

# CasualtyWeek

May 5 2006

## Thinktank says cut ISM code paperwork

IMO group finds safety code would work better with less bureaucracy, writes a Special Correspondent - Wednesday May 03 2006

**C**OMPLIANCE WITH the International Safety Management Code could be made more effective by slashing onboard paperwork and encouraging ships' crews to help in day-to-day implementation.

These are the principal conclusions of a group of experts appointed by International Maritime Organization Secretary-General Efthimios Mitropoulos to assess the ISM code's effective impact on the safety of life at sea and marine environmental protection.

The group's report will be presented to the Maritime Safety Committee next week.

### Collection

The second and full implementation phase of the code, on July 1, 2002, which extended its application to the balance of the world's merchant fleet, prompted the committee to request the collection of information specifically from regional port state control schemes, the International Association of Classification Societies and other industry organisations holding data on serious ship deficiencies, detentions and casualties.

However, none of the port state control memoranda of understanding were

forthcoming with tangible data, making it impossible for the group to draw any conclusions or to identify any trends concerning the possible links between the ISM Code and port state control on the basis of the limited data available from websites.

The group also found that the IACS data and those on cargo and pollution damage claims recorded by the P&I clubs did not allow for reliable analysis.

### Canvassing

It therefore based its assessment entirely on the canvassing of subjective opinions from questionnaire respondents drawn from four groups — administrations, shipping companies, shore-based shipping personnel and seafarers.

Based on this 'soft data', the group concluded that tangible benefits are evident where a safety culture is embraced "as a positive step toward efficiency".

However, the responses also indicate that greater efficiency improvements could be achieved through streamlining and reducing paperwork, increased use of information technology and integration of shipboard documents for the ISM Code and the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code.

There also appears to be much greater scope for easing the compliance burden for seafarers through their direct involvement in the writing of ISM manuals to ensure proper alignment to the practicalities of day-to-day ship operations.

### Created

The study also revealed that whereas on average 2.5 dedicated shore-based positions had to be created to ensure effective ISM implementation, most companies responded that they had allotted no extra shipboard personnel and felt additional seafarer training ensured compliance.

Denmark, Greece, the Russian Federation, Singapore and the UK participated in the work of the 32-member group.

Also taking part were representatives of IACS, BIMCO, the International Chamber of Shipping, Intercargo, the tanker industry, oil majors, P&I clubs, and seafarers.

The World Maritime University undertook the processing of the data and assisted in their preliminary analysis in co-operation with the IMO secretariat.



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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>APOLLO FALCON</i>	general	ATG	GL	4,255	6,341	1972	Adrift with engine failure in lat 41 34.6N, long 17 02.5E, Apr 20. Towed to Manfredonia, where arrived Apr 21. Inspection underway. Completed repairs and sailed Apr 23. Arrived Ravenna Apr 24.
<i>ASTRA</i>	refrig	LTU	NV	4,444	5,287	1990	In collision with ref <i>Macarena B</i> about 2 miles from Las Palmas Apr 25. Sustained port bow damage. Currently at Las Palmas. To be repaired.
<i>BALTIC FJORD</i>	general	NOR	BV	2,062	1,560	1976	Grounded in lat 59 59.6N, long 05 14.7E, Apr 22. Holed in ballast tank. Refloated and currently at Bergen under repair, ETC five weeks.
<i>BITLAND</i>	asphalt tanker	SWE	BV	4,025	4,450	1995	Anchored in lat 50 47.79N, long 01 03.66E, Apr 23, with engine problems. Towed to Dover Apr 25. Assessment under way.
<i>HANSA LUBECK</i>	general	NLD	BV	2,056	2,964	1999	Had engines problems in lat 48 34N, long 05 42W, Apr 21. Proceeded to Brest for repairs, ETC Apr 26.
<i>JONRIX</i>	general	GBR	GL	1,987	2,210	1977	Arrived Rotterdam Apr 21 and sustained an engine problem. Will remain in port for about 10 days.
<i>LINDA MARIJKE</i>	general	NLD	BV	1,359	1,850	1992	Contacted by general cargo <i>Toyvo Vyakhya</i> when moored at Delfzijl Apr 23. Sustained bow damage.
<i>LNG ABUJA</i>	lng	BHS	BV	93,619	72,571	1980	Picked up a mooring rope in propeller when leaving Bonny Apr 2 and reported Apr 25 being escorted to Cadiz dry-dock by tug <i>Fotiy Krylov</i> with propeller and tailshaft problems.
<i>MARIAM III</i>	general	PAN	—	2,477	3,782	1970	Fire on board at El Ade area, east of Mogadiscio Apr 13. Crew and fire personnel unable to extinguish fire and is a total loss.
<i>MARINA S.</i>	general	DIS	—	494	554	1970	Reported Apr 25 in collision with <i>Tinto</i> , in dense fog, in lat 57 49.6N, long 17 19.6E, outside Gotland. Sank in 80m immediately. All crew picked up. Bunkers to be removed.
<i>MIRABELLE</i>	general	MLT	(BV)	3,120	3,650	1985	Reported Apr 25 not under command 85 miles north-east of Rhodes. Taken in tow by <i>Aegeon Pelagos</i> for Piraeus. Currently anchored near Kos awaiting weather improvement. ETA Piraeus Apr 27.
<i>PANAGIOTIS D.</i>	bulker	MLT	NK	35,980	69,337	1991	Grounded in lat 52 08 09N, long 04 06.4E, six miles from Scheveningen Apr 22. Refloated same day and proceeded to anchorage 5, Hook of Holland for inspection. Under way Apr 24.
<i>SANDY CAPE</i>	supply	VCT	AB ABS	1,819	1,825	1977	In collision with general cargo <i>Haci Ibrahim</i> in lat 40 44N, long 28 50E, Apr 26, causing it to sink.
<i>VENUS SCAN</i>	general	BHS	LR	2,854	3,200	1990	Arrived Las Palmas Apr 19 and sailed Apr 22 after repairing damage to two electric motors for main engine starter blower.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



## **AL MANARA (St. Kitts-Nevis)**

Seychelles, Apr 21 — General cargo *Al Manara* is still at Port Victoria and the case is still ongoing. The next hearing is Jun 2. — Lloyd's Agents.

## **AL SALAM BOCCACCIO 98 (Panama)**

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A report submitted to Egyptian parliament has assigned blame for February's *Al Salam Boccaccio 98* (11779 gt, built 1970) ferry disaster, in which more than a thousand passengers died, to the ship's owner and government transportation agencies. "The parliamentary findings showed up the situation at Egypt's Red Sea ports," said Hafez Abu Seada, secretary-general of the non-governmental Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR). "There are no real rules currently governing ports and ship maintenance," he said in remarks published in an IRIN news service report. "There's a lack of certification and examination of ships," Abu Seada added, "especially the passenger ferries operating between Egypt and Saudi Arabia." According to IRIN, the new parliamentary report aimed its harshest criticisms at the owner of the doomed vessel, the Al Salam Maritime Transport Company, which it accused of gross negligence. "Testimony provided by passengers, confirmed that [the ferry] regularly carried more than 2,000 people", in spite of regulations limiting passenger numbers to 1,200, Hamdi El Tahhan, chairman of the parliamentary fact-finding committee on the disaster, was quoted as saying in the state press. The report went on to note that the ferry had been inadequately maintained and lacked basic emergency equipment. The report also said that the validity of the life jackets on board the vessel had expired five years earlier. Al Salam company owner Mamdouh Ismail, who enjoys a close relationship with the government through his position in the upper house of parliament, was also criticised for fleeing to London following news of the disaster. The report suggested that Ismail's position on the board of the Red Sea Ports Authority allowed him to both sidestep safety regulations and unfairly monopolise the Red Sea shipping business. Government transport agencies were also blamed by the fact-finding commission for allowing the ferry to sail without meeting minimum safety standards, as well as for their slow response to the unfolding catastrophe. The report concluded by making an appeal "to reform and restructure the maritime transport sector".

## **ALBO (Russia)**

See "Lebanon" under "Port State Control".

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

London, Apr 27 — Cement *Alpena* arrived Superior Apr 11 from Duluth.

## **AMIGO (Netherlands)**

London, Apr 27 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Tug *Amigo*, 23.5 metres, built 1938, with barge *Amigo II* in collision with Dutch inland watercraft *Betty* on the Weser-Datteln-Canal close to H, nxe, Apr 23. Both vessels were severely damaged in the bow region. Traffic was not influenced.

## **ANGEL PEARL (Sierra Leone)**

Kingston, Apr 20 — General cargo *Angel Pearl* has not yet commenced repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Apr 21 — A press report, dated today, states: C.c. *APL Panama* was towed away from Ensenada at 0540 yesterday, with no cargo on board, as it began a trans-Pacific journey to an Asian repair yard. Capt Jose Luis Rios Hernandez, Ensenada's harbour-master, gave the vessel final permission to leave late Tuesday (Apr 18) after several Mexican government agencies signed off on its departure. The vessel's owners first had to post a \$2 million bond with Mexico's environmental protection agency, Profepa. Ricardo Castellanos Percevault, the agency's top official in Baja California, said the bond was a guarantee against any potential damages while they await the results of a study on the long-term environmental effects caused by the grounding and subsequent salvage efforts. The owners told Ensenada port authorities that the vessel was heading for the Philippines, towed by salvage tug *Hua An*. The journey is expected to take 45 days, Rios said.

## **APOLLO FALCON (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Apr 22 — Following navigation warning, dated Apr 21, states: General cargo *Apollo Falcon* (4255 gt, built 1972) adrift due to engine failure in lat 41 34.6N, long 17 02.6E at 1900, UTC, Apr 20. Vessels in vicinity requested to keep a sharp lookout, assist if possible.

London, Apr 22 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1125, UTC: *Apollo Falcon* had engine failure, power unavailable, in lat 41 34.8N, long 17 02.3E Apr 20. Vessel towed by tug *Possente* to Manfredonia, arriving at 2145, Apr 21.

Bari, Apr 22 — General cargo *Apollo Falcon*, Hamburg to Ravenna, 6,095 tonnes fertiliser, due to electrical troubles near Barletta, reached Manfredonia in tow. Damages are under investigation. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ravenna, Apr 25 — General cargo *Apollo Falcon* arrived Ravenna Apr 24. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

Bari, Apr 26 — General cargo *Apollo Falcon* completed repairs Apr 23 and sailed same day for Ravenna. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ARAL WIND (Marshall Islands)**

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

**ARATERE (New Zealand)**

Wellington, Apr 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Aratere* (12596 gt, built 1998) lost power as it headed to Picton last night. Passengers on board estimated the ferry was 4 or 5 km from Tory Channel when the lights went out and the engines went dead. Emergency lights went on quickly but passengers did not know for some time what had happened, a passenger said. The mechanical failure hit as the *Aratere* approached Tory Channel and it was forced to use the Northern Entrance into Queen Charlotte Sound. Toll spokeswoman Sue Foley said the problem was not critical. "The vessel was on three engines, which is not an issue, as we often close one down for routine maintenance." The ferry berthed in Picton one and a half hours late at 2045 hrs and was checked by a Maritime New Zealand Safety inspector before being allowed to sail again. Toll was looking into the problem, Ms Foley said. — Lloyd's Agents.

**AROSIA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

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

**ASTRA (Lithuania)**

See *Macarena B*.

**ATLANTIS (Germany)**

Hamburg, Apr 21 — Ferry *Atlantis* has completed repairs and returned to service, operating between Cuxhaven and Heligoland. — Lloyd's Agents.

**AZOV MARINER (Malta)**

Tallinn, Apr 21 — Product tanker *Azov Mariner* completed repairs, loaded gasoil at Muuga and sailed on Apr 21 for Malmo. — Lloyd's Agents.

**BAHLAWAN (Syria)**

Aleppo, Apr 22 — General cargo *Bahlawan* sailed from Lattakia Mar 28, to unknown destination. — Lloyd's Agents.

**BALTIC FJORD (Norway)**

London, Apr 23 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1125, UTC: General cargo *Baltic Fjord* (2062 gt, built 1976) ran aground in lat 59 59.6N, long 05 14.7E, yesterday morning. Vessel refloated and is now at Bergen under repair.

London, Apr 24 — Following received from Sandnes, dated today: At approximately 0800 hrs, Apr 22, general cargo *Baltic Fjord*, Haugesund for Bergen, grounded after the "chief" fell asleep, south of Bergen. The vessel is hardly damaged but needs drydocking. The vessel is holed in a ballast tank and is now in Bergen for inspections.

London, Apr 25 — Following received from the managers of general cargo *Baltic Fjord*, dated today: *Baltic Fjord* was loaded with a cargo of paper and construction materials at the time of the grounding. There was no damage to the cargo and no injuries to the crew. Vessel is expected to remain in dry dock for five weeks to undergo repairs.

**BATUR V (Turkey)**

Honolulu, Apr 20 — Bulk *Batur V* is still in Honolulu harbour. It is anticipated the re-stow will be completed tomorrow, Apr 21 and the vessel will continue its voyage to Houston. — Lloyd's Agents.

Honolulu, Apr 24 — Understand bulk *Batur V* has not yet sailed, and there is more to be done on the re-stow. The vessel's ETD is not presently known. — Lloyd's Agents.

**BIRCHGLEN (Barbados)**

London, Apr 25 — Bulk *Birchglen* (22388 gt, built 1983) experienced engine trouble and anchored off Ile au Lievre, Quebec, in lat 47 47 55N, long 69 46 31W, at 1042, EDST, Apr 24.

Montreal, Apr 25 — Bulk *Birchglen* was only delayed for a few hours, and sailed from its anchored position Apr 24. — Lloyd's Agents.

**BITLAND (Sweden)**

London, Apr 24 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1654, UTC: Asphalt tanker *Bitland* (4025 gt, built 1995) anchored in lat 50 47.79N, long 01 03.66E, at 0558, UTC, Apr 24, due to engine problems. The vessel is still at anchor, and a Dover Harbour Board tug is proceeding to tow the vessel to Dover.

London, Apr 25 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0744, UTC: Asphalt tanker *Bitland* was towed into Dover, arriving in port, just before 0200, UTC, today.

Dover, Apr 25 — Asphalt tanker *Bitland*, Fredericia to Petit Couronne at position lat 50 48.00N, long 001 38.80E when Apr 23 it sustained a complete black out of the engine and the fire alarm was sounding. Black smoke was coming from the funnel, although after a search no fire was found. Subsequent investigation found the turbo charger filter caused the fire alarm to be set off. Master informed the Coastguard and dropped anchor and position lat 50 47.90N, long 001 03.80E At 1620, Apr 23. Dover Harbour tug *Dauntless* connected its tug line and towing was commenced at 2155 hrs to Dover tug *Doughty* also connected its tug line to assist towage into the Port of Dover. The vessel made fast alongside the outer berth Eastern arm at 0110, today. Surveyors are assessing any damage and course of any repairs. We will keep you advised of the progress. — Lloyd's Agents.

**BRP-SA-58 (Bulgaria)**

Belgrade, Apr 26 — Barge *BRP-SA-58* is still lying on the bottom of the

River Danube. If weather conditions, and flood situation will allow, pulling out the barge will start for about 10 days from now. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CALIFORNIA (Panama)**

Port Klang, Apr 22 — Understand the Director of Central Region is now the receiver of the wreck of bulk *California*. The Marine Department is now waiting for owners to claim the wreck. After a given period of time, if the owner does not claim the wreck, then the marine department will decide on what to do with the wreck. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CAMELLIA ACE (Panama)**

London, Apr 23 — Vehicle *Camellia Ace* (55336 gt, built 1994) during northbound transit on Apr 20 reportedly made contact with centre wall at Gatun Locks sustaining indentation on star-board side. The vessel continued canal transit and upon completion anchored Cristobal for inspection, after which departed without requesting an official investigation into the accident. Reportedly no repairs were carried out.

**CANDY STORE (U.S.A.)**

London, Apr 26 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1330, UTC: Crewboat *Candy Store*, official No.1049273, (99 gt, built 1996) missed a marker and touched bottom at Port Aransas north jetty at 0230, local time today. As a result vessel tore a gash in its port side 60 ft by three ft. The master of the vessel beached the vessel to stop it sinking. At the moment divers and Coast Guard are on scene.

London, Apr 27 — A Coast Guard Corpus Christi press release, dated Apr 26, states: The Coast Guard is on scene with crewboat *Candy Store* that struck the Port Aransas jetties and began to sink early this morning. At 0230 hrs, the Coast Guard received a distress call from the crew of *Candy Store* stating they had struck the jetties north of Port Aransas and were taking on water. The crew then pushed the boat onto the jetties to prevent it from sinking in the middle of the channel. At 0232 hrs, Coast Guard Station Port Aransas responded with two rescue boats and provided five dewatering pumps to help *Candy Store* remain afloat. Commercial salvage and Coast Guard Marine Safety personnel are on scene to assist with repair and removal plans and monitor for pollution. No pollution or injuries have been reported at this time. The channel at the Port Aransas jetties remains open to vessel traffic, however, boaters are requested to exercise caution while transiting the area and remain clear of the salvage operations.

**CARPE DIEM I (Panama)**

London, Apr 20 — General cargo *Carpe Diem I*: Understood Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contract was signed with Loucas G.Matsas Apr 3 in respect of vessel drifting with engine breakdown.

**CHANG BO GO I (Argentina)**

London, Apr 27 — Following notice to mariners issued Apr 26: Fishing *Esther N153* towing fishing *Chang Bo Go I* (387 gt, built 1987) in lat 44 45S, long 62 22W, line length 250 metres, speed four knots bound Puerto Madryn.

**CRESCENT CONNEMARA (U.K.)**

London, Apr 27 — Chemical/oil carrier *Crescent Connemara* sailed Milford Haven Apr 25 for New Ross.

**DESH RAKSHAK (India)**

London, Apr 22 — Crude oil tanker *Desh Rakshak* arrived and sailed Singapore Mar 29.

**DOHA I (Honduras)**

See "India" under "Port State Control".

**EASTERN CHALLENGER (Philippines)**

See *Tsugaru Maru*.

**EIFFEL PLANET (Belize)**

St. Vincent, CV, Apr 21 — General cargo *Eiffel Planet* was reported to have engine trouble Apr 14, 400 nautical miles south of Cape Verde. Tug *Leopard* sailed Porto Grande the same day and arrived at the scene, in lat 11 12N, long 21 26W, at 2215, Apr 16. *Leopard* took *Eiffel Planet* in tow the following day, and the tow arrived at Porto Grande at 1630, Apr 20. *Eiffel Planet* is presently at Cabnavé Shipyard. The repair schedule is currently unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

St. Vincent, CV, Apr 21 — Repairs to general cargo *Eiffel Planet* are expected to be completed in about one month's time. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ERNST R**

London, Apr 26 — Inland waterways vessel *Ernst R*, 1,995 deadweight, length 95 metres, and only a few months old, while loading asphalt at Van Bentum Recycling quay, Utrecht, at 0630, local time, today it "folded" amidships after about 800 tons had been loaded. It sank till its gangways were in the water. The Utrecht fire brigade was soon on scene and also the company Pouw with heavy pumps. Meanwhile the loaded asphalt was discharged again by cranes. When the cargo had been discharged the vessel straightened again, but it had some leaks by the "folding" of the ship. The cause of this accident is not known yet, but will be investigated by the authorities. Where *Ernst R* will be repaired is not known yet.

**FAIRWEATHER (U.S.A.)**

London, Apr 26 — Passenger ro/ro *Fairweather* is still at Ketchikan. (See issue of Apr 11.)

**FREDERICK G. CREED (Canada)**

London, Apr 25 — Research *Frederick G. Creed* (152 gt, built 1988) experienced water ingress into a potable water tank at Ile aux Coudres, Quebec, in lat 47 25 21N, long 70 23 26W, at 1130, EDST, Apr 21. Hull damage is suspected.

Montreal, Apr 25 — Research *Frederick G. Creed* is currently at the public wharf at Rimouski. — Lloyd's Agents.

**G.A. SKYTTE (Sweden)**

London, Apr 25 — Information received from Kiel dated today: Ro/ro *G.a.Skytte* (299 gt, built 1954) had a fire in Gothenburg, Apr 12. The fire was extinguished two days later.

**GRASMERE MAERSK (U.K.)**

London, Apr 25 — C.c. *Grasmere Maersk* sailed Valletta Apr 23 for Algeciras.

**HACI IBRAHIM (Turkey)**

London, Apr 26 — Following received from Ankara MRCC, timed 0705, UTC: General cargo *Haci Ibrahim* (749 gt, built 1978) Gemlik for Samsun, 1,300 tonnes fertiliser, sank in lat 40 44N, long 28 50E at about midnight. Four crew members have been rescued, five are still missing.

London, Apr 26 — Following received from Ankara MRCC, timed 1130, UTC: General cargo *Haci Ibrahim* sank following a collision with supply *Sandy Cape* (1819 gt, built 1977) which was towing bulk *Iran Madani*. (Note — *Sandy Cape* was towing *Iran Ibrahim* from Setubal for Mangalia.)

London, Apr 26 — Following received from the managers of supply *Sandy Cape*, timed 1140, UTC: Supply *Sandy Cape*, towing *Iran Madani* for Mangalia, was in collision earlier today, no other details known at the moment.

London, Apr 26 — A press release from the operators of supply *Sandy Cape*, dated today, states: On Apr 25, while *Sandy Cape* was on voyage from Setubal to Mangalia with bulk *Iran Madani* in tow, the vessel experienced a serious incident in the Sea of Marmara involving a collision between the towed vessel and general cargo *Haci Ibrahim*. *Haci Ibrahim* sank following the collision. The Master of *Sandy Cape* immediately informed Traffic Control. Coast Guard and Rescue Service vessels were sent to the scene of the accident. According to present reports, four of the nine crew members of *Haci Ibrahim* were rescued, while five crew members are reported missing.

London, Apr 27 — A Turkish Ministry of Transport report, dated Apr 26, states: General cargo *Haci Ibrahim*, Gemlik for Samsun, laden with 1,250 tonnes of fertilizer, sank 17 miles off Ahirkapi 2255, Apr 25. At 2240 hrs the vessel notified the VTS that it was going to anchor Ahirkapi for bunker supply. Upon receiving the information given by bulk *Iran Madani* which was being towed by supply *Sandy Cape*, that there was a vessel, probably a fishing boat, sinking. Immediately SAR vessel *Kiyi Emniyeti 10* was sent at 2255 hrs and also the Coast Guard boats moved to the vicinity of accident. MSRCC informed upon taken an SOS taken from epirb of the vessel and the position ascertained. *Kiyi Emniyeti 10* found a lifeboat and some life buoys

which appeared to belong to *Haci Ibrahim*. Four personnel, including first mate, was rescued in lat 40 41 52N, long 28 50 02E. First mate declared that there were nine crew members onboard. About 0430 hrs after rescued crew member were delivered to vessel *Saglik 12* they were then taken to the Haydarpasa Numune Hospital and their state of health is good now. Search operation has still been conducted.

**HAMMURABI (Kuwait)**

London, Apr 24 — C.c. *Hammurabi* arrived Jeddah Apr 18 and sailed Apr 19.

**HANSA LUBECK (Netherlands)**

London, Apr 22 — Following received from Corsen MRCC, timed 1045, UTC: General cargo *Hansa Lubeck* (2056 gt, built 1999) had engine problems in lat 48 34N, long 05 42W at 2202, UTC, yesterday. Vessel proceeded to Brest for repairs.

London, Apr 25 — Following received from the managers of general cargo *Hansa Lubeck*, dated today: *Hansa Lubeck* is currently effecting repairs at Brest and is expected to sail tomorrow on completion of same. Vessel is on voyage from Gijon to Duisburg with a cargo of coke.

Brest, Apr 26 — Repairs to general cargo *Hansa Lubeck* are due to be completed tomorrow and the vessel should resume its voyage tomorrow evening at the earliest. — Lloyd's Agents.

**HEAVEN STAR**

Manila, Apr 27 — The owner of passenger vessel *Heaven Star* reported the vessel sustained minor damage at the sundeck and has resumed to her normal trading operations. — Lloyd's Agents.

