

March 10 2006

## Scrap buyer wins legal battle over late arrival of salvaged bulk carrier

By Roger Pearson — Friday March 10 2006

**A** LEGAL battle over late delivery to China of the salvaged ship Kent Reliant has ended in victory for Ease Faith, which specialises in the purchase of ships for demolition.

The company had sued Leonis Marine Management, which was hired to tow the salvaged ship to China.

High Court judge Mr Justice Andrew Smith has upheld the claim against Leonis. At the same time, however, he also ruled that Leonis should be entitled to recover most of the damages it will ultimately have to pay from Cloudfree Shipmanagement, owner of the towage tug.

### Claiming

Damages have yet to be assessed, but Ease Faith was claiming more than \$100,000 on the grounds that the tug hired to deliver the Kent Reliant to China failed to proceed on the voyage with proper dispatch.

The judge rejected a counterclaim for "delay payment" by Cloudfree, in which it claimed that it was represented to the company that the Kent Reliant was in light ballast condition when the ship was not.

Cloudfree claimed that it had suffered loss because the tug consumed extra bunkers.

Ease Faith, however, alleged that the delay was caused in part by the fact that for much of the voyage the tug proceeded on only one of its two engines.

And Ease Faith claimed it had incurred additional pilot and escort charges totalling more than \$22,000 because the tug and the Kent Reliant arrived at the Shanghai pilot station shortly after the start of the May Labour Day holiday in China.

It claimed a further \$101,929 on the basis that, as a result of the delay, it received a reduced price for the Kent Reliant from the Chinese purchasers.

### Late payment

And it claimed that the Chinese purchasers paid for the vessel later than they otherwise would have done and that in these circumstances it was entitled to damages in respect of that late payment.

Supporting Ease Faith's claim, the judge said: "I conclude that, because the tug proceeded at a reduced speed as a result of using only one engine from when she departed Balboa until the order to slow-stream was given on February 7, 2004, and again from March 23 until at least April 10, 2004, Cloudfree were in breach of an implied term of the head towcon."

He accepted Leonis' claims that, if it were liable to Ease Faith, the cause was Cloudfree's breach of its agreement, and that in those circumstances Ease Faith should be entitled to pass on any liability to Cloudfree.

Kent Reliant was a bulk carrier built in 1977 that suffered bottom damage as a result of grounding off Puerto Rico in

September, 2003. The ship was salvaged and offered for sale by its underwriters.

Ease Faith co-operated with Chenco Marine, which buys ships for demolition in China, over the purchase and sale of the vessel and bought it for \$530,031 in November, 2003. Chenco was responsible for arranging the purchase and making towage arrangements while Ease Faith was responsible for selling the ship to Zhanjiagang Wuyu Ship Recycling Co.

The vessel was ultimately delivered by a tug called the Naporistyi to Zhanjiagang on May 2, 2004, three or four weeks later than the judge found it would have arrived had the tug proceeded with due despatch.

**Would you like casualty information as it happens ?**

Lloyd's

**Casualty**

REPORTING SERVICE

For further information contact:

Andrew Luxton, Key Account Manager

Tel: +44 (0)20 7017 4625

Fax: +44 (0)20 7017 4763

Email: [andrew.luxton@lloydsmiu.com](mailto:andrew.luxton@lloydsmiu.com)

[www.lloydsmiu.com/lcrs](http://www.lloydsmiu.com/lcrs)

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<b>AMIRAL AKDENIZ</b>	general	LBY	—	2,920	4,029	1979	Reported Feb 28 proceeding to Laconikos Gulf with 10 deg list to starboard due water in No.2 hold, caused by heavy weather. Subsequently anchored in lat 36 39.4N, long 22 30.2E attempting to rectify. Still anchored Mar 7.
<b>CHUN YEON</b>	general	KOR	KR	5,552	6,640	1990	Encountered heavy storms in lat 26 N 120 36E, East China Sea. All crew removed. Adrift and listing 30 deg. Anchored Mar 2 and negotiating towage.
<b>EVANGELIA M.</b>	bulker	MLT	BV	34,439	58,412	1981	Grounded at Dogan Aslan Bank anchorage area, in lat 40 29.8N, long 26 51.27E, in Sea of Marmara Feb 26 while dropping anchor. Still aground Mar 1. Four tugs on scene.
<b>GRACHTBORG</b>	general	ANT	BV	2,820	4,105	1997	In collision with <i>Marietje Benita</i> near Quarnbek, Rendsburg, Feb 25. Sustained severe bow damage. Berthed at the Kieler Lagerhausgesellschaft. Arrived Hamburg Norderwerft Feb 27 for repairs.
<b>GRIGOROUSSA I</b>	crude oil tanker	LBR	LR	52,997	96,967	1987	Had technical failure and contacted a quay while transiting the Suez Canal southbound Feb 27. Subsequently leaked 3,000 tons of heavy fuel oil. Towed to dock. Clean-up under way. Arrested. LOF signed.
<b>KOZA</b>	general	MHL	BV	6,221	8,935	2004	Reported at Piraeus anchorage Mar 1, having been towed there by <i>Matsas Star</i> following engine failure on Feb 28.
<b>LADOGA 8</b>	general	BLZ	RS	1,511	2,180	1974	Grounded in the Gothenburg Channel Jan 20. Refloated with assistance but taking water. Proceeded to City Repairyard where berthed with seven degree list to port. Bottom damaged and holed over 15 metres. Drydock required.
<b>MARIETJE BENITA</b>	general	NLD	(LR)	2,397	3,200	2005	In collision with <i>Grachtborg</i> near Quarnbek, Rendsburg, Feb 25. Sustained severe bow damage. Berthed at the Kieler Lagerhausgesellschaft. Sailed Kiel Mar 1 to repair at Peters Werft, Wewelsfleth.
<b>PROTECTOR</b>	bulker	PAN	NV	24,942	42,833	1984	Contacted the quay at Maputo Feb 28. Sustained heavy bulbous bow damage. Heavy damage to quay.
<b>RUTH BORCHARD</b>	container	ATG	GL	9,962	15,723	2004	Taken in tow by <i>Matsas Star</i> for Piraeus Feb 28 after reporting engine failure. ETA 02 Mar.
<b>SAMHO PRINCE</b>	chem tanker	KOR	KR	2,761	3,560	2003	Generator shut off and main engine stopped while departing Shanghai Feb 26. Subsequently struck some barges and the terminal of WGQ. Anchored awaiting investigation.
<b>TANANGER</b>	ro-ro	BRB	NV	4,636	4,380	1980	Experienced turbo failure outside Kristiansand Mar 1. Towed into Kristiansand by tug <i>Bison</i> , where arrived same day.
<b>TOR FLANDRIA</b>	ro-ro/ container	SWE	AB ABS	33,652	20,786	1981	Struck the Noord Bridge at Terneuzen Feb 25. Damaged to starboard bow. Bridge heavily damaged. Master injured. Arrived Ghent same day.

# CONTENTS

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

<b>Marine, including Overdue &amp; Missing Vessels</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Port State Control</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Seizures &amp; Arrests</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Pipeline Accidents</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Weather &amp; Navigation</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Earthquakes</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Volcanic Activity</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Political &amp; Civil Unrest</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Labour Disputes</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Awards &amp; Settlements</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Railway Accidents</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Robberies &amp; Thefts</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Fires &amp; Explosions</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Aviation</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Product Recalls</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Port Conditions</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Port Conditions charts</b>	<b>40</b>

© Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit 2005  
These reports may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photographic, recorded or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.



The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



## ABLE F. (Cyprus)

See under "Miscellaneous."

## AGIOS GEORGIOS (Greece)

London, Feb 24 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: While passenger ro/ro *Agios Georgios* (5122 gt, built 1972) was just outside the port of Piraeus, vessel sustained damage to the starboard main engine at 1830, local time, Feb 23. At the time of the vessel was bound for Kythnos-Serifos-Milos-Kimolos. Following the incident vessel returned to the port and was prohibited to depart pending inspection of the repairs.

## AL MANARA (St. Kitts-Nevis)

Seychelles, Feb 28 — General cargo *Al Manara* is still in Port Victoria, following the towage by the Port Authority. The harbour-master advised that the owner has not yet come to the Seychelles to settle the towage fees. The towage contract stipulates that payment is paid by four weeks after the work has been carried out. Apparently the crew are being look after by benefactors such as Red Cross Society, Seamens Union and Indian Embassy. — Lloyds Agents.

## ALICAN DEVAL (Turkey)

London, Feb 23 — A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV report, dated today, states: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage earlier this morning succeeded in refloating the heavily grounded general cargo *Alican Deval*. The vessel had remained aground since early February. Salvage teams in the meantime removed the oil from the vessel and prepared the vessel for refloating. A controlled attempt was made end last week, which did not succeed because the weather conditions were not favourable. Ahead of an expected considerable deterioration of the weather on site, expected winds upto force 8 (gale) today/tomorrow, waves upto 7.3 metres high, another attempt was made overnight with three tugs totalling 210 ton bollardpull, amongst which the SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage station tug *Neftegaz 51*, which brought the required result. The vessel is presently being stabilised in a sheltered area before further decisions will be taken.

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 0835, UTC: General cargo *Alican Deval* was refloated yesterday morning and was towed into Siracusa at 1535, where it remains.

## AMBAR

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

## AMIRAL AKDENIZ (Libya)

London, Feb 28 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1010, UTC: General cargo *Amiral Akdeniz* (2920 gt, built 1979), Nemrut for Misurata, cargo containers and tiles in bulk, reported at 0730, local time, today, that it was proceeding to Lakonikos Gulf with a 10 deg list to starboard believed due water in No.2 hold believed due heavy weather, wind force 6/7 (strong breeze/near gale). Vessel is now at anchor in Skoutari Bay, lat 36 39.4N, long 22 30.2E. Vessel's crew are trying to rectify the list. Master is in contact with owners for instructions and local port authority are monitoring the situation. Master reports no search and rescue assistance required from Coast Guard.

London, Mar 1 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0850, UTC: General cargo *Amiral Akdeniz* is still at anchor in Skoutari Bay. P&I investigator is on board. It is believed that the vessel has some internal hull damage and is not yet ready to continue its voyage.

Piraeus, Mar 1 — General cargo *Amiral Akdeniz*, Turkey for Libya, was reported listing about 20 degrees whilst sailing in the vicinity of Lakonikos Gulf, Greece, yesterday morning on Feb 28. Coast Guard and naval vessels proceeded to the area in order to provide assistance. All 14 crew members were reportedly safe. The vessel managed to berth safely under its own power at Skoutari Bay, Peloponnese. The master stated that the list was reduced to 10 degrees. According to first evidence the vessel listed due to load (containers) displacement. A preliminary examination is being carried out by the local port authorities. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 2 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0955, UTC: General cargo *Amiral Akdeniz* is still at anchor.

## ANNE-LISE-POULSEN (Denmark)

London, Feb 25 — Fishing *Anne-Lise-Poulsen* sailed Lerwick Feb 23.

## ANNE-S. (Netherlands)

London, Feb 27 — General cargo *Anne-S.* (2375 gt, built 1997), call sign PDGU, arrived at Esbjerg at 0445, local time, today, in tow of German tug *Taucher O. Wulf 3* and local fire-fighting tug *Bestla*, with a rudder damaged. The German tug picked the vessel up in the German Bight, while on a voyage to Nyborg and Halmstad with steel coils. At the moment, local shipbroker Juhl & Ehrhorn is making arrangement for discharge of the cargo, in order to put the vessel in dock at Esbjerg for repair. The rudder damage requires docking to effect repair.

## ANTONIS A. (Panama)

London, Feb 28 — A Tsavlivris Salvage (International) Ltd. report states: Chemical/oil carrier *Antonis A.*, was immobilized during a transit of the Suez Canal mid-December (Dec

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

15) after sustaining heavy contact damage at its bow and its rudder. Tsaviris dispatched the salvage tug *Megas Alexandros* from Piraeus and hired local tugs, workboats and teams of divers and fitters for the extensive underwater repairs that were required. These were carried out over a period of 10 days and were completed in January, followed by sea trials, after which *Megas Alexandros* towed the tanker to Mersin for cargo discharge. The casualty was subsequently towed to Piraeus.

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

London, Feb 24 — A dredger is to be used to “clear a channel through the sandy beach” to assist the efforts to refloat c.c. *APL Panama*. Together with extensive lightering currently under way, the dredger’s clearance of a pathway would finally enable the vessel to be towed to the open sea. The dredger is scheduled to arrive tomorrow, said Mike Hanson, representative for its owners, Mare Britannicum Schiffahrtsgesellschaft MBH. As of Wednesday (Feb 22), 716 containers weighing 9,506 tonnes had been removed from the vessel. The work was done with the aid of a Skycrane helicopter and a crawler crane. The vessel was said to be loaded with about 30,000 tonnes and 1,800 containers initially. Mr Hanson said the “easier” containers were probably removed by now and the salvor might now hold off on major container lightering until the results of the dredger are clear. The reefer containers onboard have officially been reported to be in “good shape” thanks to generator sets deployed by the owner but sources familiar with the salvage conceded in private that the contents of these containers were likely to have gone past their “sell by” dates within two days of the grounding.

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated Feb 24, states: C.c. *APL Panama*, which ran aground on a beach in Ensenada more than two months ago, is still stuck. Progress has been made, but there is a long way to go. The vessel has moved slightly, but its rudder and propeller remain buried in the sand. Crews have been unloading its containers hoping to make the vessel lighter. So far, more than 700 have been removed and hauled away. Once they remove more containers, salvors plan to dredge a 40-foot-deep channel perpendicular to the vessel in hopes of floating it away from the beach. The dredging operation is scheduled to begin tomorrow. Residents have been promised the beach will be returned to the way it was before the vessel ran aground.

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated Feb 26, states: C.c. *APL Panama* is still aground. Now salvage crews are preparing a new tactic, creating a channel alongside the stranded ship with suction hopper dredger *Francesco di Giorgio*. The channel would be “as close as possible

to the container ship in order to tow it via the canal to deeper waters,” said Adam Van Cauwenberghe, a regional manager in Mexico City for the Jan de Nul Group, the dredger’s Belgian owners. With the *Francesco di Giorgio*’s arrival, salvage crews are hoping to write the final chapter of the saga. The ship’s fate has been followed closely around the world, from factories in Mexico, to suppliers in Asia, to the vessel’s owners in Germany, and to London-based maritime insurance clubs. Repeated attempts to move the ship off the beach with tugs and a barge equipped with hydraulic pullers have failed. The bow has been moved 50 degrees toward open water, but not far enough to float the ship, Capt. Jose Luis Rios Hernandez, Ensenada’s harbor-master, said last week. Another major pulling effort is expected tomorrow morning. The ship’s position, parallel to shore, has made for an especially challenging scenario, Rios said, and the vessel now has sand piled as high as 16 feet on its starboard side. An attempt last month to blow away the sand with a giant underwater pipe failed when the pipe broke in the surf. Earlier this month, salvage teams tried a different tack, drilling 200 small holes near the bow into the hull’s starboard side, and blowing high-pressure air through them to disperse the sand. The latest sand-removal plans involve the dredger which is designed to operate in shallow water.

London, Mar 1 — An APL service status report, dated Feb 28, states: C.c. *APL Panama* remains grounded off the coast of Ensenada. Cranes placed on the deck of the ship are continuing to assist in the discharge of the ship. The speed of discharge of containers has increased. The cranes are removing below-deck containers to the extent they can be reached. Approximately 962 containers have been removed from the ship. The salvors intend to remove most of the containers from the ship, however this will be subject to operational limitations. There is no sign of cargo damage onboard the vessel, and reefers remaining on the ship continue to be powered by generator. An attempt to refloat the vessel today was not successful due to sand build-up around the ship. Preparations are being made to remove a sand build-up from the starboard side of the ship that has inhibited recovery with the use of a dredger. A dredger has been mobilized to Ensenada and is expected to commence operations soon. Renewed efforts to refloat the ship can be expected to follow the dredging efforts. The next spring tides are in approximately two weeks. We continue to urge you to make arrangements with your cargo underwriters to post security for your cargo. This is particularly important if you have been advised that your cargo has been discharged from the ship. Secure storage space for containers ashore is limited, and we

cannot deliver or on-carry your cargo unless security has been posted. Your underwriters should be working with Richards Hogg Lindley, the General Average and salvage security collection agents.

#### **AQUARIUS**

London, Feb 28 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Tug *Aquarius* and general cargo *Monica* were in collision close to the Sas van Ghent Bridge, on the River Scheldt during the night of Feb 27. Tug *Hendrik 4* was on the scene shortly afterwards and towed *Monica* to the shipyard in Sluiskil.

London, Feb 28 — A collision took place, last night, between tug *Aquarius* and general cargo *Monica*, near Sas van Ghent and the Zelzate Bridge, in the Canal Ghent, Terneuzen. Tug *Hendrik 4* from the company F. van Aerde of Sas van Ghent, was soon at the scene of the collision and towed *Monica* to Sluiskil, to the shipyard De Schroef. There the vessel will be discharged and later repaired.

#### **ARIADNE (Greece)**

London, Feb 25 — Bulk *Ariadne* sailed Eregli Feb 13.

#### **ARKLOW VENUS (Republic of Ireland)**

London, Feb 25 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0824, UTC: General cargo *Arklow Venus* (2829 gt, built 2000), Runcorn for Wilhelmshaven, with salt, reported experiencing intermittent engine cooling problems. Tug/supply *Anglian Princess* was tasked at 0730, UTC, to proceed to the vessel. *Arklow Venus* is proceeding for Mounts Bay to effect repairs, escorted by *Anglian Princess*. Position at 0800, UTC, lat 49 51N, long 05 55W. Engineers will meet the vessel in Mounts Bay.

London, Feb 25 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1147, UTC: General cargo *Arklow Venus* was reported anchored in Mounts Bay, 1.1 nautical miles from Newlyn harbour, at 1135, UTC. Engineers are due to arrive at 1330, UTC.

London, Feb 25 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 2200, UTC: General cargo *Arklow Venus* is still anchored in Mounts Bay effecting repairs to cooling water system. Reported at 1900, UTC, that repairs estimated at further 7-8 hours.

London, Feb 26 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0922, UTC: General cargo *Arklow Venus* completed repairs and proceeded on voyage at 0259, UTC.

London, Mar 2 — General cargo *Arklow Venus* arrived Wilhelmshaven Feb 28.

#### **BAHIA DE ESPIRITU SANTO (Mexico)**

See “Hurricane ‘Wilma’” under “Weather & Navigation.”

**BANGLAR SHIKHA (Bangladesh)**

London, Feb 24 — General cargo *Banglar Shikha* sailed Chittagong Feb 23.

**BERZUPE (Latvia)**

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Riga MRCC, dated today: Latvian fishing *Berzupe*, length 25 metres, caught fire south of Bornholm island Feb 18. Eventually the fishing vessel was disabled and the crew were forced to abandon it. Vessel is now under tow to the Latvian port of Liepaja.

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Riga MRCC, dated today: Fishing *Berzupe* was reported moored at Liepaja at 1000, UTC, today.

**BUDELLI (Italy)**

Messina, Feb 27 — At 1930, local time, Feb 25, passenger ro/ro *Budelli* (4517 gt, built 1988) operated by RFI (Italian state railways ferry-boats) while manoeuvring to enter into a dedicated berth in the port of Messina, collided with the outer arm of the pleasure-boat marina outside the port, damaging floating structures and three yachts moored therein. Local authorities carrying out investigations and understand that mechanical failure of the rudder is being alleged. — Lloyd's Agents.

**BUMI JAYA (Indonesia)**

Chittagong, Feb 28 — The local agents of general cargo *Bumi Jaya*, Unicorn Shipping Lines Limited, advised that some ship's crew have been replaced, otherwise the status of vessel remains the same as reported earlier. — Lloyd's Agents.

**BUNGA PELANGI (Malaysia)**

London, Feb 28 — C.c. *Bunga Pelangi* (53521 gt, built 1992) had a blackout and anchored River Scheldt in lat 51 25.128N, long 03 01.21E, at 1957 (? UTC) yesterday. Tugs *Union Coral* and *Union 5* were on standby, however, the problem was rapidly solved and vessel proceeded.

Zeebrugge, Feb 28 — C.c. *Bunga Pelangi* had engine trouble at 2045, local time, yesterday and was reported underway at 2230, local time. Vessel is now at Antwerp. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Bunga Pelangi* sailed Hamburg 2355, Feb 26 and arrived Antwerp 0402 today.)

**CAPE BRADLEY (Marshall Islands)**

See *Star Herdla*.

**CENTURY TEAM (Belize)**

Busan, Feb 28 — General cargo *Century Team* sailed from Wando, Korea, at about 1030, Feb 25, after completion of reloading of cargo, bound for original destination port of Pohang. Estimated time of arrival Pohang is, at present, morning of Mar 1. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**CHRISTOS (Greece)**

Piraeus, Feb 27 — Product tanker *Christos* (1361 gt, built 1965), Kalathos, Rhodes Island, for Halki

Island, loaded with a consignment of water, stranded east of Halki Island night of Feb 23. Refloated by own power and berthed safely at Halki port. According master's statement, vessel's bow sustained a crack 1-2 metres long. All eleven crew members and one passenger were reportedly healthy and secure. No pollution was reported. Sailing was prohibited by the local port authorities until class inspection. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CHUN YEON (South Korea)**

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A Korean vessel encountered heavy storms in the East China Sea yesterday and as of 1540 hrs, today, all the 16 crew members had been rescued. The source with Donghai Rescue Bureau, connected to the Ministry of Communications, said the vessel, general cargo *Chun Yeon* (5552 gt, built 1990), loaded with 6,100 tons of coal, was hit by the storms at 1040 hrs, yesterday near the estuary of Minjiang River. In total, 16 crew members were on board the ship, seven from Korea, six from China and three from Myanmar. The bureau immediately launched the rescue operation upon receiving the vessel's requests for help. Both vessels and helicopters were mobilised, but the bad weather handicapped to the rescue operation, said the bureau.

London, Feb 28 — Following received from Beijing MRCC, timed 1430, UTC: General cargo *Chun Yeon* is in lat 26 00N, long 120 36E. All 16 crew have been taken off the vessel. Tug/supply *Huacai* and tug *Dong Hai Jiu 199* are nearby.

London, Mar 1 — Understand general cargo *Chun Yeon* is still adrift with a 30 degree list. All crew have now been taken ashore.

London, Mar 2 — General cargo *Chun Yeon* is at anchor, with tug on scene. Negotiations are underway with regards to the vessel being taken in tow. Weather at location is good.

**CINNA (Liberia)**

London, Mar 1 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1500, UTC: Bulk *Cinna* (22549 gt, built 1979), cargo hot brick iron, grounded at mile marker 52.8, Lower Mississippi, at 1830, UTC, yesterday. The vessel is still aground and part cargo is being lightered. No damage reported. (Note — According to LMIU AIS *CINNA* was in lat 29 36 29.52N, long 89 51 57.9W, at 1344 today. *Cinna* was reported to have arrived Davant 1800, Feb 20.)

London, Mar 1 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 2102, UTC: Bulk *Cinna* is still aground and cargo lightering operations are under way.

**CLAN GLADIATOR (Cyprus)**

Antwerp, Mar 1 — C.c. *Clan Gladiator* sailed (Shanghai) on Feb 13, for Busan, South Korea and then for ports in Central America. — DPS Teamhead Surveyors.

**CLEOPATRA S. (Sierra Leone)**

Port Said, Feb 26 — Passenger ro/ro *Cleopatra S.* completed repairs Feb 23 and resumed passage to Suez Feb 24, with the southbound convoy. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CMA CGM VERDI (Bahamas)**

London, Feb 24 — C.c. *CMA CGM Verdi* sailed Southampton Feb 22.

**CONCEL PRIDE (Nigeria)**

Cadiz, Mar 1 — Product tanker *Concel Pride* is still in port, under repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CORA JO (Netherlands Antilles)**

London, Mar 1 — General cargo *Cora Jo* according to LMIU AIS, was in lat 53 44.83N, long 15 31.7W at 1026, Mar 1.

**DEANNA (North Korea)**

London, Feb 28 — General cargo *Deanna* (1069 gt, built 1966), Constantza for Damietta, dropped anchor near Akbas lighthouse at 1610, local time, today, due cargo sliding. (Note — *Deanna* sailed Constantza Feb 25 for Damietta, and according to LMIU AIS vessel was in lat 40 12 11.4N, long 26 26 36.12E, at 1454 today.)

London, Feb 28 — Following received from Ankara MRCC, timed 1525, UTC: General cargo *Deanna*, cargo 50 tractors and 600 tonnes timber products, is still at anchor.

**DON CHICHILO (Argentina)**

London, Feb 27 — Following notice to mariners issued Feb 24: Fishing *Raquel* towing trawler *Don Chichilo* (110 gt, built 1992) in lat 44 39S, long 60 55W, line length 460 metres, speed 7 knots, course 024 bound for port Mar del Plata.

**DONG FA (China)**

See *Healthy Falcon*.

**DORIA (Germany)**

London, Mar 1 — As of yesterday c.c. *Doria* was at Eldock, Durban.

**DYVI PAMPLONA (NIS)**

London, Feb 24 — According to LMIU AIS, vehicle *Dyvi Pamplona* was in lat 38 01 13.38N, long 76 12 38.4W, at 0949, UTC, today, speed 19 knots.

London, Mar 1 — Vehicle *Dyvi Pamplona* arrived and sailed Charleston Feb 25.

**E.R.AMSTERDAM (Germany)**

See *Wan Hai 266*.

**ECE (Marshall Islands)**

Guernsey, Feb 23 — Acid tanker *Ece*: Guernsey Harbour Authority have indicated that despite the fact that Channel Island SAR units were involved at the time, the salvage and further investigations are being conducted by the UK/French Authorities. The Guernsey Harbour Authority state that to the best of their knowledge the 'authorities' are investigating the possibilities of removing the cargo. The Guernsey

Harbour Authority are not aware of any proposals to recover the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **EIDER (Hong Kong)**

London, Mar 2 — Bulk *Eider* arrived Vancouver Anchorage Mar 1 and according to according to LMIU AIS, was in lat 48 45.54N, long 126 3.8W at 0749, UTC, Mar 2.

#### **ELVITA (Malta)**

London, Feb 26 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Elvita* resumed its voyage for the Baltic shortly after investigations at Rendsburg were completed.

#### **EMMA (Estonia)**

See *Perse*.

#### **ESER KAPTANOGLU (Turkey)**

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1430, UTC: Bulk/c.c. *Eser Kaptanoglu* departed from Corpus Christi Feb 23.

#### **ESTRADEN (Finland)**

London, Mar 1 — Ro/ro *Estraden* is expected at Kiel LH tomorrow morning after completion of repairs and is due back in service then.

London, Mar 2 — Ro/ro *Estraden* left Naantali on Feb 27, after completing repairs and headed for "the Finnish Paldiski" and Turku, in order to resume service.

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

London, Mar 1 — As of yesterday general cargo *Eugenio* was still at Dormac repair quay, Durban.

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

Trondheim, Feb 24 — General cargo *Euro Fjord* is still at Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra. ETS unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Feb 27 — Bulk *Evangelia M.* (34439 gt, built 1981) run aground at Dogan Aslan Bank anchorage area in Marmara Sea at 0620, local time, Feb 26 while it was dropping its anchor.

London, Feb 27 — Following received from Ankara MRCC, timed 0955, UTC: Bulk *Evangelia M.*, cargo approximately 50,000 tonnes of wheat, is still aground trying to refloat itself.

Istanbul, Feb 27 — Bulk *Evangelia M.*, Odessa for Jubail, ran aground at Dogan Bank anchorage area 0620, local time, Feb 26 while it was dropping anchor. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 28 — Bulk *Evangelia M.*, Ukraine for Saudi Arabia, cargo 50,171 tons of barley, run aground at 0630, Feb 26 in the vicinity of Canakkale Doganaslan, lat 40 29.8N, long 26 51 27E. Search and Rescue vessel *Kiyi Emniyeti 9* and tug *Kurtarma 4* were sent to the scene immediately by VTS. There is no any environmental pollution. It was permitted for the vessel to work with its own means by Gelibolu Port Authority until 1600, Feb 27.

London, Feb 28 — Following received from Ankara MRCC, timed 0955, UTC: Bulk *Evangelia M.* is still aground. There are four tugs in the area.

London, Mar 1 — Following received from Ankara MSRCC, timed 1510, UTC: Bulk *Evangelia M.* remains aground. Tugs are on scene and refloating operations are still under way.

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

London, Mar 2 — Following received from the Admiralty Marshal, dated today: Ref *EW McKinley* (6911 gt, built 1983) was arrested at Dover Mar 1 on behalf of Del Monte Fresh Produce (UK) Limited in respect of damage to cargo. (Note — *EW McKinley* arrived Dover Feb 27 from Puerto Limon, CR.)

#### **EXPRESS SAMINA (Greece)**

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven crew members and company officials were today sentenced to up to 19 years in prison for their roles in a ferry disaster that killed 80 people near the holiday island of Paros. A court found the master and first officer of passenger ro/ro *Express Samina* guilty of manslaughter and other criminal offences. Five other defendants, including two ferry company officials, received lighter sentences. The disaster in September, 2000, shook public confidence in Greece's coastal ferry industry and prompted a safety crackdown. The defendants had faced a maximum penalty of life imprisonment for their roles in the disaster in which the vessel hit rocks in the Aegean Sea outside Paros' main port.

#### **FLOTTBEK (Germany)**

London, Feb 23 — C.c. *Flottbek* (16324 gt, built 2005), upbound, ran aground after losing its propulsion in lat 46 33 57N, long 72 06 18W, at 1815, EST, Feb 22. Main engine auto-shut down due to low lube oil pressure. Vessel refloated by itself during night and resume its voyage to Montreal. (Note — *Flottbe* sailed Antwerp Feb 12 for Montreal, and according to LMIU AIS *Flottbe* was in lat 45 35 13.8N, long 73 30 14.4W, at 1856, UTC, today.)

London, Feb 27 — C.c. *Flottbek* was reported in port at Montreal on Feb 24. Vessel sailed Feb 26 and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 46 3 36.6N, long 73 5 20.4W at 2006, UTC same day, 1.8 nautical miles from Sorel, speed 14.4 knots

#### **FRAU NANCY (North Korea)**

See "Cyprus" under "Port State Control".

#### **FRONT PAGE (Liberia)**

London, Mar 1 — Crude oil tanker *Front Page* arrived Gdynia Feb 20 and sailed Feb 27.

#### **GAUDOS (Malta)**

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro

*Gaudos* (4893 gt, built 2001) sustained damage to its ramp on Wednesday (Feb 22). The vessel entered Malta Shipyards, and repairs commenced yesterday.

#### **GENMAR STAR (Liberia)**

London, Mar 2 — Bulk/oil *GenMar Star*, bound Corpus Cristi, loaded, passed Canakkale 0952, Mar 1.

#### **GEORGIANNA MCHAFFIE (Australia)**

Melbourne, Feb 27 — Passenger *Georgianna McHaffie* (270 gt, built 1961 ) grounded on the mud flats off Hanns Inlet, Westernport Bay on Thursday, Feb 23. The vessel went aground while adjustments to the vessel's steering gear were being carried out. The passengers were taken off the ferry by the local Westernport barge *Trochus*. Following the grounding, attempts by the local Westernport tug, *Comma* were unsuccessful in pulling the vessel off. However the vessel floated off the next morning, at about 0720, Feb 24, by itself. Advised by the ferry's owner that no damage was sustained to the vessel and it is currently at the Hasting Marina ready for its the next hire. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GERONIMO (Netherlands)**

London, Feb 27 — Shipyard Koninklijke Niestern Sander, Delfzijl, report that general cargo *Geronimo* is still at the shipyard repairing. ETC two to three weeks.

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

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire on ro/ro/c.c. *Golden Trader* (6861 gt, built 1979) at the Captain Cook Wharf in downtown Auckland is now out, but is causing major traffic problems during peak hour traffic. Quay Street is closed between Britomart and Commerce Streets. The police say Quay Street is likely to be blocked for another hour. The Fire Service says the blaze on board *Golden Trader* was caused by leaking gas. (Note — *Golden Trader* arrived Auckland Feb 1.)

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

London, Feb 26 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Grachtborg* (2820 gt, built 1997) and general cargo *Marietje Benita* (2397 gt, built 2005) were in collision in the Kiel Canal, close to Quarnbek in the Rendsburg-Eckernfoerde region, during the night of Feb 25. Both vessels sustained severe damage to the bow area. The cause of the collision is not yet known. Both vessels are presently berthed at the Kieler Lagerhausgesellschaft.

London, Feb 27 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Grachtborg* was waiting at the passing point Schwartenbek with other vessels for a convoy coming from Kiel-Holtenau with direction Brunsbuttel, with destination Kubikenborg, Sweden. At

1715 general cargo *Marietje Benita* crashed into the *Grachtborg*, which was hit almost frontal from starboard side. The *Marietje Benita* hit with its port side bow. Both bows were crushed. A gash right across the *Grachtborg's* bow a little bit above the water line was temporarily patched. The vessels were only allowed to proceed to Kiel for further inspections by the police which took place Feb 26. Divers at the same time undertook an underwater survey of the foreship of the *Marietje Benita* as there seemed to be some leakage due to the collision. The bows of both vessels are that severely damaged that they have to be replaced completely. The damage is esteemed to be more than one million Euro. In the afternoon of Feb 26 the *Grachtborg* left Kiel North harbour and returned to the Elbe for repairs, which will take place at the Norderwerft in Hamburg.

London, Feb 28 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Grachtborg* arrived at Hamburg Norderwerft in the morning hours of Feb 27, for repairs. General cargo *Marietje Benita* is still in Kiel as Wagenborg Shipping is still looking for a replacement vessel to take the cargo of chipboards which is destined for England. After this has taken place the vessel will be repaired at "Peters Werft" (Peters Yard) in Wewelsfleth.

London, Feb 28 — General cargo *Grachtborg* was on a voyage from Immingham to Sundsvall, with a cargo of coal. General cargo *Marietje Benita* was on a voyage from Loviisa to Rochester, with a cargo of 2307 tons of chipboard.

London, Mar 2 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: Collision-damaged general cargo *Marietje Benita* left Kiel port at midnight, Mar 1 for Peterswerft, Wewelsfleth, for repairs. The vessel has discharged its cargo from Loviisa.

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

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

#### **GRENLAND (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Feb 27 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1410, UTC: General cargo *Grenland* is still aground.

