

Bonga employees unable to stomach living conditions after salmonella outbreak

MORE than 20 oil workers have been struck down by salmonella poisoning and other stomach-based illnesses on Shell's Bonga project offshore Nigeria.

Contractors working on the Bonga floating production storage and offloading vessel, the world's largest production ship, and Prosafe's accommodation unit Regalia have complained about the poor working and living conditions on the project.

UK contractor Amec, which is providing topsides integration and commissioning work for Shell, has confirmed 20 of its workers contracted a stomach illness and were off work for more than one day.

Shell has confirmed at least two contractors have also come down with the more serious salmonella poisoning and were off sick for longer.

Offshore workers have said they are sleeping four to a cabin in tropical temperatures, with no facilities for showering. They claim that the food is rotten, with weevils in the breakfast cereal.

An offshore worker, who does not wish to be named, made the allegations in a phone call to an Aberdeen newspaper. His claims have been backed by Jake Molloy, general secretary of offshore union OILC.

Mr Molloy told Lloyd's List: "Workers have said since the outbreak of the virus, over 100 people have been ill and 40-50 are now still ill."

Swamp fever

In his phone call to Aberdeen, the worker said around 100 employees started feeling ill two weeks' ago and thought they had contacted a local swamp fever. Samples taken from ill workers confirmed this, while two samples confirmed salmonella poisoning.

"The situation has been exaggerated. There are only two cases of salmonella and they are both on the road to recovery," said a spokesman for Amec. "A minor stomach virus has been going around over the last couple of days affecting around 20 people, according to local management."

Shell has ordered an improvement in hygiene standards and chartered another supply vessel to increase regular supplies and reduce storage time for food.

Bonga offshore installations manager, Ian Willetts, has implemented a deep-cleaning programme of galleys, toilets and all public areas.

The offshore informant told the Aberdeen newspaper: "We are living in four-man cabins. We are working in temperatures of 40°C. It's boiling hot. We can wash but we can't shower because they don't have the facilities."

Amec's spokesman said: "The conditions on the facility are in line with other industry norms. Working conditions may not be ideal. It is hot out there and people are likely to make comments."

**Bob Gibb in Aberdeen and
Martyn Wingrove
Lloyd's List Editorial**

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
AMBER K.	bulker	PAN	BV	25,955	48,282	2000	Grounded in a muddy area of the Hudson River Apr 27. No apparent damage. Cargo to be lightered. Refloated Apr 28 and berthed at Albany(NY). Sailed New York May 1. Cargo: Salt.
AURA	general	KHM	RS	1,995	2,588	1966	Had steering problem and grounded on the southern embankment, NM 31, Sulina Channel, Apr 28. Two holes in double bottom. Refloated same day and divers sealed cracks. Arrived Tulcea Apr 29 for temporary repairs. To sail Apr 30 for Turkey. Voyage: Galatz (ROM) to Ambarli (TUR). Cargo: Scrap iron (1,500 tonnes).
BEN LUC	lpg	MNG	—	826	788	1977	Reported almost sunk off the coast of Ba Ria-Vung Tau Apr 26. All 11 crew rescued. Part of cabin caught fire. Tug and divers deployed.
CAPE AFRICA	bulker	TWN	AB	77,096	149,533	1991	Reported Apr 26, in lat 37 17S, long 14 41E, 200 miles west of Cape Town with 2 by 20 metre hole in hold No.3 and water in hold. <i>Smit Amandla</i> on scene. Crew removed. 150 miles off Saldanha Bay 29 Apr. Towed further out Apr 30. Voyage: Ponta da Madeira (BRA) to Far East. Cargo: Iron ore.
KRITI AMETHYST	chem/oil carrier	GRC	LR	31,330	45,614	1996	Had main engine breakdown in lat 06 17N, long 48 19W, Apr 16. Towed to Willemstad about May 1 for repairs, which expected to take about two weeks.
LT PEACE	container	PAN	(NK)	17,887	15,000	2001	Took evasive action to avoid an outrigger and grounded off Mariveles in lat 14 25.3N, long 120 33.7E, Apr 25. Containers discharged into barge. Refloated May 3 and arrived Kaohsiung May 5.
NEWFOUNDLAND EXPLORER	yacht	CYM	—	659	—	—	Had engine-room fire Apr 25 while at Fort Lauderdale. Fire extended to rest of vessel. Still partially burning Apr 27.
POLAR STAR	passenger	BRB	NV	4,998	879	1969	Hit an uncharted rock in King Haakon Bay, South Georgia, during an Antarctic cruise in February 2004. Reported Apr 27 being repaired by A&P Falmouth. Repairs ETC 25 May.
SALAMAT 2	asphalt tanker	PAN	NV	3,121	4,550	1973	Contacted by bulk <i>Van Dyck</i> at Chittagong outer anchorage Apr 25. Sustained severe bow damage and lost starboard anchor and eight shackles of chain.
TIAN SHENG	container	CHN		10,544	14,208	1983	Had fire in lat 28 38S, long 40 20E, Apr 28. Extinguished same day and proceeding to Durban under own power. Reported Apr 30 under way to China. Crew recovered.
URVAAG	fishing	NOR	—	436	—	1986	Found sunk at the quay of Bat og Oppdrettservice repair yard, Kristiansund, Apr 24.
VAN DYCK	bulker	VCT	RI	16,166	26,680	1975	Dragged anchor and contacted asphalt tanker <i>Salamat 2</i> at Chittagong outer anchorage Apr 25.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ACTIV (United Kingdom)

London, Apr 23 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1315, UTC: Sail training vessel *Activ* arrived safely in Lunenburg, NS, at 1730, UTC, Apr 21.

ADMAR-P. (Netherlands)

London, Apr 26 — General cargo *Admar-P*: On Apr 13 salvage companies Schaafstra, of Drimmelen, and Koek, from Werkendam, started the salvage of the vessel. At first steel cables were pulled underneath the sunken vessel, whereafter they lifted it with three floating sheerleg cranes. The salvaged vessel has been towed to Drimmelen, where it will be stripped and subsequently scrapped. The vessel was bent in its side by the blow of the collision; it was hit on a bulkhead. The salvage took four days. The family of the owner and skipper of the vessel had lost most of their personal possessions, most things were polluted with mud. The engines — also the main ABC engine — had been stopped in time and can be used again after cleaning but the vessel will be scrapped. There is still an investigation on the cause of the collision.

AJAKS (Poland)

See *Rebecca Hammann*.

ALGOVILLE (Canada)

London, Apr 22 — Bulk *Algoville* (18700 gt, built 1967) berthed and discharging at Sorel, reported an ingress of water in a forward starboard side tank at 1920, EDST, Apr 21.

London, Apr 27 — Bulk *Algoville* arrived Seven Islands 1239, Apr 25, from Sorel and sailed 2158 same day for Hamilton, Can.

AMBER K. (Panama)

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulk *Amber K.* (25955 gt, built 2000), cargo salt, ran aground in a muddy area of the Hudson River early yesterday morning but did not impede traffic on the river, according to a US Coast Guard spokesman. *Amber K.* ran aground near Saugerties at navigation marker light 96 at about 0845 hrs, Coast Guard spokesman Dave French said yesterday evening. He said the vessel was not in a navigable channel and was not impeding river traffic. The carrier was still stuck as of 1730 hrs. French said *Amber K.* got stuck in a muddy bottom area but did not appear to have been damaged. He said an investigator was on the scene yesterday evening working to get the ship afloat again and determine how it got stuck. French said the crew and investigator were waiting for high tide to see if they could pull the carrier off the muddy bottom with tugs. If that failed, the ship would remain overnight and its owner would probably hire teams in the morning to remove

some of the salt to get the vessel afloat. French said it could take the investigator several days to determine how *Amber K.* got stuck.

London, Apr 28 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 0645, UTC: Bulk *Amber K.* is still aground. Plans are being made to lighten part cargo of salt.

London, Apr 29 — Understand bulk *Amber K.* has been refloated.

London, Apr 29 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1210, UTC: Bulk *Amber K.* was refloated at 0815, local time, yesterday and is now berthed at Albany, NY.

ANGELIA P. (Greece)

London, Apr 23 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0245, UTC: General cargo *Angelia P.* is still at Sembawang Shipyard.

ANNA (Lebanon)

London, Apr 26 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1020, UTC: General cargo *Anna* (1084 gt, built 1966) had cargo of wood shift, causing vessel to list and lose some wood overboard, in lat 38 30N, long 09 30E, in the early hours of this morning. List is now OK and vessel is proceeding for Cagliari, where ETA 1330, UTC.

London, Apr 27 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1200, UTC: General cargo *Anna* was safely towed into Cagliari yesterday. It will carry out repairs there. (See issue of Apr 27.)

ASIAN COMPASS (Hong Kong)

Yokohama, Apr 27 — General cargo *Asian Compass* (4157 gt, built 1996), while manoeuvring to anchor at Naha for quarantine, ran aground in the shallows at 1930, Apr 22. Vessel was refloated at 2125 same day after pouring water into its ballast tanks and moved alongside the berth at Shinko in the port of Naha under its own power. Inspection revealed no damage. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Apr 28 — General cargo *Asian Compass* arrived Nagoya Apr 27 from Naha.

ATAMAN (Panama)

London, Apr 27 — Bulk *Ataman* sailed Sasebo Apr 7, arrived Singapore 1255, Apr 23 and sailed 1412 same day for Sepetiba.

ATLANTIC PATROLLER (Cyprus)

London, Apr 28 — General cargo *Atlantic Patroller* arrived Indiana Harbour, Apr 13 and subsequently arrived Duluth Apr 19 and then arrived Montreal Apr 25 sailing same day.

AURA (Cambodia)

Bucharest, Apr 28 — General cargo *Aura* (1995 gt, built 1966), which sailed Galatz Apr 27 with about 1,500 tonnes scrap iron, while approaching NM 31, Sulina Channel, apparently experienced steering problems and grounded on the southern embankment at about 1100-1200, local time, Apr 28. Understood the vessel may have sustained two holes in the double bottom. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Aura* sailed Galatz for Ambarli.)

Bucharest, Apr 28 — Understand general cargo *Aura* has been refloated and divers are attempting to seal the holes in the vessel's double bottom centre tank, close to the engine-room. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Apr 29 — General cargo *Aura* is still in the same position. The divers succeeding to seal only the cracks sustained by the vessel on grounding, but not the holes identified in the double bottom centre tank. The intention is to take the vessel to Tulcea today, in order to weld doublers to the holes in the affected area as a temporary remedy so that the vessel may proceed to Turkey for discharge of cargo. — Lloyd's Agents.

B.NO.120 (U.S.A.)

See "Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts, United States" under "Pollution."

BARONESSA (Norway)

London, Apr 23 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Ferry *Baronessa* is undergoing repair at Oma Baatbyggeri, Leirvik, ETC unknown.

BBC PERU (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Apr 27 — General cargo *BBC Peru* (6204 gt, built 2001) while proceeding upbound in the Amherstburg Channel, lost steering in lat 42 03 22N, long 83 07 45W, at 1351, EDST, Apr 23. The vessel was assisted to anchorage in Lake Erie.

BEN LUC (Mongolia)

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Mongolia lpg *Ben Luc* (826 gt, built 1977), Thailand for Ba Ria-Vung Tau, cargo 788 tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas, almost sunk off the coast of the southern province of Ba Ria-Vung Tau on Monday (Apr 26). Fortunately, the 11-member crew was rescued by local fishermen and 788-tonnes of LPG blocked in the ship. However, part of the cabin caught fire. A tug and a diver squad have been deployed to salve the distressed ship.

BIG SWAN (Panama)

London, Apr 27 — Following received from Huatai Insurance Agency & Consultant Service Ltd, Xiamen, dated today: The wreck of general cargo *Big Swan* will be raised on Apr 29.

BLACK PRINCE (Bahamas)

London, Apr 28 — Passenger *Black Prince* sailed Hamburg 0100, Apr 26 for Southampton.

BOSPORUS (Cyprus)

London, Apr 27 — Bulk *Bosporus* and tug *Alphonse Letzer* left Southampton 1829, Apr 25 for Rotterdam.

CAPE AFRICA (Taiwan)

London, Apr 26 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1010, UTC: Bulk *Cape Africa* (77096 gt, built 1991) is reported with a 14-metre hole in the hull 200 miles west of Cape Town. Helicopter proceeding to investigate and gather more information. (Note — *Cape Africa* sailed Ponta da Madeira Apr 10.)

London, Apr 26 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1130, UTC: Agents of bulk *Cape Africa* report

the intention is for steel plates to be flown to the vessel by helicopter once the vessel is within helicopter range, 120 miles, from coast. Vessel's current speed is four knots. (Note — Understood salvage tug *Smit Amandla* is also proceeding.)

London, Apr 27 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0600, UTC: Master of bulk *Cape Africa* reports vessel has a hole two metres by 20 metres in cargo hold No.3 port side and sea water is in hold. The vessel which has 18 crew on board was in lat 37 17S, long 14 41E, at 1952, UTC, yesterday, and at that time salvage tug *Smit Amandla* was in radio contact and weather on scene was wind force 4 (moderate breeze), swell three metres. Master also reported everything was under control. Vessel is heading for Saldanha Bay where ETA 1700, local time, Apr 29.

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulk *Cape Africa*, Brazil for the Far East, laden with a cargo of iron ore, is battling through heavy seas 514 kms south-west of Cape Town with a hole in its hull. Salvage tug *Smit Amandla* arrived at the vessel early today to take it in tow. The vessel called for help early yesterday when its crew discovered the hole in a hold in the forward section. Sources said the hole was big enough for three double-decker buses to fit through, with room to spare. It is unclear how the ship was damaged. Bill Dernier, of the South African Maritime Safety Authority, said *Smit Amandla* left Cape Town yesterday. Salvage sources said they were worried about the safety of the ship. *Smit Amandla's* officers waited for dawn to be able to assess the condition of the ship before connecting a tow. Dernier said the ship would be towed to about 112km off the Western Cape coast, to allow a surveyor to inspect the vessel and see if it would be safe enough to come closer inshore. "The tug will tow the ship at a speed of about five knots, which means it should take about 60 hours to get it to the inspection position," Dernier said. "That brings us to some time on Thursday."

London, Apr 28 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0715, UTC: Bulk *Cape Africa*: Situation is now serious and crew are to be evacuated to tug *Smit Amandla*. If the transfer to the tug is not possible two helicopters will be sent to evacuate the crew. The vessel is approximately 140 nautical miles south west of Cape Point. (See issue of Apr 28.)

London, Apr 28 — Information received timed 0930, UTC, states: It is understood that non-essential crew of bulk *Cape Africa* are to board tug *Smit Amandla* shortly.

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: The South African Maritime Safety Authority (Samsa) was today waiting for a plan of action to be determined by the Taiwanese owners of bulk *Cape Africa*, currently under tow to a rendezvous point off the Cape coast. "It is still under tow to the 120 nautical mile mark and will stay there until we have a viable plan from the owners on how we will deal with it," said Samsa spokesperson Captain Bill Dernier. The

bulk carrier, which was on its way from Brazil to Japan, is laden with a cargo of iron ore. Dernier confirmed that eight non-essential crew members were removed from the vessel today, leaving 10 members, including the ship's master still on board. The crew were removed by rescue boat attached to tug *Smit AmandlaP*, the salvage tug towing Cape Africa to deeper waters. Dernier said the estimated size of the hole in the hull was 20 metres long by two metres high. Dernier, added that the vessel was carrying 1,800 tons of heavy fuel. Dernier also said the vessel was too deep to enter Cape harbour for repairs, adding that repairing the vessel could present "big problems". Meanwhile, James Mackenzie, a lawyer representing the ship's Taiwanese owners, said that they would fly out Samsa surveyors to the ship, probably tomorrow. "Following that, once they are able to assess the condition of the vessel, the owners will come up with an appropriate plan," he said. Mackenzie said that the ports of Saldanha or Richards Bay would be able to handle a ship of *Cape Africa's* size for repair work to be undertaken. The marine weather forecaster in Pretoria said the weather conditions over the next two days until Friday, in the proximity of the ship, would see a south-westerly swell of about 3.5 metres and a south-easterly wind of 20 to 25 knots. A cold front which might worsen seagoing conditions was expected to pass early Saturday morning.

London, Apr 29 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0620, UTC: Bulk *Cape Africa*: All crew have now been taken off the vessel. Eight crew members remain on tug *Smit Amandla* while 10 have been taken ashore by helicopter. (See issue of Apr 29.)

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: All 18 crew members of bulk *Cape Africa* were evacuated yesterday - some boarding the salvage tug *Smit Amandla*, the others lifted off by helicopter - as the stricken ship is "going down deeper". Although the seamen, mostly Taiwanese and Filipinos, are all safe there are concerns that the ship may soon be lost. SA Maritime Safety Authority (Samsa) spokesman Captain Bill Dernier said *Cape Africa's* stem has dipped deeper into the ocean although the hull has not yet broken apart. "It's not looking good. It started going down deeper by the bow. It's going by the head and its increased the drop forward." The damaged ship will not be allowed to come any closer to Cape Town. South African authorities are concerned that if *Cape Africa* sinks, the vessel which is loaded with iron ore and about 1,800 tons of fuel could create an environmental problem. According to Dernier, the surveyors had found significant cracks on the ship's hull. He said the weather was a key factor and that it would determine whether or not the bulk carrier would sink. "The surveyor can not see the extent of the hole, but the crew estimated the size of the hole is 20 metres long by two metres high," said Dernier. James Mackenzie, the lawyer representing the Taiwanese company owners of *Cape Africa*, said the

ship will remain out at sea to undergo salvage assessment. "Until then it's not possible to come up with a plan," said Mackenzie. Mackenzie added that 10 of the vessel's crew were brought to Cape Town by helicopter and the rest were on the salvage tug. The evacuation was a precautionary measure and the representatives of the vessel's owners and salvage experts are expected to board the damage ship today, he said. By yesterday evening, *Cape Africa's* owners and Samsa authorities were discussing possible options to deal with the problem.

Cape Town, Apr 29 — Bulk *Cape Africa*, South America for Japan, fully laden with a cargo of iron ore, is presently located some 150 nautical miles off Saldanha Bay with salvage tug *Smit Amandla* in attendance. Vessel developed a crack in its port side shell plating in way of No 3 compartment in the underwater area at the beginning of the week. We understand that the shell plating is now missing over an area of approximately 2 x 20 metres. The crew has been removed from the vessel and we understand that it is well down by the head. The local authorities SAMSA and salvage divers will be conducting inspections today. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: The holed bulk *Cape Africa* is being held 150 nautical miles off the Cape coast pending a decision on her future, a lawyer acting for its owners said today. The lawyer, James Mackenzie, said at noon today that the vessel "survived the night well". "As we speak a team of salvage experts is flying out to the vessel to assess her condition," he said. When the team returned, the owners' representatives would sit down with South African authorities to work out a plan for dealing with the Cape Africa. A decision was likely within the next 24 hours.

CAPENSIS (South Africa)

Cape Town, Apr 28 — Understand from local agents of fishing *Capensis* that the engine is due to be taken out today. It will be sent to contractors in Cape Town for repairs before being returned and refitted. It is estimated that it will be at least another 10 to 14 days before the vessel is able to leave port. — Lloyd's Agents.

CATHERINE LEGARDEUR (Canada)

London, Apr 27 — Ro/ro *Catherine Legardeur* (1348 gt, built 1985) while crossing the St. Lawrence River, ran aground in dense fog at Sorel at 0624, EDST, Apr 27.

London, Apr 27 — Following received from Quebec MRSC, timed 1827, UTC: Ro/ro *Catherine Legardeur* was refloated shortly after 0800, EDST, with tug assistance and moored at Sorel for a diver's inspection. The inspection revealed no damage and the vessel has been cleared to proceed.

CERANO (Panama)

See "Germany" under "Port State Control."

CHRYSEIS (U.S.A.)

London, Apr 27 — Historic schooner

Chryseis (built 1906) sank in Galveston Bay this weekend. The vessel was built in Europe nearly a hundred years ago. Italian dictator Benito Mussolini once owned it. A few years ago, a Galveston man turned the boat in to a floating hotel. The official cause of the sinking is not yet known. A salvage crew inspected the damage Sunday afternoon (Apr 25) and repairs could cost tens of thousands of dollars. The Coast Guard said it's not investigating the incident because the ship is not leaking fuel or blocking the waterways.

COASTAL SOUND (Republic of Ireland)

Vigo, Apr 28 — General cargo *Coastal Sound* is still undergoing repairs at Vigo. — Lloyd's Agents.

CONTRADER (Panama)

London, Apr 26 — Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1355, UTC: Cement *Contrader* (2233 gt, built 1965) lost steering while transitting the narrows en route to Hamilton at 1846, UTC, Apr 23, with local pilot on board. Tug and pilot vessel stood by to assist but vessel restored steering at 1919, UTC, and berthed safely at Hamilton the same night. Vessel is presently leaving port.

CORNER BROOK (Bermuda)

London, Apr 28 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1205, UTC: General cargo *Corner Brook* (7587 gt, built 1976) had a flash fire in its engine-room, while maintenance was being carried out, at Port Canaveral yesterday. As a result three persons were injured, of which two were taken to hospital by helicopter the other person went to hospital by ambulance and has since been released. A Captain of Port order has been placed on the vessel until repairs have been carried out and injured crew replaced.

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Three people are recovering this morning after a flash fire on board a cargo ship late yesterday. Details on the 2030 hrs accident are limited. What is known is that two people were flown by helicopter to Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne with critical injuries. A third person was taken by ambulance to Cape Canaveral Hospital in Cocoa Beach.

Miami, Apr 28 — General cargo *Corner Brook* had a flash fire on board at around 1730, Apr 27, while at Port Canaveral. Two persons were airlifted from the vessel with severe burns and a third was taken to hospital with burns. — Lloyd's Agents.

Miami, Apr 28 — General cargo *Corner Brook* experienced a crankcase explosion. The vessel sustained no other damage and will sail next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

Jacksonville, Apr 28 — General cargo *Corner Brook*, which had discharged a cargo of paper products at Port Canaveral on Apr 25, experienced a flash fire in the engine-room Apr 27, apparently due to a crankcase problem. Three persons were taken to hospital suffering from burns. An investigation is under way. — Lloyd's Agents.

CUYAHOGA (Canada)

London, Apr 27 — Bulk *Cuyahoga* arrived Cleveland Apr 24.

DELFIN (Ukraine)

Istanbul, Apr 24 — Ref *Delfin*, Beirut for Ochakov, passed Istanbul east Apr 21. — Lloyd's Agents.

DUCKY SINCERE (Panama)

Colombo, Apr 23 — Vehicle *Ducky Sincere* completed repairs and sailed Galle Apr 8. The vessel arrived Colombo the same day for bunkering and sailed Apr 9 for Aqaba. — Lloyd's Agents.

EASTWIND (Greece)

London, Apr 22 — Bulk *Eastwind* loaded a cargo of 26,512 tonnes cement grade bauxite at New Amsterdam, Guyana, and was approaching the discharge port of Port Everglades when it grounded at about 2353, Mar 25. The shipowners entered into a Lloyd's Standard Form of Salvage Agreement dated Mar 26 with Titan Maritime LLC and the vessel was refloated with tug assistance at about 2325, Mar 26. The cargo was then discharged at Port Everglades. As a result of the grounding on a coral reef *Eastwind* sustained substantial bottom damage and, as a result of the casualty, the shipowners have declared General Average. (Note — *Eastwind* was last reported to have arrived Mobile Apr 5.)

Mobile, Apr 28 — Bulk *Eastwind*: Following Class Surveyors examination, vessel departed Mobile on Apr 15 without effecting permanent repairs. Vessel is scheduled to arrive at an undisclosed dry dock in Greece on Apr 27. — Lloyd's Agents.

EIJIN (Panama)

Yokohama, Apr 27 — Vehicle *Eijin* (41195 gt, built 1982), bound Singapore, had engine trouble 16.2 kms, 237 degrees from Iyo Ao Shima lighthouse, Ehime Prefecture, at 1705, Apr 20. Vessel was towed to off Matsuyama port and anchored 2300 same day. Vessel is going to be repaired by engineers. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Eijin* sailed Hiroshima Apr 20 for Singapore.)

EXPRESS OLYMPIA (Greece)

London, Apr 23 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Passenger ro/ro *Express Olympia* (4658 gt, built 1973), operating on a route from Vathi to Karlovassi and Evdilos with 221 passengers on board, grounded on sandy bottom while entering Evdilos at 2015, Apr 22. The vessel refloated by its own means and berthed safely at 2100 hrs. Following a diver's survey by the marine inspectorate the vessel was permitted to depart at 0030, Apr 23, by Evdilos port authority.

FEI YUN HE (China)

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: All 57 crew members were rescued early today in the Yangtze River after c.c. *Fei Yun He* (20569 gt, built 2000), Shanghai for Long Island, with 1,100 TEU, collided with bulk *Zhen Fen 5* (12827 gt, built 1984), loaded with 19,509 tons of coal, local maritime sources said. *Fei Yun He* suddenly lost

control just after midnight and collided with *Zhen Fen 5*. The water traffic in the Yangtze River was at once halted and resumed normal operation three hours later as the two ships blocked the deep-water fairway after the accident. The cause of the accident is still unknown.

FORTUNIA (Antigua & Barbuda)

See "Drugs Seized on Antigua & Barbuda Flagged Vessel at Miami, Florida, United States" under "Miscellaneous."

FOUR ETOILES (Italy)

Trieste, Apr 27 — Bulk/oil *Four Etoiles* has now had its cargo of coal removed. Surveyors are currently on board. We understand that no decisions have been taken in respect of where repairs will be carried out but the vessel is unlikely to be repaired at Trieste. — Lloyd's Agents.

FRONT SYMPHONY (Liberia)

Port Said, Apr 26 — Crude oil tanker *Front Warrior* has arrived alongside crude oil tanker *Front Symphony* and started transferring its cargo. — Lloyd's Agents.

FUKUSHO MARU NO.18 (Japan)

See *Kyokai Maru No.75*.

GARYOUNIS (Libya)

Valletta, Apr 28 — Passenger ro/ro *Garyounis*: Claims against GNMTC have been withdrawn. — Lloyd's Agents.

GENMAR SPYRIDON (Marshall Islands)

London, Apr 27 — Crude oil tanker *GenMar Spyridon*, Setubal for Novorossiysk, passed Gibraltar 1704, Apr 23.

GEORGIOS I (Syria)

See "Cyprus" under "Port State Control."

GREEN COVE (U.S.A.)

London, Apr 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A load of 270 tons of hazardous waste is on an unscheduled 30-day layover at Pearl Harbour. The cargo of excess electrical equipment containing P-C-Bs arrived at Ford Island on Friday (Apr 16) on board the Navy cargo ship *Watson*. The equipment is expected to be housed in a Ford Island hangar for about a month before being transferred to Port Huenene north of Los Angeles. Navy spokesman Lieutenant Commander Jeff Davis says the cargo of P-C-Bs was shipped in 59 20-foot shipping containers and is packaged to prevent any type of leakage. He says drip pans also are being used as added safety precautions. The toxic waste materials were collected from military bases on Okinawa and elsewhere in Japan and were supposed to go directly to the mainland on a commercial freighter. However, a fire broke out in the freighter's (? vehicle *Green Cove's*) engine-room and it was towed back to Japan, where the cargo was placed on board the Navy vessel.

London, Apr 28 — Vehicle *Green Cove* sailed Yokohama Apr 26 for Mizushima.

HADRIAN (North Korea)

Istanbul, Apr 24 — General cargo *Hadrian*, Iskenderun for Novorossiysk, passed Istanbul Apr 20. — Lloyd's Agents.

HARMONIC PROGRESS (Panama)

London, Apr 23 — Following received from Australia MRCC, timed 0236, UTC: Bulk *Harmonic Progress*, in tow, arrived Gladstone 0830, local time.

HENRIETTE KOSAN (Isle of Man)

London, Apr 26 — Lpg *Henriette Kosan* arrived Corunna Apr 20, sailed Apr 21 and arrived Bilbao Apr 22.

HYUNDAI GLORY (Panama)

Busan, Apr 27 — C.c. *Hyundai Glory* arrived Busan Apr 23 from Shanghai and sailed Apr 24 for Ulsan. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — Understood *Hyundai Glory* arrived Shanghai 2106, Apr 17, sailed 1040, Apr 22, arrived Busan 1412, Apr 23 and sailed 0324, Apr 24 for Ulsan.)

Busan, Apr 29 — C.c. *Hyundai Glory* proceeded to Ulsan to effect repairs, which are now in hand with Hyundai Heavy Industry Co., Ulsan, and are expected to be completed by May 6. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

IWASHIRO (Panama)

London, Apr 27 — Following received from Tokyo MRCC, timed 0200, UTC: On Apr 21, c.c. *Iwashiro* was in lat 34 56N, long 139 41E, when it sustained engine problems. Vessel was towed to Tokyo, where it arrived Apr 22.

London, Apr 27 — C.c. *Iwashiro* arrived Tokyo 0315, Apr 22, sailed 1400, same day, arrived Shimizu at 2230, same day and left 1200, Apr 23.

Yokohama, Apr 27 — Container carrier *Yakanawa Line* (? c.c. *Iwashiro* (18619 gt, built 1995, registered owners Takanawa Line), bound Tokyo Bay, had engine trouble 4.5 miles 230 deg from Susaki Lighthouse, Shizuoka Prefecture, at 1600, Apr 21. Vessel was towed by tugs/patrol vessels. Repairs were completed at 2220 hrs and vessel berthed at Ohi Wharf, Tokyo, under own power at 0315, Apr 22. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Iwashiro* subsequently sailed Tokyo same day for Shimizu, where arrived that day. Vessel then left Shimizu Apr 23 for Hakata.)