**HELSINKI (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Apr 25 — On Apr 24 tugs *Hemiksem* and *Multratug 12* towed general cargo *Helsinki* (2810 gt, built 1997) from Ghent to Terneuzen as a "dead ship." The ship was further towed to Antwerp by tugs *Multraship 9* and *Multratug 12*. (Note — *Helsinki* arrived Hansweert Nov 25 left 1020, Apr 20 arrived Ghent 1839 same day, left 0823, Apr 24 and arrived Antwerp 2246 same day.)

London, Apr 25 — Following received from the owners of general cargo *Helsinki*, dated today: *Helsinki* was towed to Antwerp due to a leaking stern seal. Vessel had been at Hansweert for ballast tank work.

**HSIN TSAN NO.2 (Belize)**

Guayaquil, Apr 20 — According to the master of fishing *Hsin Tsan No.2*, Capt Tsai Tai Pao, the vessel was in lat 05 34N, long 83 17W, when the fire started in the machinery-room at 0430, Ecuador time, Apr 15. The vessel had sailed from Puntarenas, Costa Rica, for Manta on Apr 13. The vessel sank, according to his declaration, very quickly near where the fire started. — Lloyd's Agents.

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**HYUNDAI FORTUNE (Panama)**

London, Apr 24 — A SvitzerWijmsmuller Salvage BV report, dated Apr 21, states: After a well planned and quickly executed discharge of over 2,249 containers from c.c. *Hyundai Fortune*, not including the relocation moves of containers, the casualty was moved out of port Apr 19. At Salalah anchorage the convoy was prepared for onwards towing to a next destination; a more safe location considering the oncoming SW-monsoon which might interfere with further handling of the casualty in its present condition. The convoy departed Salalah anchorage at approximately 0945, this morning, heading out of Omani territorial waters where after the convoy will head further in a north-easterly to east-north-easterly direction. The convoy consists of the main towing tug and a standby fire fighting tug while a SvitzerWijmsmuller Salvage tow master and a salvage team remain in control over the situation. Salvage and fire fighting equipment remains on standby on board of both the casualty and the two tugs.

London, Apr 27 — Some of the undamaged containers from c.c. *Hyundai Fortune* are now on their way to Europe. Two vessels operated by the New World Alliance have called in Salalah, to pick up cargo that was bound for Europe at the time of the accident. A third vessel will load later this week and a fourth ship will collect the remainder of the intact containers just after the weekend, Hyundai Merchant Marine said. The line is unable to say at this stage how many of the containers escaped the inferno that burned out much of the stern section of the vessel, but a large majority of boxes are being repatriated to Europe.

**IRAN MADANI (Iran)**

See *Haci Ibrahim*.

**IVS HUNTER (Panama)**

London, Apr 27 — Bulk *IVS Hunter* sailed New Orleans Apr 18.

**JADRANKA (Croatia)**

Rijeka, Apr 27 — Informed by Punat shipyard that ferry *Jadranka* is still under repair. — Lloyd's Agents.

**JAMBO (Netherlands)**

London, Apr 20 — The Dutch non specific tanker *Jambo*, owned by Petroplus Shipping B.V., Rotterdam, in ballast in the Maas-Waal canal yesterday evening, ran over a German motor yacht, off Heumen, which sank immediately. The skipper of the tanker did not realise what had happened, but was warned by two colleagues and did moor a little further on. The motor yacht, which had been bought by a German shortly before on Tuesday, was on her way to Germany. There were two men on board. The fire brigade, river police, a diving team from the fire brigade and a helicopter commenced a search for the missing persons. After two hours

the first person was found in the water, followed by the second a quarter of an hour later. The yacht was pulled on the canal bank and later transported to the town of Weurt for a technical investigation. The skipper was interviewed by the police and an alcohol test was done, but he had not been drinking. At 0300 hrs today, the shipping traffic was allowed to pass. Today the technical investigation will be held by a special team.

**JONRIX (U.K.)**

London, Apr 25 — Understand that general cargo *Jonrix* (1987 gt, built 1977), which arrived at Rotterdam on Apr 21, has sustained an engine problem and will remain in the port for about 10 days.

**KIM JACOB (Liberia)**

Lisbon, Apr 27 — Crude oil tanker *Kim Jacob* is still undergo repairs at Lisnave Mitrena yard, Setubal, with its ETD set for May 10. — Lloyd's Agents.

**LAURYN G (Australia)**

London, Apr 23 — A search for the skipper of sunken fishing *Lauryn G*, 15.88 metres, built 1976, has been hampered by rough weather off Queensland's Sunshine Coast. Two helicopters are committed to scouring the area where the trawler sank about 70km north-east of Noosa about 0500, yesterday, police said. But the search is limited to air because of rough seas. A second trawler rescued the man's two Sunshine Coast deckhands. The 35-year-old man and 16-year-old youth, on his first day at sea, managed to set off a flare at 0550, AEST. Police have not officially released the name of the missing man, but he is believed to be father-of-two Ross Irwin, of Nambour. Trawler co-owner Iain Nye told News Limited that Mr Irwin, had been calling for help with a snared fishing net when he believes the accident happened.

**LINDA MARIJKE (Netherlands)**

See *Toyvo Vyakhya*.

**LNG ABUJA (Bahamas)**

Piraeus, Apr 25 — Lng *LNG Abuja* (93619 gt, built 1980) is being escorted to Cadiz by tug *Fotiy Krylov* with propeller and tailshaft problems. Vessel has already discharged its cargo at Huelva and is presently anchored off Cadiz carrying out gas-freeing. The *Fotiy Krylov* is currently at Cadiz anchorage waiting to escort the *LNG Abuja* into Cadiz for docking. — Tsavliris Salvage (International) Ltd. (Note — *LNG Abuja* usually operates between Bonny and Montoir. The last reported LMIU AIS position was lat 27 06 30.44N, long 14 50 59.32W, at 0310, UTC, Apr 16, course 045 deg, speed 8.4 knots.)

London, Apr 25 — Understand Lng *LNG Abuja* picked up a mooring rope in its propeller while leaving Bonny Apr 2 which caused overheating of tailshaft and stern tube. Once vessel is gas-free it will be examined in dry dock at Cadiz.

**LNG EDO (Bahamas)**

Ferrol, Apr 26 — Lng *LNG Edo*: A new main gearbox is expected to arrive from the US during the first week of May, and repairs are expected to be completed at the end of June or the beginning of July. — Lloyd's Agents.

**LONG HAI (Panama)**

Colombo, Apr 21 — Bulk *Long Hai* has been brought in by a Tsavliris tug and is lying 10km from Colombo. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Apr 21.)

Colombo, Apr 25 — Bulk *Long Hai* is still lying outside (of Colombo, with the tug engaged, awaiting further instructions from the owners. — Lloyd's Agents.

**LOWLANDS MAINE (Panama)**

London, Apr 26 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1701, UTC: Bulk *Lowlands Maine* (40039 gt, built 2005), Dunkirk for Trombetas in ballast, was reported grounded on the Varne Bank, in lat 50 58N, long 01 19.8E, at 1605, UTC. The vessel is currently shifting ballast to try and refloat itself.

London, Apr 26 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1844, UTC: Bulk *Lowlands Maine* refloated at 1826, UTC, and is now under way, escorted by tug *Anglian Monarch*. The vessel intends to clear the south-west lane and proceed to a safe anchorage, until given clearance to resume its voyage.

London, Apr 26 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 2024, UTC: Bulk *Lowlands Maine* anchored in a safe anchorage at 1947, UTC, with tug *Anglian Monarch* standing by. The vessel is to be boarded by a Maritime & Coastguard Agency surveyor and Marine Accident Investigation Branch inspectors before being given clearance to proceed.

London, Apr 27 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 0857, UTC: Bulk *Lowlands Maine* made passage to Portland Harbour and anchored approximately 212 degrees true from St Albans Head at 0827, UTC. Pilot due to board vessel at 0930, UTC. Will berth at M5, inner harbour, Portland. Due to be inspected by U.M.C. International Commercial Diving.

**LTC JOHN U.D.PAGE (U.S.A.)**

Cape Town, Apr 21 — C.c. *LTC John U.D.Page*: Port authorities have this hour (about 0500, UTC) confirmed that vessel is presently leaving port to resume its voyage — Lloyd's Agents.

**MACARENA B (Canary Islands)**

London, Apr 25 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1120, UTC: C.c. *Macarena B* (6619 gt, built 1982), inbound Las Palmas, with pilot on board, and ref *Astra* (4444 gt, built 1990), outbound Las Palmas, cargo 500 tonnes fish, were in collision approximately two miles from Las Palmas at 0040, UTC, today. *Astra* sustained port bow damage and

*Macarena B* was holed approximately 2.5 metres by 2.2 metres in No.5 hold with subsequent water ingress. Repairs to *Macarena B* being carried out by divers. Both vessels are now in Las Palmas port. There were no injuries.

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated today, states: C.c. *Macarena B* is berthed at Muelle de Cambulloneros and is being assisted by tug *Boluda Mistral*. Ref *Astra* has been transferred to the wharf of Astilleros Canarias SA to be repaired.

**MAERSK DRESDEN (Germany)**

London, Apr 25 — C.c. *Maersk Dresden* arrived Tokyo in tow Apr 23.

**MAJESTIC (Panama)**

Belfast, Apr 21 — Bulk *Majestic* (24942 gt, built 1985) anchored at Moville Anchorage, Londonderry at 0400, Monday, (Apr 17). Vessel was unable to proceed due to engine problems. Anchor was heaved at around 1100, yesterday (Apr 20). Repairs have been completed and pilot is arranged to board the vessel at 1300, today, in order to proceed to the berth. Berthing is expected around 1430, today. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Majestic* sailed Richards Bay Mar 26.)

Belfast, Apr 21 — Bulk *Majestic* berthed at Londonderry at 1620 today. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MAL JACK (Bahamas)**

Freeport, Bahamas, Apr 24 — General cargo *Mal Jack* was sold to a Mr Murillo of Honduras and departed Freeport under its own power, bound for Roatan, Apr 15. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Mal Jack* broke free of mooring at Andros Island and grounded in Hatchet Bay Apr 27, 2001.)

**MARGARA (Cayman Islands)**

London, Apr 27 — Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, PR, timed 1100, UTC: Product tanker *Margara* (40705 gt, built 1999), Cartagena, Col, for Tallaboa, PR, cargo approximately 308,000 barrel No.6 oil, ran aground in lat 17 57.7N, long 66 43.6W, at 0515, UTC, today. Vessel is still aground. Damage, if any, not known at the moment.

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A tanker filled with more than 308,000 barrels of crude oil ran aground in Puerto Rico early today, Coast Guard officials said. There were no immediate reports of injuries or leaks. The Coast Guard received a call around 0115 hrs, that product tanker *Margara* ran aground about three miles south of Tallaboa, Puerto Rico, said Petty Officer James Judge. It was on its way to Puerto Rico from Cartagena, Columbia. Investigators planned to inspect the vessel for damage, Judge said.

**MARIAM III (Panama)**

Mogadishu, Apr 21 — General cargo *Mariam III* (2477 gt, built 1970) had a fire onboard at El Ade area, East of

Mogadishu, Somalia, on Apr 13. The shore personal and crew of vessel tried their utmost to control the fire but in vain and the vessel is now in state of total loss. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MARINA S. (DIS)**

Gothenburg, Apr 25 — At 0530 hrs, this morning, information came into MRCC that a collision occurred outside Gotland, in lat 57 49.6N, long 17 19.6E, between general cargo *Tinto* (1191 gt, built 1977) and general cargo *Marina S.* (494 gt, built 1970). *Marina S.* sank immediately and the crew of four persons were rescued and picked up on board *Tinto*. Coast Guard No.(Y) 304 (large patrol craft *Thuro*) in area and rescue vessel *Burre* on its way to the place, to assist. Coast Guard reporting two bigger environmental vessels on their way to Gotland to assist and to "secure the area," as far as possible. The intentions right now seems to be that *Tinto* to proceed towards berth at Vastervik alt Oxelosund, where originally bound. No further information of how the incident occurred or the circumstances. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Apr 25 — General cargo *Marina S.* and general cargo *Tinto*: The MRCC confirms many vessels around the place of accident, and responded to our calls for assistance says MRCC - but the visibility extremely poor and dense fog. One should avoid too crowded a situation at present due to the visibility so that no additional incidents occur. General cargo *Tinto*, in ballast, had recently left the port of Oxelosund and the other on its way to the same port. A surveillance aircraft to take off from Sturup (Malmo) to see the situation in a greater perspective and will report accordingly. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Marina S.* and general cargo *Tinto* collided early this morning between Vestervik and Gotland. *Marina S.* sank but the crew of four was rescued, according to the Maritime Search and Rescue Service in Gothenburg. The four-man crew of *Marina S.* was forced to abandon ship but all the men were plucked out of the water by the *Tinto*. They were not injured. The Swedish coast guard is at the scene, and an two environmental protection ships are now on their way, one from Gotland and one from Kalmar. They are expected to arrive later this morning. The cause of the collision is still unknown. Coastguard officers at the scene are reporting that the area is cloaked in thick fog and that there is oil visible on the water's surface. But it is unclear if a large amount of oil was released into the water as the ships collided. *Marina S.* had no cargo and it is not yet known how much fuel was onboard. A plane is heading to the area from Sturup airport in Skane and will be able to provide a fuller picture of the extent of any oil spill.

London, Apr 25 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC,

timed 0835, UTC: General cargo *Marina S.* and general cargo *Tinto* were reported at 0530, local time, to have been in collision in lat 57 49.6N, long 17 19.6E. Both vessel were in ballast. *Marina S.* sank and its four crewmembers were rescued by *Tinto*. *Tinto* is now in port at Vestervik.

Stockholm, Apr 25 — General cargo *Marina S.* collided with general cargo *Tinto* early this morning. The Coastguard was called at 0530 hrs and the collision took place in lat 57 49.6N, long 17 19.6E. There was heavy fog at the time. *Marina S.* sank immediately after the collision and the four persons on board were rescued by *Tinto*. *Tinto* is docking at Vastervik where police are awaiting to board the vessel. Neither vessel was loaded with cargo. *Marina S.* was on passage from Vastervik to Szczecin for orders/cargo and *Tinto* was proceeding to Oxelosund. — Lloyd's Agents.

Gothenburg, Apr 25 — General cargo *Marina S.*, which sank following a collision with general cargo *Tinto*, had about 20 cubic metres of diesel/bunker oil on board, which will need to be removed. The vessel is lying in approximately 80-90 metres of water, and two ROV submarine robots will be deployed for closer control and investigation. Small spots are visible on the surface and some slight leakage from the vessel's tanks but nothing serious as yet. The Coast Guard are present with some surface units and environmental vessels. The incident has been reported to the police and a lawyer appointed as investigator. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Apr 26 — General cargo *Marina S.* sustained severe damage and was almost "cut in two" by general cargo *Tinto* and sank in only a few minutes. After the collision, the master of *Tinto* asked for permission to proceed to Oxelosund where heading for, but was asked to proceed to Vestervik, the nearest port for examination, and where the matter could be investigated by the official Average Commission. *Tinto* sustain dents in bow and bulb, however nothing serious but requiring repair later. According to JonssonBolagen, who manage the vessel, the vessel will depart Vestervik tonight for planned loading of steel at Oxelosund. The bow damage does not require repair at the moment and confirmed accepted to be dealt with at next planned yard visit for maintenance. — Westax Marine Services AB.

**MARITSA N. PATERAS (Cyprus)**

Balboa, Apr 23 — Bulk *Maritsa N. Pateras* (40483 gt, built 1996) ex *Hebei Prince*, lost its engines in Miraflores Locks, morning, Apr 21. Vessel had to be turned around and taken back to Balboa anchorage. — Lloyd's Agents.

Balboa, Apr 26 — Bulk *Maritsa N. Pateras*: Not aware any repairs and canal records indicate vessel has already proceeded northbound through canal. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

**MELEK N.  
(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Ponta Delgada, Apr 20 — General cargo *Melek N.* is still berthed alongside the quay inner the Port of Ponta Delgada waiting for the arrival of a new rudder blade, which is expected to arrive Ponta Delgada during the next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ponta Delgada, Apr 24 — General cargo *Melek N.* is still berthed alongside the quay inner at Ponta Delgada. The new rudder blade arrived at Ponta Delgada today, and three technicians have arrived from Turkey to carry out the repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ponta Delgada, Apr 26 — General cargo *Melek N.* repairs completed and rudder blade already assembled today. The vessel is now waiting for owners instructions to proceed from this port. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MIRABELLE (Malta)**

London, Apr 25 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0920, UTC: General cargo *Mirabelle* (3120 gt, built 1985), Cyprus for Black Sea, in ballast, was reported not under command 85 nautical miles north-east of Rhodes. Vessel has been taken in tow by tug *Aegeon Pelagos* for Piraeus. Vessel is now anchored near Kos Island until weather improves.

London, Apr 26 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0835, UTC: As far as we are aware general cargo *Mirabelle*, in tow by tug *Aegeon Pelagos*, is still anchored south of Kos Island awaiting for the weather to improve.

London, Apr 27 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0945, UTC: General cargo *Mirabelle*, in tow of tug *Aegeon Pelagos*, is now proceeding to Piraeus roads where due this evening.

**MRINAL (Liberia)**

London, Apr 25 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 1107, UTC: Bulk *Mrinal* (22773 gt, built 1980) arrived Singapore Eastern Anchorage at 1600, local time, today in tow. (Note — *Mrinal* sailed Hong Kong 0815, Apr 7 for Singapore.)

**NAPOCOR TUGBOAT NO.1**

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

**NEDLLOYD DE LIEFDE (Liberia)**

Balboa, Apr 24 — C.c. *Nedlloyd De Liefde* remains berthed Cristobal, undergoing repairs following engine-room fire, and understand completion expected towards end of this month. — Lloyd's Agents.

**NEERMOOR (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Apr 27 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 0726, UTC: Teignmouth Harbour Authority reported an incident on board general cargo *Neermoor* (1589 gt, built 1993) where a moveable bulkhead had shifted and

crushed a crew member in lat 50 31.49N, long 03 28.12W. Police officers transferred to vessel along with pilot and vessel now docked in Teignmouth. Crew member believed to be deceased.

**NEKRASOV (Russia)**

Edinburgh, Apr 23 — Tug *Nekrasov* sank on the River Yenisey near the port of Dudinka in Siberia, Russia, today. Official reports link the incident to bad weather. The pusher-tug was not pushing any barges at the time of the incident. — Danube Research.

**NEW DELHI EXPRESS  
(Hong Kong)**

London, Apr 20 — A press report, dated today, states: C.c. *New Delhi Express* will proceed to Bayonne dry docks after discharging its cargo at Brooklyn.

London, Apr 25 — An APL service status report, dated Apr 24, states: C.c. *New Delhi Express*, in the IAX service (India America Express), ran aground on Apr 16 in the approaches to Port Newark, New Jersey. The vessel was promptly refloated but did sustain damage that will require repair. The vessel will be drydocked in the New York area for repairs before continuing on her current voyage. Although *New Delhi Express* is operated and crewed by a third party, APL is actively involved and is working closely with the ship's owners on service recovery efforts. Here is an update based on information currently available to APL: The ship, its crew and its cargo are not in danger, and the repairs are expected to be straightforward. The vessel was able to discharge New York/New Jersey destined cargo. Some additional transshipment cargo has been discharged to permit drydocking of the ship. There is no sign of any cargo damage, and all reefers continue to operate normally. There were no leaks or spills from the ship, and there is at present no increased risk of any vessel-caused pollution as a result of this incident. Owners have advised that they are considering the option of declaring general average as a result of this grounding. It is therefore possible that cargo onboard the vessel will be subject to general average liens. We understand, however, that there will be no salvage claims or liens in connection with this grounding.

**NICOBAR (India)**

Kolkata, Apr 21 — The major repair work to passenger *Nicobar* has been completed. The vessel is still berthed at Kolkata Port for some minor repairing and checking. *Nicobar* is expected to sail from Kolkata Port on Apr 28 and will proceed to Visakhapatnam for annual passenger survey and inspection. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

Liepaja, Apr 21 — General cargo *Nina 1* is still under repair at berth

No 21, Tosmare Shipyard, Liepaja. The repairs are expected to be completed at the end of next week. Understand from the vessel's master that following repairs, the vessel will load a cargo of steel products at Liepaja and will then sail for Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**NOREN (Sweden)**

Gothenburg, Apr 25 — General cargo *Noren* left Landskrona yard at 1200 today following bow repairs. — Westax Marine Services AB.

**NORTRANS (NIS)**

Trondheim, Apr 24 — Fosen Gjenvinning inform they have not yet commenced scrapping fishing *Nortrans*. — Lloyd's Agents.

**OCEAN JEWEL OF  
ST. PETERSBURG  
(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Miami, Apr 26 — Understand passenger *Ocean Jewel of St. Petersburg* is in dry dock at Santo Domingo. — Lloyd's Agents.

**OCEAN PEACE (South Korea)**

See "Australia" under "Port State Control".

**OLYMPIA (North Korea)**

See "Cyprus" under "Port State Control".

**P&O NEDLLOYD MONDRIAAN  
(Liberia)**

London, Apr 23 — A SvitserWijismuller Salvage report, dated today, states: C.c. *P&O Nedlloyd Mondriaan*: SvitserWijismuller Salvage Apr 21, completed operations to recover 40 container targets spread over an area of 2.5 by five nautical miles from water depths upto 20-25 metres. On top of that three further targets, reported by fishermen in the meantime, were cleared while a number of side-scan-sonar survey runs were made off the surf zone of Terschelling to try and locate further targets in view of the oncoming bathing season. The targets were located partly in the east-going main shipping route off the islands north of The Netherlands as well as the inshore traffic routes and fishing area's. This made close co-ordination with the local coastguard station and the coastguard headquarters a necessity. The operations were started, using remote controlled lifting gear, on Mar 14 and completed in 39 days, of which 13 days were unworkable due to weather (sea and swell conditions). This thus leaves 26 working days. The operations were completed to the full satisfaction of the owners/underwriters of the vessel, the Dutch Coastguard and the Ministry of Transport and Public Works. (See issue of Mar 20.)

**PANAGIOTIS D. (Malta)**

London, Apr 22 — Following a report received today, states: Bulk *Panagiotis D.* (35890 gt, built 1991) bound for Santander went aground in



lat 52 08.9N, long 004 06.4E about six miles from Scheveningen today at 1639, UTC. The vessel refloated at 1813, UTC and sailed to anchorage 5 near the port of Hook of Holland awaiting a class inspection.

London, Apr 24 — Bulk *Panagiotis D.*: According to LMIU AIS, vessel was located in lat 50 52 41.1N, long 01 04 56.16E, at 0617, UTC, today, course 228 deg, speed 13.9 knots.

#### **PANDION (Sweden)**

Gothenburg, Apr 25 — Asphalt tanker *Pandion* left Tallinn shipyard Apr 24 for Porvoo following repairs. Heating facility now in order and vessel has been emptied of previous remains of 2,300 tons of bitumin as well. — Westax Marine Services AB.

#### **PO (Belgium)**

London, Apr 20 — Belgium pusher tug *Po*, European No.23.27447, with two pushbarges loaded with coal, coming from Terneuzen and via the River Scheldt entering the outer harbour of Hansweert, ran on the breakwater, at 0530, local time, today. The cause of the accident is not known yet, but there is a strong tide running along the breakwaters. One of the pushbarges, loaded with 2,700 tons of coal sustained a leak. Local salvage tugs *Charlie* and *Bravo*, of Polderman, came to assist, and by placing pumps and pushing hit against the shore, they prevented the barge from sinking. Inland cargo vessel *Geertruida* was chartered to discharge part of the cargo of coal into its own hold with a crane. At the moment the salvors are still working on the pushbarge, discharging it and putting a temporary patch over the hole in the barge.

#### **POINTE DU CORMORAN (Malta)**

London, Apr 26 — Chem.tank *Pointe du Cormoran* sailed Corunna Apr 4 for Ferrol.