London, Feb 27 — General cargo *Grenland* that ran aground a week ago at the entrance to the northern Spanish port of Aviles remains stuck on rocks amid mounting fears that it will break apart. The vessel hit the breakwater after losing engine power as it sailed into the port, which has tricky access. Spain's maritime rescue service has overseen the removal of the vessel's bunkers and there is no risk of pollution. But officials fear that if the vessel breaks up, the pieces could block the entrance to the port. The vessel, flagged in Dominica, has been secured to the breakwater with cables and the plan now is to take it apart on site. This weekend, six out of nine crew members were evacuated

from the vessel following the intervention of the International Transport Workers' Federation. Three seafarers, all of them officers, were still on board yesterday.

Gijon, Mar 1 — General cargo *Grenland* is still aground and its condition is worsening. Understand that the vessel has several severe cracks in the bottom and there is now water in the hold. In the event that the vessel is refloated, the authorities will not allow it to put into Aviles as there is a risk of it foundering in the channel and closing the port. The vessel is expected to be a total loss. It has been reported that the vessel's owners have practically abandoned it. The crew were owed back salaries and have left the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1131, UTC: General cargo *Grenland* is still aground, and the vessel's engine-room is reported to be flooded. About 75% of the vessel's bunkers have been removed and the removal operation is continuing.

#### **GRIGOROUSSA I (Liberia)**

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Crude oil tanker *Grigoroussa I* (52997 gt, built 1987) lost 3,000 tons of heavy fuel in the Suez Canal yesterday after a contact with a quay caused a leak, an official at the canal authority said. *Grigoroussa I*, which was travelling southwards from the Mediterranean, had a technical failure and drifted before hitting a quay on the canal's western bank, the source said on condition of anonymity. Approximately 3,000 of the 58,000 tons of heavy fuel the tanker was carrying towards the Red Sea leaked into canal waters. Tugs pulled the tanker in order not to block traffic while an environment ministry taskforce started work to contain the slick, the official added.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated Feb 27, states: Some 3,000 tons of heavy fuel leaked from crude oil tanker *Grigoroussa I* after it struck a quay causing the leak in the Suez Canal, a statement by the canal said. It added that rescue ships towed the tanker to the dock at the southern entrance of the canal. The oil slick spreaded to around 20 kilometres towards the southern entrance of the canal, said the canal. Minister of Environment Majed George said in a statement a team from the canal and crew from the tanker moved the remaining quantity of the heavy fuel to undamaged tanks, as well as pulling the tanker away to avoid traffic disturbance. George ordered the anti-pollution teams to fight the pollution caused by the slick.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Crude oil tanker *Grigoroussa I* spilled 3,000 tons of heavy fuel into the Suez Canal yesterday after running aground and hitting the western bank of the waterway, the Suez Canal Authority

said. The ship spread the fuel over a distance of 20km towards the southern end of the canal while passing through from north to south. The authority has sent out boats with booms to contain large patches and to treat them with foam, officials said. Tugs have towed the vessel to the port of Suez, and impounded it for pollution, the authority said in a statement. A marine biologist said the oil would probably move southwards into the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea but not necessarily as far as the sensitive coral reefs at the southern tip of the Sinai peninsula. "The canal and the northern end of the Gulf of Suez are already quite polluted but it could affect some fisheries," added the biologist, who asked not to be named. Another expert said it would be easier to contain the oil in a narrow waterway such as the Suez Canal than in the open sea. Traffic through the canal was not affected.

Port Said, Feb 28 — Crude oil tanker *Grigoroussa I*, which entered the Suez Canal with the southbound convoy on Feb 27, went aground at km 116 in the Canal. Suez Canal Authority tugs refloated vessel and towed it to Suez outer harbour. Vessel had leakage in one cargo tank which resulted in about 3,000 tons of oil being spilt in the canal area causing grave pollution. S.C.A. have now arrested the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 28 — Due to an oil spill (from crude oil tanker *Grigoroussa I*), the Suez Canal Authority has today decided to cancel the following transits: Southbound: Tankers and LPG/LNG vessels expected to join today's first southbound convoy. Northbound: Tankers and LPG/LNG vessels expected to join today's northbound convoy. The affected vessels are expected to join the convoys tomorrow. According to local reports, an estimated 2,500 tonnes of heavy fuel is in the Canal, in several spills between the Km 130 and KM90. The Suez Canal Authority is currently endeavouring to disperse the spills.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Egyptian authorities blocked today six large ships from entering the Suez Canal because of an oil spill in the waterway, a Suez Canal Authority official said. The ships were told not to enter the canal because they had heavy and highly flammable cargoes, the official said. Small and medium-sized boats were allowed into the canal. Some 3,000 tonnes of oil was spilt into the canal yesterday when crude oil tanker *Grigoroussa I* ran aground and hit the western bank of the canal. Clean up operations were still under way and foam had been used to stop the oil from moving, the official said. An environmental official estimated the cost of the environmental damage at US\$8.4 million. Prosecutors in Suez decided to summon the master for questioning and to keep the vessel impounded. The Egyptian state news agency MENA said the oil spill led to a fire at a hotel on the banks of the canal

today. The fire damaged two boats, some trees and the hotel disco, it added. There were no casualties.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Crude oil tanker *Grigorousa I* struck the Western bank of the Suez Canal yesterday, spilling about 3,000 tons of oil into the water, a Suez Canal Authority official said. A failure in the steering gear caused the vessel to strike the bank, leading to the spill, said the official. The incident occurred about 40 km north of Suez, the official said. Workers were pouring dispersants into the water to break up and clean the oil, which covered about 20 km, he added.

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated Mar 1, states: The oil spill caused by crude oil tanker *Grigorousa I* in the Suez Canal has resulted in \$12-million in environmental damage, Egypt's environment minister said today. The vessel leaked 3,000 tons of heavy fuel into the canal, also affecting nearby tourist resorts and residents, Maged George told the official MENA news agency. While too early to assess the overall impact on local residents and businesses, George said that canal authorities have already received 1,320 complaints relating to the spill. The tanker, which was headed south from the Mediterranean, broke down and drifted into a quay. About 3,000 of the 58,000 tons of its heavy fuel cargo leaked into the canal, while the rest was safely pumped out.

London, Mar 2 — Understand salvage services are being rendered to crude oil tanker *Grigorousa I* under Lloyd's Open Form by Tsavlis.

Port Said, Mar 2 — Crude oil tanker *Grigorousa I* is still under arrest and negotiations are on going as to the cost of pollution damages as at least two resort villages were affected. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GUDRUN (Germany)**

London, Feb 27 — Product tanker *Gudrun* arrived Hamburg Feb 25 from Wilhelmshaven.

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

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 0835, UTC: General cargo *Hanife Ana* remains aground in the same position. (See issue of Feb 21.)

London, Feb 27 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1025, UTC: General cargo *Hanife Ana* remains aground in the same position. Arrangements are being made to transfer 90 cubic metres of oil from vessel's double bottom.

London, Mar 1 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1020, UTC: General cargo *Hanife Ana* is still aground and is likely to remain aground for sometime.

#### **HAPPY BRIDE (Isle of Man)**

London, Feb 28 — Lpg *Happy Bride* arrived Zeebrugge Feb 27 and sailed Feb 28.

#### **HARRIX (U.K.)**

London, Feb 24 — General cargo *Harrix* arrived Tallinn Feb 17 and sailed Feb 19.

#### **HEALTHY FALCON (Vietnam)**

Shanghai, Feb 24 — Product tanker *Healthy Falcon* sailed to Jiaxing Port, Zhejiang, China after colliding general cargo *Dong Fa* near Zhoushan sea on Jan 31. The Jiaxing Port Authority inspected *Healthy Falcon* and detained the vessel on Feb 10. It was said that the foredeck, guard rails, and the "bitts" of the *Healthy Falcon* were deformed seriously. No further details available on the *Dong Fa*. — Lloyd's Agents.

Antwerp, Mar 1 — At the end of February product tanker *Healthy Falcon* sailed (from Jiaxing) to Vietnam for repair and general cargo *Dong Fa* sailed for North China after repairing in Shanghai. — DPS Teamhead Surveyors.

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

London, Feb 28 — C.c. *Henry Hudson Bridge* passed Suez south Feb 24, Italy for Colombo.

#### **HIGH RIDER (Marshall Islands)**

London, Feb 25 — Product tanker *High Rider* sailed San Lorenzo Feb 24.

#### **HOEGH GANDRIA (NIS)**

Singapore, Feb 26 — Lng/Lpg *Hoegh Gandria* is now berthed at Hitachi, Shipyard, Quay 2. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **HORNCLIFF (Liberia)**

London, Feb 24 — C.c.ref *Horncliff* sailed Hamburg Feb 21.

#### **IRAN MADANI (Iran)**

Lisbon, Feb 23 — According to our sub-agents bulk *Iran Madani* is now at Lisnave shipyard, Setubal, waiting for a decision from the owners as to a possible repair. Nothing has been decided up to now. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **JAMES PRIOR (U.K.)**

London, Mar 2 — General cargo *James Prior* arrived London Feb 28 and sailed Mar 1.

#### **KATHRIN (Switzerland)**

London, Mar 1 — A Maritime and Coastguard Agency press release, timed 1717, Feb 28, states: The master of general cargo *Kathrin* (2999 gt, built 1999) which ran aground off Kent and docked later in Hull was remanded in custody by Scunthorpe Magistrates today after pleading guilty to being four times over the legal drink drive limit whilst in charge of a ship. At the hearing today in Scunthorpe, Adrian Ferichel, a Romanian national aged 45, was remanded to appear at Grimsby Crown Court at 1000, Mar 20. The master was involved in incidents on the Goodwin sands on Feb 12 and New Holland on Feb 15. On Feb 13, the owners of *Kathrin* contacted Dover Coastguard to report that the vessel had grounded on the Goodwin Sands. Examination of the radar

records at Dover showed that *Kathrin* had crossed normally from the North-east lane of the Dover Traffic Separation Scheme into the English inshore traffic zone. However, instead of altering course to continue its passage up to the Humber, *Kathrin* maintained its course. Ten minutes after narrowly missing the East Goodwin Light Vessel, *Kathrin* ran aground on the Goodwin Sands. The vessel remained aground for 20 minutes before refloating itself and recommencing its passage to the north of England. Dover Coastguard was not contacted at any time during this incident. As a result the vessel was met at New Holland by a Port State Control Inspector from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA). On boarding it was suspected that the Master was over the prescribed limit for alcohol. Accordingly Humberside Police was asked to attend and subjected Mr Ferichel to a breathalyser test. He failed the test and was arrested. He was taken to Scunthorpe Police Station and asked to provide a sample of his breath for analysis. This showed level of alcohol in his breath of 140 microgrammes per microlitre of breath. This was about four times the legal limit. This is the highest recorded alcohol level in incidents that the MCA have had to deal with. As a result the Humberside Police commenced an investigation into Mr Ferichel. This investigation was assisted by the Enforcement Unit of the Maritime & Coastguard Agency. Mr Ferichel pleaded guilty to breaches of the drink/drive provisions of the Railway and Transport safety Act 2003 and section 58 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, as amended. The Magistrates in transferring the case to the Crown Court said: "The sentencing powers available to the Magistrates Court today were insufficient." (the sentencing available to the court is a maximum fine of £5,000 for each offence). (Note — *Kathrin* arrived New Holland 0120, Feb 15 and sailed 1907, Feb 16.)

#### **KIPEROUSA (Malta)**

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Durban auctioneer Roy Martin this week sold the salvaged cargo from bulk *Kiperousa*. Some of the vessel's cargo of 26,000 tonnes of West African logs were washed overboard as the ship broke up and all but approximately 1,000 logs was recovered in a lengthy salvage process. The original Chinese owners showed little or no interest in the sale of the cargo and an auction was consequently arranged in East London, with Admiralty Sales handling the process. The logs were knocked down to a Seattle-based company, Susheen Timber Trading Company for a bargain basement price of US\$1.8 million (R10.8 million), well below the cargo's estimated value. The salvaged cargo will be exported to China. The missing 1,000 logs still remain unaccounted for.



**KOZA (Marshall Islands)**

London, Mar 1 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0855, UTC: General cargo *Koza* (6221 gt, built 2004) is currently at Piraeus anchorage having been towed there by tug *Matsas Star* following engine failure yesterday. All crew are safe and well. (Note — *Koza* sailed Antwerp Feb 18 and passed Gibraltar 0456, Feb 23 for Ambarli.)

Piraeus, Mar 1 — General cargo *Koza* sustained mechanical failure, and rendered ungovernable, in the sea area close to Karystos, Feb 28. The vessel had sailed from Antwerp bound to Istanbul. All thirteen crew members were reportedly healthy and secure. A tug proceeded to the site in order to tow *Koza* to Piraeus port. — Lloyd's Agents.

**LADOGA 8 (Belize)**

Gothenburg, Feb 28 — General cargo *Ladoga 8* (1511 gt, built 1974), Denmark for Lake Vanern with pellets, grounded in the Gothenburg Channel at about 0830, Feb 24. The vessel refloated with the assistance of a pilot vessel and a Coast Guard vessel but began taking water in the bow thruster-room and a ballast tank through a hole in the bottom. The vessel was able to proceed under its own power to the City Repairyard, where it berthed with a seven-deg list to port. Divers inspected the vessel's bottom and found bottom damage over a 15-metre length, along with several holes. The vessel will require drydocking for repairs, but where and how has not yet been decided, according to Board of Shipping inspectors who went on board the vessel today. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Mar 2 — Following received from Russian Maritime Register of Shipping, dated today: General cargo *Ladoga 8*: As per our Russian Register records, the vessel grounded in the Gothenburg Channel Jan 20 (not as before reported). The vessel has been in operation since completion of repairs Feb 13. On Feb 24, the vessel was under voyage from Riga to Uddevalla via the Baltic Sea.

**MAINE (Cambodia)**

London, Feb 25 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0826, UTC: General cargo *Maine* is still aground.

**MARIELLE BOLTEN (Liberia)**

London, Feb 23 — A SvitzerWijismuller Salvage BV report, dated Feb 22, states: SvitzerWijismuller Salvage and partners Resolve Salvage succeeded in safely bringing general cargo *Marielle Bolten* into Freeport, Bahamas. The vessel was assisted over the last stretch of its voyage by the Bahamas stationed SvitzerWijismuller tug *Svitzer Apure*. The intention is that the vessel will be discharged under control of the salvors, after which it will be brought into the dry dock. A special discharge sequence was worked out by SvitzerWijismuller

Salvage naval architects to ensure the safety of the by grounding damaged vessel.

**MARIETJE BENITA (Netherlands)**

See *Grachtborg*.

**MONICA**

See *Aquarius*.

**MOON STAR (Cambodia)**

London, Mar 2 — C.c. *Moon Star* sailed Nakhodka Feb 23.

**MSC SELIN (Panama)**

Dar-es-Salaam, Feb 27 — Ro/ro/c.c. *MSC Selin* (22131 gt, built 1981) ran aground at the Dar-es-Salaam Port pilot station at 0415, Feb 26. Understand this was caused due to failure in the vessel's steering system. No damage to hull or cargo has been reported as yet. The Tanzania Port Authority are making efforts to refloat the vessel and are proposing to make the vessel lighter by offloading some containers. To date the vessel remains in the same position. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *MSC Selin* sailed Durban Feb 20 for Dar-es-Salaam.)

Dar es Salaam, Feb 27 — Following additional inquiries with the with the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA), it is reported that ro/ro/c.c. *MSC Selin* ran aground after it hit a sand bar "whilst heading on the wrong marine" due to strong waves. TPA are waiting for high tide to enable them to refloat the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

Dar es Salaam, Feb 28 — Ro/ro/c.c. *MSC Selin* is still aground. Tanzania Ports Authority is discharging containers from the vessel into barges using the vessel's own cranes. Once the vessel's draught has been reduced they hope to refloat the vessel at high tide using tugs — Lloyd's Agents.

Dar es Salaam, Mar 2 — Ro/ro/c.c. *MSC Selin* was refloated with the assistance of two tugs and utilising its own power yesterday morning after some containers and fuel were removed. Vessel is now berthed for discharge of cargo and to carry out refuelling. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MYSTRAS (Cayman Islands)**

London, Mar 2 — Bulk *Mystras* passed Panama Canal west Feb 17.

**NAPOCOR POWER BARGE NO.106 (Philippines)**

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

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

London, Feb 24 — Understand general cargo *Nina 1*, in tow of tug *Eurosund*, left Antwerp 2210, Feb 17 and arrived Liepaja Feb 23.

**NORDCARRIER (Sweden)**

London, Feb 25 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Nordcarrier* completed repairs and sailed Brunsbuttel Feb 25 for the North Sea with a cargo of wood.

**NORGAS TRAVELLER (Singapore)**

London, Feb 24 — Lpg *Norgas Traveller* arrived Antwerp Feb 22.

London, Feb 26 — Lpg *Norgas Traveller* sailed Antwerp Feb 24 and arrived Flushing Feb 25.

**NORMAND NEPTUN (NIS)**

London, Mar 2 — Tug/supply *Normand Neptun* sailed Stavanger Feb 26.

**NOVA SPIRIT (Malta)**

Bucharest, Feb 24 — General cargo *Nova Spirit* drifted under wind while sailing from Constantza at about 1920, local time, Feb 20, against the eastern corner of berth 79 of Constantza Oil Terminal. The quay corner is a very solid structure and damage was very minor. The vessel sustained a shell plate damage in way of forepeak portside of about 2.5m x 0.3m, about 2m above waterline. *Nova Spirit* returned inside the port for temporary repairs, but finally she offloaded all containers and sailed on Feb 23, in ballast to Varna to carry out permanent repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 25 — General cargo *Nova Spirit* arrived Varna Feb 24.

**OCEAN MAID (U.K.)**

London, Feb 27 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 0338, UTC: Fishing *Ocean Maid* (43 gt, built 1973), with four persons on board, reported aground on rocks at the entrance to Castlebay Harbour, Isle of Barra, in lat 56 04.5N, long 07 28.5W, at 1954, UTC, Feb 26. Vessel refloated at 0321, UTC, today, with the assistance of Barra RNLI lifeboat and escorted to pier at Castlebay. No pollution observed. Slight ingress of water in forward end being controlled by pumps.

**OCEAN THERESE (Panama)**

Poznan, Feb 23 — General cargo *Ocean Therese* is in New Port in Gdynia for repairs. It arrived on Feb 16 and will stay there for the next two weeks. At the moment the next destination is still unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ONEGO TRAVELLER (Netherlands)**

London, Feb 27 — Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1435, UTC: General cargo *Onego Traveller* is due to leave Hamilton today.

Hamilton, Feb 27 — General cargo *Onego Traveller* was stabilised by loading 20-foot containers with cargo and then sinking the containers within the "loose" cargo on board. The vessel departed Bermuda port at 1300 today, bound for Liverpool. — Lloyd's Agents.

**OTTON (Panama)**

Bilbao, Mar 1 — Firefighting tug *Ottion* is still reported to be carrying out repairs at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

**PEGVAK (Iran)**

See *Pejwak*.

**PEJWAK (Iran)**

Baku, Feb 26 — The name of the vessel which caught fire in Baku Bay is seismographic research *Pejwak* (not *Pegvak* as before reported) (2076 gt, built 1981), owners National Iranian Oil Co, Tehran. — Lloyd's Agents.

**PERSE (Latvia)**

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Riga MRCC, dated today: Fishing *Perse* (119 gt, built 1976) in collision with fishing *Emma* (289 gt, built 1981) in lat 57 43.6N, long 21 23.E at 0445, UTC, Feb 23. *Perse* received minor damages above a waterline. *Emma* practically no damage. Both vessels are in the port of Ventspils now.

**PINTAIL (Cyprus)**

See *Twin Star*.

**PRIDE OF CALAIS (U.K.)**

London, Feb 24 — Understand Marine Accident Investigation Branch are investigating passenger ro/ro *Pride of Calais* (26433 gt, built 1986) machinery failure occurred while berthed in Dover, which resulted in the collapse of the gangway Feb 21. (Note — *Pride of Calais* according to LMIU AIS, was in lat 51 07.4N, long 01 21.2E at 1617, UTC, today.)

**PRINCESS NATASHA (U.S.A.)**

Honolulu, Feb 23 — On Feb 22, two men were rescued from a liferaft after their vessel, fishing *Princess Natasha*, length 60 feet, sank about three miles off Molokini Island. Tug *Ocean Service*, owned by Sause Brothers, spotted the first flare about 0600 hrs. Additional flares were fired and the crew used a spotlight to locate the liferaft. The Coast Guard is investigating. — Lloyd's Agents.

**PRIVATIM (Netherlands)**

London, Feb 28 — General cargo *Privatim* still lies about 10 meters deep and has been marked by buoys. There is no obstruction for the shipping traffic to and from Eemshaven. Before she can be lifted, her cargo of a 1,000 tons of asphalt scrapings has to be taken out of the holds, which will take several days. It looks that the insurance company of the vessel has now contacted the salvage company Smit-Tak of Rotterdam who might do this job with the floating sheerleg crane *Taklift 7* which is now working in the harbour of Hamburg and will on her way back to Rotterdam, to do this salvage in Eemshaven. The salvage plan has long been delayed because the authorities argued about the question who should be in charge of this salvage operation, the Rijkswaterstaat, the Port Authority, Groningen Seaports or the German Wasser-und Schifffahrtsamt (WSA).

**PROTECTOR (Panama)**

Maputo, Mar 1 — During sailing manoeuvres and while still on the

Maputo Channel and for unknown reasons bulk *Protector* (24942 gt, built 1984), which was sailing from Matola Grain Berth Terminal after discharging about 10,000 tonnes of wheat in bulk consigned for port of Maputo, the vessel contacted the quay side at the container depot, owned by MIPS-Mozambique International Port Services, between 1200 and 1400, Feb 28, and caused heavy damage to the quay side. The vessel sustained heavy bulbous bow damage. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Protector* had sailed Hamburg Jan 29 for Maputo.)

**RUTH BORCHARD (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Mar 1 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0900, UTC: C.c. *Ruth Borchard* (9962 gt, built 2004) reported engine failure at 1830, local time, yesterday and vessel's crew were trying to carry out repairs. At 0850, local time, today the vessel was taken in tow by tug *Matsas Star* for Piraeus, where ETA 0800, local time, tomorrow. (Note — *Ruth Borchard* sailed Alexandria Feb 26 for Turkey.)

London, Mar 2 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1000, UTC: C.c. *Ruth Borchard* is now being towed to Syros Island where ETA 1300, today.

**SAFE CONCORDIA (Panama)**

London, Feb 25 — Semi-sub HL vessel *Safe Concordia* sailed Singapore Feb 23.

**SAGA SPRAY (Hong Kong)**

London, Feb 28 — Bulk *Saga Spray* arrived Vancouver (Can) Feb 26.

**SAMHO BROTHER (South Korea)**

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: The Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) has delivered an ultimatum to the owner of sunken chemical/oil carrier *Samho Brother* in waters off Taoyuan County, demanding the removal of toxic chemicals from the vessel by the end of May, EPA officials said yesterday. *Samho Brother* was involved in a collision on Oct. 10. Several days later, experts found a small amount of benzene leaking from the vessel, which was carrying 3,140 tonnes of methyl benzene among other cargo. The EPA asked the military to burn off the benzene by firing missiles at the ship, but this only succeeded in sinking the boat, complete with the benzene. Last week, the EPA demanded that the ship's owner remove the cargo by the end of May, fearing that it posed a threat to both the livelihoods and health of the nation's fishermen and could become an ecological disaster.

**SAMHO PRINCE (South Korea)**

Antwerp, Feb 27 — Chem.tank *Samho Prince* (2761 gt, built 2003) departed Shanghai Feb 26, with about 3,000 tonnes caustic soda for Ishigaki, when its generator suddenly shut off and main engine stopped. As a result, the ship struck some barges and the

terminal of WGQ, Shanghai port. At present, the ship is anchoring in the channel of Hupu River for investigation of local Harbour-master. — "DPS Teamhead Surveyors."

**SAMOS SPIRIT (Greece)**

London, Mar 2 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1000, UTC: Ferry *Samos Spirit* (542 gt, built 1981), with 12 passengers on board, reported steering problems about 45 minutes ago. Vessel is now safely anchored at Karlovassi. (Note — *Samos Spirit* operates between Samos and Ikaria.)

**SARUNA**

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

**SEA HAWK-2 (Malta)**

London, Feb 28 — A Tsaviris Salvage report states: Following the grounding of general cargo *Sea Hawk-2*, Constantza for Larnaca, cargo wheat and barley, on a reef north of the island of Lesvos (on Oct 23) Tsaviris mobilized salvage tug *Megas Alexandros* from Piraeus together with a salvage team and lightering equipment. A small vessel was also chartered from Izmir for lightering of about 1,000 tonnes of barley. After lightering and removal of bunkers, the casualty was successfully refloated and taken to Lesvos. Following extensive underwater repairs and patching to the satisfaction of the authorities and class, the casualty and balance cargo were delivered to Lesvos. Eventually, lightened cargo was transferred by salvors to its destination in Larnaca. (Note — *Sea Hawk-2* subsequently arrived Varna Dec 5 and according to LMIU AIS it was still moored at Varna at 1109 today.)

**SEABULK PRIDE (U.S.A.)**

London, Feb 28 — Product tanker *Seabulk Pride* sailed March Point Feb 24 and arrived Portland (Org) Feb 27.

**SIMA PRIDE (Singapore)**

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Vietnamese authorities have detained c.c. *Sima Pride* (14067 gt, built 2004) on suspicion of hitting a local boat, which killed one Vietnamese man, injured eight others and left seven missing. The ship, which is thought to have struck the fishing boat on Feb 27 in southern Ba Ria, Vung Tau province, making a gas cylinder in the boat explode and then the boat sink, will be examined, and its crew members questioned in Ho Chi Minh City tomorrow. Marks on the ship's body indicated that it could have caused the accident, a local investigator is quoted as saying.

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The search for seven missing fishermen off the southern Vietnam coast was stopped yesterday due to adverse weather, Tuoi Tre reported, adding that c.c. *Sima Pride* is suspected of hitting their boat. Surviving victims on the

fishing boat said they had been hit by a foreign cargo ship in Vietnamese waters on Monday evening. One died of serious burns after a gas tank exploded. The foreign vessel did not stop to help but, instead, fled. Of the six vessels under suspicion, *Sima Pride* is the prime suspect since it has some marks on its hull. The vessel was detained in Ba Ria, Vung Tau and sent on to Ho Chi Minh City for further investigation.

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

London, Feb 27 — Chemical/oil carrier *Spica* (21142 gt, built 1995), upbound, reported possible propeller damage near Haut-Fond Prince, in lat 48 07 09N, long 69 36 05W, at 0510, EST, Feb 25.

Montreal, Feb 27 — Chemical/oil carrier *Spica* sustained propeller damage Feb 24, after departing Port Alfred. The vessel is currently at Three Rivers. Temporary repairs will be effected by cropping the damaged part of the propeller. After departing Three Rivers, the vessel is next scheduled to call at St. John, New Brunswick. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **STADUM (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Poznan, Feb 28 — It is reported that general cargo *Stadum* (1984 gt, built 1989) will depart from Gdynia later today, and proceed to Szczecin. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **STAR HERDLA (NIS)**

Dunkirk, Feb 27 — General cargo *Star Herdla* was in collision with chemical/oil carrier *Cape Bradley* at about 0820, Jan 12, in the channel at seven miles off the port of Boulogne. *Star Herdla* was sailing to the Boulogne for an unloading of paste of paper. The *Cape Bradley* was sailing to Rotterdam for a unloading of 30,053 tonnes of Naphta. After many manoeuvre by the *Sstar Herdla* in the strait between four vessels, the third vessel entered in collision with the general cargo. The starboard side hull damages are for the *Star Herdla* at the aft of main engine bulkhead, a driving of 7 m in the electrical room (length 25 m, Height 10 m) and different local over the load line. The vessel a float was on the strait without electricity on board after the black out and it needed a tug for sailing to Boulogne. The damages for the *Cape Bradley* are situated on the bow, but it can sail up to Rotterdam for the discharging. The *Star Herdla* will be moored at Boulogne up to the end of the one week for damage survey and in waiting for the choice of the shipyard. The vessel is now at Dunkirk for a permanent repair by Arno Dunkerque Shipyard. It arrived without engine but with tug. The quotation of repair is 3.2 m euros about for survey of main engine, shaft line and repair of hull not included the expenses for arrival to Boulogne and travel from Boulogne to Dunkirk and loss operating. The vessel repaired Feb 25 and it was sailing during the weekend. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 1 — General cargo *Star Herdla* sailed Dunkirk Feb 26.

#### **STENA EXPLORER (U.K.)**

London, Feb 28 — Passenger ro/ro *Stena Explorer* is cancelled up to and including Mar 9, due to technical difficulties.

#### **SUPER-FAST LEVANTE (Canary Islands)**

London, Mar 2 — Passenger ro/ro *Super-Fast Levante* sailed Vigo Feb 20 and passed Cape Finisterre north Feb 20.

#### **TA'PINU (Malta)**

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Engineers were working round the clock last night to try and get passenger ro/ro *Ta'Pinu* (4893 gt, built 2000) back on schedule after the vessel was removed from service due to a problem with one of its four engines. Until Thursday (Feb 23), the vessel had been operating with three engines, but the situation could not be sustained due to strong winds in the Gozo Channel.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated Feb 27, states: Many Maltese who planned to cross over to Gozo cancelled their booking since only one ferry was operating on Friday (Feb 24) and they were told they had to wait at least eight hours to make the crossing. Gozo Channel was operating with just one ferry for most of that day after the other two developed technical problems (passenger ro/ro *Ta'Pinu* and passenger ro/ro *Gaudos*). And at one point, because of the strong winds, the ferry service was operating only from Sa Maison. However, the service returned to normal, with three ferries operating, on Saturday.

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

London, — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Tananger* (4636 gt, built 1980), Haavik for Grenaa, experienced turbo failure outside Kristiansand at about 1500, local time, today. The vessel was taken in tow by tug *Bison* and towed to Kristiansand, where it arrived at about 1930 hrs.

#### **TASCO 1 (Thailand)**

London, Mar 1 — Asphalt tanker *Tasco 1* arrived Sakaide Feb 27 from Zhuhai.

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

Zeebrugge, Feb 25 — Ro/ro/c.c. *Tor Flandria* (33652 gt, built 1981) struck the Noord Bridge at Terneuzen at 1110, local time, today. The vessel has sustained damage to the starboard bow.

London, Feb 25 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1107, UTC: Ro/ro/c.c. *Tor Flandria* is currently stuck against the bridge.

London, Feb 25 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1930, UTC: Ro/ro/c.c. *Tor Flandria* is proceeding under her own power for Ghent, ETA about 2100, UTC. Vessel

has damage to starboard side near bridge and also has a small hole in bow above waterline.

Zeebrugge, Feb 26 — Ro/ro/c.c. *Tor Flandria* arrived Ghent at 1933, local time, Feb 25. The vessel's master was injured when the vessel struck the Noord Bridge, and has been taken to hospital. The bridge sustained heavy damage in the incident. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Feb 26 — Ro/ro/c.c. *Tor Flandria* was entering the lock at Terneuzen, under the guidance of a Belgian pilot, bound for Ghent with general cargo for the Volvo factory when it struck the bridge. Shipping traffic was held up for larger oceangoing vessels until 1730 yesterday, when the vessel left the lock under its own power. Smaller vessels were able to use the other two locks. The vessel will be repaired at Ghent. Authorities fear that the damaged bridge will be unusable for some months, and that road traffic will be held up and experience delays during that period. Divers have been down in the lock to check whether parts from the bridge or the vessel fell into the lock but they found nothing, and the lock has been reopened to shipping traffic.

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

Antananarivo, Mar 1 — According to information from the cargo surveyor involved, the following damages have been sustained by product tanker *Tugen*: Back piece of rudder tanked and recuperated. Screw-propeller strongly distorted. One hole in the aftpeak above the water line. The vessel has been towed to Durban for dry-docking. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 1 — As of yesterday product tanker *Tugen* was at the SRJ2 dock of Elgin Brown & Hamer (Pty) Ltd, Durban.

#### **TWIN STAR (Panama)**

Callao, Feb 23 — Bulk/c.c. *Pintail* is still at Callao due to court arrest orders for the cargo claimants ex bulk *Twin Star*. *Twin Star* is still in the same position and only an antenna is out of the water. Salvage operation has been started by SMIT, which will firstly extract all bunkers, then the steel cargo and then raise the vessel. Understood that once raised, the vessel will be scrapped. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **UNIMAR (Gibraltar)**

London, Feb 24 — General cargo *Unimar* arrived Leer Feb 11.

#### **VAERMLAND (U.K.)**

Gothenburg, Feb 23 — C.c. *Vaermland* (6434 gt, built 2003) ran aground late yesterday evening, while departing from Rauma. Tug *Neptun* successfully refloated the vessel and assisted it back to Rauma. As far as can be ascertained, the vessel did not sustain any damage. The probable cause of the grounding was a total blackout of the vessel's engine, hence needing towage back to its berth. — Westax Marine Services AB. (Note —

*Vaermland* sailed from Bremerhaven at 2015 hrs, Feb 19, bound for Rauma.)

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Turku MRCC, timed 0900, UTC: C.c. *Vaermland* had engine blackout and grounded on rocks in lat 61 06.5N, long 21 21E at 1945, UTC, Feb 22. Vessel was refloated at about 0001, UTC, Feb 23, and was towed to Rauma. No major damage sustained.

London, Feb 27 — C.c. *Vaermland* arrived Hamburg Feb 25 from Rauma.

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

London, Feb 27 — A US Coastguard press release, dated Feb 24, states: The Coast Guard will begin a formal marine casualty investigation into the circumstances surrounding the leading to the sinking of the tug *Valour*, which sank 37-miles off the coast of Cape Fear, N.C., on Jan 18, resulting in multiple loss of life. The hearings will begin at 0900 hrs, Wednesday March 1, at Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg's Prevention Office at 155 Columbia Drive in Tampa, Fla. The investigation is intended to determine causes of the accident and obtain information that may prevent or reduce the occurrence of similar incidents. *Valour* sank in 15-to-20 foot seas and gale force winds off the Carolina coast. Three people died in the accident. Five people were rescued by the tug *Justine Foss*, and one was rescued by a Coast Guard rescue helicopter from Air Facility Charleston, S.C. *Justine Foss* also recovered the barge and towed it to Wilmington, N.C.

#### **VERTIGO (Jamaica)**

London, Feb 27 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1055, UTC: Bulk *Vertigo* is now expected to leave Fredericia Mar 10 for Poland.

London, Mar 1 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1130, UTC: Bulk *Vertigo* left Fredericia this morning, for Szczecin, in tow of tug *Stevens Arctic* and escorted by tug *Stevens Iceflower*.