JANIE II (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Less than two weeks after a serious yacht fire at the Sailfish Club dock, town officials are taking the first steps toward the creation of a coalition to respond to boat fires near Palm Beach. Town Manager Peter Elwell and Mayor Lesly Smith discussed the idea during their regular Monday conference, specifically how to coordinate action the town would take in communicating with the Port of Palm Beach and other agencies. Yesterday's discussion follows the destruction of yacht *Janie II*, a \$10.9 million private yacht that burned and sank Apr 15 at the Sailfish Club. No serious injuries resulted, and no other boats were damaged in the blaze that brought out rescue units from the Town

of Palm Beach, the U.S. Coast Guard, West Palm Beach and Palm Beach County Emergency Management. Some dock pilings were damaged in the fire and the Flagler Memorial Bridge was closed temporarily because of the dark smoke that billowed directly south. The cause of the fire has not been determined. Further investigation would fall to insurance representatives. The yacht was removed Wednesday (Apr 21) and is now at the Cracker Boy Boat Works Inc. in Riviera Beach.

JIIIMAAN (Canada)

London, Apr 27 — Ro/ro *Jiimaan* (2830 gt, built 1992) while sailing from the port, struck the exposed steel of a dock fender at Leamington at 1000, EDST, Apr 24. Some minor damage was caused.

JUMBO SPIRIT (Netherlands)

Istanbul, Apr 28 — General cargo *Jumbo Spirit* (4962 gt, built 1995), Barletta for Constantza, sustained engine breakdown while transiting the Dardanelles near Mehmetcik Feneri at 1950, local time, Apr 27. Vessel sailed from Mehmetcik Feneri to Bozcaada for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

Istanbul, Apr 29 — General cargo *Jumbo Spirit* completed necessary repairs by its own means and upon inspection sailed for Constantza at 1430, local time, Apr 28. — Lloyd's Agents.

KAIRO (Germany)

Beirut, Apr 26 — C.c. *Kairo*: Underwater inspection revealed some indentations on both the port and starboard sides with some buckling and wavy frames. The GL Surveyor attended and gave permission to sail. Vessel then sailed Apr 22, bound Tartous. — Lloyd's Agents.

KASTOR I (Panama)

Algiers, Apr 27 — Ref *Kastor I* and ref *Tenerife I* are still aground at Skikda. The vessels have apparently been abandoned by their owners. — Lloyd's Agents.

KAVALA (Greece)

London, Apr 23 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the afternoon of Apr 22, while making manoeuvres to arrive at Kavala port, ferry *Kavala* (624 gt, built 1968) struck the Western Jetty with its port side. As a result two women passengers were slightly injured. They were taken to the Prinou Medical Centre. *Kavala* was permitted to sail at 2130 hrs after investigation by the port authority and a survey by the marine inspectorate of Kavala.

KRITI AMETHYST (Greece)

London, Apr 27 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0830, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier *Kriti Amethyst* (31330 gt, built 1996) was not under command with engine problems in lat 06 17N, long 48 19W, at 0900, local time, Apr 16. Tug arrived on scene Apr 21 and took vessel in tow for Curacao, where ETA May 4. (Note — *Kriti Amethyst*, in ballast, was reported being assisted under Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contract.)

London, Apr 27 — Information received states: Chemical/oil carrier *Kriti Amethyst*, St. Eustatius for Argentina, in ballast, had a main engine breakdown in lat 06 17N, long 48 19W, Apr 16. Following evaluation by the crew, the master requested towage of the vessel to the nearest suitable repair port. On Apr 17 a Lloyd's Open Form was signed between the owners and Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd, who dispatched a tug from Mindelo. Salvage tug *Leopard* arrived Apr 23 and commenced towing operations. *Kriti Amethyst* is currently under tow and is expected to arrive at Curacao Apr 30 for repairs. Repairs to the engine are expected to be completed in about two weeks.

London, Apr 27 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1300, UTC: At about 1200, UTC, chemical/oil carrier *Kriti Amethyst* was in lat 10 09N, long 59 01W.

London, Apr 28 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1010, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier *Kriti Amethyst* was last reported in lat 10 52N, long 60 41W, at 0400, UTC, today.

KYOKAI MARU NO.75 (Japan)

Yokohama, Apr 27 — Lpg *Kyokai Maru No.75* (749 gt, built 1997), Nakagusuku for Ube, and fishing *Fukusho Maru No.18*, bound to Ushine in Kagoshima, were in collision 7,000 metres, 115 deg from Toimisaki Lighthouse, Miyagi Prefecture, at 2150, local time, Apr 23. *Kyokai Maru No.75* could proceed under own power and anchored in the bay of Shibushi at 0035, local time, Apr 24. *Fukusho Maru No.18* arrived at Meitsu Port under own power about 0001, local time, Apr 24. — Lloyd's Agents.

LT PEACE (Panama)

London, Apr 27 — Following received from Coast Guard Manila, timed 1020, UTC: C.c. *LT Peace* (17887 gt, built 2001) is aground in Manila Bay. A full report is awaited from inspectors on scene. (Note — Understood *LT Peace* grounded Apr 25 and is expected to be refloated by local salvors tomorrow. Vessel sailed Singapore Apr 20 for Manila, with ETA Manila Apr 23 and ETD Apr 24 for Kaohsiung.)

London, Apr 28 — Following received from Coast Guard Manila, timed 0815, UTC: C.c. *LT Peace* has been refloated by two tugs and is being towed to Manila.

Manila, Apr 28 — C.c. *LT Peace*, destination Kaohsiung, ran aground in lat 14.25.3N, long 120 33.7E, vicinity of Mariveles, Bataan. Appears vessel grounded in way of bow. Containers were discharged on barge *Hercules*. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, Apr 28 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported today that c.c. *LT Peace* was successfully refloated by local salvors this morning. The vessel was refloated by salvors from Manila-based Malayan Towage and Salvage Corp and is presently being towed by their tug *Sikatuna*. It is expected to arrive in Manila tomorrow morning to undergo repairs. Coast Guard officials said they still did not have information about the extent of damage sustained by *LT Peace*. They also had not received any reports

about the status of the crew. Coast Guard officials said that details of the accident would be known once the vessel's master files a Marine Protest with their office. *LT Peace* had sailed from Singapore on Apr 20 and was bound for Manila, with Kaohsiung as its final destination. On the morning of Apr 25 while passing off the coast of Bataan, the ship encountered an outrigger in its path and hastily took evasive action to avoid collision. The vessel was able to avoid the outrigger but ran aground in shallow waters off the town of Mariveles. *LT Peace* is owned by Taiwan-based container operator Evergreen Lines. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

LUJIN-I (North Korea)

See "Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria" under "Weather & Navigaiton."

MALVERIA (Philippines)

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated Apr 22, states: The Philippine Coast Guard and its operating units in the Zamboanga Peninsula Region and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, including Cotabato, continue to monitor the vast channel of sea-lane, particularly the route between Jolo and Zamboanga, to locate a missing vessel, which reportedly sounded a distress call on Monday (Apr 19). The reported missing vessel, general cargo *Malveria*, was reported loaded with copra when it left Jolo pier in Sulu bound for Zamboanga City, according to its distress call Monday morning, believed made by its master and intercepted by the Active League for Emergency Reaction Transceivers (Alert). Philippine Coast Guard acting operations officer Lt. Joseph Coyne said yesterday that they have already alerted their five units stationed in Bongao and Mapun in Tawi-Tawi, Jolo in Sulu, Pagadian City in Zamboanga del Sur and in Cotabato. However, he revealed that as of press time, they had yet to establish the exact location of the reported sea accident that could have occurred between the sea channel of Sulu and Zamboanga, where they have advised all plying commercial and fishing vessels to be on the look-out of any distress boat on their routes. Coyne admitted that they are confused by the report that the beleaguered vessel's last location was 106 degrees latitude north, which is not within its nautical or sailing chart. "This reported location (of the distress boat) is far from the Philippines and not within our nautical or sailing chart," Coyne disclosed. He said they had also checked whether the name *Malveria* is a registered vessel recorded in any of their five units, but all the units when verified replied they had no vessel by the name of *Malveria* in their registry records. "We are suspecting that this vessel could be colurum (unregistered), as all our units could not find its name in their registry records," Coyne added. "However, we have alerted our units to advise all commercial and fishing vessels, especially those plying the route of Jolo and Zamboanga, to be on the lookout of any distress boat and to immediately respond to its rescue if sighted," Coyne assured. The reported distress message

intercepted by the Alert radio club from the cargo vessel at about 1035, local time, Monday, managed to reveal that it has 16 crew and passengers in all, and loaded with copra, that it came from Jolo with Zamboanga City as its destination. But after the brief "May Day, May Day," distress call, the Alert member, a government employee of San Ramon, completely lost contact, fearing that the troubled ship might have sunk in the middle of its voyage. Coyne clarified that any launching of a search and rescue operation by their two patrol crafts, beefed up by the naval patrol ships in case of an emergency, can only be done if all verification data is on hand, including the exact location of the troubled vessel, admitting it is very hard on their part to deploy their rescue team in a vast sea-lane like the Jolo Zamboanga channel, if ever there is doubt as to the exact site of the sea mishap. He however, did not discount the possibility that the call was the handywork of pranksters, as he revealed that there had been no report of sea disturbance and said that the weather has been described as fair across the country. Nonetheless, Coyne stressed it is their primary duty to issue alarms to all their operating units under their area of responsibility in south-western Mindanao upon receipt of any distress call, and to carefully verify said report before taking appropriate action. The office of the Civil Defence had also received a similar report on the said sea accident from Alert, according to its operations officer Eric Castillo.

MARIA LUISA (New Zealand)

Wellington, Apr 25 — Family members of the five men killed when the trawler *Maria Luisa* sank after a collision in Wellington Harbour in December 1996 are to discuss whether to push for a High Court or coroner's inquiry into the disaster. The decision follows the publication of a Maritime Safety Authority review of its investigation into the sinking, which killed Melvin Webster, his brother Patrick Webster, brother-in-law Paul Sundgren, cousin Andrew Bettison and friend Robert Smith. *Maria Luisa* sank after it collided with c.c. Sydney Express. Investigations found both vessels were at fault, but the authority agreed to a review after the families of the deceased presented new evidence. The review, by former Wellington Harbour pilot and master mariner Ian Webb, found shortcomings in the original investigation, but said it would serve no useful purpose to attempt to apportion blame more precisely. The report was attacked yesterday by the families and by NZ First deputy leader Peter Brown, who questioned the independence of Captain Webb, who works part-time under contract for the authority. Captain Webb has been an on-call marine duty officer for one week in five since July 2000 and has been a two-days-a-week contract project worker since June 2002. Mr Brown - who will push for a High Court or coroner's inquiry into the sinking - said the fact that Captain Webb was employed part-time by the authority called into question whether

he should have been chosen for the review. However, authority director Russell Kilvington rejected the criticism. He said no matter who had been appointed to do the review, the authority would have been criticised as the reviewer would have been paid by the authority. Captain Webb said he was fully independent at all times. He had been instructed that if he found fault with the authority's original investigation, he was to report it. He was semi-retired, and did not rely on the authority for financial security. Melvin Webster's sister, Wendy Larsen, said the family would meet to decide what to do next. She said they had concerns about the independence of the review, but were also drained by their seven-year battle. She said the family was likely to at least support in spirit Mr Brown's efforts for an inquiry. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAWLAMYINE (Myanmar)

Moji, Apr 23 — General cargo *Mawlamyine*, in tow by tug *Koyo Maru*, arrived Moji Apr 18 and berthed at Moji Apr 19 for repairs to the main engine Vulkan coupling. Repairs expected to be completed Apr 26. — Lloyd's Agents.

Moji, Apr 28 — General cargo *Mawlamyine*: Repairs to Vulkan coupling were completed and the vessel sailed Apr 28 for Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

MCFARLAND (U.S.A.)

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: The US Coast Guard and the Army Corps of Engineers have reopened the Delaware River to large ships between the Commodore Barry Bridge in Chester and the airport. The waterway was closed to large traffic for several hours yesterday, the result of a minor mishap — described by US Coast Guard lieutenant commander Tim Meyers: "We had Army Corps of Engineers suction hopper dredger *McFarland* (6036 gt, built 1966) that lost a propeller. And the Army Corps is engaged in trying to find the propeller at this time. They're searching an area that goes from the Commodore Bridge up to the airport." The propeller has since been located. It was not immediately known what caused the propeller to drop off the drive shaft, leaving the ship without a way to navigate. Meyers says the dredging vessel was blocking the channel to large ships, causing a backup of river traffic: "The important thing at this time is that the Coast Guard has got the river channel closed down to certain vessel traffic — larger vessels with a draught greater than 30 foot." Most of the larger ships were halted at the foot of Delaware Bay until about 1430 hrs.

METIN KA (Turkey)

Muscat, Apr 28 — Chem.tank *Metin KA* is still at anchorage. — Lloyd's Agents.

MIKAN (Panama)

See under "Seizures & Arrests."

MISS SARAH (U.S.A.)

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated Apr 28, states: Fishing *Miss Sarah* (192 gt, built 1987) sustained severe damage in a fire late this afternoon while the

boat was in the commercial basin of the Port of Brookings Harbour, Oregon. Smoke filled the port area for more than an hour, while explosions were heard within the flaming vessel.

MSC MEE MAY (Panama)

London, Apr 24 — C.c. *MSC Mee May* sailed Antwerp Apr 24 for Le Havre.

NATIVA (Panama)

See "Drugs Seized on Panamanian Vessel at Arica, Chile" under "Miscellaneous."

NEWFOUNDLAND EXPLORER (Cayman Islands)

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A "mayday" call came in about 1900 yesterday from a frantic firefighting crew trapped deep inside burning yacht *Newfoundland Explorer* (659 gt, built 1966). Ten firefighters working furiously to aim water on the flaming engine-room of the 157-foot yacht had suddenly found themselves engulfed by a wall of flame, supervisors said. "The fire flashed," said Fire Lt. Rick Pardo, who was among the crew trapped two decks below when flames shot to the ceiling. "When I saw that wall of fire, it just knocked us to the ground, it was so intense." Unable to see in the pitch-black smoke, the trapped firefighters trained their fire hose upward to ward off the growing fire, all the while feeling their way along a passageway toward the stairs they had come down. Supervisors on shore immediately took a roll call to make sure everyone inside was on their way out. All 10 escaped without serious injury. "It doesn't get any worse than this type of scenario," said Fort Lauderdale Division Chief Steve McNerny. No one was on board the vessel, which is registered to the Cayman Islands. The blaze, which had initially appeared to be minimal, turned into a raging inferno in 20 minutes, McNerny said. Before it was over, approximately 55 firefighters had responded to what became a four-alarm fire. The fire blew up when firefighting crews aimed water at a scuttle hatch through which dense smoke was billowing, McNerny said. "When they opened up that line, that pushed the fire out, and the fire came up from the engine-room and surrounded them in a situation called a flashover," McNerny said. The fire, which started in the engine-room of the four-decked pleasure craft, was reported at 1829 hrs. Firefighters arrived to find white smoke coming from the ship in the 1900 block of Southeast 17th Street, McNerny said. At 1853 hrs, firefighters sent out a second alarm, at 1858 hrs a third alarm. Then a few minutes later, supervisors on scene heard the screams of "mayday," McNerny said. A fourth alarm was called at 1904 hrs because of the "mayday," McNerny said.

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire on yacht *Newfoundland Explorer*, that endangered 10 firefighters Sunday evening (Apr 25), continued to smolder overnight, with enough hotspots left behind to leap into flames again before sunrise yesterday. "We had units on-

scene overnight continuing to monitor and contain the fire," said Fort Lauderdale Division Chief Dennis Sheehan. "The fire flared back up again at about 0400. Sheehan said about seven more firefighting units were sent to the blaze, on the face dock of the Best Western Marina Inn, on the east side of the Intracoastal Waterway just south of the 17th Street Causeway. The fire started around 1830 Sunday in the engine-room of the 157-foot yacht. Initially, the fire appeared routine, but firefighters were quickly endangered when the fire "flashed," said Lt. Rick Pardo, one of 10 firefighters trapped two decks below when flames shot to the ceiling. Firefighters escaped while battling the blaze, which quickly escalated into a four-alarm fire with 55 firefighters on the scene. "The fire is finally out, but the boat is sitting on the bottom," Sheehan said.

NICHOLAS M. (St.Vincent & Grenadines)

See under "Pollution."

NICOBAR (India)

See "Crew of Indian Vessel at Kolkata, India" under "Labour Disputes."

NOORT (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Apr 24 — General cargo *Noort* arrived Rotterdam Apr 22.

London, Apr 27 — General cargo *Noort* sailed Rotterdam 1810, Apr 25 for Sunderland.

NOVA SPIRIT (Malta)

Limassol, Apr 23 — General cargo *Nova Spirit* sailed Limassol Apr 22. — Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN WINSERTOR (Panama)

See "Malacca Strait" under "Piracy."

ORION I (Malta)

London, Apr 27 — General cargo *Orion I* arrived Eleusis Apr 2.

P-31

Rio de Janeiro, Apr 28 — A fire broke out on board Petrobras Platform P-31 off Campos, Rio de Janeiro State, late Apr 25. The fire started in the engine-room and was put out after about half an hour. None of the 120 workers on board were injured or evacuated. Production was stopped for about 20 hours and resumed Apr 26. — Correspondent.

PANAGIA TINOU (Greece)

London, Apr 29 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the evening of Apr 28, while making arrival manoeuvres at Naxos Port, passenger ro/ro *Panagia Tinou* (1787 gt, built 1976) struck the quay. On board were 38 passengers who are in good health. Following the contact the vessel berthed safely and following inspection by the marine inspectorate was permitted to sail for Syros where further inspections would be performed. At Syros, the Port Authority prohibited departure of the vessel pending inspection of repairs to the damage caused by the incident and the passengers were forwarded to their destinations on other vessels.

PASSATWIND (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Apr 25 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1105, UTC: General cargo *Passatwind* (1889 gt, built 1977), Rotterdam for Umea, ran aground in about lat 63 42N, long 20 20E at 0840, local time, today. Pilot is on scene but understand the vessel is hard aground. No injuries or pollution. (Note — *Passatwind* sailed Rotterdam 2245, Apr 19 for Umea.)

London, Apr 26 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 0615, UTC: General cargo *Passatwind* is still aground. A refloating attempt will be made later today.

Gothenburg, Apr 26 — General cargo *Passatwind* passed on the wrong side and ran aground south of Holmsund yesterday morning. According to the vessel's master, the grounding was caused by a technical error. The vessel did not sustain any serious damage, and there were no injuries or oil leakage. The vessel has been inspected, and a refloating attempt was under way as of 1700-1800, local time, Apr 26, using one tug. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Apr 27 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 0640, UTC: General cargo *Passatwind* is still aground as problems being encountered due to low water level. Another refloating attempt will be made today.

Gothenburg, Apr 27 — General cargo *Passatwind* is still aground. Vessel will discharge some bunker oil and, if possible, some cargo as well if weather permits tomorrow and then make another refloating attempt tomorrow evening. — Westax Marine Services AB.

POLAR STAR (Barbados)

London, Apr 27 — A&P Falmouth is repairing the polar expedition cruising vessel icebreaker *Polar Star* (4998 gt, built 1969), which sustained extensive bottom damage when it hit an uncharted rock in King Haakon Bay, South Georgia, during an Antarctic cruise in February. The vessel was carrying 90 passengers when the accident happened. *Polar Star* followed a well-known line of soundings while entering King Haakon Bay to allow passengers to go close inshore. On the outward passage, a large iceberg had drifted very close to the intended departure track, according to the master, Asbjorn Endresen. *Polar Star* was proceeding at about five knots and had to deviate slightly to avoid the iceberg. In 70 metres of water, the vessel suddenly hit a rock. All around the vessel was deep water. The Hydrographic Office has promulgated a navigation warning regarding the rock. The vessel is scheduled to begin a "remote coastal regions of the UK" cruise from Portland next month.

PONTOMEDON (Cyprus)

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The local maritime safety administration said an 80-metre unloaded Cambodian vessel (general cargo ship *Sea Breath*) collided with a Cypriot cargo ship (bulk *Pontomedon*) near the mouth of the Yangtze River at 2230 Wednesday and sank shortly after. The Cypriot ship was carrying a cargo of 25,419 tons of iron ore bound for

Nantong, Jiangsu Province, when it collided with the Cambodian vessel on its way to Japan causing the latter to sink almost immediately. Officials said the sunken ship is currently lying on its side on the sea surface and an area of 1,000 square metres of leaked oil was spotted yesterday morning. They say that the leak would not cause any considerable pollution as authorities were to clean most of it up yesterday.

QING YANG (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Yokohama, Apr 27 — General cargo *Qing Yang* (3924 gt, built 1982) contacted the pier while manoeuvring to berth at Ashiya port, Amagasaki area, at 0800, Apr 19. Although the vessel sustained denting damage, 9 cms in depth, there was no water ingress or injuries. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Qing Yang* arrived Amagasaki Apr 15 and sailed Apr 20 for Kawasaki.)

REBECCA HAMMANN (Germany)

London, Apr 24 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 2015, UTC: General cargo *Rebecca Hammann* (1595 gt, built 1995) and tug *Ajaks* (335 gt, built 1974), towing a barge, were in collision south of Gotland in lat 56 35.2N, long 18 01.9E at 1314, local time, yesterday. *Rebecca Hammann* sustained minor damage and continued on voyage. The barge towed by tug *Ajaks* sustained some damage, the tow proceeded on voyage to Oskarshamn. (Note — *Rebecca Hammann* sailed Rostock at 1020, Apr 22, for Inkoo.)

Gothenburg, Apr 24 — General cargo *Rebecca Hammann*, cargo 2029 tons wooden sheets, heading north-east, and Polish tug *Ajaks*, westbound, were in collision 15-20 nautical miles south of Gotland, in foggy weather, about 1300, local time, yesterday. *Rebecca Hammann* observed a vessel on radar too late, not knowing the vessel was a tug with a barge. *Rebecca Hammann* sustained a hole in the hull but no outlets observed. *Ajaks*, heading for Klintehamn, Gotland, but vessel to call Nykoping eastern Sweden, ETA 1800, tonight. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Apr 28 — General cargo *Rebecca Hammann*, collision with tug *Ajaks*: The *Ajaks* was not damaged but there was damage reported to barge *Buffel*, which it was towing. The tug and barge continued to Norrkoping. Minor temporary repairs were carried out and the *Buffel* received a certificate for one trip only, from Norrkoping to Gdansk. It sailed at 1630, local time, today. The *Rebecca Hammann* proceeded into Oskarshamn, where temporary repairs were effected, consisting of cutting loose sharp edges and steel plates distorted in the incident and grinding back in order to fill the hole in the bow above the waterline with cement box. Vessel departed at 1800 yesterday for Inkoo, near Helsinki, to discharge its cargo of gypsum boards loaded at Rostock. — Westax Marine Services AB.

REMOYFJORD (Russia)

Montreal, Apr 26 — Understand the owners of trawler *Remoyfjord* have purchased a new crankshaft, which has now arrived. — Lloyd's Agents.

ROMILDA (Greece)

Piraeus, Apr 28 — Passenger ro/ro *Romilda* has completed repairs and is now back in service between Piraeus and the Cyclades islands. — Lloyd's Agents.

SALAMAT 2 (Panama)

See *Van Dyck*.

SAND HARRIER (U.K.)

Truro, Apr 22 — Sand suction dredger *Sand Harrier* (3751 gt, built 1990) was shifted during the morning of Apr 14 from Queens Wharf in Falmouth into No 3 dry dock with the aid of harbour tugs. — "West Briton." (Note — *Sand Harrier* arrived Falmouth Apr 10 from Poole in tow of tug *Hallgarth*.)

SEA BREATH (Cambodia)

See *Pontomedon*.

SILKY OCEAN (Panama)

Yokohama, Apr 26 — The repairs to bulk *Silky Ocean* have been completed and the vessel set sail for Korea on Apr 4. — Lloyd's Agents.

SPIRIT OF ONTARIO I (Bahamas)

Troy, Michigan, Apr 26 — Passenger ro/ro *Spirit of Ontario I* arrived in Montreal at sunrise Saturday morning (Apr 24) on its delivery voyage to Rochester, N.Y. Despite various reports, it is not yet flying the flag of convenience of the Bahamas. Its port of registry is Fremantle and the Australian flag was still flying at the stern Saturday afternoon. The vessel entered the Seaway at CIP 2 yesterday, shortly after 0700. By yesterday afternoon, it was at Beauharnois waiting for winds to die down. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 27, states: Passenger ro/ro *Spirit of Ontario I* sailed into the Port of Rochester today. The vessel arrived from Montreal after several days of repair work to a gash in its side from an accident in New York harbour. There is no estimate of when the ferry will make its maiden voyage which was set for this weekend. Estimates are that it will be in the middle of May.

STEAMERS PRESTIGE (Malta)

Yokohama, Apr 27 — C.c. *Steamers Prestige* (7171 gt, built 1999) had engine trouble while underway in port of Osaka at 1852, Apr 18. Vessel was towed to No.5 anchorage, Osaka, at 1946 same day. Vessel's engine was repaired by its own crew. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Steamers Prestige* subsequently sailed Osaka Apr 21 and arrived Hong Kong 0159, Apr 26.)

STEEL MIGHT (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Apr 29 — Bulk *Steel Might* arrived Jebel Ali Apr 27.

SYDNEY EXPRESS (Isle of Man)

See *Maria Luisa*.

TENERIFE I (Panama)

See *Kastor I*.

TIAN SHENG (China)

London, Apr 28 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0440,

UTC: C.c. *Tian Sheng* (10544 gt, built 1983) reported engine failure off Mussel Bay Apr 23. Tugs were dispatched and vessel arrived Port Elizabeth harbour on Apr 24. *Tian Sheng* left Port Elizabeth harbour Apr 25, for China. At 0244, UTC, this morning an Inmarsat "C" alert was received from *Tian Sheng*, in lat 22 38S, long 40 20E.

London, Apr 28 — Following navigation warning issued at 0520, UTC, today: C.c. *Tian Sheng* (10544 gt, built 1983), 30 persons on board, on fire in lat 28 38S, long 40 20E. Vessels in vicinity requested to assist.

London, Apr 28 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1540, UTC: C.c. *Tian Sheng* has extinguished fire and is proceeding to Durban under its own power. Some crewmen have suffered smoke inhalation and will require hospital treatment. Latest reported position lat 28 44S, long 39 12E, at 1307, UTC.

London, Apr 29 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0620, UTC: C.c. *Tian Sheng* is still proceeding to Durban where ETA 0930, UTC, Apr 30.

TIAN ZHU SHAN (China)

London, Apr 26 — Following navigation warning broadcast today: General cargo *Tian Zhu Shan*, 4061 gt, (built 1995) adrift in vicinity of lat 34 15.8N, long 129 44.5E, at 0954, UTC, today.

London, Apr 27 — Following navigation warning broadcast today: Drifting cargo vessel (general cargo *Tian Zhu Shan*) removed.

Moji, Apr 28 — General cargo *Tian Zhu Shan* arrived Moji Apr 27, from Gunsan, and sailed same day for Qingdao. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issues of Apr 27 and 28.)

TOPAZ (Mexico)

Piraeus, Apr 23 — Ro/ro/c.c. *Topaz* sailed Piraeus Apr 22 for Chalkis. — Lloyd's Agents.

TRIUNFO (U.S.A.)

London, Apr 23 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, dated Apr 22: Coast Guard cutter *Campbell*, came to the aid of trawler *Triunfo* (128 gt, built 1978) at 0700 yesterday 120 miles east of Chatham, Mass, after the trawler's propeller became fouled with a net, leaving the vessel adrift with no means of propulsion. *Campbell* transferred *Triunfo* to a rescue boat from Coast Guard Station Brant Point in Nantucket, Mass, at 0845 today for further towing of the vessel and its four-man crew to the Juliet mooring anchorage two miles offshore in Nantucket. They are currently en route and expected to arrive at the mooring around 1730 today. *Triunfo* had been underway since Apr 16 fishing for Northeast multi-species fish and made the radio distress call to the Coast Guard at 2135 Monday.

URVAAG

Trondheim, Apr 26 — Local newspaper reports that fishing *Urvaag* capsized and sank alongside the quay at a repair yard near Kristiansund on Apr 24. Repairs

were about to be completed at the yard Bat og Oppdrettservice and the vessel was scheduled to leave the yard on Apr 25. New fishing equipment was taken on board on Apr 23 and the auxiliary engines were started for supply of power to the cold storage plant. The next morning, Apr 24, the vessel was found sunk, with only part of the bow and wheelhouse said to be above water. No crew on board at the time of accident. Seventy tons of diesel oil on board. Oil booms arranged, but no leakages so far. — Lloyd's Agents.

VAN DYCK (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Chittagong, Apr 26 — Understand bulk *Van Dyck* (16166 gt, built 1975) dragged its anchor at Chittagong outer anchorage and came into contact with asphalt tanker *Salamat 2* (3121 gt, built 1973) at 0713, Apr 25. *Salamat 2* reportedly sustained severe bow damage and also lost its starboard anchor and eight shackles of chain. — Lloyd's Agents.

VANKAREM (Russia)

Vladivostok, Apr 23 — Fishing *Vankarem* was safely towed to Kholmsk Shiyard this morning. — Lloyd's Agents.

YANG TONG (Cambodia)

Yokohama, Apr 27 — General cargo *Yang Tong* (1106 gt, built 1982) had fire break out in scraps stowed in cargo hold at Hakata at 1520, Apr 8. The fire was extinguished by the fire brigade at 1605 same day. There were no injuries or hull damage. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Yang Tong* arrived Hakata Apr 7 and sailed Apr 9 for Qingdao.)

ZHEN FEN 5 (China)

See *Fei Yun He*.



MALACCA STRAIT

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Pirates, armed with guns and knives, stormed diving support *Ocean Winsertor* (1362 gt, built 1975) crewed by New Zealanders and other nationals, in the Malacca Strait on Apr 24. The pirates boarded *Ocean Winsertor*, robbed crew members of cash and valuables and escaped. The vessel was 160km from Singapore, near the Lingga Islands, south-west of Bintan and Batam, when the pirates struck. It had been heading to Singapore, after a three-week diving trip in East Timor. About half the crew of 50 were asleep when the pirates, wearing ski masks, boarded the vessel from two small boats. They fired a warning shot, cut the communication wires and then held the crew at gunpoint. One crew member had a rope tied around his neck and another was hit on the head with a bar. No one else was injured. The pirates were looking to rob the safe in the master's cabin, but it was empty. The pirates were

reported to have fled with several laptop computers, mobile phones and thousands of dollars in cash. The vessel arrived at the Loyang Offshore Supply base and is scheduled to sail for Thailand today. The Malaysian Navy said last week it would provide escorts to commercial vessels travelling through its waters, if the risk of a pirate or terrorist attack was deemed high.