#### **POLARBORG I (Uruguay)**

London, Apr 20 — Following navigation warning issued Apr 19: Trawler *Polarborg II* towing trawler *Polarborg I* (351 gt, built 1975) in lat 47 34S, long 63 22W, line length 600 metres, speed four knots, course 001, bound San Antonio (? San Antonio Este) port.

#### **PREMSHIP X (Philippines)**

Manila, Apr 26 — The wreck of general cargo *Premship X* is still blocking part of the busy Mactan Channel in central Philippines, the Philippine Coast Guard, Cebu District Command said. Cebu District Command chief Commander Lito Malic-on said that Premiere Shipping Lines, owner of the *Premship X*, had requested more time to remove the wreck. Premiere Shipping Lines indicated that it could not remove the *Premship X* until its insurance company released funds. P&I coverage for the vessel is provided by Trinity Insurance. Trinity Insurance, on the other hand, has indicated that it would only free the insurance

proceeds after the findings of the Board of Marine Inquiry investigating the collision between the *Premship X* and general cargo *Mijara II* is released. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **PROMARSA II (Argentina)**

London, Apr 24 — Following notice to mariners issued Apr 23: Fishing *Cabo Virgenes* towing fishing *Promarsa II* (516 gt, built 1980) in lat 47 00S, long 64 02W, line length 600 metres, speed 6 knots, course 000, bound for Puerto Madryn.

#### **QUEEN OF THE NORTH (Canada)**

London, Apr 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Federal investigators say they need another look at the wreck of the sunken passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North* and will spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to send a remote submarine to the depths of Wright Sound. The Transportation Safety Board has solicited bids for "a suitably equipped work-class Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) and surface support ship." The estimated value of the contract is stated to be between \$250,001 and \$500,000. Board spokesman John Cottreau said the dive will focus on the bridge and wheelhouse area of the ship. Mr. Cottreau said it's hoped the electronic chart display, which would allow the board to make definite statements about the course and speed of the vessel, can be recovered. He said, weather permitting, the board hopes to have the dive operation underway by May 4. Ferry service on B.C. Ferries' northern route was only restored Wednesday when the *Queen of Prince Rupert* returned to active service from an accelerated refit. Shortly after dawn yesterday the ship stopped for a brief ceremony at a spot about 400 metres directly above its sunken sister ship.

#### **RAJIV GANDHI (India)**

London, Apr 22 — A press report, dated today, states: C.c. *Rajiv Gandhi* (21963 gt, built 1994) was in collision with 450 ton Indian Navy Missile Corvette *INS Prahar* which sank after the collision with the container vessel about 35 km west of Mormugao at 2145, yesterday, said a defence ministry release. All 73 crew members were rescued. Following the collision, the *INS Prahar* sank just after midnight. The damage to *Rajiv Gandhi*, currently anchored off Mormugao, has been minimal. Six naval, two Coast Guard ships, passing merchant vessels, one Dornier aircraft and two helicopters of the navy had been deployed for the search and rescue operation in the area. The rescued crew was evacuated to Mormugao. The cause of the incident is yet to be ascertained. A board of inquiry has been ordered to investigate into the incident.

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The head-on collision between Indian naval ship *Prahar* and c.c. *Rajiv Gandhi* off the Goa coast on Friday night was caused

by a navigational error by the Defence ship, according to Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) sources. *Prahar* sank in the incident. "The naval ship swerved to its port side when it came face to face with the container vessel at the time of the accident," highly-placed SCI officials, requesting anonymity, said. "We don't understand why the naval ship turned to port side. Since our ship was also turning to starboard side as per rules, it could not avoid the collision," they added. The naval officials thought that they would quickly manoeuvre their ship as it was comparatively smaller than the container ship. "But it was a dangerous mistake, because the naval ships turned in the same direction in which the container vessel had turned to avoid impact." The sources said "our ship sustained damage to its bow and had to be sent for repairs. Yesterday afternoon it sailed for Colombo on its scheduled journey." They said the container vessel was perfectly sea-worthy. The Indian Navy, on the other hand, has neither confirmed nor denied the SCI's claim. "It is too premature to say anything at this stage, because a board of inquiry is in progress at Goa," naval spokesperson Commander Abhay Lambhate said. He said the Navy would be in a position to make a comment after three to four days. Meanwhile, Directorate General of Shipping is also conducting a parallel inquiry into the incident. "We have ordered an inquiry into the incident and it would be conducted by the Mercantile Marine Department to ascertain the cause of the collision and damage to property," Deputy Director General of Shipping and Nautical Surveyor Captain R K Awasthi stated. *Prahar* was returning to Mumbai after a routine exercise when the incident took place. The SCI's ship was on its way from Jawaharlal Nehru port, Mumbai, to Colombo.

#### **REY DE COLIMAN (Mexico)**

London, Apr 20 — Tug *Rey de Coliman*: Understood Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contract was signed with Titan Maritime on Apr 8 in respect of the vessel's grounding off Manzanillo Mar 31.

#### **RHEIN (Bahamas)**

London, Apr 25 — General cargo *Rhein* (26948 gt, built 1979) experienced engine trouble in lat 49 13 59N, long 68 07 59W, at 1200, EDST, Apr 23, while departing from Baie Comeau.

Montreal, Apr 25 — General cargo *Rhein* was only delayed for three hours, and sailed Baie Comeau Apr 23 for its scheduled destination. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SAN CHI 12 (Taiwan)**

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing *San Chi 12* grounded itself on the Port Lock Reef in international waters about 80 nautical miles East of Yorke Island about 1720, AEST, yesterday. A search

for the 35 metre registered vessel was launched after Taipei authorities notified the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). A spokeswoman for AMSA today said a distress relay broadcast was sent to all shipping in the area to seek support from surface vessels that could assist the stranded vessel. A defence patrol boat and other small merchant ships in the area were available to assist, but were some hours away from *San Chi 12*. "Throughout the night three fixed-wing aircraft remained in the area to provide observation and communications with the crew on board until first light," the spokeswoman said. The crew spent the night on the deck and no one was injured. Two rescue helicopters airlifted the fishermen to Yorke Island about 0730, AEST, today. A spokesman for the Department of Immigration said the vessel was not illegally fishing and the crew were "distressed seafarers". "DIMA will ensure their health and wellbeing is taken care of while we further investigate the circumstances of this situation," he said. It was understood the group would be moved to Thursday Island later today.

London, Apr 27 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0715, UTC: Fishing *San Chi 12* is still aground in lat 09 35S, long 144 48E. All 16 crew are now at Thursday island. Vessel went aground at high water and has taken on some water.

**SANDY CAPE (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**  
See *Haci Ibrahim*.

**SANTA MONICA (U.K.)**  
London, Apr 21 — C.c. *Santa Monica* arrived Oakland Apr 19.  
London, Apr 22 — C.c. *Santa Monica* sailed Oakland Apr 20.

**SEA KESTREL (Cayman Islands)**  
London, Apr 25 — General cargo *Sea Kestrel* sailed Newport Apr 21.

**SEREEEN (Netherlands)**  
London, Apr 25 — Following received from Corssen MRCC, timed 1050, UTC: General cargo *Sereen*, PFCE, (2973 gt, built 1974) reported cylinder head problems at 0927, UTC, yesterday. Vessel subsequently arrived Brest at 2105, UTC, yesterday for repairs. (Note — *Sereen* sailed Dordrecht 1930, Apr 22 for Corunna.)  
London, Apr 26 — According to LMIU AIS general cargo *Sereen* was still moored at Brest at 0934, UTC, today.

Brest, Apr 26 — Repairs to general cargo *Sereen* are now "quite" completed which should allow the vessel to resume its voyage this evening. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SUPER SHUTTLE FERRY 7 (Philippines)**  
Manila, Apr 26 — Passenger ro/ro *Super Shuttle Ferry 7* has resumed normal operations between Cebu,

Ormoc and Camiguin island in central Philippines. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**SUPERFERRY 9 (Philippines)**  
Manila, Apr 26 — Ro/ro *Superferry 9* (7269 gt, built 1986) encountered engine problems yesterday morning between Bacolod and Manila, the Philippine Coast Guard reported today. According to the Coast Guard, the vessel with 1,577 passengers, stopped near Pulanduta Point after its engine failed because of a cracked cylinder head. After several hours of delay, the crew replaced the damaged cylinder head and the vessel was able to resume its voyage. At around 1400 hrs, the engine crew noticed a leakage in the newly replaced cylinder head. This prompted the chief engineer to stop the vessel's engine. The vessel was stranded for a second time. It took five hours for the engine crew to fix the leak and the voyage was resumed at 1925 hrs. The vessel arrived Manila under its own power at around 0500 today and all 1,577 passengers were disembarked safely, Aboitiz Transport System, Inc. reported. Aboitiz Transport System is the owner and operator of *Superferry 9*. Aboitiz Transport spokesperson John Rojo said that a technical inspection of the ship's engine by Aboitiz engineers determined that onboard replacement and repairs on the engine's cylinder head where done in accordance to standards. "The crew did a good job of fixing the problem and the engine is now back to working order," Mr. Rojo said. He said that the vessel will be departing as scheduled this evening for Bacolod. Asked if the vessel was cleared by the Coast Guard to sail, he said that this was unnecessary since what occurred was a technical problem and not a marine accident. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**TINTO (Sweden)**  
See *Marina S.*

**TOPPY 4 (Japan)**  
Yokohama, Apr 25 — Hydrofoil *Toppy 4* is still under investigation by the Japan Coast Guard at a dockyard in the port of Kagoshima. Denting damage, the size of 190cm x 30cm x 6cm, is observed on the starboard side bottom portion of the vessel's shell plate and a hydrofoil fitted on the rear portion to have been broken. No other detailed schedule regarding repairs has not been fixed. — Lloyd's Agents.

**TOYVO VYAKHYA (Russia)**  
London, Apr 25 — While general cargo *Toyvo Vyakhya* (2466 gt, built 1985), inbound to Delfzijl with 3,000 tonnes cattle feed, was mooring at the Wynne & Barends Terminal, Delfzijl, it came into contact with general cargo *Linda Marijke* (1359 gt, built 1992) at 1130, local time, Apr 23. *Linda Marijke* sustained bow damage. *Toyvo Vyakhya* only sustained paint scratches on the bow. A River Police investigation found that the master of

*Toyvo Vyakhya* had been drinking. He was found to have a blood alcohol level of 760 ug/l, which is three times the permitted level and was prohibited from sailing his vessel for seven hours and fined Euros 1,000.

**TSUGARU MARU (Japan)**  
Yokohama, Apr 25 — General cargo *Eastern Challenger* is still lying sunk in a depth of about 350 metres and there are no plans to salvage it at present. General cargo *Tsugaru Maru* reportedly arrived at the port of Yokosuka under its own power on Apr 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

**TUFFY**  
Grenada, Apr 25 — Yacht *Tuffy*, length 140 feet, grounded at Lance Aux Pines, St. George's, Apr 21. A tug is being sourced from Trinidad to assist. — Lloyd's Agents.

**TUGEN (Luxembourg)**  
London, Apr 26 — As at Apr 25 product tanker *Tugen* was at the Elgin Brown & Hamer repair quay.  
Durban, Apr 26 — According to local agents of product tanker *Tugen*, she is still undergoing repairs and is not expected to sail shortly. — Lloyd's Agents.

**VENUS SCAN (Bahamas)**  
Las Palmas, Apr 26 — General cargo *Venus Scan* (2,854 gt, built 1990) arrived Las Palmas from Luanda Apr 19 and it was berthed alongside the quay of Astican Shipyard for three days, leaving Apr 22 for Ambarli. The damage was two electric motors for the main engine starting blowers — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Venus Scan*, according to LMIU AIS in lat 36 14 19.85N, long 3 20 53.42W at 1020, Apr 26.)

**WESERSTERN (Isle of Man)**  
London, Apr 25 — Chemical/oil carrier *Weserstern* sailed Gdansk 23 Apr for Copenhagen.

**YONG SHENG NO.1 (Belize)**  
London, Apr 25 — General cargo *Yong Sheng No.1* sailed Nagoya Apr 21 for Busan.

**ZAMORANO PRIMEIRO (Spain)**  
Ponta Delgada, Apr 24 — Fishing *Zamorano Primeiro* (153 gt, built 1967) had a fire in the engine-room at about 0300, local time, today and is adrift about 185 miles north-west of Corvo Island. One crew member was reported missing after he fell into the sea and two injured crew members are now being rescued from the vessel by a Portuguese Air Force helicopter and taken to Terceira Hospital. Tug *Ilha de Sao Luis* is now proceeding to the scene to tow the vessel to Horta. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ponta Delgada, Apr 25 — Two Spanish fishing vessels *Pachilan* and *Ancristo* are now proceeding to the casualty area in order to assist and tow fishing *Zamorano Primeiro* to a safe port, possibly Horta, for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

## Port State Control



### ARAL WIND (Marshall Islands)

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The US Coast Guard has expelled product tanker *Aral Wind* (10948 gt, built 1988) from Port Canaveral, after Coast Guard marine inspectors found the vessel in violation of many serious safety standards. The Coast Guard said the vessel was preparing to unload its cargo at the South Cargo Piers Tanker Berth 1 when its inspectors met the vessel, to conduct a routine certificate of compliance boarding. The vessel did not have a valid certificate of compliance and the conditions on the vessel were so unsafe inspectors left the vessel shortly after beginning their inspection. Coast Guard inspectors found that high-level gas alarms in the vessel's cargo hold were disabled. As a result, large amounts of gasoline were leaking out of the vessel's pressure release valve vent risers, which are designed to release gasoline vapours from the cargo tank. Marine inspectors also found the vessel's explosive meters disabled. Explosive meters are designed to detect explosive and flammable vapours throughout the vessel. The oil discharge monitoring system of *Aral Wind* was also found disabled. The system monitors and records the amount of cargo discharged during an offload. *Aral Wind* was issued a Captain of the Port order, directing the vessel to leave Port Canaveral and will not be allowed to return to the US until it meets minimum safety and environmental standards. A statement adds that Coast Guard inspectors on board *Aral Wind* encountered levels of benzene exceeding those determined safe and, in accordance with policy, left the vessel.

### AUSTRALIA

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Unionists in Burnie in Tasmania's north-west boarded bulk *Ocean Peace* (15832 gt, built 1985) this morning and delayed its departure, saying the crew are being exploited. The Maritime Union says 16 Filipino workers aboard the Korean vessel are living in appalling conditions and have not been fully paid. The vessel left Burnie just before midday, AEST. Union spokesman Mike Wickham says the International Transport Federation will detain it when it berths in Geelong. "There's no working toilets, half the showers never work [and] there's no hot water in the showers, or in the galley," he said. "Their accommodation arrangements were less than ordinary. They were lacking supplies in terms of some decent fruit, vegetables ... It was just filthy all

through." The ship's agent, Bruce Monson, says none of the crew have complained to him about pay or conditions.

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulk *Ocean Peace* is in virtual lockdown in the Port of Geelong as stevedores and the peak safety regulator label it too dangerous to work on. While owners of the South Korean owned *Ocean Peace* struggled last night to get the ship's cranes up to basic safety standards, the International Transport Federation was investigating the credibility of the vessel's wage, employee and banking records. Stevedores refused to load the ship with lumber at Corio's South Quay One when it was discovered it had no certificates for the ship's cranes. The Maritime Union of Australia first threw the spotlight on the ship when it docked in Tasmania on Monday and inspectors discovered the ship to have no working toilets, no hot water in the galley or showers, and half the showers were inoperable. Although these had been amended, ITF assistant co-ordinator Matt Purcell said there were still major question marks over the ship. "The shipowners allegedly have got an agreement with our affiliates in South Korea, but our affiliates have said they are not aware of the agreement. So there are some things that don't add up at the moment. We haven't got enough to suggest they are in compliance with the agreements," Mr Purcell said. "We will also be asking for evidence of payment to the Filipino crew." He said no work would be undertaken on the ship until a list of safety issues "as long as your arm" and basic paperwork were addressed first. "We're concerned about safety as there were cracks on the ship which the MUA will be checking. Any problems with safety issues could stop the ship," Mr Purcell said. MUA Geelong spokesman Craig Whelan said he had not inspected the ship yet but said there were concerns over "wear and tear" on the vessel. Burnie-based shipping agent Bruce Monson earlier this week told a Tasmanian newspaper there was little wrong with the ship. Mr Monson, of Monson Shipping, said the only problem identified had been dirty washing machines, which were replaced on Sunday.

### CYPRUS

Limassol, Apr 24 — Passenger *Olympia* is still under detention, ETD unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

### INDIA

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Cement *Doha I* (12647 gt, built 1969) from Qatar has been detained at Kandla port as the Marine Mercantile Department, acting on a distress call by the vessel's crew, found that it was "not in a seaworthy condition." The vessel, flying Hundros flag, is owned by a Qatar-based company and was carrying cement. The vessel had come

to Kandla for some repair work early this week and was allowed to anchor at the mooring buoy. The Marine Mercantile Department (MMD), which is under the Directorate General of Shipping, detained the vessel after a distress call from the crew aboard it to an international labour organisation forced the Indian watchdog to look into the matter. The crew was reportedly in an abject state: the 16 members were reported to be sick and had not been paid their wages for two months. According to international maritime convention, the MMD is supposed to check vessels anchored at ports and detain defective vessels. But in this case, even while the vessel was anchored at Kandla, no routine inspection was carried out. The crew made a distress call to London-based International Transport Workers Federation (ITF). Manohar Bellani, ITF representative and general secretary of the Transport and Dock Workers' Union, said, "When ITF's Special Seafarers Department head Yuri Bougaichouk sent me a fax message last Tuesday enclosing a copy of the complaint of all the crew members, I went aboard the vessel to meet the crew. I not only saw the terrible living conditions of the crew, but also found the vessel was in very bad shape. I reported back to London, besides the port authorities, who in turn informed MMD's Kandla representative to do the needful." Captain H K Sible, deputy conservatory and head of the marine department of Kandla Port Trust, said, "We have received a copy of the detention order served on the master of the ship by MMD after inspection by its Kandla-based surveyor and the vessel won't be allowed to leave the port till re-certified as a safe seagoing ship by MMD." Bellani said all 16 crew members had in their joint statement complained about not having received salary for the past two months. He further said they were all suffering from health problems due to the constant inhaling of dust from cement which the vessel was carrying from the Gulf port of Salalah for unloading at the port of Muscat.

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated Apr 26, states: Talks between the Qatari owner of cement *Doha I* and its crew have stalled, with the crew members refusing to leave the vessel till they are paid a bonus as well as full air fare reimbursement. The vessel was detained at Kandla port, where it was anchored for repairs, following a distress call from the Egyptian and Sudanese crew. The owner, who conceded to their earlier demands regarding salary payment, on Monday (Apr 24) told the 16 crew members to vacate his ship by Tuesday evening or face legal action. "It was our international labour union which intervened to help the crew following a distress call from them. But their demand is unreasonable, as the the owner has already agreed to their earlier demands of paying back wages and repatriation," Manohar

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Bellani, International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) representative at Kandla said on Tuesday. "We had a prolonged discussion with the ship owner's representative, who had come from Cairo, and with the ship's Kandla agent in the past two days. When the crew's demands had been met, raising new demands amounted to blackmailing tactics and we have told the crew that we are withdrawing from the talks," Bellani said. He said the crew members could not be convinced by the high official from the port's marine department and the ship's master, adding that they had been fully paid till February and only March and April wages were pending. The total salary bill amounted to \$22,000. As per their contract with the owner, they were not entitled to repatriation money as they were leaving the vessel midway, Bellani said. Though the ship owner's representative agreed to pay half the air fare, from Kandla to Cairo via Mumbai, the crew insisted on full payment. The owner then decided to terminate the crew's services and served notice on them on Monday to either leave the ship by Tuesday evening or face eviction legally.

**LEBANON**

Beirut, Apr 25 — Chem.tank *Albo* was released on April 15, and sailed (from Beirut) for Cartagena. — Lloyd's Agents.

**UNITED STATES**

Houston, Apr 20 — Bulk/c.c. *Arosia* departed Houston Apr 13 for New Orleans. No delays were encountered as a result of the incident. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Apr 21 — A Coast Guard Port Canaveral press release, dated today, states: The U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port expelled product tanker *Aral Wind* (10948 gt, built 1988) from Port Canaveral yesterday afternoon after Coast Guard marine inspectors found the vessel in violation of many serious safety standards. *Aral Wind* that was preparing to unload its cargo at the South Cargo Piers - Tanker Berth 1 when inspectors from Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Port Canaveral met the vessel to conduct a routine certificate of compliance boarding. The vessel did not have a valid certificate of compliance, and the conditions on the ship were so unsafe inspectors left the vessel shortly after beginning their inspection. Coast Guard inspectors found that high-level gas alarms in the vessel's cargo hold were disabled. These sensors warn the crew of the ship if the gas in the cargo hold is expanding above safe levels. As a result, large amounts of gasoline were leaking out of the ship's pressure release valve vent risers, which are designed to release gasoline vapours from the cargo tank. Marine inspectors also found the ship's explosive meters disabled. Explosive meters are designed to detect

explosive and flammable vapors throughout the ship. *Aral Wind's* oil discharge monitoring system was also found disabled. The system monitors and records the amount of cargo discharged during an offload. *Aral Wind* was issued a Captain of the Port order, directing the vessel to leave Port Canaveral just after noon yesterday. The vessel will not be allowed to return to the United States until it meets minimum safety and environmental standards. Coast Guard marine inspectors onboard *Aral Wind* encountered levels of benzene exceeding those determined safe for Coast Guard personnel and in accordance with policy, disembarked the vessel.

London, Apr 24 — Understand Columbia Shipmanagement Ltd, Limassol, Cyprus, have no connection with product tanker *Aral Wind*. They are not owners or managers of the vessel.



**BLUE ANGEL (Belgium)**

London, Apr 27 — The owners and master of a Belgium fishing *Blue Angel* (385 gt, built 2001), have been fined £4500 and ordered to pay both legal and investigation costs totalling £2500 at Brighton Magistrates Court for hindering a routine boarding inspection and illegally dumping fishing gear at sea. The Belgian trawler was detained Apr 24 and escorted to Shoreham by Royal Navy fishery protection vessel *HMS Severn*. Paul Johnson, Senior Fisheries Officer from Defra's Marine Fisheries Agency, said: "Any vessel, regardless of nationality, fishing in British waters is subject to routine inspections which are designed to protect the interests of the fishing industry as a whole. "We are committed to pursuing everyone who fishes illegally in British waters. Today's fines reflect the serious nature of the offences committed. Fisheries enforcement is an important way of ensuring the long term sustainability of our fishing industry." The vessel remains in detention at Shoreham by order of the court until fines and costs are fully paid. Fisheries Charges were brought under the Sea Fisheries Control Regulations 2000.

**CAPE ENDURANCE (Panama)**

Cape Town, Apr 21 — Standby safety vessel *Cape Endurance*: Port authorities confirm vessel remains under arrest at the port of Cape Town. — Lloyd's Agents.

**GABRIELLE (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Port of Spain, Apr 20 — Part c.c. *Gabrielle* is presently at Caridoc Berth No.4 East. Extensive repairs are being conducted to the ship's main

engine (complete overhaul) and are expected to be completed within the next 17 days. The vessel is still under arrest. However, agreements have been reached between attorneys for both Club and charterer's sides and release should be accomplished within the next two to three days. — Lloyd's Agents.

**GOLDEN TAURUS (Bolivia)**

London, Apr 24 — Fishing *Golden Taurus* (280 gt, built 1972), CPA715, is today reported to be at Western Anchorage No.1., Hong Kong, under arrest. (Note — *Golden Taurus* arrived at Hong Kong at 1531 hrs, Apr 11.)

**HYOK SIN 2 (North Korea)**

London, Apr 24 — Following received from the Admiralty Marshal's Office, dated today: Bulk *Hyok Sin 2* (14929 gt, built 1981) was arrested at Tees today, on behalf of Marcegaglia SpA, in respect a breach of charterparty. (Note — *Hyok Sin 2* arrived at Tees at 1905 hrs, Apr 10.)