#### **VITA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Coast Guard Karlskrona, timed 1146, UTC: General cargo *Vita* is still aground. General cargo *Drawa* is due on scene at 2000 today and tug *Asterix* will arrive at about 0700 tomorrow, along with a floating crane which will be used to tranship cargo from *Vita* to *Drawa*.

Gothenburg, Feb 24 — The master onboard general cargo *Vita*, who was alone on the bridge at time of grounding, will be prosecuted for "gross drunkenness" at sea, where result gave 1.02 per mille alcohol whereas the limit is 1.0 per mille. The proceedings were held at Malmoe Court/Tingsraett, where the master was not present since still at hospital after heart problems, where he remains for treatment and observation. The vessel remained hard aground. Tomorrow it is planned to discharge around 1,500 tons of the urea fertilizer with assistance of a

pontoon crane. First attempt to pull the vessel off the ground will be made on Sunday (Feb 26), pending outcome of discharge. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Feb 25 — General cargo *Vita*: Danish dredger *Elisabeth Hoj* equipped with crane facilities was slightly delayed in her transfer to Kaseberga, but around 1400 today the discharging operation commenced to lighten general cargo *Vita*. More than 20 persons working around the clock and many more people could follow the operation from shore as only some 100 meters from the vessel, and able to see bucket by bucket filling of the *Elisabeth Hoj* and then proceed further out to where general cargo *Drawa* is at anchor awaiting cargo to be reloaded onboard. *Drawa* unable to proceed all the way in to *Vita* due to draught. The estimated time for enough tonnage, around 1,000 tons for transfer, is yet another 20-24 hours. Inspectors will make the first attempt to pull *Vita* off the ground tomorrow evening with assistance of tug *Asterix*. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Feb 26 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 0814, UTC: General cargo *Vita* is still aground. Cargo removal operations are expected to commence later today.

Gothenburg, Feb 26 — General cargo *Vita* commenced discharge operations yesterday and refloated at 1100 today, with the assistance of tug *Asterix*, and anchored in deeper water. Divers will inspect the bottom plates later today. Inspectors from the Board of Shipping and Navigation will have to check the divers' film before any decision is taken. If the Inspectors approve, the vessel can begin reloading immediately, but it may also require repairs before being able to proceed. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Feb 27 — The divers report gives information that general cargo *Vita* required to proceed to a repairyard without further delay and before vessel can go to UK for discharging. The salvage operation was better than we could expect says Coast Guard and neither oil or fertilizer material was noted in the sea. Around noon the final tonnage of cargo was replaced onboard the *Vita* and this afternoon it will be announced what repairyard vessel will call. The Inspectors considered vessel in condition not to proceed to port in UK to discharge there. The stony bottom assisted in salvage and contributed to the fact that no leakage was involved, but vessel slightly "bumpy" in bottom stakes and forepaek. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Sarma Kocane, a representative of the Latvian Maritime Administration confirmed that the Swedish police have detained the Latvian master of general cargo *Vita*, which recently ran aground near the Swedish coast. The Maritime Administration has so far not confirmed media reports that the master was drunk.

Malmö, Mar 1 — Following a diver's inspection, general cargo *Vita* reloaded the cargo which had been discharged and was permitted to proceed to Gothenburg for drydocking. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **VOLGONEFT 120 (Russia)**

Mariupol, Feb 24 — According to the last Ship Agent's information product tanker *Volgoneft 120* is expected to complete repairs between Mar 8 and 10. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **WAN HAI 266 (Singapore)**

Antwerp, Mar 1 — On Feb 28, c.c. *Wan Hai 266* (18872 gt, built 2002) collided with c.c. *E.R. Amsterdam* (66289 gt, built 2000) in the open sea, near Ningbo, China. Both vessels were inbound for Ningbo, for cargo operations. After the collision, *E.R. Amsterdam* proceeded for discharge and then anchored in Ningbo Anchorage for MSA investigation. Its next port is Tianjin, China. *Wan Hai 266* will repair at its next port, Hong Kong. — DPS Teamhead Surveyors.

#### **WAVE (Honduras)**

London, Mar 2 — General cargo *Wave* (829 gt, built 1966), laden with noxious goods, requested assistance at 2330, Feb 24, as the water filled its hatches while it was at Kilyos anchorage. Search and rescue vessel *Kiyi Emniyeti-3*, tugs *Kurtarma 3 Alemdar II* were sent to that location immediately by VTS in order to provide the safety of life, environment and property. Although the master of the vessel has requested to enter the strait, VTS did not allow this entrance as it was carrying noxious goods and flooding. Against the risk of sinking, the vessel has been sent to a shallow area in order to be run aground. It was announced by the master of vessel that the water was pumped out by its own means. The tugs waited beside the vessel for security and for better weather conditions in order to make a survey. Entry of the vessel is going to be permitted according to the survey, to be conducted by the Istanbul District Office.

#### **WESTERN MONARCH (Canada)**

Vancouver, Feb 23 — Transport Canada confirm fishing *Western Monarch* sank off Hectate Strait on Feb 2, and is now lying in 300 ft of water. Government officials do not plan to salvage or refloat vessel. All crew on board got off safely. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **WOLGASTERN (Isle of Man)**

London, Feb 28 — Following received from the owners of *Wolgastern*, dated today: Chemical/oil carrier *Wolgastern* remains under repair at Bremerhaven. It is expected to complete repairs Mar 3 after a routine survey.

London, Mar 1 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: After its collision with ro/ro *Estraden*, chemical/oil carrier

*Wolgastern* is still at Bredo Yard in Bremerhaven, with works at the bridge still being carried out. It looks like this will last for some days.

#### YEOSU PIONEER NO.2 (Panama)

Yokohama, Feb 24 — Chem.tank *Yeosu Pioneer No.2* refloated Feb 24. Reportedly no personal injury or oil spill was observed. However no other information, such as extent of damage, current location and repairs, is available at present. — Lloyd's Agents.

Yokohama, Feb 27 — Chem.tank *Yeosu Pioneer No.2* arrived Nagoya Feb 25 from Chiba and sailed Feb 26 for Yosue. — Lloyd's Agents.

### Port State Control



#### CARINE K. (North Korea)

See "Cyprus" under "Port State Control".

#### CYPRUS

Limassol, Feb 23 — General cargo *Frau Nancy* (1887 gt, built 1972) which arrived at Limassol Feb 22 from Alexandria, is under detention by the Dept. of Merchant Shipping. — Lloyd's Agents.

Limassol, Feb 27 — General cargo *Frau Nancy* was released and sailed Limassol today, for Alexandria, Egypt. — Lloyd's Agents.

Limassol, Mar 1 — General cargo *Carine K.* (1266 gt, built 1967), which arrived at Limassol on Feb 25, from Tripoli, Lebanon, is under Dept. of Merchant Shipping detention. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

Falmouth, Feb 24 — General cargo *Saruna*, which arrived Falmouth on Jan 27 for bunkers and was detained by the MCA on Feb 3 for numerous deficiencies, was moved from Falmouth Bay and secured to the Cross Roads Buoy in Falmouth Harbour at 0900 today. — Lloyd's Agents.

### Seizures & Arrests



#### BIGA (Canary Islands)

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

#### BOREAS (Cyprus)

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

#### CHEN LONG (Panama)

Darwin, Feb 27 — Fishing *Chen Long* appears to have a fraudulent

identity. The IMO Number which it carries on its Panama registration certificate and is cut into the vessel's hull in two places belongs to a 41 metre purse seiner built in Japan in 1980. Note: IMO numbers are assigned to vessels at launch and remain with that vessel throughout its life irrespective of name changes or changes of ownership. The number is never reassigned to another vessel even after the original vessel is scrapped. For some reason, known only to the owners, *Chen Long* now carries the purse seiner's identify by way of assuming its IMO number, year of build and shipyard of build. There were no original drawings or documents found on board *Chen Long* which would give an indication of its true history. Lloyds (Register) Sea Web still lists *Chen Long* at 235 gross tons, which relates to the smaller purse seiner, which was sold to current owners, Changhai Shundra Reefer Ship Team and renamed *Chen Long* in 2003. Suspect at this time the ship's identity was changed. In 2004 the flag was changed to Panama, in September. The manufacture dates of major equipment, main engine February, 1988, and bridge steering console, February, 1987, suggest that the vessel was not completed and commissioned until about 1989. At about the time of sale to Changhai Shundra, a new set of ships drawings, stability booklet and tonnage measurements were produced by Chinese naval architects, Fuzhou Haihong Vessel Design Consulting Services Co Ltd and used to register the ship with Panama. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### ELWOOD (Panama)

Maassluis, Feb 28 — General cargo *Elwood* is currently reported to be under detention at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Elwood* sailed from Dublin on Feb 5, under tow of tug *Thor Goliath*, bound for Rotterdam, the vessels arriving at 0815 hrs, Feb 11.)

#### FISHING VESSEL APPREHENDED BY PAKISTAN

Karachi, Feb 22 — Pakistan's Maritime Security Agency (MSA) said its vessel apprehended one Indian fishing boat with their five crew members on Feb 22 for fishing illegally in Pakistani waters. According to the release, the MSA vessel *Barkat* was on a routine patrol in the eastern maritime region when it spotted the boats operating about 85 kilometres inside Pakistan's Exclusive Economic Zone. The detained Indian fishermen were handed over to the Docks police for further legal action. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### GLAROS (Panama)

La Spezia, Feb 25 — General cargo *Glaros* is currently still under arrest at La Spezia. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### GRIGOROUSSA I (Liberia)

See "Marine."

#### INDONESIAN FISHING VESSELS DETAINED BY AUSTRALIA

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Three more illegal fishing boats have been caught in Australia's northern waters today, including two with children on board. The Australian Fisheries Management Authority says one of the boats was caught off Arnhem Land, one off the Wessel Islands and another in the Gulf of Carpentaria. All were shark boats and had shark fin on board. The authority says a total of six Indonesian shark boats have been caught since Friday (Feb 24), and 55 have been caught since the start of the year.

#### JOHN CHEEK (Falkland Islands)

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated Feb 23, states: Argentina officially notified the British Embassy in Buenos Aires today of the capture Monday (Feb 20) of fishing *John Cheek* allegedly fishing in Argentina's Economic Zone. "It is a notification, not a complaint, in which details of the events are described, that the vessel was in a position inside Argentine waters, with a registry which Argentina does not recognise and therefore illegally fishing," said Argentine Foreign Affairs sources in Buenos Aires. The notification underlines, as was advanced by the acting Argentine Coast Guard station in Comodoro Rivadavia, that the fishing vessel was intercepted inside the Argentine Zone in lat 46 36.099S, long 60 56.962W. This means, according to the Argentine Coast Guard, that the *John Cheek* was 198 nautical miles off the coast, next to Falkland Islands waters. Argentina's official news agency Telam insists that the Coast Guard has recordings when the first contact with the *John Cheek* and from the exchange with Argentine officers it is the Spanish skipper Jaime Cortizo who declares the position. However Captain Cortizo, contacted by the Spanish media, repeatedly stated the vessel was operating legally in international waters. After having been boarded by an Argentine Coast Guard vessel last Monday, the *John Cheek* was escorted to the port of Comodoro Rivadavia where it will remain until its situation is cleared. Since the captain collaborated with authorities and at no moment offered any resistance, the illegality allegedly committed by the *John Cheek* is considered a "breach" and not a major fault or crime. A top official from the Coast Guard General Ruben Alfredo Pedretti stated: "We are not saying it was intentional but at the moment of arrest the vessel was in breach of Argentine legislation and therefore the current procedures and corresponding fines." As part of the ongoing investigation of the incident this morning Comodoro Rivadavia Coast Guard staff began questioning the skipper and the 31 Spanish, Chilean and Peruvian crew members. Meanwhile, in Mar del Plata, the strong Argentine Fishing Industries Chamber, CAIPA,

suggested that all fishing companies operating in the Falkland Islands and Argentine waters "should be expelled" from the country.

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The inquiry into the incident involving fishing *John Cheek* allegedly illegally fishing in Argentina's EEZ and currently retained in Comodoro Rivadavia, was addressed today to Buenos Aires. Once the inquiry including statements from the master and 31 crew members from *John Cheek* arrives at the central command of the Argentine Coast Guard it will be sent to the Argentine Fisheries Department and based on the findings the office will decide whether to impose fines and confiscate the cargo or let the vessel free. *John Cheek* was carrying 114 tons of hake and squid when boarded by a party from the Coast Guard a week ago, "a couple of miles" inside Argentina's EEZ according to Argentine sources. The master of the Falklands vessel Jaime Cortizo has repeatedly insisted he was operating in "international waters" and this was stated in the official inquiry. Following on this first stage, the Argentine Foreign Affairs Ministry which has already notified the British Embassy in Buenos Aires of the incident will have to evaluate if it presents a formal protest to the Foreign Office. "Today once the administrative proceedings were finished the inquiry was sent to Buenos Aires and most probably tomorrow morning should be on the desk of the Fisheries Officer", said Eduardo Coutinho head of Coast Guard Operations in Comodoro Rivadavia. "The next step is for the Fisheries Department to establish the fines and auction the forfeited cargo", said Mr. Coutinho. Apparently the investigation includes recordings of the dialogue between captain Cortizo and the skipper of the Coast Guard *Fique*, showing the *John Cheek* was effectively inside the EEZ, according to Argentine sources.

**LADY (Liberia)**

Maassluis, Feb 28 — Product tanker *Lady* (18231 gt, built 1980), which arrived at Rotterdam at 1200 hrs, Feb 24, is reported to be currently under detention at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**MARIGO (Greece)**

Piraeus, Feb 24 — Product tanker *Marigo* is still under arrest at Piraeus. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ORESTES (Panama)**

Bari, Mar 2 — Passenger ro/ro *Orestes* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

**PAN YUN BO 1 (China)**

London, Feb 27 — General cargo *Pan Yun Bo 1* is still reported at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under detention.

London, Mar 1 — General cargo *Pan Yun Bo 1* is today still reported at

Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, but is no longer reported to be under arrest.

**PLAVA (Albania)**

Bari, Mar 2 — General cargo *Plava* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

**PREVEZE (Turkey)**

Genoa, Feb 28 — Understand from La Spezia sub-agents that on Feb 5 general cargo *Preveze* (1497 gt, built 1973) arrived at La Spezia to unload a cargo of sand. Later on Feb 9 when departing for Marina di Carrara, she was withheld under detention by the La Spezia Port Authorities for problems of poor safety conditions and has since been placed under arrest by the Court for lack of payments due to the crew. Ship agents have since renounced their mandate, so the vessel is presently without an agent. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SAFMARINE PAKISTAN (Cyprus)**

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The master and three crew members of c.c. *Safmarine Pakistan*, who were taken into custody by Lakshadweep police for having disembarked at the uninhabited and remote Suhali island in the Union of Lakshadweep territory, have been remanded to two days judicial custody. The four accused, who have been charged under Section 14 of the Foreigners Act, were produced yesterday before the Executive Magistrate court. The Executive magistrate holds the charge of judicial first class magistrate, Androth. The accused are Russian, German, Philippines and Spanish nationals, police sources said. The container vessel was on its way to New Tuticorin from Salalah when it anchored near Suhali island in the Lakshadweep two days ago.

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated today, states: C.c. *Safmarine Pakistan*, which was detained by the Lakshadweep police after four of its crew entered an uninhabited island without permission, was today brought to Kochi by the Coastguard. The crew are being jointly interrogated by the IB, Police and customs authorities. Coastguard Commandant of Kerala and Lakshadweep, Mukesh Purohit, said that the 15-member crew in the vessel were being jointly interrogated by the Intelligence Bureau, Police and Customs authorities. Kochi Customs Collector, D D Ingt, said the containers from the vessel were being examined. The four crew who were taken into custody and remanded to judicial custody, are still in Lakshadweep.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: The containers on c.c. *Safmarine Pakistan*, which had been escorted to Kochi on Sunday by the Coast Guard and the police, will be examined on being offloaded. Highly placed sources in the Coast Guard said that investigation was on about the circumstances under which

four of its crew members had ventured into an uninhabited island near Kavaratti, without permission, a week ago. They had been detained by the Lakshadweep Police. Investigation is likely to be over in a day or two, they said. Naval sources said that the Navy would assist in searching the containers, if the Customs authorities forwarded a request. Though the crew members say that they ventured into the island out of curiosity, the police refuse to take it at face value. This is because the detained crew include the ship's master. The detained crew have been charged with violating provisions of the Foreigners' Act and Lakshadweep Restriction on Entry Act.

Kochi, Mar 1 — C.c. *Safmarine Pakistan*, on liner voyage, anchored near Suhali Island on Feb 21 and four crew members landed at Suhali Island without permission from the Government Authorities. All four crew members and the master of the vessel were arrested by the police and they are presently in Judicial Custody. The vessel was brought to Kochi Port by the Indian Coast Guard on Feb 26. Containers on board (around 500 TEUs) were off loaded at Kochi and open inspection of the containers is being carried out by the Police/Indian Customs/Intelligence Dept. *Safmarine Pakistan* is detained at Kochi by the MMD/ ISPS authorities until the investigation is concluded. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SANDRIEN (Bolivia)**

Amsterdam, Mar 1 — Chem.tank *Sandrien* is still at Amsterdam Shipdock, under embargo. — KVSRA Rapportage.

**ST.CLAIR**

**(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *St. Clair* (2463 gt, built 1976) detained for violation of shipping rules was fined GEL (Georgian lari) 50,000 according to the Code of Administrative Violations. The State Department on Border Defense said that the vessel was detained on Feb 25 for violation of shipping rules in a closed zone of territorial waters of the autonomous republic Adjara, (Georgia). (Note — *St. Clair* had sailed Kerch Feb 18 for Hopa.)

**YM FAHA (Cyprus)**

London, Feb 28 — C.c. *YM Faha* (9030 gt, built 2000), P3LY9, which arrived at Hong Kong at 2015 hrs, Feb 27, is today reported to be at Western Anchorage No.3, Hong Kong, under arrest.

London, Mar 1 — C.c. *YM Faha* sailed from Hong Kong at 2046 hrs, Feb 28.

**ZHENG FENG 2 (Belize)**

London, Feb 23 — General cargo *Zheng Feng 2* (1593 gt, built 1992), which arrived Hong Kong at 0900 hrs, today, is currently reported at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under arrest.

London, Feb 27 — General cargo *Zheng Feng 2* sailed Hong Kong Feb 25 for Mawan.

## Pipeline Accidents



### SVERDLOVSK REGION, SIBERIA, RUSSIA

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A gas pipeline burst early this morning in West Siberia, a local Emergency Situations Ministry spokesman said. The spokesman said no casualties had been reported in the burst and resulting fire, which occurred along the 1.4-meter-diameter Yamburg-Zapadnoye trunk pipeline in the Sverdlovsk Region. Repair work on the damaged pipeline is expected to last about three days, the spokesman said.

## Weather & Navigation



### FINLAND

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The launch of ferry service between Sillamae and Kotka has been delayed due to ice at Kotka. Regular ferry service was scheduled to begin Mar 2.

### HURRICANE "KATRINA"

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated Feb 24, states: Workers today began cutting up a barge that had landed in the New Orleans' devastated Ninth Ward after hurricane "Katrina" and became a symbol of the storm's destruction. The 200-foot barge came to rest on houses opposite the Industrial Canal wall after the Aug 29 hurricane. The barge, which moved again when hurricane "Rita" swamped the area on Sep 24, will be cut into 12 sections. Some will be saved as evidence in pending litigation surrounding the breach of the floodwall, and the rest will be scrapped, said Don Haycraft, a lawyer for the barge's owner, Ingram Barge.

### HURRICANE "WILMA"

Veracruz, Feb Mar 1 — Ferry *Bahia de Espiritu Santo* was refloated from a place near Cancun, Mexico, around Feb 23, and was to be taken to Cuba for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ITALY

Genoa, Feb 23 — General cargo *Margaret*: Understand that local Port Authorities are still trying to notify the official warning/request to remove the wreck to shipowners; in case of

further delay removal will be arranged by Italian Government/Authorities. — Lloyd's Agents.

### MALAYSIA

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Scores of Malaysians are trapped in their homes after heavy overnight rain triggered flash floods. Rain continued for four hours and the Damansara river, west of the capital Kuala Lumpur, burst its banks. Rescue officials says up to 400 homes have been flooded and so far 150 people have been evacuated to safer ground. Floodwaters in some areas are up to two metres deep. Two major highways into and out of the capital have had to be closed to traffic and rail services have also been affected. More rain is expected and residents have been urged to remain on alert.

### NAMIBIA

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Heavy rains across large parts of Namibia including the normally arid Namib desert has brought flooding to wide sections of the country. The main road between Namibia and South Africa is reported to have been cut, as is the road in the northeast between Namibia and Zambia while the southern town of Mariental suffered severe flood damage and sections had to be evacuated. In the north of the country the Oshigambo River in the Oshikati area came down in flood for the first time since the 1950s when the river was dammed on the Angolan side of the border. A railway line to Oshikati from Ondangwa is currently under construction and it is not known whether this has been damaged. In Mariental half the town was flooded after the nearby Hardap Dam, which is fed by the Fish and seven other rivers, overflowed, cutting also the main North-South highway and stranding motorists on either side of the flooded area. Many rivers in the region that hardly ever have water in them are now flowing strongly.

### PAKISTAN

Karachi, Feb 28 — The Karakoram Highway (KKH) in northern area of Pakistan, blocked on Saturday evening (Feb 25) following heavy landslides at various places and cleared for one-way traffic on Sunday morning, has been blocked again by a massive rockslide. The Frontier Works Organization said that huge boulders had hit the highway and damaged a 135-metre portion in Kohistan district, suspending traffic between Gilgit and Rawalpindi. According to local media report, the closure of the highway for two days had created a shortage of food and other essential items in the Northern Areas. Trucks loaded with merchandise are stuck at various places while passengers are crossing the blockade on foot. PIA flights between Islamabad and Gilgit have remained suspended for seven days due to inclement weather. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

### PHILIPPINES

Manila, Feb 25 — The search for survivors from a deadly Philippine mudslide was called off as rescue workers gave up hope for nearly 1,000 people buried under a huge crust of earth and debris, a senior official said today. Southern Leyte province Governor Rosette Lerias said 139 bodies had been retrieved since the Feb 17 landslide obliterated the remote farming community of Guinsaugon, about 675 km south-east of Manila. However, there was now no hope of finding anyone alive among the 973 still missing under the mud, which was up to 40 metres deep in some places, and rescuers had switched their work to retrieving bodies. "We've moving on now to search and retrieval and rehabilitation and relocation of the survivors," Lerias said. "We will try to retrieve as many for as long as the conditions do not pose a health hazard to our rescuers." Rescuers, including US Marines dispatched from annual Philippine military exercises, had focused their efforts on an elementary school under the mud after unconfirmed reports that some of those trapped inside had sent desperate text messages. Earlier this week, seismic equipment had picked up scratching noises and rhythmic sounds close to the school, but no new noise had been detected since Monday (Feb 20). Lerias said some international rescue teams had decided to abandon their search after heavy rain yesterday brought near-flooding conditions. "The Spanish started to leave even before yesterday. The conditions are not good for their dogs because it has been raining hard," she said. "Taiwan is leaving this afternoon, Malaysia is leaving tomorrow." She said an Indonesian team would stay on for one month as a medical mission, while US forces were still helping with the relocation of around 400 who escaped the deluge and many others who were evacuated from nearby villages. — Reuters.

### PICTON, NEW ZEALAND

Wellington, Mar 1 — Understand an entire large floating salmon farm structure has broken adrift in the Tory Channel, Picton. The harbourmaster has closed the Tory Channel to shipping, so all ferries will now need to arrive/sail via the Northern Entrance, adding an hour to each voyage of the ferries, which will cause some disruption today until the structure is retrieved. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 1 — The Tory Channel has been closed to shipping after a salmon farm broke its moorings and came adrift. The Port of Marlborough harbourmaster, Alex van Wijngaarden, said because of the way the tides are, they needed to close the channel to all vessels. He said tugs are expected to arrive in the channel about now, and will be able to secure the salmon farm. Wijngaarden said the port of Picton remains open and ferries will be using the longer

northern route into the Sounds, until the channel is opened. He said he will be speaking to the farm's owners to establish what went wrong. The salmon farm, which is bigger than a rugby field and 18 metres deep, broke its moorings and came adrift. Paul Steere from King Salmon said they are still working out how the accident happened and said the farm itself, which has more than one million fish on it, is still intact. He said reports from the eight staff on board say they are safe.

London, Mar 1 — The Tory Channel was closed today, as Port Marlborough staff tried to stop a salmon farm which had drifted into the channel. Port Of Marlborough harbourmaster Captain Alex van Wijngaarden said he had been alerted at about 0820, local time, that the salmon farm was drifting free towards the channel. At 0922 hrs he made the decision to close the channel, due to the risk it posed to vessels. "We have had great co-operation from operators and I think they realise the potential risk involved," he said. The exact size of the farm was not known but was thought to be roughly the size of a football field, he said. However, it was not just the size but also the number and size of nets attached to it which had caused concern for the port, he said. "There are attached lines and nets and there is also product involved, which you have to be careful not to damage." Four tugs were alongside the farm trying to bring it under control, he said. Picton's port remained open and about four ferries were affected by the detour in place, which had added about another hour on to the length of the crossing, he said. NZ King Salmon chief executive Paul Steere said tides and a high current had caused the moorings to snap, despite the farm having been assessed to ensure such a situation would not occur. "That's nature for you," Mr Steere said. The farm, one of four the company had in the Marlborough Sounds, was now under control but the next step would be returning the farm and securing it, he said. "It will cost a few bob to get it back from the channel and there will be some fish losses as well." The 16 or 17 crew on board the farm were all safe, he said. The company apologised for any inconvenience it had caused, but closing the channel was necessary, due to the safety problems the nets dragging underneath the farm could have posed for passing vessels, he said. Mr van Wijngaarden said the Tory Channel was reopened at 1240 hrs and the farm was "under control". Everything had gone smoothly with the operation and staff were now waiting for the tide to change before attempting to return the farm to its original location, he said. The farm was unlikely to be secured with moorings again until the security of the existing moorings could be established, he said.

Wellington, Mar 2 — A salmon farm which broke its moorings and drifted in the Marlborough Sounds yesterday

remained secured to another salmon farm overnight without further incident. The farm, which is more than 100 metres long and 18 metres deep, drifted in the Tory Channel for more than three hours, causing the channel to be closed to all shipping. It was secured by tugs near Oyster Bay and moved to Ruakaka Bay last night, where it will be held until the mooring system has been replaced. King Salmon chief executive Paul Steere said a combination of the strong current and high spring tides caused the problem. The Port of Picton remained open but ferries had to use the longer northern route into the Marlborough Sounds until the channel reopened. Mr Steere said the farm, which held more than one million fish, remained intact. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### ROMANIA

Bucharest, Mar 1 — The Sulina Channel was closed at 1215 hrs, Feb 28, due to bad weather: winds north-northeast, force six-seven, sea five-six. It was re-opened at 0615 hrs, today, but was closed again at 1130 hrs, today, due to the same bad weather conditions. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### RUSSIA

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Stormy waves in the Sea of Okhotsk have attacked the Korsakov port today. The waves struck the piers throwing about containers that had been prepared for loading on ships. The water level in the Aniva Bay where the port is situated has risen to reach the railway terminal that is located 100 metres from the shore. According to the port's traffic control service, the containers have been thrown 150-200 metres away from their storage place. Some 50 containers have been dented. The water level above one of the piers was reaching 120 centimetres. A huge mass of ice blocks was thrown on to the shore. Now the water level has begun to decline. The port worker are trying to push the ice pieces back to the water so that to prevent their freezing in the port territory. Fortunately, nobody has been hurt in the storm waves attack incident on the Korsakov port. Yesterday, there were six ships placed under loading. They were removed yesterday evening to an outer anchorage where they are in total safety. According to the sea forecasts department of the Sakhalin-based hydrometeorology centre, storms are raging in the Sea of Okhotsk and the Sea of Japan around Sakhalin. The waves are reaching six-seven metres in height. The storms have been caused by a cyclone that swept Sakhalin overnight.

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated Mar 1, states: The damage, caused to Russia's farming by this winter's strong frosts, is estimated in about 30 billion roubles (\$1.07 billion), Russia's agriculture minister Aleksey Gordeyev was reported by media as saying today. "Russia's agricultural producers will lose some

30 billion roubles to the extreme temperatures this winter", Gordeyev said to a national radio station. He said the frosts had killed some 30 percent of winter crops and about 10 percent of vineyards. "This spring we will have to re-sow some 3.5 to four million hectares of winter cereals. He said most of the damage had been caused to perennial grasses, pulse crops, as well as stone and pome fruits.

#### ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

London, Feb 27 — The 2006 navigation season will open on the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System for the Welland Canal at 0800 on Mar 21, and for the Seaway's Montreal-Lake Ontario section on Mar 23. The US Sault Ste. Marie locks and canals will open Mar 25. For the Welland Canal, the draft for vessels will be 26 feet-6 inches for all inland vessels and those ocean vessels equipped with bow thrusters. For all ocean vessels not equipped with bow thrusters, the draft will be 26 feet-3 inches. For the Montreal-Lake Ontario section of the Seaway, the same drafts will apply. There will be zero tolerance for vessel drafts in excess of 26 feet-6 inches through the canal and for all of the Montreal-Lake Ontario section.

#### TROPICAL CYCLONE "CARINA"

London, Feb 24 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Carina" located near lat 11.4S, long 81.1E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 225 degrees at three knots, position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, position based on centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds 55 knots with gusts to 70 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds: 20 nautical miles all quadrants. Radius of 34-knot winds: 80 nautical miles all quadrants. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Feb 25: Position near lat 12.7S, long 79.8E with maximum sustained winds of 65 knots and gusts to 80 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds: 20 nautical miles all quadrants. Radius of 34-knot winds: 85 nautical miles all quadrants. Tropical cyclone "Carina", located approximately 565 nautical miles east-southeast of Diego Garcia, has tracked southwestward at three knots over the past six hours.

London, Feb 24 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Carina" located near lat 14.9S, long 79.9E at 0600, UTC, today. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Feb 28: Position near lat 16.4S, long 78.9E with maximum sustained winds of 95 knots.

London, Feb 28 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Carina" was located near lat 16.5S, long 78.6E. Squally weather exists within a 150 nautical miles radius of the centre, extending up to 200 nautical miles in the southeastern semi-circle. The current movement is towards the



south-west at five knots. Storm force winds of between 50 and 60 knots and high to very high seas are predicted within a 70 nautical mile radius of the centre. At 0600, UTC, Mar 1, the centre is predicted to be near lat 17.5S, long 76.9E with maximum sustained winds of 115 knots. "Carina" is expected to track mainly southwestwards on the northern edge of the subtropical high pressures building in the south. (See issue of Feb 28.)

London, Mar 1 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Carina" was located near lat 17.4S, long 77.7E, approximately 675 nautical miles south-southeast of Diego Garcia, and has tracked south-southwestward, or 205 degrees, at four knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. "Carina" is being steered by a ridge to the east and south of the storm. A weakness in the ridge caused by a midlatitude trough will result in a more poleward track over the next 36 hours. An increasing vertical wind shear environment will result in gradual weakening of the storm. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 115 knots, with gusts to 140 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 20 nautical miles in the northeast and northwest quadrants, 40 nautical miles in the southeast quadrant and 30 nautical miles in the southwest quadrant. Radius of 34 knot winds: 70 nautical miles in the northeast quadrant, 100 nautical miles in the southeast quadrant, 90 nautical miles in the southwest quadrant and 60 nautical miles in the northwest quadrant. The maximum significant wave height is 48 feet. At 0600, UTC, Mar 2, the centre is predicted to be near lat 19.0S, long 76.8E with maximum sustained winds of 75 knots and gusts to 90 knots.

#### TROPICAL CYCLONE "EMMA"

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: The clean-up has begun after tropical cyclone "Emma" crossed Western Australia's remote Pilbara coast today as a force-one storm. Six people were rescued after two cars were swept away by flood water dumped by the cyclone, oil and mining operations were shut down, Karratha, Tom Price and Pannawonica suffered localised flooding and three Pilbara schools had minor classroom and roof damage. But Fire and Emergency Services (FESA) spokesman Darryl Ott says there are no reports of injuries or significant damage from the storm which crossed the coast near Mardie at 1100, WST. FESA issued an "all clear with caution" alert an hour after "Emma" crossed the coast and began breaking up as it moved inland, he said. "With a category one cyclone you are not looking at destructive winds and in this case the rain that preceded the cyclone was the biggest issue," Mr Ott said. "Emma"'s approach sparked a

series of precautionary shutdowns of mining, oil and shipping operations. Mr Ott said open cut mining operations around Tom Price were shut for fear of vehicle slippages in the wet conditions. Woodside also stopped production at two of its operations, floating production *Cossack Pioneer* and rig *Ocean Legend*. Roebourne shire airport spokesman Alan Wright said there was some flooding around Karratha airport but the airport was not closed. "Qantas flights have been cancelled but the airport itself doesn't close, you can't close an airport in case a plane needs a landing," Mr Wright said. A Qantas spokesman said the airline would make a decision later today about whether evening services would also be cancelled. Dampier's port closed yesterday after consulting its biggest iron ore and gas shipping customers, Rio Tinto and Woodside. Dampier Port Authority chief executive Steve Lewis said it would take between 24 and 36 hours to crank the shipping operations up to full speed again.

#### TROPICAL CYCLONE "KATE"

London, Feb 23 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Kate" was located near lat 11.4S, long 146.5E, approximately 120 nautical miles south-southwest of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and has tracked south-eastward, or 125 degs, at seven knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on centre being located by satellite. "Kate" is being steered by near equatorial ridging to the north. After the departure of a meridional trough to the east of the system, ridging will build into the Coral Sea and begin to steer the storm on a more southerly track. A moderate shear environment will keep "Kate" as a moderate strength storm over the next 48 hours. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 50 knots, gusts to 65 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 85 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants and 75 nautical miles in the south-west and north-west quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Feb 24, the centre is predicted to be near lat 12.2S, long 148.2E, with maximum sustained winds of 60 knots and gusts to 75 knots.

London, Feb 24 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone "Kate" located near lat 11.3S, long 146.1E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 290 degrees at five knots, position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, position based on centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds 20 knots with gusts to 30 knots. Dissipated as a significant tropical cyclone over water. Tropical cyclone "Kate" has rapidly weakened and dissipated over the past 12 hours in an unfavourable outflow and higher than expected vertical wind shear environment.