Port State Control



CYPRUS

Limassol, Apr 24 — General cargo *Georgios I* sailed Limassol Apr 22 for Lattakia. — Lloyd's Agents.

GERMANY

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated Apr 21, states: Ro/ro *Cerano* (730 gt, built 1967) is under Port State Control detention at Kiel, where vessel had arrived Apr 9 from Gdansk.

Seizures & Arrests



AGIA ELENI (Greece)

Valletta, Apr 22 — Fishing *Agia Eleni* is no longer under arrest at Valletta. — Lloyd's Agents.

AL BIRUNI (Egypt)

Alexandria, Apr 29 — General cargo *Al Biruni* remains under arrest at Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents.

AL IDRISI (Egypt)

Alexandria, Apr 29 — General cargo *Al Idrisi* remains under arrest at Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALLIANCE (Cyprus)

St. Nazaire, Apr 23 — General cargo *Alliance*, renamed *Arca* is still under arrest at St. Nazaire. — Lloyd's Agents..

BOA KING (Cayman Islands)

Alexandria, Apr 29 — Tug/supply *Boa King* (2655 gt, built 2001), which arrived at Alexandria on Dec 29, remains in the port under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

BOLERO (Panama)

See "Festival Cruises Inc."

CELTIC HORIZON (U.K.)

Valletta, Apr 5 — Fishery protection *Celtic Horizon* is currently laid-up at Valletta. — Lloyd's Agents.

CEM TRADER (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Apr 26 — Following received from ITS, Istanbul, dated today: Cement *Cem Trader* (3762 gt, built 1968) has been arrested due to owners' unpaid debt. The vessel is at a berth in Desan

shipyard. (Note — *Cem Trader* was last reported arriving at Tuzla on May 14, 2003.)

CONAKRY (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Las Palmas, Apr 23 — Product tanker *Conakry* is in Las Palmas abandoned and in poor condition. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Feb 11).

DENEB REEFER (Panama)

Las Palmas, Apr 23 — Ref *Deneb Reefer* is currently still at Las Palmas, under arrest. Vessel has no appointed agents locally. — Lloyd's Agents.

EL DJAZAIR (Libya)

Rijeka, Apr 23 — General cargo *El Djazair* (8195 gt, built 1987), which arrived Split Oct 19, is presently lying at a lay-up berth, under detention by the Split Commercial Court. — Lloyd's Agents.

EUROPEAN VISION (Italy)

See "Festival Cruises Inc."

FESTIVAL CRUISES INC

London, Apr 23 — Passenger *Mistral* is to be sold by public auction. Reserve price is 130,000,000 euros. Judicial auction at 0930, May 13, at the auction chamber, Marseilles High Court, Palais de Justice, Square Pierre Michel, Marseilles.

London, Apr 26 — A report in the Apr 23 issue of "Newsfront" states: A company controlled by Mediterranean Shipping Cruises has placed a winning \$215m bid for passenger *European Vision*. Galbraith's, the broker handling the Barbados auction, confirmed the winning bidder. Though Festival is still battling in the Italian courts, the Lord Chief Justice of Barbados has allowed the auction to go forward and Galbraith's contends finalisation procedures have commenced. MSC's MD Pierfrancesco Vago is reported as saying the vessel has been renamed *MSC Armonia*, registered under the Panamanian flag, and is being readied for drydocking prior to commencing a programme of seven-day cruises out of Venice to the Greek islands, joining the company's *MSC Lirica*. Festival, however, says its appeals over the contested events in Barbados will continue, and a hearing is set for Apr 21 in Genoa at which Festival will argue its E40m loss-of-business claim against the vessel's French holding company, GIE Vision Bail. MSC's passenger *Mistral*, which has been under arrest since mid-January in Marseilles, is to be auctioned May 13 with a start-up price of E130m. Meanwhile, brokers report Festival's passenger *The Azur* and passenger *Bolero* have been sold for \$10.6m and \$10.1m respectively. Passenger *Flamenco* was sold to US-based operators in February for \$12.25m.

Barbados, Apr 27 — Passenger *European Vision* was sold to Mediterranean Shipping Cruises and renamed "*Armonia*", (?*MSC Armonia*) Panama flag. It sailed Apr 24 for Las Palmas. — Lloyd's Agents.

FLAMENCO (Bahamas)

See "Festival Cruises Inc."

FOREST CARRIER (Panama)

London, Apr 29 — General cargo *Forest Carrier* has been sold by order of the supreme court of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, in the Feb 29 action of Storebrand Bank ASA and the owners of *Forest Carrier*, for the sum of US\$320,000. Any person with a claim against *Forest Carrier*, or the proceeds of the sale, should claim before May 24.

FOREST ENTERPRISE (Panama)

London, Apr 27 — General cargo *Forest Enterprise* left Manta Mar 9 in tow of salvage tug *Salvage Queen* for Shanghai breakers. Vessel was not at Manta Mar 26 as reported in issue of Mar 29.

GARYOUNIS (Libya)

See under "Marine."

JAREF (Libya)

Rijeka, Apr 23 — General cargo *Jaref* (8195 gt, built 1987), which arrived Split Oct 18, is presently lying at a lay-up berth, under detention by the Split Commercial Court. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAYA V (Uruguay)

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: An illegal haul of Patagonian toothfish seized from fishing *Maya V*, captured in the Southern Ocean, had netted more than \$2 million, the Federal Government said today. The Uruguayan-flagged vessel was detected 74 nautical miles inside the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) of the Southern Ocean in January, and was later captured by an Australian Navy warship 4000 km south-west of Perth. Under the provisions of the Fisheries Management Act, the vessel, its equipment and catch were confiscated by the Australian Fisheries Authority. After strong interest from seven prospective buyers, Austral Fisheries was the successful bidder, buying 191 tonnes of the rare toothfish delicacy and the 64 tonnes of sardines used as bait on board. Federal Fisheries Minister Ian Macdonald and Justice Minister Chris Ellison said all monies raised from the sale would be held in trust until legal proceedings relating to *Maya V* finish.

MIKAN (Panama)

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated, today, states: The Russian vessel *Mikam* (? fish factory *Mikan* 1319 gt, built 1978), which has been under arrest for about a year and lies out off the Sakhalin port of Korsakov, is sending distress signals. *Mikam*, which used to sail under Belizean colours and belonged to one of the Belizean companies, was arrested and confiscated from its owners for an attempt to smuggle 400,000 tons of crabs out of Russia. Now, the vessel belongs to Russia, but has not found its owner as of yet. The captain of the vessel, Vladimir Dubovoi, today reported to the sea rescue centre of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk that the vessel is in disrepair and is running out of diesel fuel. He said in case of a storm, the vessel may wreck and there may be casualties. To avoid that, the captain asks to bring the vessel

into the port bay. At the present moment, there are three crew on board the vessel - the captain and two sailors. They say they are going to leave the vessel. In that case, it will be left uncontrollable. Any storm may throw it onto the shore. In a worse scenario, the vessel may sink and become a serious obstacle for other ocean vessels heading for the port.

MISTRAL (Wallis & Futuna)

See "Festival Cruises Inc."

NEGROS NAVIGATION CO INC

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated Apr 24, states: Thousands of ship passengers were stranded at the North Harbour in Manila after the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) grounded all the passenger ships and cargo vessels of Negros Navigation Co. (Nenaco) in the wake of the shipping firm's filing of bankruptcy proceedings that cast doubts on the firm's capability to maintain a fleet of seaworthy vessels. The Nenaco passengers that were able to refund their fares transferred to other shipping lines to get to their destinations. The order was issued by Marina Affairs chief Hiyasmin de los Santos, citing the public services act which states, "that all companies involved in public transport business should be in good financial condition." All Nenaco ships were grounded apparently as a result of the clamor among various maritime industry officials to investigate if Nenaco is capable of ensuring the safety of passengers and cargoes in view of the company's own admission that it is bankrupt. Marina said Nenaco has accumulated some P2.5 billion in debt and has triggered concerns that the beleaguered shipping firm may not be able to fully safeguard the interest of its customers. Earlier, one of its passenger fleet, passenger ro/ro *St. Peter the Apostle* (6090 gt, built 1976), was ordered grounded by the court for Nenaco's failure to settle some P30-million worth of debt to a ship repair and docking firm. These resulted in the stranding of hundreds of passengers at the Manila South Harbour. The docking firm was partially owned by a rival company [Aboitiz Co], and the grounding of *St. Peter the Apostle* triggered an exchange of words between the two companies. Marina said, the order to ground ships will stay until Nenaco has fully convinced the authorities that firm's filing for bankruptcy does not mean that the safety of passenger and cargo are at a risk. Nenaco's management cried foul over the order and said it will bring the matter to the court. The United Filipino Seafarers and the biggest coalition of land and sea-based Filipino overseas workers have earlier express concern over the safety of Nenaco's passengers. Members of the Pinoy Overseas Organization headed by United Filipino Seafarers president Nelson Ramirez held a rally at the Plaza Moriones in Tondo in calling the attention of the government on the apparent attempt by the Nenaco management to deceive the public by filing bankruptcy proceedings amid the controversy over the nonpayment of

ship-repair fees that resulted in a court order to ground a passenger vessel which stranded hundreds of passengers at the Manila North Harbour. "As it continues to operate through spurious business tactics, Nenaco is virtually endangering its passengers and cargo. Despite this, authorities are not lifting a finger to avert a possible major sea tragedy," Ramirez said. Ramirez and his members do not believe that the company is in deep financial trouble citing the firm's pronouncement last month that it earned a profit of P84-million last year. The figures are slightly lower than the previous year. Yet two weeks later, Nenaco filed for bankruptcy proceedings. The rallyists demanded that authorities initiate a probe to find out if the shipping company was operating above board. Its report of millions of profit was contradicted by the fact that Nenaco had actually filed up a debt of P2.5-billion, according to Ramirez who also claimed that the firm may also owe the government some P400 million in unpaid taxes. Seamen assailed Nenaco for announcing it has made a multi-million profit last year and yet has filed bankruptcy proceedings later.

NERVA (Bahamas)

Zeebrugge, Apr 28 — General cargo *Nerva* has recently been sold and renamed *Stella*. Understand from the Ghent agents that the vessel is presently being repaired/adjusted to sail within one or two weeks from now, depending on Port State Control clearance. — Lloyd's Sub-agents

OLAINE (Russia)

Trondheim, Apr 29 — Trawler *Olaine* which arrived Kristiansund on Jan 26, 2002 and has previously been under arrest: Understand that the vessel was sold on Mar 8 and renamed *Dzintarzeme*, flag Latvia, call sign IYLAN. The new owners are Baltjura-Serviss of Latvia. *Dzintarzeme* ex *Olaine* sailed from Kristiansund on Mar 31 bound for Las Palmas. — Lloyd's Agents.

PERSENK (Malta)

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated Apr 25, states: Bulgarian owned bulk *Persenk* (10220 gt, built 1998) has been detained in Nigeria, and armed men took the master away. *Persenk* was carrying iron ore from Greece to Nigeria. Shortly after 2100 Saturday, local officials informed the crew that the vessel was being detained. The master, however, refused to show up for questioning. Armed men took him and the chief mechanic away, Bulgaria's Transport Ministry reported. The two men's currents location remained undisclosed. Bulgaria's Ambassador to Nigeria Vesselin Filev was assigned to try to resolve the problem. (Note — *Persenk* was last reported to have passed Gibraltar Mar 30 for Bonny.)

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulgaria's consul in Nigeria will meet today with the master of detained bulk *Persenk* Georgi Peychinov, director of the Consul services with Bulgaria's Foreign Ministry, announced. Peychinov also explained that the region was known for

petrol contraband and that might be the reason for the arrest. The Bulgarian official expressed his hopes that the vessel's crew will be released. The crew of *Persenk* was detained in Nigeria on Saturday.

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated Apr 26, states: The master and the mechanic detained in Nigeria's Port Harcourt were set free today. The crew of bulk *Persenk* was detained in Nigeria on Saturday night. There are 23 Bulgarians and one Russian sailor on board. Bulgarian authorities said that the arrest had happened by mistake.

PONGSU (North Korea)

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated Apr 22, states: The captain, chief mate and chief engineer of North Korean general cargo *Pongsu* implicated in a massive heroin smuggling operation have been denied a request to stay at the North Korean embassy in Australia until their trial next February. Song Man Sun, 63, Ri Man Jin, 49 and Ri Ju Chon, 49, have pleaded not guilty to aiding and abetting the import of 122 million US dollars worth of high-grade heroin aboard the vessel. Seven people including an onshore party have been indicted over the incident while charges against another 27 crew members were discharged. In applying for bail, lawyer Peter Faris said his clients were suffering health problems and found life at Barwon Prison "difficult". He requested they be allowed to move to the North Korean embassy in Canberra until their trial. The company which owns the vessel offered one million Australian dollars (\$730,000) surety. But magistrate Duncan Reynolds said the defence had failed to show there were exceptional circumstances warranting bail. The men were remanded in custody until the February trial.

PROJECT WORKSHIPS (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated Apr 21, states: Ro/ro *Project Workshops* is to be judicially sold Apr 30 at Chennai.

REGENT SKY (Greece)

Piraeus, Apr 28 — Passenger *Regent Sky* was sold at auction on Apr 21 to Power Shipping S.A., Monrovia, Liberia. The vessel remains under construction at Avlis shipyards. — Lloyd's Agents.

SALEM FOUR (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Alexandria, Apr 29 — General cargo *Salem Four* is still under arrest at Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Mar 18.)

SAMURAY (Turkey)

Alexandria, Apr 29 — General cargo *Samuray* remains sunk at Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEABREEZE (Sao Tome & Principe)

Trieste, Apr 26 — Ref *Seabreeze*, left Trieste Apr 8 in tow of tug *Mario B.* for Aliaga. — Lloyd's Agents.

SKANDI PMS 2 (Cayman Islands)

Alexandria, Apr 29 — Tug/supply *Skandi PMS 2* (4820 gt, built 2002) is

presently under arrest at Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Skandi PMS 2* arrived Alexandria Dec 29.)

SKANDI PMS I (Cayman Islands)

Alexandria, Apr 29 — Firefighting tug/supply *Skandi PMS I* (4820 gt, built 2002) is currently under arrest at Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents.

ST.PETER THE APOSTLE (Philippines)

See "Negros Navigation Co Inc."

THE AZUR (Panama)

See "Festival Cruises Inc."



VOLGOGRAD AREA, RUSSIA

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



BUZZARDS BAY, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 24 — A press release from the United States Coast Guard, dated yesterday, states: April 27 this year marks one year since the Bouchard tank barge *B. No. 120* ran aground and spilled approximately 55,000 gallons of Number 6 fuel oil in Buzzards Bay. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office (MSO) Providence has been working with several of its partners the past year to clean up the spill and to implement changes that can help prevent a similar disaster in the future. To date, more than \$40 million has been spent on cleanup efforts. 99.8 percent of the shoreline areas that were oiled as a result of the spill have been cleaned, inspected by a combined team representing federal, state, local, and responsible party representatives, and found to meet the cleanup criteria under Massachusetts state law. A state-licensed company, GeoInsight, Inc., was designated to direct cleanup operations with oversight by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and United States Coast Guard in September 2003, when the Buzzards Bay Unified Command transitioned from the emergency response effort phase to a longer-term remediation effort under the oversight of DEP. The cleanup effort continues. The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), in consultation with Department of Public Health (DPH), reopened 27,500 acres of beds Nov 12, 2003. This re-opening allowed shellfish diggers to utilize productive flats off Dartmouth, New Bedford, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Marion, Wareham, Bourne, and Falmouth, in addition to the

areas that were re-opened in May and October 2003. With this reopening, 97 percent of the Buzzards Bay beds closed in April, 2003 are now safe for human consumption. Sampling of the remaining three percent of closed shellfish beds still needs to be conducted. In September 2003, MSO Providence hosted a two-day Ports and Waterways Safety Assessment (PAWSA) to examine the various risks to navigation safety within Buzzards Bay, including the Cape Cod Canal. The PAWSA produced a jointly developed action plan to help all waterways stakeholders address navigation safety risks in an organized, prioritised fashion. MSO Providence, the Northeast Marine Pilots, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) worked jointly to design and produce voluntary vessel routes to guide commercial traffic through the safest areas of Buzzards Bay, and to alert users as to where the concentrations of commercial traffic may be located. The U.S. Attorney announced a \$10 million criminal settlement with Bouchard Transportation for the Buzzards Bay oil spill. The settlement formalised Bouchard's acceptance of a guilty plea for negligent operations resulting in the spill. The civil investigation continues.

NICHOLAS M. (St.Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Apr 26 — A report in the Apr 23 issue of "Newsfront" states: A Brest court has been asked by a French prosecutor to impose a E250,000 fine against Salah Ferig, the Egyptian master of bulk *Nicholas M.*, suspected of polluting the French coasts in December 2003. The master has continuously rejected the suggestion that the pollution from the vessel was deliberate, although the prosecutor maintains that the vessel's waste treatment system could have been modified to permit an easy pouring into the sea. *Nicholas M.* was caught cleaning up its tanks off Brittany on Dec 21, with a 2.5-km-long, 200-metre-wide oil slick in its wake. The owners had to pay a E250,000 bail to obtain the release of the vessel and judgement is expected mid-May.



BANGLADESH

Dhaka, Apr 23 — Floods in northeastern Bangladesh have driven about 100,000 people from their homes, disrupted communications and damaged houses and wide swathes of crops over the past week, officials said today. There have been no reports yet of deaths in the floods, which followed storms that killed nearly 90 people and injured more than 2,000 across the country. "About 100,000 people have left their homes seeking shelter elsewhere, including government buildings and schools," a disaster official said.

"Another half a million people were stranded in their partially flooded homes," said disaster official Mohammad Habib. The floods, triggered by heavy rain, have forced authorities to shut schools for use as temporary shelters. About 15 million people in seven districts have been hit as the rain-fed Surma and Kushiara rivers — flowing from India's northeastern state of Assam — breached embankments and flooded villages. About 500,000 acres of rice crops almost ready for harvest have been damaged in the floods, agriculture officials in the affected districts said, but were unable to give any estimates of losses immediately. A flood forecasting official said the Surma was still flowing above its danger level and the situation might deteriorate if rain continued. Weathermen forecast more rains across Bangladesh over the next one or two weeks. — Reuters.

CHINA

Shanghai, Apr 23 — A fast-moving tornado hurling fist-sized hailstones has killed seven people in central China and injured more than 200, Xinhua news agency said today. Trees were uprooted, billboards and roof tiles were sent flying and homes destroyed as the tornado swept through the city of Hengyang, in central Hunan province, on Wednesday (Apr 21), the agency quoted sources as saying today. It said 2,430 "rooms" and 1,106 hectares of crops were destroyed. Hundreds of farmers were made homeless and 22 high-tension power lines were damaged, causing blackouts as the tornado whipped through at 23 metres per second. Seven people were killed and 207 people injured, it said. — Reuters.

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Four people have been killed in house collapse caused by bad weather in east China's Jiangxi Province by weekend. Since April 21 to 23, the province experienced bad weather, like hail, strong gale and rainfalls. Five cities experienced the mix of all the three weather changes, while 13 other counties and cities suffered from rainstorm and strong gales at eight to ten degrees, and eight counties and cities hit by strong raindrops. A total of 930,000 people in 140 townships were hit by the bad weather, including four dead and 66 injured. The bad weather also destroyed crops in 32,000 hectares of farmland, causing 50 million yuan of economic loss in agricultural sector.

INDONESIA

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A rain-triggered landslide smashed into a bus on Indonesia's Sumatra island, killing at least 37 passengers and leaving 6 others buried under tons of mud, officials said today. Scores of rescue workers were digging with shovels and hoes to try and unearth survivors from the bus, which was almost entirely covered by the landslide, said police Sgt. Satria Dinata. The bus was hit late yesterday as it traveled from

Medan, the capital of North Sumatra province, from the town of Pasaman during a heavy rainstorm, Dinata said. Rescuers had recovered 37 bodies from the scene, said Sgt Ronnie Hamdani. Six other people were still buried, he said, adding 14 were injured. Medan is located about 900 miles northwest of the capital, Jakarta.

NAMIBIA

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Namibian officials are caught in a desperate bid to try and save thousands of cattle from almost certain death as the flooded Zambezi river closes in on them, while one of the country's most populated areas is threatened by outbreaks of cholera, dysentery and malaria. "If we don't do something now - like getting pontoons from Zambia or somewhere to drive the cattle out to dry land - then the stench of the rotting cattle will become unbearable, and people will become seriously ill from the infected water," Ndeutapo Amagulu, deputy permanent secretary at the ministry of environment and tourism, told IRIN. After successfully evacuating some 3,000 people with the help of the Zimbabwean Defence force, Namibian authorities are now looking at how to rescue at least 15,000 cattle. Airlifting or trying to herd the cattle by 'mokoro', an indigenous canoe, to dry land has become impossible since the Zambezi burst its banks in early April, flooding a huge area along some 100 km of the river and transforming this mostly parched land into a swamp virtually overnight. The floods have destroyed most of the maize crop and washed away newly planted seeds.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Apr 28 — The Sulina channel was closed at 0615, Apr 27, due to strong north-north-east wind, force 6 (strong breeze), sea state 6. — Lloyd's Agents.

RUSSIA

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The port of Novorossiysk, which closed at midnight on Apr 21 due to strong north-easterly winds, has reopened. Operations resumed this morning, after the winds eased. Pilots resumed unberthing/berthing at Sheskhari Terminal after midnight and at the dry port from 0300 hrs.

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful cyclone with strong winds and heavy precipitation approached Kamchatka from the Sea of Japan today. Storm warnings are issued in the region. Captains of ships near the peninsula's southern coast are informed about the storm. The cyclone is already raging in the south of Kamchatka. The wind speed in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky is up to 15 metres a second, the regional meteorological centre said. The storm will become more severe in the next few hours, meteorologists warn. The wind speed will reach 24 metres a second in the Ust-Bolsheretsk and Yelizovo regions, the south of the Milkovo region and Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky and 30

metres a second in mountainous and coastal regions. According to meteorologists, the cyclone will rage in the region for two days.

THAILAND

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated Apr 22, states: Some 6.5 million people across Thailand are suffering from a serious regional drought that threatens to devastate even more of the kingdom during the driest time of year, officials say. The department of disaster prevention and mitigation said 14,887 villages in 59 provinces had been declared serious drought zones, mainly in northern and northeastern areas but also in the popular southern resort island of Phuket. "The country still faces less rain which is worsening the drought, and the situation is expected to expand and get more serious," according to a statement from the department. Provinces have spent just 70 million baht (\$1.77) on urgent measures including delivering millions of litres of potable water, while an additional 115 million baht is expected to be spent on long-term water projects to ease future drought disaster, it said. Conditions were listed as most severe in Buriram province, some 400 kilometres northeast of the capital Bangkok, with 800,000 villagers affected in 19 districts. Water levels at 35 big and medium-sized dams across the country had fallen below normal, according to the irrigation department. "This year's drought is worse than last year, as the water level in dams are much lower than last year," said an irrigation official, adding that drought damage in Thailand to date had reached 99 million baht but was expected to rise. This year's dry season is hitting Southeast Asia hard, with the Mekong River poised to drop to its lowest level in a decade in Cambodia, according to experts.

TURKEY, GREECE AND BULGARIA

Istanbul, Apr 28 — General cargo *Lujin I* is still under repair in Kilyos. Estimated time for completion is not known at the moment. — Lloyd's Agents.

UNITED STATES

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated Apr 22, states: Tuesday's (Apr 20) tornado damaged half of Utica's structures, totalling at least \$50 million in damage, according to state and local officials. However, the twister took its worst toll on the Milestone, a bar/restaurant just off downtown where eight people were killed. (See issue of Apr 23.)

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Damage estimates in and around Jamestown, hit by a tornado last week, have risen to \$1.6 million; and Fire Chief Joe Hieston said that amount could go up again as work estimates are completed. More than 50 buildings were damaged by the twister, which had winds of up to 110 mph. It was one of six confirmed tornados that swept through the state Apr 20, said John Ogren, chief meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Indianapolis.

Earthquakes



BULGARIA

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 2.9 on the Richter scale jolted Bulgaria early today. The quake hit Bulgaria's south-eastern part and had its epicentre at some 220-230 km south-east of capital Sofia. It was felt in Bulgarian Galabovo and Stara Zagora municipalities. There were no immediate reports of any damages.

GREECE

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated Apr 28, states: A strong earthquake measuring 5 on the Richter scale shook the region of Patras, southern Greece, at 1027 today. The epicentre was located in the region of Antirio. No damages were reported to local authorities.

INDONESIA

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake centred off the island of Timor today rattled northern Australia and was felt more than 900km from its epicentre. Seismologists at Geoscience Australia said the earthquake, with a magnitude of 6.4 on the Richter scale, was felt in Dili, Darwin, and Kununurra in northern Western Australia. Seismologist Clive Collins said the quake struck at about 1150, AEST, and was centred between 50 to 100km below the surface. He said the depth of the quake made any tsunami activity unlikely.

IRAN

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Two earthquakes measuring 4.2 and 3.7 degrees on the open-ended Richter scale jolted the city of Zarrindasht, in the southern province of Fars. According to the seismological base of Fars province affiliated to the Geophysics Institute of Tehran University, the first tremor shook the city at 2356, local time, yesterday while the second hit the city at 0644, local time, today. There were no reports of any damage or casualties caused by the tremors.

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A minor earthquake, measuring a magnitude of 4.2 degrees on the open-ended Richter scale, shook south-west Iran early today, but there were no reports of damage or casualties. The tremor hit at 0709, local time, the seismological bases of Tehran University said. They estimated the quake's epicentre was to the southwest of hdash in the Kohkilouyeh-e and Boyerahmad province.

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake, measuring 3.6 degrees on the Richter scale hit the city of Lamerd, Fars Province, early today. The seismological base of Tehran University's Geophysics institute said

the tremor, epicentred at Lamerd, occurred at 0215, local time. There were no immediate reports of any casualties or damage to property caused by the quake.

JAPAN

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake measuring 4.9 on the Richter scale shook northern Japan, the Japanese Meteorological Agency has said. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. The quake occurred at 0816, AEDT, with its epicentre located in waters off Aomori Prefecture, 600km north of Tokyo, the agency said. The focus of the quake was 70km below the surface, it said. The agency did not issue a tsunami - or tidal wave - warning.

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake measuring 4.1 on the Richter scale shook central Japan, the Japanese Meteorological Agency revealed. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. The quake occurred at 1816 hrs (0916, UTC) with its epicentre located in northern Tochigi prefecture, 150 kilometres north of Tokyo, the agency said today. The focus of the quake was 10 kilometres below the surface, it said.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A small earthquake measuring 3.8 on Richer scale centred near Upper Hutt hit just before five o'clock this morning, the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences said. The quake was around 25 kilometres beneath the earth's surface and is likely to have been felt right around the Wellington region.

TAIWAN

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 27, states: An earthquake measuring 4.6 on the Richter scale rocked eastern Taiwan today, seismologists said. There were no reports of damages or casualties. The tremor hit at 1008, GMT, with an epicentre 10.6 km north of the eastern coastal city of Hualien and 30.9 km under the earth's surface, according to the Seismology Centre.

Volcanic Activity



ANATAHAN, NORTH MARIANA ISLANDS

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Residents of a US territory in the North Pacific have been warned to prepare against a heavy dump of ash after a volcano burst back into life. The volcano on Anatahan Island in the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) became active again on Sunday (Apr 25), a year after its last major eruption. The CNMI Emergency Management Office (EMO) says Anatahan is sending out regular puffs of yellow-brown steam and

ash at one to two minute intervals. In an advisory, Secretary of Health James Hofschneider encourages residents with breathing problems and other ailments to try to stay indoors and limit their exposure to the ash clouds. Emergency services have been put on alert. CNMI has a population of around 80,000, most of them living on the island of Saipan. Acting EMO Director Mark Pangelinan says while a volcanic plume has not been confirmed heading in the direction of the populated islands of the CNMI, any change in wind direction may affect residents. Public Health advises anyone with rainwater catchments not to drink water that may have collected during the volcanic activity, and to cover the catchment system to protect the drinking water. Anatahan is a 33-square kilometre island, 128 kilometres north of Saipan and just over 322 kilometres north of Guam.

MOUNT BAGANA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Concern is mounting over an erupting volcano that is spewing lava towards nearby villages on the Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville, media reports said today. A helicopter flew over the region Tuesday (Apr 27) and reported the lava flow was headed from Mount Bagana towards the village of Torokina about eight kilometres away, The National newspaper reported. "The lava is about eight to nine kilometres from the village of Torokina, but a number of newer villages have been set up closer to the volcano and it's these people we are more worried about," Ima Itikarai, PNG's chief government volcanologist said. Attempts at establishing communication with the smaller villages have so far failed, The National said.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Insurgents ambushed an American military convoy on a road in southern Afghanistan, setting off an explosion that wounded three marines, one of them seriously, the US military said in Kabul. The attack took place near the village of Dailanor, in restive Kandahar province, said Lieut Colonel Tucker Mansager, a US military spokesman. Some 2,000 marines have arrived in Afghanistan in recent weeks, bringing the total size of the US led coalition to about 15,500 soldiers. Specialist Pat Tillman, a former NFL player with the Arizona Cardinals, became the latest US casualty when he was killed in an ambush on Thursday (Apr 22) by suspected Taliban militants in the eastern province of Khost.