**MADAGASCAR (Ukraine)**

Durban, Apr 21 — Passenger *Madagascar* is currently in port and still under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

**RASHLEIGH (Panama)**

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Product tanker *Rashleigh* (15835 gt, built 1979) with 17 crew members, including nine Indians, has been denied beaching permission at Alang's shipbreaking yard and the vessel forced to dock at the Bhavnagar anchorage, an official said here today. The vessel, which arrived at Alang in Bhavnagar district on Apr 9, was refused beaching permission in view of a stay order from the Bombay High Court, a senior official of the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) said. The court had issued directions to maintain status quo until further orders, he said. Port officer-in-charge of Alang captain K H Gohil said it had been allowed to dock at Bhavnagar anchorage and they had instructed the agent to supply food and water to the crew. They were waiting for further orders from the court. The crew includes nine Indians besides Russians and Ukrainians. Their passports had been seized by the police in the presence of court officials, the GMB official said. Alang GMB official M M Khatri said the case had been filed due to some financial dispute but since they had not been made party to the case, "we do not have exact details". Khatri said the shipping agency, which brought the vessel for dismantling was looking after food, water and other requirements of the crew.

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated Apr 26, states: A Bombay High Court order to detain product tanker *Rashleigh*, bound for scrapping at Alang, has left 18 of its crew members stranded. The vessel has reportedly run out of food and water. However, the port authorities say sufficient food and water are being sent regularly to

the crew since Apr 9, when the vessel was refused permission to enter Alang. Mehul Mehta, of the MCC Shipping, said today that, "We have provided them food and water and other things they need. We will continue to send them provisions." He said that the crew cannot be brought to shore as immigration permission cannot be given to a crew of a detained vessel. According to Mehta, the Iranian owner had chartered *Rashleigh* to a shipping company. The vessel was carrying petroleum products from Iran to Argentina. It experienced technical failure and it broke down on the way. The cargo was shifted, mid-sea, to another vessel. The owner then sold *Rashleigh*, for dismantling, to MCC shipping, a company based in Bhavnagar. The MCC sold the vessel to Kiran Breakers in Alang. The vessel then came to Alang for dismantling. Meanwhile Vitol SA, a Switzerland based company, whose cargo was being transported in the vessel, engaged a lawyer in Mumbai and got a stay order from Bombay High Court. It has put a claim of \$277,000 for the damage it suffered in delaying and shifting cargo from *Rashleigh*.

**RUSTAVI (Georgia)**

St Petersburg, Apr 21 — Fish carrier *Rustavi* is still under arrest at Murmansk. — Lloyd's Agents.

**Pipeline Accidents**



**BALUCHRISTAN PROVINCE, PAKISTAN**

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

**Pollution**



**DURBAN HARBOUR, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Apr 22 — Controversy surrounds the ownership of a vessel that spilled oil in Durban Harbour on Thursday (Apr 20) morning causing damage to 48 yachts and affecting marine life. The oil had apparently leaked from the vessel docked at Berth 7 because of a failure to adhere to fuelling procedures, Marina Manager Chris McCann said. He could not say how much oil had spilled, but said it was the worst spillage he had been aware of. The leak happened early in the morning and the oil was pushed by the wind to the Wilson's Wharf yacht and restaurant area, causing a strong smell. McCann said the estimated damage to the yachts stood at R400

000. According to the National Ports Authority, the vessel belonged to Safmarine. However, the company said the vessel was neither owned nor managed by it. Safmarine spokesperson Debbie Owen said the vessel was under charter to Safmarine. She cited a Durban-based company, Diamond Shipping, as the agent for the vessel's unidentified owner.

**Weather & Navigation**



**CENTRAL EUROPE**

Edinburgh, Apr 20 — Water levels on the Ukrainian Danube have reached critical point with flooding already occurring on low-lying land in the Danube ports of Reni and Izmail in the Odessa region. The army is working strengthening the river banks and a dam which carries the only road between the two towns. The port and town of Reni have been flooded with Danube waters over half a metre above critical levels. In Izmail Danube waters have flooded parts of low-lying roads after sandbags protecting storm drains became waterlogged; cargo handling continues at the Port of Izmail however, where the principal berths have not yet been flooded. Water levels continue to increase and there are fears that the catastrophic Danube floods in Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania will be repeated shortly in Ukraine. The Ukrainian section of the Danube is the northern (Kilia) channel of the Danube Delta on the border with Romania. Izmail-based Ukrainian Danube Shipping Company (UDP) announced today that the company's river shipping operations have been all-but suspended due to the Danube flooding. Danube transport operations have now ceased on part of the middle section and all of the lower section of the river (effectively from Budapest to the Black Sea) although some vessel movements are again possible on the Upper section in Germany, Austria and Slovakia. UDP's four operational river cruise vessels, usually employed between Germany and Hungary, have also been temporarily suspended. — Danube Research.

London, Apr 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Romania is battling to plug the banks of the Danube as floodwaters force thousands of people from their waterlogged homes. Crews of police, soldiers, firefighters and volunteers are struggling to protect flood-defences across the Balkans after the entire region was hit by heavy rains and strong winds that disrupted the emergency work. As the incessant rainfall worsened the crisis caused by melting snows in central and south-east Europe, authorities threatened to forcibly relocate residents of at least

one endangered Romanian town on the border with Bulgaria. In southern Romania, another 1,000 people were evacuated as floods submerged the area, bringing to more than 7,000 the number who have fled their homes this week, authorities say. Officials say 3,000 more were earmarked for evacuation with 2,000 of those facing forcible removal, after the Danube surged to its highest levels in more than a century in recent days. "We are now having trouble convincing more than 2,000 villagers to leave their homes. If they continue to object, we will have to evacuate them forcibly," deputy mayor of Bistret, Dumitru Baragan, said. Hundreds of emergency workers in the southern town have failed in two days of struggle to fix a breach in a dyke. Several hundred people were evacuated on Wednesday evening (Apr 19), and more may be ordered to leave. Further east along the Danube, Bechet Mayor Constantin Oclei said 1,000 residents would have to be evacuated from the southern town after an operation was launched to move children and cattle to higher ground. But the Danube's levels were dropping, according to the national hydrology institute, which said the level in Bazias in the south-west was 7.9 metres, down six centimetres from Wednesday. In a new toll, the Interior Ministry said 129 villages and towns have been flooded, 184 houses destroyed and 700 others damaged. More than 20,000 hectares of cultivated land, 17,000 hectares of forest and 500 kilometres of roads, mainly in the south of the country, have been flooded. Authorities in Hungary said the country's second largest river, the Tisza, remained at its peak in the east and still posed a threat, despite the last-ditch efforts of more than 23,000 emergency workers. The river, which flows into the Danube in Serbia, was at the near record level of more than 10 metres in the town of Szolnok, about 100 kilometres east of the capital Budapest. In Serbia, the river also continued to rise and was lapping embankments in a number of critical areas close to the towns Senta and Titel, north of Belgrade.

Bucharest, Apr 24 — Thousands of Romanians were evacuated overnight when the swollen Danube burst several waterlogged dikes and officials said today more defenses could break as flood waters retreated more slowly than expected. The evacuations countered the hopes of local authorities that the worst may be over as Europe's second longest river had begun to recede from its highest level for a century. Fed by rain and melting snow, swollen waterways have swamped vast tracts of land in Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Hungary in recent days, driving thousands of people from there and swamping vast tracts of farmland. In Romania, the worst-hit Balkan country where tens of thousands of hectares are submerged, some 2,800 people fled their homes

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overnight after dikes near the southern villages of Bistret, Spantov and Oltina could no longer bear the pressure. "The situation is very bad here. Half of the dike was broken last night and we could not repair it," Constantin Raicea, mayor of Bistret, told Reuters. "We have evacuated 1,500 people so far, and they went to relatives and friends in the villages near Bistret," he said. Hundreds of volunteers helped soldiers and gendarmes build sandbag dikes near Bistret and other villages to prevent water from flooding low-lying houses. Further downstream in Spantov, television footage showed gendarmes rushing hundreds of people out of their houses with many taking their horses and cattle with them. Officials said the Danube had receded where it leaves Serbia and enters Romania, but predicted more breaches may occur. "Water pressure is very high on these earth-made dikes and there are more in danger of collapse as the floods last a long time and the levels are decreasing very slowly," said Elena Anghel, hydrologist at the National Hydrology Institute. In Hungary, more large cracks had appeared by this morning on the dikes at the confluence of the Tisza and Koros rivers, where 6,000 people, including 1,600 troops, battled floods overnight. Both rivers were ebbing very slowly, down by around two to eight centimetres from the peak in the worst-hit area, and the pressure on the dikes had not eased, state news agency MTI reported. In Bulgaria's Nikopol, a town of 4,000 which is half under water, several families evacuated over the weekend as water flooded their houses. In all, 61 people have fled the floods in the village. "It's really difficult to make a prediction for the coming days," said Georgi Linkov, head of civil defense in Pleven, northern Bulgaria. "We hope the rains the meteorologists forecast will not be pouring because there's a risk of soaking the dikes." — Reuters.

Bucharest, Apr 25 — Hundreds of Romanians faced evacuation today as rescue teams struggled to reinforce dikes holding back the swollen Danube river, officials said. In Romania, the worst-hit country, some 2,840 people have moved to high ground since Sunday (Apr 23) after earth-made dikes near poor southern villages collapsed, putting the total of evacuees at 8,410. In the village of Bechet, some 800 people have fled their houses and rescuers were gearing up to evacuate hundreds more after a nearby dike burst. "The situation is very bad. We need to evacuate 1,200 people from Bechet and its surroundings by this evening," Bechet mayor Constantin Oclei told Reuters. Further downstream in villages of Oltina and Spantov, authorities said evacuations had stopped as the Danube receded from century highs, but soldiers kept reinforcing flood defences in case water levels rise again. "There is still a risk that more dikes will fall as pressure remains very high with

water two metres (six feet) above flooding levels at some places," said Elena Anghel, hydrologist at Romania's National Hydrology Institute. The floods forced hundreds of Romanians to spend Orthodox Easter Sunday — a closely observed holiday in the Balkans — in a bleak refugee camp away from their flooded village with little hope of returning home. — Reuters.

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of people were evacuated from areas threatened by the surging Danube today as Europe's second-longest river continued to rise. By midday, 3,500 residents had been evacuated from communities in western Romania. About 10,000 more were expected to be forced from their homes. President Traian Basescu visited the area yesterday and urged residents to leave after nearby dikes broke. The army sent trucks to help residents transport their possessions. Nicolae Giugea, a government official in the area, told Romania's Mediafax news agency that an estimate of damage caused by the flooding could only be made after the water had subsided. Evacuated residents were staying with friends and relatives, as well as in tents and schools. In the eastern port of Galati, the river rose to 21.7 feet, 1.7 inches higher than the 1897 record in that section of the river. Prime Minister Calin Popescu Tariceanu told a news conference the flooding had been caused by former dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's overbuilding of dikes along the Danube to reclaim land for agricultural use during the 1960s and '70s. The overbuilding has left no place for recent heavy rain and melting snow to go, and after weeks of pressure, the dikes have begun to weaken. "Things which are against nature, and here I am referring to dikes along the Danube, are exactly the reason we are having flooding because the Danube cannot deal with the excessive flow," Tariceanu said, adding that the government planned to examine possible changes to the dikes. About 450 residents were forced to leave their homes in the eastern Romanian village of Oltina, where about 50 houses were flooded after cracks appeared in a dike. A total of 9,500 people have been evacuated from some 148 communities in the past 10 days, according to Romania's Interior Ministry. Tens of thousands of people have been evacuated in Romania, Bulgaria, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Serbia and Hungary since heavy flooding along the Danube began this month.

#### CHINA

London, Apr 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people died and widespread heavy damage reported following this week's sandstorm in northern China. And a new storm has been forecast today by the weather bureau. The deaths were confirmed in the southern parts of

Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, one of the worst-hit areas of this week's giant sandstorm. Beijing forestry officials said the amount of damage was under investigation. The sandstorm, the worst so far this spring, had abated by yesterday in 10 provinces throughout North and Northwest China. The new sandstorm is expected to not be as severe. "It will not be as bad as the one that has swept over Beijing with an estimated 300,000 tons of dust dumped," said Yang Weixi, chief engineer of the desertification-control office under the State Forestry Administration (SFA), at a briefing. As the worst spring disaster affecting China's dry North and Northwest, the problem cannot be entirely controlled, he admitted.

#### CYCLONE "LARRY"

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Insurance Australia Group Ltd, Australia's largest home and automobile insurer, expects its exposure to the damages caused by Cyclone "Larry", which hit the state of Queensland earlier in April, to be in the range of A\$100 million (£47.5 million) to A\$135 million (£56.3 million). The insurer said it has received more than 5,900 claims against damages caused by the storm, majority of them from non-coastal businesses. Chief executive Michael Hawker said the claims were greater than the company had expected because of the large scale destruction caused by the cyclone, categorized five, along a 300 km-stretch of coastal and inland areas. Hawker said as the group's catastrophe policies do not cover losses below A\$200 million (£83.5 million), the damage is within its catastrophe reinsurance deductible. "So we had to ensure we had a reasonably firm estimate of our gross costs." He said the company expected reinsurance recoveries of around A\$10 million (£4.1 million), but the potential claims would be about two percent of the net annual premiums earned. Despite this outgo, the company expects to maintain the June full-year margin guidance of 14 to 16 per cent projected earlier, while the earnings would be at the bottom end of this range. Australia's Insurance Disaster Response Organisation said insurers have received a total of 18,000 claims with an estimated cost of \$350 million (£146.1 million) as a result of the devastation caused by Cyclone "Larry".

#### CYCLONE "MONICA"

London, Apr 20 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone "Monica" near lat 13.8S, long 141.5E at 0000, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 270 degrees at five knots. Maximum sustained winds 60 knots, gusts 75 knots. Forecast position lat 13.8S, long 140.5E at 1200, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots. Forecast position lat 13.7S,

long 139.5E at 0000, Apr 21. Maximum sustained winds 70 knots, gusts 85 knots.

London, Apr 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical cyclone “Monica” is gathering strength in the Gulf of Carpentaria, prompting the Bureau of Meteorology to activate a cyclone warning. The cyclone, which is now a category 3 storm, is continuing to strengthen as it tracks across the Gulf. The warning applies to coastal and island communities between Groote Eylandt and Elcho Island, including Nhulunbuy and Alyangula. Fishermen in the Gulf of Carpentaria say atrocious weather conditions generated by cyclone “Monica” are playing havoc with commercial operations. Some fishermen in the south-eastern Gulf have lost nets and equipment in tidal surges. Flooded roads have also blocked fuel supplies and stopped the catch being taken to markets. The Gulf Fishing Association’s Gary Ward says about 20 operators are feeling the pinch.

London, Apr 21 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone “Monica”: High seas weather warning issued by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Darwin, at 0700, UTC, Apr 21. Cyclone estimated within 15 nautical miles of lat 13.2S, long 139.9E, at 0600, UTC, and moving slowly north-west. Area affected within 90 nautical miles of the centre. Sustained winds to 90 knots near centre, increasing to 110 knots within 12-24 hours. Winds above 64 knots within 15 nautical miles of centre, with very high to phenomenal seas. Winds above 48 knots within 45 nautical miles of centre, with very rough to high seas and moderate to heavy swell. Winds above 34 knots within 90 nautical miles of centre, with rough to very rough seas and moderate swell. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Apr 22: Centre within 70 nautical miles of lat 12.6S, long 138.3E. Winds to 110 knots near centre.

London, Apr 22 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone “Monica” near lat 12.6S, long 139.3E at 0000, today. Movement for the past six hours 315 degrees at four knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 115 knots, gusts 140 knots. Forecast position lat 12.4S, long 138.4E at 1200, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 105 knots, gusts 130 knots. Forecast position lat 12.2S, long 137.1E at 0000, UTC, Apr 23. Maximum sustained winds 95 knots, gusts 115 knots.

London, Apr 23 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Situation at 0600, UTC, severe tropical cyclone “Monica” estimated within 15 nautical miles of lat 11.4S, long 137.4E moving west at six knots. Central pressure 905 hpa. Area affected within 60 nautical miles of the centre. Forecast sustained winds to 135 knots near centre. Forecast at 1800, UTC, centre

within 40 nautical miles of lat 11.3S, long 135.7E. Ships in the general area please transmit 3-hourly weather reports.

London, Apr 24 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone “Monica” near lat 11.7S, long 134.5E, at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 245 degrees at seven knots. Position accurate to within 30 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 155 knots, gusts 190 knots. Forecast position lat 12.3S, long 133.1E, at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 140 knots, gusts 170 knots. Forecast position lat 13.0S, long 131.8E at 0600, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 115 knots, gusts 140 knots.

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Alcan Inc, the world’s second-largest aluminum producer, halted production at its alumina refining site in Gove, northern Australia over the weekend, because Tropical Cyclone “Monica” threatened the safety of workers and equipment. Production at the refinery was shut down as “Monica” gained strength to become a category 5 storm, Montreal-based Alcan said on Saturday (Apr 22). Production will resume as soon as it’s “safe to do so,” Alcan said. Alcan moved to a “stage 3” alert, which involves shutting down the plant, after putting the plant on “stage 2” alert on Friday (Apr 21). Alcan is “working diligently” with customers to limit the impact from the plant shutdown, it said. The tropical cyclone also caused the shutdown of the Weipa bauxite mine owned by Comalco Ltd, Rio Tinto Group’s alumina unit. That mine resumed output late on Friday after the tropical cyclone passed.

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Residents of the northern city of Darwin were preparing today for tropical cyclone “Monica”, a Category 5 storm packing 217-mph winds that one forecaster said might be the fiercest in Australian history. The cyclone lashed sparsely populated islands off Australia’s Northern Territory, according to the national Bureau of Meteorology. Senior forecaster Gordon Jackson said the storm was “quite possibly” the worst cyclone to hit Australia. “It’s definitely the most intense to hit the Northern Territory,” Jackson said. The cyclone has been tracking along Australia’s northern coast for several days, threatening a number of remote Aboriginal communities but causing no injuries or major damage. It first struck the north-eastern coast of Queensland state last week as a Category 3 storm, but has since intensified to a Category 5. The Bureau of Meteorology said the “very destructive core” of the cyclone was expected to hit the Northern Territory’s remote Coburg Peninsula, then weaken slightly as it moves toward Darwin. “We’re hoping as it hits the land it will lose some intensity, but there’s no doubt a serious cyclone is on the way,” said

forecaster Andrew Tupper. Satellite pictures showed the eye of the massive storm system tracking directly towards Darwin, which has a population of around 100,000. Residents were advised to secure their homes and stock up on supplies. Uranium miner Energy Resources of Australia shut down its operations today as a precaution. The company, which is majority owned by mining giant Rio Tinto, operates the Ranger uranium mine located 155 miles east of Darwin, which lies in the cyclone’s path.

#### HURRICANE “KATRINA”

London, Apr 21 — Shell is ahead of schedule on repairing the *Mars* tension leg platform, damaged by hurricanes last year, and expects it back online next month. Shell Exploration & Production has notified pipeline operators that it will restart one of the Gulf of Mexico’s largest platforms in mid-May and that full production will be reached by the end of June. The deepwater production unit represents 5% of the region’s oil and gas output and its topsides were severely damaged by hurricane “Katrina.” “The *Mars* platform recovery and deepwater pipeline repairs were among the most technically complex operations in the world for us,” Shell’s head of exploration and production in North America Marvin Odum said. He expects construction activities on the *Mars* will be over by the end of next week and production will commence after a re-commissioning programme.

#### NEW ZEALAND

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency authorities in New Zealand are battling to contend with flooding on the South Island after days of torrential rain. Evacuations are under way in the worst-affected areas and several towns are cut-off by rising floodwaters. A number of rivers and streams in the South Island have broken their banks after two days of heavy rain. The worst affected are the towns of Waitati and Mosgiel near Dunedin, where some residents in low-lying areas have been evacuated. The town of Oamaru remains cut-off by floodwaters, although officials say flooding in the town itself is under control. It is still raining heavily in the region and authorities have issued warnings for travel on lower South Island roads.

#### TROPICAL STORM “KAJIKI”

Manila, Apr 27 — Tug *Napocor Tugboat No.1* left Keppel Batangas shipyard at around 0600, Apr 26, bound for Cebu. The tug underwent repairs at Keppel Batangas Shipyard after it ran aground on Dec 18 off Semirara island. Repair work was completed in March but the vessel was not allowed to leave until yesterday, because of payment problems. Vessel is owned by state power company National Power Corp. (Napocor) — Lloyd’s Agents.

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

**TROPICAL STORM "MALA"**

London, Apr 26 — Tropical storm "Mala" is forecast to strike India at about 0600, GMT, Apr 27. Data supplied by the US Navy and Air Force Joint Typhoon Warning Center suggest that the point of landfall will be near lat 11.8N, long 91.7E. "Mala" is expected to bring 1-minute maximum sustained winds to the region of around 83 km/hr. Wind gusts in the area may be considerably higher. — Reuters.

London, Apr 26 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone "Mala" near lat 10.7N, long 90.8E at 0600, today. Movement for the past six hours 75 degrees at eight knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots. Forecast position lat 11.1N, long 91.4E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots. Forecast position lat 11.8N, long 91.7E at 0600, UTC, Apr 27. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots, gusts 65 knots.

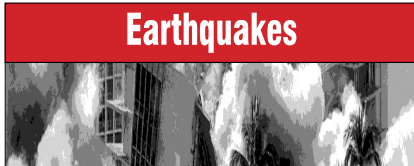
London, Apr 27 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Tropical cyclone "Mala" near lat 12.7N, long 89.8E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 315 degrees at four knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 70 knots, gusts 85 knots. Forecast position lat 13.4N, long 89.9E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots, gusts 110 knots. Forecast position lat 14.2N, long 90.4E at 0600, UTC, Apr 28. Maximum sustained winds 105 knots, gusts 130 knots.

**TURKEY**

London, Apr 22 — Traffic in the Istanbul Strait was suspended between 2250, local time, last night and 0800, local time, this morning due to dense fog.

**UNITED STATES**

London, Apr 21 — A press report, dated Apr 20, states: Recent sunny skies and warm weather can't mask an estimated \$11 million in winter storm damage along the populated and rural thoroughfares that form Alameda County's unincorporated road system. Landslides, eroding hillsides and cracked pavement are the result of months of consistent rainfall, prompting detours for motorists and a financial SOS from county supervisors. On Tuesday (Apr 18), supervisors asked the state and federal governments to declare a state of local emergency in the county so it will be eligible for financial aid. About \$10 million in damages, said Acting Public Works Director Daniel Wollesenbet, occurred alongroads that stretch north and southeast from Castro Valley. They include Redwood, Crow Canyon, Cull Canyon, Norris Canyon, Eden Canyon and Palomares roads. In east county, \$1 million is the estimated repair cost for storm damage along portions of Welch Creek, and Koopman and Sheridan roads.

**Earthquakes****CHINA**

London, Apr 21 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A moderate earthquake hit a sparsely populated area in northern Tibet today, damaging some buildings but causing no injuries, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The magnitude-5.6 tremor flattened some houses in Baingoin County in the region's highlands when it hit at 0505 hrs, Xinhua said. The worst-hit town was Jiaqun, where a grain depot and some buildings in a local school collapsed, Xinhua said. Cracks also appeared on some homes and government buildings, it said.

**INDONESIA**

London, Apr 26 — A strong earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale struck Indonesia's Nias Island off the western coast of Sumatra early today, but there were no reports of structural damage or injuries, an official said. The quake struck at about 0126 hrs, and was centred in the Indian Ocean about 60 kilometres off Nias, said Arief Achir, an official at Jakarta's Meteorology and Geophysics Agency. The Hong Kong observatory measured the quake at 6.1 on the Richter scale and recorded the epicentre about 420 kilometres south-southeast of Banda Aceh, the capital of Aceh province on the northern end of Sumatra. Achir said there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage from the quake, the latest in series of tremors to jolt Indonesia in recent weeks.

**JAPAN**

London, Apr 21 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.6 jolted the Izu Peninsula in eastern Japan and Tokyo early today, followed by two other weaker quakes which struck the same area about 15 minutes later, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage from the 0250, 0306 and 0320 quakes. The focus of the all three quakes was about 10 kilometres below the Pacific Ocean east of the Izu Peninsula, it said.