#### TROPICAL STORM "KAJIKI"

Manila, Feb 28 — Barge *Napocor Power Barge No.106* was released by Malayan Towage and Salvage Corp, on Feb 23, to its owners, the state-owned National Power Corp (Napocor). The release was made after the Government Service and Insurance System, which provided hull insurance for the barge, posted bond for the barge. The salvage company, which refloated and towed the barge when it ran aground Dec 18, has demanded a US\$2.4 million dollar bond before release of the vessel. The vessel is alongside Keppel Batangas Shipyard in Bauan, Batangas, awaiting drydocking. — Lloyd's List Correspondent. (See issue of Feb 22.)

Manila, Feb 28 — Efforts to empty the fuel tanks of barge *Napocor Power Barge No.106* were stalled yesterday, after the contractor pulled out due to lack of equipment, National Power Corp officials said. The barge is carrying some 881,000 litres of bunker fuel in its fuel tanks, which will need to be offloaded and the tanks degassed prior to drydocking. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### TURKEY

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Tanker traffic in the Canakkale Strait was suspended at 0630 hrs, this morning, due to dense fog and poor visibility.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: Traffic along the Houston Ship Channel, the main conduit for foreign crude oil to move from the Gulf of Mexico to refineries in Houston and Texas City, resumed normal operations Wednesday (Feb 22) following a two-day fog closure, according to a Reuters report. Traffic from the port had been limited to outbound vessels. A total of 50 vessels were waiting Wednesday morning to transit the channel, about 25 vessels were waiting to enter the channel and 25 were waiting to exit. A dense fog halted vessel traffic along the 53-mile channel for two days until the fog dissipated late Wednesday morning. The fog along the channel to the Gulf of Mexico had halted vessels from bringing crude oil to refineries since late Monday night. The traffic stoppage had not affected production at several refineries along the busiest US petrochemical waterway, Reuters added.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated Feb 27, states: A powerful storm unleashed its force on the Bay Area this evening. The high winds knocked down trees and power lines, causing widespread power outages and road blockage. The storm also caused delays at San Francisco International Airport, where aircraft were landing at a reduced rate because of the hazardous conditions. An airport spokeswoman said at about 2130 hrs that both arriving and departing flights were delayed by between 30 and 120 minutes. Across the bay at Oakland International Airport, things

progressed relatively smoothly this evening, according to airport spokeswoman Rosemary Barnes. She explained that SFO, which typically uses two runways, sometimes switches to using one during adverse weather conditions, a fact an SFO spokesman confirmed. She said she was not aware of any delays at the Oakland airport tonight. Mineta San Jose International Airport also reported that normal operations were under way. This evening's fast-moving storm left in its wake widespread power outages that Pacific Gas & Electric Co. crews worked feverishly to remedy. PG&E spokeswoman Claudia Mendoza said at about 2300 hrs that about 65,600 PG&E customers remained without power in the Bay Area, mostly along the Peninsula. Mendoza said a total of about 161,170 customers lost power because of the storm, and that crews had restored power to about 95,500 of those customers. Customers were still in the dark in cities including Millbrae, Burlingame and Daly City. Brian Molver, a duty officer with the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services, confirmed that the main feature of today's storm was the high winds. "We had a lot of wires down and a lot of trees down for that matter as well," he said.



Earthquakes

**CHINA**

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated Feb 26, states: An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter Scale shook an uninhabited part of China's Tibet region today, the Tibet seismological bureau said. The quake hit an area in Zhiduo county that lies near the border of Tibet and the northwestern province of Qinghai. 'The epicentre of the quake was in an area that is uninhabited' some 660 kilometres northwest of the Tibetan capital of Lhasa, an official at the bureau, said. 'So far we have received no casualty or damage reports,' he added. The Hong Kong Observatory said the quake occurred at 1019 hrs.

**FIJI AREA**

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated Feb 26, states: A strong earthquake registering a magnitude of 6.5 on the Richter scale occurred south of Fiji today but no damage was expected, the US Geological Survey said. The quake struck at 1508 hrs and was centred 350 kilometres southwest of Ndoi Island in Fiji and at a depth of 545 km, the survey said.

**IRAN**

Tehran, Feb 28 — An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.6 hit southeast Iran today, Tehran's geophysics centre

was quoted as saying by the ISNA students news agency. There was no immediate report of casualties or damage in the quake which struck the borders of Kerman and Hormuzgan provinces. — Reuters.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Two earthquakes measuring 5.8 and 5.6 on the Richter scale jolted the cities of Orzouyieh and Jiroft in the south-eastern province of Kerman, respectively, today. According to the seismological base of the Geophysics Institute of Tehran University, the quake in Orzouyieh occurred at 1101, local time, 0731, GMT. The epicentre of the quake was located south of Orzouyieh, between the provinces of Kerman and Hormuzgan, the report added. It said the quake in Jiroft occurred at 1120, local time, and was epicentred 50 km north of Jiroft. There have been no reports of any casualty or damage to property caused by the quakes.

**ZIMBABWE AND MOZAMBIQUE**

Harare, Feb 23 — A powerful earthquake measuring an estimated 7.5 shook large areas of Zimbabwe and northern Mozambique early today, shaking buildings from Harare to Maputo. The US Geological Survey website said the quake, which struck just after midnight, measured an estimated 7.5 and was centred in northern Mozambique, an area not known for severe earthquakes. In Zimbabwe, the quake jolted people out of their beds in Harare, where panic-stricken apartment dwellers ran into the street, and was felt as far away as Bulawayo, about 450 km south-west of the capital. Zimbabwe state radio, which had issued instructions urging people to remain calm, later described it as a "minor earth tremor." A spokesman for Harare's fire and ambulance services said they had received no emergency calls. In Mozambique's capital Maputo, people also gathered in the street, although there were no immediate reports of damage. Police and emergency services officials could not be reached for comment. Mozambique state radio issued a brief report about the quake, saying it was centred near Estungabera in northern Manica province, a largely rural area near the Zimbabwe border. "An earthquake of this size shakes the ground for quite a distance away from its epicentre so we're expecting that there is damage from this earthquake," said William Leith, a USGS earthquake specialist. "It's a significant and unexpected earthquake in this region," he said by telephone from the USGS headquarters in Reston, Virginia. "We'll expect aftershocks from an earthquake this large." — Reuters.

Maputo, Feb 23 — A strong earthquake rocked northern Mozambique today, killing at least two people and sending frightened residents into the streets across southern Africa as aftershocks rolled through the region. The earthquake was felt as far south as Johannesburg and Durban in South Africa.

Mozambique's mines minister said one person was killed and at least 18 others injured when the quake struck just after midnight (2200, UTC, Feb 22) about 160 km south-west of Mozambique's northern port of Beira. Radio Mozambique reported that another person died, apparently of a heart attack, at a local hospital as the quake hit. The US Geological Survey (USGS) reported at least three significant aftershocks during the night. Police in Beira denied persistent rumours that a building had collapsed in the city, although local journalists said at least one house had fallen down in the rural district where the quake was centred. Governor Raimundo Diomba of Manica province said officials were fanning out into the countryside to assess damage, but communications were difficult. Minister of Mineral Resources Esperanza Bias said one person died and 13 were injured in largely rural Manica. Four more were injured in Beira, she said. Bias said the government had asked emergency officials to quickly draw up plans to deal with future quakes. South African petrochemicals company Sasol said the quake was felt at its natural gas fields in Mozambique but production had not been disrupted and no damage had been found. "We are checking that everything is in order but early indications are that there was absolutely no damage," said Sasol spokesman Johann van Rheede. In the Zimbabwean city of Mutare, about 270 km west of Harare close to the Mozambique border, residents said the quake jolted houses and apartment buildings but did not appear to have caused widespread damage. USGS experts said the region could expect more tremors. "An earthquake of this size shakes the ground for quite a distance away from its epicentre so we're expecting that there is damage from this earthquake," said William Leith, a USGS earthquake specialist. — Reuters.



Volcanic Activity

**MOUNT AUGUSTINE, ALASKA, UNITED STATES**

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated Feb 25, states: New data from Augustine Volcano, including satellite measurement of the island's swelling and subsiding, suggest that this winter's eruption is coming to an end, scientists said yesterday. Scientists are cautious — magma in the Cook Inlet volcano could turn lively again with little notice, they say — but the probability is that no more huge explosions are going to send plumes miles into the sky, triggering ash fall alerts and detouring aircraft as they did in January. "All indications at this point are that things are slowing

down,” said Kate Bull, a state volcanologist with the Alaska Volcano Observatory, who flew over the island yesterday and studied the peak’s still-growing lava dome. Seismic tremors from the island now indicate rockfall from unstable parts of the new dome, not deep magma movement, said Stephanie Prejean, a US Geological Survey seismologist with the observatory. These signals have decreased over the last few days, she said. Augustine, located 75 miles south-west of Homer, first erupted on Jan 11 after weeks of growing seismicity. The mountain let off 13 explosive eruptions during the month. Augustine remains at alert-code color orange while the eruptive dome-building continues, the observatory said yesterday.



**Political & Civil Unrest**

**AFGHANISTAN**

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: Two persons were killed and 14 others injured including a German soldier today in Afghan’s northern province of Kunduz, a local official said. “This afternoon about 1400, local time, a bomb explosion happened in front of a currency market in Kunduz city near the German PRT (Provincial Reconstruction Team), in which two persons were killed and 14 others, including a German soldier, were injured,” Mutalibdeg, the provincial police chief, said. “The investigation is still going on but no one has been arrested up until now,” he added.

**ALBANIA**

Bari, Mar 2 — Product tanker *Ambar* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**COLOMBIA**

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated today, states: At least eight people were killed in an attack on a civilian bus by left-wing rebels FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) in southern Colombia. Rebels shot at the bus tyres, causing it to crash, and then opened fire on passengers and attempted to set the vehicle ablaze, the military said. The bus was travelling in a convoy under army escort but had fallen behind as it stopped to pick up passengers. The rebels had tried to impose a ban on the movement of all vehicles in Caqueta province for the last 10 days. The attack occurred on a remote highway near Puerto Rico, 310km south-west of the capital Bogota. The FARC rebels said the traffic ban was aimed in part in protest at the re-election bid of hard-liner President Alvaro Uribe. Mr Uribe, who has vowed to wipe out the FARC through military force, is likely to be returned to office come May’s election. Several

vehicles which ignored the ban have been fired upon and set alight prompting the army to introduce armed escorts.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated Feb 27, states: Colombia’s government and rebels ended a round of talks with no agreement today, but promised to meet again in Cuba in early April. Both sides had planned to start creating an agenda for a formal peace process, but the talks that began on February 17 were dominated by second-tier issues including the legal status of delegates representing the National Liberation Army, known as the ELN, Colombia’s second largest rebel group. “I don’t think the peace process in Colombia is just around the corner,” Antonio Garcia, the ELN military chief, told reporters after a news conference today. “Much more needs to come together first.” Talks between the sides began in December, in Havana. The February round of negotiations faced some tough moments, as leaders of the rebel army demanded recognition as heads of a political force, not terrorists. The dispute was finally resolved Friday (Feb 24), when the Colombian government suspended arrest warrants for Garcia and Ramiro Vargas, an ELN member living in Cuba. ELN spokesman Francisco Galan, a captured rebel commander temporarily released from prison in September to help nudge his group toward peace, will also remain out of jail. Garcia said the next round of talks will aim to develop the objectives and procedures of a future peace process as well as determine the role the Colombian people would play.

Bogota, Feb 27 — Leftist rebels burst into a hotel and sprayed gunfire at a meeting of town council members in southwestern Colombia today, killing at least seven local officials, police said. Three more people were injured in the mid-afternoon attack by rifle-wielding members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, on the town council of Rivera, Huila province, as it held a meeting, according to police. — Reuters.

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: The date of the Democratic Republic of Congo’s first multi-party elections for more than 40 years has been postponed until June - a two-month delay. President Joseph Kabila still needs to give his approval to the date. The electoral commission says the first round of voting will be on June 18 and a second round if needed would take place after the end of June. A new constitution, approved in a referendum lowered the minimum age of presidential candidates from 35 to 30 to allow 33-year-old Joseph Kabila, who has been president since the death of his father Laurent in 2001, to stand. The people of the DR Congo last voted in 1970, when former dictator Mobutu Sese Seko was the only candidate.

**ECUADOR**

Quito, Feb 22 — Ecuador’s government today struggled to broker an end to violent protests that have shut down a major oil pipeline and threatened the Andean country’s crucial petroleum industry. Talks between the government and protesters from impoverished Napo province last night came after 24 oil workers being held hostage inside a pumping station escaped as their captors bargained with soldiers. “This is more of a sabotage or quasi-terrorism than a protest,” Jose Modesto Apolo, the government’s general secretary, said. “The government will only address their demands once they agree to suspend the protest.” The incidents were the latest challenge to hit embattled President Alfredo Palacio and strike at the 530,000 barrel-per-day output of Latin America’s No. 5 oil producer. Hundreds of protesters yesterday stormed the Sardina pumping station, 55 miles east of Quito, forcing the closure of the OCP pipeline, to demand the government release millions to surrounding communities to build roads, bridges and an airport. Since protests began on Monday (Feb 20) at least five people have been wounded, including two policemen, after activists tossed rocks and dynamite at security forces who responded with gunfire and tear gas, authorities said. The 24 pipeline workers managed to slip away while troops held talks with protesters barricaded inside the station, according to a spokesman for the protesters. “They escaped during a brief moment of confusion,” said Wilson Pozo, a protest leader. “There was no violence.” A representative of the pipeline operating company said the workers were unharmed. Local politicians have led the demonstrations and the government said at least eight protest leaders, including several mayors, have been detained. Authorities have declared a state of emergency in Napo to restrict protests. A government official said the talks could stretch until late today as officials push for protesters to end a general strike in the province before addressing demands for more state financing for the region. On Monday, Napo protesters damaged another pumping station owned by Petroecuador, the state oil company, forcing it to shut its main pipeline and suspend exports for several hours. — Reuters.

Quito, Feb 23 — Ecuador struck a deal today with oil protesters to meet their demands for more funds for local communities and end violent demonstrations that threatened the Andean country’s crucial oil sector. Hundreds of protesters from the impoverished Amazon province of Napo had blocked roads, damaged bridges and clashed with security forces beginning on Monday (Feb 20) to demand more government funds to build highways, bridges and an airport. The violent demonstrations shut down one of the country’s main

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

private pipelines before the government reached a temporary deal late yesterday with local officials and activists to halt protests and hold talks on their demands. The protesters had held 24 oil workers inside the pumping station for nearly a day before they escaped yesterday. "An agreement has been reached with the authorities of Napo and negotiations have ended," said Enrique Proano, the president's spokesman. "There is no more reason to disrupt public order." After today's negotiations, protesters said the government promised to channel millions of dollars to finance projects to address their most crucial needs but that some issues still needed to be hammered out. "We finally have an agreement and the government has showed good will in terms of helping out our province," said Jose Perez, a congressman from Napo who has participated in the talks with the government on behalf of the activists. At least five people were wounded in the protests, including two policemen, after activists tossed rocks and dynamite at security forces who responded with gunfire and tear gas. The protests were the latest clashes to test the government of President Alfredo Palacio and dent the 530,000 barrel-per-day output of Latin America's No 5 oil producer. The protesters on Tuesday stormed the Sardina pumping station, 55 miles east of Quito, forcing the closure of the OCP pipeline. An official from the company operating the OCP pipeline said several home-made explosives had been found inside. It was unlikely the company would reopen the 300-mile line before Sunday, the official added. The pipeline, owned by major foreign oil companies including EnCana Corp, Occidental Petroleum Corp, Repsol YPF and Petrobras, was carrying 160,000 barrels per day at the time of the stoppage and has a full capacity of 450,000 bpd. Napo protesters on Monday damaged another pumping station owned by state-run Petroecuador and forced it to shut its main SOTE pipeline and suspend oil exports for several hours. "These cyclical attacks are turning into a real threat to Ecuador's oil industry," said Ivan Narvaez, a professor at Ecuador's branch of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences. — Reuters.

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated Feb 24, states: The Ecuadorean government said today it had ended a violent protest that disrupted the flow of oil exports, apparently by accepting protesters' demands to sharply increase spending on the region. "We have arrived at a solution that we think is a good sign," Interior Minister Alfredo Castillo told Channel 4 television. The protests which began on Sunday (Feb 19) briefly dented Ecuador's oil exports and left nine police and protesters injured. Under the deal, President Alfredo Palacio's government agreed to lift a state of emergency imposed on Tuesday and to release 35 people detained during four

days of demonstrations. Palacio's administration also agreed to invest about \$100 million in education, social programs and infrastructure, including the construction of two highways and an airport demanded by protesters. The projects had been promised by former President Lucio Gutierrez, a native of the region, who was forced from office in April, 2005, and is now imprisoned. "This is an answer to the lack of attention by successive governments," said Napo regional Gov. Gina San Miguel, who helped broker the deal along with Renan Balladares, mayor of the city of Quijos. San Miguel and Balladares had earlier been arrested under the emergency decree for violating a curfew and not carrying proper identification papers, but were released late Wednesday. A truce was announced before dawn yesterday, and hours later soldiers retook the Sardinas pumping station, 75 miles south-east of Quito. Protesters had seized the station late Tuesday, forcing Ecuador's privately owned OCP heavy crude oil pipeline to halt operations. The action came soon after soldiers forced protesters to leave the Salado pumping station, 45 miles east of Quito, allowing state-run Petroecuador to resume operations of its SOTE pipeline after a 16-hour shutdown that cost the government an estimated \$12 million. OCP said in a statement today that it had resumed pipeline operations, but that it was still evaluating damage to its pumping station. Its pipeline, principally owned by Spanish-Argentine oil and energy firm Repsol YPF, US-based Occidental Petroleum Corp. and Canada's EnCana Corp., pumps about 130,000 barrels of heavy crude daily.

#### INDIA

Raipur, Feb 28 — Maoists rebels set off a land mine under a truck today in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh, killing 55 people who belonged to a government-sponsored anti-Maoist group, police said. The dead were tribal members returning in trucks after attending a anti-Maoist meeting organized by the state, senior police officer S.K Paswan said. — Reuters.

#### IRAQ

London, Feb 22 — The Iraqi ports of Khor Al Zubair and Umm Qasr have been closed today due to riots. The entire country is expected to be closed for three days as a result of the disturbances.

Baghdad, Feb 23 — Sectarian violence in Iraq after suspected al-Qaeda bombs devastated a major Shi'ite shrine left religious and political leaders in Baghdad and abroad scrambling today to halt a descent into all-out civil war. In the bloodiest apparent reprisal for the bombing of the Golden Mosque in Samarra, men in police uniform seized a dozen Sunni rebel suspects, including two Egyptians, from a prison in the mainly Shi'ite city of

Basra and killed 11 of them. Gunmen fired on dozens of Sunni mosques in Baghdad and elsewhere. President Jalal Talabani summoned leaders of all sides to a summit early today after the bloodless but symbolic dawn bombing provoked outrage among majority Shi'ites that surpassed the anger caused by the thousands of killings by Sunni militants since US forces toppled Saddam Hussein three years ago. US President George W. Bush, whose diplomats and military commanders are pressing Shi'ite leaders to accept Sunnis in a national unity government after they took part in an election in December, urged Iraqis not to rise to the bait of what US and Iraqi officials called an al-Qaeda attempt to fuel civil strife. "Violence will only contribute to what the terrorists sought to achieve," he said in a statement, as 130,000 US troops stood by to back up Iraq's new security forces and keep order. A policeman guarding a Sunni mosque in the southern Shi'ite city of Diwaniya was killed in an attack by Shi'ite militants. Three Sunni clerics were among six people killed elsewhere. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Feb 23 — Fifty-three people were killed in Baghdad in the 24 hours since the bombing of a major Shi'ite shrine sparked the worst sectarian violence the country has seen since the fall of Saddam Hussein, police said today. Gunmen fired at a Sunni mosque in the city of Baquba, north-east of the capital, killing one person in the latest of dozens of such incidents that have left religious and political leaders scrambling to halt a descent into all-out civil war. Most of the people killed in Baghdad were Arab Sunnis who were attacked at mosques, police said. Three journalists working for Al-Arabiya television were found shot dead after being attacked while filming in Samarra, where the bloodless but highly symbolic bombing of the Golden Mosque at dawn yesterday provoked widespread protest. In the bloodiest apparent reprisal for the attack on one of Shi'ite Islam's holiest sites, men in police uniform seized 12 Sunni rebel suspects, including two Egyptians, from a prison in the mainly Shi'ite city of Basra and killed 11 of them. President Jalal Talabani summoned leaders of all sides to a summit after the bombing provoked outrage among majority Shi'ites that surpassed the anger caused by thousands of killings by Sunni militants since US forces toppled Saddam's Sunni-dominated government three years ago. US President George W. Bush, whose diplomats and military commanders are pressing Shi'ite leaders to accept Sunnis in a national unity government after they took part in an election in December, urged Iraqis not to rise to the bait of what US and Iraqi officials called an al-Qaeda attempt to fuel civil strife. "Violence will only contribute to what the terrorists sought to achieve," he said in a statement, as 130,000 US troops

stood by to back up Iraq's new security forces and keep order. A policeman guarding a Sunni mosque in the southern Shi'ite city of Diwaniya was killed in an attack by Shi'ite militants. Three Sunni clerics were among those killed yesterday. — Reuters.

London, Feb 23 — Port operations at Umm Qasr and Khor Al Zubair resumed today. The ports were closed yesterday due to rioting.

Baghdad, Feb 24 — Iraq's government put Baghdad under curfew today in a bid to stop sectarian violence among crowds from rival mosques on the Muslim day of prayer, setting a critical test for its authority and its US-trained forces. After two days of reprisal attacks on minority Sunni mosques following the suspected al-Qaeda bombing of a Shi'ite shrine Wednesday (Feb 22), the United States and United Nations are backing efforts to avert a slide toward all-out civil war that could wreck US hopes of withdrawing troops and inflame the entire Middle East. US President George W. Bush called for calm and the UN envoy invited all parties to talks on a way out of the gravest crisis Iraq has faced since the US invasion three years ago but top Sunni political leaders pulled out of negotiations on forming a government from groups elected in a ballot in December. Senior Iraqi officials said leading clerics, including the revered Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, were making strenuous efforts to rein in Shi'ite militants — but one said privately he feared even Sistani might be unable to control some gunmen, as evidenced by the dozens of attacks on Sunni mosques so far. US forces, mistrusted on both sides and whose prospects for departure Bush has staked on forging a stable, national unity government, have adopted a low profile in the capital. The largely untested Iraqi police and army will be in the front line of Shi'ite-led government attempts to stop previously expected protest marches today over the bloodless but symbolic bombing of Samarra's Golden Mosque and revenge attacks that officials reckon have killed more than 130 people. Seven US soldiers were killed in two attacks on Wednesday. Residents reported fierce clashes in at least two areas in and around Baghdad overnight, both in areas where sectarian tensions are exacerbated by communities in close proximity. Today will be a test of the loyalties of Shi'ite militias nominally following the ruling Islamist parties, which have called for order, and of the loyalties of US-trained troops and police, many of them drawn from those very militia groups. Outspoken young Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr and Abdul Aziz al-Hakim of the powerful, pro-Iranian SCIRI party joined calls for restraint. However, their respective and rival militias, the Mehdi Army and Badr movement, have been out on the streets. "No one should move," one government source said of the curfew, which was

announced on state television. "Police will detain anyone who goes out, even to go to prayers." Extending an overnight shutdown, it will last until 1600 hrs, after midday prayers, in Baghdad and surrounding provinces where Sunnis and Shi'ites live side by side. Among yesterday's dead were 47 people, apparently both Sunnis and Shi'ites, whom gunmen dragged from vehicles after a demonstration to show cross-sectarian solidarity near Baghdad. Many of the 27 million Iraqis stayed at home amid a security clampdown on the first of three days of national mourning. — Reuters.

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Bombs and gunfire killed about 60 people as another daytime curfew yesterday failed to halt violence that has claimed nearly 200 lives since the destruction of a Shiite shrine set off a wave of retribution against Sunnis and pushed Iraq toward civil war. In an unusual round of telephone diplomacy, President Bush spoke with seven leaders of Shiite, Sunni Arab and Kurdish political parties in a bid to defuse the sectarian crisis unleashed by the bombing of the Shiites' Askariya shrine in Samarra. Reprisal attacks that followed the blast in Samarra on Wednesday (Feb 22) had derailed talks on a forming new Iraqi government and threatened Washington's goal of building up a self-sufficient Iraq free of US military involvement. A second straight day of curfew in Baghdad and three surrounding provinces kept the city relatively calm, raising hopes the worst of the crisis was past. Authorities lifted the curfew in the areas outside Baghdad but decreed an all-day vehicle ban today for the capital and its suburbs. A car bomb exploded in the Shiite holy city of Karbala, killing at least six people, hospital officials said. Gunmen broke into a Shiite home north-east of Baghdad and massacred 13 male members, police said. The bodies of 14 Iraqi police commandos were found near their three burned vehicles near a Sunni mosque in south-western Baghdad, police Maj Falah al-Mohammedawi said. Two rockets slammed into Baghdad's Shiite slum, Sadr City, killing three people, including a child, and wounding seven, police said. Two Iraqi security officers guarding the funeral of an Al-Arabiya television correspondent were killed and four other people were wounded when a car bomb exploded as mourners left a cemetery in western Baghdad. Bahjat was killed on Wednesday along with two colleagues after covering the Samarra shrine bombing. Earlier, shooting broke out as the funeral procession was carrying her coffin near the home of Harith al-Dhari, head of the Association of Muslim Scholars, a prominent Sunni clerical group. One policeman was killed and two people were wounded in the shooting, police said. At least 21 other people died in small-scale shootings and bombings in Baghdad and western areas of the city,

according to police and hospital reports. Gunmen also shot at two Sunni mosques in Baghdad yesterday, police said, and two rockets damaged a Shiite shrine late Friday in Tuz Khormato, 130 miles north of Baghdad, police and witnesses said.

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated Feb 26, states: Iraqi police conducted raids in search of kidnapped American journalist Jill Carroll today, the deadline set by her captors for the United States to meet their demands, but the day passed without word on whether her captors carried out their threat to kill her. The 28-year-old freelancer for the Christian Science Monitor was kidnapped on January 7, in Baghdad and was last seen in a videotape broadcast on February 9 by the private Kuwaiti television station Al-Rai. Today, the Arabic-language Al-Jazeera satellite channel broadcast a tape it received from the family of another hostage, James Loney of Canada, appealing for his release and that of three colleagues abducted with him in Baghdad last November. Loney was one of four members of the Christian Peacemaker Teams seized on November 26 in Baghdad by the previously unknown group calling itself the Swords of Righteousness Brigade. The other three are a Canadian, an American and a Briton.

Tehran, Feb 27 — Two bombs exploded in the southern Iranian cities of Dezful and Abadan today wounding four people, the official IRNA news agency reported. The IRNA bulletin said the bombs were planted in the governor's offices in both cities. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombings. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Feb 27 — Authorities lifted an extended curfew in Baghdad today as the Iraqi capital returned to relative normality after a week of sectarian violence that claimed more than 200 lives. Residents were moving freely, with cars back on the roads under the direction of traffic police and shops opened for business. A three-day curfew, over and above the usual overnight ban on movement, largely dampened violence that erupted after a Shi'ite shrine was destroyed in a bombing that sparked a wave of tit-for-tat killings and led the defense minister to warn of the danger of "endless civil war". The daytime curfews may have dampened sectarian rage but the weekend was not without incident. Mortar fire killed 15 people and shooting erupted around two Baghdad mosques yesterday. Five killed in a minibus, teenagers gunned down playing soccer and three U.S. soldiers were among 30 deaths, fewer than the four other days since a suspected al Qaeda bomb at the Golden Mosque in Samarra sparked reprisals on Sunnis. More than 200 people have been killed since Wednesday when the Golden Mosque was destroyed in a bombing that sparked a wave of reprisal killings. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Feb 27 — Four people were

killed and 15 wounded when two bombs exploded near a Sunni mosque in mainly Shi'ite eastern Baghdad today, police said. The bombs were planted by the road outside That al-Nitaqain Mosque in the New Baghdad area and went off just after evening prayers. — Reuters.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 13 people have been killed and 38 injured by three bomb attacks in Baghdad, only a day after the lifting of a curfew imposed following violence. Four were killed and 16 injured in an attack on a market used mainly by Shias in the central Karrada district. Nine people were killed and 22 injured by two other blasts in the east, outside a post office and in a market. The attacks came as the trial of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was delayed until later this afternoon. Defence lawyers have confirmed they are ending their own boycott of the trial which lasted nearly a month. Hours before the court was due to convene, a bomb went off at a mosque erected by Saddam Hussein over his father's grave in his hometown of Tikrit. The shrine's dome was damaged in the pre-dawn attack. In a separate incident, two British soldiers have been killed and another injured by a roadside bomb on the outskirts of Amara, in southern Iraq, the Ministry of Defence has said. Further details would be released once the next of kin had been informed, a spokeswoman said. The latest casualties bring the number of British troops killed during operations in Iraq to 103.

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Bombings in Baghdad killed 26 people and four others died when mortar rounds slammed into their homes in a nearby town today, the second day of surging violence after authorities lifted a curfew that briefly calmed sectarian attacks. Saddam Hussein's trial resumed, with the former leader telling judges he ordered the trials of Shiites who were eventually executed in the 1980s and said their lands should be confiscated, but he insisted that those actions were not criminal. The trial then was adjourned until Mar 12. Today's most serious attack, a car bomb near a traffic police office in a primarily Shiite neighbourhood in south-east Baghdad, killed at least 23 people and wounded 58, according to police Lt Thaer Mahmoud. About an hour earlier, a bomb hidden under a car detonated as a police patrol passed near downtown Tahrir Square, said Interior Ministry Maj Falah al-Mohammedawi. Three civilians died and 15 were wounded. North of Baghdad, gunmen ambushed a police convoy, killing an unspecified number of officers and abducting another 10, police said. Four officers were seriously wounded. The convoy of five minibuses was returning from a training session in Sulaimaniyah when it was attacked about 45 miles north-east of Tikrit, police Capt. Hakim al-Azzawi said. The assailants drove off in one of the minibuses. In

the eastern suburb Kamaliyah, residents alerted police to a suspicious vehicle, which exploded as police cleared the area, causing damage to nearby shops and houses but no casualties. Also today, mortar shells fell on three houses in the mixed Sunni-Shiite town of Mahmoudiya, 20 miles south of Baghdad, killing three civilians, police Capt Rashid al-Samaraie said. A fifth mortar shell slammed into the mixed Qadisiyah neighborhood in west Baghdad, killing a woman and wounding a child, Mahmoud said. The government said 379 people had been killed and 458 injured as of yesterday afternoon in nearly a week of sectarian violence tied to the bombing of the revered Shiite Askariya shrine in the mainly Sunni city of Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad. Another 30 died today.

Baghdad, Mar 2 — Gunmen fired on the car of Iraqi Sunni political leader Adnan al-Dulaimi today, killing a bodyguard and wounding three, said a spokesman for Dulaimi's Iraqi Accordance Front who witnessed the incident. Dulaimi, who was unharmed, had just left the armoured car he normally uses after it had a flat tyre. As bodyguards repaired the puncture, gunmen opened fire with machineguns destroying the vehicle, Front spokesman Zafir al-Ani told Reuters. A wave of reprisal attacks sparked by the suspected al Qaeda bombing of a Shi'ite shrine in Samarra on Feb. 22 has killed at least 450 people, by conservative estimates, pushing the country to the brink of civil war. Dulaimi's Accordance Front, the largest Sunni bloc in parliament, has yet to end a boycott of U.S.-sponsored talks aimed at forming a government of national unity with majority Shi'ites and Kurds more than two months after December polls. Earlier today, a bomb explosion in a minibus killed five people in the Shi'ite Sadr City district of Baghdad. — Reuters.

#### ISRAEL

Nablus, West Bank, Feb 23 — Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian today in the West Bank city of Nablus, the fourth they have killed in a five-day-old operation against militants, Palestinian medics said. The operation is the army's biggest in the occupied West Bank since the militant Hamas group won a Palestinian election on January 25. Medics said soldiers shot dead an 18-year-old and wounded five other Palestinians while dispersing stone throwers in the centre of Nablus. The Israeli army said troops fired at Palestinians who either shot at them or threw fire bombs. The Israeli gunfire hit at least three Palestinians, the army added. Witnesses said the violence erupted after the army expanded the scope of the operation from Balata refugee camp, on the outskirts of Nablus, into the city centre, blocking main roads and forcing schools and some businesses to close. An Israeli military official in Jerusalem said

troops were searching the Nablus area for militants suspected of involvement in planning suicide bombings and other attacks. The official did not say how long the operation would last. The main targets of the raid have been Islamic Jihad, which carried out two suicide bombings in Israel in recent months, and al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a militant group that is part of the mainstream Fatah movement. More than two dozen militants have been arrested in the Nablus area and elsewhere in the West Bank since the operation began on Saturday (Feb 18), Israeli military sources said. Palestinians said more than 50 people had been shot and injured by the army during confrontations, some by live ammunition and others by rubber-coated metal bullets. In Gaza, Islamic Jihad militants said they fired seven rockets at Israel in response to the Nablus operation, in which a senior commander in the group was killed on Tuesday (Feb 21). The army said five rockets struck in Israel, causing no casualties. — Reuters.

#### NEPAL

Kathmandu, Feb 27 — Dozens of Maoist rebels ambushed an army patrol in eastern Nepal today and shot dead at least three soldiers, an army officer said. One civilian was also killed in the crossfire during the gun battle in Kavre district, 80 km east of the capital Kathmandu, the officer said without elaborating. The attack came a day after the army said it killed at least 16 rebels in the west of the country. — Reuters.

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The bodies of 11 Nepalese security forces and 18 suspected rebels were found today at the site of a fierce gunfight in western Nepal, the Defence Ministry said, while five insurgents were reported killed in a bomb explosion. Security forces found the bodies a day after a gunbattle in Panena village in the Palpa district, which broke out when soldiers patrolling the area came under attack from Maoist rebels who surrounded them on a gorge. Army helicopters reached the site two hours after the battle began yesterday and started bombing the rebel positions, forcing them to flee into the jungles. The army was searching the jungles but the mountainous terrain was making it difficult to find the rebels. Palpa, about 155 miles west of Kathmandu, and nearby Nawalparasi districts have been centre of rebel attacks since they pulled out of a cease-fire in January. Among those killed were 18 rebels, 10 army soldiers and a policeman. Five suspected communist rebels were killed earlier yesterday, apparently when they accidentally triggered a home-made bomb in Mangalsen, about 375 miles west of the capital. Police official Bhupendra Timilsina said today the cause of the blast was being investigated in Mangalsen, where a dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed a few weeks ago because of increased rebel violence. Elsewhere, the Defence

Ministry said two local rebel commanders identified as Bibash Kumar Bajhangi and Surya Bahadur Saun were killed in gunbattle today at Darchula, about 435 miles north-east of Kathmandu.