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected Taliban have shot dead two Afghan aid workers and one soldier and injured several others

during raids in a district near the southern city of Kandahar, officials said. The attacks on an aid agency compound, government office and local security headquarters occurred in the Panjwayi area, about 50 kilometres west of Kandahar, the city's military spokesman General Abdul Wasay said. "At about 2300, Monday (Apr 26), Taliban and Al Qaeda attacked the security commander's compound, district headquarters and CHA organisation office," he said. "In these attacks three people were killed." Two of those killed were supervisors working with the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance aid agency and living in the compound, he said. The third fatality was a soldier guarding the district headquarters. Six people were injured in the violence which included the burning of several government vehicles, he added. "Two Taliban have also been injured," he said. CHA regional director Hayatullah confirmed that his non-governmental organisation had been attacked and said "armed men walked into our office and killed two of our employees. One person has been slightly injured." Hayatullah said he did not know why the humanitarian organisation, whose compound is next to the district government's headquarters, had been targeted.

BANGLADESH

Karachi, Apr 26 — Production in six Bangladesh's state-owned jute mills in Khulna district south western of country has remained suspended for the last two days due to strike called by Khulna regional unit of Paatkal Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad to press home their 11-point charter of demands including the re-opening of the closed jute mills, immediate payment of the outstanding dues to the retired mill employees and timely payment of weekly wages to the labourers. A rally was held on BIDD road near People's Jute Mill at Khalishpur industrial belt yesterday afternoon in support of the demands of mill workers. Presided over by Sardar Motaharuddin, the rally was addressed, among others, by Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan, Shah Alam and advocate Feroz Ahmed. The six jute mills idled by the work stoppage were Platinum, Crescent, Peoples, Star, Eastern and Alim. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A general strike called by the main opposition Awami League in Bangladesh has closed schools and businesses and disrupted public transport. Hundreds of police and paramilitary soldiers have been deployed in the capital Dhaka to prevent disturbances. The two-day strike - the eighth this year - is aimed at forcing early elections. The Awami League accuses Khaleda Zia's government of being inefficient and corrupt and wants it to quit by Friday (Apr 30). The government says it intends to stay in office until 2006, when the next elections are due in the country. The strike has disrupted handling of cargo and deliveries at Chittagong port, officials said. The government arrested more than 7,000 opposition activists in the

run-up to the general strike. The High Court in Bangladesh has asked the authorities to reveal the details and identities of arrested opposition activists within three weeks. The court also asked the government to explain why most of the arrests should not be made unconstitutional.

BURUNDI

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated Apr 22, states: The remaining rebel movement fighting the government in Burundi has declared a unilateral ceasefire, raising hopes of an end to a decade of civil war. The National Liberation Forces (FNL) made the announcement following a meeting in Tanzania. The FNL said it would immediately cease hostilities and engage in military action only if its forces were attacked by the government. The government welcomed the move, though the FNL has not agreed to talks. Deep mistrust remains between the government and the rebels, and analysts say there is still a long way to go before any lasting peace deal can be struck. In the past, the FNL said it would only negotiate with the Tutsi leadership of the army who, it claims, hold the real power in Burundi. But the FNL has found itself increasingly isolated since the power-sharing agreement late last year between the government and the larger Hutu rebel group, the Forces for Defence of Democracy (FDD).

HAITI

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 27, states: Attackers set ablaze two police stations hours before Chilean troops began patrolling the city of Hinche during the first deployment of the U.S.-led multinational force in Haiti's rebel-held Central Plateau. U.S. Marines said they arrested five heavily armed men in fatigues in Port-au-Prince yesterday, and a rebel leader said they were on their way to the site of the attacks in Hinche. In other incidents, French troops in northern Gonaives seized two government vehicles from rebels and a street gang in Petit-Goave made a symbolic surrender of a half dozen weapons to police in the first disarmament exercise in the south. The events mark the expansion of the presence of the U.S.-led force in Haiti, and indicate the possible resistance that could confront the 3,600 troops as they move into areas controlled by former Haitian soldiers and street gangs. The U.S.-backed interim government announced yesterday that it was firing or transferring nearly 800 people who used to work for former President Aristide in the presidential palace. Only 125 of 620 security officers at the palace would be retained, and another 272 administrative employees would be fired, Cabinet director Michel Brunache said yesterday, giving no reasons for the dismissals and transfers that he called a "cleanup." Former palace security chief Oriel Jean, 39, was extradited from Canada to the United States last month on drug trafficking charges. Palace security officers also are accused of directing street gangs to attack Aristide's opponents. Last week the

government fired 150 mainly high-ranking police officials. Yesterday, the government continued its campaign for new police recruits. Thousands of job applicants formed a line more than two miles long. A similar drive was suspended last week after several people were injured and one applicant suffocated to death in a stampede by people eager for work. Less than half of Haiti's 5,000 police have returned to their posts since Aristide fled, posing challenges for a government that says it wants to reconcile Haiti's divided population of 8.2 million, but also insists that those who helped rid the country of Aristide — including former soldiers accused of human rights violations — deserve some recognition. That policy leaves peacekeepers in a difficult position. In Hinche, Chilean troops arrived yesterday after an agreement with former Army Master Sgt. Joseph Jean-Baptiste, who nine weeks ago seized the town 70 miles northeast of Port-au-Prince. Thirty Chilean soldiers began foot and vehicle patrols that will continue daily while they return to Port-au-Prince at nightfall, said spokesman Gonzalo Vega. Sunday (Apr 25) night, men believed to be under Jean-Baptiste's command set ablaze two police stations, said military sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

INDIA

Srinagar, Apr 23 — Suspected Muslim rebels attacked the office of India's main opposition Congress party in Kashmir today, setting off explosions and firing at security forces days before the troubled region votes in national polls. The violence followed calls by Muslim separatist groups to boycott the polls, which are being held in five rounds from Apr 20 to May 10. The attack began with two loud explosions and was followed by a heavy exchange of gunfire at the heavily guarded office in the heart of the city, witnesses and police said. Three soldiers, including an officer, were wounded in the shootout, a paramilitary officer said. Troops and police laid siege to the Congress office complex and were trying to evacuate workers, he said. It was not immediately known how many people were inside the building when it was attacked. The officer said he suspected the attackers might have entered the building, and troops planned to search it. Suspected rebels hurled a grenade at the Congress office earlier today but there were no reports of injuries, police said. — Reuters.

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Rebels opened fire on the homes of three top politicians in India's state of Manipur, police said today, describing the attack as an attempt to trigger panic ahead of elections next week. There were no casualties when the rebels sprayed the homes of three ministers in the revolt-hit northeastern state with automatic weapons fire late yesterday, police said. "The attacks were an attempt to create panic," a police official said. Some 19 rebel groups are battling in the far-flung state for demands ranging from secession to greater autonomy. At least three of them have called for a boycott of Monday's

(Apr 26) election, which is part of the third phase of India's five-stage general elections. One group has declared a general strike starting tomorrow at midnight. Police said they suspected the Revolutionary People's Front was behind the attacks on the homes of the ministers, who were all from India's opposition Congress Party in power in Manipur.

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A grenade attack on an election rally in Indian-administered Kashmir has killed three people and injured 59, the authorities say. The grenade was thrown at a rally being held in a village in Doda district, 160 kms north-east of Jammu. The rally was for National Conference party politician Khalid Najeeb Suharwardy, a candidate in India's general election, which ends on May 10. Also today, 17 people were hurt in Handwara, 90 kms north of Srinagar, when suspected separatist rebels attacked a police station. Nine more people were injured in a grenade attack on the car of a Marxist leader in Bonagam, 70 kms south of Srinagar. The grenade missed the car and the leader, Khalil Naik, was unhurt.

INDONESIA

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Clashes between Christians and Muslims in the city of Ambon, Indonesia have left at least 14 people dead and more than 100 injured, many with knife wounds, hospital and local officials say. Authorities have urged residents of the strife-torn province to stay off the streets and areas near the border between the religiously segregated town have been evacuated. Hundreds of extra troops and police have been rushed to the city in a bid to contain the violence. But fresh clashes erupted today between the rival groups with residents saying they could hear sporadic gunfire across the provincial capital. Mobs also torched several houses in one neighbourhood and parts of a Christian university, according to a Reuters news service report.

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated Apr 26, states: Mobs set fire to buildings at a Christian-run university today in Indonesia's Maluku islands, where at least 22 people have died in two days of clashes between Christians and Muslims, police and witnesses said. Police rushed reinforcements to the provincial capital Ambon to stem the fighting, the bloodiest outbreak of violence in the Malukus since a peace deal in 2002 ended two years of religious violence that killed 9,000 people. The unrest in 2002 attracted Muslim militants from all over Indonesia and South-east Asia. Many of them later joined the al-Qaida-linked terror group Jemaah Islamiyah, which was blamed for the 2002 Bali bombings. The new bloodshed in the region, known previously as the Moluccas or Spice Islands, comes as politicians campaign for presidential elections in July. Hospital officials in Ambon said a total of 22 people had been killed in two days of violence. Rivai Ambon, the director of the city's Al-Fatah hospital, said that 16

of the 81 people admitted to the hospital since Sunday have died. Six others died at the state-run Haulusi hospital and the private Bhakti Rahayu hospital. In Jakarta, national police chief Gen. Dai Bachtiar earlier told reporters that 18 people had been killed and 107 injured in fighting on Sunday and Monday. On Monday, gangs of Muslims and Christians fought in Ambon's Talake neighbourhood, witnesses said. Gunfire and several explosions were heard, and a mob torched buildings on the campus of a Christian-run university in the district. Muslim mobs burned several Christian homes in the city, said C.J. Bohm, a local Christian leader. Most of the homes were empty because their inhabitants had fled late Sunday. "I think it will get worse," said Bohm, who has advocated peace between the two communities. "They (the Christians) can't defend themselves and the security forces are very weak." Early Monday, about 200 police reinforcements arrived in the province, said national police spokesman Maj. Gen. Ahmad Basyir Barmawi. He declined to comment directly on witness accounts that security forces were responsible for at least eight of the people killed in Sunday's unrest, in which an office housing U.N. agencies and a church were torched. "If you have two groups of people who are fighting, hurling bombs at each other, then the police have to take action," he said. The unrest occurred after several members of the region's small largely Christian separatist movement rallied in Ambon.

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 27, states: A paramilitary policeman has been shot dead and another injured in the troubled eastern Indonesian city of Ambon. Hundreds of police and troops have been deployed in the area to quell an upsurge in sectarian violence. Witnesses say the policemen were shot by a sniper in the Batugantung-Waringin area, south of the city centre. The shooting brings the known death toll to 24 since violence between Muslim and Christian communities flared at the weekend. The latest violence is the most significant threat to a peace accord, that has held for more than two years, and was reached after earlier fighting killed 5,000 people in the Maluku province. It follows a banned parade by mainly Christian separatists of the Maluku Sovereignty Front to mark the 54th anniversary of the proclamation of a self-styled South Maluku Republic.

Ambon, Apr 28 — Tension gripped the city of Ambon today after a church and homes were torched overnight, as the death toll from four days of clashes between Muslims and Christians rose to 36. A Protestant church in the district of Karang Panjang was burned late yesterday but there were no reports of deaths in the attack, officials said. National police spokesman Bashir Barmawi said the death toll since the outbreak of fighting on Sunday (Apr 25) was 36, with 156 wounded. Sporadic gunfire was heard overnight, but there were no reports of fresh street clashes today in the local capital of the Moluccas islands. Although it was not clear who

set the church on fire, some officials said soldiers did little to stop it. The military in Ambon denied any wrongdoing. "There is a rumor that we did it (the arson attack) but that's not true. We were trying to protect it," said the military spokesman in Ambon, Major Paiman. Analysts have said police complacency was partly to blame for the recent unrest, which erupted after people tried to raise the banned flag of a little known and mostly Christian rebel group, the South Moluccas Republic Movement (RMS), on the anniversary of a failed independence bid 54 years ago. The event has long created tension in this corner of the world's most populous Muslim nation, where Muslims and Christians live in roughly equal numbers. Signs of normality have returned to Ambon, with some shops and markets open, but areas that border separate Muslim and Christian pockets were still deserted today. — Reuters.

IRAQ

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated Apr 22, states: Three more foreign hostages have been released by their captors in Iraq, following a spate of kidnappings in recent weeks. One of them was an Israeli Arab abducted two weeks ago and accused of spying for Israel. Switzerland says a married Swiss couple were freed in southern Iraq, after being held for 48 hours. The news comes amid reports that two major contractors have suspended most of their work in Iraq. About 50 foreigners have been abducted in Iraq in the last month. One Italian hostage was killed by his captors, and a Danish national was found dead a day after he was seized, but most of the others have been released unharmed. US company Research Triangle International was quoted by Reuters news agency as saying one of its employees - Nabil George Yaakob Razuq - had been released. RTI Vice President Sally Johnson said Mr Razuq, a Palestinian with an Israeli identity card, had been released earlier today and was "safe and sound". Mr Razuq, who was working for the North Carolina-based company on local governance work in Iraq, was taken hostage on Apr 8. Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey said the married couple, who work for a non-governmental organisation, were kidnapped on Tuesday (Apr 20) by a small band of people. Their release followed negotiations by Swiss diplomats in Baghdad, and both are thought to have resumed their work in Iraq. Siemens and GE are reported to have suspended most of their work in Iraq because of the continuing insurgency. The reports are being carried by US newspapers quoting officials of the US-led governing organisation in Iraq, the Coalition Provisional Authority. But Siemens and GE say they will not discuss projects or numbers of people on the ground for security reasons. Siemens, of Germany, and GE, the biggest company in the US, have big contracts in the Iraqi electricity and telecommunications sectors. Earlier today, a foreign civilian was shot and killed while doing his shopping in the Sunni Muslim district of Adhamiyah, in

Baghdad. Police said the victim was Spanish but Iraq's interim health minister said he was a South African security officer.

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Three boats exploded near an Iraqi oil platform and two oil tankers off the Persian Gulf coast this evening, a British military spokesman said, in what appeared to be co-ordinated suicide attacks. There was no immediate word on casualties or damage from the blasts, Capt. Hisham H. Halawi said. It was the first known maritime attack on Iraqi oil facilities since the March 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq. The first blast came when a coalition warship patrolling the Gulf spotted a small boat near an oil platform, Halawi said. The warship sent a team to the boat, but when the team boarded it, the boat exploded, he said. Halawi said he did not know if there were coalition casualties, or the nationality of the warship. The other boats exploded alongside two oil tankers near the Abbott oil facility, nine miles south of Iraq's main port, Umm Qasr, he said. Halawi said he did not immediately know whether the blasts were carried out by suicide attackers.

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Suicide boat bombings targeting the oil industry have forced the closure of Iraq's biggest terminal, losing the country nearly 1 million barrels a day in exports, the oil minister said today. US military officials were trying to determine the launching point of the unprecedented suicide boat attack on two offshore oil terminals that are the sole outlet of Iraqi crude from the south. The attacks killed two US Navy sailors. The Al-Basra Oil Terminal remains closed since yesterday evening's attacks and will open on Monday (Apr 26) at the soonest. The Al-Basra terminal was one of two terminals targeted in the attacks. The other, smaller terminal, Khawr al-Amaya, re-opened this morning. The Al-Basra terminal unloads up to 900,000 barrels a day of Iraq's total current exports of around 1.6 million barrels per day, he said. He would not say how much that production was worth. In the attack, three dhows, or small boats, drew close to two major oil terminals in Gulf waters about 100 miles from Umm Qasr and exploded when coalition craft tried to intercept them. A US Navy craft was flipped by the blast, killing the American sailors and injuring five others, the US military said.

Dubai, Apr 25 — Three speedboats, manned by suicide bombers, exploded near Basrah offshore oil terminal on Apr 24. The first blast came at 1510, UTC, when a Coalition warship patrolling the Gulf sighted a small boat in the vicinity of Khor Al Amaya Terminal, six degs north-east of Basrah Oil Terminal. The warship sent a team to the boat, but when they boarded it, the vessel exploded killing two US servicemen and wounding five others. The other two boats exploded at 1525 and 1535 UTC alongside two oil tankers awaiting loadturn at berths nos.1 and 2. Fortunately all crew and ships safe. At 1607 UTC, the BOT staff was evacuated and Coalition warship patrolling in the vicinity of BOT and armed guards

stationed on the terminal. Basrah Oil Terminal has suffered minor damage, however all loading operations have been suspended since Apr 24. — Lloyd's Agents.

Dubai, Apr 25 — At present there are two vessels moored alongside Basrah Oil Terminal and one vessel alongside Khor Al Amaya Terminal. All vessels are under protection of the coalition forces, as well as two vessels at BOT anchorage. Currently investigation is being carried out in order to assess the potential damages to the terminal, as well as evaluate the security aspect of the situation. The operation will resume only once the investigation is completed. — Lloyd's Agents.

Baghdad, Apr 26 — Iraq has resumed oil exports from the Basra terminal just a day after suicide attacks forced operations to halt, Oil Minister Mohammad Bahr al-Uloum said today. Suicide bombers in three boats blew themselves up on Saturday (Apr 24) in and around the Basra terminal zone. "Iraqi teams restored operations at 1700 GMT, yesterday. The damage was limited and exports are flowing back at the same rates," Uloum said. Living quarters, several electrical generators and minor installations were damaged. "Luckily there were no Iraqi casualties and the attackers did not manage to hit vital installations," Uloum told Reuters. One tanker berth was slightly damaged but oil officials said things could have been far worse if any of the attacking boats had detonated close to a tanker during loading. New security measures have been put in place to prevent similar attacks. Barricades and heavy U.S. Navy patrols already protect the terminal, which is in the British occupation zone. Shippers expected war insurance rates to rise sharply after the attack, but officials said that improved security would prove that the attack was a one-off. The Basra terminal, previously known as Mina al-Bakr after Saddam Hussein's Baathist predecessor as president, accounts for around 85 percent of Iraq's 1.9 million barrels per day of exports. A port official said today one vessel was loading at the Basra terminal and another would load later in the day. Two other vessels were also waiting at the terminal. An adjacent port, Khor al-Amaya, has been exporting a few hundred thousand barrels per day because capacity to pump oil from southern fields to the Gulf remains limited and international shippers question the terminal's safety. Khor al-Amaya closed as a precaution after the attacks but resumed operation yesterday. With technical problems plaguing the northern pipeline to Turkey, Iraq is almost completely dependent on the Basra terminal to provide revenue. — Reuters.

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people were killed and four others wounded after a powerful blast at chemical facilities in northern Baghdad blew up four US armoured Humvee jeeps, police and witnesses including an AFP photographer said. "A huge explosion occurred and four Humvees were set ablaze after US soldiers entered a chemical lab," said witness Salah al-Abed. Shortly after the

explosion in two chemical laboratories in the northern neighbourhood of Waziriyah, US troops were seen removing two bodies in body bags. Two civilians, including two children, were also wounded in a nearby house, according to the AFP photographer. Heavy black smoke could be seen rising from the area as a US helicopter hovered overhead. A nearby house partly collapsed, the AFP photographer said. Some witnesses said at least one of the labs manufactured perfume. Several witnesses said US soldiers entered one of the labs next to the damaged house and tried to force the door open, causing a spark which triggered the explosion. "The US soldiers went into a first lab. When they came out, they were carrying chemical products. They made a small fire in the yard, then put it out," Amr al-Tay, an Asharq al-Awsat daily journalist whose office is located nearby. They then went to a second lab nearby. When they forced the door with a tool, there was a spark and there was an explosion," he added.

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Fighting broke out today in a northern district of Fallujah, with the sound of mortar fire and heavy machine guns, a day after U.S. officials announced a fragile cease-fire in the besieged city was being extended. U.S. officials announced yesterday that the two-week-old cease-fire in the city — which has repeatedly been broken by gunbattles — would be extended for another two days. Marines planned to begin joint patrols with Iraqi security forces through the city later this week, a step aimed at reasserting control without a full-scale assault.

Najaf, Apr 27 — U.S. forces backed by aircraft killed dozens of Shi'ite militiamen in fierce overnight clashes near the Iraqi holy city of Najaf, residents and the U.S. military said today. "Forty-three anti-coalition forces were killed near Najaf and an anti-coalition anti-aircraft system was destroyed by an AC-130 gunship," a U.S. military spokeswoman said in Baghdad. She declined to give any more details about the incident near Najaf, where a wanted anti-U.S. Shi'ite cleric is holed up with his militia. Residents said U.S. war planes fired at a Mehdi Army militia checkpoint on the outskirts of the town of Kufa, some six miles northeast of Najaf, after fighting between U.S. troops and militiamen broke out in the area. Buildings used by the militiamen near the checkpoint were badly damaged and at least three vehicles were destroyed, witnesses said. Hospital sources said at least six militiamen and 22 other people were wounded in the clashes and the air strike. — Reuters.

Falluja, Apr 28 — U.S. air strikes and shelling wrecked 10 homes in the besieged Iraqi town of Falluja overnight and damaged many more, witnesses said today. Ambulances made it into the northern Golan district at daybreak, but the casualty toll was still unclear after what residents called the worst battle since a truce two weeks ago. As the bombardment shook the ground across the city of 300,000, the United Nations envoy for Iraq was warning of the

dangers of continued fighting and urged a settlement in Falluja: "Unless this standoff is brought to a resolution through peaceful means, there is great risk of a very bloody confrontation," Lakhdar Brahimi said at the United Nations. U.S. Marines encircling the Sunni city said the intense half-hour barrage on Falluja was mounted in self-defense. It came after a deadline expired for fighters to hand over heavy weapons and a day after a devastating attack on another group of fighters at a second flashpoint, the Shi'ite holy city of Najaf. Both attacks — the blitz near Najaf on Monday (Apr 26) night killed nearly 60 Shi'ite militiamen according to U.S. officials — come as the U.S. occupation authority is saying its patience is exhausted and that it will regain control of the two towns soon. Washington would like to have restored a more stable situation before handing back formal sovereignty to Iraqis on June 30. However, U.S. officials have made clear the U.S. military will retain wide powers after that date. Brahimi acknowledged troops were there to stay for some time but said an interim government could be chosen by the end of May and proposed a national conference in July of at least 1,000 people to elect a "consultative council" to advise ministers. In Falluja the local police chief said he would talk again with the Marines about launching joint patrols with them into town. U.S. officials, clearly aware that such a move could spark new guerrilla attacks on their troops, have said they will begin to begin joint patrols in the coming days. It is not clear when. Reports from local doctors of some 600 dead and the sight of thousands fleeing their homes since the U.S. operation began three weeks ago have angered many Iraqis. U.S. officers say they face about 2,000 fighters, including some foreign Islamic fighters, and are anxious to avoid civilian casualties that could alienate public opinion. A possibly even more delicate dilemma faces them in Najaf, to the south of Baghdad, where radical Shi'ite cleric, Moqtada al-Sadr, has taken refuge with thousands of his own militiamen. An aide to Sadr was quick to echo local accusations that many civilians died in Monday night's U.S. attack outside the city, the worst in a three-week stand-off. Qais al-Khazali said 19 members of the Mehdi Army militia were killed, mostly after being drawn into pursuit of U.S. forces across open ground. But many non-combatants also died. A Reuters correspondent in the town said there appeared to be fewer militiamen on the streets of Najaf and nearby Kufa than in previous weeks. U.S. troops have taken over a base from departing Spanish forces but have not gone into the streets of Najaf, Khazali said. Such a move could inflame Shi'ite opinion. — Reuters.

ISRAEL

Qalqilya, West Bank, Apr 23 — Israeli troops shot dead three wanted Palestinian militants today in what witnesses said was an ambush, but the army said the men had been killed after they ignored orders to stop and tried to flee. The three were from al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed group

linked to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, witnesses and the army said. A fourth man, the Brigades leader in the city, was wounded. Witnesses said the four men were ambushed in Qalqilya by Israeli commandos who drove up to them in an unmarked car and opened fire. Three died outright. An army spokesman said the militants, all on Israel's wanted list, were shot after they ignored orders to halt and tried to flee. — Reuters.

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Israeli troops have killed two Palestinian militants in the West Bank as security in the region is tightened in case of attacks on Israelis during Israel's Independence Day holiday. Palestinian witnesses say Israeli soldiers opened fire at a group of armed militants in Tulkarm refugee camp in the West Bank, killing two and seriously wounding a third person. The witnesses say the gunmen belong to the Hamas militant group. Israeli military sources say the soldiers identified two gunmen, approached them in the camp and shot both of them before they had a chance to fire back. Israel has boosted security around the country to prevent attacks by militant Palestinians during the Independence Day holiday. Yesterday, soldiers killed a 15-year-old Palestinian in the village of Beit Lahiya in the Gaza Strip when they opened fire on a group of stone-throwers, witnesses said. Military sources say troops used only rubber bullets and reported no casualties.

Gaza, Apr 28 — Israeli soldiers thwarted an attempted car bombing against the Jewish settlement of Kfar Darom in the Gaza Strip today, military sources said. Soldiers in a military vehicle gave chase after a Palestinian jeep disguised as an Israeli car and decorated with an Israeli flag approached the settlement, the sources said. Suspecting an attack, the soldiers opened fire at the vehicle and it exploded, they said. The blast wounded four soldiers, one seriously, a military source said. The militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack. It identified the bomber as Tareq Hmaid, 24, from central Gaza's Nusseirat refugee camp and said he was killed in the blast. The attack took place a day after tens of thousands of Israelis attended Independence Day celebrations at Gaza's Gush Katif settlement bloc to protest against Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plans to evacuate Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip. Sharon's right-wing Likud party will hold a referendum on Sunday (May 2) on his Gaza withdrawal plan, which is part of a broader scheme of unilateral separation from the Palestinians. — Reuters.

LIBERIA

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated Apr 21, states: Hundreds of fighters from the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (Model) have surrendered their arms to United Nations peacekeepers. Model deputy leader Boi Bleaju Boi led a group of 300 fighters who handed in their guns at their stronghold in Buchanan in the country's south-east. The UN expects 40,000 fighters to hand in their weapons

in return for about \$300 each and vocational training. Early this week, women from Buchanan staged a protest march at the capital Monrovia, where they accused Model rebels of widespread rape and intimidation. The UN has some 14,000 peacekeepers in Liberia but is yet to deploy in the south-east region.

NIGERIA

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated Apr 21, states: Armed youths in the remote Nigerian oil-producing state of Bayelsa have attacked an oil facility operated by Agip, an Italian-owned company. A police spokesman said five attackers were shot dead by security guards, and their boats and weapons confiscated. Agip was not available for comment, and local media said it had withdrawn foreign staff from the area. This is the second recent attempt at disrupting oil production in the area, where poverty and violence are endemic. Details are only now emerging of the attack, which took place over the weekend in remote mangrove swamps. Police spokesman Andrew Oberodudu confirmed reports that the youths had attacked Agip's Tebidada flow station. Agip had advance warning of the raid and deployed extra security forces in the area. It is still not clear what lay behind the attack. However, in the neglected Niger delta region, disgruntled youths who feel they have not benefited from Nigeria's vast oil wealth often kidnap expatriate oil workers or occupy rigs and flow stations in an attempt to extract money from oil companies. Last week, villagers from neighbouring Delta state blockaded an oil facility operated by the Anglo-Dutch company, Shell. The villagers claim that Shell had reneged on a promise to build them a road under its community development programme. The blockade, which stopped production, lasted four days until the army moved in and dispersed protestors. Brigadier Elisa Samani, who is in charge of military operations in the area, said villagers will meet Shell this week to try and resolve their differences.

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A speedboat full of gunmen fired on a boat carrying oil workers in Nigeria's violence-wracked delta region, killing two Americans, the army said today. Nigerian army spokesman Maj. Said Ahmed said the workers were killed yesterday evening in the Niger Delta, where the bulk of the country's oil is pumped. Ahmed did not identify the men or their employer, saying "details are still sketchy." However, US oil giant ChevronTexaco confirmed that two American contractors were missing along with four Nigerians, two navy soldiers and two boatmen, in what the firm said was an "unprovoked attack" at 1700, yesterday, on the Benin River, south of the oil city of Warri. The company had "no conclusive proof" yet the two missing Americans are dead, company spokesman Deji Haastrup said. A third American, a ChevronTexaco employee, was in stable condition in a hospital with gunshot wounds, Haastrup said.

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 20 people were

killed and dozens of others were injured today, following a clash between Christians and Muslims in Nigeria's central Plateau State, a witness said. The state assistant commissioner of police, Sotonye Wakama, confirmed four people were killed but said the figure could be higher. He said he was yet to get full details of the violence in Bakin Chiyawa town. Inuwa Mohammed, a resident in the town who said he witnessed the unrest, told journalists in Jos, the state capital, that he saw at least 20 dead bodies. "More than 20 people were killed. Corpses littered the area," he said. Many houses were burnt and property worth millions of naira were destroyed in the unrest, which forced many residents to flee to neighbouring Nassarawa state, said Mohammed. Security officials last week intercepted a lorry-load of arms in Shendam city, which shares a border with Bakin Chiyawa. The state has since the return of civilian rule in 1999 been the scene of ethnic and religious unrest in which hundreds of people were killed. Wase, a largely Muslim community in the state, has in recent years been locked in conflict with the Christian villagers of nearby Tarok and Langtang. About 20 people were killed last month in violence in the area.

London, Apr 28 — ChevronTexaco Monday (Apr 26) said it suspended plans to resume 140,00 b/d of Nigerian production, shut since mid-March last year, after a heavily armed gang attacked and killed seven workers on an oil industry boat in the Niger Delta last Friday. Two of the dead are United States citizens working for a contractor company to ChevronTexaco, while one Nigerian remains missing. The gang attacked a boat carrying out an inspection visit to the company's Dibi and Olero Creek Fields as part of plans to resume production at the facilities. A statement issued by Chevron in Lagos said that two missing bodies had been recovered. "The other victims were Nigerians, the boat captain and a crew member, both of whom worked for an oil service company, Wilbros Nigeria Limited," the statement said. The three others were naval security personnel.