**RUSSIA**

Moscow, Apr 21 — A magnitude-7.7 earthquake struck the Kamchatka peninsula in Russia's Far East, 3,930 miles north-north-east of Moscow, today, The US Geological Survey said. The tremor, which occurred at 1225, local time, was located 125 miles north-east of Il'pyskiy at a depth of roughly 7.8 miles, the survey said on its website. The initial quake was followed by nine aftershocks in the region with magnitudes ranging

between 4.5 and 5.4, according to the survey. Russia's Itar-Tass news agency, monitored by the BBC, said there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties, according to a seismic research team in the Kamchatka region. The US Geological Survey estimated that some 2,000 people would have been exposed to "intensive shaking," A.B. Wade, a spokeswoman said. It was largest seismic event in the area since 1900, she said. Itar-Tass said the quake's epicentre was the Olyutorskiy Cape on Kamchatka's eastern coast. Underground tremors were felt in several settlements, including the villages of Tilichiki and Ossora, the news agency said. — Reuters.

**Volcanic Activity****MOUNT MERAPI, INDONESIA**

Jakarta, Apr 22 — Indonesia has evacuated more than 600 people living near a rumbling volcano following warnings it could erupt in a few days, but some have refused to leave their land, officials said today. Most of those who have been moved are women, children and the elderly, but hundreds are still living near the slopes of Mount Merapi on Java, which has been placed on "Orange Code" — the second highest alert level — due to an increase in tremors. The volcano, which overlooks the ancient city of Yogyakarta, has been rumbling and spewing out thick clouds of smoke for nearly a week. "We have been evacuating the residents since yesterday," said Edi Purwanto, an official at the evacuation station. "About 630 people had been evacuated by last night." He said volcanologists had predicted the volcano was likely to erupt at the end of the month but some villagers, particularly older people, had refused to move because they wanted to die on their own land. — Reuters.

Boyolali, Apr 24 — Thousands of villagers are ignoring government warnings of an approaching eruption and staying put in their homes on the slopes of Indonesia's rumbling Mount Merapi, officials said today. "Honestly, to mobilize people is difficult because they are going on with their daily lives," Susilo Purwanto, a government official in charge of disaster victims' welfare, told Reuters. Indonesia has successfully moved more than 600 people away from the restive volcano but that is still way below the total living on the slopes of Java's Mount Merapi. Officials put the total number of residents on the mountain at around 14,000. Most of those who have been moved are women, children and the elderly, but hundreds are still living near the slopes of the volcano, which has been placed on "Orange Code" — the second highest alert level — due to an increase in tremors.



Some of the evacuated residents return to their home villages during the day to feed their livestock, said Riyoto Suwarjo, a social service official from the central government office. — Reuters.

Yogyakarta, Apr 27 — There is no immediate need to raise the alert status for Indonesia's volatile Mount Merapi, despite magma moving higher inside the volcano, a leading volcanologist said today. Merapi, which towers over the ancient royal city of Yogyakarta, has been spewing thick smoke for two weeks and triggering scores of tremors. Government officials, including Yogyakarta sultan and provincial governor Hamengkubuwono X, have been urging residents to leave the foothills, saying Merapi could erupt as soon as Friday. "The magma is approaching the peak but has not reached the rim yet. Although we are on alert status, there is no rush to increase the level. It is not extremely worrying," Subandrio, head of the Merapi section at Yogyakarta's state-owned Centre for Volcanological Research and Technology Development, told Reuters. — Reuters.

#### QUERAPI AREA, PERU

Ubinas, Peru, Apr 20 — A volcano in southern Peru spewed a fresh plume of gray smoke high into the sky today, alarming villagers who have seen their livestock sickened or killed by ash falling on pastureland. Most farming families who live on the slopes of the Ubinas volcano have resisted calls to leave their homes since it rumbled back to life about two weeks ago, even though many have reported breathing problems and poisoned livestock. Ubinas, located in the Moquegua region some 900 km south of Lima, has been belching smoke and ashes sporadically for most of the month after nearly four decades of inactivity. Small tremors have also been felt in nearby towns. Emergency officials met today to consider whether to force the evacuation of the village's 160 or so people, who do not want to move unless they can take their livestock. — Reuters.

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The authorities in Peru have declared a state of emergency around a volcano that has begun spitting ash and smoke after almost 40 years of inactivity. The Ubinas volcano in southern Peru started erupting three weeks ago, killing livestock and polluting water. The army has now been brought in to help evacuate nearby villages, although some residents are reluctant to leave. Peru's Institute of Geophysics has warned that a dome of incandescent lava seems to be building up in the crater. The volcano has been spewing out acid-laden ash and smoke over a radius of six kilometres, causing eye and breathing problems for local people. A regional official said muffled explosions were coming from the volcano and pieces of red-hot lava were expanding inside

the crater. Teams of geologists and doctors have been sent to the area to monitor the volcano and the health risks.

### Political & Civil Unrest



#### AFGHANISTAN

London, Apr 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Afghan troops have arrested 19 militants, including five suspected Taliban members, in multiple raids across the country's south, the Defence Ministry said today. Eleven militants, including at least three Taliban members identified as Mullah Salam, Mullah Abdul Rahman and Shawali, were detained yesterday in the Andar district of Ghazni province, south of the capital, Kabul, ministry spokesman Gen. Zaher Azemi said in a statement. Two more Taliban militants were arrested before "trying to launch a terror attack" in the southern Helmand province's Sangin district. Soldiers captured four unspecified militants in the Paktika province, while another was detained in the neighbouring Zabul province, both in the south. On Wednesday (Apr 19), a militant armed with a pistol was detained near the Pakistani border in Spinboldak, Kandahar province.

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated Apr 22, states: Four Canadian soldiers have been killed in a roadside bombing in Afghanistan, Canadian military officials have said. The blast happened in the Shah Wali Kot district to the north of Kandahar, spokesman Lt Mark MacIntyre said. The soldiers were travelling in a military convoy when their armoured vehicle was hit, Lt MacIntyre said. Spokesmen for Taleban militants telephoned news agencies to claim responsibility, saying that attacks on coalition forces would continue. According to Lt MacIntyre, the blast happened at about 0730 hrs (0300, UTC) as the Canadian soldiers were on patrol.

Kabul, Apr 25 — An airstrike by U.S.-led forces has killed three Taliban fighters in southern Afghanistan, the U.S. military said today. The attack yesterday targeted a meeting at a suspected Taliban camp in the Lashkar Gah area of Helmand province, the military said in a statement. There were no civilian casualties or damage to property observed during the operation. The three fighters killed had launched numerous attacks on Afghan and U.S. forces and were also involved in financing "terrorist activities", the statement added. — Reuters.

#### BANGLADESH

Dhaka, Apr 23 — At least 50 people were injured in Bangladesh today when police used batons and fired

teargas shells to disperse opposition activists on the streets of capital Dhaka during a daylong strike, witnesses said. The strike shut most transport, offices, schools and business across the country. Today is a working day in Bangladesh. Violence was reported from half a dozen districts where activists damaged dozens of vehicles and fought pitched battles with police during the second general strike in three days, witnesses said. More than 100 people were injured, during Thursday's (Apr 20) countrywide strike, according to officials and witnesses. A 14-party opposition alliance led by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasian, chief of Awami League, called the strikes to press the government to accept demands for electoral reforms, improve law and order, reduce prices and improve supplies of electricity and diesel. — Reuters.

#### COLOMBIA

London, Apr 22 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Leftist rebels ambushed a military convoy in remote northeastern Colombia, killing 16 soldiers and secret police officers in the deadliest attack on security forces this year, the army said today. The attack took place yesterday in Norte de Santander province, 260 miles north-east of the capital, Bogota. Ten of those killed were DAS secret police officers. The other six were soldiers. The agents and soldiers had been carrying out operations against the country's largest rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, when explosives were detonated alongside their convoy.

#### EGYPT

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 23 people - including three foreigners - have been killed and 62 wounded in three blasts in the Egyptian resort town of Dahab, officials say. The explosions occurred in a bustling area popular with tourists during the early evening when many people would have been out in cafes and restaurants. Eyewitnesses spoke of seeing debris and body parts in the streets. Southern Sinai peninsula resorts have been hit before. About 60 people were killed in Sharm el-Sheikh last July. Most of the dead were Egyptians, who had been enjoying a Spring holiday in Dahab when the attacks occurred. A German boy was among three foreigners killed. The three explosions happened in quick succession at about 1900 hrs in what is a small, low-key resort popular with Western backpackers, budget Israeli tourists and scuba-divers. Several restaurants, shops and a supermarket were destroyed in the main tourist street close to the seafront during one of the busiest times of the day.

Dahab, Apr 25 — Egyptian police today detained at least 10 people, including computer engineers, in connection with a triple bombing in the Sinai tourist resort of Dahab that killed at least 18 people and wounded

many, including several Britons. Security sources provided few details on those detained, but the state MENA news agency said two of them were computer engineers who arrived in Dahab from Cairo the day before the blasts, which went off nearly simultaneously yesterday evening. Foreign holidaymakers described scenes of carnage in the aftermath of the explosions, which were detonated near a cafe, a restaurant and a supermarket in the tightly packed streets of the town, popular with scuba divers and backpackers. Egypt's Interior Ministry confirmed 18 deaths, among them four foreigners, a Russian, a Swiss man, a German child and a Lebanese national. Earlier the ministry put the death toll at 23. Lebanese authorities said they knew of no nationals killed. The bombings, the third similar-style attack in the Sinai peninsula in the past 18 months, threatened to dent Egypt's vital tourist industry, which brings in more than \$7 billion a year and employs around 10% of the country's workforce. As well as those formally detained, police said around 70 local bedouin had been pulled in for questioning. Despite the severity of the attack, which wounded around 80 people and left body parts of the dead scattered on the tops of buildings, most tourists said they planned to stay on in Dahab. Security officials said the explosions were probably caused by bombs attached to timers rather than by suicide bombers. Forensics experts completed their investigations earlier today but gave no details on what they had collected. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which bore the hallmarks of previous co-ordinated blasts in the region by local militants. Security officials said the bombs were primitive and looked home-made. "These were bombs that contained gunpowder and nails and were fitted with timers," said one official. He said crowding had increased the casualty toll. The injured included about 50 Egyptians, three Danes, three Britons, two Italians, two Germans, two French people, a South Korean, a Palestinian, a Swiss, an American, an Israeli and an Australian, local and foreign authorities said. — Reuters. (See issue of Apr 26.)

## INDIA

London, Apr 25 — A press report, sated today, states: Suspected Maoist rebels have killed six people, including a politician, in an ambush in the northern Indian state of Bihar, officials have said. The rebels fired on Ashok Kumar Singh, a candidate in the local village council election, in Deohara village in Aurangabad district yesterday night. Five supporters of Mr Singh were also injured in the attack. Left-wing rebels, known as Naxalites, have stepped up attacks in many Indian states in recent months. The district magistrate of Aurangabad, Birender Bahadur Pandey, said that Mr Singh

belonged to the ruling Janata Dal (United) party in the state. He said the rebels fired on Mr Singh and a group of supporters when they were returning home in a vehicle. The rebels later set the vehicle on fire - at least two charred bodies were recovered from the wreckage. Mr Pandey said the incident was a result of rivalry between the rebels and Mr Singh. Some reports said that the rebels had been campaigning for a boycott of the local elections. Mr Singh's brother had also been killed by the rebels over three years ago, Mr Pandey said. Of Bihar's 38 districts, 18 are badly affected by the Maoist insurgency. Central Bihar in particular has a long bloody history of killings. The rebels are pressing for the creation of a communist state comprising tribal areas in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Bihar and Chhattisgarh. They say their aim is to improve the economic and social rights of the poor and of indigenous tribes.

## IRAQ

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A large fire burned at a government oil and gas complex in northern Iraq today, but it not yet known whether it was caused by an accident or sabotage, officials said. Firefighters and Iraqi soldiers backed by the American forces were fighting the blaze, which began about 0500, said police Capt. Imad Abdullah of the area's oil pipeline protection force. No casualties were reported. Abdullah said the fire covered the whole North Oil Co. complex near Kirkuk and that pipelines were closed that normally carry oil and natural gas to refineries and power stations in Beiji, 30 miles to the southwest. An initial investigation indicated the fire was started by a fuse near a pool of oil, but that it wasn't known if the blaze was accidental or started by insurgents.

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Three US soldiers were killed today when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb northwest of capital, the US command said. 23 Iraqis also died in other violence today, including seven who were killed when three explosions occurred just outside the heavily guarded Green Zone in the capital, not far from Iraq's Defence Ministry. More sectarian killings were also reported. The violence occurred one day after Iraq's parliament met inside the Green Zone to elect top government officials in a breakthrough in a long political standoff. Parliament elected a president, two vice presidents, a parliament speaker and two deputies, and gave Jawad Al Maliki, the prime minister-designate, 30 days to choose a Cabinet that will include Shia, Sunni and Kurdish politicians. Yesterday, US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, a key player in tortuous political negotiations since Iraq's Dec 15 elections, warned that improvements will take time. We believe that since the terrorists seek

to provoke and promote sectarian conflict and ethnic tensions, the unity government has the right response to that challenge, Khalilzad said. The US military said the three soldiers killed today died at 1130, without providing the exact location or giving further details. Five American soldiers died today in bombings in the southern area of the capital.

Baghdad, Apr 24 — A car bomb targeting an Iraqi police patrol exploded in central Baghdad today, killing at least three people and wounding 25 others, police said. They said the blast occurred near the Ministry of Health. There were no further details. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Apr 24 — A wave of car bombs killed at least eight people and wounded nearly 80 in Baghdad today, while Prime Minister-designate Jawad al-Maliki said his priority would be to unite all Iraq's ethnic and sectarian groups. Maliki is working on choosing a cabinet, which will share power among Shi'ite Muslims, Sunni Arabs and Kurds in a bid to end a Sunni insurgency and sectarian violence that many fear could drag the country into a civil war. "The main challenge that I see is the existence of a torn relationship in the Iraqi community with all the sectarian and ethnic backgrounds," Maliki, a tough-talking politician from Iraq's Shi'ite majority, said. "So I have to work first on uniting all of these elements together and work on a national reconciliation on the basis of national dialogue and common interests." Two car bombs near Baghdad's Mustansiriyah University killed at least five people and wounded 25, officials said. A car bomb near the Health Ministry killed three people and wounded 25. Four other bombings in the city wounded at least 27 people. Guerrillas attacked a police station near Saddam Hussein's home town of Tikrit, killing four policemen. Insurgents draw support from the Sunni minority, once dominant under Saddam. Maliki has four weeks to choose a new cabinet and form a government of national unity, widely seen as the only way to halt sectarian violence. — Reuters.

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated Apr 24, states: At least 28 bodies of police recruits have been discovered in two areas of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. The bodies of 15 young men were found in a truck in Abu Ghraib on the western outskirts of the city yesterday, according to police. The rest were discovered in the district of Baghdad. All had been shot, officials said. The bodies of the 15 recruits discovered in Abu Ghraib showed signs of torture, AP quoted Lieutenant Colonel Faleh al-Mohammedawi as saying. The men were from the town of Ramadi, 115 km west of Baghdad.

Baghdad, Apr 26 — Twelve suspected Iraqi militants and a woman were killed in a U.S. raid and air strike on a house in a town just south of Baghdad, the military said in a statement today. As U.S. troops closed in on a house believed to be used by

two foreign fighters yesterday, they came under fire, a U.S. military statement said. "The troops initially killed five terrorists outside of the safe house and then called for an air strike," it said. "After the precision air strike, the ground troops conducted a tactical search of the destroyed safe house and located the bodies of seven more terrorists and a woman." The statement said U.S. forces were trying to determine the identity of those killed. It did not say how it was known all the men were rebels, although it said each of the dead men were wearing a magazine vest and carrying two grenades. — Reuters.

## **LIBERIA**

Monrovia, Apr 25 — Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf tightened security in the capital Monrovia today after former government soldiers paralysed the city with violent protests over unpaid severance packages. United Nations peacekeepers had to shoot into the air and fire teargas to disperse the protesters, who set up burning barricades and threw rocks, causing shops and banks to close and civilians to desert the streets. The unrest was one of the biggest challenges to Johnson-Sirleaf's authority since she took office as Africa's first elected female head of state in January. Johnson-Sirleaf banned a demonstration planned by civil servants for Wednesday to protest against reforms which could see some of them lose their jobs and instructed the authorities to arrest and prosecute the instigators of today's unrest. She also ordered the arrest of anyone carrying a machete at night and temporarily banned the sale of fuel in bottles on street corners, which she said had worsened the violence. Thousands of soldiers from the old Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), many of whom fought 14 years of on-off civil war against rebel fighters, are being demobilised to make way for a smaller new air force, navy and army in the West African country. But not all those leaving the army have been given the severance benefits they were promised. Captain James Welleh said: "The government owes us \$800 each. We fought for this country and we deserve our pay". Johnson-Sirleaf said she had suspended outstanding payments to former AFL soldiers which should have been made on Friday (Apr 21) until they showed a willingness to resolve their grievances peacefully. Frustrations over delays in demobilisation have boiled over several times over the past year, with around 200 unarmed soldiers looting their own barracks and rampaging through the streets last June. Many former rebels have handed in their weapons, and U.S. defence contractor DynCorp International, hired to train the new army, last year finished demobilising more than 8,000 irregular fighters employed by former President Charles Taylor. But funding

shortfalls have delayed the process for regular army soldiers. The new army being set up after a 2003 ceasefire enforced by 15,000 U.N. troops will initially be made up of 2,000 soldiers but will eventually be twice that size. — Reuters.

## **NEPAL**

Kathmandu, Apr 20 — Nepali police opened fire to block tens of thousands of pro-democracy protesters marching into Kathmandu today to confront King Gyanendra, killing at least three people and wounding up to 100. However, there were signs the embattled monarch was looking for a way to end the showdown with a seven-party alliance spearheading a campaign against his rule, said an Indian envoy who visited him to urge a speedy reconciliation. "Now the ball is squarely in the court of the king," Karan Singh, an Indian lawmaker, said in New Delhi on his return from Kathmandu. "I am hopeful that very shortly some sort of announcement will be made by him which will help considerably defuse the situation," Singh added. Officials confirmed that three people had been killed in police firing to enforce a strict curfew in the capital, a clampdown ordered to prevent protesters marching on the palace. Over 100,000 people gathered at various suburbs around the capital's ring road and police opened fire with rubber bullets and live rounds at three or four places to push back the crowds, witnesses said. Three bodies with gunshot wounds and about 40 injured people were brought to the Kathmandu Model Hospital from the western suburb of Kalanki, doctors said. Scores of other injured were taken to other hospitals. In all, about 100 people were wounded, witnesses said. "Police opened indiscriminate fire," said Kundan Aryal, a human rights group volunteer who helped take wounded to the Model Hospital from Kalanki. The pro-democracy parties had planned massive rallies today to bring the protest movement to a head but the royalist government clamped a curfew to prevent people from going outdoors. Away from the capital, tens of thousands protested in other parts of the landlocked kingdom, aid workers and activists said. However, the interior of Kathmandu, a city of 1.5 million people, was deserted except for police and troops on patrol. — Reuters.

Kathmandu, Apr 21 — Nepal's government re-imposed a curfew in the capital Kathmandu today after political parties announced they would hold fresh anti-monarchy protests and try to march on King Gyanendra's palace. At least three people were killed and up to 100 injured in protests which swept the city yesterday. Over 100,000 people gathered on the outskirts of Kathmandu and were beaten back by armed police and troops when they tried to enter city limits in violation of the curfew. "So many people have come out on the street despite the

curfew and crackdown," said Krishna Prasad Sitaula, a leader of the Nepali Congress, the country's largest political party. Today's curfew would come into force at 0900 hrs and last until 2000 hrs, officials said. Curfew was only lifted at 0300 hrs, giving residents a few hours to stock up on food and essentials. — Reuters.

London, Apr 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Nepalese police have fired tear gas and rubber bullets at thousands of protesters who tried to march on King Gyanendra's palace in Kathmandu. Demonstrators had defied a curfew to break through an outer security cordon to reach the heart of Nepal's capital. The clashes came a day after the king tried to defuse the political crisis by offering to restore democracy. Protesters rejected his offer as inadequate and the opposition declined his call to form an interim government. Tens of thousands of demonstrators began heading towards central Kathmandu early today, ignoring an eight-hour, shoot-on-sight curfew. We want a republic, We don't want the king any more," the crowds chanted. They brushed past police and army lines before reaching an inner cordon where soldiers in armoured vehicles and long lines of riot police held firm. Sammu Pratap Rana was one of the protesters caught up in a baton charge by police. "We were marching along peacefully, when suddenly the police fired tear gas shots. I turned and ran, Then I fell and a policeman hit me on the back with a baton, he said. Violence was also reported in other areas of the city. The Associated Press news agency said that the Norvic hospital in the Thapathali neighborhood was full of people seeking treatment. Doctors there said at least four people had been hurt by bullets and more than 40 were injured in baton charges. At Kathmandu's Model Hospital, doctors said dozens of people had been hurt, most by tear gas but some with bullet wounds. The authorities have now cut off the mobile phone network. After more than two weeks of protests and at least 14 violent deaths, the beleaguered monarch gave a nationwide speech yesterday to announce that he intended to restore power to the people. Executive power of the kingdom of Nepal, which was in our safekeeping, shall from this day be returned to the people, he said. He called on opposition parties to put forward their candidate for prime minister. But after meeting today, the seven-party opposition alliance rejected the king's offer. We will not accept...We will continue the protests, Madhav Kumar Nepal, general secretary of Communist Party of Nepal told cheering supporters in Kathmandu. The opposition parties complained that the king had failed to address some of their most basic demands, not least the creation of a constituent assembly to decide the future of the monarch. The general strike that has brought most of the country to an economic standstill.

Many protesters will not be satisfied until the king has given up his throne. India, which holds considerable influence over Nepal, said the king's move, should now pave the way for the restoration of political stability and economic recovery. US state department spokesman Sean McCormack said: We expect the king to live up to his words... We urge the parties to respond quickly by choosing a prime minister.

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Five Maoist rebels and a soldier were killed in a remote Nepalese village today while police in Kathmandu fired tear gas and rubber bullets during more violent protests against the country's monarch, King Gyanendra. The deaths took place after Maoist guerrillas attacked a security base and government buildings overnight in the northern town of Chautara, a defence ministry spokesman said in a statement. Indresh Dahal said the assailants knocked down an antenna tower, severing the remote Himalayan town's communications, and raided an army base, police post, district administration office and jail.

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Nepal's embattled King Gyanendra today reinstated the lower house of Parliament, which was dissolved in 2002. The reinstatement of Parliament was a key demand of the seven-party alliance which has been leading weeks of pro-democracy protests that have brought Nepal to the brink of chaos. Parliament's lower house holds real elected power in the country's constitution. The upper house is largely symbolic.

London, Apr 25 — Nepal's seven-party opposition alliance has called off the protests and general strike, saying it would stage a "victory" rally later today, said a spokesman of the largest party in the alliance. "After the royal proclamation to address the roadmap of SPA last night, SPA has withdraw its indefinite general strike and all protests programs," Krishna Prashad Sitaula, spokesman of Nepali Congress political party, told reporters. The SPA will stage victory rallies today from different parts of the capital Kathmandu city, he added.

#### **NIGERIA**

Part Harcourt, Apr 20 — Nigerian militants killed two civilians in a car bomb attack on an army barracks in the southern city of Port Harcourt, extending a four-month onslaught against the world's eighth-largest oil exporter. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), whose attacks have cut Nigerian oil exports by a quarter, said in an email they detonated 30 kg (66 lb) of dynamite using a cellular telephone last night. The use of the car bomb was unusual and the militants threatened to stage more such attacks on the military, oil installations and individuals. "There was an explosion at 1930 yesterday which resulted in the death of two persons and six people were injured,"

Brigadier General Samuel Salihu said today. Another military spokesman said there were no military personnel among the casualties. MEND, which has demanded more local autonomy over the Niger Delta's oil wealth, said the bomb had been concealed in a Mercedes Benz. The explosion blew the car 20 metres from its original site, on the side of a road in the Bori Camp barracks. MEND said the attack was "symbolic rather than strategic" and served as a warning that the military was unable to protect itself, let alone workers at oilfields dotted around the vast maze of mangrove-lined creeks in Nigeria's far south. — Reuters.