#### NIGERIA

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: At least 20 people are believed to have died in a second day of violence in the southern Nigerian city of Onitsha. Groups of armed youths rampaged through the city attacking Muslims, in apparent retaliation for the deaths of Christians in riots in the north. Eyewitnesses spoke of streets “littered with bodies” as thousands of Muslims were said to be fleeing the city. Groups of Christian Ibo men wielding clubs and machetes today rampaged through Onitsha for a second day attacking any members of the Muslim Hausa community they could find, according to witnesses. Police say they have sent reinforcements into Onitsha, which has been sealed off, and the Anambra state authorities have imposed a curfew on the town. Earlier yesterday, the authorities in Bauchi in northern Nigeria imposed a curfew after at least 13 people were killed in a sectarian riot.

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: The death toll from days of Christian-Muslim violence across Nigeria has risen to at least 93. The sectarian violence was sparked by deadly weekend (Feb 18-19) protests against newspaper caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad. “I’ve counted more than 20 people killed today,” Onitsha resident Isotonu Achor said after gangs of rioters armed with machetes and shotguns poured through the mainly Christian city. “Major streets are littered with bodies of people killed today, most of them northerners.” Other witnesses also said they saw at least 20 dead. Thirty people were killed in Onitsha a day earlier. In Onitsha, residents said soldiers fire on a mob of ethnic Igbo Christians that tried to enter the military barracks after reports that ethnic Hausa Muslims sheltering in the barracks had attacked a nearby primary school, killing a number of children. The deaths brought to at least 93 the number of people killed in Nigeria since Saturday, when fighting first erupted in the northern city of Maiduguri over the caricatures. That clash razed 30 churches and claimed the lives of 18 people, mostly Christians. Similar violence followed Monday and yesterday in the northern city of Bauchi, where witnesses and Red Cross officials say 25 people were killed when Muslim mobs attacked Christians there. Police and soldiers patrolled Bauchi today. Regional Governor Chris Ngige declared a dusk-to-dawn curfew and ordered police reinforcements to Onitsha. — Reuters.

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated Feb 24, states: Sectarian violence spread to three more Nigerian cities today, claiming at least seven lives and pushing up the death toll in days of killings to at least 127, residents and witnesses said. Muslim youths in Potiskum, armed with machetes and clubs attacked shops belonging mostly to Christians and burned five churches, resident Ibrahim Dagbugur said. Four people were killed. Riot police battled for hours before they could bring the violence under control, other residents said. The violence followed weekend protests over the publication in Europe of controversial cartoons of the Muslim Prophet Muhammad that have enraged Muslims worldwide. Rival religious and ethnic groups fought in Potiskum in northeastern Yobe state, Kontagora in northern Niger state and Enugu, capital of south-eastern Enugu state. The violence against Christians in Kontagora left two people dead and 10 churches burnt, resident Mustapha Basari said. In the mainly Christian south-eastern city of Enugu, at least one person was killed by mobs that attacked ethnic Hausa Muslims, witnesses said. Of the 127 people killed this week in Muslim-Christian fighting across the country, 80 died in the south-eastern city of Onitsha. Thousands of Nigerians have died in sectarian strife since 2000, when mostly Muslim northern states began implementing Islamic Shariah law.

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: An unconfirmed explosion in the Niger Delta in southern Nigeria is reported to have blown up oil pipelines today, leading to a massive oil spillage. Jomo Gbomo, a self-described spokesman for militants in the area, in an email statement, denied knowledge of any of the attacks by their members. “If this actually happened, it may have been carried out by local villagers or thieves,” Gbomo said. “We however do not believe any such attacks took place and believe it to be part of a propaganda campaign by the Nigerian military to support a future attack on communities in that vicinity,” he added. A local journalist in Warri quoted residents of Gbaramatu community as saying that the explosion was from an un-detonated bomb used in February by the military in the community while destroying barges belonging to oil thieves. Nigerian newspapers reported that the militants yesterday continued their attacks on oil facilities in the Niger Delta by attacking the Chanomi creek manifold and a tanker ship in Delta state.

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Nigerian separatist guerrillas released six of their nine foreign hostages last night, but gave warning that they would step up attacks to shut down the country’s oil industry. The militants said that they would not hand over the remaining three captives, including John Hudspith, a British

security expert, until two ethnic Ijaw leaders are freed from jail and Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, compensates polluted villages. James Ibori, the Delta State governor, welcomed the freed men, Macon Hawkins, an American, Bardese Mohammed and Aly Shady, from Egypt, Tony Santos from the Philippines and Muado Somsak and Arak Suwana from Thailand, to his lodge in the city of Warri. Mr Hawkins was released on his 69th birthday, after 13 days in the Niger Delta swamps.

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated Mar 1, states: An explosion in Chanoni creek in Gbaramatu Kingdom in the Niger Delta damaged an oil pipeline today leading to the spilling of a yet to be specified volume of oil. Jane Oraka, a resident of Gbaramatu, said locals believed that the explosion was caused by bomb left behind by “Operation Restore Hope” troops. “Operation Restore Hope,” the name of a government operation to pacify the turbulent Niger Delta, used the explosives to destroy barges belonging to oil thieves.

#### PAKISTAN

Karachi, Feb 24 — Pakistan’s state owned gas utility, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL), said unknown outlaws had damaged a 24-inch-diameter main transmission line which was being used to pipe gas from the Pirkoh and Loti gas fields in Sui Balochistan Province. A press release issued by SNGPL said that the pipeline was sabotaged at 0010, Feb 23. No fire was reported at the scene. The line had been isolated since Feb 16 due to a complete shutdown of gas supply from the fields because of problems at their gas wells and plant. SNGPL repair teams were being mobilised to carry out the necessary repairs to the damaged pipeline. — Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

Karachi, Feb 27 — Pakistan largest gas utility Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) said gas supply to power and fertiliser plants in Punjab and the NWFP was suspended following a blast in main pipelines in the Shahwali area of Rajanpur, in southwestern Punjab Province of Pakistan, last night. A spokesman of company said: “The extent of the blaze is not permitting us to assess the damage and its cause,” and added supply to the pipelines had been stopped from the nearest ‘valve-assembly’ to control the blaze. Three lines of 18, 24 and 30 inches diameters carry gas from Sui to the SNGPL, which feeds Punjab and the Frontier province. There are more than 100 large and small power units in the SNGPL jurisdiction, which now face shutdown. He said it was a sabotage act because gas pressure was normal prior to the blast. The blast caused damage to the 30-inch gas pipeline. — Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A bomb explosion on a railroad track derailed a

passenger train today shortly after it was attacked by gunmen in southwestern Pakistan, police and rail officials said. There were no immediate reports of injury. The blast blew up a portion of the track, sending the train's engine and two cars off the rails as it approached a railway station in the village of Hasipur, about 50 miles southeast of Quetta, said Gul Khan Sasoli, a senior police official. Only 50 passengers were on the train when it derailed 15 minutes after gunmen attacked it with assault rifles in a mountainous region, Sasoli said. Bullets hit the train but did not strike any of the passengers, said Ghulam Rasool, traffic controller at the state-run Pakistan Railways. Security forces deployed in the rugged area to protect the railway line returned fire, he said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the shooting and bombing. The train was headed from Quetta, capital of Baluchistan province, to Lahore in eastern Punjab province when it was attacked.

Karachi, Feb 27 — Pakistan gas utility, Sui Southern Gas Co. Ltd. (SSGC) said this afternoon that a bomb explosion occurred on Sariat Road in Quetta City of Balochistan province at about 2105, local time. As a result, it damaged a 6-inch diameter pipeline supplying gas to the vicinity. A spokesman of SSGC in a statement said that an emergency crew arrived at the site immediately after the explosion, shut off the nearest valve assembly to stop the flow of gas and avoid any further damage to life or property. At the same time, a repair team was dispatched to the site to begin repairing the damage. He pointed out that it was the third time within a week that miscreants have damaged another section of the pipeline near Sariat Road, after causing damage to the pipeline near Eastern Bypass a few days ago. Another attempt made during the last week near Eastern Bypass was frustrated by timely action on the part of the SSGC maintenance staff, who informed the police and called in the bomb disposal squad to defuse an incendiary device. Some areas near Sariat Road have been affected by the incident and SSGC engineers and technicians are trying their level best to restore the supply of gas to customers in the shortest possible time. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Feb 28 — The engineering team of Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Ltd (SNGPL) is busy in restoration work on the two gas pipelines damaged on Sunday (Feb 26) night reportedly after a blast in Shahwali area of Rajanpur district in Punjab Province of Pakistan. The repair work on the affected pipelines of 30 and 16 inches diameters could only be started yesterday morning as the SNGPL engineers and technicians had to reach the far-off troubled spot by road from their various camps. One of the SNGPL engineers told local media, that their first priority was to restore gas supply through the main pipeline

of 30 inches diameter. A total of 20 feet part of both the pipelines was damaged in the blast. "We are hoping to accomplish the task at midnight between yesterday and today," he asserted. The pipelines meant to supply natural gas to Punjab and NWFP from the Sui gas fields in Balochistan have been a constant target of alleged saboteurs especially in Rajanpur district. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Pakistani security forces backed by helicopter gunships struck a militant training camp today in a tribal region near the Afghan border, killing or wounding at least 25 militants, an official said. The militants were attacked after conducting a raid inside Afghanistan and re-entering Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal region, where the training camp was located. The strike triggered explosions in an arms dump at the camp. Syed Zaheerul Islam, the top government administrator of the region, said between 25 and 30 militants were killed or wounded. Army spokesman Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan said troops were conducting a search for bodies. Heavily armed militants later retaliated by taking eight paramilitary troops prisoner in the nearby town of Miran Shah, witnesses said. After capturing the troops, the militants announced over loudspeakers that all shops in the town should be closed, said Zarmat Khan, owner of a shop selling cloth. The militants' mountaintop hideout was spotted about a week ago and put under surveillance, said an intelligence official on condition of anonymity because of the secretive nature of his job. He said Afghan and Uzbek militants and their local supporters were detected at the site. More than two dozen militants were at the camp at the time of the attack, he said. "We do not think there are any survivors," he added. Elsewhere in Pakistan, a pro-government politician was killed when gunmen opened fire on his car near his home in Bostan, a village in the southwestern province of Baluchistan, officials said. The politician, Nasrullah Khan Kakar, headed the Pakistan Workers' Party, a small group that supports Musharraf.

Quetta, Mar 1 — Militants blew up a gas pipeline in Baluchistan today, the latest attack in the southwest province where rebels are fighting for greater autonomy, officials said. The pipeline feeds gas to Baluchistan and officials of Sui Southern Gas Co Ltd, which owns the pipeline, said supplies to consumers remained unaffected. The blast occurred in the early hours near Pakistan's main gas field at Sui and damaged a section of a supply pipeline, Arif Tareen, spokesman for Sui Southern Gas said. Tareen said supplies to consumers would not be affected. "We have made alternate arrangements to supply gas smoothly to the affected area so there is no disruption in supplies," Tareen told Reuters. Nobody has claimed

responsibility for the attack, but Baluch militants have waged a low-level insurgency for decades and have intensified attacks on government installations and infrastructure facilities, including pipelines and transport links, in recent months. — Reuters.

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: At least four people, including a US diplomat, have been killed and up to 50 injured in a bomb attack near the US consulate in Karachi, Pakistan. The explosion happened in the car park of the Marriott Hotel, several windows of which were shattered by the blast. An unnamed policeman told AFP a bomber had rammed his car into one carrying US consulate personnel. "One diplomat was killed and two other US diplomats were in it," he said, adding that their Pakistani driver was also killed.

#### PHILIPPINES

Manila, Feb 24 — Philippine security forces said they foiled a coup attempt against President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo which was set to start during anti-government protests today and had detained the commander of an elite regiment. "We believe that we have quashed a coup," Lieutenant-General Hermogenes Esperon, the army chief, said in an interview on an early morning television news programme. Rumours of plots against Arroyo, who survived a crisis last year over allegations of vote-rigging and corruption, have been running high around this week's anniversary of a "people power" revolt that toppled dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986. Before today's announcement, the army had said last week it had uncovered a scheme called "Oplan Hackle" that would have involved a mass escape of officers on trial over failed mutiny in 2003, the ouster of Arroyo and the creation of a military junta. The armed forces chief, General Generoso Senga, said the commander of the Scout Rangers regiment was being held as an alleged leader of armed troops who planned to join protests against Arroyo by her political foes and former allies today. An army statement said two other commanders of elite units were being investigated. Esperon said the rogue troops planned to announce to the crowd of protesters that they were withdrawing support from the president and were hoping that this would bring a groundswell of opposition to Arroyo. Senior generals met during the night to assess the threat and confront the alleged plotters, Esperon said on radio. "Through timely reaction and dialogue, they decided not to carry out their plan to join the rallies," he said. Arroyo was expected to make a statement to the nation this morning, her officials said. Yesterday, military officials linked former army colonel and opposition senator Gregorio Honasan, hailed as a hero in the uprising against Marcos, to the Oplan Hackle plot to unseat Arroyo. Army



officials said he was recruiting junior officers to take part in the plan. Honasan denied the allegations. — Reuters.

Manila, Feb 24 — President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo invoked emergency rule in the Philippines today after security forces said they had foiled a coup attempt, shocking analysts and driving down the country's currency. Talk of plots against Arroyo, who survived a crisis last year over allegations of vote-rigging and corruption, has been running high around this week's anniversary of a "people power" revolt that toppled dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986. "I have declared a state of emergency," Arroyo said in a taped address on television and radio, adding she had authorised the military and police "to take ample measures." "This is my warning to those who are attempting anything against the government." Executive orders do not require approval by Congress. Police cancelled permits for several political rallies today and school classes were suspended. North of Manila, police stopped 10 buses carrying people to the rallies and advised them to go home. Despite the police action, about 1,000 protesters gathered peacefully at a shrine that was a focal point of the 1986 revolt and another in 2001 that chased out Joseph Estrada as president. However, traffic was flowing as usual through the Makati business district and there did not appear to be any increased security on the streets. Armed forces chief General Generoso Senga said the commander of the elite Scout Rangers regiment had been detained as the alleged leader of troops who planned to join protests against Arroyo by her political foes today. National police chief Arturo Lomibao replaced the four top commanders of the elite Special Action Force and placed his forces on the highest state of alert across the country. — Reuters.

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Disgruntled Marine officers ended a challenge to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's leadership, without violence, this morning. The Marines failed to win public support after the Marine commander was removed over an alleged plot to oust Mrs Arroyo. Mrs. Arroyo ordered all schools closed, today, in the Philippine capital. Defying the demonstration band, around 500 protesters started gathering at the University of the Philippines late yesterday, vowing to stay there until Mrs. Arroyo resigns. Mrs Arroyo invoked the state of emergency last Friday (Feb 24), to confront what she said was a conspiracy by political enemies, communists and "military adventurists". Senior military officers said Maj-Gen Renato Miranda was given a "graceful exit" as commandant of the 8,000 Marines, after he became the most senior officer, so far, to be linked to the foiled coup. About 100 Marines staged a show of support for their sacked chief, in full battle gear

at their base in Manila. Military sources said the standoff was resolved by a straw poll of senior commanders. Thousands of people gathered outside the Marine headquarters, after Maj Gen Miranda called for the public to gather to protect the officers implicated in a coup plot. Everything ended eight hours later, peacefully.

Manila, Feb 28 — The Philippine government said today it may lift emergency rule within days, but police geared up for more arrests of suspected plotters as fears lingered of an attempt to topple President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. A string of petitions seeking to halt the state of emergency stumbled in the Supreme Court as the justices put off a hearing on whether Arroyo's move was constitutional until next Tuesday (Mar 7). Arroyo imposed her order, granting broad powers of detention, after the discovery of what she said on Friday (Feb 24) was a conspiracy by members of the opposition, communist groups and "military adventurists" to bring down her government. Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, who had pressed for an early lifting of the declaration to reassure jittery financial markets, told reporters there would be a meeting of the cabinet on Saturday (Mar 4) to assess the security threat. "We will see if we can have a decision before or on Saturday. In the meantime we remain under emergency rule," he said. A leaked military document showed the alleged conspirators planned a rolling campaign known as "Final Talk 2" that would culminate on March 31 with a march to the Malacanang presidential palace by around 200,000 people. "Should the mobilization fall short of the expectation, they would mobilize again ... on May 1, where they intend to target around 500,000 participants to encircle Malacanang," it said. Police have filed rebellion cases against at least 16 people, two of whom have been arrested. More than 50 communist rebel chiefs and leftist leaders face separate rebellion charges. A Marine colonel was removed today for leading a weekend protest by about 100 of the elite soldiers at a Manila base over the replacement of their commander in connection with the plot. Five leftist politicians wanted for questioning spent the night at the lower house of Congress and said they would not leave until police produced warrants. Also on the list was Gregorio Honasan, a former army colonel and senator hailed as a hero in the 1986 "people power" uprising that toppled dictator Ferdinand Marcos and restored democracy. Known as "Gringo", Honasan has been linked to most of the coup attempts since then, including bloody revolts by soldiers in 1987 and 1989 against President Corazon Aquino. The president's economic team is anxious to have the order lifted as soon as possible to avoid damaging recent improvements to the fiscal picture, although financial markets have more than recovered from the shock of the

alleged plot and emergency order. The peso was around 51.66 to the dollar this afternoon, up from its 3.5-week low of 52.20 on Friday. The main stock index closed 1.61 percent higher. The Supreme Court today started considering more than a dozen petitions against Arroyo's order by lawyers, journalists and opposition lawmakers. But the court stopped them in their tracks, giving the government until next Monday (Mar 6) to make its case. — Reuters.

Manila, Mar 2 — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo looks increasingly likely to lift emergency rule within the next few days after her security chiefs lowered alert levels today and said the threat of a coup had receded. "The plotters that sought to undermine and bring down the government have been thwarted," Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez told a news conference. "We feel that we can advise the president that the direction should be toward lifting." Gonzalez's rosier assessment, reversing his judgment of just a day earlier, chimed with the opinions of the defense secretary and the national police chief that the threats to the government from leftist opponents and renegade troops had subsided. Arroyo is waiting for reports from the trio within the next two days before making a decision on ending emergency rule, which has been criticized by human rights groups for giving the government a green light to put pressure on the local media. Earlier, the police and military lowered their maximum alert levels, halving the number of troops on standby around the country. State prosecutors have filed formal charges against three of 16 leftists and soldiers on a police list of alleged rebels. But the trio, including Gregorio Honasan — a former colonel and senator who has been linked to most of the attempted coups in the Philippines over the past 20 years — have only been charged in connection with previous plots. State prosecutors have yet to file charges related to the revolt foiled last week. The other 13 on the police list include five leftist lawmakers who have been holed up in the lower house since Monday (Feb 27) claiming immunity from arrest unless the police produce warrants.

#### SAUDI ARABIA

Abqaiq, Feb 25 — Al Qaeda in Saudi Arabia vowed more attacks after an attempted assault on the world's largest oil processing plant ended in a massive explosion at the site's gates, a Web site statement said. The statement issued today named two suicide attackers who died in the blast as Mohammed al-Ghaith and Abdullah al-Twejri — both on a list of top wanted militants. The statement said yesterday's attack was in response to a call by al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden to target oil installations. "We shall not cease our attacks until our territories are liberated," said the statement, adding the operation was successful and that

some attackers got away. It said the attackers got through two gates and blew up themselves and their vehicles as planned, rejecting Saudi state media reports that security forces stopped them. Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi said oil and gas output was unaffected by the “terrorist attempt” on the world’s biggest oil processing plant, the first direct strike on a Saudi energy target since al Qaeda launched attacks aimed at toppling the US-allied monarchy in 2003. Saudi security adviser Nawaf Obaid said security forces fired on three cars at the outer gates of the Abqaiq facility, 1.5 km from the main entrance. One car carrying gunmen and two others, packed with explosives, rammed the gates, he said. Security sources said four militants and two officers died. Dubai-based Al Arabiya television said the attackers used cars bearing the logo of Saudi state-owned oil company Aramco. Naimi said a small fire that broke out after the explosion was brought under control. Officials say about 144 foreigners and Saudis, including security forces, and 120 militants have died in attacks and clashes with police since May, 2003, when al Qaeda suicide bombers hit three Western housing compounds in Riyadh. — Reuters.

**SOMALIA**

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: The Somali capital, Mogadishu, is calm following four days of fighting between rival militias. Local leaders, including traditional elders and the city mayor, met yesterday to discuss ceasefire plans. Violence broke out when some militia leaders formed an alliance to fight supporters of unofficial Islamic Sharia courts that have emerged in Mogadishu. Many of those killed were civilians hit by stray bullets. The main airstrip in southern Mogadishu’s Daynile district, which is used by aid agencies and businessmen, was closed during the fighting. The fighting pits a new group, the Alliance for the Restoration of Peace and Counter-Terrorism, against the Islamic courts’ militia. But it is reported that gunmen from other groups have taken advantage of the fighting to go on a looting spree. At least five warlords-cum-ministers in the transitional government are behind the new alliance, opposed to the Islamic courts. The courts have set up Mogadishu’s only judicial system in parts of the capital but have been accused of links to al-Qaeda. Their critics accuse the courts of being behind the killing of moderate Muslim scholars. The country’s parliament is due to meet for the first time on February 26, on home soil, since it was formed in Kenya more than a year ago.

Baidoa, Feb 26 — Somalia’s interim parliament held a session inside the anarchic country for the first time today and President Abdullahi Yusuf urged deputies to make national security their priority. Prime Minister

Mohamed Ali Gedi flew into the south-central city of Baidoa, escorted by heavily-armed militiamen, to join the president and parliament speaker Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan for a meeting many say is the last hope for a divided administration paralysed for more than a year. It is the 14th attempt to restore central government to Somalia. It was also the first parliamentary session since a meeting in neighbouring Kenya last year ended with lawmakers brawling, throwing chairs and smashing a ballot box. The parliament met in Baidoa as it was considered a neutral site by both factions in the divided government, but a coterie of powerful Mogadishu warlords, including National Security Minister Mohamed Qanyare, stayed away. They lead a faction, fronted by Hassan, that wants the government based in the lawless capital Mogadishu and does not want foreign peacekeepers in the Horn of Africa country. Yusuf, Gedi and their allies have based the government in the provincial town of Jowhar, 90 km north of Mogadishu. They say they cannot move to the capital until thousands of militiamen are pacified and they want foreign peacekeepers to help do the job. Disagreements over the seat of government, peacekeepers and other political intrigues have left the two sides deeply divided, but MPs plan to tackle those issues or face further failure many of them say would render the government unable to impose any authority. The president proposed that MPs spend at least a week reconciling. Yusuf also urged parliament to set rules for their duties and make plans to tax citizens to fund local governments. There were no plans for any debate today after speeches finished and the session closed for the day. It was due to reopen tomorrow, Information Minister Mohamed Abdi Hayr said. Almost 500 uniformed policemen patrolled the potholed streets outside the temporary parliament building, a change from the 1,000 or so militiamen who are usually there but have been forced to camp outside the city during the meeting. About 15 diplomats from the United Nations, African Union, Arab League, Italy, Sweden and other countries were present. — Reuters.



**GERMANY**

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Employees belonging to Germany’s largest union have begun a series of brief regional stoppages in a growing dispute over pay and productivity. IG Metall staff at a DaimlerChrysler plant in the south-west of the country stopped work for several hours. More warning strikes, in which staff temporarily

stop work to emphasise their demands but do not disrupt production, are expected today. Unions say staff must be given a greater share in firms’ profitability. IG Metall, which represents 3.4 million manufacturing workers, has warned that the regional stoppages could be a prelude to sustained national action over pay and working conditions. It is seeking a five percent rise in wages and guarantees on working hours, including the maintenance of traditional toilet breaks. The union said that up to 1,000 staff had joined in the action at DaimlerChrysler and similar stoppages would take place across the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg today. Carmaker Porsche and Bosch are expected to be targeted. “On Ash Wednesday, we will begin with public actions, not just for one day and not just for one company,” Joerg Hofmann, the regional head of IG Metall, said. Employers have said that the wage demand is unsustainable and will result in job losses. Many German states want to lengthen the working week from 38.5 to 40 hours to boost productivity.

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: German public sector workers may expand strikes after talks between the Ver.di union and local public employers over working hours broke down in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg yesterday, the union said. A new date for the negotiations affecting some 220,000 local workers hasn’t been set, union spokesman Ralf Berchtold said. Regional authorities and union leaders will meet to resolve the dispute for 900,000 workers on the state level on March 10. Workers including street cleaners and university hospital staff are protesting plans by local and regional authorities to raise the working week to 40 hours from 38.5 hours without extra pay. The talks in Baden-Wuerttemberg failed even though fellow workers in the port city of Hamburg yesterday agreed to work longer depending on age, family status and income levels.

**GREECE**

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Tension and uncertainty over the future of the maritime strike prevail at the port of Piraeus following the Government’s decision to recruit the crews of all Greek-registered passenger ferries, passenger-vehicle ferries and cargo liners. Incidents were recorded a little after 2000 today at Piraeus between maritime employees and special police units, which had blocked the port of Piraeus since noon in order to secure the smooth embarkation of trucks on to the ferries. As the protestors tried to break the police cordon, the special units fired teargas and firecrackers. The crowd dispersed and set fire to rubbish bins, while the police tried to pursue them. Union delegations arrived in Piraeus as a sign of support; while seamen, along with 43 federations and trade unions, as well

as student unions, participated in a rally at 1700 hrs. Mercantile Marine Minister Manolis Kefalogiannis argued that the Government has exhausted all margins for dialogue with the PNO, which insists on manifesting intransigence. Mr Kefalogiannis claimed that all their institutional demands have been met and solutions to their financial demands were presented to them during yesterday's meeting. The Ministry also asked either for emergency personnel to facilitate the immediate transfer of perishable goods or for the strike to have been terminated by Monday. However, the PNO denied both. This morning, the PNO held an emergency meeting and decided, by majority, to continue its collective actions in the ports of Piraeus and Patras, reacting to the political recruitment. At the same time, the PNO described the decision as "illegal," since, as the Federation's legal advisors have argued, a 2002 provision has abolished the possibility of political recruitment. Speaking on NET, Labour Law Professor Alexis Mitropoulos stressed no sanctions could be imposed on maritime employees, because there is no legal framework for political recruitment, as all clauses allowing it have been abolished. The President of the Panhellenic Mercantile Marine Employees Union (PENEN), Antonis Dalakogiorgos, announced there would be a symbolic and actual resistance at the two main Greek ports, i.e. Piraeus and Patras, stressing the strike would continue until Friday. Mr Dalakogiorgos underlined, though, that routes at all other Greek ports will be performed as per normal, but any ship docking at the ports of Piraeus or Patras will not be allowed to sail back. The PENEN president said the political recruitment was an authoritarian decision of fascist inspiration, which strikes a blow to the labour movement, while underlining that the Piraeus First Instance Court ruled in favour of the strike's legitimacy. The President of the Mercantile Marine Subordinate Crews Union, Mr Manousogiannakis, underlined the PNO's decision was made by majority and asked for the support of all employees, while inviting all truck drivers to join them in their fight. Meanwhile, car-passenger ferry *Lissos* departed from Chania, Crete, at 0930 hrs with 48 trucks, seven cars and 39 passengers on board. It should be noted that no incidents occurred during shipping. Earlier in the morning, at 0420 hrs, *Aegean Glory* was setting sail from the port of Chania bound for Piraeus, carrying 50 trucks with perishable goods. A total of seven ships from Crete, Lesbos, Rhodes and Samos have sailed into the port of Piraeus today, while the ships *Phaistos*, *Lissos* and *Crete* are scheduled to depart for Crete, loaded with trucks. It should be noted that ships sail from Xaveri Pier as strikers are blocking the loading of ships at all the other piers. Incidents

occurred in the morning at the port of Corfu, when PAME (All Workers' Militant Front) maritime employees stopped passengers from boarding on *Agia Aikaterini* which was ready to sail. Two people were arrested, but were later released. In Patras, seamen delegations stated that the recruitment would not make them back down. Recruitment notices were given out to the seamen working on the Patras-Italy routes in the morning, and the majority of them complied with the decision. The first ship to start loading vehicles was Super Fast Ferry, however, a group of PAME maritime employees rushed to the site and blocked the loading process. Later at noon, incidents rocked Patras, resulting in two port officials being injured. However, the ship *Olympia Palace* sailed from the port of Piraeus to Igoumenitsa, from where it will depart for Italy. In the meantime, port officers handcuffed two German truck drivers, as they accelerated up the ramp and nearly missed injuring some of the unionists. The Piraeus Labour Centre will hold a four-hour work stoppage from 1200 to 1600 hrs, supporting the maritime employees' actions. The Athens Labour Centre announced a four-hour work stoppage from 0800 to 1200 hrs tomorrow, while the Construction Workers Federation announced a 24-hour strike. In addition, the Patras Labour Centre announced a four-hour work stoppage from 1400 to 1800 in the afternoon, while PAME has scheduled a demonstration at 1700 hrs at the Trion Symmahon Square, opposite the port. At the same time, the Truck Drivers' Union called on its members to refuse to have their trucks loaded in ships, for as long as the maritime personnel is on strike.

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Striking sailors clashed with riot police in the ports of Piraeus and Patras yesterday as they ignored government orders to return to work, opting instead to carry on their industrial action for an eighth day today. The clashes occurred as unionists from other sectors joined sailors at the ports to prevent trucks from boarding ferries, which the seamen are keeping firmly docked. Only a few ships from Crete - laden with perishable goods from the island - were allowed to sail to Piraeus as the strikers sought to appease local farmers. The Panhellenic Seamen's Federation (PNO) said yesterday that it would limit its strike, which began last Thursday (Feb 16), to Patras and Piraeus, but this will still have a huge impact on Greece's sea transport as the vast majority of ferries, carrying goods and passengers, pass through the two ports. In an early morning decision, the government tried to find a way around the strike, which has left many islands desperately short of supplies. The Merchant Marine Ministry said it would use the rarely applied measure of civil mobilization, effectively making the sailors conscripts and subject to military orders. "The government has to

restore the damage and confusion caused by the prolonged strike and intransigence of PNO," said government spokesman Theodoros Roussopoulos. Unionists appeared unaffected by the government's tactics since it was unclear how the measure would be enforced. PNO is demanding better unemployment and pension benefits, as well as lower taxes for its members, but the government has refused to meet its demands. "The government has exhausted all angles of discussion with PNO," said Merchant Marine Minister Manolis Kefaloyiannis. He added that efforts to find a solution would continue but criticized the sailors for not agreeing to suspend their strike during negotiations. The mayor of the Cycladic island of Sifnos told Kathimerini that products at supermarkets had begun running out as only two ships had docked at the island during the last 17 days.

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: As of 1800 hrs, vessel routes are being operated as normal, following a decision by the Panhellenic Seamen's Federation (PNO) to end the strike in ports. Earlier, the seamen staged a march to the Ministry of Mercantile Marine. The decision was unanimously taken by the 14 Unions of the Federation. Many vessels have already departed for their destinations, while the situation is expected to gradually smooth out in the remainder of Greece's ports. Following the end of the strike, alternate Government spokesperson Evangelos Andonaros stated that the dialogue between the PNO unionists and the Minister of Mercantile Marine is expected to continue. Minister of Economy Giorgos Alogoskoufis said that reasonable demands would be discussed in a calm and temperate climate. However, as of yesterday and especially this morning and before the Federation's decision was announced, many vessels departed from Piraeus to Crete and the Aegean and Dodecanese Islands.

## GUINEA

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated Feb 28, states: Guinea's capital Conakry and its main alumina shipping port came to a virtual standstill today as a general strike over state wages gripped the volatile country for a second day. A spokesman for the city's port said the strike should have no immediate impact on exports of alumina or bauxite because no shipments were scheduled for the coming days, but if the strike were to continue, it could disrupt future loadings. The West African nation has almost a third of the world's reserves of bauxite, the raw material used to make aluminium. Markets and shops across the city were deserted today, the second day of a five-day strike called by unions over low public sector wages and spiralling inflation. Unions are demanding a four-fold increase in state salaries, something which veteran President Lausana Conte's

government says would derail its economic programme. "The state can not overstretch itself. A sharp salary increase would have an automatic effect on inflation," Finance Minister Mady Kaba Camara said, adding it would also quash efforts to whittle down government debt. Police arrested some youths as authorities dismantled road blocks in poorer neighbourhoods of the capital, witnesses said. "The security forces were obliged to intervene because the youths stopped traffic from circulating. Some taxi drivers were forced to park their cars," said local resident Moumini Konate.

**MEXICO**

See "Coal Mine, Coahuila State, Mexico" under "Fires & Explosions".

**SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated Mar 1, states: The strike by Nationwide Airline staff in support of pay demands continued today, with no end in sight. It has been almost a week since the South African Transport and Allied Workers' Union (Satawu) first launched its strike action and demanded a 220 percent pay increase. The workers, comprising check-in agents, baggage carriers and other ground staff, said they were struggling to make ends meet on their salaries. Some of their demands included the implementation of a grading system that would allow for growth, paid maternity leave, grants, pensions and provident funds. Nationwide Human Resource Manager Dave Hill said the airline had not been affected by the strike. However, Satawu was hopeful that Nationwide would reconsider its four percent pay increase offer and negotiate with the union.

**SOUTH KOREA**

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 16,000 government railway staff have gone on strike in South Korea demanding wage increases and improved working conditions. The walkout forced the state-run rail operator to cancel more than half its services, but disruption was mitigated by the fact today is a holiday. The government said the strike was illegal as arbitration aimed at settling the dispute was underway. The government has invoked special powers governing industries vital to the national economy to end disputes at Korean Air and Asiana Airlines over the last year. Korea Railroad (Korail), which carries more than two and a half million passengers a day, has been forced to cancel 760 services. The company has recruited retirees, non-unionised staff and military personnel to provide a skeleton service. Experts said there could be chaos when most South Koreans return to work tomorrow should the strike continue. Union leaders said the company had refused to listen to its call for better wages and the rehiring of dismissed workers. While urging a settlement, the government

threatened firm action against the strikers. "The government will resolve the issue by holding a sincere dialogue with labour on their just demands but it will sternly deal with illegal activities," the Labour ministry said in a statement. The National Labour Relations Commission said today that it would seek to arbitrate between the two sides. Under South Korean law, strikes are technically illegal when arbitration is ongoing but unions have ignored this in the past.