PERU

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 27, states: Police have returned in force to the south-east Peruvian town of Ilave where native Indian protesters lynched the mayor and besieged the police station. A convoy of lorries moved into the main square of the Andean town near Lake Titicaca and 220 officers began restoring order, the government said. Police had pulled out yesterday after thousands of people attacked their station with petrol bombs. Impoverished local people have been protesting for weeks about corruption. Mayor Cirilo Fernando Robles Cayomamani was forcibly paraded through the city in front of thousands of people, many thought to be from outside the town, before being beaten and left to die. He had been seized along with at least three other officials after refusing to resign in the face of more than three weeks of protests which closed schools and two bridges

linking Peru to Bolivia, and severely disrupted economic activity. Television pictures from the town show a building and vehicle set ablaze yesterday. Interior Minister Fernando Rospigliosi said his officers were retaking control of Ilave on Tuesday but he warned it would be a "slow process". At the height of the unrest, there were thought to be about 10,000 protesters in Ilave, a town of some 16,000. They accused the mayor of embezzling state funds. They accused the mayor of embezzling state funds. Mr Rospigliosi said the situation could not be resolved by force given the sheer size of the protests. He warned that the protests could easily mushroom again. The Peruvian media report that there have been calls for the interior minister's resignation. "The lynching of Robles Cayomamani... was the chronicle of a death foretold," La Razon newspaper wrote today. It described "terrible conditions" suffered by locals in the region around Lake Titicaca and blamed the government for failing to take action to alleviate them. Among the factors it identified as contributing to the violence were: high altitudes, intense cold, alternate cycles of droughts and flooding and endemic poverty.

RUSSIA

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The fire on the Samara-Lisichansk oil main in the Volgograd region is under control. The blaze is prevented from spreading, the regional emergencies department told Itar-Tass. There are no reports about victims. The fire poses no threat for residential areas. The pipe gate valves were turned promptly to block the pipeline section. However, repair teams cannot begin to work there because of the fire. The flame is as high as 50 metres. The operational headquarters dealing with the pipe break consequences has a meeting now. Some specialists propose to let the oil burn out to prevent soil pollution, and others insist on extinguishing the blaze with a foam attack. Supposedly, the rupture was caused by an attempt of thieves to siphon oil from the pipeline, the regional police department said. A Niva car with Rostov region registration numbers was found several metres from the site. Federal Security Service investigators and police are working there. Eight teams of firemen and 35 specialists of the Privolzhskneftprom company operating the section have arrived at the site.

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated Apr 25, states: Ten Russian soldiers were reportedly killed and 20 others were wounded over the weekend in the war-ravaged Russian republic of Chechnya. The Associated Press quotes an unnamed official in the pro-Moscow Chechen administration as saying the troops were killed and wounded by Chechen fighters in separate attacks in various parts of Chechnya. The official also said that Russian forces detained at least 200 people on suspicion of having ties to Chechen guerrillas.

Moscow, Apr 27 — Chechen guerrillas have shot down a Russian attack helicopter in the southern mountains of

Chechnya, but the crew escaped, Russian and rebel news sources said today. Itar-Tass news agency quoted an army spokesman in Chechnya as saying the helicopter had been shot down near the village of Dyshne-Vedeno yesterday. A statement on the rebel website www.kavkaz.tv confirmed the account, saying: "As a result of firing from a heavy-calibre machine gun a Russian Mi-24 was shot down." The rebels said they had no information on the fate of the crew members, but Tass said they had been rescued. In recent weeks, human rights monitoring groups have reported that Russian helicopters and planes have bombarded the forested mountain slopes of the region. Some media have reported civilian deaths. — Reuters.

SAUDI ARABIA

Jeddah, Apr 22 — Saudi security forces killed two militants in heavy gunfire in Jeddah today. "Security personnel stormed a residential building in Jeddah where a group of terrorists were hiding," state television said. "Two of the terrorists were killed and one was wounded. Two were arrested." Witnesses reported gunfire in three separate areas of eastern Jeddah. In the Shola district, they said gunmen wounded a driver when they tried to hijack his car, before fleeing to a half-constructed building and opening fire on onlookers. It was not immediately clear if any of the gunmen killed or wounded on Thursday were on the kingdom's "most wanted" list. Meanwhile, the Islamist group, Al Haramain Brigades, claimed responsibility for yesterday's suicide bombing in the capital Riyadh, which killed at least five people and said it followed the path of Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda network against the Saudi authorities. "This bombing completely destroyed the targeted building and killed and injured dozens of soldiers and commanders of the criminal, apostate mechanism which is fighting God, his prophet and the faithful," it said in a statement published on two Islamist Web sites. — Reuters.)

SRI LANKA

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated Apr 26, states: At least seven Tamil Tiger rebels have been shot dead in eastern Sri Lanka, the rebel movement says. A Tiger statement said unidentified attackers had opened fire on a rebel camp near Batticaloa, some 220 kms east of Colombo. No group has said it carried out the attack. Earlier this month, the rebels defeated, but did not capture, a renegade commander in the area. Batticaloa is controlled by the army, but rebels control pockets around it. A Tiger statement said the seven men were gunned down overnight yesterday by men in a white van. The Tigers say the attack took place at a home for disabled fighters inside rebel territory. Four of those killed were disabled, and the other three were guards at a sentry post nearby. Although the identity of the assailants is unknown, the Sri Lankan army said they could be loyalists of the renegade commander, Colonel Karuna.

The political head of the Tigers, SP Thamilselvan, also blamed the killings on Colonel Karuna's men. The deputy chief of European ceasefire monitors in Sri Lanka, Hagrup Haukland, said that his officials were investigating the incident. The ceasefire monitors say the Tigers have refused to show them the bodies of those killed - a charge denied by the rebels. (See issue of Apr 19.)

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Police in central Sri Lanka have opened fire to try to break up rioting sparked by tension between local Tamil and Sinhalese communities. At least two people have been killed, the cause of their deaths is not clear. A curfew has been imposed in the area, the tea-growing region around the town of Kandapola, and the army has been rushing reinforcements there. Correspondents say the area has been largely unaffected by Sri Lanka's prolonged civil war. One report says the overnight rioting between the two communities in Kandapola was triggered by an argument over a traffic accident. Local Tamils "set fire to Sinhalese-owned shops and caused damage to police vehicles. Houses were also burned," senior police official Wimal Ariyaratna said. "Police tried to stop it without shooting, but we couldn't. Two bodies were found at the scene. We don't know how many are injured because they are afraid of police arrest if they come for treatment," Mr Ariyaratna said.

SUDAN

United Nations, Apr 22 — Arab militia and Sudanese government troops were responsible for the massacre of 136 African men in the Darfur region last month, Human Rights Watch charged today. The New York-based rights group said it had documented dozens of attacks by Arab militias, known as janjaweed, during a month of research in western Sudan. It said that all but two of the attacks against black Africans were carried out in conjunction with government forces. Human Rights Watch said the 136 men, all members of the Fur ethnic group aged between 20 and 60, were rounded up on Mar 5 in two sweeps in Darfur's Garsila and Mugjir areas. They were then taken in army trucks to nearby valleys where they were made to kneel before being killed with a bullet in the back of the neck, Human Rights Watch said. "Operations carried out by the janjaweed often enjoy air support from the government of Sudan, both aerial bombardment before operations and helicopter reconnaissance afterwards to ensure the area is empty," Human Rights Watch said. The United Nations estimates that close to one million people have been affected by the conflict, with some 750,000 forced out of their homes and tens of thousands having fled to Chad. The Khartoum government denies backing for the militia. Peace talks are due to start Saturday in the N'Djamena, Chad. — Reuters.

SYRIA

Damascus, Apr 27 — A series of loud explosions and heavy shooting shook Damascus late today, causing casualties

in a western area where foreign embassies are located, witnesses and media reports said. Syrian television said security forces were battling "terrorists". Ambulances and other emergency vehicles rushed to the scene and heavy security was in place throughout the city. Two trucks laden with riot police were stationed near the city's main square and by the state television building. A British Foreign Office spokeswoman in London said an explosion took place on a street close to the Iranian Ambassador's residence. There were no injuries to British embassy staff but staff are in the process of assessing the situation. There was no damage to the British Embassy. Israeli state-owned television said the British, Canadian and Saudi embassies were among the targets of grenade attacks and said there had been some casualties. Arab Al Arabiya television reported more than 15 blasts in an area housing diplomatic buildings belonging to Canada, Britain and Iran and a witness told the station the explosions were continuing. But one Damascus resident, living some kilometres from the embassy area, said he heard only one loud blast. — Reuters.

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 27, states: Terrorists firing automatic rifles and grenades fought police and attacked a UN building in a diplomatic quarter of Damascus, near the Canadian Embassy, today, a Syrian official said. One attacker was killed and other captured. One Syrian policeman was undergoing surgery after being injured in the clashes. A UN spokeswoman said a building, formerly occupied by the United Nations, may have been hit in the attack. Canadian and other foreign diplomats live and work in the area. In Ottawa, Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham said initial reports indicated there were no Canadian victims nor was there any damage at the Canadian Embassy. Syrian television, in a brief statement, said security forces chased the attackers and were in control of the situation. It gave no other details. Syria's official news agency SANA, quoting a security source, said "a terrorist band shot this evening indiscriminately in the Mazza area." Late into the evening, smoke was seen billowing from Mazza and ambulances and police cars rushed to the area, which had been sealed off by security forces. A witness at the scene said the UN building was extensively damaged by fire and the structure was blackened by smoke. Witnesses, who said the violence started about 1920 hrs and lasted 70 minutes, gave different reports that could not immediately be reconciled. One witness said four gunmen came out of a white van on the main Mazza Boulevard in front of the Canadian Embassy and started shooting indiscriminately. A police car on patrol in the area rushed to the scene and came under fire. The police shot back and police and plainclothes security forces reinforcements arrived, the witness said. Three gunmen were killed and a fourth was taken into custody, the witness reported. Five cars were gutted and there was a fire at the building where

the United Nations used to have offices. Police explosives experts were brought to the scene to examine the bodies of the dead gunmen to make sure they were not booby-trapped. Another witness said the attackers were riding in two cars. Two explosions were first heard and a heavy exchange of fire ensued. More than 15 explosions followed, said the witness. British and Iranian diplomatic officials said their embassies were not targeted in the attack.

THAILAND

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Armed assailants fatally shot an army officer today, just hours after unidentified attackers set fire to about 50 public buildings in the worst day of arson attacks in Thailand's Muslim-dominated south in recent months. Sgt. Sarathon Kadie, 45, died after a gunman on a motorcycle rode up and opened fire as the officer was washing his car Friday morning in the Rayang district of Pattani province, said police Capt. Vipat Suwanarat. The attack came just hours after unidentified attackers torched about 50 public buildings in almost simultaneous attacks late yesterday and killed two firefighters rushing to put out one of the blazes. The unrest signaled the worst day of arson attacks since Jan 4, when assailants burned 21 schools in Narathiwat province and raided an army camp, stealing hundreds of weapons and killing four soldiers. Since then, more than 70 people, mostly police and local officials, have been killed in drive-by shootings and other attacks that the government has blamed on alleged Islamic insurgents. Yesterday's fires broke out in all 13 districts of Narathiwat, with the attackers targeting at least 11 schools, 24 phone booths, government offices, living accommodations for railway officials, a highway rest area and some Buddhist monasteries, police said earlier.

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Seventy people were killed when suspected Islamic militants clashed with police in Thailand today, in the worst day of violence in the troubled Muslim-dominated south. Militants launched simultaneous attacks on police bases and checkpoints in several districts of Thailand's Yala and Pattani provinces, said Yala Governor, Boonyasit Suwanarat. He told reporters that most of the dead were youths attempting to steal weapons from police and army bases, who were repelled and shot by security forces. It was the bloodiest day in the south where almost daily attacks by gunmen have left nearly 150 people dead this year. The Thai government has blamed Islamic separatists seeking to carve a homeland in the Muslim-majority south of the predominantly Buddhist country. Most of the casualties appear to have occurred in Yala. Clashes reportedly took place in at least five places, leaving at least 15 insurgents, three policemen and one soldier dead. The fighting was continuing more than three hours after the first clashes started at 0500, local time. One gunbattle was raging around a mosque in the Kruesei district of Pattani. (See issue of Apr 26.)

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Renewed violence that erupted at dawn today in Thailand's troubled south has left more than 100 people dead in a series of shootouts in Yala, Pattani and Songkhla provinces. Two policemen were killed and another nine wounded while at least 74 assailants were killed and another five were arrested, according to Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Later reports from the police commander in the south raised the death toll to more than 100.

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: One hundred and seven southern militants, most of them teenagers, died yesterday in a series of battles with troops and police in Yala, Pattani and Songkhla provinces. There were five deaths on the government side. Gen Panlop Pinmanee, deputy director of the Internal Security Operations Command (Isoc), was ordered to leave the South immediately, after troops stormed Krue Se Mosque, killing 32 young militants who had taken refuge there. Gen Panlop was accused of disobeying orders not to attack the mosque. The clashes in the three provinces started around 0400 hrs, when hundreds of militants in small groups, armed with guns, knives and machetes, attacked government forces at seven points. They targeted police and military bases, in Yala's Krong Penang sub-district and Bannang Sata and Than To districts, two police checkpoints in Pattani's Muang and Nong Chik districts, a police station in Mae Laen district and a police service centre in Songkhla's Saba Yoi district. Combat-ready government forces fought back and within hours more than 70 insurgents were gunned down, most of them in the Yala battles. In Yala, witnesses said the militants, most aged 15-20 and wearing black long-sleeve shirts and camouflage pants, arrived at the police and army bases by cars, pick-up trucks and motorcycles, with guns and knives in their hands. The bloodshed ended about 1400 hrs, when security forces fired teargas and rocket-propelled grenades and stormed into Krue Se Mosque, in Pattani's Muang district. Army chief Gen Chaisit Shinawatra said the situation was under control. A total 107 rebels were killed, six wounded and 17 arrested. Security forces lost three soldiers and two policemen and 15 were injured, Gen Chaisit said. Weapons seized from the clashes included four M-16 rifles, two carbines, an M-79 grenade launcher, four pistols, four hand grenades and a large number of machetes and knives. Gen Chaisit said the youngsters went on blood-crazed suicide operations because they were addicts high on drugs. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said he understood the militants had links with the group involved in the Jan 4 raid on an army unit in Narathiwat, when more than 400 guns were stolen, because they dressed the same way and used the same tactics. The prime minister said several motorcycles and pick-ups used by the rebels were brand new, showing there was a lot of money supporting the operation.

Labour Disputes



BANGLADESH

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

CANADA

London, Apr 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The strike by B.C.'s tug and barge operators is now affecting rail transport across the country, as Canadian National Railways has imposed an embargo on all container traffic heading into Deltaport at Roberts Bank.

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated Apr 22, states: A strike by 800 tug and barge operators is squeezing the economic life out of British Columbia and soon will have a throttle-hold on all of Western Canada, say B.C. business leaders. The appointed mediator said today talks had reached an impasse and that both sides have until tomorrow afternoon to offer their response to his recommendations. The federal Labour Minister believes the parties can reach a negotiated settlement, said department spokesman Denis D'Amour. Business leaders have demanded the federal government take legislative action to end the strike, which began last Friday (Apr 16). Dave Park, of the Vancouver Board of Trade, said at a news conference earlier today the strike is costing the B.C. economy about \$85-million each day and the spinoff effects are about three times that. Coal, grain and potash from the Prairies are also being tied up. A federal mediator presented his proposed solutions to the dispute today but it was unclear when and if those would be made public. The dispute has been under a news blackout, meaning neither side is commenting publicly. If there is no resolution by the end of tomorrow, the business group said it wants the federal government to impose back-to-work legislation. Brian Zak, of the Coastal Forest and Lumber Association, said over 70 per cent of his industry's product gets to export markets by marine carrier. If the tug and barge operators aren't back on their jobs in 10 days, it could mean up to 25,000 coastal forestry workers out of a total of 34,000 could be out of work. A spokeswoman for the Vancouver Port Authority said business has all but stopped and some customers might never return, taking jobs with them. Anne McMullin, a spokeswoman for the authority, said 80 per cent of coal traffic and two-thirds of the port's container shipments have been shut down because of the strike. Vancouver is losing business to ports in Seattle, Tacoma and Portland. Ms. McMullin said: "We've lost about one container ship per day and that's about 4,000 containers on a ship. Each container contributes about \$1,200 to the economy. We're looking at about \$4-million a day just in container ships." The first cruise ship of the year came into Vancouver this

morning without incident because the ships can pilot themselves into port. But Ms. McMullin said the strike could affect the lucrative Alaska cruise ship run starting in 10 days because tugs and barges are used for refuelling and ferrying supplies to the ships.

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Shipping activities on the west coast are set to return to normal following an agreement to end the week-long strike by tug and barge workers. The Council of Marine Carriers, which represents the employers, issued a statement this afternoon stating they had “reluctantly accepted” the federal mediator’s contract proposals. “We accepted it because we recognized the strike is not doing either ourselves or the B.C. economy or industry or the people of B.C. any good,” says council president Phillip Nelson. “And we would like to get our vessels back to work and carry on with business.”

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated today, states: About 20,000 public servants have been on strike in Newfoundland and Labrador since April 1. This week, Conservative Premier Danny Williams began the process of legislating the health, education and government employees back to work. The province has said it will table the back-to-work legislation tomorrow. The last walkout by Newfoundland public servants in 2001 ended after less than a week, when a massive snowstorm shut down the province, prompting the government to quickly come up with a 15 per cent salary increase to end the dispute.

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated Apr 25, states: Tug pilots and barge workers headed back to work yesterday to begin clearing thousands of containers piled up on shipping docks during the last week. A deal was reached between the Council of Marine Carriers and the Canadian Merchant Service Guild representing 800 striking tug and barge workers. The eight-day strike froze shipping and freight transport along B.C.’s coast, and is said to have cost the Port of Vancouver over \$100 million. About 80% of coal traffic and two-thirds of the port’s container shipments were shut down at times. With tugs responsible for berthing container ships out of service, containers began piling up at the coast’s major terminals, and overloading already backlogged rail intermodal yards as well. By late last week, Canadian Pacific Rail had 39,000 feet of rail cars piled at its terminal, with thousands more cars arriving. Incoming vessels were diverted to the Ports of Seattle, Tacoma and Portland, where some of the cargo was picked up and trucked back to Canada. Most of it, however, was being held until this weekend, in the hopes a settlement in the strike could be reached. Bob Simpson, president of major container hauler Team Transport Services of Richmond, B.C., told Today’s Trucking on Thursday. The tugs are also responsible for clearing fresh logs from the ocean, tow loads of wood chips to pulp mills, and move coal. If continued, the strike threatened a chain reaction that would

have cripple the forestry industry. The deal was reached Friday night, just after federal mediator Bill Lewis’ final recommendations to both parties. The agreement calls for annual wage hikes of 3% over each of the three years of the contract as well as benefits equivalent to a 5.5% wage increase, totalling 14.5%. The Guild was originally seeking a package of wage increases and health benefits totalling about 16 per cent over three years, while the Council of Marine Carriers was offering about 13.75 per cent.

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 27, states: Striking Newfoundland civil servants are to return to work tomorrow, pre-empting the provincial government’s planned back-to-work legislation. Union leaders said they hoped negotiations could continue with 20,000 government workers back on the job following a 27-day strike. The unions, NAPE and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, had earlier made a last-minute offer to try and restart negotiations. However, that failed to derail the back-to-work bill. Williams said contract talks could continue while the bill made its way into law. Just over 20,000 school custodians, teachers’s aides and other government workers have been off the job since Apr 1, but it is in the province’s already-strained medical system that the strike has been felt the most. In the capital region of St. John’s, which services most of the province’s critical health needs, more than 2,000 adult surgeries have been postponed. More than 8,000 specialist appointments have been cancelled, some of them after months on wait lists. And it could take months to clear up the further backlog of 360 MRI tests that have not been done while laboratory technicians and licenced practical nurses walked picket lines. Union members will return to work but will not put in the volunteer hours or extra work they did previously, said labour leaders.

CHILE

Valparaiso, Apr 22 — Chilean Government Transport representative, Mr. Guillermo Diaz, had a meeting with dockworkers leaders in order to sign an agreement with benefits for the workers at Arica port. This agreement ended the dockworkers strike. — Lloyd’s Sub-agents.

CREW OF INDIAN VESSEL AT KOLKATA, INDIA

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of passengers on passenger *Nicobar* (14195 gt, built 1991) travelling from Kolkata to the Andaman and Nicobar islands were stranded after a section of its crew called a wildcat strike asking for their dues to be settled. The vessel was to sail for Port Blair Friday night (Apr 23), but the vessel’s contract catering crew revolted and stalled its journey. The contract seamen, whose agreement with the directorate of shipping services of Andaman and Nicobar islands expired Apr 21, claimed their dues had not been settled. The vessel’s captain Manoj Kumar and his officers were manhandled by the 24 striking sailors. The belligerent crew

members forced Kumar to announce the vessel would not sail. “The ship stays right here until the dues are settled,” said Sadhan Kanjilal, secretary of the workers’ union that the striking crewmen are affiliated to. “The crew members have not been paid their salaries and other dues in gross violation of workers’ rights,” he said. The vessel is docked in Khidderpore harbour with 752 passengers, most of whom have stayed put in the hope that the situation would be resolved soon. At least four foreign tourists, however, lost their patience and left the vessel to travel by air to the Bay of Bengal. *Nicobar*’s 55 non-officer crew members were learnt to be supporting the strike by the contract catering workers. The vessel is carrying 300 tonnes of perishables. A round of discussions yesterday between the striking workers and Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) officials failed. The SCI was considering waiting till tomorrow evening for the situation to be resolved after which the passengers could be refunded their tickets. It would be difficult for *Nicobar* to set sail anytime this week because of low tide. The strike means hundreds of passengers booked on the vessel’s return trip from Port Blair would also be stranded. (Note — *Nicobar* arrived Kolkata Apr 19.)

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: After three days of being docked by Citu-led protests over a dues dispute, and after 756 passengers have disembarked, the Port Blair-bound passenger vessel *Nicobar* was finally nudged out of troubled waters by chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee’s office yesterday. If Sunday’s (Apr 25) deadlock had left the crew with a sinking feeling, yesterday found Captain Manoj Kumar gearing up to welcome his passengers back on board. “The vessel will finally set sail for Port Blair once the water level touches 6.5 metres,” revealed Kumar. The port authorities have tentatively fixed Apr 29/30 for the vessel’s departure, earlier scheduled for Apr 23. Under mounting pressure from the shipping agencies, S.A. Ahmed, special secretary to the chief minister, had called an emergency meeting at Writers’ Buildings yesterday. Representatives from the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), along with the master of *Nicobar* and Sadhan Kanjilal, general secretary of the agitating Citu-backed Forward Seamen’s Union of India, met Ahmed and other officials around 1100 yesterday. Kanjilal, on behalf of the 24 agitating staff members, agreed in principle to accept a proposal to extend their contract by another month. “We have decided to accept the government’s advice and go in for negotiations during this 30-day period. The vessel can now sail to Port Blair with the 24 seamen on board,” said Kanjilal.

ITALY

Milan, Apr 26 — The impact of a labour dispute at a Fiat car parts plant in southern Italy spread today, with an Alfa Romeo car factory suspending production as police clashed with striking workers. The Alfa Romeo plant

in Pomigliano, near Naples, joined the halt in production lines in Turin and Termine Imerese and a small vehicles plant at Val di Sangro as a result of the 10-day dispute at the Melfi plant, a Fiat spokesman said. Workers from one union at Melfi, in the Basilicata region, are demanding better pay and shift patterns and their blockade of roads around the factory has prevented parts from getting to other plants in Italy where most of Fiat's cars are made. Fiat on Friday (Apr 23) estimated the disruption had led to lost production of 12,000 vehicles and said the dispute was having a severe impact on the group as it attempted to tackle falling sales and losses at its core car division. Fiat shares were down 1.3 percent at 6.08 euros. Police attempting to clear a picket line at Melfi led a truncheon charge on protestors blocking the factory today and at least nine people were hurt in the clash, union and police representatives said. "People were injured. One of our employees and a police agent were hurt by stones thrown by the demonstrators and they were taken to hospital," a police official said. Union representative Lello Raffo said seven demonstrators were hurt and were taken to hospital in an ambulance including one who was in "serious condition." He said more than 1,000 protestors were gathered outside the plant while the police official said there were "certainly more than 100" and authorities were sending reinforcements in a bid to allow employees who wanted to work to enter the plant. One busload of workers broke through the picket line during the police charge today, Raffo said. The FIOM-CGIL metalworkers union, which is involved in the dispute with Fiat, called today for a four-hour nationwide strike on Wednesday (Apr 28). Three other unions representing car workers at Melfi signed a preliminary agreement with Fiat on Friday ahead of more detailed talks in May on shifts at the plant. — Reuters.

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 27, states: Italian union bosses have called on workers to end a strike at a major Fiat factory which has brought the carmaker's output to a near standstill. Savino Pezzotta, head of Italy's CISL union, said blockages at Fiat's Melfi plant "must be removed". Analysts believe the strike, now in its ninth day, could threaten attempts by Fiat to recover from recent losses. Workers at the factory, in the south of Italy, say their wages are lower and hours longer than at other Fiat plants.

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Italy's national airline Alitalia said today it had cancelled all flights until 1700, local time, 0200, AEST, Apr 30, after labour unions called for a strike to demand government support for the ailing company. The strike was called by almost all the unions yesterday, ignoring a law compelling them to give 10 days' strike-notice to the government.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Apr 27 — Pakistan Flour Mills Association claimed that wheat grinding operations were suspended by 50 mills in the Karachi City for the last

two days in response to their strike called in protest against the Sindh Food Department's move to suspend licence of eight flour mills on the charge of over-charging. The millers are also angry at the Sindh government which, they say, was not allowing them to purchase wheat directly from farmers in the interior of the province. They accuse the government of creating hurdles in transporting wheat to Karachi. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Apr 29 — Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) said yesterday that the strike has been called off following the resolving of issues as well as getting an assurance from the Sindh government that matters pertaining to removal of the restriction on wheat movement between provinces would be taken up with the federal government tomorrow. According to Haji Muneer Ahmad Memon Chairman of Pakistan Flour Mills Association, Sindh, flour mill owners called off their strike late Wednesday (Apr 28) after getting an assurance by Sindh Food Minister Arif Jatoi that he would insist on the removal of the restriction on wheat movement in Sindh and Punjab at the provincial food ministers' meeting scheduled for Friday (Apr 30) in Islamabad. The mills owners' decision came at a meeting held in the office of the chief secretary of Sindh yesterday. The mills owners in Karachi had been on strike since Monday in protest against the closure of seven mills and the restriction on inter-district wheat movement. Haji Muneer Memon said that the suspension notice, issued to the seven mills, had been withdrawn. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated Apr 22, states: Staff at all the vehicle licensing offices in Northern Ireland are going on strike indefinitely from next week. The action will also affect rate collection offices in parts of the province, as part of an ongoing dispute over pay by the civil servant's union, NIPSA. This week more than 200 staff took strike action. Some Child Support Agency staff, Coleraine Social Security Office, the Labour Relations Agency and a section of the Department for Employment and Learning have been affected. From Monday (Apr 26), the industrial action will affect anyone applying for road tax. Next Wednesday (Apr 28), union members in Rate Collection Offices at Craigavon, Londonderry and Belfast will also go on strike. NIPSA is also planning a lunchtime march and rally in Belfast tomorrow. The organisation's general secretary, John Corey, said ministers and senior civil service management were to blame for the disruption of services. "Staff are extremely angry at the high handed way they have been treated and are determined to continue with this industrial action until we get a fair resolution of this dispute." Earlier this month, three vehicle test centres were forced to close because of strike action by civil servants. More than 3,000 vehicle tests and 300 driving tests were cancelled at the centres at Boucher Road in Belfast, Mallusk and Craigavon in the run up to Easter. NIPSA has been

involved in strike action since December over what they said was the government's refusal to give civil service staff any cost of living increases in rates of pay since last April. The government has imposed a pay package which will add 3.67% to the wage bill of the Northern Ireland Civil Service. However, union officials say that was part of a pre-agreed increment and takes no account of the rise in the cost of living.

VENEZUELA

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 27, states: Siderurgica del Orinoco, Venezuela's biggest steelmaker, said a strike over disputed bonuses is costing it \$3 million a day in losses, hurting efforts to boost output and turn a profit. Sidor's operations have been paralysed since Thursday (Apr 22) when its Sutiss union called the strike, a Sidor spokesman said. Union members have blockaded the company's gates, and the country's National Guard has been called into protect the company's installations, he said. "This strike is a large part politically motivated," Robert Bottome, head of the Caracas-based research firm Veneconomy, said, noting that the head of the Sutiss union, Ramon Machuca, is also running for governor in the state of Bolivar, where Sidor is located. Sidor, which has undergone three debt restructurings in seven years, has asked the Labour Ministry to declare the strike illegal, the spokesman said. The company has filed a court injunction, asking that workers be ordered back to their jobs. No talks are planned with Sutiss, the spokesman said. The strike has idled about 6,000 workers, he said, noting that the union has intimidated employees who reported to work. The strike centers on disputed bonuses the union claims Sidor has never paid. The company said it has paid all bonuses.

Awards & Settlements



ANTI-TRUST SUIT, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated Apr 22, states: Weyerhaeuser announced today that it would settle a lawsuit filed in Portland, Oregon, by Coast Mountain Hardwoods, a former competitor in the alder wood market. Although it admitted no liability, Weyerhaeuser agreed to pay the former owners \$14 million. The British Columbian mill, now owned by Weyerhaeuser, had accused the company of fraud and monopolistic business practices. The plaintiffs sought \$420 million in damages. A trial was scheduled to begin on Jun 1 in US District Court. This is the second alder-related lawsuit settled by Weyerhaeuser this year. On Mar 9, the company agreed to pay a Pacific Northwest alder mill \$34.5 million. Weyerhaeuser is a defendant in a third alder anti-trust case scheduled to go to trial on May 11. A fourth case relating to Weyerhaeuser and the alder market was decided in

federal court in April, 2003. A Portland jury ruled that Weyerhaeuser violated anti-trust laws and awarded the plaintiffs \$26 million. The award was tripled under federal anti-trust laws, resulting in a \$78 million judgment. Weyerhaeuser has filed an appeal to overturn the verdict.