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated Apr 25, states: ExxonMobil has evacuated non-essential staff from Nigeria's largest oil export terminal amid fears it could be attacked by armed militants, a company spokesman said today. ExxonMobil's Qua Iboe facility in southeastern Nigeria handles exports of 650,000 barrels per day, although the firm's Nigerian spokesman Yemi Fakayejo said that output had not yet been hit by the latest scare. "We have evacuated non-essential workers from the Qua Iboe export terminal following an intelligence report that Niger Delta militants were planning an attack on oil facilities and personnel," he said. "This is a precautionary step. There is no disruption in oil production and exports. Production is up and running and offshore and essential staff are at the export terminal, working," Fakayejo added.

#### **PAKISTAN**

Quetta, Apr 23 — Tribal militants fighting for greater autonomy in Pakistan's restive southwestern Baluchistan province blew up a pipeline supplying a major gas distribution plant today, a senior official said. The pipeline supplied gas to the plant in the troubled Dera Bugti district from the Loti gas field, Abdul Samad Lasi, administrator of the district, told Reuters. Dera Bugti, the home of Pakistan's biggest gas reservoir, is a stronghold of Nawab Akbar Bugti, a rebel chieftain who accuses the central government of exploiting Baluchistan's resources without passing on the benefits to ethnic Baluchs. — Reuters.

Peshawar, Apr 25 — Pro-Taliban militants ambushed a Pakistani army convoy in the restive North Waziristan tribal region, killing seven soldiers and rebels, officials said today. The convoy came under attack yesterday in the mountains near the main town of Miranshah while heading towards Beermaal on the Afghan border. Four soldiers and three militants were killed. "They first detonated an explosive with remote control on the roadside and then opened fire on the convoy," an intelligence official told Reuters. He said eight soldiers were wounded in the fighting that lasted for an hour. The rugged Waziristan region has

been scene of fierce battles between Islamist militants and security forces over the past two years. Close to 300 people have been killed in clashes in recent weeks. — Reuters.

#### **PHILIPPINES**

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 10 New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas and a government militia have been killed when the NPA rebels attacked Army camp in Central Philippines, a military spokesman said today. Some 30 NPA rebels ambushed the camp of the Army's 61st Infantry Battalion in the village of Villegas, Guinhulngan town in Negros Oriental yesterday, Armed Forces public information office chief Tristan Kison said. Kison said at least 17 soldiers and militiamen in the Army camp engaged the rebels in a fierce firefight, forcing the NPA rebels to withdraw after suffering heavy casualties. Civilians in the vicinity of the encounter site saw the NPA carrying eight dead bodies, added Kison. Kison said the troops recovered two rebel bodies during clearing operation at the encounter site. The clash wounded another militia and two NPA rebels, said Kison. The wounded have been taken to a nearby hospital for treatment as pursuit operations were mounted against the fleeing rebels. The fighting came one day after NPA rebels raided a military camp in Obando town in Bulacan and carted away high-powered firearms from the Army installation.

#### **SOLOMON ISLANDS**

Honiara, Apr 21 — Calm returned to the Solomon Islands capital Honiara today with a show of force by Australian troops warding off trouble overnight after two days of rioting sparked by the election of a new prime minister. Australian troops and police, sent to restore law and order, had feared more protests after Prime Minister Synder Rini was secretly sworn in yesterday. Scores of Chinese families targeted in the violence and forced from their homes, many which burnt to the ground, were being sheltered near Honiara's police headquarters and cared for by charity groups. Rini is expected to announce his new cabinet today, with parliament due to sit for the first time on Monday (Apr 24), amidst continued calls for him to resign and talk of a vote of no confidence in the parliament. Violence erupted on Tuesday after Rini was named as the new leader. Rioters claimed Rini's new government would be heavily influenced by local Chinese businessmen and the Taiwan government, which the Solomons recognises diplomatically. "It was a relatively quiet night," a Royal Solomon Islands Police spokesman said, adding that a small number of people were arrested for breaching a 1800 to 0600 hrs curfew. "The police and military maintained a high visibility." Since the protests began more than 60 people have been

arrested for unlawful assembly and another eight for looting, the spokesman said. Rioters and looters have targeted Honiara's Chinese population of a couple of thousand, destroying most of the Chinatown district. More than 400 Chinese have abandoned their homes and are being cared for by the local Red Cross. Solomon Islands government spokesman Johnson Honimae said it could take up to five years to rebuild the city. "A good chunk of the government's revenue comes from the businesses that have been destroyed," said Honimae. Dozens of blackened buildings still smoulder, their tin roofs now warped and collapsed. Damaged shops were derelict, doors and windows missing, with refuse left by looters and obscene graffiti directed at Rini and the Australian-led police operation. Australia's acting Defence Minister Bruce Billson said Australian troops would remain in the Solomons for as long as it took to build a stable nation. — Reuters.

Honiara, Apr 24 — The Solomon Islands parliament was sworn in under heavy security today amid fears the first sitting since last week's devastating riots in the capital could trigger further violence. Hundreds of foreign peacekeepers and police cordoned off the building for the swearing-in ceremony. Opposition MP Pateson Oti said the lockdown was too heavy handed. "It portrays a negative image of a parliament under siege ... and of a parliament ruled by the military — that is not the case," Oti told reporters allowed into parliament. After the swearing-in, Rini was driven away by peacekeepers in flak jackets. Rini has been under police protection in an undisclosed location since his election last Tuesday (Apr 18). — Reuters.

### SOMALIA

Nairobi, Apr 24 — At least seven people were killed and scores wounded as rival armed groups fought yesterday in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, displacing dozens of families. The violence erupted in Hamarweyne district in south Mogadishu when local residents opposed the setting up of a checkpoint by armed militias reportedly loyal to Mogadishu faction leader Abdi Nure Siyad, also known as "Abdi Wal". Siyad is a member of a newly created group - the Alliance for Peace and Fight Against International Terrorism - which comprises several Mogadishu-based faction leaders. Yesterday's fighting started at 0800 hrs, (0500, UTC), after the militia refused to dismantle the checkpoint and leave, as requested by local elders. The fighting continued through most of the day and subsided at around 1800 hrs (1500, UTC) when Siyad's militia was forced to withdraw by the residents, according to a local journalist. A local journalist in Mogadishu said that many families were leaving their homes because they believed that "Yesterday's fighting was the first shot of a much bigger one to come."

There has been so much "war talk" between the two sides that people in Mogadishu expect fighting to start at any time, he said. — Reuters.

### SRI LANKA

Colombo, Apr 21 — A claymore mine blast killed a guard and wounded a police officer in north-east Sri Lanka today, in an attack the army blamed on Tamil Tiger rebels, the latest violence threatening the island's fragile truce. The blast, which occurred near the north-eastern port city of Trincomalee, came a day after the Tigers said they were postponing indefinitely talks with the government initially set for next week, despite the efforts of a Norwegian peace envoy. "It was a claymore explosion early this morning," said army spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe, referring to the type of fragmentation mine. Troops and police were searching the area, which was close to the border between government and rebel-held territory, he said. — Reuters.

Colombo, April 24 — Sri Lankan troops shot dead two suspected Tamil Tiger rebels as they tried to set an ambush today, while the suspected rebel killing of six Sinhalese farmers the previous day raised fears of more ethnic riots. Some 100 people have died in just over two weeks after a series of suspected Tamil Tiger ambushes on the military were followed by attacks on Tamil civilians. Both sides say they are still working towards talks that were scheduled for last week in Switzerland, but are now indefinitely postponed. But diplomats say the peace process seems deadlocked and some fear a return to the island's two-decade civil war. In eastern Sri Lanka, two suspected rebels setting up a fragmentation mine ambush were disturbed by troops, the army said. One soldier was wounded and both Tigers killed. An explosion in the northern town of Jaffna hurt no one. An army spokesman said troops had increased their presence around the village where six farmers were shot dead late yesterday, in the northeastern district of Trincomalee. — Reuters.

London, Mar 25 — A press report, dated today, states: At least eight people have been killed in a suicide bomb attack on Sri Lanka's army headquarters, while the head of the army has been seriously injured. Lt Gen Sarath Fonseka is undergoing surgery in the capital Colombo, where the attack happened, a doctor said. The military blames Tamil Tiger rebels for the attack and has launched air strikes on their positions in the east. There has been a surge in violence in Sri Lanka recently, and the Tigers last week pulled out of planned peace talks. Local sources say the attack will test the government's resolve to continue with the peace process with the Tigers. Military officials say the attacker was a woman who disguised herself as being heavily pregnant to conceal the explosives. She presented fake identification and said she had a pregnancy appointment

at the army hospital inside the complex, unnamed officials told the Associated Press. "A powerful blast activated by a woman Tamil Tiger suicide bomber claimed the lives of several army and civil personnel near the military hospital gate this afternoon," the army said in a statement. There were 27 wounded, the army said. The army headquarters are in a heavily guarded compound in central Colombo. Lt Gen Fonseka is reported to have suffered severe abdominal injuries and has been taken to hospital. "He is not out of danger, we are operating on him now," Dr Hector Weerasinghe of Colombo's National Hospital told AP news agency. Lt Gen Fonseka was appointed head of the army shortly after the election of President Mahinda Rajapakse last November and has taken a hard line against the Tamil Tigers. Police say the explosion bears all the hallmarks of the Tigers. The Sri Lankan military said it has begun an aerial assault on rebel positions in eastern Sri Lanka. This is the first suicide bombing in the Sri Lankan capital since July 2004, and the biggest attack blamed on the Tamil Tigers since they signed a truce with the government in 2002. Nearby roads were closed after the blast, while the main highway connecting the northern government-controlled town of Jaffna to the rest of the country was also cut off by government troops. Meanwhile, efforts are continuing to persuade the rebels to return to peace talks in Switzerland. Last week they pulled out of negotiations, accusing the government of attacks on ethnic Tamil civilians. The team of Norwegian envoys acting as mediators in the conflict has condemned the latest bombing but said it was not drawing "any immediate conclusions about the possible perpetrators".

Colombo, Apr 25 — Sri Lanka's military attacked Tamil Tiger rebel targets today in retaliation after a suicide attack on the army's headquarters that killed nine — both strong signals the island's truce may be unravelling. Earlier in the day, a suspected Black Tiger suicide bomber pretending to be pregnant blew herself up in an attack on the army's commander, bringing violence that had been confined to the north and east to the capital. The government said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam had also shelled the north-eastern Trincomalee naval base, but that the army retaliation — the first official military action against the rebels since a 2002 truce — did not mean an immediate return to a two-decade civil war. "The LTTE did something this afternoon that clearly breached the cease-fire," head of the government peace secretariat, Palitha Kohona, said. "The government had to act. We still hope that the LTTE will decide to come to talks." The Tigers said they were under attack from Kfir fighter jets and army artillery in the north-eastern Trincomalee district, but there was no immediate word on

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casualties. They denied responsibility for the Colombo attack, just as they had for other recent ambushes on the military. "We are not pulling out from the cease-fire agreement or anything," rebel media co-ordinator Daya Master said. About 110 people have died in the bloodiest two weeks since the Norwegian-brokered cease-fire halted the civil war that killed more than 64,000, with the rebels still keen to win their goal of a Tamil homeland in the island's north and east. Peace talks were supposed to take place in Geneva this week but arrangements became deadlocked on over how to transport a group of eastern rebel commanders to attend a pre-talks meeting. However, the rebels' real complaint is what they say is government complicity with a breakaway rebel group in the east attacking the mainstream Tigers. With mediator Norway still trying to secure talks in Switzerland amid spiralling ethnic violence and tension, the Nordic mission monitoring the truce had called for restraint. They confirmed the military assault. The military said Army Commander Sarath Fonseka, a decorated combat veteran who said the truce was too soft on the rebels, had been undergoing surgery but was out of danger after the blast. The army said eight people in addition to the bomber had been killed and 27 wounded inside army headquarters, one of the most secure places in the country. — Reuters.

Colombo, Apr 26 — Sri Lanka's military launched new strikes on Tamil Tiger areas in the island's northeast today, a day after a deadly suicide bomb attack blamed on rebels shattered a fragile ceasefire. Military spokesman Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe said today's strikes came after the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fired on naval patrol craft off the eastern port of Trincomalee for a second day. "The navy is heavily patrolling the area," he said. "They requested air support." The government launched attacks on Tiger territory yesterday after a suspected suicide bomb in the capital killed nine and wounded the army commander. The Tigers said today that at least 12 people — including women and children — died in those raids. The attacks were the first official military action since a 2002 ceasefire halted the two-decades-old civil war and raised fears that the Norwegian-brokered truce was on the brink of collapse. Swedish Major-General Ulf Henricsson, who heads the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission, said if air strikes continued, peace talks would become difficult. "We still have a valid ceasefire agreement. No party has ended it, but of course it is not a ceasefire right now," he told Reuters. The Tigers' political leader in Trincomalee district, S. Elilan, told the pro-rebel Tamilnet Web site that the rebels, who deny all action, had not attacked the military and that the strikes on them were unprovoked. He asked the Nordic staffed Sri Lanka

Monitoring Mission (SLMM), tasked with observing the ceasefire, if the war had resumed. "We did not fire a single shot against the Sri Lankan troops Tuesday," he said. "SLMM should inquire into our complaint and should inform us whether the Sri Lankan Army has launched a full scale war on the LTTE." The Tigers yesterday denied responsibility for the suicide bomb attack, but scant mention was made of it on their Web site. They indefinitely postponed peace talks that should have taken place last week in Switzerland, accusing the government of obstructing the transport of eastern rebel leaders to a pre-talks meeting, but diplomats say they were just looking for an excuse to pull out, angry the government has not reined in renegade group of ex-rebels, the Karuna group, which has been attacking the mainstream Tigers in the east. — Reuters.



### Labour Disputes

#### MEXICO

Mexico City, Apr 20 — Hundreds of Mexican police stormed a major steel plant today to force out striking workers in a violent clash that spilled onto the streets and left three workers dead. Two of the dead were shot and the other was crushed as tussles between steel workers and police with riot gear and shields at the Sicartsa complex, which has been closed for three weeks by workers defending a union boss whom the government accuses of graft. Dozens more were injured when some 600 police moved in firing tear gas canisters early in the morning at the plant in the western state of Michoacan, officials said. Both workers and police were hurt, some of them by people in the crowd throwing stones and homemade petrol bombs. "A very violent conflict situation arose," Enrique Bautista, a senior official in the Michoacan state government, said in a radio interview. "There was a very large number of injured and there are three people dead," he said, adding that the police were on orders to go in armed with only riot shields and batons. The Villacero steel company briefly regained control of its Sicartsa complex as strikers were pushed out but it later said workers were again blocking the plant and it was unlikely to reopen tomorrow. The union said President Vicente Fox had "blood on his hands" and demanded an investigation into the violence. "There was a violent evacuation where more than 600 officers from different police forces in Michoacan entered the complex to unblock the strike," union spokeswoman Consuelo Aguilar said. It was the worst clash since thousands of mining and metals workers across the country went on

strike last month in defense of union boss Napoleon Gomez, whom the government no longer recognises because of the corruption accusations. The police arrived quietly in the early hours of today, some of them landing by boat behind the plant, at Lazaro Cardenas port, according to a witness. People living nearby came out to support the steel workers, firing catapults, blocking roads and burning vehicles. Two buses and a police car were set alight, the reporter said. Striking miners have also shut down copper producer Grupo Mexico's La Caridad mine, badly hurting the company's output and helping to send international prices for the metal to record highs. — Reuters.

### Awards & Settlements



#### ACCOUNTING ERRORS, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 21 — A press report, dated Apr 20, states: Freddie Mac, the second-largest source of US mortgage financing, has agreed to pay \$410 million in cash to settle a shareholder lawsuit over accounting mistakes that led it to restate three years of earnings. Shareholders sued Freddie Mac after the company's directors found executives manipulated accounting rules to damp earnings volatility. The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System led the class action suit over violations that led Freddie Mac to restate income for 2000 to 2002 higher by \$5 billion. "This is a significant recovery and a very positive outcome for the buyers of Freddie Mac stock," Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro said in a statement. Two Ohio pension funds sought to recover \$25 million. The \$410 million is about 20% of damages estimated to be as high as \$2 billion, said Mark Anthony, a spokesman for Petro. The company will deposit the \$410 million into a fund that will be distributed to the two Ohio pension funds and all other buyers of company stock from Jul 15, 1999, until Nov 20, 2003, Petro said in a statement. The plan is subject to the approval of US District Court Judge John Sprizzo in New York, Petro said.

#### MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated Apr 24, states: A teenager born with severe brain damage has received £1.5m agreed damages after a claim for negligence against a health authority. The claim was brought by Rachel Taylor, from Solihull, backed by her mother, against Birmingham and the Black Country Strategic Health Authority. Ms Taylor was born in May 1987 at Solihull Hospital maternity unit and now requires constant, lifelong care.

The health authority denied liability at London's High Court. The ruling today came just a month before her 19th birthday. Jeremy Pendlebury, appearing for Ms Taylor, said she was born with "cerebral palsy of the most severe quadriplegic kind". There was no doubt that brain damage had occurred close to the time of birth, he said. Mr Pendlebury said the £1.5m settlement figure represented "about 50% of the potential realistic maximum value" of his client's claim which had been based on the alleged negligence of the hospital midwives and doctors. He said the "sticking point" was whether brain damage had occurred before or after her mother had been admitted to hospital to give birth. Mr Justice Ramsey, sitting in London, said: "I am satisfied that the settlement of £1.5m represents a proper and reasonable compromise of the claim and one which takes into account the interests of Rachel and her future care." The judge said Ms Taylor was suffering from considerable physical disabilities as a result of birth difficulties. She had practically no communication skills and her physical co-ordination was extremely limited due to problems with both her hearing and vision. She suffered from epilepsy and would require lifelong constant care for all aspects of her life. Her family had continued to care for her and the court heard it was thanks to their care and attention that she had enjoyed a much longer life expectancy than might otherwise have been the case. A purpose-built residential property, Martha House in Hereford, had been set up in 1997 by a family friend which shared in the task of caring for her.

#### **PATENT INFRINGEMENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A federal jury awarded Rambus Inc. almost \$307 million in a patent dispute with Hynix Semiconductor Inc., the world's second-largest memory chipmaker. Rambus shares rose as much as 21 percent. The jury in San Jose, California, agreed with Rambus's claim that Hynix infringed patents covering fundamental aspects of dynamic random access memory, or DRAM, the main type of memory used in computers. Rambus argued during the trial that Hynix owed it between \$108.5 million and \$868 million in damages for infringement from 2000 to 2005. The verdict is the first jury test of Rambus's infringement claims, and gives the Los Altos, California-based company leverage to press similar cases against Samsung Electronics Co., Micron Technology Inc. and Nanya Technology Corp. It also improves Rambus's chances of winning royalties it seeks from other manufacturers in the \$26 billion memory industry.

#### **PERSONAL INJURY, UNITED STATES**

London, Apr 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A man who was

paralysed from the waist down in a 2000 car accident has won a \$17 million judgment against his sports utility vehicle's Japanese seat-belt maker, Takata Corp. Dason Udac, of Naalehu, Hawaii, was injured when his 1987 Nissan Pathfinder overturned on Hawaii Belt Highway. His elderly father, Alberto Udac, was not injured. The Udacs sued Takata, alleging that the seat belts were negligently designed. A jury in December found that Udac was 35% responsible and Takata was 65% responsible. Udac was awarded \$16.53 million in damages, including \$12.5 million in punitive damages. Alberto Udac was awarded \$422,500 for emotional distress and the loss of care from his son. Circuit Judge Glen Hara entered the judgment in the case on Wednesday (Apr 19.).

London, Apr 24 — A Medford bricklayer left paralyzed by a 2001 scaffolding collapse during the construction of an MIT parking garage in Cambridge will receive \$8 million from construction firms involved in the horrifying incident, according to lawyers who represented the father of two. The scaffolding gave way as the bricklayer and two others were working. All three were injured after falling nearly 40 feet and the Medford labourer was paralyzed from the waist down. The lawsuit filed in the case placed blame on seven construction firms involved in the project, including general contractor William Berry & Sons, subcontractor Julian Crane & Equipment Corp. and Dunlop Mast Climbers, which sold the equipment that collapsed.

#### **PRICE FIXING, JAPAN**

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The Fukuoka District Court today ordered five major Japanese machinery makers to repay Yen 2,088 million, or 7% of the contract price, to the city government of Fukuoka for rigging bids for a city incinerator construction project. The companies are Hitachi Zosen Corp, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd, JFE Engineering Corp, Takuma Co and Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd. Presiding Judge Yoichi Kishiwada found that the five companies had rigged their bids for the incinerator project, declaring it illegal that the municipal government had failed to seek damages from them. Kobe-based Kawasaki Heavy Industries expressed dissatisfaction with the court's decision and said it planned to file an appeal to a higher court. The four other companies said they would examine the ruling before deciding how to respond. The three-judge court acted on a damages suit filed by a local nonprofit organization, the Citizens Ombudsman Fukuoka, that sought the repayment to the city coffers of Yen 2,980 million, or 10% of the Yen 29.8 billion contract price which was 99.97% of the city government's budgeted price for the project. The amount awarded by the court is the biggest ever among such lawsuits involving bid-rigging

practices, the ombudsman group said. Findings in today's ruling showed that the Osaka-based Hitachi Zosen outbid its rivals after the five makers rigged their bids in August, 1996. The presiding judge said, "The market mechanism did not function in the Fukuoka bidding after the five makers had reached a broad bid-rigging agreement by around 1994 at the latest." The court set the amount of damages in question at 7% of the contract price because average contract prices in similar projects across the country concluded by each of the five makers were 6.8% higher than those won by other makers.

## **Railway Accidents**



#### **SHOCKOE BOTTOM, VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Eleven fully loaded CSX freight cars derailed from an elevated track in Shockoe Bottom yesterday. One car fell about 8 feet, spilling 100 tonnes of coal onto a grassy field. No one was injured. The back end of a line of coal cars veered off the above-ground tracks on the north side of the floodwall around 16th and Dock streets at 0641 hrs. One car fell on its side, dumping a large pile of coal onto a field behind a Richmond Public Utilities building. A few cars behind it buckled and shifted on the tracks, sending broken wood railroad slats and metal clips flying onto the ground. The derailment damaged two 50-foot sections of the James River Bridge. CSX owns the track, which carries eight trains each day through Richmond. CSX spokesman Gary Sease said. The 11 cars were part of a chain of 97 coal cars that were headed from Shelby, Ky., to Wheelwright, near Hopewell. Sease said CSX officials hadn't determined the cause of the accident and still were evaluating the derailed cars and track.

#### **TEIGNMOUTH, DEVON, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Apr 22 — Train services have been severely disrupted after separate accidents in Devon in which a woman was killed and a car plunged on to the line. The woman, in her 40s, was killed at Sprey Head, Teignmouth, Devon, when she was hit by a train this morning. Network Rail said all services from Plymouth to London were affected, with cancellations and delays. The line between Newton Abbot and Totnes has been cleared after a car rolled on to the line yesterday. Two people in the car were slightly injured in the accident at the A381 and A303 intersection. Police believe the unnamed woman killed in Teignmouth may have been taking a short cut or trying to retrieve her dog from the

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tracks when she was hit. Great Western services from Bristol to Penzance and Penzance to Cardiff this morning were terminated at Exeter and Plymouth respectively.