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Late-night talks to end a rail strike in South Korea have failed as the country returns to work after a public holiday and the new school year starts. More than 16,000 staff stopped work yesterday over pay and conditions and the sacking of colleagues. Police have issued arrest warrants for three union leaders and are seeking warrants for eight more, according to an official at police headquarters. A railway corporation official quoted by Reuters news agency said Korail would probably have to "bring in the police to break up the strike." Experts said there could be chaos today as commuters return to work. It has recruited retirees, non-unionised staff and military personnel to provide a skeleton service.

London, Mar 2 — South Korean shipping companies are resorting to emergency measures in their efforts to transport goods in the face of what appears to be an intractable nationwide rail strike that has affected the country for two days. Railway service across South Korea were severely disrupted after around 14,000 workers of Korea Railroad Corp went on strike for higher wages and better working conditions. Early this morning, last-minute negotiations to end the strike failed. Government officials were reported to have said they are considering sending riot police to break up the illegal strike. Today, about half of the container-carrying trains from Busan to Seoul were cancelled, government officials said. In order to reduce the effect of the strike, shipping companies such as Korea Express and Hanjin Shipping were sending their containers via trucks or vessels.



**ACCOUNTING FRAUD, UNITED STATES**

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated Feb 25, states: HealthSouth Corp said yesterday it would pay investors \$445 million to settle investor lawsuits stemming from the company's accounting fraud. HealthSouth said it would put up securities valued at \$215 million and its insurers would pay \$230 million to settle suits filed by stockholders and

bondholders, including the Retirement Systems of Alabama. HealthSouth also promised the investors 25% of any judgment it receives from suits it has filed against founder Richard Scrushy, investment bank UBS and auditors Ernst & Young. The settlement follows months of mediation ordered by US District Judge Karon Bowdre, who must still approve the pact. The company did not admit or deny wrongdoing in the settlement, which does not affect investor efforts to collect damages from Scrushy, UBS and Ernst & Young. HealthSouth, which was rocked by an accounting scandal that erupted in March, 2003, has been attempting to fortify its finances and resolve legal actions for three years. The company reached a \$325 million settlement with the government over improper Medicare billing and a \$100 million settlement with the Securities and Exchange Commission over the accounting fraud. Nearly two dozen insurance carriers are responsible for the \$230 million tab in the settlement, including AIG, underwriters at Lloyd's of London and Royal Indemnity Co. HealthSouth will give plaintiffs 25 million shares of stock and 40.8 million warrants that can be converted into shares.

**CONTRACT OVERBILLING, UNITED STATES**

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated Feb 24, states: Tutor-Saliba Corp agreed to pay the city and county of San Francisco \$19 million to settle a lawsuit filed in 2002 accusing the contractor of overbilling for the San Francisco International Airport expansion. The agreement, reached last week, was made public yesterday by the Sylmar-based company and City Attorney Dennis Herrera. The suit accused Tutor-Saliba of overbilling the city tens of millions of dollars, and manipulating and defrauding the city-run minority contracting program to win lucrative airport contracts it would not have been qualified to receive. In 1996 and 1997, the company entered into six contracts with the city to build the new international terminal and other projects at the airport. The suit originally sought \$30 million in damages and a ban to keep Tutor-Saliba from bidding on future contracts in San Francisco. Tutor-Saliba acknowledged no wrongdoing as part of the settlement, Herrera said.

**EMOTIONAL DISTRESS, UNITED STATES**

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated Feb 26, states: A New York judge has upheld a \$2 million award to the parents of a stillborn infant whose remains were discarded by a hospital. Patrick and Emilian Emeagwali, natives of Nigeria, sued Brooklyn Hospital Centre for severe emotional distress because they believe a soul wanders forever if a

loved one is not laid to rest in a tribal burial ground, the New York Daily News reported yesterday. 'The fetus here was delivered and had a physical existence separate from that of the mother, even if not a living existence, which is of symbolic importance,' said state Supreme Court Justice Wayne Saitta. Emilian Emeagwali delivered after only 21.5 weeks into her pregnancy and the remains were sent to the hospital pathology department. Brooklyn Hospital Centre lawyers argued that the right to bury does not apply to remains of a stillborn and that the award was excessive. The hospital lawyers said they would appeal.

#### **ILLEGAL TITLE INSURANCE REBATING, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated Feb 28, states: LandAmerica Financial Corp. has agreed to pay a \$4.5 million settlement for its part in illegal title insurance rebating, California Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi said today. The Department of Insurance accused LandAmerica Financial of setting up a captive reinsurance company to funnel illegal rebates to banks, builders and real estate agents to direct business back to the title companies. In LandAmerica Financial's settlement with the department, \$2.6 million of the \$4.5 million will be refunded to customers. Another \$1.9 million will be paid in penalties, including reimbursement for legal costs. LandAmerica Financial also agreed to stop captive reinsurance business arrangements, to co-operate with the department in identifying potential reductions in title subdivision rates and to assist the department in improving consumer awareness of title insurance rates. LandAmerica Financial is the parent company of Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Co., Lawyers Title Insurance Corp. and Transnation Title Insurance Co. "These illegal rebate schemes damage the trust of consumers and needlessly inflate the cost of purchasing and financing a home," Garamendi said in a prepared statement. "The costs of these illegal rebates are essentially passed on to consumers in the form of bloated rates. This practice gives a bad name to law abiding title insurance companies, Realtors, lenders and contractors. This settlement should send a strong message to stop these illegal kickbacks." Last summer the department accused nine companies including Commonwealth Land Title, Lawyers Title and Transnation Title of passing along nearly half of the premium they collected to lenders, builders and real estate agents in return for their referral of title insurance business. The department has collected more than \$37 million in settlements from the title insurance groups of LandAmerica Financial, First American Title Insurance Co., and Fidelity National Financial Inc.

#### **MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE, NEWMARKET, SUFFOLK, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A teenage epilepsy sufferer who was left with learning difficulties when doctors at a Suffolk hospital failed to treat him properly after his birth has been awarded almost £7 million compensation. Christian Raphael, now 19, has severe cognitive and learning difficulties after suffering an epilepsy fit following his birth at Newmarket Hospital. Health chiefs admitted failings in diagnosing and treating the youngster's condition in the aftermath of his birth when he was born with low blood sugar levels. The youngster has now been awarded the landmark payment after a compensation package was agreed between legal teams on the eve of a planned 10-day trial at London's High Court.

#### **PATENT-LITIGATION SUIT, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated Mar 1, states: Gateway Inc. will pay Hewlett-Packard Co. \$47 million to settle a patent-litigation suit between the two personal-computing industry rivals, the companies said today. Of the total, Gateway is to pay \$25 million within seven days of a new cross-licensing agreement between the companies. The remaining \$22 million will be paid within a year after the start of the pact. Gateway, without admitting wrongdoing, also said it would enter a seven-year cross-licensing agreement with H-P. Gateway Chief Financial Officer John Goldsberry said the company was "happy to get the patent battle behind us." H-P, which sued Gateway and its eMachines unit in 2004 and 2005, claimed infringement of 27 patents in PCs made from 1999 to the present. As a result of the settlement, Gateway said it would revise its 2005 financial results. It will record a charge of \$16.7 million that will reduce its 2005 net income to \$32.8 million from \$49.5 million. The licensing fee will be amortized over the life of the seven-year cross-licensing agreement. Gateway shares fell eight cents to close at \$2.28. H-P rose \$1.24, or almost 4%, to end the day at \$34.05.

#### **POLLUTION, NIGERIA**

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A Nigerian court yesterday ordered Royal Dutch Shell to pay \$1.5bn (£858m) in damages for polluting the Niger delta. A federal high court in Port Harcourt ruled that Shell must compensate communities in Bayelsa state for degrading their creeks and spoiling crops and fishing. Communities have repeatedly accused Shell of letting its oil spill into the rivers of the Niger delta, degrading the environment, spoiling crops and poisoning fish. Shell says most spills are caused by saboteurs trying to steal the oil for sale by international criminal syndicates on the world

market. Justice Okechukwu Okeke's ruling in Port Harcourt yesterday upheld a vote by Nigeria's senate in August 2004 to fine Shell \$1.5bn. Shell had argued that the parliamentary committee that made the original order in 2000 did not have the power to require payment. But the judge ruled that since both sides agreed to go before parliament, the order was binding. Shell in London said the company would not comment in detail until it had received the text of the judgment; "however, we believe that we will have strong grounds to appeal as independent expert advice demonstrates that there is no evidence to support the claims". It added that it remained committed to dialogue with the Ijaw people - a claim rejected by Ijaw leaders

#### **PRICE-FIXING, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated Feb 28, states: A federal judge in Pittsburgh has approved a 60-million-dollar settlement against P-P-G Industries in a lawsuit claiming the company conspired with other glassmakers to overcharge for flat glass products. The other companies include Guardian Industries of Auburn Hills (Michigan). P-P-G is the last of six defendants to settle the case, which was filed in 1997 by auto body shops and window manufacturers. P-P-G denies the price-fixing allegations, but says it settled to avoid the cost of litigation. Guardian and the other defendants paid about 61 million dollars to settle the cases.

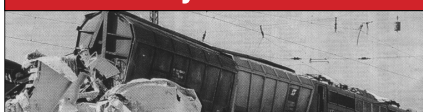
#### **SEX DISCRIMINATION, UNITED STATES**

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A police officer who sued the city of Oakland, claiming she was denied a promotion after she became pregnant was awarded \$2 million in damages yesterday. The federal court jury in San Francisco found unanimously that the Oakland Police Department had refused to promote Janeith Glenn-Davis to captain because of her sex and pregnancy, said her lawyer, John Scott. She received \$150,000 for lost earnings and \$1.85 million for emotional distress and damage to her reputation and career. Scott said the verdict should send a message to a department that "historically has been hostile to women." The city planned to appeal the verdict, said Erica Harrold, spokeswoman for the city attorney's office. Officials claim Glenn-Davis was simply a victim of a temporary freeze on promotions. Glenn-Davis was a 15-year veteran and the highest-ranking woman on the force when she passed an exam for captain in May, 2000. According to the lawsuit, then-Chief Richard Word told her he would promote her to the next vacant captain's position. However, after she became pregnant the next spring, the suit said, Word told her that all promotions to captain were on hold. The department

later hired another candidate while Glenn-Davis was on maternity leave, Scott said.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: An Islamic association and two of its officials must pay more than \$1.7 million to lawyers for a woman who successfully sued the organization for sexual discrimination, a judge has ruled. The ruling is against the Islamic Society of Orange County, which runs the Orange Crescent School in Garden Grove where Zakiyyah Muhammad was principal for five years until she was fired in 2003. Muhammad, a convert to Islam, was awarded \$788,000 in damages by a jury in September after she claimed she was dismissed for challenging her male bosses. Now, Superior Court Judge Corey S. Cramin has ordered the society to pay Muhammad's legal and expert witness fees. The Islamic Society yesterday sued its insurer, the Chubb Insurance Group, alleging the company should have accepted a proposed \$900,000 settlement of Muhammad's suit which would have included attorneys' fees. Chubb has told the society that it must pay the total award and legal fees because its \$1 million policy was consumed by attorneys fees during the trial. The Islamic Society is appealing the jury verdict, said Muhammad's lead attorney, Ed Conner.

## Railway Accidents



### ABU HAMMAS AREA, EGYPT

Cairo, Feb 28 — Two Egyptian trains collided in the Nile Delta today and about 17 people were injured, the state news agency MENA said. The accident took place near the town of Abu Hummus, which lies on the main line between Cairo and Alexandria and about 150 km northwest of the capital, it said. — Reuters.

Cairo, Feb 28 — A train ran into the back of another train in the Nile Delta today due to signal failure and mist, injuring 20 people, officials said. The accident occurred near the town of Abu Hammas, which lies about 150 km north-west of Cairo, on the main line between Cairo and Alexandria, the state MENA news agency reported. Transport Minister Mohamed Lutfi Mansour said in an interview with Egyptian television: "It was six o'clock in the morning and there was a mist, which may have made it hard for the driver to see well." "We also have to see what was the cause of the fault in the signal and try to deal with that situation so that it doesn't happen again," he added. Out of the 20 people injured, 14 were discharged from hospital after treatment, the minister said. The governor of Beheira province, Adel Labib, said a train bound for Cairo ran into the back of a train

going to Port Said, The trains had left the previous station five minutes apart. The injuries were in the two rear carriages of the Port Said train. — Reuters.

### BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated Feb 27, states: Two trains crashed head-on in the Argentine capital late today, injuring over 20 people. The accident occurred on a railway bridge in the upscale district of Palermo at 2200 hrs (0200, UTC, Feb 28). According to railway officers, a cargo train began heading for the terminal in Retiro after dropping two boxcars at a train station on the bridge, but was rammed by an oncoming passenger train. Those injured were sent to a nearby hospital for treatment and nobody was killed in the accident, hospital sources said.

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated Feb 28, states: Two commuter trains and a cargo train collided in Buenos Aires yesterday, injuring at least 10 people, police and train company officials said. The driver of one of the passenger trains was seriously injured after being trapped in the twisted metal, Gustavo Gago, a spokesman for the TBA commuter train company, told reporters. There were no deaths reported. A witness said two thunderous crashes were heard in the upscale district of Palermo at about 2140 hrs when the trains hit each other. Dozens of passenger, many on their way home from work, walked away dazed from the scene, tending to bloody noses or minor cuts. The crash was caused by two derailed cars from a cargo train that fell across the tracks, police said. A passenger train heading from downtown Buenos Aires to the suburbs then slammed head-on into the cargo containers. A third passenger train traveling in the opposite direction also banged into the containers but none of its passengers were injured.

### DE AAR AREA, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: A signalling failure caused the accident between the Blue Train and the Trans Karoo near Beaufort West, South Africa, in October last year, according to a report released today. "It was established that the wrong-side signalling failure was as a result of a short-circuit caused by a solder splatter in the relay unit," said Mosenngwa Mofi, chief executive of the Railway Safety Regulator. An independent board for enquiry set up by the regulator released its report after an extensive investigation and hearings. A solder splatter is a drop of solder — an easily melted mixture of lead and tin used for joining metal surfaces — accidentally dropped on to, and thus flattened against, a solid surface. It was determined that, despite some visual inspection and electrical tests, the solder splatter remained undetected and therefore directly caused the malfunction of the

relay unit, which eventually led to a wrong side signalling failure that caused the collision between the trains. The accident occurred on Oct 26 when the two Spoornet trains collided at Deelfontein. The Blue Train was travelling from Pretoria to Cape Town while the Trans Karoo was en route from Cape Town to Pretoria. Two Japanese passengers on the Blue Train sustained head and neck injuries and nine crew members were slightly injured, with the driver sustaining serious injuries to his pelvis. On the Trans Karoo, nine passengers sustained minor injuries. Two crew members were slightly injured. According to the report, evidence showed that the Blue Train had arrived first at Deelfontein and was directed to loop one to allow the Trans Karoo, which was 25 minutes late, to pass through on the main line. When the Trans Karoo approached Deelfontein, the signals had opened for it to proceed on the main line. However, when the Trans Karoo reached the main line points, the points had been arranged in such a way that they routed it into loop one, where the Blue Train had been stationary. Despite attempts by the Trans Karoo driver to apply emergency brakes, it crashed into the Blue Train. "The solder splatter was a 'trap,' waiting for the occasion when the signal was set up in this particular way, to cause a wrong side failure," read the report. The board of enquiry recommended that a comprehensive safety-management system audit be initiated by the Railway Safety Regulator to determine and rectify any deficiencies. It also recommended that Spoornet review existing quality assurance measures to ascertain their reliability and extend the same to all contractors within the safety value chain.

### NORTHWEST TRANSYLVANIA, ROMANIA

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A train transporting chemical fertilizer derailed yesterday, blocking railway lines and causing long delays in Romania's northwest Transylvania region, officials said. The derailment occurred between the cities of Sighisoara and Brasov, said Dorel Iosifescu, director of the Brasov branch of the National Romanian Railways. Officials had to work overnight to clear the railway tracks and move rail cars that had overturned. Iosifescu said he hoped the railway would function normally later today. A preliminary investigation showed that the axle of one of the wheels snapped, causing the train to derail, spilling the nonflammable fertilizer, said Stefan Rahitean, head of the Emergency Situations Department in Brasov. "There was no danger of an explosion but the line was damaged," Rahitean said. He said one track was reopened early today. About 15 trains travelling between Transylvania and

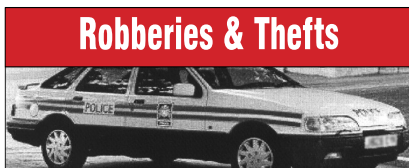
the capital, Bucharest, were rerouted yesterday and today due to the accident.

**RAJEWALA AREA, PUNJAB PROVINCE, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Feb 28 — Pakistan railway said at least four coaches of 261-up shuttle train running between Bhera and Malikwal derailed near Rajewala in Punjab province of Pakistan yesterday allegedly due to defective track. Railway authorities claimed that no loss of life or injuries was reported in the wake of the derailment. However, they said that about 200-yard patch of the track was damaged. The railway officials have initiated an inquiry into the incident. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**VALENCIA, SPAIN**

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated Mar 1, states: Twenty-three people have been injured when two tram carriages were derailed in Valencia. None of them were seriously injured. The accident happened this afternoon, when the tram was taking a curve on the crossroads of Calle Ingeniero Fausto Elio and Avenida de Los Naranjos. It was travelling at 50 km at the time. A statement from the Railways Department of the Generalitat said that the tram driver did not realise that a points change was taking the tram towards the curve.



**Robberies & Thefts**

**ARTWORK FROM MUSEUM, BRAZIL**

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A Brazilian museum robbed of valuable artworks has put up a reward of \$5,000 for their safe return. The Picasso, Dali, Matisse and Monet paintings were stolen from the Chacara do Ceu museum in Rio de Janeiro while carnival festivities were in full swing. A telephone line has also been set up allowing anyone with any information about the theft to call anonymously. Experts say the artworks, the museum's most valuable pieces, are worth up to \$50m. Police have also issued computer-generated images of the armed thieves and given details of the paintings to 182 countries via Interpol, while Brazilian authorities are on alert to stop the items leaving the country. At least four men are believed to have been involved in the heist. The thieves reportedly brandished a hand grenade to threaten security guards at the museum on Friday (Feb 25). They shut down the security cameras and then slipped away in a crowd of Samba revellers, said museum officials. Pablo Picasso's *The Dance*, Salvador Dali's *The Two Balconies*,

Henri Matisse's *Luxembourg Gardens* and Claude Monet's *Marine* were stolen.

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

London, Feb 24 — Police investigating a £50 million armed raid at a security depot in Tonbridge, Kent, said today they had arrested three people. A Kent police spokeswoman said officers in London had arrested a 41-year-old woman yesterday at a building society in Bromley on suspicion of handling stolen goods. A man and another woman were also arrested yesterday. — Reuters.

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: The total amount stolen in the largest robbery in the UK was £53 million, Kent Police have confirmed. Kent's Assistant Chief Constable Adrian Leppard also revealed that a further five men have been arrested in connection with the multi-million pound Securitas robbery on the Tonbridge depot. It is known that a number of armed raids have taken place and at least another two people are thought to have been held in connection with the raid. They were arrested yesterday after armed police officers shot out the wheels of a BMW on a seafront road in Tankerton, near Whitstable. A total of £1.3 million has already been found in the back of a white Transit van left at the Ashford International Hotel, along with guns, balaclavas and flak jackets. The other key line of inquiry is the one remaining missing vehicle - the white lorry used by the gang to transport their huge cash haul out of the depot in the early hours of Wednesday morning (Feb 22). When that is found, it is likely to yield further vital forensic clues.

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

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen overpowered security guards and stole paintings by Picasso, Dali, Matisse and Monet from a Brazilian museum yesterday, using the cover of a Rio carnival crowd to make their getaway. The thieves entered Rio de Janeiro's Chacara do Ceu museum and stole Pablo Picasso's *"The Dance"*, Salvador Dali's *"The Two Balconies"*, Henri Matisse's *"Luxembourg Garden"* and Claude Monet's *"Marine"*. The paintings were considered the most valuable pieces at the museum, but their exact value was not immediately available, said Thais Isel, a spokeswoman with Rio's Public Safety Secretariat. The four thieves reportedly used grenades to threaten security guards and people inside the museum, which was open at the time of the heist. Two tourists from Australia and a couple from New Zealand were among those held by the gunmen, the Globo Online website reported. The gunmen forced the guards to shut down the museum's security cameras then fled while

taking advantage of the huge crowd that was following the carnival band. Museum director Vera de Alencar said the robbery appeared to have been orchestrated by specialists, the country's official Agencia Brasil news service reported. Police issued a nationwide alert to try to keep the paintings from leaving Brazil.

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated Feb 25, states: Taking advantage of the chaos of a Carnival parade, thieves slipped into an art museum and stole paintings valued at tens of millions of dollars. As a samba band performed outside yesterday, the thieves overpowered security guards at the Chacara do Ceu museum and stole Pablo Picasso's *"The Dance"*, Salvador Dali's *"The Two Balconies"*, Henri Matisse's *"Luxembourg Garden"* and Claude Monet's *"Marine."* The museum was open for visitors at the time, and the thieves held at least eight people inside. The intruders took cell phones, digital cameras and wallets from a couple from New Zealand and two Australian students. The paintings were considered the most valuable pieces at the museum, said a city security spokeswoman, Thais Isel, and local media estimated the paintings' worth at around \$50 million. The thieves escaped, taking advantage of the droves of people outside who were following the Carnival band. Authorities in the country's airports and ports were put on alert for the four thieves. The priority was to prevent the paintings from leaving Brazil, federal police spokesman Clovis Franco said.



**Miscellaneous**

**ABLE F. (Cyprus)**

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The Greek government yesterday condemned Ankara's refusal to permit the Cyprus-flagged c.c. *Able F.* (6249 gt, built 1996) from entering the Turkish port of Mersin. The vessel, en route from Italy, had requested permission to enter Mersin to unload 16 containers but the Turkish authorities declined to grant permission. The vessel has anchored two miles off the coast. The Turkish authorities' refusal to permit a vessel flying the Republic of Cyprus flag to enter a Turkish harbour constituted a violation of the Customs Union between Turkey and the European Union, Cyprus Government spokesman George Lillikas said in Nicosia yesterday. Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesman Namik Tan confirmed that the Turkish authorities declined to grant the vessel permission to enter the Turkish harbour, asserting that the vessel's intention was "to create a fait accomplis against the international regulations."

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

London, Feb 24 — Cyprus has complained to the European Union after c.c. *Able F.* was repeatedly refused permission this week to berth in the Turkish port of Mersin. After two days at anchorage two miles from the port, the vessel left Turkish waters on Wednesday evening (Feb 22) unable to deliver its cargo. It was escorted by Turkish Coast Guard vessels as far as the Aegean. Yesterday the Interior Navigation-managed feeder was returning to the Italian hub of Gioia Tauro. Cyprus Government sources said that the vessel was carrying 16 containers for Turkish shippers, with EU and US source products. It is the seventh reported incident of a Cyprus-linked vessel being turned away by Turkey since Cyprus became a full EU member in May 2004. However, it was the first since Turkey began its own accession negotiations last October, a fact that Cypriots are arguing will lend the event greater significance. The latest example of the Turkish ban on Cypriot maritime interests could not have been timed worse — as the *Able F.* was being refused entry into Mersin, EU officials met Turkish counterparts in Ankara to discuss the nation's progress towards membership. "It is an obligation for Turkey to allow Cyprus vessels into Turkish ports under its free trade agreement with the EU and these obligations must be fulfilled," said EU enlargement spokeswoman Krisztina Nagy yesterday. Although it is understood that several key Brussels departments have been briefed, a full report on the incident is being prepared in Nicosia. It is possible that Cyprus will ask for counter-measures to be applied to Turkey.

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

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated Mar 1, states: Two freighters loaded with hundreds of vehicles in the United States and Puerto Rico, were banned from disembarking in the port of Sans Souci (Santo Domingo) by Customs. It was reportedly that the vehicles, which were referred as "salvage," after being repaired and assembled, were going to be placed in the national market as new. Although there is still no confirmation, it is known that these cars come from areas in the US which were affected by several tropical storms last year, especially "Katrina" and several states in southern US. One of the vessels that arrived laden with vehicles was vehicle *Grand Choice* (50309 gt, built 1999), of the shipping firm Ageport, which was refused by Customs. Eduardo Rodriguez Apolinario, of Customs, sent Feb 22 a statement to Shipping Companies Association president Gustavo Tav-rez, warning him about the arrival of *Grand Choice*, referred as "salvages," and stressed that it was forbidden to bring them to the country. (Note — *Grand Choice* sailed New York 2025, Feb 14 for Santo

Domingo and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 07 46 34N, long 79 46 04W, at 0415, Feb 24.)

#### **COLLAPSE OF COVERED MARKET, MOSCOW, RUSSIA**

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The snow-covered roof of a Moscow market collapsed early today, killing at least 40 people and forcing rescuers to clear away concrete slabs and metal beams to reach possible survivors trapped in the wreckage, officials said. Officials ruled out terrorism and said heavy snow may have been to blame. It was uncertain how many people were still trapped - dead or alive - under the wreckage. Emergency Situations Minister Sergei Shoigu said about 10 survivors were trapped earlier in the day, and they could be heard "knocking and crying out." Emergency Situations Ministry spokesman Viktor Beltsov said at least 40 people had been killed and 29 injured in the collapse. A duty officer at the ministry said the death toll could have been higher had the collapse occurred while the market was open for retail business. Investigators were looking at three possible causes of the collapse — improper maintenance of the building, a buildup of snow on the roof and errors in the building's design, Moscow prosecutor Anatoly Zuyev said. Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, who went to the site to oversee rescue efforts, said terrorism was unlikely. "Chances are more than 90% that a terrorist act can be ruled out," he said. "It was a technical accident." Prosecutors have opened an investigation into the incident, RIA-Novosti said. Russian media said the entire roof, covering an area of about 2,400 square yards, had fallen onto the market stalls. Most of the victims were believed to be municipal and market workers from outside Moscow, though Ekho Moskvoy radio said there could also have been wholesale buyers in the building.

Moscow, Feb 24 — Russian rescue workers said today they had given up hope of finding anyone else alive under the rubble of a Moscow market roof that collapsed on top of traders, killing 57 people. The death toll rose by one overnight after emergency services recovered the body of a woman from the wreckage of the Basmanny market in eastern Moscow. Rescue workers who had been searching with sniffer dogs in the hope of finding survivors trapped under the debris were pulled out and replaced by excavators who set to work clearing the site. "The death toll is 57, including one child, and 23 people are in hospital," an official with the Emergencies Ministry said. "We think it is very unlikely that anyone else will be found." The death toll was not expected to rise because rescuers believe they have recovered all the bodies, the official said. The collapse occurred in the early hours of the morning, when there were no customers but traders were setting up stalls. Some of them were asleep.

President Vladimir Putin has called for a "painstaking investigation" to establish why the roof of the building, built in the 1970s, collapsed. Moscow city officials have blamed the weight of snow on the structure. — Reuters.

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated Feb 24, states: The director of a Moscow market where the roof collapsed, killing at least 61 people, was charged with negligence, prosecutors said today, as hope faded for finding more survivors. Hundreds of workers labored around the clock to clear the enormous mound of concrete and steel at the Basmanny market using power shovels and other heavy equipment, an indication of the limited hopes that anybody was alive underneath. Prosecutor Anatoly Zuyev said the market's director, Mark Mishiyev, had been charged with negligence leading to deaths, which carries a maximum sentence of at least three years. Zuyev also said prosecutors had ordered an analysis by explosives experts and a comprehensive construction analysis would follow. Officials had all but ruled out terrorism as the cause of the collapse, saying it was probably due to the buildup of heavy snow, design flaws or maintenance errors. Mayor Yuri Luzhkov held out little hope for finding anybody alive in the wreckage. Emergency Situations Ministry spokesman Viktor Beltsov said late Friday that the death toll had reached 60, but Russian news agencies cited Luzhkov as saying that 61 were killed. Authorities had said 57 bodies were recovered from the wreckage and one man died of his injuries today. Reports of injuries ranged from 21 to 60. Yevgeny Yevdokin, the city's chief anesthesiologist, said most of the injured were in critical condition and he described traumas ranging from head, chest and stomach injuries to broken limbs. Kasayev said the government would cover all the costs of transporting the bodies and, the Moscow city government has promised a one-time \$3,500 payment to the families of each victim.

#### **COLLAPSE OF TRADE HALL ROOF, KATOWICE, POLAND**

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: Prosecutors said today they have filed charges against three managers of a company that owned an exhibition hall whose roof collapsed last month, killing 65 people. The snow-covered roof of the hall in the southern Polish city of Katowice collapsed on Jan 28 during a racing pigeon fair that had drawn visitors from across Europe. Another 140 people were hurt. The three men, who were detained for questioning yesterday, neglected safety measures, failed to consult specialists about the impact of bad weather and failed to cancel the fair, prosecutor Tomasz Tadla said. The three, who include New Zealander Bruce Robinson, president of the Katowice International Fair, could be jailed for eight years if convicted on charges of



negligence and exposing people to the loss of life, Tadla said. Also charged were two Poles. Tadla did not specify what evidence had prompted the charges. However, prosecutors, who have questioned some 200 people so far as part of their investigation, say the managers were aware of past problems at the 10,000 square metre hall. In January, 2002, heavy snowfall made the large surface of the roof bend under the weight, while a further deformation of steel elements in the hall was noticed in January of this year. Prosecutors are also checking whether there were any irregularities in the company's financial records. Prime Minister Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz said yesterday that the government would soon start making special payments to survivors of the accident and relatives of those killed.

### OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Feb 22 — India's poultry industry is bracing for massive losses after the detection of the deadly H5N1 bird flu strain in western India. Poultry exporters say they have already suffered more than \$45m in losses and say exports have been badly hit, particularly to the Middle East. More than 500,000 birds have already been slaughtered in Navapur town, where the strain was found. India's poultry industry is valued at an estimated \$6.7bn. The country is one of the world's largest producers of eggs and poultry. Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal have already banned the import of poultry products from India. But P Valsan, secretary of the All India Poultry Products Exporters' Association, said the main worry was whether the Middle East would also enforce a ban. "This is a major market for the export of eggs and other poultry products which are then sent on to the European Union and Japan," said. "If this continues, we expect a loss of around 500m rupees (\$11.2m). Poultry traders have asked the Indian government to urge people not to panic. Sales of poultry have come down across the country, with chicken prices in major cities said to have come down by 40%.

Jakarta, Feb 22 — A 27-year-old Indonesian woman who lived in the capital has died of bird flu, a Health Ministry official said today, citing local hospital tests. If confirmed by outside laboratories recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the woman will be the 20th Indonesian to die from avian flu. "The (local) tests of the woman from East Jakarta who died this week show it's positive," said Hariadi Wibisono, head of control of animal-borne diseases at the Health Ministry. Wibisono said the woman died on Monday (Feb 20) after being admitted to the Sulianti Saroso hospital in Jakarta, which is designated to treat patients showing bird flu symptoms. Hospital spokesman Ilham Patu said the woman had contact with dead chickens in her neighbourhood. The WHO has confirmed 26 cases of the

highly pathogenic H5N1 virus in people in Indonesia. In a bid to combat bird flu, the government plans to distribute the anti-viral drug Tamiflu to community health centres in high-risk areas such as Jakarta and provinces on Java island, the Koran Tempo newspaper today quoted the health minister as saying. "Hopefully in one or two months we will distribute them," Siti Fadillah Supari said. Many governments have stockpiled Tamiflu to ward off a possible bird flu pandemic. The virus has spread to fowl in Europe and Africa and the WHO has said the disease has killed 92 people worldwide. However, it has not mutated to allow easy transmission between people, a step experts say that would trigger a pandemic in which millions might die because humans would have no immunity to the mutated strain. — Reuters.

Singapore, Feb 23 — Indian authorities virtually sealed off a bird flu-hit western town today as they awaited results of laboratory tests that would show whether the outbreak had infected humans, officials said. The Indian action came as scientists in Australia said birds from neighbouring Indonesia had most likely brought the disease to the country's north and France confirmed a second wild duck in its territory was found to have the H5N1 strain of bird flu. Seven of 12 people quarantined with suspected bird flu in Navapur, a remote town in India's western Maharashtra state, had tested negative but more tests were being conducted to ensure the rest were also free from the deadly virus. In all, 95 people had so far been tested, but 94 proved negative for the H5N1 strain. "The last is not positive for H5N1. We are testing it further as it does not match any classical profile of the H5N1 strain," India's Health Secretary P.K. Hota said. While movement of poultry around Navapur has already been banned, authorities said they had placed restrictions on trains and road traffic passing through the town. "We want to minimise contact between the local people and outsiders. We are telling road travellers to use masks and get on with their journeys without stopping," Maharashtra's health director, T.P. Doke, said. "Trains are not stopping here. It's a kind of sealing." Alarm is growing at the sudden resurgence of the H5N1 virus as it spreads rapidly across Europe, into Africa and now India, where hundreds of millions of people live in rural areas side-by-side with livestock and domestic fowl. Bird flu has killed more than 90 people in seven countries since 2003. Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service said testing of wild birds in northern Australia had not detected avian flu. The warning by Australian scientists came as France, the European Union's biggest poultry producer, yesterday confirmed that a second wild duck on its territory has been found to have the H5N1 strain. The duck was found

dead on Sunday (Feb 19) in the Ain region of eastern France, where the first bird to have H5N1 was discovered in the village of Joyeux. The French agriculture ministry said in a statement that security measures, such as protection and surveillance zones, would be put in place today around the spot where the bird was found. The European Commission has approved plans by France and the Netherlands to vaccinate poultry under strict conditions in the fight against bird flu. — Reuters.

Paris, Feb 24 — France said today that tests had confirmed the presence of an H5 bird flu virus at a turkey farm in the east of the country and tests for the H5N1 strain were still under way. France said yesterday a suspected outbreak of H5N1 bird flu had decimated thousands of turkeys at a farm situated in the department of Ain, where two cases of the disease have already been confirmed in wild ducks. "I know that it is the H5 virus, which is a very pathogenic virus," Agriculture Minister Dominique Bussereau told France 2 television, adding that test results for H5N1 were not yet available. If confirmed, the case would mark the first time the H5N1 virus had spread to domestic fowl in the European Union and could deal a further blow to France's already battered poultry industry, worth euros six billion a year and the biggest in the bloc. Local sources said around 80% of the birds at the farm, which has more than 11,000 birds, had already died. All remaining turkeys were to be culled, the ministry said yesterday. "The suspicions we had yesterday and which have caused us to unfortunately cull the animals and destroy them afterwards was confirmed this morning," Bussereau told France 2. A security zone of three km and a surveillance zone of seven km had been set up around the farm as is usual under European Union emergency measures, officials said. French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin has announced a government aid package worth euros 52 million for the poultry sector to cope with the crisis. — Reuters.