BUSINESS MISCONDUCT, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated Apr 28, states: Enron Corp. has agreed to pay \$35 million in a settlement with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission over allegations it sought to illegally manipulate natural gas prices in its trading practices. But the penalty announced today will go to the back of the line behind thousands of the bankrupt company's other creditors, meaning the agency won't be paid. If U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Arthur Gonzalez approves the proposed settlement as expected, Enron will join more than a dozen energy companies and their partners or subsidiaries that have settled CFTC allegations of false price reporting, attempted manipulation or both. "We are pleased to be putting this litigation behind us as part of our ongoing effort to move forward with Enron's bankruptcy proceedings," Enron spokeswoman Karen Denne said. Gregory Mocek, director of the CFTC's enforcement division, declined comment on the proposed deal. The CFTC's pursuit of Enron began when the agency filed a civil complaint in March last year accusing the company and a former vice president, Hunter Shively, of operating the Enron Online Internet trading platform as "an illegal futures exchange" and cited alleged attempts to manipulate the natural gas market. The CFTC also alleged Enron tried to offer an illegal agricultural futures contract involving a lumber deal.

DEATH DUE TO TAKING WEIGHT-LOSS PILLS, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 27, states: Wyeth, which has set aside \$16.6 billion to resolve suits over damages caused by fen-phen diet combinations, must pay \$1.013 billion to the family of a Texas woman who died from a lung disease after taking weight-loss pills the company makes, a jury ruled. Jurors in state court in Beaumont, Texas deliberated six days before finding Wyeth was responsible for Cynthia Cappel-Coffey's death from primary pulmonary hypertension, a lung-destroying disease linked to fen-phen use. Jurors awarded the woman's family \$113 million in compensatory damages and \$900 million in punitive damages. The family asked for \$1.1 billion in total damages. "This sets such a dangerous precedent for Wyeth," said Robert Zito, a New York-based corporate litigator who defends large companies in fraud and other complex suits. "This verdict tells them loud and clear that they can't take any more of these cases to trial." The verdict is the first in a lung-disease suit since fen-phen cases started going to juries in 1999 and the seventh loss for Wyeth overall in such trials. The jury verdict is reported to be the third largest

this year. It's the largest in U.S. history in a lawsuit involving a drug or medical device. However, verdicts with large punitive damage elements are often appealed by companies and successfully reduced. Wyeth, maker of Advil pain medicine and Chap Stick lip balm, hasn't ruled out future additions to its \$16.6 billion fen-phen reserve. Some analysts say the company may need another \$6.5 billion to resolve the remaining diet-drug suits. Officials of Madison, New Jersey-based Wyeth said they plan to appeal the verdict, saying in a statement that there is "no basis" for the award. "While we sympathize with the Coffey family's loss, the verdict was contrary to the evidence presented, and the judgment far exceeds Texas's cap on punitive damages," Bill Sims, a lawyer for the drugmaker, said in the statement. Under Texas law, punitive damages are limited to twice an actual-damage award unless a company is shown to have engaged in extensive wrongdoing, such as destruction of evidence. That formula would reduce the punitive award to \$200 million. The largest punitive award approved by Texas courts was six times economic damages, Zito said. The U.S. Supreme Court has said punitive awards of ten or more times actual damages will be subject to its review and may be reduced. The Wyeth punitives are nine times actual damages. Lawyers for the Cappel-Coffey family had argued that Wyeth had hidden the health risks of the fen-phen combination involving its product and misled U.S. regulators about the number of fatal lung-disease cases linked to the diet aid. Forty-one-year-old Cappel-Coffey was an X-Ray technician in a medical office. She took Wyeth's Pondimin diet drug for 100 days over the course of two years. She died in January 2003 after being diagnosed with a lung disease. Wyeth officials said their attempts to settle the family's suit were rebuffed.

DRUG-SWITCHING, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 26, states: Medco has agreed to pay \$29.3 million to settle a case that accused the giant pharmacy benefits manager, PBM, of violating 20 states' consumer protection laws with its "drug-switching" practices. Medco, a Merck spinoff, was accused of improperly hiking prices, switching prescriptions to favour certain drugs, including Merck's, and engaging in other practices aimed at boosting its profits. It will pay the states \$6.6 million to pay for the cost of the investigation and an average of \$1 million apiece in cash or prescription drugs for low-income, elderly or disabled consumers. Medco, which contracts with health plans to process prescription drug payments to pharmacies and manages many states' benefits, also agreed to make certain disclosures. It will, for instance, reveal any financial incentives it gets from drugmakers. Medco neither admitted nor denied wrongdoing in making the settlement. The states charges that Medco encouraged doctors to switch patients to different prescription drugs by implying that the switch would benefit patients and their

plans when in fact, the switch only benefited Medco. In addition, doctors and their patients were never told that drug switching would increase rebate payments from drug manufacturers to Medco and that some switches would result in increased costs in follow-up doctor visits and tests. "Medco is one of the largest providers of pharmacy benefit management services in Oregon and nationwide and any changes that it makes for the good in its operations are expected to significantly reform the entire industry," Oregon Attorney General Hardy Myers said. The settlement prohibits Medco from soliciting drug switches when: The net drug cost of the proposed drug exceeds the cost of the prescribed drug; The prescribed drug has a generic equivalent and the proposed drug does not; The switch is made to avoid competition from generic drugs; or It is made more often than once in two years within a therapeutic class of drugs for any patient. The settlement requires Medco to: Disclose to doctors and patients the minimum or actual cost savings for health plans and the difference in co-payments made by patients; Disclose to doctors and patients Medco's financial incentives for certain drug switches; Disclose to doctors material differences in side effects between prescribed drugs and proposed drugs; Reimburse patients for out-of-pocket costs for drug switch-related health care costs and notify patients and doctors that such reimbursement is available; Obtain express, verifiable authorization from the doctor for all drug switches; Inform patients that they may decline the drug switch and receive the initially prescribed drug; Monitor the effects of drug switches on the health of patients; and Adopt a certain code of ethics and professional standards. The settlement provides for a \$2.5 million fund to reimburse consumers whose statin (cholesterol lowering) drugs were switched by Medco. Consumers will be eligible to receive up to \$25 each to cover statin switch-related medical costs. Lead states in the case were Massachusetts, Maine and Pennsylvania.

FRAUD, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated Apr 22, states: Bank of America Corp's Fleet Financial unit must pay \$5.14 million for withholding information about chemical contamination on property a family was buying, a Rhode Island jury said last week. Stephen, Tamara and Dana Foote said Fleet did not tell them about environmental damage caused by an electronics plant near land in Spofford, New Hampshire, they were buying through an auction. The Footes claimed benzene, arsenic and other chemicals left most of their water supply unusable, their attorney said. "They've lived off paper plates for the last five-and-a-half years," attorney R. Bradford Fawley said. "They can't even bathe their daughter in the home." The Footes sued Boston-based Fleet Financial Group and its New Hampshire industrial investment unit in 1999, claiming intentional fraud. The jury in Providence, Rhode Island, awarded

\$5.14 million in damages last week. Bank of America completed its purchase of Fleet's parent, FleetBoston Financial Corp on Apr 1. The Footes claimed at trial that Fleet dropped the price of the property by about \$80,000 after receiving the environmental report, which they never disclosed to the buyers. The Footes didn't know the property was contaminated until reading a newspaper article in 1999 that referred to the environmental report, Fawley said. The Footes bought the property for \$45,000 in 1995, Fawley said. The bank owes an additional \$5 million in interest on the judgment, he said.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated Apr 20, states: A Louisville hospital and a doctor have been ordered to pay \$27.5 million to the family of a six-year-old Indiana boy for injuries he suffered during delivery. A Jefferson County jury issued the judgment Friday (Apr 16) against Baptist Hospital East and Dr. Maria Schweichler. The jury ordered the doctor to pay \$5.4 million to the family of Spencer Sapp and the hospital to pay the rest. Hospital attorney Kennedy Simpson issued a statement saying the jury ignored "overwhelming evidence ... the hospital did not do anything wrong." Doug and Judy Sapp of Jeffersonville, Ind., sued four years ago, alleging that their son's permanent brain damage and need for constant care were the result of avoidable complications caused by medical malpractice during his delivery. "Unfortunately, it went against us," hospital spokeswoman Kit Fullenlove said yesterday. It was unclear yesterday evening whether the verdict would be appealed.

POLICE MISCONDUCT, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 27, states: A jury has awarded \$4.5 million to a motorist who repeatedly was stopped by California Highway Patrol officers after he filed a complaint against one of them. The jury ruled in favour of Steve Grassilli on Monday in his case against the CHP and officers Richard Barr and Michael Toth. Grassilli, 44, had filed a complaint in 1997, saying a friend had told him he was hired to illegally remove a catalytic converter from Barr's pickup truck to increase its power. He said officers soon began ticketing him and a supplier who worked with him in his water-tank installation business. He said the supplier stopped working with him, ruining his business. Two other officers testified that they felt pressure from CHP officials to lie under oath to support Barr. Barr remains on active duty. Toth has retired. They refused to comment. The CHP said it will appeal.

ROAD ACCIDENT, CANADA

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A Port Coquitlam family was awarded Can \$12.4 million in damages yesterday by a Washington state jury eight years after a tire on their minivan exploded, sending the van rolling and injuring the seven family members inside. But it's not the tyre

company that's been ordered to pay the damages. It's the father, who was driving at the time on busy Interstate 5 near Chehalis, Wash. And the father was insured by the Insurance Corporation of B.C., which said late yesterday the \$12.4-million judgment is likely the biggest in its history. "There aren't a lot of cases of that magnitude," said ICBC spokesman Doug McClelland. A jury sat through an eight-week trial in Washington State Superior Court against Michelin and Petru Tepei, the Port Coquitlam father of six, former truck driver and former mechanic. Late yesterday, they determined the tyre company was not at fault for the accident on Oct 27, 1996, but Tepei was "negligent in failing to maintain the tyre in proper working order." Despite the massive judgment against the Romanian immigrant, the family's lawyer, Greg Samuels said "there has been no love lost between the Tepeis. "They feel terrific." However, the Tepei family will not be seeing the entire \$12.4 million because Petru Tepei's ICBC policy does not cover him for that amount. ICBC must pay out the amount of the policy, plus "underinsured coverage" of up to \$1 million for every person in the vehicle. When everything is tallied, Samuels said the family will receive about \$6.2 million from ICBC. The family was in court for the judgment, and Samuels said they were "excited and disappointed. The blown-out tyre resulted in extensive injuries to the five children and two parents in the van. Four of the children were ejected from the minivan onto the highway. Samuels said Dan and Adrien, who were 18 and 15 years old at the time, both suffered severe head injuries. Dan developed a type of psychosis as a result of his injuries and will likely need 24-hour care for the rest of his life. Angelica, 17 at the time, suffered eight compression fractures to her vertebrae and is regaining strength in a rehabilitation program. Ben, 11 at the time, received a "complex fracture of the elbow," that Samuels said has reduced the mobility of his arm and left him with ugly scars. Camelia suffered facial lacerations and was awarded the least amount for past economic damages.

ROAD ACCIDENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated Apr 26, states: A woman badly injured in a road crash in 1992 has been awarded £1.1m. Sandra Cleary, 33, of Christchurch House residential home near Northampton, was riding in a car struck head-on at Bolney on the A23, the London-Brighton trunk road. The collision left her with head injuries, multiple fractures and damage to her lung, liver and spleen. She claimed damages from the driver of the other car, Henderson Goring, of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. Ms Cleary's counsel, Richard Lissack told Mr Justice Newman that Ms Cleary had recovered thanks to care given to her at her residential home and her enrolment in a music course in Coventry. Ms Cleary might have expected a larger sum in compensation to pay for her future care, but the £1.1m settlement reflected that

much of her care costs would be covered by state contributions, the court heard. Mr Justice Newman approved the settlement, also commending Ms Cleary for her determination "in these very difficult circumstances".

SEXUAL ABUSE, UNITED STATES

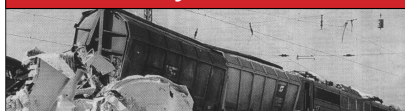
London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated Apr 22, states: A Texas jury today found regional Lutheran authorities negligent in the case of a minister who sexually molested boys, and recommended awarding about \$36.8 million in damages. Jurors sided with nine alleged victims who sued the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, claiming former Bishop Mark Herbener and former bishop's assistant Earl Eliason ignored warnings about former pastor Gerald Patrick Thomas Jr. The lawsuit was among the most serious abuse cases to hit a Protestant denomination and drew parallels from victims' groups to the most notorious cases in the Roman Catholic abuse crisis. Financial terms of a separate settlement between Thomas' victims and the Chicago-based denomination, along with the seminary Thomas attended, were sealed pending the end of the trial and were not immediately disclosed. Thomas, minister of Marshall's Good Shepherd Lutheran Church from 1997 until his arrest in 2001, was sentenced last year to 397 years in state prison for molesting boys. Jurors deliberated for about five hours over two days before rendering their verdict. In closing arguments yesterday, attorneys for the plaintiffs urged the jury to deliver "full justice" and send a message that the church hierarchy must protect children from sexual predators. The victims alleged that the Dallas-based synod was aware of past questionable behavior by Thomas but withheld that information from the Marshall congregation.

VIOLATION OF UNFAIR-TRADE-PRACTICES LAWS, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: America's largest pharmacy-benefits manager agreed yesterday to pay \$29 million to settle allegations that it pressured doctors to switch patients' medications to benefit its bottom line rather than patients' well-being. Medco Health Solutions also will be required to make a number of new disclosures to prescribers and patients, including the company's financial incentives for certain drug switches. The lawsuit alleged that Medco violated unfair-trade-practices laws in the 20 states participating in the settlement, including Washington state. "Consumers and their doctors should make the decision of switching from one medication to another based on the best interests of the patient, not because a (pharmacy-benefits manager) has found a way to make money," Pennsylvania Attorney General Jerry Pappert said in a statement. The agreement does not include an admission or finding of inappropriate business conduct by the Franklin Lakes, N.J.-based company. Also yesterday, Medco said it would settle a federal lawsuit that claimed the

company ignored safety rules at its mail-order drug centres and pressured doctors to switch patients to medications made by its former owner, Merck. Terms of that deal were not released. Medco, like other pharmacy-benefits managers, contracts with health plans to process prescription-drug payments to pharmacies. It handles prescription coverage for more than 62 million Americans. The settlement with the states was spearheaded by authorities in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Maine, and includes, in addition to Washington, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, Vermont and Virginia. The agreement calls for Medco to pay about \$20 million to states, \$6.6 million for litigation fees and costs and \$2.5 million to reimburse patients for medical tests needed after they were switched to other drugs. Medco spokeswoman Jennifer Leone said yesterday that the company wanted to put the lawsuit in the past. "This is not admitting guilt. This is about making a good business decision," Leone said.

Railway Accidents



DALLAS, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Union Pacific crews are working to clean up a mess after part of a freight train derailed around midnight just south of downtown Dallas. The 87-car Union Pacific freight train was en route from Louisiana to Fort Worth when about 12 cars derailed early yesterday. The accident happened near the S.M. Wright Freeway crossing the Trinity River. Hazardous materials crews worked yesterday morning to contain a leak of some form of flammable liquid. Otherwise, UP officials say the freight cars contained cargo ranging from clay to molasses. No injuries nor evacuations were reported.

KAMPOT PROVINCE, CAMBODIA

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A Cambodian woman was killed and three other people seriously injured when a train derailed en route from Sihanoukville, officials said today. The accident occurred yesterday in Kampot province and involved at least three cars of the train, Governor Puth Chandarith confirmed. "The cause of the derailment was a small section of damaged track," he said, adding that the three injured people were taken to hospital.

QUEIMADOS INDIAN RESERVATION, PARANA STATE, BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro, Apr 28 — A train with 104 wagons derailed in the Queimados Indian reservation, in the State of Parana, 252 km from Curitiba, Apr 27. Eighteen wagons left the tracks, 16 of

them containing a total of 480 000 litres of alcohol and diesel, according to America Latina Logistica (ALL), which administers the railway. The cargo caught fire and burned overnight. The blaze was expected to be brought under control this morning. The fire burned about 10.000 square metres of underbush. The driver was able to escape before the fire started. A Director of ALL stated the accident could have been caused by cold weather, after temperatures dropped from 40 deg Celsius to 5 deg between Monday evening (Apr 26) and yesterday morning. The change in temperature could have caused the rails to rupture, the ALL director said. An internal inquiry will investigate the cause within 30 days. The Ecology Institute of Parana said they identified three wagons containing alcohol and five loaded with diesel oil which ruptured. Eight wagons carrying alcohol could still be intact. The oil/alcohol which spilled and did not catch fire infiltrated the soil, causing environmental damage. According to ALL, 50 operatives were fighting the fire and working to minimise the environmental damage. The 465 km of track had been inspected two days before the incident, ALL said. A bypass is being built in order to allow the 14 trains that pass through the area daily, between the north and centre/south of the Parana state, to operate normally. — Correspondent.

RYONGCHON STATION, NORTH KOREA

London, Apr 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Up to 3,000 people have been killed or injured in a huge explosion after two fuel trains collided in North Korea, reports say. The blast happened at Ryongchon station, 50km north of Pyongyang, South Korea's YTN television said. The report was based on information from unnamed Chinese sources near the border with North Korea, said news agencies. North Korea rarely reports its own accidents. South Korea's Yonhap agency said the colliding trains were carrying gasoline and gas, and that they crashed at around 1300, local time. "The station was destroyed as if hit by a bombardment and debris flew high into the sky," Yonhap quoted its sources as saying. The agency quoted a South Korean defence ministry official as confirming that the explosion had taken place.

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: China has revealed the cause of a train explosion in North Korea was leaking ammonium nitrate, state media reported. "The accident was caused by the leaking of ammonium nitrate in one of the trains," Xinhua cited the Chinese embassy in Pyongyang as saying. It said the embassy had set up a special team to deal with the accident and was providing "essential assistance" to the victims.

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The International Red Cross says its officials in North Korea have been told that at least 54 people died in yesterday's huge train explosion. More than 1,200 people were injured, while 1,850 households were totally destroyed in the explosion in Ryongchon,

50 km from China's border. There has been no official statement from North Korea, more than 24 hours after the catastrophic train collision. Aid agencies and neighbouring countries are preparing to provide help if asked. The explosion was caused by rail cars laden with explosives, possibly to be used in mining, John Sparrow, a spokesman for the International Red Cross in Beijing said. According to figures relayed to him by Red Cross officials at the scene, the explosion also levelled 12 public buildings and partially destroyed 6,350 houses. Details about the scale of the disaster are emerging after hours of silence from the North Korean authorities. One intelligence source told a reporter for the South Korean newspaper Kyunghyang Shinmun that there was total devastation of the area immediately surrounding Ryongchon station. He said all houses and three- and four-storey buildings in a 160-metre radius of the station were destroyed; other buildings within 600 metres of the blast were severely damaged. South Korean officials had earlier said they feared a large number of people were killed or injured when the two fuel-laden trains collided. "This accident is likely to have become tremendous in scale," South Korea's Unification Minister Jeong Se-hyun said. South Korean media reports talked of up to 3,000 people dead or wounded, but officials in Seoul say there was no way as yet of confirming these figures. South Korean President Goh Kun has ordered humanitarian aid to be prepared in case the North needs help. The World Health Organisation and other aid agencies based in North Korea are also gearing up to help if needed. Doctors at hospitals across the border in the Chinese town of Dandong say they are preparing for a major emergency but have so far seen no victims. The BBC's Louisa Lim, who is in Dandong, says everything appears utterly normal. Trains are running to Pyongyang as scheduled, suggesting the main line was undamaged in the explosion. The border crossing is open and, looking across into North Korea, our correspondent saw people tending their crops and getting on with their lives as usual. Western embassies in the North Korean capital, said that people in Pyongyang had absolutely no information about the incident, and were shocked when they heard the news. Confirmation of the blast came first from Washington and Seoul. Later, China's foreign ministry also confirmed the explosion, saying two of its nationals died and 12 others were injured in the blast. A satellite photo from about 18 hours after the blast showed huge clouds of black smoke. The trains crashed at about 1300, local time, yesterday, South Korea's official Yonhap news agency said. The agency reported that they were carrying petrol and liquefied gas. "The station was destroyed as if hit by a bombardment, and debris flew high into the sky," Yonhap quoted its sources as saying.

Seoul/Dandong, China, Apr 25 — China sent supplies across the border into North Korea today in the first aid shipment since a huge train blast killed 161 people and injured hundreds more.

South Korea decided to send goods worth \$1 million as soon as possible and to offer medical teams and a hospital ship to North Korea, whose medical system is rudimentary, to help treat those hurt in Thursday's (Apr 22) apocalyptic fireball blast. Aid workers initially put the toll at 154 dead and hundreds injured after the explosion of two trains at North Korea's Ryongchon station near the Chinese border just hours after North Korean leader Kim Jong-il had passed through by train. "We have heard from our people in North Korea that the death toll has risen to 161," said Niels Juel, regional relief coordinator for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, today. Scores of primary school children were among those killed. China offered \$1.2 million in relief. Beijing's official Xinhua news agency said a first convoy of 11 trucks crossed into North Korea today. — Reuters.

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: North Korea's official news agency said today damage caused by last week's massive train explosion will come to about \$356 million. KCNA, the North Korea's official news agency, said homes were blown away, ceilings and buildings collapsed, "reducing everything to ruins" in the area within a half-mile of the explosion on Thursday (Apr 22). The explosion in Ryongchon left many people blind and deaf, KCNA said. The train explosion in Ryongchon killed at least 161 people and injured 1,300 others.

TARIK STATION, SURABAYA AREA, INDONESIA

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated today, states: At least three people were injured when two tanker trains, one of them laden with diesel fuel, collided at Tarik station in Sidoarjo near Surabaya early yesterday. Six tanker cars caught fire following the crash, which occurred at around 0230 hrs. As a result, the southern Surabaya-Yogyakarta rail line was paralysed, with many trains having to be rerouted. The accident involved a tanker train carrying diesel fuel traveling to Kediri, East Java, and another tanker train which was empty, heading from Kertosono, East Java, to Beteng station. A spokesman for state-owned railway company PT KAI's eastern region, Sudarsono, said eight cars had been derailed, and six of them had been destroyed by fire. "A train driver and his two assistants had been slightly injured in the accident," he said, adding the trains collided head-on and an investigation was underway. KAI workers were lifting the derailed carriages from the vicinity of the track using a crane dispatched from Surakarta, Central Java, he said.

Angeles Philharmonic and valued at \$3.5 million has been stolen, and the orchestra is appealing for the thief to bring it back undamaged "no questions asked." The "General Kyd," made in 1684, was last seen Saturday (Apr 24), said Elizabeth Hinckley of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association, which has owned the instrument for about 30 years. Principal cellist Peter Stumpf began playing the instrument in October 2002 when he joined the orchestra. A police spokesman said the cello was believed taken from a private home early on Sunday morning (Apr 25) with the thief probably not knowing what he had taken. — Reuters.

DESIGNER CLOTHES, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Thieves today stole more than £1 million of clothes from the Knightsbridge shop of one of Britain's most high-profile designers. Elspeth Gibson lost 100 handmade dresses after the raid at her Pont Street premises in the early hours. The thieves smashed down the glass front door before ransacking the rails. Gibson is renowned for her beaded designs and her clients include Elle Macpherson, Uma Thurman, Liz Hurley, Madonna, Zara Phillips, Queen Rania of Jordan, Cat Deeley and Laura Bailey. The intricate dresses involve hours of work by teams of seamstresses and sell for an average price of more than £10,000. The damage to the company is huge and will run to more than £1 million," said Ms Gibson, who opened the boutique in 1998. "All these designs are the whole history of what I have done. I don't understand what is in it for the people who have stolen them. They are so unique that I don't think they will be able to sell them on. "I'm worried that whoever has them will end up burning them. I'd appeal for anyone who knows anything about it to let us know." The designer lost her summer collection designs in the raid, which it is believed took place at 0330 hrs She may now have to cancel or delay delivery of orders. Ms Gibson's assistant, Lisa Redman, was first to arrive at the shop. "It was a complete mess. It looks very bare and very sad," she said. "The police have told us that the people knew exactly what they were doing. They were in here for about 15 seconds, cleared three rails of dresses and left. They left all the jewellery cabinets completely untouched." Ms Gibson's press spokeswoman said: "They cherry-picked the most valuable designs. They are works of art as well as dresses." A Met spokeswoman confirmed that police are investigating.

China today reported seven cases of leaks of lethal chemical products in the past week, which claimed a total of 21 lives across the country. The latest was a hydrogen cyanide gas leak yesterday from a gold mining plant in Beijing's suburban district of Huairou that killed three people and left another 15 hospitalized. Another leak included today's explosion of a toluene reaction facility in a pharmaceutical plant in Taizhou City in Zhejiang Province, east China, in which two were killed. Nine people were killed on Apr 16 by blasts in the wake of a chlorine gas leak at Tianyuan Chemical Industry Plant in Jiangbei district of southwestern Chongqing Municipality. A poisoning accident at a privately-owned refinery in Maoming City in Guangdong province, south China, left three people dead on Apr 19. On Apr 20, an oil tanker at the Nanjing section of the Yangtze River in Jiangsu Province, east China, exploded when it was being serviced, killing two people. On the same day, two people were killed in an explosion at Jihua Group Company in Jilin Province, northeast China, and a leak of waste chlorine in Jiangxi Axunge Plant also left many injured. A circular, issued by the Office of the Committee for Safety in Production under the State Council, China's cabinet, blamed the fatal accidents for insufficient safety prevention and outdated production equipment. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

CRANE ACCIDENT, MORROW, COLUMBIA RIVER, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 27, states: The body of a man killed when a section of a new \$651,000 60-ton crane buckled at a Columbia River barge loading dock in Boardman Sunday (Apr 25) may have to remain in the crane's damaged cabin until tomorrow, authorities said. The Port of Morrow loading dock has been closed to barge traffic by the US Coast Guard since Sunday afternoon. Meanwhile, the body remained in the six-storey-high crane in view of workers yesterday, said Morrow County Sheriff Verlin Denton of Heppner. The wreckage is too unstable to remove the body. "It would be dangerous to anybody who got near it," the sheriff said. The technician for Kaverit Steel and Crane Co, died while testing the newly installed crane at about 1500 Sunday, Denton said. Another technician on the ground escaped injury. What caused the crane to buckle remains under investigation. Representatives of Kaverit Steel and Crane Co were on scene yesterday assessing the situation. The company might bring cranes from Portland, Seattle or Washington's Tri-Cities to help stabilise the damaged crane, said Lisa Mittelsdorf, spokeswoman for the port of Morrow. Barge containers normally routed through Morrow were being diverted to the Port of Umatilla or to other modes of transportation, said Holly Robinson, spokeswoman for Tidewater Terminal Co. The Columbia River system remained in full operation. Lisa Mittelsdorf said the terminal could be back in operation within two weeks,

Robberies & Thefts



CELLO, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

Los Angeles, Apr 27 — A 17th-century Stradivarius cello owned by the Los

Miscellaneous



CHEMICAL LEAKS, CHINA

Nicosia, Apr 23 — A press report, dated April 21, states: The State Council of

depending on how badly other equipment was damaged. If the rail tracks that move containers from the dock are intact, the damaged crane can be manoeuvred out of the way to make way for an older crane, she said.

DRUGS SEIZED ON ANTIGUA & BARBUDA VESSEL AT MIAMI, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

Miami, Apr 23 — A local press report, dated Apr 18, states: Federal agents, assisted by Miami-Dade police, discovered a metal container packed with marijuana Saturday (Apr 17) that had been welded to the hull of a cargo vessel docked at the port of Miami-Dade. A spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Home Security said the “parasitic devise” — a metal box measuring two feet by one foot — raised fears of a possible terrorist threat. The box was affixed to the hull of general cargo *Fortunia* (5996 gt, built 1996), an Antigua-flagged vessel that departed from Jamaica. Agents screened the box for possible explosives or “weapons of mass destruction”, but instead found 122 pounds of marijuana with a street value of between \$5,000 and \$6,000, said agency spokesman Ana Santiago. — Lloyd’s Agents. (Note — *Fortunia* departed Kingston (Jam) on Apr 15.)

DRUGS SEIZED ON PANAMANIAN VESSEL AT ARICA, CHILE

London, Apr 24 — General cargo *Nativa* sailed Arica Apr 22.

FLOODED COAL MINE, HEILONGJIANG PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Two workers were confirmed dead in a coal mine flooding that trapped eight miners in the north-eastern China province of Heilongjiang early yesterday, local sources said today. The accident occurred at around 0500, yesterday, at a coal mine in Shuangyashan City, said officials with the provincial coal mine safety supervisory bureau and the Shuangyashan Mining Group, to which the mine belongs. All the eight miners then working underground had been trapped and only one of them had survived by press time, they said. Rescuers were still searching for the remaining five miners, and the officials said they saw hope for at least some of them to survive. The miners had accidentally dug into a mined-out area and caused water to flood into the mine, said the officials.

OUTBREAK OF “BIRD FLU”

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated Apr 23, states: The spread of avian flu in the Fraser Valley had a brief lull earlier this week but it appeared today to be on the march again. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency said ongoing surveillance has led to the detection of bird flu on 37 commercial premises. That’s up one from Thursday (Apr 22) and six from Monday. The agency said infected birds were also found at 10 so-called backyard lots and all have been slaughtered. While more than 200 farms have tested negative for avian influenza, officials earlier this month made the

decision to slaughter all 19 million chickens, turkeys and other birds in the valley to try to eradicate the virus. The agency has already exempted hobby pigeon owners from the cull, and other exotic birds may also be spared. Most of the 19 million birds seem likely to be found to be free of the virus and will go to market. More than one million infected birds, and uninfected birds in close proximity to infected ones, will be gassed and incinerated. Earlier this week, the B.C. government said it had chosen a large, privately owned dairy farm near Abbotsford as the site for composting some poultry slaughtered. All birds within a one-kilometre radius of a farm that has tested positive must be destroyed whether they’re infected or not, according to international standards. The farm to be used for disposal can take in excess of one million birds, which will be composted inside large “ag bags” laid out on a field. The farmer will be paid \$23.85 per cubic yard of decomposing chicken for the first 40,000 cubic yards. The price will drop to \$20 per cubic yard after that.