## Robberies & Thefts



### ART AND PORCELAIN, WILTSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated Apr 23, states: The true value of art and antiques stolen from property tycoon Harry Hyams' country mansion is believed to be £50 million higher than was first estimated. The haul was initially thought to be around £30 million, but The Art Newspaper has reported that £80 million, an estimate for insurance purposes, is closer to the mark. If so, the heist at Ramsbury Manor in Wiltshire is the biggest theft in British history. The full value of the Hyams haul has become clear after investigations by police and art experts. Thieves entered his estate in 4x4s overnight on February 1, stealing more than 300 museum-grade items from his mansion. The Art Newspaper reported: "More is now known about precisely what was taken, and their values, and it appears that the figure is closer to £80 million, although this remains an estimate." Reclusive Hyams, 78, has been collecting rare works for 50 years. Despite the large number of items still missing, they are said to be a small dent in Hyams' vast collection. On March 25, around 140 items in the Hyams haul were recovered from an underground bunker at Black Hill, near Stratford-upon-Avon, Warks. Some of the pieces found were badly damaged. Detectives had predicted that some of the stolen items, difficult to shift because they are instantly recognisable to experts, may end up being destroyed or dumped.

## Miscellaneous



### OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

Beijing, Apr 20 — A man in central China has died of bird flu, the official Xinhua news agency said today, reporting the country's 12th H5N1 virus death since November. The World Health Organisation (WHO), which has not confirmed the death was from bird flu, said Chinese authorities had informed it that the man had died yesterday. "The source of exposure is under investigation," WHO spokeswoman Maria Cheng said in Geneva. There have been more

than 30 outbreaks in poultry in a dozen provinces over the past year in China. Xinhua, quoting local health authorities, identified the victim as a 21-year-old migrant worker surnamed Lai who worked as a security guard in Wuhan, capital of the central province of Hubei. It said he had returned to his home outside Wuhan last month to attend a funeral and developed symptoms of pneumonia on Apr 1. On Tuesday (Apr 18) the Health Ministry had confirmed that he had the H5N1 virus, making him the country's 17th human case. Xinhua said people who had had close contact with Lai had shown no abnormal symptoms. It added that there were no reports of flu outbreaks among poultry in his home town and the reason for his infection was unknown. — Reuters.

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Bird flu cases worldwide topped 200 after a dozen people were confirmed to have been infected with the virus in Egypt, the World Health Organization said. "Of the 12 cases in Egypt, four patients have died and one remains hospitalized in stable condition," the Geneva-based United Nations agency said in an Apr 21 statement on its Web site. "Seven patients have fully recovered and been discharged from hospital." An 18-year-old girl from the north Egyptian governorate of Minufiyah is the country's latest confirmed fatality, the WHO said. She developed symptoms on Apr 5 and died nine days later. The cases in Egypt of the H5N1 strain of avian influenza take to 204 the number of people infected with the lethal virus since late 2003, according to the WHO. Of those, 113 have been fatal. So far this year, 60 H5N1 cases and 37 fatalities have been reported worldwide, compared with 95 cases and 41 fatalities in the whole of 2005. Countries to have reported human cases are Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, China, Turkey, Iraq, Azerbaijan and Egypt.

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Some 35,000 chickens at a poultry farm in Norfolk are to be slaughtered after dead birds tested positive for a strain of bird flu. The dead chickens were found on Witford Lodge Farm in Hockering, about 13 miles west of Norwich. Early tests showed it was likely to be the H7 strain, virulent among chickens but less of a risk to humans than the H5N1 variant, which can be fatal. The government's chief vet Debby Reynolds said she did not know where the flu had come from. She expected further test results to reveal more about the bird flu strain over the next 24 hours. She said no decision had been taken on whether to destroy poultry on neighbouring farms, adding that the slaughter, due to take place today, was a "highly precautionary" measure to ensure there was no spread of the disease. Earlier, a Defra spokesman said the farm had been placed under "restrictions", adding: "When the additional laboratory results are known, further action may be taken."

### POWER OUTAGE TO REFINERY, VENEZUELA

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Venezuela's Cardon oil refinery has restored more than 90 percent of its operations after a power outage that caused a shutdown more than a week ago, a state oil company official said today. The Apr 14 power outage disrupted operations at the refinery, which produces 305,000 barrels a day. But Alejandro Granado, the head of refining at Petroleos de Venezuela SA, said operations are nearly back to normal. He said there haven't been any delays in supplying the refinery's international clients, adding that, at most, some shipments could be delayed one to two days. Granado added that the refinery's catalytic cracker, which produces gasoline, is back on line.

## Fires & Explosions



### BUS DEPOT, DURBAN AREA, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Police say more than R20 million (£1.86 million) damage was caused in this morning's suspected arson attack in which 59 buses were set alight at the Umlazi bus depot. Durban-based bus company, Remant Alton, says it will, in conjunction with the Ethekwini municipality, make contingency plans for tomorrow to ensure commuters get to work or school. Dan Cloete, the bus company spokesperson, says the fire started at about 0330, today. He says more than 160 buses were in the depot at time, but fire fighters managed to contain the blaze so that the rest of the buses could be saved.

### FACTORY, CHAGUANAS, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated Apr 22, states: An early morning fire of unknown origin, completely destroyed the Vicmol Foam Factory at Bolai Trace in Chase Village, Chaguanas yesterday. The fire left 24 persons unemployed as well as an estimated (Trinidad & Tobago)\$15 million (£1.35 million) in losses. The factory was owned by Pradeep and Harrynarine Rambaran of La Romaine. Pradeep said two buildings were destroyed as well as stocks, machinery and office equipment. Assistant Chief Fire Officer Carl Scipio said the Chaguanas Fire Station received a telephone call from the factory's security officer Hardeo Rampersad, at about 0130 hrs, yesterday after Rampersad saw smoke coming from the warehouse. Fire tenders quickly responded to the blaze but as they were nearing the fire scene they heard a loud explosion coming from the warehouse which at this time was



already engulfed in flames. By the time they arrived on the scene, the two Fire officials said a strong wind had aided the fire's spread. Fire tenders from San Fernando, Couva, Tunapuna and Piarco as well as water trucks from WASA responded. Scipio said he was thankful there were no water problems, which enabled them to save several nearby businesses. Central Divisional Police are continuing investigations.

**FURNITURE FACTORY, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

London, Apr 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Factory workers were evacuated and primary school children locked inside today as fire raced through an east Melbourne furniture factory, leaving a A\$1 million damage bill. About 50 firefighters saved two nearby factories and a house from the fire at Moorewood Furniture, which generated heavy smoke over Fairbank Road in Clayton South about 1350, AEST. Two people were inside the factory when there was a small explosion and they immediately left the building. The building will have to be demolished.

**MARINA, MANOEL ISLAND, MALTA**

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Three yachts, costing tens of thousands of liri, went up in flames early yesterday morning at a Manoel Island marine yard. Nobody was injured in the incident, which could have been caused by an electrical fault on board one of the vessels, police sources said. Police and Civil Protection Department firemen rushed to the scene at 0515 hrs following reports of the fire. Police investigations showed that a small explosion had occurred on one of the 45-foot boats and the wind helped to spread the fire to the two adjacent vessels. All three yachts, which were on land, were destroyed. The police said that maintenance work was carried out over the weekend on one of the vessels. Several persons were asleep on board vessels nearby. The press were not allowed in to the scene of the incident. Duty magistrate Abigail Lofaro appointed several experts to help her draw up an inquiry. There were fears initially that the incident was yet another arson attack but investigations showed that the fire probably started in one of the engines.

**WILDFIRE, UNITED STATES**

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated Apr 24, states: Calmer winds helped moderate the behavior of a fire that has charred 1220 acres, about 30 miles south-west of Winslow, Arizona. Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest spokesman Bob Dyson said the Sand Fire is 60% contained and is expected to be fully contained by Wednesday night (Apr 26). Winds were about 20 miles-an-hour in the fire area, today, after reaching 40 to 50 miles-an-hour yesterday, hindering firefighting

efforts. Dyson said 180 people are fighting the blaze this evening, along with a hotshot crew. The fire is burning ponderosa and pinyon pine trees in rugged terrain. It is not posing a threat to any homes or buildings. The fire was caused by humans and Dyson said authorities are investigating.

**WILDFIRES, ARIZONA, UNITED STATES**

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire that has charred 1270 acres 30 miles south-west of Winslow is 70% contained. A spokesman for the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest says the Sand Fire was expected to be fully contained by tomorrow night. About 180 people are fighting the blaze along with a helicopter and an air tanker. The fire is burning ponderosa and pinyon pine trees in rugged terrain but wasn't threatening any homes or buildings.



**CRASH, ATLANTIS, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Three people died yesterday when the light aircraft they were travelling in crashed near farm land in Atlantis, along the Cape west coast. Cape Town metro emergency services doctor Wayne Smith said they were alerted to the accident by a farmer earlier in the afternoon and immediately dispatched a helicopter to the scene. Three occupants were confirmed dead at the scene near the Klein Dassenberg road. Phindiwe Gwebu, spokeswoman for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), said the light twin-engined aircraft, with three pilots onboard, took off from Cape Town International Airport for a training flight in a designated area north of the city. She said the CAA would send a team of investigators to try and determine the cause of the accident.

**CRASH, CAPE YORK, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA**

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven people have had a lucky escape after their light aircraft crash landed on a Torres Strait island off Queensland's Cape York. It is believed the aircraft skidded off the runway at the Mabuig airport, hit a fence and ended up in a dam. Those on board were treated for minor injuries and shock. Transport Safety Bureau spokesman Ian Sangston says the cause of the accident is not known. "It's very early days and we don't have that detail," he said. "The normal process for the bureau is that it will consider all of the details of the accident when they come to hand, or

as many as we can, and then a decision will be made as to what sort of investigation might take place."

**CRASH, CLUJ, ROMANIA**

London, Apr 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A Mooney M20T crashed on the International Airport runway in Cluj, NW Romania today. There were no victims; the accident occurred when the aircraft tried to take off, due to technical problems, PR director at the Romania's Ministry of Transport Adrian Ionescu told Mediafax. He said the aircraft was carrying out a private flight to Salzburg, Austria with three passengers aboard.

**CRASH, LASHKAR GAH, AFGHANISTAN**

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A civilian-leased aircraft crashed today after overrunning an Afghan airstrip on landing in southern Helmand province, with casualties reported. The plane crashed in Lashkar Gah, Helmand's main town about 325 miles south-west of the Afghan capital, Kabul, said deputy provincial Governor Amir Mohammed Aghunzaba. The official said there were an unspecified number of people inside the "small white plane" who were dead or seriously injured. Coalition military forces sent emergency crews to the scene of the crash, which occurred at about 1130 hrs, said Canadian military spokesman Major Quentin Innis.

**CRASH, LASHKAR GAN AIRPORT, AFGHANISTAN**

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft, carrying US drug enforcement officials, slammed into tents and mud-brick houses after dodging a truck on a runway, an Lashkar Gan Airport, Afghanistan, killing two Ukrainian crew members on board and three people on the ground, officials said today. At least 13 people were injured, including several Americans, when the Russian-made, twin-engine Antonov AN-32 (Cline) aircraft ploughed into a nomad settlement, while landing at an airport in Lashkar Gah in southern Afghanistan. The aircraft had to manoeuvre to avoid a truck that crossed the runway, officials said. Two of the four Ukrainian crew members, including the pilot, were killed, US Embassy spokesman Lou Finton said, while eight of the 13 passengers, 11 Americans and two people whose nationalities were not specified, suffered minor injuries. Canadian military spokesman Maj Quentin Innis said three Afghans on the ground were also killed and five people unaccounted for. Two of the Afghans were nomad girls, aged two and three, who were crushed to death in their mud brick homes as they slept, their mothers said. At least five other people were injured. The aircraft was leased by the State

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Department and carried a team from the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Innis said. The bureau has been helping Afghan authorities conduct opium eradication campaigns across southern Afghanistan.

#### **CRASH, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LAKE, UNITED STATES**

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Improper maintenance and an overload of freight caused a twin-engine Convair 340, operated by Miami Air Lease, to crash land in a Miami-Dade County lake in December, 2004, according to a National Transportation Safety Board report released yesterday. The aircraft taken off from Opa-locka Airport, headed for Nassau. It was three miles east of the shoreline when its left engine failed. The two pilots tried to return to the airport. Because the oil system had not been adequately flushed, they were unable to stop the left propeller from spinning, which created drag. Also, the aircraft was almost 600 pounds over its maximum weight limit, forcing it to descend, the safety board said. The pilots ditched the aircraft in Maule Lake, just south of Aventura Mall. Neither one was hurt.

#### **CRASH, N'DJAMENA AREA, CHAD**

N'Djamena, Apr 23 — A Libyan cargo aircraft carrying humanitarian food aid crashed on the Chad-Cameroon border today while attempting to land at the Chadian capital N'Djamena, killing all six people on board, officials said. "It was a Russian-made Antonov plane travelling from Libya to Chad. There were six persons on board. All the six died," a local government official from Cameroon's northern Logone-Chari region told Reuters. The dead included the aircraft's Ukrainian pilot and at least two Libyan nationals, the official said. The other victims were not immediately identified. Chadian aviation officials said the aircraft aborted its first attempt to land at N'Djamena airport after apparently detecting a fault and then crashed in a field on the bank of the Chari river, opposite N'Djamena, while making a second attempt. Libyan Airlines Company sources said the cargo aircraft had been hired by the company from a foreign firm to transport humanitarian assistance. They attributed the accident to "technical reasons" but gave no more details. A Reuters Television cameraman who visited the crash site saw bodies covered in blue plastic sheets. Chadian officials said it was carrying vegetable oil and tinned food, which Libya's foreign ministry said was part of a Libyan humanitarian aid programme. — Reuters.

#### **CRASH, NORWOOD COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES**

London, Apr 25 — A press report, dated Apr 24, states: A small plane

crashed this morning on or near the Norwood Country Club but the pilot was not injured, according to broadcast news reports. WBZ-radio reported the aircraft crashed on the golf course at the country club, but a report on Channel 5 WCVB-TV's website, said the plane crashed as it landed at Norwood Airport, leaving pieces of the aircraft strewn around the country club. The accident reportedly happened shortly after 0800 hrs. The pilot's name was not released. No one else was aboard. Officials were on the scene and investigating the crash.

#### **CRASH, SOUTHERN HIGHLAND PROVINCE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Three men were killed and four, including the Australian pilot, were injured when an oil company helicopter crashed in the rainforests of Papua New Guinea. Oil Search Ltd said the Bell 206 operated by Hevi Lift had been approaching the company's Moran 5/7 helipad in Southern Highland Province about 1700, AEST, yesterday. Two PNG nationals, both welding contractors, were killed when the helicopter crashed. Another man died shortly afterwards in the nearby company hospital at Lagifu Ridge, said Oil Search (PNG) Ltd spokeswoman Ann Diamant from Sydney. The Australian pilot, whose name has not been released, was airlifted to the Cairns Base Hospital with suspected spinal injuries and was reported to be in a stable condition today, Ms Diamant said. He was expected to be transferred soon to Melbourne for further treatment, she said. Another three men, who were not seriously injured, were taken to hospital in Port Moresby and were expected to be released in the next few days. Oil Search would compensate the families of the victims, Ms Diamant said. It was not yet known what caused the crash which occurred in fading light at an altitude of about 1,000 metres, Ms Diamant said. Oil Search Ltd managing director Peter Botten said an investigation was underway involving civil aviation authorities, Oil Search and Hevi Lift, which is owned by the Swire Group.

#### **CRASH, ST. MARTINS, PERTHSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated Apr 23, states: A pilot was taken to hospital after his light aircraft crash landed in a field in Perthshire. The single-engine Zenair 601 plane crashed as it came into land near Gracefield Farm, St Martins, at about 1640, UTC, today. A Tayside Police spokesman said the 41-year-old pilot was taken to Ninewells Hospital in Dundee. His injuries were not thought to be life-threatening. The Air Accidents Investigation Branch has been advised.

#### **CRASH, TERSKY AREA, RUSSIA**

See RA-30451.

#### **CRASH, TERSKY AREA, RUSSIA**

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Four people were killed and one injured in an airplane crash in southern Russia, NTV reported today. The An-2 aircraft was trying to land near the village of Tersky, in the southern Stavropol region, when the accident happened yesterday evening, according to NTV. The survivor, who had been sent to hospital, was in critical condition, NTV said. The plane was badly damaged, and its crushed wreckage was lying in a field, NTV footage showed. Sergei Kozhemyaka, duty officer for the regional Emergency Situations Ministry said the plane apparently ran out of fuel causing it to crash.

#### **CRASH, WRIGHTWOOD AREA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

See N2620S.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, COLLARENEBRI, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA**

London, Apr 25 — A search has been called off for a light aircraft that was heard giving a mayday call yesterday afternoon. The De Havilland aircraft with five passengers on board had left Walgett in north-west New South Wales and was headed towards St. George in southern Queensland. Canberra Search and Rescue were alerted to the mayday and called police. Engine failure had forced the aircraft to land on a property near Collarenebri. The pilot and passengers were not injured.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, TAMPA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES**

London, Apr 22 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A commercial passenger jet with 108 people on board made an emergency landing at Tampa International Airport this afternoon after the pilot radioed he had "major electrical problems," the airport reported. The Northwest Flight 880 was enroute from Memphis to TIA when the problems occurred. The specific nature of the electrical problems was not stated, said airport spokesperson Brenda Geohagan. The jet was given priority clearance for an immediate landing. It landed shortly after four p.m. without incident and taxied to Airside A to deplane, she said. No injuries were reported.

#### **F-GIVH**

London, Apr 26 — Bell 206, F-GIVH, was substantially damaged while transitioning to the parking area at Propriano Airfield, Propriano, France, at 1755, UTC, Apr 9. One of the helicopters five occupants sustained minor injuries.

#### **N120HS**

London, Apr 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft believed to have five people on board crashed in fog near the Bloomington airport, authorities said today. There

was no word on the fate of the passengers and crew, said Indiana State Police spokesman Ken Maxwell. The wreckage was found just south of the Monroe County Airport around 0430, EDT, today, Maxwell said. The aircraft was en route to the airport from Lafayette, about 90 miles to the northwest. The pilot activated the lights at the airport from the cockpit but never landed, said Mike Cornman, deputy fire chief in Van Buren Township. Officials at Hulman Field in Terre Haute said the aircraft disappeared from radar at 2340 yesterday, Cornman said. The aircraft was a single-engine Cessna with six seats, officials said. Cornman said he did not have any information on the passengers or the aircraft's flight schedule. Rain and fog hindered efforts to launch a search by helicopter.

London, Apr 23 — Cessna U206G (Stationair 6), N120HS, operated by Yatish Air LLC, while on a flight from Lafayette, Indiana, to Bloomington, Indiana, Airport, with five persons on board, crashed at 0340, UTC, Apr 20, on approach to Bloomington Airport. The aircraft was four miles south of Bloomington on last radio contact. The aircraft was destroyed and all five persons on board died.

#### **N22MP**

London, Apr 23 — Bell 47G-3B-1, operated by Aircorp Inc, with two persons on board, crashed approximately 3.5 miles south-west of Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, at 2041 UTC, Apr 20. The helicopter was destroyed and both persons on board died.

#### **N231GE**

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The investigation continues into the death of an Omaha man in a weekend plane crash. Ray Townsend, 58, died Saturday (Apr 22) when his single-engine plane crashed just outside the Golden Triangle Airport in Columbus, Miss. Airport officials said that the retired Air Force colonel contacted the control tower saying his engine had failed and that he was trying to land in a field. Emergency crews found the plane crashed less than a mile from the airport. No one else was hurt in the crash. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating why Townsend's engines failed.

London, Apr 24 — Mooney M-20K (Turbo Mooney 231) N231GE crashed near Starkville, Mississippi, at 1751, Apr 22, while on a flight from Starkville to Omaha, Nebraska. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

#### **N2620S**

London, Apr 24 — A press report, dated Apr 23, states: A Cessna plane crashed in the mountains outside the town of Wrightwood, killing two people on board, authorities said. The twin-engine aircraft had left Palmdale and was en route to El Cajon, when it disappeared from radar about 1120

hrs, today, said Allen Kenitzer, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration. The wreckage was located later today. When rescuers reached the site, they found two bodies, said Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Ban Nguyen. The victims' identities were not immediately released. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash.

London, Apr 24 — Cessna T337C (Skymaster) N2620S crashed near Wrightwood, California, at 1820, Apr 23, while on a flight from Lancaster, CA, to San Diego, CA. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

#### **N3491V**

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated Apr 20, states: A Cessna 150 N3491V crashed near Northwest Regional Airport in south-western Denton County after its right wing clipped power lines. The aircraft went down nose-first and flipped over at about 1345, Wednesday (Apr 19), in the 600 block of N. Cleveland-Gibbs Road, just east of Interstate 35W. The aircraft sustained minimal damage. The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating.

#### **N4488B**

London, Apr 24 — A press report, today, states: Two small aircrafts collided yesterday in the air above a region known as the Palmer Hay Flats, killing a Wasilla man and three of his children in one aircraft and a Chugiak man flying alone in the other, authorities said. None of those on board the aircraft survived the mid-day collision above the relatively remote area and authorities said both planes were destroyed. The collision of the Cessna 170B and the Cessna 172 left debris scattered across the partially frozen marshes of the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge about 10 miles south of Wasilla. The cause of the accident is under investigation, but weather doesn't appear to be a factor, investigators said. They also said they were unsure what altitude the collision occurred at. Alaska State Troopers spokesman Greg Wilkinson identified four victims as members of a Wasilla family on a flight north from Birchwood to Talkeetna: 45-year-old David Beauregard, his 16-year-old son Ryan, his 13-year-old son Conner, and his 9-year-old daughter, Remi. Also killed in the collision was a 55-year-old Chugiak man, William Smoke, the pilot of the other aircraft, which was flying south or south-west, according to Wilkinson and investigators. Based on witness accounts, it appears Smoke's Cessna 172 flew into the left side of Beauregard's Cessna 170B, "and both planes descended to the mud flats from there," said National Transportation Safety Board investigator Clint Johnson. The Cessna 170B is registered to Weston Erb of Chugiak, according to a database of aircraft ownership records. Erb identified Beauregard as his partner, investigators said.

London, Apr 24 — Cessna 170B N4488B and Cessna 172 (Skyhawk) N5049A were in collision in mid air near Birchwood, Alaska, at 2020, Apr 23. Both aircraft were destroyed. The four persons on board N4488B and the one person on board N5049A were all killed.

#### **N5049A**

See N4488B.

#### **N628SF**

London, Apr 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A small aircraft made an emergency landing this afternoon in Willmar, Minn., police said. About 1455 hrs, a Beechcraft aircraft coming from Kansas City, Mo., had to make an emergency landing at the Willmar Airport after the pilot noticed smoke and the odour of electrical problems in the cabin. The aircraft landed safely at the new, but closed Willmar Airport. No injuries were reported.

London, Apr 24 — Beechcraft Baron 58 N628SF made a forced landing at Willmar Airport, Minnesota, at 1955, Apr 22, when the cabin filled with smoke during a flight from Kansas City, Missouri, to Park Rapids, MN. The two persons on board were not injured.

#### **N6579X**

London, Apr 20 — A press report, dated Apr 19, states: Record-setting test pilot Scott Crossfield, who helped pave the way for space exploration, died in an aircraft crash in north Georgia today. Crossfield, 84, of Herndon, Virginia, was alone in his single-engine, 1960s-era Cessna 210A when he crashed in rural Gordon County after leaving Prattville, Alabama, bound for Herndon, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution said. There were thunderstorms and hail reported in the area.

London, Apr 23 — Cessna 210A, N6579X, operated by Scott A. Crossfield, while on a flight from Prattville, Alabama, to Manassas, Virginia, with one person on board, when radio contact lost, approximately 60 miles north of Atlanta, Georgia, 10 miles south-west of Gilmer County Airport, at 1512, UTC, Apr 19. The aircraft was destroyed and the pilot died.

#### **N6775F**

London, Apr 24 — Two people flying a small aircraft from Latrobe to an open house of the Pittsburgh Flying Club were uninjured after the aircraft slid off the end of the runway at the Bouquet Airport in Penn Township, Westmoreland County. Shortly after 1230, yesterday, emergency personnel in Penn Township and the surrounding communities responded to the accident. Emergency responders told KDKA that the pilot, John Miller, and his co-pilot, Valetta Mowry, were lucky. Fuel was leaking from the wing of the aircraft after the accident, but firefighters were able to contain it.