Jakarta, Feb 25 — Bird flu has killed its 20th human victim in Indonesia, a 27-year-old woman, according to tests by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, an Indonesian health ministry official said today. The announcement came a day after the country launched house-to-house checks on poultry in Jakarta, where 600 fowl have been culled in a bid to halt the spread of the avian flu. "We have received the test result from CDC Atlanta. The victim was positive," said Hariadi Wibisono, director-general of control of animal-borne disease at the health ministry. The woman died last Monday (Feb 20) after being admitted to the Sulianti Saroso hospital in Jakarta, which is designated to treat patients showing bird flu symptoms. Local tests are not

considered definitive. The CDC laboratory tests are among those recognised by the World Health Organisation. A hospital spokesman had said the woman had contact with dead chickens in her neighbourhood. The highly pathogenic strain of bird flu has affected birds in about two-thirds of Indonesia's provinces. Adnan Ahmad, a senior city official, said the 600 fowl were slaughtered and burnt at various locations in Jakarta where keeping backyard chickens is a norm among the 12 million citizens and a minister has said reporting of new cases among fowl, which in turn could lead to more human cases, is not as efficient as it should be. Agriculture officials estimate that Jakarta has some 500,000 fowl. As part of the prevention drive, hundreds of inspectors today continued to scour the sprawling capital and spray disinfectant in bird cages and chicken coops. Controlling the virus is a huge, if not impossible, task in Indonesia, an archipelago of about 17,000 islands and 220 million people. The government has resisted the mass culling of fowl seen in some other nations, citing the expense and the impracticality in a country where the keeping of a few chickens or ducks in backyards of homes is widely practised in cities as well as the countryside. Agencies have concentrated instead on selective culling, and on public education and hygiene measures aimed at prevention. — Reuters.

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Bird flu has spread to a second western Indian state, health officials say. Tests on poultry confirmed the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus in Gujarat, a week after it was first discovered in neighbouring Maharashtra state. Two farms in Surat near the Maharashtra border have been sealed off and thousands of birds are being destroyed. Indian health officials yesterday said all 95 samples collected from people with flu-like symptoms had tested negative for bird flu. The farms affected in Gujarat are only a few kilometres from Navapur, where bird flu was found in poultry last Saturday (Feb 18). Senior Gujarat state health official DK Rao said that 38 villages were in the exclusion zone. He said about 90,000 birds had been culled since bird flu was confirmed in Maharashtra, and another 20,000 would be destroyed over the next day. The detection of bird flu has led to sharp falls in the sale of poultry and poultry products and some countries have banned poultry imports from India, leaving the poultry industry reeling with heavy losses.

Moscow, Feb 26 — Bird flu has been registered in wild fowl in six regions of southern Russia and in domestic fowl in four of these regions, the country's agriculture ministry said today. "Pockets of infection in wild fowl have been registered in Kabardino-Balkaria, Dagestan, Chechnya, Kalmykia, Krasnodar and

Stavropol regions," the ministry said in a statement. It added the virus had been registered in domestic fowl in Dagestan, Kalmykia, Krasnodar and Stavropol and that, in the Krasnodar region, bird flu is suspected to have hit a large poultry farm. It did not specify the strain of the virus. — Reuters.

Beijing, Feb 26 — Hong Kong today barred poultry imports from France over bird flu fears, while authorities in eastern China scrambled to contain an outbreak of the virus that has left two people critically ill. The European Union had urged trading partners not to over-react to the spread of H5N1 bird flu to a turkey farm in France, after Japan banned French poultry imports on Friday (Feb 24) and threatened similar action against the Netherlands. Hong Kong, where bird flu made its first known jump to humans in 1997, killing six people, is already unnerved by the threat of the disease spreading from China, which yesterday warned of the chance of a massive outbreak among birds. China has reported more than 30 outbreaks of H5N1 among wild and farmed birds in the past year and culled more than 23 million fowl in 2005 to control its spread. The virus has killed eight in China since it re-emerged in 2003. Hong Kong has enforced a ban on backyard fowl and warned people not to touch wild birds or live poultry. China's official Xinhua news agency said today that Hong Kong had suspended imports of French poultry until further notice. Hong Kong is a small poultry market for France, the EU's biggest producer, whose biggest exports are to Russia and the Middle East. France's poultry industry is worth euros 6 billion a year. Xinhua said a woman farmer and a nine-year-old girl from two neighbouring Chinese provinces remained in a critical condition. Authorities in Zhejiang province traced 600 people who had been in contact with the girl and tested them for signs of the disease, but found that none had been infected. There have been no confirmed human cases in Europe, although many people have been tested for the virus. Preliminary tests yesterday on a Romanian man suspected of having bird flu showed he did not appear to have the disease, doctors said. Further west, Switzerland reported its first case of H5 avian flu in a bird, saying results from tests on a wild duck found on the shores of Lake Geneva were expected by the week's end. France confirmed 15 new cases of H5N1 among wild swans in the Ain department of the country, which has the turkey farm where the virus was confirmed yesterday. In Germany, the total number of H5N1 cases rose to 124 after five more wild birds tested positive. — Reuters.

Abuja, Feb 27 — Bird flu has been detected in two more Nigerian states, the government said today, confirming fears of international experts that the disease is spreading in Africa's most populous country.

News that the virus had moved to fresh areas of Nigeria came as the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) reported that domestic ducks in Nigeria's northern neighbour Niger had tested positive for the deadly H5N1 strain. In Nigeria, latest tests showed the presence of the virus in Nasarawa and Yobe states, Information Minister Frank Nweke said, although they could not yet specify whether it was the deadly H5N1 strain. Samples were being sent to Italy to confirm this. Since Nigeria first reported the presence of H5N1 on February 8, bird flu has now been detected in seven of its 36 states — Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Plateau, Bauchi, Yobe, Nassarawa — and in its central Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The government has ordered quarantine, culling and transport restrictions to try to contain the virus, and has also banned the transport of poultry in passenger vehicles. Nweke said that samples sent from one of the Nigerian states originally reported to have bird flu, Zamfara, had since tested negative at the OIE reference laboratory in Italy. Zamfara was therefore being removed from the list of affected states, but it remained at risk, officials said. The World Bank said on Friday (Feb 24) it was planning a \$50 million project to help Nigeria fight bird flu. The funding would come from the bank's new global financing facility for avian flu. — Reuters.

Paris, Mar 1 — Bird flu is likely to hit poultry flocks in a number of European states, experts said yesterday, while the spread of the virus to one of Africa's poorest countries, Niger, heightened fears that the infection could spread to people. In Europe, the report that a domestic cat in Germany had died of possible H5N1 avian influenza sparked alarm, but experts said it was unlikely the case increased the risks to humans. Sweden became the latest in a series of new countries to report an outbreak of bird flu. Two wild ducks found dead on the Baltic coast had an aggressive form of bird flu and officials said it was likely to be confirmed as the H5N1 strain. The French Agriculture Ministry said a 16th wild swan had tested positive for H5N1 in the Ain department of eastern France. Security measures have been put in place. France has already confirmed an outbreak of the virus at a turkey farm in the same department. Niger ordered a cull of all poultry in areas hit by bird flu and said it was stepping up checks across the rest of the semi-desert country to try to stop the disease from spreading. The poor former French colony became the second sub-Saharan African nation after neighbouring Nigeria to confirm the presence of H5N1, which mostly affects birds but which has infected 173 people, killing 93 of them since 2003. The government in Niger held an emergency cabinet meeting and said "preventative measures" were being taken. "They include the systematic

culling of poultry in affected zones, the destruction by incineration and burying of suspect cases, of dead birds and of objects that may have been in contact with these birds," the government said in a statement. Experts fear weak detection systems in Africa — which has an estimated 1.1 billion chickens, mostly in backyard farms — combined with the easy movement of birds across borders and limited awareness about the disease could help its spread. The H5N1 virus has been detected in around 20 new countries over the past month, crossing into Europe and Africa. The virus is endemic in birds across parts of Asia. Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said H5N1 was spreading relentlessly. Iraq, which has reported two deaths from bird flu, said it was making checks for three suspected human cases in Baghdad and one in the north-eastern province of Dayala. "Concern that human cases may occur in affected parts of Africa is high, given the close contact between people and poultry," the World Health Organisation said. In addition to the reported cases in Niger and Nigeria, suspected poultry outbreaks in Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia and Sierra Leone were also under investigation, WHO said, citing reports from the World Organisation for Animal Health, the OIE. Europe's poultry industry is being hard hit as consumers shun meat such as chicken despite reassurances it is safe to eat. France last week became the first European Union country to confirm an outbreak on a poultry farm. "The spread of the infection to domestic poultry in other European and neighbouring countries is highly likely and may even be made worse by the arrival in Europe of possibly infected birds from Africa and the Middle East next spring," the OIE said. France, Europe's biggest poultry producer, has confirmed the first outbreak of H5N1 at a farm in the European Union. The news has prompted 20 countries to ban French poultry and France said it was in talks to reverse the bans. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation said the crisis would depress demand for poultry and hit prices. "Poultry prices are expected to continue declining, threatening industry profitability around the world," the FAO said in a statement. — Reuters.

#### **SUSPENSION OF MINING ACTIVITIES, PAPUA PROVINCE, INDONESIA**

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Production at a lucrative gold mine in the Indonesian province of Papua has been suspended because of a demonstration by local illegal miners. Protesters, some armed with bows and arrows, have blocked a road leading to the mine complex, being protected by some 400 police and soldiers. Clashes between the two sides yesterday left two security guards injured. The US-

owned facility is one of the world's largest gold and copper mines, but in recent years it has been mired in controversy. Local police have stated that around 300 men, women and children have set up barricades across the road leading to the mine complex. Armed with bows, arrows and homemade spears, the protesters are demanding the right to continue their illegal mining in the area and say they will not leave until they have met the mine's boss. Earlier this month, police and officials from the mine, which is operated by a subsidiary of the American-based firm Freeport McMoran, conducted a number of raids to remove illegal prospectors from the site. Hundreds of families in the area are believed to earn a living by searching for small deposits of gold in waste rock left behind by the mine. The police say negotiations with the protesters are continuing and the atmosphere is reported to be calm.



### **Fires & Explosions**

#### **BUS DEPOT, DALMUIR, WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated Feb 28, states: Residents have been evacuated after a fire destroyed 11 coaches at a bus depot in West Dunbartonshire. The blaze started in the yard of PJ Coaches in Auld Street, in Dalmuir, before spreading to the garage at about 0325, GMT, today. Firefighters who entered the building were forced to retreat as the roof collapsed. Several gas cylinders, including an acetylene cylinder, were also affected by the fire. The cylinders must be cooled for 24 hours before they can be moved and neighbouring houses were evacuated as a precaution. Residents were set up in temporary accommodation by West Dunbartonshire Council. A section of nearby Dumbarton Road was also closed.

#### **CHEMICAL PLANT, NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A leak of flammable chemical vapour during a manufacturing process was the most likely cause of the January plant explosion that killed one man and injured at least a dozen others, federal investigators said today. Employees at the Synthron Inc plant were making a paint additive when vapour escaped just before the explosion, said Jim Lay, lead investigator with the US Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board. The process uses flammable chemicals including butyl acrylate and solvents, and generates significant amounts of heat. Some workers reported hearing a loud hiss

minutes before the explosion, the board has said. The blast levelled much of the plant, blew out windows up to a third of a mile away and injured all 12 employees on duty and some passers-by. One worker died after suffering severe burns. Lay said the plant only made the paint additive about once or twice a year. "An important focus of our investigation will be to understand what was different about conditions on Jan 31 that could have caused the major accident that occurred," Lay said. State labour officials say their investigation has been delayed because the plant is on the verge of collapse. "No one has been able to step inside to begin a physical examination of the evidence," Labour Commissioner Cherie Berry said this week. "We're anxious to find the cause of the accident, but we don't want to risk the lives of others while that building is teetering like that."

#### **CHEMICALS FACTORY, IRVINE, SCOTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Mar 2 — Four people have been taken to hospital following an explosion at a chemicals factory in Irvine. The incident at the GlaxoSmithKline site in Shewalton Road occurred at about 0700, GMT. Two people, aged 45 and 51, were taken to Crosshouse Hospital, in Kilmarnock, suffering from burns. Two others were being treated for shock. Police officers said the 20 people who were working in the factory at the time had all been accounted for. The explosion happened in the plant's Actives facility, where raw chemicals used in the production of malaria and HIV drugs are treated. There will be a full investigation into the cause of the explosion. One side of the factory building is thought to have been blown off in the blast. A spokeswoman for GlaxoSmithKline said the facility had been closed down as a result of the blast. She added: "We can confirm that there has been a small explosion in our Actives facility. Four personnel were injured, two suffered burns and two are being treated for shock. All four have been taken to hospital and their families have been notified." Pharmaceuticals are produced at another facility on the same site, which was not affected by the blast. Three ambulances were sent to the scene and police set up a cordon and closed roads. A spokeswoman for Strathclyde Police said: "The emergency services are at the site and there will be a full investigation into the cause of the explosion." It is understood there are no residential properties nearby and no evacuation was required.

#### **COAL MINE, COAHUILA STATE, MEXICO**

San Juan de Sabinas, Mexico, Feb 21 — Frantic efforts to rescue 65 Mexican miners trapped in deep coal shafts for two days dragged on today. About 60 rescue workers, mainly local miners, were digging with picks and shovels at the Pasta de Conchos mine

in the northern state of Coahuila to reach the men. "The work is going on in very difficult conditions. Unfortunately, the situation is grave," said Oscar Pimentel, a top official from the state government of Coahuila. He said that there was a chance the miners were alive if ventilators were working but that there had been no contact with any of the missing men since a gas explosion collapsed hundreds of yards of tunnels early on Sunday (Feb 19). The rescuers used hand tools to avoid sparking a new blast in the mine, near the town of San Juan de Sabinas. — Reuters.

San Juan de Sabinas, Mexico, Feb 22 — Angry relatives of 65 workers trapped inside a Mexican coal mine accused the company of negligence today as rescuers inched slowly toward the men, hoping they were still alive. Making agonizingly slow progress, rescue teams were nearing the spot where two of the trapped miners had been when a gas explosion ripped through the mine and collapsed tunnels early on Sunday (Feb 19). "They are advancing, we think we are about 10 to 15 metres away," said Antonio Rodriguez, a miner helping with the digging. "It's possible they will make it tonight," he said after emerging from the pit. Labour Minister Francisco Salazar said that rescuers hoped to reach the two trapped men within hours and that they would then have a better idea of whether the others were still alive. "Once we find people, we'll know two key things: The impact and the size of the explosion and the amount of oxygen in the air that they had to breathe, to see what chance we have of getting out those that are much deeper in the mine," he said. There has been no contact with the trapped miners since the explosion and they only had six hours worth of oxygen in their tanks. However, rescue teams believe they could still be alive if they are near an air pocket or if ventilation units are still pushing air into areas where they are trapped. At the gates of the Pasta de Conchos mine in the northern state of Coahuila, families accused mine owners and even union leaders of ignoring repeated safety warnings. The mine is owned by Grupo Mexico, which has denied union charges of negligence and insists it is doing everything possible to rescue the men. A team of US experts arrived today to provide technical help. — Reuters.

San Juan de Sabinas, Mexico, Feb 23 — The chances of rescuers finding survivors among 65 Mexican miners trapped by a gas explosion in a coal mine dimmed today as emergency teams found scenes of devastation from the blast. The explosion, at the Pasta de Conchos mine in the northern state of Coahuila on Sunday (Feb 19), dislodged huge piles of rocks inside the mine which slowed miners trying to dig through to their missing colleagues. "They are so big that it shows the force of the blast was tremendous," said Ruben Escudero,

manager of the mine at the town of San Juan de Sabinas. Rubble weighing some 70 tonnes sat in a tunnel where two miners were believed to have been working when the methane gas erupted, said Xavier Garcia, head of Mexican mining operations at mine owner Grupo Mexico. Men digging with spades and even their bare hands found no sign of the pair. "We were surprised. The explosion was much bigger than we had imagined," said Garcia. Rescuers were still about 765 yards from where most of the miners were believed to be. They were in an area that still had breathable air but the level of methane gas was increasing as they dug. Since the accident, there has been no contact with the missing miners, who only had six hours' worth of oxygen with them. A US team of experts, some from the Mine Safety and Health Administration, was planning to lower equipment down a hole to the bottom of the mine to test whether oxygen levels were high enough for someone to survive. — Reuters.

San Juan de Sabinas, Mexico, Feb 23 — As many as 25 men trapped in a Mexican coal mine after a huge explosion five days ago were believed to be dead today as hope dimmed of finding any of the 65 missing miners alive. While no bodies were found, air tests in a section of the Pasta de Conchos mine where men were thought to have been working showed there was not enough oxygen to sustain life, a spokesperson for mine owners Grupo Mexico said. Labour Minister Francisco Salazar said there may have been up to 25 miners in that area but it was impossible to be sure. "If these 15 to 25 people were in this place, obviously there would be no life," Salazar told relatives and journalists outside the mine in San Juan de Sabinas in northern Mexico. Asked whether the workers might have left the section which was tested, Salazar said: "That possibility may exist." Five more holes would be drilled in places where miners were thought to be trapped so that the air could be tested there, the minister said. — Reuters.

San Juan de Sabinas, Feb 25 — The 65 men trapped by a Mexican coal mine explosion six days ago cannot possibly have survived their ordeal underground and are all dead, mine owners said today. The Grupo Mexico company said that while no bodies had yet been found, tests showed there was almost no oxygen inside the mine's shafts and tunnels and no hope of finding survivors from the explosion last Sunday (Feb 19). "We are moving on to the hard task of the physical recovery of our miners so the families can start their mourning," said Xavier Garcia, a senior executive at Grupo Mexico. The pre-dawn explosion of methane gas and coal dust tore throughout the Pasta de Conchos mine in Mexico's northern state of Coahuila, trapping the 65 night shift workers, some of them almost 1.5 miles underground. The

blast sent temperatures soaring above 1,100 deg Fahrenheit and filled mine shafts and tunnels with methane and carbon monoxide as well as collapsed rock. "These conditions made survival impossible," said Garcia. Rescue teams spent several days digging around the clock at huge piles of rock and dirt, hoping to find a way through to the trapped men. They pulled out hundreds of tonnes of rubble but the search was suspended last night because high levels of methane gas threatened a new explosion. No contact was made all week with any of the missing men, who were stranded with only a few hours worth of oxygen in their gas tanks and little or no food and water. Their only chance of survival had been if they were close to a large pocket of clean air or if ventilator shafts were pushing enough clean air into their area of the mine. A team of US experts helped carry out the tests that demonstrated the quality of air was so bad throughout the mine that no one could have survived. Grupo Mexico has said it will pay compensation of about \$70,000 for each of the men killed and almost \$10,000 for each of the 13 men who were injured in the blast but not trapped. Efforts to recover the bodies will begin as soon as experts clear the mine of the lethal levels of methane gas, most likely in the next two or three days. Officials were, however, reluctant to promise they would be able to find all the dead. Labour Minister Francisco Salazar said an investigation was under way and that Grupo Mexico would face sanctions if it was found to be responsible for the disaster. — Reuters.

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated Feb 28, states: Workers at Grupo Mexico SA, citing the blast that killed 65 miners on February 19, went on strike at Mexico's two-largest copper mines and processing plants, demanding the company improve safety and maintenance. About 4,000 workers went on strike today at sections of the company's Cananea and La Caridad mines, the Nacozari copper smelter and the San Luis Potosi zinc refinery, union spokeswoman Consuelo Aguilar said. "The company has failed to comply with health and education benefits," Aguilar said. "They don't meet requirements for maintenance, which is a danger for the workers." Workers are demanding that Grupo Mexico, the world's fourth-largest copper producer, invest more in spare parts and machinery to prevent another disaster, Aguilar said, adding that the union is seeking other fringe benefits. Grupo Mexico is ready to resume talks on benefits, spokesman Juan Rebollo said. The company and union officials revised maintenance procedures this month, he said. He was unable to say how much output was affected by the strike.

#### COAL MINE, SHANDONG PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A coal mine

explosion in eastern China killed 15 miners and injured 12 others, the official Xinhua News Agency said today. The blast occurred yesterday at a colliery belonging to the Zaozhuang Mining Group Co in China's eastern Shandong province, Xinhua said. It said 27 people were underground when the explosion occurred. The injured had been taken to hospitals for treatment and an investigation was under way, it said.

**COAL MINE, SHANGDONG PROVINCE, CHINA**

Beijing, Feb 24 — A coal mine explosion in eastern China has killed 15 people and injured 12, Xinhua news agency said today. The accident happened in Shandong province yesterday. Xinhua described the accident at the Zaozhuang Mining Group Co pit as a "coal dust explosion". The mine, a joint-venture company founded in 2001, was undergoing a "safety overhaul" and an investigation was under way. — Reuters.

**COAL MINE, SHAOYANG CITY, HUNAN PROVINCE, CHINA**

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers today retrieved the bodies of nine miners who were missing after a coal mine gas blow-out accident in Central China's Hunan Province, but the whereabouts of nine others remained unknown. As of 0930 hrs, today, rescue operations were still ongoing, despite the chances of the missing miners being found alive being rated as slim, as the mine was full of methane gas, local government officials said. The gas blowout accident occurred around 1700 hrs, Saturday (Feb 25) at Dayuan Coal Mine in Longhui County of Shaoyang City, when 24 miners were working underground in the shaft. Only six miners managed to escape. The preliminary investigation showed that the accident was due to violations of mining operation rules. Officials from the State Administration of Work Safety arrived at the accident site yesterday to further investigate the cause of the gas blowout.

**COAL MINE, SHOAL CREEK, ALABAMA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Underground explosions have rocked Alabama's largest coal mine since a blast last week forced the evacuation of scores of workers. No one has been hurt in any of the blasts, and the government said the severity of the explosions was unknown since the mine remains too dangerous for anyone to enter. Federal regulators said yesterday it was unclear when production could resume. The Shoal Creek Mine remained closed for a fifth day yesterday. About 140 workers were evacuated safely after a blast last Friday (Feb 24). Two more explosions occurred on Sunday and Monday, but no one was at risk because no one had been allowed to re-enter the mine

after the first explosion, said Amy Louviere, a spokeswoman with the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration. Inspectors are checking the mine's air quality through ventilation shafts and bore holes, she said. Shoal Creek, situated about 45 miles west of Birmingham, was among more than a dozen operations to undergo court-ordered safety inspections in late January and early February after the United Mine Workers' Union sued over what it said was lax oversight by the state. Shoal Creek had an average of 820 employees last year and produced 2.2 million tons of coal.

**FACTORY, MOUNT BAKER, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIA**

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire caused more than Aus\$2 million (US\$1.47 million) damage to an embroidery and silk-screening factory in the Adelaide Hills. The fire, fuelled by solvents and fabrics, destroyed most of the Blue Gum Embroidery factory at Mount Barker today before firefighters managed to save about \$2 million worth of machinery and nearby shops. Residents living along Victoria Road were evacuated by emergency crews when the fire erupted inside the factory about 0100 hrs. Police and the Country Fire Service have described the intense blaze as suspicious. "Luckily there was a fire wall in the ceiling that saved a series of adjoining shops," a CFS spokeswoman said. More than 50 firefighters were needed to fight the blaze that took about four hours to extinguish. Investigators have spent the day examining the scene but an exact cause of the fire is yet to be revealed.

**FURNITURE STORE, SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA**

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated Feb 27, states: A large furniture and electrical store in Sydney has been gutted by fire, causing millions of dollars in stock losses. A team of 77 firefighters from 14 brigades took several hours to contain the blaze in a Harvey Norman store at a shopping centre in Blacktown in Sydney's west, after it was reported about 1930 hrs, yesterday. Police investigators were returning to the store today to establish the cause of the blaze. The damage estimates for the building and the lost stock will reach many millions of dollars, police said. The complex was closed at the time and nobody was injured.

**MARINA, SAN DIEGO, UNITED STATES**

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated Feb 27, states: Five luxury power boats docked in the marina at the San Diego Marriott were destroyed today in an early morning fire. A woman on one of the boats discovered the fire about 0230 hrs after a smoke alarm woke her and she saw heavy smoke coming from the boat's circuit breaker. She and another adult ran off the boat, said

San Diego Fire Department spokesman Maurice Luque. The fire spread to four other boats docked west of the hotel on Harbor Drive near Seaport Village. At least three other people got off the boats and escaped the flames. No one was injured. The boats, which range in length from 30 feet to 45 feet, are made of fiberglass and burn quickly, Luque said. About 55 firefighters used foam and water to put out the fire. It was extinguished in about an hour. The damage estimate is not yet known, Luque said, but is expected to be in the millions. Firefighters were still mopping up the fire at 0600 hrs. Crews were trying to pump water used to extinguish the fire out of one of the boats to keep it from sinking, Luque said. The cause of the fire was not yet known.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated Feb 27, states: A fire destroyed five luxury boats docked at the San Diego Marriot Hotel & Marina and damaged two others this morning. Damage was estimated at \$5 million.

**NATURAL GAS WELL, MADISONVILLE AREA, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated Feb 28, states: An oilfield worker died when a natural gas well exploded in South-east Texas, near Madisonville. Madison County Sheriff Dan Douget says the man was apparently trying to relieve a pressure build-up in the well last night when the well exploded. Douget says the man was the only person at the site when the blast happened. There was no fire at the well, which is owned by ChevronTexaco's Caltex division.

**PREMISES, FISH FARM, MECCA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated Feb 28, states: An East Valley fish farm has been heavily damaged, by a fire. It is estimated that the cost of the damage to Kent Seatech in Mecca is around one million dollars. More than 30 firefighters fought the blaze. According to Frank Valencia, the torched building is a holding facility for the fish his company breeds, like Tilapia and Striped Bass. By the time fire crews arrived on the scene, fish farm workers shut off the oxygen tanks, so that they wouldn't fuel the fire. It was imperative that we got in there and knocked down as quickly as we can in order to save as much of the fish stock and root stock as we could. Battalion Chief Raymond Pice says the fire doesn't appear to be suspicious. He believes it may be accidental or a mechanical malfunction could be to blame. No people were hurt.

**PREMISES, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated Feb 27, states: A fire at a propane company blasted 5-gallon tanks into the air and as far as two blocks away today, officials said. No

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

injuries were reported. Authorities evacuated a three-quarter-mile radius after propane tanks exploded at Wylie LP Gas Inc. about 1630 hrs, said police Lt. Roy Bassett. The cause of the explosion was not immediately clear and firefighters were working to keep a nearby 18,000-gallon tank from overheating. Lubbock fire spokesman Mark Ethridge said the force of the explosion propelled numerous 5-gallon tanks into the air, one of which landed on the roof of a local tamale business. Other airborne tanks, which traveled as far as two blocks away, ignited small grassfires when they landed, but those flames were quickly put out, he said. Officials said one 1,500-gallon kerosene tank, several vehicles and a few nearby warehouses continued to burn Monday night but were believed to be under control.

**RESEARCH CENTRE, ESPOO, FINLAND**

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire and smoke caused millions of euros worth of damage at the Technical Research Centre of Finland (VTT) in the Otaniemi district of Espoo on Friday (Feb 24) night. The blaze broke out at about midnight in the Micronova building, which specialises in microelectronics research and development. The automatic alarm system that was in place alerted both VTT's own personnel and firefighters. Firefighters succeeded in putting out the blaze within ten minutes. By that time, however, the smoke had caused considerable damage and the air circulation system in the "cleanroom" spread a cloud of soot into an area containing expensive research equipment. The immediate damage is believed to be measured in the millions of euros, and the full extent is expected to be revealed sometime in the coming week. In addition to the material damage caused by the fire, the suspension of activities will also be expensive. According to VTT client manager Ilkka Suni, the damaged area will be out of commission by about six months, leading to delays in services to VTT's corporate clients. VTT says that the fire probably started at a cleaning station used for the chemical treatment of silicon discs. The actual cause of the fire was unknown during the weekend, and investigators hope to learn more in investigations that begin today.

**SCHOOL, SHIRLEY, SOLIHULL, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire has caused severe damage at a West Midlands secondary school. Up to 75 firefighters in 15 engines were involved in tackling the blaze at Lighthall School in Shirley, Solihull, for several hours. Solihull Council confirmed the school would not be opening today and asked pupils not to attend. The blaze started in a canteen and classroom block, which has been extensively damaged, but important GCSE coursework was

saved by firefighters. West Midlands Fire Service said it was a serious fire and at one point firefighters wearing breathing apparatus had to be called away from the blaze. A fire investigation team went to the scene to try to determine the cause of the fire.

**TEXTILE MILL, KARACHI, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Feb 27 — According to the Karachi's Central Fire Station, a huge fire broke out in a local privately owned textile mill causing damage worth millions of rupees on Sunday (Feb 26). The fire broke out at about 1655 in Silver Textile Mills situated in Gabol Town in New Karachi Industrial Area, in Sindh Province and soon engulfed to the other parts of the mill and as a result valuables and goods worth millions of rupees were reduced to ashes. The fire was finally controlled by a large number of vehicles by this morning at 0900. Extent of damages and cause of fire are yet to be ascertained. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**WAREHOUSE, DALLAS, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: About 100 firefighters battled a "very stubborn" five-alarm fire today at a Dallas warehouse containing movie props, including the set for the made-for-TV-movie, Saving Jessica Lynch, officials said. Firefighters were summoned to the blaze at 1300 hrs, at the warehouse near the intersection Alma Street and Cockrell Avenue on the southern edge of downtown, Annette Ponce, spokeswoman for Dallas Fire-Rescue. Two hours later, the building could not be saved, she said. Instead, crews worked to keep the fire from spreading to surrounding businesses. No Fire-Rescue personnel had been injured in the fight, and no one was in the building when the fire began, Ponce said. The cause of the fire probably won't be determined until tomorrow, after investigators can sift through the wreckage, she said.

**WAREHOUSE, SHARJAH, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire broke out at 1000 yesterday in a warehouse in the Sharjah Industrial Area No. 10, opposite a pharmaceutical distribution centre. The flames destroyed all the contents of the warehouse which included tyres, wooden material and various other things. The huge flames which could not be controlled by the Sharjah Civil Defence units spread over to the neighbouring carpentry shop, car junk store and a labour camp in the vicinity. During the fire-fighting operation, an officer from the Civil Defence suffered burns and was immediately rushed to Rashid Hospital in Dubai for treatment. Loss to properties was disclosed to be 100%. The fire was put out and controlled by fire-fighters from

Sharjah, Ajman and Dubai in one and a half hours and the cooling operation took another one hour. The fire-fighting operation was supervised by Colonel Salih Al Mutawa, Director-General of Sharjah Police Department and Brigadier Abdullah Mubarak Al Dukhan, Director of Operation Room in Sharjah Police Department. A source from the Civil Defence said since the stored items in the warehouse contained plastic material, the fighters were forced to use water and foam which helped a great deal in putting out the fire. The Emergency Operation Officer placed fences in the place of the accident to help the fighters carry out their task. The source disclosed that the extinguishers found in the warehouse were invalid and not functioning. Brigadier Al Mutawa said that the wood, plastic and car tyres, considered flammable items, helped a great deal in increasing the flames and extending them to neighbouring buildings. The forensic laboratory will investigate the cause of the fire and give a report soon to enhance awareness among the public as part of the fire protection plan for the future, he said, adding that he would contact the department concerned to remove the debris of the fire immediately after the completion of the cooling operation which will take a few hours during daytime.

**WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire burned on parched grassland in north-east New Mexico this morning, forcing the evacuation of a small farming and ranching community. The fire, sparked by a downed power line, had burned about 10,000 acres by mid-morning, but firefighters kept the fire from spreading into the community of Miami, said Dan Ware, state Forestry Division spokesman. About 100 people who had to leave their homes were moved to a convention centre, he said. Firefighters from three counties were battling the blaze, and wind was blowing at 15-20 mph. One outbuilding had burned. Most of New Mexico has had exceptionally dry weather since mid-October, the National Weather Service said.

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities took one man into custody on suspicion of arson and were searching for another after a wildfire in south-western Oklahoma destroyed at least 30 homes and forced the evacuation of two schools, a nursing home and area businesses. The fire was one of several fueled by gusty winds and high temperatures. Seven firefighters were injured while fighting the blazes. Two firefighters suffered severe burns. One was in critical condition, and another was in satisfactory condition. Other fires burned in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area and blazes were reported near Wagoner and Sallisaw in eastern Oklahoma, said Anna Payne, a state fire information officer.

Three firefighters were reported injured while battling a blaze near Chandler that destroyed at least four structures, Payne said. Chandler Assistant Fire Chief Bobby Johnson said firefighters were able to control the fire at times, but it moved too rapidly to extinguish. In Broken Arrow, one firefighter inhaled smoke and another sustained minor burns while helping suppress a possible arson blaze that charred about 300 acres, officials said. In neighbouring Tulsa, a lit cigarette is believed to have started a fire that blackened 300 to 500 acres, Tulsa Fire Capt. Larry Bowles said. One barn was destroyed, and four other structures were threatened, officials said. A fast-moving prairie fire scorched about 23,000 acres in Colorado's Yuma County. Up to six buildings were burned and four firefighters were injured before the blaze burned itself out, sheriff's officials said.



