28 vessels due (Containers-3, Oil, General Cargo-24).
J.N.P.T.	05-Mar-2007	10 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Naptha, 1 vessel discharging Cement, 8 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to load and discharge; 2 vessels due Containers.
Kandla	05-Mar-2007	16 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels loading (Agriculture Product-2, Rice-2, C. Pipes, Furnace Oil), 8 vessels discharging (Timber Logs-2, Iron, CBM Cargo, C. Palm Oil, Chemical, Neptha), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels working at midstream at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge); 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge, 13 vessels not ready to work at anchorage (5 to load, 8 to discharge).
Ennore	05-Mar-2007	4 vessels due (MV Apj Sri Devi (Coal), MV Tamil Anna (Coal), MV Good Season (Coal), MV Bright Jhejiang (Coal).

Israel

Ashdod	07-Mar-2007	No labour problems. Two vessels loading at berth (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 10 vessels discharging at berth (6 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 6 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 9 general cargo vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 10 general cargo vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge, 10 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (6 bulkers, 3 containers, 1 car carriers); 21 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected
Eilat	07-Mar-2007	No labour problems. No vessels berthed, none waiting at anchorage; 1 vessel due, with no delays expected

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Port Conditions

Haifa	07-Mar-2007	No labour problems. Six vessels loading at berth (2 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 11 discharging at berth (6 general cargo, 5 bulkers), 11 loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 1 car carrier, 4 tankers, 2 passenger vessels); 2 general cargo vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge, 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (3 bulkers, 1 containers, 2 tankers); 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 23 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	05-Mar-2007	Oil products: Five vessels loading crude oil at berth; 5 vessels in roads, all to load; 4 vessels due by 6/3 to load.
Pakistan		
Karachi	06-Mar-2007	One cement vessel loading at berth, 2 vessels discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 general cargo), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (3 containers, 1 MOL), 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (3 containers, 1 crude oil); 5 vessels due (2 containers, 1 general cargo, 1 rice, 1 naphtha), with no berthing delays expected
Port Qasim	06-Mar-2007	One wheat vessel loading at berth, 2 vessels discharging at berth (1 phosphoric acid, 1 coal), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at QICT berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 fuel oil, 1 HAS oil).
Poland		
Gdansk	05-Mar-2007	Five vessels in port operating of which 2 loading at berth (1 coal, 1 general cargo), 3 discharging at berth; 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 23 vessels due.
Gdynia	05-Mar-2007	Nine vessels in port operating of which 4 loading at berth (2 bulk cargo, 2 general cargo), 5 discharging at berth (2 grain, 2 general cargo, 1 bulk cargo); 10 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 31 vessels due.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	03-Mar-2007	Eighteen vessels in port operating, of which 15 loading, (1 bulk urea, 2 DRI, 1 steel billets, 1 slabs, 1 copper, 2 coils, 2 wheat, 1 steel billets/sheets/coils, 1 barley, 1 aluminium, 1 vegetable oil, 1 UAN solution), 3 discharging (1 bulk sugar, 1 citrus, 1 vegetable oil); 15 vessels waiting in roads, of which 8 to load (1 equipment, 3 coils, 1 pig-iron, 1 copper, 1 slabs, 1 pipes), 7 to discharge (6 bulk sugar, 1 citrus); 69 vessels due, of which 59 to load (13 steel billets, 8 copper, 7 coils, 1 steel billets/steel sheets, 2 scrap, 1 steel billets/vehicles, 1 pig-iron, 2 DRI, 4 WRIC, 1 bulk NPK, 1 tin plates/coils, 2 vegetable oil, 3 wheat, 1 steel billets/pipes/coils, 1 aluminium, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 pipes, 2 bulk cement, 1 ammonium sulphate, 1 steel billets/coils, 1 slabs, 1 cellulose, 1 diesel oil, 1 coils/vehicles), 7 to discharge (2 bananas, 1 zinc concentrate, 1 vegetable oil, 1 debar, 1 citrus, 1 sugar), 3 to discharge/load containers. Oil terminal: 4 tankers berthed, all loading, of which 2 crude oil, 1 diesel oil, 1 fuel oil; 7 tankers in roads, all to load, of which 6 crude oil, 1 diesel oil; 2 tankers due, both to load crude oil.
Slovenia		
Koper	05-Mar-2007	Port working normally; Seven vessels at berth of which 3 loading sawn timber/general cargo, 3 bulk carriers discharging ore/minerals/grain, 1 vessel discharging/loading containers; 6 vessels waiting at anchorage of which 5 to load (3 sawn timber, 2 bulk carriers to load grain), 1 bulk carrier to discharge grain; 15 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 3 to load (1 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers to load coal), 5 to discharge (1 aluminium products, 2 bulk carriers to discharge ore/minerals, 2 tankers to discharge mineral oils), 7 to discharge/load (5 containers, 2 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles).
Spain		
Bilbao	05-Mar-2007	Thirty-five vessels in port operating (9 tankers, 26 others), of which 10 loading, 16 discharging, 9 loading/discharging
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	05-Mar-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 berthing at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion; conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 & 2 are facing delays in navigation after commissioning of SAGT 1 & 2 berths (former QEQ 1 & 2); conventional cargo vessels at PVQ 2 (inner berth) are facing berthing and unberthing delays after commissioning of new north pier (formerly known as "oil pier"). Ten container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 17 vessels discharging at berth (12 container/feeders, 1 bulk fertiliser, 1 bagged fertiliser, 2 bulk cement, 1 bulk LP gas); 2 container/feeders waiting at anchorage to discharge; 4 vessels dry-docked; 12 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays for general cargo/bagged cargo/containers/feeders expected.
Turkmenistan		
Aladja Turkmenbashi	05-Mar-2007	Oil products: One vessel loading crude oil at berth; 3 vessels in roads, all to load crude oil. Oil products: Port open; Four vessels in roads, all to load (3 gasoil, 1 gasoline).