London, Apr 24 — Piper PA-28-181 (Cherokee Archer II) N6775F ran off the runway on landing at Greensburg, Pennsylvania, at 1635, Apr 23. The two persons on board were not injured.

#### **N7110E**

London, Apr 25 — Cessna 182D N7110E crashed near Gainesville, Georgia, at 1530, Apr 24. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were killed.

#### **RA-30451**

London, Apr 25 — Antonov 2, RA-30451, operated by Yugavia, crashed near Tersky at 2050, Apr 23. According to press reports an intoxicated pilot took four passengers on a flight near Tersky in the Buddenovsk district, Stavropol territory. The aircraft banked sharply and crashed on approach.

## Product Recalls

### **BACKPACK BLOWERS, UNITED STATES**

London, Apr 26 — A press release, dated Apr 25, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Komatsu Zenoah America, doing business as RedMax, of Norcross, Ga., today announced voluntary recalls of approximately 170,000 RedMax gas-powered backpack blowers. The muffler support bracket can break, creating an opening in the muffler body. Hot exhaust gases can then escape from the muffler and could melt the fuel tank or ignite grease, oil or debris around the fuel tank, posing a fire hazard. RedMax has received five reports of units that have caught fire when hot exhaust gases from damaged mufflers ignited grease, oil or debris around the area of the fuel tank. No injuries have been reported. Manufactured in Japan and Georgia, the recalled product was sold by RedMax dealers nationwide from December 1996 through to December 2005 for about \$530.

London, Apr 26 — A press release, dated Apr 25, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Shindaiwa, of Tualatin, Ore., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 87,000 Shindaiwa backpack blowers. The backpack blower's muffler support bracket can break, creating an opening in the muffler body. Hot exhaust gases could then escape from the muffler and melt the fuel tank or ignite grease or debris around the fuel tank, posing a fire hazard. Shindaiwa received one report of fire. No injuries were reported. Manufactured in Japan, the recalled product was sold by Shindaiwa dealers nationwide from July 1999 through to February 2006 for about \$545.

### **HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPUTER BATTERIES, WORLDWIDE**

Washington, Apr 20 — Hewlett-Packard Co is recalling about 15,700 HP and Compaq notebook computer batteries worldwide due to a burn and fire hazard, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission said today. HP has received 20 reports of batteries overheating, including two in the United States, with one report of a minor burn injury, the agency said. The recall is for lithium ion rechargeable batteries manufactured in early January, 2005, and used with various HP and Compaq notebook computers. The affected batteries have a bar code label starting with L3, the agency said. About 4,100 of the recalled batteries covered were in the United States. The batteries were manufactured in China, and the computers were sold in the United States at retail and online stores from January, 2005, through December, 2005, for between \$1,000 and \$3,000, the CPSC said. Battery packs were also sold separately for between \$100 and \$300. The computers that may contain a recalled battery include the model series: dv1xxx and ze2xxx in the HP Pavilion Family, nx48xx in the HP Compaq Family, and V2xxx and M2xxx in the Compaq Presario Family, according to the CPSC. — Reuters.

### **ISUZU MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN**

London, Apr 21 — Isuzu Motors Ltd told the transport ministry yesterday that it will recall a total of 37,000 vehicles it had manufactured under three models due to possibly defective brake equipment. The vehicles were made between December 2000 and May 2002, and were sold under three model names - Isuzu's Elf, Nissan Motor Co's Atlas, and Nissan Diesel Motor Co's Condor.

### **SAAB MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES**

London, Apr 26 — The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is ordering the recall of 11,886 Saab 9-3 passenger cars from the 2001 model year because of faulty fuel lines and fittings. On some of the vehicles, the fuel pump retaining taps that secure the fuel line to the pump were damaged during production. NHTSA warns that the problem over time could cause a fuel leak and fire. Saab dealers will secure the fuel line to the pump with a bracket that will hold even if the retaining tab breaks. The Saab 9-3 recall is expected to get underway in May.

### **SNOWMOBILES, UNITED STATES**

London, Apr 26 — A press release, dated Apr 25, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Arctic Cat Inc., of Thief River Falls, Minn., today announced voluntary recalls of approximately 41,000 Arctic Cat Snowmobiles. The fuel tank on the recalled snowmobiles could crack and leak, allowing fuel or fuel vapors

to escape, posing a fire and burn hazard. Arctic Cat has received 217 warranty claims related to two issues surrounding possible fuel leakage from fuel tanks including a crack in the fuel filler neck and leaks at the fuel outlet fitting. No injuries have been reported. The recalled fuel tanks were installed on all 2004, 2005 and 2006 Firecat and SaberCat models. The recall also includes all 2003 Firecat carbureted models. The affected models were manufactured in a variety of colors and engine sizes, however, all are included in this recall. Manufactured in the United States, the recalled product was sold at Arctic Cat dealerships nationwide from May 2002 through to April 2006 for between \$6,500 and \$8,500.

## Port Conditions



### **BANGLADESH**

London, Apr 22 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Chittagong Port is now facing acute container vessel congestion. According to CPA sources, nine container vessels are now operating at the jetties of the Chittagong Port while 13 container vessels are waiting for berthing at the Outer Anchorage. Besides, 24 more container vessels are likely to arrive in the Chittagong Port this week. The port users became the worst sufferers of the container shortage. The Chairman of the CPA AMM Shahadat Hussain told the Independent that the volume of import and export trade have remarkably increased recently. As a result the arrival of container vessels in the Chittagong Port has increased remarkably. He said, the operation department is facing a problem of quick loading and unloading of the vessels. For this reason, the Chittagong Port is facing the container vessel congestion, he admitted. The CPA Chairman further admitted that the productivity rate of the newly installed gantry crane was also at the lowest grade resulting in the increase of turn around time of the vessels. According to the port users, the handling capacity of the newly installed quay gantry crane at the Chittagong Container terminal (CCT) is lower than the crane installed earlier in the Port. The CPA sources attributed the problem to unskilled operators and the power shortage.

Karachi, Apr 24 — Vessel congestion at Chittagong has been observed for the last few days, due to an increase in the numbers of arriving vessels and slow working. As a result, there is the highest ever number of ships waiting at the outer anchorage for berthing space. Last night, 21 ocean going vessels were waiting at the outer anchorage for berthing permission. All the berthing space at the port was occupied with 13 ships loading and

unloading goods. Of the 21 vessels waiting at the outer anchorage, 15 are container vessels and the rest are carrying general cargo including wheat, cars, "scraps" and oil. A shipping agent said: "The long congestion at the port will give a negative signal to the outside world and increase the price of commodities as the feeder operators will think of imposing extra surcharge for ships coming to Chittagong." He added the situation would not be improved unless the port authorities increase the discharge facilities and accelerate the clearing of export and import goods. The rise of the country's export and import business is the main cause of vessel congestion at Chittagong, the country's premier port, the source said, adding that recently imports had risen by 25 per cent while exports had risen by 15 per cent. The number of feeder ships operating between

Singapore and Chittagong has also risen from 29 to 47. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**ITALY**

Genoa, Apr 24 — Port situation Apr 24: Genoa: One container vessel awaiting berth. Average delay in 12 hrs. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berth. Savona: No vessels awaiting berth. — Lloyd's Agents.

**PANAMA CANAL**

London, Apr 22 — A slight improvement has been noted in the situation in the Panama Canal. The queue appears to be dropping and it is hoped that significant reduction in delays will be seen in the coming days. Delays still 4 - 6 days as of yesterday.

London, Apr 24 — There is improvement in the Panama Canal situation. The queue seems to be

dropping and there has been significant reduction since early last week (week 16). Further improvement in backlog and delays are expected in next days. At present there is a three to five days delay to unbooked Panamax vessels and similar delays to regular vessels too. The auctioned booking slot is still in force.

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The situation in the Panama Canal continues to improve, with unbooked vessels now facing delays of about 3-4 days. It is hoped that the gradual improvement will continue in coming days.

**SYRIA**

Aleppo, Apr 22 — Waiting time presently two days at Lattakia and three days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Agents.

**Port Delays**

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

**Australia**

Abbots Point	24-Apr-2006	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 9 vessels due by 6/5.
Brisbane		Apr 19: Grain: 1 vessel due 19/4 to load wheat; no delays expected. Apr 24: Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 3 vessels due by 5/5; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	24-Apr-2006	Coal: DBCT berth 1: berth closed for ca. 48 hours for maintenance; 6 vessels waiting; DBCT berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; DBCT berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 1 vessel waiting, not scheduled; 31 vessels due by 13/5.
Dampier	24-Apr-2006	Iron ore: Parker Point A berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 1 vessel due 22/4; Parker Point berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 9 vessels due by 4/5; Parker Point berth 3: 1 vessel waiting; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 6 vessels due by 7/5.
Esperance	24-Apr-2006	Iron ore: 2 vessels due by 1/5; no delays expected.
Geraldton		Apr 19: Grain: 2 vessels berthed waiting to load unknown cargoes; 1 vessel due 24/4 to load unknown cargo; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Apr 24: Iron ore: 2 vessel due 28/4.
Gladstone	24-Apr-2006	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed, 10 waiting, 42 vessels due by 6/6; shiploader No. 1 will be shut down for maintenance from 8-12/5; Barney Point: 1 vessel waiting; 15 vessels due by 7/6.
Hay Point		Coal: Berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 6 vessels due by 5/5; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 6 vessels due by 5/5; 2 vessels due by 6/5, not yet scheduled for berthing.
Newcastle	24-Apr-2006	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 9 waiting; 37 vessels due by 28/5; 3-12 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 7 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 18 vessels due by 25/5; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 4 vessels off port awaiting coal.
Port Hedland	24-Apr-2006	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 6 waiting; 4 vessels due by 1/5; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; 4 vessels due by 2/5; 5 other vessels due by 14/5, no e.t.a. received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 2 vessels due by 29/5; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 3 vessels due by 28/4; Cockatoo Island: no vessels
Port Kembla	24-Apr-2006	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 14 vessels due by 6/6; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Walcott	24-Apr-2006	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 10 waiting; 6 vessels due by 13/5; shippers are at present experiencing product shortages which may affect berthing schedules.
Whyalla	24-Apr-2006	Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 5 vessels due by 24/5; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.

**Azerbaijan**

Apsheron	24-Apr-2006	Oil products: Three vessels at berth, all discharging (2 crude oil, 1 fuel oil); 1 vessel in roads to discharge crude oil; 2 vessels due by 25/4, both to discharge (1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil).
Baku	24-Apr-2006	Oil products: Bay of Baku: No information; Azerneftiyag terminal: no information; Azertrans terminal: Nobel Avenue: port open; 1 vessel completed discharging crude oil at berth; 1 vessel due 25/4 to discharge crude oil; Sangachal District: port open; no vessels.

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## Port Conditions

### Bulgaria

Bourgas	25-Apr-2006	Seven vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 copper anodes, 1 bagged ammonium nitrate, 1 coils, 1 containers), 2 discharging (1 containers, 1 metals); 4 vessels in roads, of which 3 to load (1 gasoil, 1 wheat, 1 empty vessel), 1 to discharge chemicals; 10 vessels due, of which 6 to load (2 coils, 2 copper concentrate, 1 scrap, 1 pig-iron), 4 to discharge (1 coke, 2 iron ore, 1 coals).
Varna	25-Apr-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 17-23 April: Thirty-nine vessels in port operating of which 21 loading (1 bulk chamotte/silica sand, 1 kaolin, 1 scrap, 2 wheat, 1 bulk clinker, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 6 soda, 1 transformers in packing cases, 1 bulk cement, 1 miscellaneous cargo, 1 bulk silica sand, 1 chamotte/kaolin, 1 TSP, 2 sunflower seeds), 13 discharging (3 equipment in packing cases, 1 bulk feldspar, 1 bulk sugar, 4 bulk coal, 2 raw phosphate, 2 copper concentrate), 5 discharging/loading (4 containers, 1 feldspar/silica sand); no vessels waiting in roads.

### Chile

Antofagasta	24-Apr-2006	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 18 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Arica	24-Apr-2006	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 21 vessels due this week.
Iquique	24-Apr-2006	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 21 vessels due this week.
Puerto Montt	24-Apr-2006	Two vessels at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 7 vessels due this week.
Punta Arenas	24-Apr-2006	Four vessels at terminal, 3 berths vacant; 11 vessels due this week.
San Antonio	24-Apr-2006	Six vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 23 vessels due this week.
San Vicente	24-Apr-2006	Three vessels berthed, 2 berths vacant; 22 vessels due during the week; Steel pier: 1 vessel at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 1 vessel due this week; Coronel pier: 3 vessels at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 3 vessels due this week; Oil terminal: 1 tanker at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 1 tanker due this week.
Valparaiso	24-Apr-2006	Four vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 2 vessels anchored; 18 vessels due this week.

### Cyprus

Larnaca	25-Apr-2006	Two conventional vessels discharging at berth; 1 conventional vessel due 26/4; no delays expected.
Limassol	25-Apr-2006	Seven container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 2 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 3 container vessels, 3 conventional vessels, 2 passenger vessels due 26/4; no delays expected.

### India

Kolkata	24-Apr-2006	3 vessels operating at berth of which 2 discharging (Edible Oil, Containers), 1 vessel discharging Containers; 4 vessels under repair; 1 vessel under dry docked; 3 vessel due (Containers, Liquids) .
Haldia	24-Apr-2006	11 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Iron Ore-3, Thermal Coal), 7 vessels discharging (POL, Crude-2, Coking Coal-2, Fertilizer-2); 6 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 4 to load); 5 vessels due (POL, Coke, Iron Ore, Project Cargo, Containers).
Paradip	24-Apr-2006	6 vessels operating at berth of which 5 loading (Iron ore-3, Chrome Ore, SKO); 1 vessel discharging S.Acid; 1 vessel awaiting berth to load.
Vizag.	24-Apr-2006	10 vessels operating at berth of which 5 loading (Steel Cargo, Iron ore, Soya, Alumina, Pig Iron), 4 vessels discharging (HR Steel Sheets, LAM Coke, Petroleum Coke, Furnace Oil), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load); 1 vessel due to MMD Clearance at WQ-7 berth; 29 vessels due (Iron Ore-6, Molsess, Thermal Coal, B.F.Slag, Granite Blocks-2, Soya, Product Tankers-2, Coking Coal-5, Liquid Ammonia, Rock Phosphate, Phosphoric Acid, Containers, Caustic soda, Gypsum, Steam Coal, Alumina, Crude & Products Tankers-2).
Chennai	24-Apr-2006	10 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Granite Blocks, Sugar, IOL, Furnace oil), 6 vessels discharging (DAP, Scrap, Thermal Coal, Petroleum Oil, Crude Oil, General Cargo), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (3 to discharge 1 to load); 5 vessels due (C.P.Oil, Containers, Granite Blocks, Wheat, IOL).
Tuticorin	24-Apr-2006	5 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Granite, 4 vessels discharging (Cu Concentrate, Timber Logs, Thermal Coal-2); 12 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load.
Cochin	24-Apr-2006	6 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading Steel, Pipe; 4 vessels discharging (Soda Ash, Logs, Coal, Furnace Oil), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers.
New Mangalore	24-Apr-2006	6 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading POL Product, 5 vessels discharging (DAP, Cement, Iron Ore Fines, COKE, POL Crude); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load); 11 vessels due (Granite Stone-2, POL Product-3, LPG, Iron Ore Fines-3, POL Crude, Containers).
Mormugao	24-Apr-2006	4 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Iron Ore; 3 vessels discharging (Phosphoric Acid, MOP, Met Coke); 7 vessels working at midstream and loading Iron ore; 2 vessels awaiting berth to load; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 4 vessels under repair/dry docked; 8 vessels due (Containers, Iron Ore-7).
Mumbai	24-Apr-2006	9 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Vehicles-2, Bagged Sugar, POL), 4 vessels discharging (Steel Cargo-2, Machine/Steel, MOP), 1 vessel loading and discharging (Containers/ Steel/ General Cargo); 3 vessels awaiting berth to discharge; 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to load and 1 to load and discharge); 7 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 6 vessels under arrest; 1 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 33 vessels due (Container-5, Oil, General Cargo-27).
J.N.P.T.	24-Apr-2006	8 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels discharging (Cement, SKO/HSD, Project Cargo), 5 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels awaiting berth (2 to discharge, 2 to load and discharge); 1 Naphtha vessel due.
Kandla	24-Apr-2006	13 vessels operating at berth of which 5 discharging (Vegetable Oil, Timber Logs-4), 7 vessels loading (Agriculture Product-2, Cement-2, Other Liquid, Kaolin, Castor Oil), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 3 to load); 1 vessel under repairs; 1 vessel under maintenance; 1 vessel under dredger.
Ennore	24-Apr-2006	2 Thermal Coal vessels due (MV Rani Padmini, MV Tamil Anna).

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## Port Conditions

<b>Israel</b>		
Ashdod	25-Apr-2006	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 20 vessels discharging at berth (11 general cargo, 9 bulkers), 6 vessels loading/discharging at berth (3 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker, 1 passenger vessel); 1 bulker waiting at anchorage to discharge, 1 tanker waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 17 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	25-Apr-2006	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel discharging at berth, 1 car carrier loading/discharging at berth; no vessels anchored; 2 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	25-Apr-2006	No labour problems. Three vessels discharging at berth (2 general cargo, 1 bulker), 7 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker, 1 passenger vessel); 7 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (3 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 8 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (5 containers, 3 tankers); 5 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 17 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
<b>Kazakhstan</b>		
Aktau	24-Apr-2006	Oil products: One crude oil vessel at berth; 5 vessels in roads, all to load; 5 vessels due by 24/4, all to load.
<b>Pakistan</b>		
Karachi	25-Apr-2006	Four vessels loading at berth (1 MOL, 3 rice), 5 discharging at berth (1 phosphate, 1 DAP, 2 sugar, 1 jute), 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 2 sugar); 1 vessel under repairs dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 8 vessels due (4 containers, 2 general cargo, 1 ethanol, 1 crude oil), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	25-Apr-2006	Four vessels discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 iron ore, 1 canola, 1 MEG); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 rice, 1 containers), 7 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 iron ore, 1 cement, 1 coke, 1 containers, 1 HSD, 2 palm oil).
<b>Poland</b>		
Gdansk	24-Apr-2006	Ten vessels loading at berth (2 coal, 3 general cargo, 4 bulkers, 1 tanker), 4 discharging at berth (1 bulker, 1 general cargo, 1 grain, 1 tanker); 9 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 19 vessels due.
Gdynia	24-Apr-2006	Four vessels loading at berth (2 coal, 2 general cargo), 1 bulker discharging at berth; 1 grain vessel awaiting orders; 21 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 49 vessels due.
<b>Russia</b>		
Novorossiysk	24-Apr-2006	Seventeen vessels in port operating, of which 14 loading (1 WRIC, 1 bulk cement, 2 copper, 1 pipes, 1 pipes/wire rods, 2 coils, 1 soda ash, 1 steel billets, 1 cellulose, 1 vegetable oil, 1 wheat, 1 diesel oil), 2 discharging bulk sugar, 1 discharging/loading containers; 4 vessels waiting in roads, all to discharge, of which 3 bulk sugar, 1 citrus; 78 vessels due, of which 76 to load (3 scrap, 1 cellulose, 14 copper, 11 steel billets, 4 DRI, 1 steel billets/WRIC, 8 coils, 2 vegetable oil, 1 vehicles, 1 copper/lead, 2 pig-iron, 4 pipes, 2 HBI, 1 steel billets/cars, 1 bulk NPK, 3 steel sheets, 5 aluminium, 1 equipment, 2 slabs, 1 steel billets/slabs, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 bulk cement, 1 wheat, 1 ammonium sulphate, 1 bulk NPK/bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 bulk sugar, 1 WRIC), 1 to discharge construction materials, 1 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 3 tankers berthed, all loading, of which 2 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 1 tanker in roads to load crude oil; 10 tankers due, all to load, of which 9 crude oil, 1 diesel oil.
<b>Slovenia</b>		
Koper	24-Apr-2006	Port working normally. Nine vessels berthed of which 2 discharging/loading containers, 1 car carrier discharging vehicles, 3 vessels discharging bulk cargo, 3 loading general cargo/sawn timber; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage of which 1 to discharge/load containers, 1 to load general cargo; 6 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 1 to discharge/load containers, 1 tanker to discharge liquid cargo, 2 vessels to discharge bulk cargo, 2 to load sawn timber/general cargo.
<b>Spain</b>		
Bilbao	24-Apr-2006	Thirty vessels operating (6 tankers, 24 other vessels), of which 7 loading, 12 discharging, 11 loading/discharging.
<b>Turkmenistan</b>		
Aladja	24-Apr-2006	Oil products: Port open; One vessel in roads to load crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	24-Apr-2006	Oil products: One vessel loading gasoil at berth; 2 vessels in roads both to load; 1 vessel due 24/4 to discharge crude oil.
<b>Ukraine</b>		
Ilichevsk	24-Apr-2006	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (4 steel products, 2 ore, 1 spirit, 1 grain), 1 loading/discharging containers; 8 vessel in roads, of which 4 to load (2 steel products, 1 equipment, 1 grain), 4 to discharge (1 petrol, 3 cars); 16 vessels due, of which 6 to load (5 steel products, 1 sunflower oil), 1 to discharge palm oil, 9 to discharge/load containers.
Odessa	24-Apr-2006	Seventeen vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (5 metal, 1 scrap, 1 pig-iron, 1 barley), 7 discharging (2 luggage, 1 meat, 2 general cargo, 1 sand, 1 citrus), 1 loading/discharging containers, 1 passenger vessel; 2 vessels in roads, both to load, of which 1 metal, 1 pig-iron; 69 vessels due, of which 38 to load (29 metal, 2 pig-iron, 1 scrap, 2 ore, 1 sunflower seeds, 1 timber, 1 coal, 1 wheat, 1 soya beans), 6 to discharge (2 metal, 1 general cargo, 1 sugar, 1 oil, 1 luggage), 25 to discharge/load containers.

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**Port Conditions**

<b>USA</b>		
Beaumont, TX	25-Apr-2006	Local seasonal fog along the Texas Gulf Coast can complicate/delay traffic. No new restriction in draft (40 ft. 0 ins. FW max. channel draft reported); Louis Dreyfus terminal: no delays expected.
Galveston, TX	25-Apr-2006	Local seasonal fog along the Texas Gulf Coast can complicate/delay traffic. No new restriction in draft (normal 39 ft. 6 ins. BW max. channel draft reported - 40 ft. 0 ins. with ideal conditions). Channel open under normal traffic. ADM-Farmland terminal: 2-3 days delay expected.
Houston, TX	25-Apr-2006	Local seasonal fog along the Texas Gulf Coast can complicate/delay traffic. Channel open under normal traffic. (Normal Max channel draft is 45 ft 0 ins. to Shell, 40 ft. 0 ins. above Shell to 610 Bridge area) LDC Dreyfus terminal: no delays expected; Cargill terminal: 1-2 days delay expected.
Kalama, WA	25-Apr-2006	Kalama export terminal: 2 days delay expected; United Harvest terminal: no delays expected.
New Orleans, LA	25-Apr-2006	Apr 25: Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1-2 days delay expected. Cargill-Westwego: 1-2 days delay expected. ADM/Ama: 2-3 days delay expected. Bunge/Destrehan: no delays expected. ADM/ Destrehan: 2-3 days delay expected. ADM/Reserve: 2-3 days delay expected. Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected. ADM/Paulina: 2-3 days delay expected. Zen-Noh/Convent: 1-2 days delay expected. Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays expected. Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: 2 days delay expected; Mile 158.0 Myrtle Grove Midstream terminal: 3 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: no delays expected. Nine-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to increase to 5.8 ft. by 20/4/06
Portland, OR	25-Apr-2006	Columbia Grain terminal: 3 days delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD, O Dock terminals: 2 days delay expected.
Seattle, WA	25-Apr-2006	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 1 day's delay expected.
Tacoma, WA	25-Apr-2006	Temco terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Vancouver, WA	25-Apr-2006	United Harvest terminal: 3 days delay expected.

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