**AIRCRAFT IMPOUNDED AT KIGALI, RWANDA**

London, Feb 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The SN Brussels Airlines Airbus held on the ground for three days in Rwanda took off from the Kigali airport at 1938 today. The aircraft was carrying 63 passengers and 11 crew members. It will first fly to the Kenyan capital of Nairobi to refuel. If the aircraft is not delayed in Nairobi it will arrive in Brussels at about 0630, Feb 25. Rwandan aviation authorities had been holding the aircraft on the ground since Tuesday night (Feb 21). The Airbus 330-300 was initially subjected to an administrative inspection, however, Rwanda later demanded documents that were not legally required to be on board. However, when SN Brussels eventually gave these documents to Rwandan authorities, the aircraft was still not cleared for take-off. High-level talks were entered into in a bid to resolve the dispute and allow the aircraft to depart for Brussels with its 250 passengers. Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt phoned Rwandan President Paul Kagame on Thursday, urging for a quick end to the dispute in what appeared to be a tit-for-tat retaliation over Belgium's blacklisting of a Rwandan cargo aircraft. When negotiations did not yield an immediate result, as many passengers as possible were transferred to other airlines. However, 50 passengers were still stranded in Kigali this afternoon. The three-day grounding of the aircraft has inflicted a heavy financial toll on SN Brussels, with estimated costs extending into the hundreds of thousands of euros. SN Brussels was forced to bring in other airlines to

continue its busy Africa flight schedule and to transport stranded passengers to their destinations. The Belgian airline has stressed that the aircraft was in line with every possible formality and that it was technically in good condition. "SN has extended its full co-operation on this investigation and strongly emphasises that there are no safety problems with the Airbus 330-300 OO-SFM that is currently being held on the ground. This is confirmed by the Belgian aviation authorities who guarantee the quality of SN," the airline said. The Belgian government has been angered by the actions of Rwandan authorities throughout the incident, which is believed to be linked to a Rwandan cargo aircraft left stranded at Zaventem Airport in Brussels. The decision to block the SN Airbus in Kigali was taken just two hours after the Rwandan authorities learned that their aircraft in Brussels was put on an EU blacklist for safety reasons. Prime Minister Verhofstadt said today that Rwandan authorities had made a definite connection between the two incidents, stressing that the attitude of authorities in the African nation was "unacceptable".

**C-FMSY**

London, Mar 1 — On Feb 18, the Air Canada A320, registration C-FMSY, was departing Phoenix, Arizona enroute to Toronto. During take-off, the crew received an EGT over-limit warning for the No.2 engine. The crew reduced thrust on the this engine but the EGT remained over the limit. The engine was shut down and the aircraft returned for an uneventful single engine landing. The engine has been removed because of the EGT exceedance and visual signs of internal overheating.

**CRASH, BOWIE AREA, MARYLAND, UNITED STATES**

See N888SR.

**CRASH, MARIKANA, NORTH WEST, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated Feb 27, states: A couple died instantly today when their light aircraft crashed into an electricity pylon in Marikana in the North West, police said. The husband and wife team were travelling from Lanseria to Nylstroom at around 1300 hrs, when they crashed, spokesperson Constable Bontle Diphoko said. An identity document belonging to the wife, and a contact number belonging to her son-in-law was among their possessions found at the crash site, Diphoko said. According to an eyewitness, the aircraft appeared to be in difficulty before crashing. Diphoko said engine failure was not ruled out as the possible cause of the accident and investigations would continue.

**CRASH, WANAKA AIRPORT, NEW ZEALAND**

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A Tecnam Bravo aircraft crashed at Wanaka Airport on

Saturday (Feb 25) evening, causing moderate injuries to the pilot and sole occupant. Richard Ashton Owen was stabilised before being airlifted to Dunedin Hospital by the Lion Foundation rescue helicopter. He was awaiting further surgery yesterday. Police and an airport spokesman said it appeared Mr Owen crashed the aircraft shortly after taking off. The aircraft landed in a crumpled heap after veering off-course and its wing hitting the ground. The spokesman said there was a slight cross-wind that may have been an issue at take-off. Mr Owen took delivery of the new Tecnam Bravo aircraft at the weekend. The privately owned aircraft was not on a commercial flight. For that reason, Civil Aviation Authority and the Transport Air Investigation Commission would not be investigating, although both organisations have been informed. The Tecnam Bravo had a roll cage inside the cockpit which protected the pilot from further harm.

**EMERGENCY LANDING AT NAHA AIRPORT, OKINAWA, JAPAN**

London, Feb 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A Northwest Airlines Boeing 747, heading to Los Angeles from Hong Kong via Tokyo, made an emergency landing, today, at Naha airport, after smoke started pouring into the passenger cabin, airport officials said. None of the 368 passengers and crew members of Northwest Flight 2 was injured, they said. Officials said the second engine on the port wing experienced a problem and leaking oil vapored. The smoke entered the cabin through air-conditioning ducts. A replacement Northwest Airlines aircraft left Hong Kong for Naha to bring the passengers to Tokyo.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, PEASE AIRPORT, UNITED STATES**

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A Turkish cargo aircraft made an emergency landing at Pease Airport last night after a small fuel leak was found in its 30,000-gallon tank. Assistant Fire Chief Brad Englehardt, of the Pease Air National Guard Fire Department, said the KC-135 aircraft landed safely around 1800 hrs. The seven-person crew was not injured. Englehardt said he was not sure where the aircraft had come from or what its intended destination was. Mutual aid from Portsmouth, Newington, New Castle, Greenland, Dover and the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard responded to the scene before the landing. Englehardt said it is procedure to call for fire and police assistance whenever a aircraft makes an emergency landing. Once the aircraft was on the ground, airport personnel discovered an improperly fitted seal had caused the leak. He said the seal was reset, but the aircraft would stay at Pease overnight.

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

**G-WLLY**

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Air crash investigators say all helicopters of the kind involved in a tragedy in which two men died should be inspected after finding metal fatigue on the stricken aircraft. Pilot Philip Ward, of Glasgow, and Edward Lapsley, of Rowlands Gill, Tyne and Wear, died on Dec 21 when their Bell 206A JetRanger (G-WLLY) crashed near Coupar Angus in Perthshire. The men were carrying out a pipeline inspection flight from Cumbernauld airport near Glasgow, when the helicopter lost its vertical fin, the Air Accident Investigation Branch report found. The fin damaged the rotor blades and led to the tail rotor and its gearbox being torn from their mountings. The interim report said fatigue was found at the four bolt holes by which the fin was attached to the tail boom. The AAIB recommended Civil Aviation require a one-off inspection of the fin supports of all Bell and Augusta-Bell 206 series helicopters on the UK register.

**INCIDENT AT ATATURK AIRPORT, ISTANBUL, TURKEY**

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated Feb 26, states: An Onur Air Airbus A321, carrying 203 passengers from Brussels, overshot the runway after landing at Ataturk Airport, Istanbul, today. No one was injured and all the passengers were safely transferred to the terminal.

**INCIDENT AT BANGALORE AIRPORT, INDIA**

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A Gulf Air flight carrying 123 passengers from Bangalore was grounded there for more than 44 hours after two birds hit the aircraft on take off. Forty of the passengers on Flight GF275 to Muscat, scheduled to leave Bangalore at 1845pm on Saturday (Feb 25), were bound for Bahrain. They finally landed in Bahrain at 0915 am yesterday. Two birds were ingested into the aircraft, one on the right engine and the other on the left flap, immediately on take-off, said Gulf Air's airport manager in Bangalore, Carlton Fernandes. "The Omani pilot who detected the problem took a turn and the aircraft safely landed back at Bangalore airport within 10 minutes," he said. "As the right engine was damaged, he made the landing with one engine. About 40 passengers were transferred to various hotels and others were re-booked on other flights." Mr Fernandes said the passengers bound for Bahrain were put on board yesterday's Gulf Air flight. "The faulty engine's blades were changed and the aircraft left as a ferry flight, with only crew on board at 1430 yesterday to Abu Dhabi, where it will undergo further repairs," he said.

**INCIDENT AT DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES**

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated Feb 27, states: Fire grounded an aircraft at Dulles International Airport this morning after flames were observed on the wing, News4 reported. Shortly after 0920 hrs, United Airlines Flight 41 bound for New Orleans was taxiing down the runway when flames were observed on the wing. The aircraft was brought back to the terminal and the flames were extinguished. Dulles Airport Operations said the aircraft had a new engine in it, and when the engine was engaged, some of the fuel that coated it caught fire. The aircraft will be evaluated by United maintenance technicians.

**INCIDENTS AT KUCHING AIRPORT, MALAYSIA**

London, Feb 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A cargo plane, operated by Transmile Air, transporting cargo of the DHL express courier service from Kuala Lumpur, skidded upon landing during rain at the tail end of the runway at the Kuching International Airport this morning. Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu said the runway was closed at 0605 hrs just after the incident but was reopened at 1130 hrs. The closure caused about 1,000 passengers to be stranded at the airport. Jabu, who is also state Infrastructure Development and Communication Minister, told reporters that 18 domestic and international departures and 15 arrivals were delayed while two incoming and two outgoing flights were cancelled. The aircraft was believed to have skidded while landing during rain, and ended up on its "belly" at the end of the runway. Jabu said it was towed out of the area at 1030 hrs and the runway was cleaned to ensure that it was safe for landings and take-offs. "The Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) is still investigating the cause of the incident," he said, adding that all the four workers on board, including the crew members, were safe. Jabu said he had informed Transport Minister Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy and his deputy, Datuk Douglas Uggah, of the incident. Asked whether the skidding, the second such incident in a week, was due to inadequate length of the runway, Jabu said that the 2,454m runway was adequate. "Anyway we'll get the full reports on the investigations into the two incidents as soon as possible," he said. On Feb 19, a MAS Airbus A330 skidded and was stuck in the mud at the end of the runway when making a "U" turn while taxiing to take off to Kuala Lumpur.

**N39DF**

London, Feb 27 — Aero Vodochody L-39 N39DF crashed near California City, California, at 1630, Feb 26. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated Feb 27, states: Terry Fregly, a successful Tallahassee developer and pugnacious former political candidate, was killed in a plane crash yesterday night in California. Fregly, 60, was killed when the Czech-made L-39 jet plane in which he was riding "second-seat" crashed into a mountain 80 miles northeast of Los Angeles. Pilot Skip Robinson, 43, of Klamath Falls, Ore., also was killed. According to the Federal Aviation Administration, Fregly's plane was one of three fighter-type jets on a "photo mission." The Associated Press reported the planes were filming scenes for a movie. According to FAA spokesman Mike Fergus, Fregly's plane crashed in darkness at 2030 hrs, yesterday into a mountain seven miles northwest of California City, Calif. The crash will be investigated by the National Transportation Safety Board, which dispatched an investigator to the scene today. The FAA's Fergus said it could take weeks before the cause of the crash is determined.

**N400WX**

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated Feb 23, states: A single-engine aircraft piloted by a prominent Virginia home builder crashed in heavy fog on a return flight from a university basketball game, killing all four men on board, authorities said today. The aircraft had been cleared for approach last night but never reached the runway at Stafford Regional Airport. Searchers discovered the wreckage in the morning in the woods about a quarter of a mile away. The aircraft was piloted by Richard L. Potter, authorities said. The cause of the crash was under investigation.

London, Feb 25 — Lancair LC41-550FG, N400WX, operated by Homeowners Title LLC, while on a flight to Stafford Regional Airport, Virginia, with four persons on board, crashed 500 yards east of the approach end of runway 33, Stafford Airport, at 0437, UTC, Feb 23. The aircraft was destroyed and all four persons on board died.

**N61466**

London, Feb 27 — Schweizer 269C-1 N61466 crashed near Valencia, California, at 2225, Feb 25. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. One of the two persons on board was killed and the other was seriously injured.

**N888SR**

London, Feb 25 — Cessna 182P (Skylane), N888SR, operated by Red Apple Aircraft LLC, while on a flight from Warrenton, Virginia, to Freeway Airport, Bowie, Maryland, with two persons on board, was advised of turbulence at 8000 feet. The aircraft continued southbound and radar and voice contact lost at 0448, UTC, Feb 23, 12 miles north of



Goldendale, Washington. The aircraft crashed and was destroyed. Both persons on board died.

#### **N9178X**

London, Feb 25 — Cessna 182D (Skylane), N9178X, operated by Waynesboro Skylanes LLC, with one person on board, crashed adjacent to Interstate 81, Augusta County, Virginia, at 0417, UTC, Feb 24. The aircraft was destroyed and the pilot died.

#### **N9298X**

London, Feb 25 — Cessna 182E N9298X crashed near Austin, Colorado, at 1815, Feb 23, while on a flight from Telluride, CO. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were killed.

#### **OH-HCI**

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators have determined that a faulty servo led to the crash of a Finnish-owned Sikorsky 76C helicopter last August, killing 14 people. A six-month investigation, much conducted in a US laboratory, found that parts of the plasma-sprayed coating had broken off from the servo's piston crown. The servo, which controls the helicopter's throttle, fell apart. Experts explained that, after breaking off, the two large pieces of the servo layer blocked one of the ports by which the device is operated. This in turn caused the servo to break down completely, which triggered an unexpected failure of the rotor blades and the subsequent crash. The ministry pointed out, however, that the conditions which led to the servo's break-up had to be proved in further tests and surveys.

#### **TURBULENCE DURING FLIGHT FROM HONOLULU TO NARITA AIRPORT, JAPAN**

London, Feb 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Two passengers suffered minor injuries today when a JALways aircraft hit turbulence, JALways Co. said. The Boeing 747, Flight 71 from Honolulu to Narita airport, encountered turbulence at around 0800, Japan time, about an hour after taking off, the Japan Airlines Corp. group company said. One passenger injured himself when he hit his head on a magazine rack, and another fell and bruised herself as she lost her balance on the way to the toilet, the company said. The aircraft landed at Narita airport at around 1420 hrs.

#### **VH-HBS**

London, Feb 27 — Robinson R44 helicopter VH-HBS, owned and operated by North Australian Helicopters Pty Ltd, crashed six miles west of Gunpowder, Queensland, at 2000, local time, Feb 21. The pilot and three passengers were killed and the helicopter was destroyed.

## Product Recalls

### **ELECTRONIC PARTY GAME, UNITED STATES**

London, Feb 27 — The following press release, dated Feb 23, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Milton Bradley, of East Longmeadow, Mass., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 461,000 Chicken Limbo Electronic Party Games. Manufactured in China, the game's two side poles do not fit into their bases properly making the game unstable. This can cause the game to completely fall apart if touched, hitting children playing the game as well as bystanders. Milton Bradley has received 46 reports of the Chicken Limbo party game collapsing unexpectedly. This includes 23 reports of injuries including bumps, bruises, welts and red marks, four reports of cuts, one chipped tooth and one fractured foot. The product was sold at discount department and toy stores nationwide from June 2005 through to January 2006 for about \$25.

### **FACIAL CLEANSING MASSAGERS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Feb 28 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Unilever, of Trumbull, Conn., today announced a voluntary recall of about 438,000 units (about 50,000 of which have been purchased by consumers) Dove SkinVitalizer Facial Cleansing Massagers. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The cleansing pillows on this device can loosen or dislodge during use and then the SkinVitalizer can cause minor scratches to the skin. Unilever has received 33 reports of cleansing pillows from the SkinVitalizer falling off of the device. Unilever has received nine reports of consumers who have experienced minor scratches while using the product. No serious injuries have been reported. The recall involves a white hand-held Facial Cleansing Massager wand that is intended for use with Dove Cleansing Pillows. When turned on, the unit vibrates. This notice applies to all units and all codes of the SkinVitalizer. No other Dove products or Dove Facial Cleansing pillows are involved in this recall. Sold at discount department, drug and grocery stores nation-wide during February 2006 for about \$10. Manufactured in China. Consumers should immediately stop using the product and contact Unilever for information on receiving a full refund. Unilever will provide all shipping charges for returned SkinVitalizer units. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

### **MERCEDES MOTOR VEHICLES, CHINA**

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: US-German car giant DaimlerChrysler is recalling 23,700 of its luxury Mercedes Benz cars in China over fears about cracks in fuel tanks. The move follows the discovery of defects in the evaporator system in S-class sedans built between October 1998 and March 2005.

### **REMOTE CONTROL FLYING SAUCERS, UNITED STATES**

London, Feb 27 — A press release, dated Feb 24, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) today, announced a voluntary recall of approximately 180,000 Pro Flying Saucer (Radio Control) by Creative Innovations & Sourcing LLC, of Pittsfield, Mass., in cooperation with the CPSC. Manufactured in China, the battery charger cord sold with these flying saucers can overcharge and cause the toy to overheat, posing a risk of fire. There have been at least 56 reports of overheating, smoking, melting and fire including eight reports of minor damage to furniture, carpeting or countertops. There have been seven reports of minor burns to hands or fingers. The product was sold exclusively nationwide by QVC Inc. from November 2005 through to December 2005 for \$27 or \$30.

## Port Conditions



### **IRAQ**

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

### **ITALY**

Genoa, Feb 20 — Port situation: Genoa: One tanker is waiting to berth. Average delay in berthing: 12 hours. Savona: One vessel is waiting for a normal berth; average berthing delay three days. No vessels are waiting for special berths. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

### **NEW ZEALAND**

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A cruise ship laden with passengers had to make a quick retreat from Napier because of mountainous seas. The Dutch ship *Statendam*, which holds 1300 passengers and 557 crew, arrived at the Port of Napier early yesterday for a day-long stopover. But a three-metre swell meant mooring at the port was too dangerous and the ship was forced to leave before the passengers could tour the city. The container ship *Nele Maersk* was also affected and could not leave in the morning after unloading. The dangerous seas also closed Napier beach. The huge seas were fuelled by a cyclone east of the

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

## Port Conditions

Chatham Islands and are due to continue till tomorrow.

### PANAMA CANAL

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Vessels wishing to transit the Panama Canal are facing delays as a result of unusually high arrival numbers. Non-booked Panamax vessels are experiencing delays of three-four days southbound,

and two-three days for northbound. Likewise, non-restricted regulars can expect delays of two-three days southbound and two days northbound.

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Considerable transit delays are being experienced in the Panama Canal. Although the Panama Canal Authority has committed additional resources to

deal with extremely heavy arrivals and ease the backlog, delays are presently running as follows: Atlantic Arrivals: Panamax/restricted vessels: three-four days delay; regular/non-restricted vessels: three days delay. Pacific Arrivals: Panamax/restricted vessels: three days delay and regular/non-restricted vessels: also three days delay.

### Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbots Point	27-02-2006	Coal: 11 vessels due by 30/3; no delays expected.
Brisbane	27-02-2006	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 2 vessels due by 4/3; possible delays expected for vessels arriving 4-5/3.
Dalrymple Bay	27-02-2006	Coal: DBCT berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 2 vessels due by 1/3; DBCT berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 1 vessel due 4/3; DBCT berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 2 vessels due by 2/3; 6 vessels waiting, not scheduled; 20 vessels due by 20/3.
Dampier	27-02-2006	Iron ore: Parker Point A berth: 1 waiting; 10 vessels due by 10/3; Parker Point berth 2: 2 vessels waiting; 4 vessels due by 1/3; Parker Point berth 3: 1 vessel waiting; 1 vessel due 8/3; East Intercourse Island: 5 vessels waiting; 5 vessels due by 6/3.
Esperance	27-02-2006	Iron ore: 1 vessel due 4/3; no delays expected.
Geraldton	27-02-2006	Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed and loading.
Gladstone	27-02-2006	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 17 waiting, 40 vessels due by 6/4; shiploader No. 2 will be shut down for maintenance from 3-7/4; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 11 vessels due by 20/3.
Hay Point	27-02-2006	Coal: Berth 1: operations due to resume by mid-April; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 7 vessels due by 6/3; 1 vessel due 24/2, not yet scheduled for berthing.
Newcastle	27-02-2006	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 11 waiting; 38 vessels due by 16/3; 8-10 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 10 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; 17 vessels due by 12/3; 5-7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 4 vessels off port awaiting coal. .
Port Hedland	27-02-2006	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 8 vessels due by 10/3; "B" berth: 1 vessel waiting; 7 vessels due by 9/3; 2 other vessels due by 9/3, no eta received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 2 vessels due by 7/3; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 6 vessels due by 10/3; there will be a 24 hour shiploader maintenance ca. 25/2; Cockatoo Island: no vessels.
Port Kembla	27-02-2006	Coal: 2 vessels waiting at anchor; 11 vessels due by 22/3; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Walcott	27-02-2006	Iron ore: 5 vessels waiting; 13 vessels due by 17/3; shippers currently experiencing products shortages which will effect berthing.
Whyalla	27-02-2006	Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 3 vessels due by 29/3; no delays expected.
<b>Azerbaijan</b>		
Apsheiron	26-02-2006	Oil products: four vessels at berth of which 1 discharging kerosene, 1 completed discharging crude oil, 1 empty, 1 empty and completed discharging; 2 vessels due by 28/2, both to discharge crude oil.
Baku	27-02-2006	Oil products: Bay of Baku: No information; Azerneftiyag terminal: no information; Azertrans terminal: Nobel Avenue: port open; no vessels; Sangachal District: port open; no vessels. .
<b>Bulgaria</b>		
Bourgas	27-02-2006	Sixteen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 profiles, 1 sulphur, 1 lead, 1 metals, 2 wheat, 3 coils, 1 containers), 4 discharging (1 containers, 1 zinc concentrate, 1 billets, 1 copper concentrate); 5 vessels in roads, of which 3 to load (1 coils, 1 equipment, 1 empty vessel), 2 to discharge (1 iron ore, 1 salt); 9 vessels due, of which 2 to load (1 metals, 1 containers), 7 to discharge (1 zinc concentrate, 1 fuels, 1 containers, 1 salt, 1 coals, 1 iron ore, 1 iron ore pellets).
Varna	27-02-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 20-26 February: Forty-seven vessels in port operating of which 25 loading (2 scrap, 1 containers, 2 chamotte/kaolin, 4 bulk maize, 2 bulk sulphuric acid, 5 soda, 1 bulk copper concentrate, 1 bulk cement, 2 bulk silica sand, 1 kaolin, 2 bulk wheat, 1 bran, 1 packed hardboard), 12 discharging (4 bulk coal, 1 glassware, 2 raw phosphate, 1 bulk feldspar, 1 petcoke, 1 copper concentrate, 1 containers, 1 equipment in packing cases), 10 discharging/loading (8 containers, 1 containers/small consignments, 1 equipment in packing cases/ miscellaneous cargo); no vessels waiting in roads.

A complete online archive covering the last 10 years of Lloyd's Casualty Week. For further information please call +44 (0) 20 7017 4779.

## Port Conditions

### Chile

Antofagasta	27-02-2006	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 21 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Arica	27-02-2006	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 20 vessels due this week.
Iquique	27-02-2006	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 19 vessels due this week.
Puerto Montt	27-02-2006	Two vessels at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 8 vessels due this week.
Punta Arenas	27-02-2006	Five vessels at terminal, 2 berths vacant; 16 vessels due this week.
San Antonio	27-02-2006	Seven vessels berthed, 2 berths vacant; 23 vessels due this week.
San Vicente	27-02-2006	Two vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 22 vessels due during the week; Steel pier: 1 vessel at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 4 vessels due this week; Coronel pier: 2 vessels at terminal, 2 berths vacant; 4 vessels due this week; Oil terminal: 1 tanker at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 1 tanker due this week.
Valparaiso	27-02-2006	Four vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 6 vessels anchored; 22 vessels due this week.

### Cyprus

Larnaca	28-02-2006	Four conventional vessels discharging at berth; 1 conventional vessel due 1/3; no delays expected.
Limassol	28-02-2006	Two conventional vessels discharging at berth, 1 Ro/Ro discharging/loading at berth; 9 container vessels, 3 conventional vessels due 1/3; no delays expected.

### Egypt

Adabiya	27-02-2006	Eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 1 tanker, 1 containers, 1 reefer, 4 bulk carriers.
Alexandria	27-02-2006	Thirty-eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 28 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 3 containers, 3 tankers; 22 vessels dry-docked; 16 vessels at inner anchorage, 11 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	27-02-2006	Twenty-two vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 15 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier, 1 reefer, 5 containers; 3 vessels at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage.
Dekhelia	27-02-2006	Thirteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 7 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 3 containers; 1 vessel at outer anchorage.
Port Said	27-02-2006	Five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 3 containers.
Suez	27-02-2006	Eleven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 4 general cargo, 1 containers, 4 reefers, 2 passenger vessels; 2 tugs, 1 vessel dry-docked.
Suez Canal	27-02-2006	Twenty-seven vessels transiting Northbound, 22 Southbound.

### India

Kolkata	27-02-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading (General Cargo, Containers-2), 2 vessels discharging (Edible Oil, Containers), 2 vessel waiting to load General Cargo; 1 vessel working at midstream (1 to load(Iron ore), 1 to discharge(Crude)); 3 vessels under repair; 1 vessel waiting to sail; 1 Lubricant Oil vessel due.
Haldia	27-02-2006	16 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (Ore-3, Thermal Coal, POL, Steel-2), 7 vessels discharging (Coke-2, LPG, Net Coke, Palmolive, Met Coke, Project Cargo), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels awaiting berth (2 to discharge, 1 to load, 1 to load and discharge); 1 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 6 vessels due (POL-2, Containers, Phosphoric Acid, Steel, Thermal Coal).
Paradip	27-02-2006	6 vessels operating at berth of which 6 loading (Iron ore-2, Thermal Coal, Chrome Concentrate, Chrome Ore-2); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load.
Visakhapatnam	27-02-2006	10 vessels operating at berth of which 6 loading (Steel and BF Slag, Soya, Steel, Thermal Coal, Iron Ore, Naptha), 4 vessels discharging (Timber Logs, Styrene Monomer, Rock Phosphate, Passenger); 7 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (6 to discharge, 1 to load); 1 vessel under repair(MV Chin Shwe Haw at HSY Jetty which was collided with MV Uttar Kasi); 35 vessels due (Iron Ore-3, Steel Cargo-4, Granite Blocks, S.M. Ore, E. Alcohol, C.P.Coke, Soya-2, Crude & Product Tankers-8, Urea, Liquid Ammonia, Rock Phosphate, Coking Coal-3, Containers-2, Phosphoric Acid, Petroleum Coke, Timber Logs, Steam Coal-2, Styrene Monomer).
Chennai	27-02-2006	10 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (HR coils/Granite Blocks/Project, Iron Ore), 5 vessels discharging (Logs, Rock Phosphate, Phosphoric Acid, S.Coal, Crude Oil), 3 vessels loading and discharging (Containers, Granite Blocks/Project Cargo, S.Coil/ Granite Blocks); 1 vessel awaiting berth to load; 5 vessel due (General Cargo-2, S.Coal, Naptha, Containers).
Tuticorin	27-02-2006	4 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading General Cargo, 3 vessels discharging (Raw Cashew, Oil Cake, Furnace Oil); 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 1 vessel under arrest ("MV Shahad" at the anchorage after completion of Cement loading operations for Repair Work).
Cochin	27-02-2006	6 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading Pipes; 3 vessels discharging (Crude-2, Sulphur), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers, 1 vessel waiting to load General Cargo.
New Mangalore	27-02-2006	6 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Iron ore Fines-2, Iron Ore(P), POL Product), 2 vessels discharging (POL Product, POL Crude); 5 vessels waiting at anchorage (4 to discharge, 1 to load); 11 vessels due (Phosphoric Acid, POL Product-3, Iron Ore Fines-2, Crude Palm Oil-2, LPG, POL Crude, Granite Stone).
Mormugao	27-02-2006	3 vessels operating at berth and discharging (MOP, Furnace oil, Alumina); 4 vessels working at mid stream and loading Iron ore; 1 vessel awaiting berth and discharge; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 5 vessels under repair/dry docked; 7 vessels due (Containers, Iron Ore-6).

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

## Port Conditions

Mumbai	27-02-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (Steel, Bagged SBM), 5 vessels discharging (Palm Oil, Rock Phosphate, Steel Machinery, POL-2); 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 1 vessel awaiting order to discharging, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to load, 1 to load and discharge); 6 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 5 vessels under arrest; 1 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 32 vessels due (Container-4,General Cargo-28).
J.N.P.T.	27-02-2006	8 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels discharging(Sty./A.Acid, Edible Oil), 6 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels awaiting berth to load and discharge; 4 Containers vessel due.
Kandla	27-02-2006	12 vessels operating at berth of which 5 discharging (CPO, Scrap, Timber Logs, Copper Concentrate, HR Coils), 5 vessels loading (Cement Bags-2, Agriculture Product-3); 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth (1 to load, 1 to load and discharge); 5 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 4 to load); 1 vessel under repairs; 1 vessel under dry docked; 2 vessels under at dredging purpose.
Ennore	27-02-2006	3 Thermal Coal vessel due (MV Good Season, MV Rani Padmini, MV Tamil Anna).
<b>Israel</b>		
Ashdod	28-02-2006	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 2 vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 5 vessels loading/discharging at berth (3 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker); 2 general cargo vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (3 containers, 1 tanker); 14 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected..
Eilat	28-02-2006	No labour problems. No vessels berthed, none waiting at anchorage; no vessels due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	28-02-2006	No labour problems. Three vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 10 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 2 car carriers, 4 tankers); 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge, 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 6 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 20 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected..
<b>Kazakhstan</b>		
Aktau	27-02-2006	Oil products: Three vessels loading crude oil at berth; 14 vessels in roads, all to load.
<b>Pakistan</b>		
Karachi	27-02-2006	Three vessels loading at berth (2 rice, 1 cement), 1 sugar vessel discharging at berth, 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 rice, 2 containers), 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; no vessels dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 6 vessels due (2 containers, 1 steel billets, 2 rice, 1 crude oil), with no delays expected.
Port Qasim	27-02-2006	One coke vessel discharging at berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 7 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 palm oil, 1 fuel oil, 1 yellow peas, 1 canola, 1 iron ore, 1 containers, 1 VCM).
<b>Poland</b>		
Gdansk	27-02-2006	Six vessels loading at berth (1 coal, 1 general cargo, 2 bulker, 1 grain, 1 tanker), 1 coal vessel discharging at berth; 10 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waitinG in roads; 19 vessels due.
Gdynia	27-02-2006	Four vessels loading at berth (1 coal, 1 tanker, 2 general cargo), 6 discharging at berth (3 bulkers, 2 general cargo, 1 grain); 18 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 40 vessels due.
<b>Russia</b>		
Novorossiysk	27-02-2006	Twenty-two vessels in port operating, of which 19 loading (1 bulk cement, 1 DRI, 1 HBI, 1 steel billets, 1 steel billets/WRIC/pipes/steel, 1 steel billets/WRIC/tin plate, 1 copper/zinc/lead, 2 wheat, 1 steel billets/tin plate/coils, 2 coils, 1 bulk urea, 1 slabs/coils, 2 vegetable oil, 1 barley, 2 diesel oil), 2 discharging bulk sugar, 1 discharging/loading containers; 11 vessels waiting in roads of which 10 to load (1 scrap, 3 vegetable oil, 1 coils, 1 UAN solution, 2 steel billets, 1 bulk urea, 1 copper), 1 to discharge bulk sugar; 89 vessels due, of which 84 to load (6 vegetable oil, 2 HBI, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 pipes/tin plate/steel sheets, 4 DRI, 6 aluminium, 13 coils, 1 tin plate, 1 coils/steel billets/WRIC, 15 steel billets, 3 WRIC, 2 pipes, 1 H-beams, 2 steel sheets, 1 steel sheets/coils, 5 slabs, 3 bulk urea, 2 cellulose, 6 bulk NPK, 1 beetroot, 3 bulk cement, 2 wheat, 1 flowers, 1 WRIC/steel sheets), 2 to discharge (1 debars, 1 coils), 3 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 3 tankers berthed, all loading, of which 2 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 4 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 7 tankers due, all to load, of which 5 crude oil, 2 diesel oil.
<b>Slovenia</b>		
Koper	27-02-2006	Port working normally. Sixteen vessels berthed of which 4 loading sawn timber/general cargo, 6 discharging bulk cargo, 3 loading bulk cargo, 2 discharging/loading containers, 1 car carrier loading/discharging vehicles; 6 vessels waiting at anchorage of which 1 tanker to discharge liquid cargo, 2 vessels to discharge bulk cargo, 1 to load bulk cargo, 2 to load sawn timber; 19 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 4 to discharge/load containers, 2 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 4 vessels to discharge bulk cargo, 4 to load bulk cargo, 5 to load sawn timber/general cargo.

**A complete online archive covering the last 10 years of Lloyd's Casualty Week. For further information please call +44 (0) 20 7017 4779.**

## Port Conditions

<b>Spain</b>		
Sagunto	27-02-2006	Twenty-six vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (3 steel products, 2 bulk fertiliser), 18 discharging (14 steel products, 1 gas, 1 machinery, 1 vehicles, 1 logs), 3 loading/discharging (1 steel products, 2 general cargo); no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>		
Colombo	27-02-2006	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Eight container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 12 vessels discharging at berth (6 containers/ feeders, 2 bulk palm oil, 1 bagged soya bean meal, 1 bulk maize, 1 bulk cement, 1 bulk fertiliser); 1 bagged cement vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 5 vessels dry-docked, 1 at new tanker berth; 9 vessels due (8 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement), with no delays expected.
<b>Turkmenistan</b>		
Turkmenbashi	27-02-2006	Oil products: One vessel discharging crude oil at berth.
<b>Ukraine</b>		
Ilichevsk	27-02-2006	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (5 steel products, 1 sunflower seed oil, 1 barley, 1 gasoil), 2 discharging ore, 1 loading/discharging containers; 4 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 sunflower seed oil, 3 steel products; 19 vessels due, of which 11 to load (8 steel products, 1 wheat, 1 oil, 1 ore), 2 to discharge (1 ore, 1 tropical oil), 6 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	27-02-2006	One vessel in port, loading sulphur; no vessels in roads; 48 vessels due, of which 39 to load (22 steel, 9 coal, 1 sulphur, 2 fire-clay, 1 equipment, 2 sunflower beans/husks, 1 ammonium saltpetre/carbamide, 1 ammonium saltpetre), 5 to discharge equipment, 4 to discharge/load (2 containers/fire-clay, 1 containers, 1 feldspar/containers/fire-clay).
Odessa	27-02-2006	Twenty-six vessels in port operating, of which 17 loading (10 metal, 2 scrap, 3 corn, 2 ore), 7 discharging (1 bananas, 1 citrus, 1 vegetables, 1 sugar, 1 general cargo, 1 luggage, 1 sand), 1 loading/discharging containers, 1 passenger vessel; 7 vessels in roads, of which 5 to load (3 metal, 1 corn, 1 pig-iron), 2 to discharge (1 sugar, 1 fertiliser); 66 vessels due, of which 33 to load (23 metal, 1 scrap, 3 pig-iron, 1 timber, 1 wheat, 1 ferro alloy, 1 oil, 1 ore, 1 sunflower seeds), 11 to discharge (1 metal, 2 bananas, 4 citrus, 1 luggage, 1 sugar, 1 general cargo, 1 fish), 22 to discharge/load containers

**Published by Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit, part of Informa plc, Sheepen Place, Colchester, Essex CO3 3LP.**

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

**Copyright © Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit, part of Informa UK Limited 2005. This casualty information is copyright. Unauthorised copying prohibited by law.**

**ISSN 0047 4908**

**If subscribers wish to purchase records for networkable or shared use within their company they can contact Andrew Luxton on +44 (0) 20 7017 4625.**

**Lloyd's is the registered trade mark of the Society incorporated by the Lloyd's Act 1871 by the name of Lloyd's**

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