OUTBREAK OF SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: China has confirmed two people have been diagnosed with the Sars virus. The country’s Ministry of Health also said a woman suspected of having the disease had died earlier this month. The dead woman was the mother of one of those confirmed as being infected. A second suspected case has also been reported. It is suspected that the cases could be traced back to the Centre for Disease Control in Beijing, where one of the confirmed cases worked. Sars first emerged in the southern province of Guangdong late in 2002. Eight thousand people were infected in the outbreak, and 800 died. China has announced it was on an emergency footing against the disease and said anyone found with a fever at the border would be quarantined. In a statement released today, the Ministry of Health said: “Experts have reached the tentative conclusion that this outbreak can be traced back to infection by laboratory workers.” It added that one of the confirmed cases, a 26-year-old medical student identified by her surname Song, conducted research at the laboratory for two weeks last month. She later returned to her home in the Anhui province, eastern China, where she was hospitalised with a fever. The second confirmed case, a 20-year-old Beijing nurse Li Na, worked in the respiratory department of Jiangong hospital, where Song had been briefly care for before going home to Anhui. A hospital official said all colleagues who had contact with her had been quarantined. The second suspected Sars case also had ties to the Centre for Disease Control. The patient, a 31-year-old researcher, had worked at the centre’s laboratory. Authorities have tried to contain the outbreak by placing over 100 people who had been in contact with the Anhui cases under observation. In Beijing, 188 people were deemed to have been in close contact with the 20-

year-old nurse. Five have developed fever and other Sars symptoms, the health ministry said. China also confirmed four cases of Sars in Guangdong earlier this year, all of whom recovered.

Beijing, Apr 27 — China has isolated more than 600 people in Beijing as it races to sever a chain of infection that leaked from a laboratory and could spread as tens of millions travel the country for the annual May Day holidays. Four teams of World Health Organization experts were due in China this week to help the government to investigate the laboratory accident, to track down people exposed, control infection in hospitals and monitor the situation in the eastern province of Anhui, where the woman died. The WHO lauded the widening quarantine, saying it showed the government was taking the right steps to check the spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome before the week-long public holiday starting on May 1 when millions will travel. “This is still not a significant public health threat,” Beijing-based WHO spokesman Bob Dietz told Reuters. “We still feel we know the initial source of infection and we’ve been able to follow closely the chain of transmission.” All the cases diagnosed in the most recent outbreak — two confirmed and six suspected — were traceable to the laboratory. Across the country, authorities have stepped up surveillance against the disease, which is highly contagious. The risk of a SARS crisis hitting the capital again was “very small,” the head of virus control under the Beijing center for disease control, Wu Jiang, told reporters. Thailand was screening passengers arriving by air from Beijing as a precaution, a health official said. The 600 people quarantined, including 24 staff of the national centre of disease control, were under collective isolation or bound to their homes, the Beijing News said. More than 180 staff of the National Institute of Virology, where a medical student who caught SARS is believed to have engaged in research on live samples of the virus, were already sequestered, most at a resort north of Beijing. The WHO has raised questions of bio-safety practices at the laboratory. Another crucial question was why it took nearly a month to determine the student had SARS, by which time her mother had died and she had made five train trips between Beijing and her home in the eastern province of Anhui. Some WHO officials have raised serious concerns the virus might have already spread via China’s railway system. The other confirmed patient, a nurse who treated the student at a Beijing hospital, had begun to recover, the newspaper said. Her aunt and another patient, both suspected cases, were running high fevers. — Reuters.

SHIPMENTS OF WHEAT REJECTED BY PAKISTAN

Karachi, Apr 28 — The Pakistan government while rejecting local press allegations that a higher authority was involved in the wheat scandal, in a statement said that the entire story was

baseless. The samples of Australian wheat were imported by a private company Tradesman after they had won a tender of PASSCO, an organization working under the Ministry of Agriculture. The contract specifications clearly laid down the minimum acceptability criteria in terms of contamination by insects/fungus, etc as well as the minimum gluten content which was required to be above than 26% in order to make chapattis. The consignment on arrival was tested at the Serial Quality Testing Laboratories in Islamabad and found to contain fungal contamination as well as gluten content which was below the minimum required criteria. The consignment was, therefore, rejected. When the results were challenged by the Australian Government, the Cabinet decided to have the results independently rechecked and Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman, Federal Minister in charge for Science and Technology was asked to form an Independent "Scientific committee" of leading agricultural scientists to test the samples. A committee was therefore accordingly formed which was headed by Dr. Kausar Malik, Member Bio-Science of Atomic Energy Commission and comprising other members. The samples were collected in the presence of Australian and Pakistani Scientists from four different vessels and were sealed and signed in their presence. The analysis was then carried by this independent group of scientists who found that the gluten content was between 20-24% and below the minimum required criteria. The fungal disease causing organisms, present were also shown to the Australian scientists. The Australian scientists observed the fungal spores but they contended that it might be an Australian strain of the fungus and not an Indian strain. The consignment was then, accordingly, again rejected. The quarantine regulations, therefore, would not have allowed the import of such contaminated wheat — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Fires & Explosions



APARTMENT COMPLEX, FORT COLLINS, COLORADO, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated Apr 26, states: A three-alarm fire destroyed at least eight apartments and displaced 17 residents early yesterday morning at an apartment complex in south-west Fort Collins. A man called 911 from Building T of Collins West Apartments, saying his apartment was on fire and he was trapped. The man, who jumped from the two storey building shortly before firefighters arrived, was hospitalized at Poudre Valley Hospital. Officials could not release his name or information about his condition, but neighbours said he had broken bones. Firefighters were called to the blaze,

which witnesses said appeared to start near the balcony of a second-floor apartment at 2725 Raintree Drive, at 0258, local time. By the time the fire was brought under control nearly 50 minutes later, it had destroyed much of the east end of the building. "We got everybody evacuated," said Ralph Kettle, a Poudre Fire Authority company officer and the incident commander at the site of the fire yesterday afternoon. There were no other injuries, he added. A total of 42 firefighters, including units from Loveland, responded to the fire. They evacuated the 17 occupants from building T and 35 residents of two adjacent buildings. Investigators are trying to determine what caused the fire, Kettle said. Building T has been condemned, Elderton said.

CHEMICAL PLANT, NINGBO, CHINA

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire and explosion caused by chemical leakage at a chemical plant in Ningbo city, east China's Zhejiang Province occurred at 0800, yesterday morning. By 1020 hrs, fire fighting was underway and the number of people injured or killed in the accident is still unidentified. Cause for the accident is under investigation.

COMMERCIAL PREMISES, BERLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A late afternoon fire destroyed at least four downtown businesses yesterday and a large plume of dark smoke could be seen for several miles. By the time firefighters extinguished most of the flames in a block of businesses on Pleasant Street, several were in rubble, including the lower office of the law firm of Waystack and King, a flooring store, Color Works, a florist shop, a hair salon and a pet store. Fire Chief Randy Trull said the fire was reported just after 1600 hrs and arriving firefighters found heavy flames coming from Colorworks. From there, he said, flames spread quickly in both directions. A general alarm was sounded, bringing firefighters from as far away as Randolph, Stark and Milan. Investigators from the state Fire Marshal's Office were on the scene, but had no information was available last night about the possible cause of the fire. Trull said there were no sprinklers in the building. All of the businesses were closed because it was a Sunday. Manpower was initially a problem, Trull said. Just four firefighters were on duty at the Berlin station. It took more than four hours to get the blaze under control, and firefighters remained on scene last night cleaning up hot spots.

FACTORY, DURHAM, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Police and the fire service are expected to start examining the scene of a massive factory fire. Crews were called to Peters Cathedral Bakers on the Dragonville Industrial Estate, in Durham City, at 1600 BST, yesterday. Twelve fire appliances were involved and the fire brigade said 70% of the building

was seriously damaged. At the height of the fire, which started in a storage room, smoke could be seen up to 30 miles away.

FACTORY, ILLIOPOLIS AREA, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Explosions rocked a plastics plant in central Illinois, killing at least two people and injuring eight others. Two people remained missing today, authorities said. About 1,000 residents were evacuated from the area after the explosions yesterday night, said Sheriff's Sgt. Joe Rath. As firefighters continued to battle the blaze today, all but about 60 who live within a mile of the plant returned to their homes, he said. The explosions occurred at about 2245 in a chemical reactor at the Formosa Plastics plant, said Illinois Emergency Management Agency spokeswoman Patti Thompson. The cause of the explosions was unclear. Four people were taken to Memorial Medical Centre in Springfield, but the extent of their injuries was not immediately released. Four others were treated for smoke inhalation. The dead and injured were among 18 workers who were on duty at the plant when the explosions occurred, Rath said. Fires were still raging in several areas of the plant early today and Williamson said more than 150 fire and rescue workers were expected on the scene. A short time after the explosion, Interstate 72 was closed in both directions, from Illiopolis to Niantic, which is between Springfield and Decatur in central Illinois. The blast also knocked out power in both communities. Thompson said the interstate was re-opened shortly before 0600, today, after the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency had determined that smoke from the fire was not a hazard to motorists' health. The plant, with about 135 workers, manufactures polyvinyl chloride used in PVC pipe and other materials for construction, medical supplies and automotive parts. Investigators from the US Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board headed to the scene today to begin an investigation. Plant manager Roe Vadas said a team of investigators from the plant's corporate parent, Formosa Plastics Corp. USA, was also on its way.

FACTORY, TIJUANA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 27, states: A second fire in four days burned the Korean-owned Mytek plastics factory today, this time consuming the entire complex, authorities said. More than 250 municipal and Tijuana airport firefighters battled the blaze, aided by hundreds more soldiers, police officers, municipal employees, volunteers and pipas. Fire Chief Carlos Gopar Martínez said the fire appeared "suspicious" in origin, noting that it was similar to a fire Saturday (Apr 24) that began in another part of the same factory. The Saturday fire gutted the facility's injection plant, which produced molds for plastic parts for fans and other consumer electrical goods. Today's fire began around 1000

hrs and rapidly burned from one end of the factory to the other, Gopar MartInez said. An urgent call went out for all available emergency workers to help fight the blaze. About 400 employees were evacuated from the factory. Other buildings surrounding the complex were evacuated as well, authorities said. The 200,000-square-foot factory complex was destroyed by the fire, Gopar MartInez said. There were no initial reports of injuries. The fire was contained by noon but continued to burn into the evening. A column of acrid smoke from the fire could be seen for several miles.

FOREST AND BUSH, RUSSIA

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Risks of forest fires are growing in the territories of the Russian Far East along with increasing air temperatures. Since yesterday morning, four new hotbeds of fire have been registered in the Jewish Autonomous Region, two in the Amur region and another two, in the Khabarovsk territory. Forest protection services have extinguished all of them by now, but the blazes have destroyed 40 hectares of forests and 82 hectares of bush and steppe-land. Sources at the Far-Eastern division of the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry say 33 forest fires have occurred in the Far East since the beginning of spring, and the area they affected totals 500 hectares. Weather has been cool and humid since the beginning of April, and the general damage is much smaller than in the same period last year, when 584 forest fires destroyed more than 30,000 hectares of the taiga and over 75,000 hectares of bush and steppe-land.

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Eighteen forest fires broke out in Russia's Far East yesterday, with seven of them originating in Amur Region on an area of 376 hectares, an official at the regional centre of the Ministry for Emergencies told Itar-Tass today.

FREIGHT CAR AND AUTOMOBILES, INDUSTRY, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated Apr 26, states: Arson is suspected in a fire that charred a freight car this morning, causing about \$1 million in damages. The train was parked on Bonelli Street and 7th Avenue, in Industry. The freight car that burned carried 15, 2005 Ford Mustangs. The train was "sitting for several days" on a side spur, according to Los Angeles County Fire Department Inspector Ed Osorio. The department received the call at 0306 hrs, and the fire was extinguished in about an hour. There were no injuries, officials said. Osorio said six engines, one truck company, a hazardous materials team, a heavy Urban Search and Rescue unit, one paramedic unit, one patrol unit and an emergency support team rig responded to the scene, as did a sheriff's arson investigator, a battalion chief, Union Pacific police and a Union Pacific representative. Osorio said there was \$500,000 in damages to the rail car and \$500,000 in damage to the Mustangs.

The cause of the blaze is under investigation by sheriff's arson investigators.

HOTEL, MAUI, HAWAII, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated Apr 23, states: A fire in the laundry facility of Maui's Four Seasons Resort in Wailea caused \$1 million in damage, according to officials. The fire, along with smoke and water, caused \$700,000 worth of damage to the building, and \$300,000 to the contents. More than 1,000 people had to be evacuated from the hotel Tuesday afternoon (Apr 20) after officials say lint caught fire in an exhaust vent. No injuries were reported. The fire took about two hours to bring under control.

PLASTICS FACTORY, DELHI, INDIA

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated Apr 28, states: At least one person is feared to have died in a fire that broke out in a plastic factory in west Delhi this afternoon. Television channels reported that one person was killed in the fire that started at about 1530 in the factory in the Punjabi Bagh area. Fire engines reportedly arrived 45 minutes later. But passers-by had already started rescue operations, dragging out people trapped inside the blazing building. Police are yet to confirm the extent of damage.

PREMISES, MARBLEHEAD, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated Apr 25, states: Marblehead fire officials are looking at wiring as the probable cause of a four-alarm fire yesterday night that destroyed a \$2.4 million home on Marblehead Neck. "It was a good-sized house and the fire got ahead of them," said Marblehead fire Capt. Dan Chalifour. Firefighters responded to the three-story, five-bedroom home in the exclusive oceanfront neighborhood at 2130 hrs after residents reported an odour of smoke in the dwelling. Chalifour said it appears the blaze began in the attic, resulting in an almost total collapse of the roof. "The whole top floor is gone," he said. Firefighters from communities as far as Middleton were ordered out of the home for their own safety before the roof collapsed. The dwelling was recently purchased for \$2.4 million by a couple from France. Chalifour said no injuries were reported but the house was deemed a total loss. Neighbours said the homeowners told them an electrician had been working on the home's wiring during the day yesterday. Chalifour said arson has been ruled out. "It's definitely not suspicious," he said of the cause. It was 0600 hrs this morning before the fire was completely extinguished, Chalifour said. "We have an investigative team at the scene working to determine the cause," he added.

PREMISES, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A luxury home near completion, in West Raleigh, worth \$2.2 million, was gutted by fire late Wednesday (Apr 21). The fire at 1002

Lake Boone Trail, in a pricey inside-the-Beltline neighbourhood, was reported at 1035 hrs and was "through the roof" when firefighters arrived on the scene, said Division Chief Tommie Styons of the Raleigh Fire Department. Firefighters entered the house through the second floor but then had to retreat and fight a "defensive attack" with aerial ladders from outside, Styons said. There were no injuries. Construction on the home was 90 percent finished, she said. Capt. Buddy Scarboro, a fire investigator, said the blaze started in what looked like a storage room on the top level of the two-story home. Scarboro did not know how it started but said it seemed to be accidental. It could take weeks for a final determination, while some items will be tested by the State Bureau of Investigation, he said. Raleigh police said later that the fire probably resulted from an electrical malfunction. Scarboro said the building, 11,179 square feet, was mostly wired for power and that some electrical work had been done earlier this week in the basement. Construction was scheduled to be completed this summer. The builder had found a buyer, and the house was under contract but not yet sold, Scarboro said.

WAREHOUSE, SHIRLEY, NEAR SOLIHULL, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: About 100 firefighters are tackling a major blaze at an industrial unit in Shirley near Solihull. Crews were called to the fire at Cranmore Boulevard just before 1000 BST today. Police closed a number of roads and aircraft passing over the area were diverted. It is believed the unit is used to store plastics and glass and residents in the area are being advised to keep their windows closed. A huge pall of smoke coming from the fire could be seen up to 10 miles away. An explosion has also rocked the building, hampering attempts by firefighters to bring the blaze under control. Divisional Officer Keith Richards, of West Midlands Fire Service, said: "The advice to local residents is to stay indoors and close windows. The fire is now surrounded and all person are believed to be accounted for. Crews will be deployed for several hours at this incident and the cause is under investigation." Local resident Andrew Mullins, who lives on a road near the storage unit, said the flames were immense. He told BBC Radio WM: "The flames are at least 150ft high and there is a plume of thick, black smoke."

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A sprinkler system could have prevented a major fire at a plastics factory in Shirley, according to fire chiefs. More than 100 firefighters spent most of yesterday tackling the blaze. Investigations are under way into the cause of the fire. The Atofina plant, which produced plastics and supplied chemicals, was quickly engulfed in flames and initially residents were told to stay indoors for fear the fumes might be toxic. Divisional Officer Keith Richards from West Midlands Fire Service said a sprinkler system was vital for all businesses. He added: "If a

sprinkler system had been in place yesterday, it could have been a minor inconvenience rather than a major disaster." No one was hurt during yesterday's fire. Three employees were working in the morning but had left before the fire began.

WILDFIRE, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated Apr 25, states: A 2,085-acre wildfire sparked by a motor home blaze destroyed two mobile homes and nine vehicles today in southern Riverside County, authorities said. The blaze also destroyed six outbuildings and threatened about 400 homes as it burned west of the Lake Riverside community, said Lori Hofmeister, a county fire information spokeswoman. No injuries were reported. No evacuations were ordered but about 400 homes in the Lake Riverside Estates development were threatened tonight, Hofmeister said. The fire was about a half-mile from those homes, she said. About 540 firefighters aided by four helicopters and two air tankers had the fire 40 percent contained by this evening. The aircraft were grounded at dusk. The blaze began when a motor home on Foolish Pleasure Road near Highway 371 caught fire shortly after 1300 hrs, today, she said.



C-FSJF

London, Apr 27 — On Apr 21, C-FSJF, a Canadair Regional Jet operating as Air Canada flight 527, was at the gate in Charlotte, North Carolina, preparing for a flight to Toronto. The ground crew inadvertently drove away from the aircraft with ground power still connected which resulted in extensive damage to the aircraft ground power receptacle. The aircraft was removed from service for repair.

C-GHAF

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated Apr 22, states: A single-engine aircraft was near its maximum take-off weight when it crashed in the hills east of Penticton last summer, a coroner's report into the crash said. Coroner Chico Newell has completed his inquiry into the deaths of three people on board the De Havilland DHC-2 Beaver (C-GHAF) which clipped some trees and went down in the upper Penticton Creek canyon on Aug 29. The aircraft's owner, John Collison, of Vancouver, Jane Ferguson, of Nanaimo, and her niece, Kirsten Ferguson, of Calgary were all killed in the crash. Collison and Jane Ferguson each held valid pilot's licences, and it could not be determined who was piloting the dual-control aircraft at the time of the crash. The aircraft was en route to Calgary from Nanaimo and had stopped to refuel at Penticton Airport. It took off from Penticton at 1420 hrs and headed north-east, up Penticton Creek canyon. "At the end of the canyon, the

aircraft failed to climb past the summit, struck tree tops, crashed, fell into Penticton Creek and burst into flames," the coroner stated. Newell said it appeared two factors contributed to the crash "As the aircraft approached rising high terrain, the pilot, for undetermined reasons, did not turn away before the aircraft struck tree tops," he said. One of the principles of mountain flying is to approach rising terrain at a 45-degree angle, so that if it becomes obvious the aircraft will not clear the terrain, there's room to turn back and gain more altitude. Newell added the aircraft's climb performance was adversely affected by density altitude and the relatively high aircraft weight. Density altitude involves a combination of atmospheric pressure and temperature and affects the ability of an aircraft to gain altitude, especially during take-off. There was no evidence a weight and balance calculation had been taken after refuelling in Penticton. Using reported weights of the occupants, full fuel tanks and the weight of cargo recovered from the crash site, investigators were able to determine the aircraft's take-off weight was at least 5,350 pounds. The maximum take-off weight for the aircraft is 5,370 pounds. Tony Pleasants, a Transportation Safety Board investigator in Vancouver, said yesterday that although it was suspected the aircraft may have been above its maximum take-off weight, that could not be confirmed. An undetermined amount of cargo either burned in the fire or was washed down Penticton Creek. Pleasants said the Transportation Safety Board investigation is now complete and a preliminary report has been sent to Ottawa. The coroner classified the three deaths as accidental and made no recommendations.

C-GIUW

London, Apr 27 — On Apr 21, Edmonton Flying Club Cessna 172S, C-GIUW, was on a night training flight from Edmonton City Centre to Tofield, Alberta and return. At about 2247 hrs, the City Centre control tower lost radio and radar communications with the aircraft. Shortly afterward, a local resident and a police helicopter found the burning wreckage of C-GIUW in a field approximately 21 nautical miles north-east of Edmonton, and about four nautical miles, south-east of the Josephburg airport. The aircraft had struck two grain storage bins prior to impacting the ground, and the privately-licensed pilot, who was the sole occupant, had sustained fatal injuries. Two TSB investigators were deployed to the site.

CRASH, BIG ISLAND, HAWAII, UNITED STATES

See N8198A.

CRASH, EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated Apr 22, states: A low-flying aircraft clipped two granaries last night before it crashed, killing the pilot, the RCMP said today. The Cessna 172 hit the ground just before 2300 hrs, near range road

211, north-east of Sherwood Park. The pilot, a member of the Edmonton Flying Club, left from City Centre Airport and was to fly to Tofield and back. John Pearson, with the Transportation Safety Board, said the pilot, the only person on board, was on a training flight, trying to earn a night rating. The Transportation Safety Board was expecting to remove the wreckage from the crash site today.

CRASH, SIALKOT, PAKISTAN

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A small private Cessna aircraft, crashed near Sialkot as a result one person was killed and two others were seriously wounded. According to the reports a Sialkot businessman, sheikh Asif, was coming to his village Sambrial near Sialkot from Lahore in his private aircraft when it crashed near his privately built airstrip after making few circles in the air. According to the reports Shaikh Asif was killed in the incident while the pilot and another person were injured. The cause of the incident is yet to be ascertained.

EMERGENCY LANDING, ALBUQUERQUE AIRPORT, NEW MEXICO, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated Apr 28, states: An American Airlines aircraft made an emergency landing after engine trouble. Some anxious moments were reported aboard an American Airlines flight out of Albuquerque this morning. Just after take off, the pilot reported engine trouble. American Airlines flight 1508 was headed to Dallas, but that destination was changed just moments after take-off. The flight was barely underway. The closest the flight seemed to come to trouble was when it was on the ground. "When we got in, we could hardly stop because they couldn't use the engine to slow us down," passenger Robert Myers said. "One of the brakes got stuck." They okayed the aircraft to taxi back to the gate. Passengers said there was no panic on board. American Airlines said the problem was with the right engine.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BIHAR AREA, INDIA

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Railways Minister Nitish Kumar Friday had a narrow escape after the helicopter in which he was flying developed a snag and made an emergency landing in an open field near Bihar. Kumar, a senior Janata Dal-United leader, escaped unhurt, according to TV reports. The pilots of the chartered helicopter safely guided the chopper to an open field after detecting an unusual movement in the rotor blades. Kumar, who is contesting the general election from the Barh and Nalanda Lok Sabha constituencies in Bihar, was touring Gopalganj and Muzaffarpur districts.

EMERGENCY LANDING, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A Jetsgo aircraft made an emergency landing in Winnipeg yesterday morning after a warning light in the cockpit indicated an engine

malfunction. Flight 149, an MD-80 with about 133 passengers on board plus a crew of about six, was on its way from Toronto to Edmonton but had to be diverted. Reports indicated an engine stopped working, said Christine Alongi, Winnipeg Airports Authority spokeswoman. An indicator light came on when the aircraft was flying about 240 km west of Winnipeg, said Brad Cicero, spokesman for Jetsgo. Cicero said the pilot decided to land, despite the aircraft's twin-engine design. The aircraft landed safely at 1142 with about 133 passengers on board. Emergency personnel from the Winnipeg Fire-Paramedic service were on site before the aircraft touched down on runway 1836. Police were put on standby, said Winnipeg police spokeswoman Shelley Glover. Airport firefighters were also on hand. "We were prepared," said Alongi, adding nobody was injured. "We offered emergency response." Once the passengers disembarked, investigators took a closer look at the aircraft. Cicero said Jetsgo is still examining the aircraft to determine the problem. Passengers were delayed in Winnipeg for several hours, until an aircraft could be sent from Toronto to fly passengers to Edmonton, he said.

HELICOPTER CRASH, WYNDHAM AREA, NEW ZEALAND

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A helicopter that crashed near Wyndham in Southland today, killing the pilot, may have suffered an "in-flight break-up," the Transport Accident Investigation Commission (TAIC) says. The helicopter plummeted into dense gorse bush near the farming settlement of Mokoreta, south-east of Wyndham. Police received a call at 0900 hrs from an eye witness who said a helicopter had "fallen out of the sky." Police, the fire service, ambulance and a rescue helicopter from Dunedin rushed to the scene, but the pilot was found dead, said Invercargill Sergeant Paul Crosswell. The Southland pilot, the sole occupant, had been flying the Bell 204 UH1B for a North Island company. Graham Scobie, owner of Helicopter Southland (crct) based in Wyndham, said the dead pilot was a local man. The crash happened about 200m from the main Wyndham-Mokoreta road. A spokesman for the Wyndham Fire Service said the helicopter's wreckage was "scattered everywhere." "Firefighters were called in to secure a fuel leak from the wreckage, but there was no fire or other danger," he said. TAIC said Christchurch-based investigator John Goddard would be sent to the scene of the crash today to determine the circumstances and causes. "Initial reports indicated that the helicopter suffered an in-flight break-up," a TAIC statement said.

INCIDENT AT BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated Apr 22, states: A plane carrying 69 passengers slipped off the runway after landing at Birmingham International Airport. The incident, which happened

just before 1600 BST, yesterday, led to the runway being closed for an hour. The Flybe service from Edinburgh had landed successfully on the runway before its wheels slipped off the Tarmac and became stuck in the mud. The low-cost operator said its aircraft was taxiing at a speed of less than 15mph at the time of the incident. An airport spokeswoman said 10 flights had to be diverted to Nottingham East Midlands Airport, but that they all later returned to Birmingham. A statement issued by Flybe said: "The safety of the 69 passengers and four crew on board was not compromised at any time and all were disembarked within 15 minutes without incident. Flybe has had no such incident in the last five years and is launching a full investigation into the causes of this incident."

N14075

London, Apr 22 — McDonnell Douglas DC-10-30, N14075, operated by World Airways Inc, as flight 725, Naples for Norfolk Naval Station, Norfolk, Va, was damaged during cruise flight over the Atlantic Ocean, at approximately 2258, EDT, Apr 10. There was no injury to the three cockpit crewmembers, nine cabin crewmembers, and 240 passengers. The aircraft landed uneventfully at Norfolk Naval Station, at about 0300, Apr 11. A subsequent inspection revealed that an engine cowl had separated from the No.2 engine, and approximately 40% of the starboard inboard elevator had separated.

N32891

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A student pilot and her instructor suffered minor injuries when the aircraft they were flying lost power and crashed in a wooded area in Columbus County yesterday evening. The crash happened around 2045 in the Prosper community south of Delco. The aircraft, an eight-passenger, single-engine Cherokee, crashed about 100 yards in the woods. It broke up, and its left wing was torn off, according to State Trooper Will Thurston of the N.C. Highway Patrol. The pilot, Tonya Markow, and her instructor, July Marvel, both of Fayetteville, were taken to New Hanover Regional Medical Centre.

London, Apr 26 — Piper PA-28-200R (Arrow II), N32891, crashed near Wilmington, North Carolina, at 0047, Apr 23. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board suffered minor injuries.

N55AD

London, Apr 24 — Arctic S-1B2 (Arctic Tern), N55AD, operated by William L. Goodwin, while on a flight from Willow, Alaska, to Deshka Landing, Alaska, with one person on board, crashed on landing at Deshka Landing Airport at 0032, UTC, Apr 23. The aircraft was substantially damaged and the pilot suffered minor injury.

N61415

London, Apr 28 — Schweizer 269C-1, N61415, broke into pieces during start-

up at Van Nuys, California, at 2130, Apr 27. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was not injured.

N715FE

Montevideo, Apr 28 — Air cargoliner Focker 27, N715FE, flight 7145 of FEDEX Corp, from North Carolina to Buenos Aires and destined to Viracopos Airport in Sao Paulo, had a fire on board when flying some 15 miles from the city of Melo, Uruguay where it effected an emergency landing. The airport fire brigade extinguished the fire and reports about 30% of the cargo has been destroyed. — Lloyd's Agents

N738FX

London, Apr 28 — Cessna 208B (Grand Caravan), N738FX, operated by Federal Express Corporation, with two persons on board, made an emergency landing on a road, 12 miles north-east of Helena, Arizona, at 0802, UTC, Apr 27, and, while being pushed off the road, was hit by a truck, which sheared off the port wing. There were no injuries.

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 27, states: A single-engine plane carrying FedEx cargo made an emergency landing on a highway early today and a passing truck knocked off a wing, but no one was hurt, officials said. The single-engine turboprop Cessna (N738FX) was on a flight from Memphis, Tenn., to Monroe, La., said Sandra Munoz, a spokeswoman for FedEx in Memphis, Tenn. "The plane's engine quit and the power went out and he was gliding," said Larry Liddell, public information officer for Tunica County. He said the pilot decided to land on four-lane U.S. 61 after he was told the nearest airport was in Clarksdale, about 16 miles away. Liddell said the pilot set the plane down without incident and had managed to get all but the left wing off the roadway. The cause of the engine problem wasn't immediately known, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Christopher White said. The plane was operated by Baron Aviation under contract with FedEx, Munoz said, adding that the FedEx cargo was being sent on its way by truck. Liddell said the plane was being taken to Batesville for examination and repairs.