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Port Conditions

Ukraine

Ilichevsk	05-Mar-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	05-Mar-2007	Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 11 loading (6 steel, 1 coal, 2 fire-clay, 2 sulphur), 1 discharging/loading containers; 12 vessels in roads, of which 11 to load (6 steel, 3 coal, 2 fire-clay), 1 to discharge equipment/heavy lift cargo/containers; 31 vessels due, of which 27 to load (21 steel, 3 coal, 2 slag, 1 equipment), 3 to discharge (1 pipes/equipment, 2 equipment), 1 to discharge containers/fire-clay
Odessa	05-Mar-2007	Thirty-three vessels in port operating, of which 17 loading (10 metal, 1 scrap, 1 corn, 2 pig-iron, 1 barley, 1 coal, 1 soya), 11 discharging (2 luggage, 1 general cargo, 4 citrus, 1 bananas, 2 sugar, 1 meat), 3 discharging/loading containers, 2 passenger vessels; 16 vessels in roads, of which 8 to load (3 metal, 1 scrap, 1 soya, 2 wheat, 1 corn), 3 to discharge (1 fish, 1 citrus, 1 oil), 5 to discharge/load (4 containers, 1 metal/general cargo/rice); 78 vessels due, of which 27 to load (21 metal, 1 scrap, 1 pig-iron, 1 oil, 1 barley, 1 pellets, 1 timber), 11 to discharge (1 metal, 4 citrus, 2 general cargo, 1 fertiliser, 3 sugar), 40 to discharge/load containers

United States

Galveston	06-Mar-2007	ADM-Farmland terminal: 2-3 days delay.
Houston	06-Mar-2007	Cargill terminal - berth 1: 3 days delay, berth 2: 3 days delay; LDC Dreyfus terminal: no delays.
Kalama, WA	06-Mar-2007	Kalama export terminal: 6 days delay; United Harvest terminal: no delays.
New Orleans	06-Mar-2007	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1 day's delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 14 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 1 day's delay; ADM/Destrehan: 14 days expected; ADM/Reserve: 14 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 4 days delay expected; ADM/Paulina: 14 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 2 days delay expected 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	06-Mar-2007	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 2 days delay.
Tacoma	06-Mar-2007	Temco terminal: 2 days delay.

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