N75812

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Three people were killed yesterday after a single-engine aircraft hit a radio tower in Moselle and crashed, according to Jones County Coroner Nancy Barnett. Barnett said the identities of the victims could not be released pending notification of relatives. Chris White, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration in Atlanta, said the accident occurred at 1542 near Chisolm Road in Jones County. According to the FAA's Web site, the aircraft is registered to Mark VII South Inc. based in Laurel. Tom Heanue, executive director of the Hattiesburg-Laurel Regional Airport, said the aircraft was a Cessna 172, which can seat four passengers and two crew members. Paul Meador, a rescue firefighter at the regional airport, said he was told three people were on the

aircraft. The National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the crash, White said.

London, Apr 26 — Cessna 172N (Skyhawk), N75812, crashed near Moselle, Mississippi, at 2242, Apr 24. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were killed.

N8198A

London, Apr 23 — Piper PA-28-161 (Warrior II), N8198A, crashed near Milolii, Hawaii, at 0315, Apr 18, while on a local flight from Kona, HI. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were seriously injured.

N82943

London, Apr 24 — Piper PA-18-150 (Super Cub), N82943, operated by Headwaters Super Cub Inc, while on a local flight from Crystal, Minnesota, with one person on board, lost power on takeoff from runway 24L, Crystal Airport, at 1245, UTC, Apr 22, and crashed in woods across highway 81. The aircraft was destroyed, but no personal injuries.

N8492A

London, Apr 24 — Robinson R22 (Beta), N8492A, while on a flight from Long Beach Airport, California, with two persons on board, crashed during mid-field practice at the airport, at 2321, UTC, Apr 22. The aircraft was substantially damaged and both persons on board suffered minor injuries.

N9785C

London, Apr 28 — Hiller UH-12E, N9785C, crashed near Haines, Oregon, at 2315, Apr 26. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The one person on board was not injured.

SPILLAGE OF CHEMICAL ON FLIGHT FROM BIRMINGHAM TO BELFAST, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated Apr 26, states: Six people taken to hospital following a chemical spillage at Belfast City Airport have been given the all-clear. They include two cargo handlers, three baggage handlers and a firefighter. A plane has been cordoned off while the spillage is dealt with. The mercury spillage was found while baggage handlers were unloading cargo from a Flybe flight which arrived from Birmingham shortly after 0800 BST, today. Officials at Belfast City Airport said all 83 passengers and five crew were never in any danger and that the two baggage handlers had been taken to hospital as a precaution. The plane was cordoned off while the mercury was removed and the rest of Belfast City Airport operated as normal. A spokesman for Belfast City Airport said: "Six Belfast City Airport staff were sent to hospital this morning for a precautionary check-up after workers unloading cargo on a Flybe flight from Birmingham discovered a small mercury spill in the cargo hold. "Flight BE 400 arrived at 0810 hrs and passengers disembarked as normal. Baggage handlers spotted the mercury while unloading the cargo and contamination procedures were immediately put in

place. This involved two cargo handlers and three baggage handlers being taken to the Royal Victoria Hospital for a precautionary check-up and a firefighter being taken to the Ulster Hospital." The airport said all passengers and crew left the aircraft as normal with their baggage because luggage and cargo were kept in separate compartments on the plane involved. "The airport continues to operate as normal and the aircraft will remain quarantined until it has been cleaned and passed fit to fly," said the spokesman.

Product Recalls



BUNK BEDS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Apr 22 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 22,476 Ashley "Trails End, Cottage Retreat," and "Stages" bunk beds in voluntary co-operation with Ashley Furniture Industries, Inc., of Arcadia, Wisc. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. There are gaps between parts of the bunk bed that violate federal safety standards and can be entrapment or strangulation hazards to children. For model B383, the gap between the end rails on the upper bunk is too large. For models B213 and B233, the gap between the guardrails of the upper bunk can be widened with pressure, presenting an entrapment hazard. Federal standards for bunk beds are designed to protect children against entrapment and strangulation. These bunk bed models are recalled for repairs: B383-58T, B383-57T, B213-58, and B233-58. The B383 models are sold under the group name "Trails End." The B213 is sold under the group name "Cottage Retreat." The B233 is sold under the group name "Stages." The model numbers are on product stickers on each bunk bed. On the B383 model, the product sticker is on the inside of the lower rail on the top bunk end panel. On the B213 and B233 models, the product sticker is on the inside of the lower panel on the bottom bunk. The bunk beds being recalled for repair were sold at furniture stores nationwide. Model B383 was sold beginning in December 2000. Model B213 was sold beginning in May 2003. Model B233 was sold beginning in June 2003. All sales of the recalled bunk beds ended in February 2004. Model B383-57T sold for around \$299, model B383-58T sold for around \$699, and Models B213 and B233 sold for around \$599. Manufactured in USA and Brazil. Stop using the recalled bunk beds and get a free repair kit from the retailer to cover and close up the entrapment gaps. Consumers can install the repair kit easily at home. To get a free repair kit, contact the dealer who sold the bunk bed. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

CAPPUCCINO MAKERS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Apr 22 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 20,160 Hamilton Beach Cappuccino Plus Espresso and Cappuccino Makers in voluntary co-operation with Hamilton Beach/Proctor-Silex, Inc., of Glen Allen, Virginia Hazard. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The steam tube inside the espresso/cappuccino maker can burst under pressure, presenting a risk of injury to consumers. This can occur if the frothing nozzle becomes clogged and the espresso button is pushed while attempting to froth milk. Hamilton Beach has received 10 reports of burst steam tubes, one of which included a minor burn. The recalled units are Hamilton BeachÆ Cappuccino PlusÆ Espresso and Cappuccino Maker, model 40714. They are black plastic and stainless steel. The Hamilton BeachÆ brand name is printed on the front of the unit, and the model number is printed on the bottom. Sold at internet retailers and discount department stores nation-wide from March 2003 through March 2004 for approximately \$70. Manufactured in China. Hamilton Beach will ship free replacement espresso/cappuccino makers to consumers. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ELECTRIC HEATERS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Apr 20 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with "Trane" and "American Standard," today announced a voluntary recall of about 37,000 "Trane" and "American Standard" brand accessory electric heaters. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Manufacturer/importer American Standard Companies, of Piscataway, N.J. Overheating of the wiring in the accessory heater can lead to wall thermostat fires. There have been four reports of thermostat fires. Two of the fires resulted in several thousand dollars in property damage. No injuries have been reported. The 240-volt accessory heaters are used to provide supplemental heat in the heat pump or electric heating system. The accessory heater - model number BAYHTR1415BRKAC manufactured between Apr 14, 2003 and February 6, 2004 - is located inside the air handler cabinet usually found in the basement, attic, equipment closet or crawlspace of a consumer's home. The horizontally or vertically installed air handler is a painted metal cabinet with the Trane or American Standard name plate on its front. Air handler model numbers are found on the outside of the air handler door. Consumers with one of the recalled units are being directly contacted by the independent dealer that installed it. If you had a Trane or American Standard heat pump or electric heating system installed between April, 2003 and February, 2004, and have not yet been contacted by your installer, write down your air handler model number and call

your installer to see whether your air handler could contain a recalled heater. Your may also visit the firm's web sites to see whether your air handler could contain one of the recalled heaters and, if so, call your installer. To avoid electric shock, do not open the air handler door. Only a professional installer should open the air handler door to determine if you have a recalled accessory heater. Sold at independent Trane or American Standard dealers nation-wide for about \$140. Manufactured in the USA. Consumers who have not yet been contacted by independent dealers should immediately contact their installer to determine if they have a recalled unit. Consumers may arrange for a free inspection and repair through their installer. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

GAS WATER HEATER TEMPERATURE CONTROLS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Apr 28 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with White-Rodgers, a division of Emerson Electric Co., of St. Louis, Mo., today announced voluntary recalls of 88,000 LP and Convertible Gas Water Heater Temperature Controls. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The gas water heater controls can gradually open instead of snapping open to full flow, which can cause soot to build up on the water heater burner, presenting a fire hazard. White-Rodgers has received 12 reports involving soot build-up. Eight of these reports included minor fire damage. The temperature control is a small metal box located above the access panel door of the gas water heater. A white label with red lettering located on the right side of the control contains one of the following model numbers: 37C55U 658, 3757C72U 602, 37C72U 520, 37C72U 546, 37C72U 547, or 37C72U 548, and 37C72U 676. There should be a four-digit metal stamped date code located below the label on the right side of the control. Recalled controls will have date codes 0240 to 0329, 40th week of 2002 to 29th week of 2003. Potentially affected gas water heaters include: AO Smith, Apollo, Crosley, Energysense, Freedom, Interthrem, Kenmore, Maytag, Mission, Myers, Penfield, President, Reliance, Sentry, or State. Beginning serial numbers on these gas water heaters can be checked at www.regcen.com/tempcontrolrecall. Sold at retail distributors and independent servicers have sold and/or installed water heaters with the controls from October 2002 through March 2004. Manufactured in Mexico. Remedy: Contact White-Rodgers to arrange for a qualified service technician to replace the recalled control free of charge. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

GENERAL MOTORS LESABRE, OLDSMOBILE 88 AND BONNEVILLE MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES - PR

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated Apr 21, states: The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway

Traffic Safety Administration announced the recall of about 433,632 General Motors Corporation motor vehicles, models Buick LeSabre, years 1998-1999, Oldsmobile 88, years 1998-1999, and Pontiac Bonneville, years 1998-1999, manufactured March 1997 - June 1999. On certain passenger vehicles equipped with 3800 V6 (136) engines and certain Delphi fuel pressure regulators, the regulators have a much higher than usual rate of fuel leaks. A leak can allow fuel to enter the intake manifold through a vacuum line. If the engine does not start when cranked, the fuel from the leaking regulator and a mistimed spark can cause a backfire. The backfire can rupture the intake manifold. The rupture of the intake manifold can displace a fuel line, pulling an injector out of place, and causing a fuel leak and possible fire. Dealers will install new fuel pressure regulators with improved diaphragms. The manufacturer has reported that owner notification is expected to begin during the second quarter of 2004.

GENERAL MOTORS MALIBUS, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 26, states: General Motors is recalling about 108,000 2004 Chevrolet Malibus to fix a seat-belt anchor that could detach in a severe side-impact crash, and to reprogram an anti-lock brake system controller. Chevrolet dealers will insert a retainer in the seat-belt anchor and reprogram the ABS controller. There have been no reports of accidents related to either condition, GM said. Customers should contact their dealers for service after receiving notification letters in June. There will be no charge to consumers for the repairs. The recall covers certain Malibus built from May 2003 to March 2004. About 95,000 of them are in the United States.

HARLEY DAVIDSON DYNA GLIDE MOTORCYCLES, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated Apr 21, states: The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced the recall of about 4,593 Harley-Davidson Motor Company Dyna Glide, years 2004, manufactured September - November 2003. On certain fuel-injected motorcycles, the inner line of the fuel hose could separate, causing a fuel leak. Fuel leakage, in the presence of an ignition source, could result in a fire. Dealers will replace the fuel line assembly. The manufacturer has reported that owner notification began on Feb. 12, 2004.

KAWASAKI MOTORCYCLES, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated Apr 21, states: The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced the recall of 5,850 Kawasaki Motors Corporation, U.S.A. VN1600-A1/A1L, year 2003, and VN1600-A2/A2L, years 2004, motorcycles, manufactured October 2002 - November 2003. On certain motorcycles, the muffler brackets could crack, allowing the muffler to

become loose and potentially separate from the main exhaust pipes, which could result in a crash. Dealers will reinforce the muffler brackets. The manufacturer has reported that owner notification began on Feb 17, 2004.

MAZDA RX8 MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated Apr 21, states: The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced the recall of about 12,000 Mazda, North America, Inc. RX8 motor vehicles, year 2004, manufactured April - August 2003. On certain passenger vehicles with manual transmissions, the heat insulator may be cracked. Continued operation of the vehicle could cause the insulator to separate from the vehicle, posing a hazard to following vehicles. Dealers will replace the heat insulator. The manufacturer has reported that owner notification is expected to begin during April 2004.

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated Apr 21, states: The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced the recall of about 29,300 Mazda, North America, Inc. RX8 motor vehicles, years 2004, manufactured April 2003 - January 2004. During a New Car Assessment Program testing, it was found that some passenger vehicles have front passenger air bags that were improperly wired and could fail to operate properly. The air bag will not provide adequate protection if the vehicle is involved in a frontal crash. Dealers will install a new wiring harness in the front passenger air bag system. The manufacturer has reported that owner notification is expected to begin during April 2004.

MERCEDES-BENZ MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: DaimlerChrysler Japan Co said yesterday it will recall some 24,000 Mercedes-Benz cars in 14 models for free repairs of defective parts. The vehicles imported between August 1998 and March this year may catch fire due to defective parts in air-conditioning systems and hydraulic shock absorbers, DaimlerChrysler Japan said in a report filed with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated Apr 21, states: The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced the recall of about 134,000 Mitsubishi Motors North America, models Mitsubishi Diamante, years 2000-2003, Mitsubishi Montero, years 2001, and Mitsubishi Outlander, years 2003. Certain sport utility and passenger vehicles fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 225, "Child Restraint Anchorage Systems." The owner's manual does not contain a step-by-step description for headrest adjustment when installing a child

restraint system (CRS) tether strap. If the tether strap is improperly installed to the tether anchor, the child safety seat may not be sufficiently restrained. In the event of a crash, the child could be injured. A letter describing the problem will be sent to owners along with a sticker containing the correct instructions as well as instructions on where to affix the sticker in the owner's manual. The manufacturer has reported that owner notification is expected to begin during April 2004.

PORSCHE CAYENNE S AND TURBO MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated Apr 21, states: The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced the recall of about 4,144 Porsche Cars North America, Inc, Porsche Cayenne S, years 2003-2004, and Porsche Cayenne Turbo, years 2003-2004. On certain sport utility vehicles, the driver's side seat frames were improperly welded. In the event of a crash, the seat frame could break, increasing the risk of a crash. Dealers will replace the driver's side seat frame. The manufacturer has reported that owner notification is expected to begin during April 2004.

RESIDENTIAL WATER DISINFECTION SYSTEMS, WORLDWIDE

Washington, DC, Apr 28 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Trojan Technologies Inc., of London, Ontario, Canada, today announced voluntary recalls of about 3,900 TrojanUVMax(r) Water Disinfection System units sold in the US and about 12,500 sold world-wide. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Some of the lamp pins used in these disinfection systems are improperly soldered, and can cause the units to overheat, posing a fire hazard. Trojan Technologies has received 40 reports of the systems overheating world-wide, resulting in some damaged units. No injuries or other property damage have been reported. The recalled TrojanUVMax system, designed for residential and light commercial application, uses ultraviolet light to disinfect water. "TROJANUVMAX" is written on the system's steel chamber. Models included in the recall are D, D Plus, E, E Plus, F, F Plus, Pro 7 and 15. Model numbers are written on the

Underwriters Laboratories label on the power supply. No other Trojan Technologies model or product is included in this recall. The lamps were manufactured in the U.S. and the system is assembled in Canada. Sold at water treatment dealers, plumbing stores and through direct-sales from plumbers from August 2000 through April 2004 for between \$500 and \$1,500. Remedy: Contact Trojan Technologies to arrange a free lamp repair or replacement. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

VINYL MIRROR BOOKS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Apr 20 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Kids II Inc., of Alpharetta, Ga, today announced a voluntary recall of 225,000 Vinyl Mirror Books. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The mirror in the books can crack or break, posing a laceration hazard to young children. Kids II has received 26 reports of the mirror cracking or breaking, including four reports of cuts and one report of a pinched finger. The recalled picture books are brightly coloured, made of flexible vinyl, and contain a plastic mirror on one of the inside pages. The recalled books come in four models: "Baby's Fun Book, Baby's Photo Album, Picture This Vinyl Book," and "Carter's Imagination Picture Book." The name "Kids II" is printed on the back cover of each book, except for the "Imagination Picture Book" which has "Carter's" printed on the front and back covers. Sold at mass merchandise and juvenile specialty stores nation-wide from December 2001 through March 2004 for between \$4 and \$8. Manufactured in China. Parents should take the product away from small children immediately and detach and mail the mirror page of the product to Kids II at 1015 Windward Ridge Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30005 for a refund. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

VOLKSWAGEN JETTA MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated Apr 21, states: The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced the recall of about 377,130 Volkswagen Jetta motor vehicles, years 1999-2002, of Volkswagen of America, Inc, dates of

manufacture May 1998 - November 2001. The brake light switch on these vehicles may malfunction. If this happens, the brake lights could become inoperative, or come on and stay on, even though the vehicle is parked. Dealers will replace these switches. The manufacturer has reported that owner notification is expected to begin during April 2004.

Port Conditions



ITALY

Genoa, Apr 27 — Port situation Apr 27: Genoa: Tow bulk carriers and two container vessels are currently awaiting berths. Average delay in berthing: one-two days. Savona: One vessel is waiting for a normal berth and one vessel is awaiting a special berth. Average delay in berthing: one day. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

SYRIA

Lattakia, Apr 17 — Waiting time is presently one day at Lattakia and four days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bloodstock



PERSIAN PUNCH

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Star stayer Persian Punch died yesterday from a suspected heart attack after running in the Bovis Homes Sagaro Stakes at Ascot. The horse collapsed in front of the stands after being pulled up 100 yards from the winning post by his rider Martin Dwyer. The 11-year-old had, as usual, set out to make all the running in the Group Three contest, but he weakened quickly in the straight as Risk Seeker went on to score an easy victory. Owned by Jeff Smith and trained by David Elsworth, the Persian Heights gelding won 20 of his 63 races, amassing a total of £1,008,785 in win and place prize money.

Port Conditions

Port Delays

The following additions are to be made to the previous list:

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	27-Apr-2004	Coal: One vessel loading 1 at anchor: 4 vessels due by 8/5; up to 3 days delay expected.
Dalrymple Bay	27-Apr-2004	Coal: Two vessels at berth, 2 at anchor; 43 vessels due by 20/6; vessels are berthing in order of cargo availability; 1-14 days delay expected.
Hay Point	27-Apr-2004	Coal: Two vessels loading, 5 at anchor; 11 vessels due by 8/5; up to 7 days delay expected.
Gladstone	27-Apr-2004	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Three vessels at berth, 13 at anchor; 27 vessels due by 20/5; up to 10 days delay expected; Barney Point: 7 vessels due by 20/5; Barney Point terminal will be closed 8-15 May; up to 2 days delay expected. Grain: One vessel due 5/5 to load sorghum; no delays expected.
Brisbane	27-Apr-2004	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth; Seven vessels due by 9/6; up to 3 days delay expected. Grain: One vessel due 30/4 to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected.
Newcastle	27-Apr-2004	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: Two vessels loading, 20 waiting; 27 vessels due by 10/5; Dykes 4+5: Two vessels loading, 12 waiting; 9 vessels due by 10/5; 1 unallocated vessel due 8/5; Kooragang and Dyke terminals: 12-15 days delay expected. Grain: Six vessels due by 10/5, all to load wheat; up to 3 days delay expected.
Port Kembla	27-Apr-2004	Coal: Eight vessels due by 18/5; CB1: 3 vessels due by 25/5; up to 1 day's delay expected. Grain: Five vessels due by 14/5, all to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected.
Port Hedland	27-Apr-2004	Iron ore: There are no significant tropical lows evident and no indications that a tropical cyclone will form within the next three days; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: One vessel loading at berth, 1 at anchor; 5 vessels due by 7/5; up to 2 days delay expected; "B" berth: One vessel loading at berth, 2 at anchor; 4 vessels due by 6/5; up to 1 day's delay expected; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island): 1 vessel loading at berth, 2 at anchor; 2 vessels due by 3/5; up to 5 days delay expected.
Dampier	27-Apr-2004	Iron ore: There are no significant tropical lows evident and no indications that a tropical cyclone will form within the next three days; Parker Point: One vessel loading at berth, 3 at anchor; 5 vessels due by 6/5; up to 12 days delay expected; East Intercourse Island: One vessel loading at berth, 9 at anchor; 7 vessels due by 8/5; up to 13 days delay expected.
Port Walcott	27-Apr-2004	Iron ore: Force majeure is still in effect; one vessels loading at berth; 17 vessels due by 15/5; up to 1 day's delay expected; 2 ship loaders are being used on a more frequent basis, requiring 2 loading plans: one for single ship loader, 1 for dual loader operation; shippers request that load plans be submitted as early as possible (10 days) so they can coordinate stockpiles more effectively.
Melbourne	27-Apr-2004	Grain: Three vessels due, all to load wheat; 1-5 days delay expected.
Geelong	27-Apr-2004	Grain: Six vessels due by 10/5, of which 3 to load wheat, 3 barley; up to 7 days expected.
Portland	27-Apr-2004	Grain: Six vessels due by 14/5 of which 1 woodchips, 2 canola, 2 wheat, 1 barley; up to 5 days delay expected.
Port Pirie	27-Apr-2004	Grain: No. 2 berth: No vessels; berth closed to shipping 1/7-9/8 due to electrical upgrade in silo control room.
Port Lincoln	27-Apr-2004	Grain: Six vessels due by 14/5 of which 2 wheat, 3 barley, 1 peas; up to 2 days delay expected.
Geraldton	27-Apr-2004	Grain: Five vessels due by 7/6, all to load wheat; 1-10 days delay expected.
Kwinana	27-Apr-2004	Grain: Ten vessels due by 10/5 of which 10 wheat, 1 coarse grain; up to 6 days delay expected.
Albany	27-Apr-2004	Grain: Seven vessels due by 11/5 of which 3 wheat, 3 coarse grain, 1 sand; 1-7 days delay expected.
Esperance	27-Apr-2004	Iron ore: Four vessels due by 15/5; up to 1 day's delay expected. Grain: Three vessels due by 18/5 of which 2 wheat, 1 coarse grain; 1-9 days delay expected.
Brazil		
Santos	27-Apr-2004	Twenty vessels berthed of which 4 chemical products loaders/dischargers, 4 other loaders/dischargers, 2 paper coils loaders, 1 frozen juice loader, 2 bulk soya loaders, 2 full container loaders/dischargers, 1 fertiliser discharger, 4 sugar loaders; 10 vessels waiting in roads; 92 vessels due over the next 7 days;
Rio Grande	27-Apr-2004	Two vessels berthed of which 1 oil green coke discharger, 1 sawn timber loader; 2 vessels waiting in roads; 21 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Paranagua	27-Apr-2004	Thirteen vessels berthed of which 4 fertiliser dischargers, 1 pellets loader, 3 reefer loaders, 2 soya loaders, 1 container loader, 2 other loaders; 20 vessels waiting in roads of which 12 to load (2 pellets, 2 reefers, 8 others), 8 to discharge (4 containers, 4 fertiliser); 40 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Vitoria	27-Apr-2004	No vessels berthed; Terminal Vila Velha: 1 full container loader/discharger, 1 cellulose loader, 1 malt discharger, 1 pig-iron loader; Tubarao: 2 iron ore loaders, 1 fertiliser discharger; Praia Mole: 1 coal discharger, 3 steel products loaders; Portocel: no vessels; Ubu: iron ore loader; 22 vessels waiting in roads; 16 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Egypt		
Alexandria	26-Apr-2004	Thirty-five vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 26 general cargo, 1 Ro/Ro, 1 bulker, 1 reefer, 2 containers, 3 tankers, 1 passenger vessel; 6 vessels at inner anchorage, 12 at outer anchorage.

Port Conditions

Damietta	26-Apr-2004	Fifteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 11 general cargo, 1 reefer, 2 bulk carriers, 1 containers; 4 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Port Said	26-Apr-2004	Eleven vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 1 general cargo, 9 containers, 1 passenger vessel; 1 tug.
Suez	26-Apr-2004	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 2 general cargo, 2 reefers, 2 passenger vessels; 2 tugs.
Suez Canal	26-Apr-2004	Nineteen vessels transiting Northbound, 22 Southbound.
Iran		
Anzali	23-Apr-2004	4 vessels berthed, of which 3 steel, 1 general cargo; 2 vessels due by 25/4, 1 wood/board, 1 unknown cargo.
Neka	23-Apr-2004	Oil products: 2 crude oil vessels berthed, and discharging; 2 crude oil vessels waiting; 14 crude oil vessels due by 24/4.]
Israel		
Haifa	26-Apr-2004	No labour problems. Six vessels discharging at berth (4 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 6 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 car carrier, 2 tankers, 1 passenger vessel); 2 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 2 tankers waiting at anchor to load/discharge; 2 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 2 awaiting orders; 26 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Ashdod	26-Apr-2004	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 15 vessels discharging at berth (12 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 8 general cargo vessels waiting at anchor to discharge, 3 container vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge; 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 6 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Mozambique		
Maputo	26-Apr-2004	Twenty-four hour berthing/sailing. Some restrictions to berthing at certain badly-lit wharves.
Pakistan		
Karachi	21-Apr-2004	One rice vessel loading at berth, 7 vessels discharging at berth (1 chemicals, 1 coal, 1 bitumen, 1 DAP, 1 TSP, 1 phosphate, 1 general cargo), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (2 containers, 1 MOL), 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 1 MEG, 1 crude oil); no vessel under repairs/dry-docked; 6 vessels due (3 containers, 1 general cargo, 2 MOL), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	21-Apr-2004	No vessels berthed; 2 vessels discharging at berth (1 coal, 1 iron ore), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at QICT berth; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 crude oil, 1 palm oil, 1 coal, 1 VCM).
Poland		
Gdansk	26-Apr-2004	Seven vessels loading at berth (4 general cargo, 2 coal, 1 tanker), 6 discharging at berth (3 grain, 1 general cargo, 1 bulker, 1 tanker); 7 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 2 vessels waiting in roads (1 coal, 1 general cargo); 24 vessels due.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	26-Apr-2004	Seventeen vessels in port operating, of which 15 loading (2 scrap, 1 bricks, 1 HBI, 1 DRI, 1 steel billets, 1 pig-iron, 1 slabs/pipes, 1 pipes/equipment/vehicles, 1 coils, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 slabs, 1 coils/steel sheet/lumber, 1 aluminium), 2 discharging bulk sugar; 14 vessels waiting in roads, of which 3 to discharge bulk sugar, 10 to load (3 pig-iron, 2 coils, 2 steel billets, 1 pipes/steel sheet/technical equipment, 1 diesel oil, 1 ammonium sulphate), 1 to discharge/load containers; 53 vessels due of which 49 to load (4 scrap, 3 aluminium, 5 pig-iron, 7 coils, 4 steel billets, 4 bulk NPK, 1 steel sheet, 2 steel, 5 copper, 3 pipes, 1 steel billets/pipes, 1 HBI, 1 bulk urea/bulk NPK, 4 bulk urea, 1 equipment, 1 coils/pipes, 1 flowers, 1 diesel oil), 1 to discharge bulk sugar, 3 to load/discharge containers. Oil terminal: 3 tankers berthed, all loading crude oil; 3 tankers in roads, all to load, of which 2 crude oil, 1 diesel oil; 6 tankers due, all to load, of which 5 crude oil, 1 fuel oil.
Tuapse	26-Apr-2004	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, of which 1 loading crude oil, 1 gasoil, 1 naphtha; 2 vessels in roads, both to load, of which 1 gasoil, 1 naphtha; 3 vessels due by 25/4, of which 1 to load naphtha, 1 fuel oil, 1 crude oil.
Makhachkala	26-Apr-2004	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, 1 waiting in roads; 2 vessels due by 23/4.
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	26-Apr-2004	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion, and vessels loading at Northern and Eastern ports of Sri Lanka are granted priority berthing. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays.
Turkmenistan		
Turkmenbashi	23-Apr-2004	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed of which 1 loading naphtha, 1 gasoil, 1 to load fuel oil; 2 vessels waiting, 1 to load kerosene, 1 to discharge crude oil.
Okarem	23-Apr-2004	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed loading crude oil; 1 vessel in roads, waiting to load crude oil.

Port Conditions

Ukraine

Odessa	23-Apr-2004	Oil products: 4 vessels berthed, of which 3 loading (1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil, 1 LPG), 1 waiting to load fuel oil; 3 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 LPG, 2 fuel oil; 10 vessels due by 24/4, all to load, of which 3 crude oil, 1 LPG, 5 gasoil, 1 gasoline.
Theodosia	23-Apr-2004	Oil products: 1 vessel in roads, waiting to load Rebco.
Mariupol	23-Apr-2004	Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 11 loading (4 steel, 2 sulphur, 2 fire-clay, 3 coal), 1 discharging containers; 1 steel vessel undergoing survey; 4 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 2 steel, 1 coal, sulphur; 44 vessels due, of which 39 to load (23 steel, 1 ferrous metals, 10 coal, 4 fire-clay, 1 sunflower beans), 4 to discharge (1 magnetite, 3 heavy lift discharge/load containers).
cargo), 1 to Ilichevsk	23-Apr-2004	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (4 steel products, 1 oil, 1 barley), 2 discharging/loading containers; 4 vessels in roads, of which 2 to load steel products, 2 to discharge/load containers; 12 vessels due, of which 11 to load (1 wood-pulp, 7 steel 3 oil), 1 to load/discharge containers.
products, Sevastopol	23-Apr-2004	Oil products: 2 vessels in roads to load fuel oil; 3 vessels due by 23/4, all to load fuel oil. Two vessels in port, both loading steel; no vessels in roads; 6 vessels due, all to load, of which 2 fuel oil, 4 steel.

United States

Houston	27-Apr-2004	Cargill terminal: 2 days delay expected; LDC Dreyfus terminal: 3 days delay expected.
Galveston	27-Apr-2004	ADM-Farmland terminal: 2 days delay expected.
New Orleans	27-Apr-2004	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: no delays; Cargill-Westwego: 1 day's delay expected; ADM/Ama: 5 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 1 day's delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 5 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 5 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 1 day's delay expected; Peavey/Paulina: 5 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 22 days delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: maintenance being performed until 7/5; no delays; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 5-6 days delay expected.
Seattle	27-Apr-2004	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 1 day's delay expected.
Tacoma, WA	27-Apr-2004	Temco terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Kalama, WA	27-Apr-2004	Kalama export terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Vancouver, WA	27-Apr-2004	United Harvest terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Portland, OR	27-Apr-2004	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: 1 day's delay expected.

Published by Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit, Informa UK Ltd , Sheepen Place, Colchester, Essex CO3 3LP.

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ISSN 0047 4908