

Norway orders compulsory shipping lanes

New rules to cater for oil and gas carriers, writes Gavin Morgan — Friday 23 February 2007

THE Norwegian government is to establish shipping lanes around its northern coastline for the safety of any vessels carrying oil, gas or other hazardous materials.

The compulsory separation scheme will have north and south lanes 30 nautical miles offshore with a three-mile safety zone between and come into force on June 1.

The International Maritime Organization approved the initiative in Istanbul in January as the flow of relevant shipments from Russia to Europe is set to increase.

The majority of Russian oil transport will occur within Norway's 200-nautical-mile Exclusive Economic Zone.

The compulsory separation scheme will run from the Russian border to the Lofoten Islands off Norway.

Kirsten Selvig, director-general of the Norwegian ministry of fisheries and coastal affairs, said: "The 30-mile distance from the shore will give us a good time to respond to any environmental accident that may occur. We see it as a good thing helping this traffic become regulated.

"All the preventative measures are in place such as the specified sailing route, monitoring equipment on the shore, sea traffic centres and a very close contact with Russia in establishing safety.

"The Russian government has supported proposals for the routing systems and we have had very good support from the US.

"We are happy that they see the need for safe and secure sea transport."

The separation lanes will be supervised

from the shipping traffic control centre at Vardo, near the Russian border.

Norwegian environmental group Green Warriors has criticised the scheme, saying that the lanes may be compulsory but there is no way they can be enforced and the proper contingencies for an ecological disaster are not being put into place.

Jan Hugo Holten, of Green Warriors, said: "We do not feel it will be more safe. These lanes cannot be mandatory.

"Any vessel can sail 10 miles from shore. This is a practice that has been established over decades. Ships do not have to sail in these lanes and cannot be forced to do so.

"There need to be the proper contingencies for traffic to sail at the 30-mile distance and it would cost the Norwegian government hundreds of millions of krone to put these in place."

In response, Ms Selvig said: "IMO are familiar with mariners and the kind of safety help they may require.

"All vessels will be well informed as to the procedures they are to follow.

"Those that do not follow the guidelines will run into problems with their insurance companies.

"The issues can be looked at positively or negatively and we are very optimistic that people will follow the routes that have been set down."

This move by Norway has led Green politicians in Scotland to pressure the Scottish Executive to lobby Westminster to implement similar guidelines around Scotland's coastline, especially The Minches and Shetland.

Tanjung Pelepas oil spill removed

Wednesday 21 February 2007

A small bunker spill in southern Malaysia following the collision of a tanker and containership on Saturday has been largely cleaned up, writes Marcus Hand in Singapore.

The Dutch-registered boxship Sahelderberg leaked 50 tonnes of bunker fuel after it collided with the Singapore-registered tanker Ocean Sapphire on Saturday morning after it left Tanjung Pelepas.

"We have managed to contain most of the spilled oil and we're now trying to clear the oil streaks that have spread out in the sea," Marine Department southern zone director, Hazman Hussein, told local press. The demand for better safety practices followed a recent series of accidents resulting in crew members falling overboard.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>ANGELIQUE EMILIE</i>	fishing	FRA	—	154	—	1991	In collision with container carrier <i>MSC Roma</i> in lat 50 06N, long 01 17E, Feb 10. Towed to Dieppe. Heavy damage to aft structure, propeller/shaft/post, stern post etc. To be towed to Boulogne for repairs.
<i>ARGONAUT</i>	container	USA	ABS	17,902	16,401	1979	Reported Feb 10 towed in Aden for repairs after drifting as a deadship for three days.
<i>BALTIMAR BOREAS</i>	general	BHS	LR	2,854	2,657	1989	Had fire in lat 32 42S, long 152 26E, Feb 9. Fire extinguished, taken in tow for Newcastle (AUS), where arrived same day.
<i>KAI LI</i>	fish factory	—	—	7,765	3,372	1989	Had fire when berthed at a dock on the Huangpu River, Shanghai, Feb 13. Extinguished. Equipment on board burned out.
<i>LINE</i>	container	NIS	GL	2,973	3,844	1976	Ran hard aground just outside the harbour at Grenaa Feb 14. Refloated at high tide same day. Returned to Grenaa for inspection.
<i>MANILA BAY 1</i>	passenger/ro-ro	PHL	—	15,771	3,180	1973	Had fire in upper deck accommodations and lower decks while undergoing repairs at Gothong Wharf, Mandaue City Cebu. Brought under control same day. Damage estimated at \$46,000.
<i>MERMAID II</i>	passenger/ro-ro	LVA	NV	13,730	5,300	1972	Blown against the jetty, by a severe gust of wind, at Lubeck Feb 11. Sustained damage over three metres on the bow. Departure delayed. Reported Feb 15 back in service.
<i>MSC ROMA</i>	container	LBR	GL	107,849	110,000	2007	In collision with fishing <i>Angelique Emilie</i> in lat 50 06N, long 01 17E, Feb 10. Undamaged and proceeded to Felixstowe, where arrived Feb 11.
<i>NISSHIN MARU</i>	fish factory	JPN	NK	8,030	6,059	1987	Reported on fire 250 miles north of McMurdo Feb 14. Most crew evacuated. One missing. Listing and totally blacked out.
<i>PROPONTIS</i>	crude oil tanker	GRC	BV	66,919	117,055	2006	Touched ground in lat 60 00.6N, long 26 35E, Feb 9. Ballast tanks damaged. Refloated and anchored in lat 60 00.50N, long 25 29.39E, Feb 11 for survey. Discharging at Porvoo Feb 13.
<i>SALINE</i>	general	NLD	LR	1,990	3,606	1993	Had main engine problems, in rough weather, off Ushant Island, Feb 12 Towed to Brest, where arrived Feb 13. Repairs being effected. ETC Feb 16.
<i>SEA WORLD NO. 101</i>	fishing	KOR	KR	660	460	1975	Had explosion on board while moored at Montevideo Feb 14. Four dead, 20 injured.
<i>TASSILI II</i>	passenger/ro-ro	DZA	BV	20,024	3,520	2004	Had six metres of water ingress in the engine-room at Genoa Feb 12. Stabilised same day. Full investigations under way.
<i>ZENITH LIGHT</i>	general	KOR	KR	2,016	3,601	1990	Sank, in strong winds, off Shima, Mie Prefecture, Feb 14. Eight missing.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ACCORD (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 13 — General cargo *Accord* is still aground at its original position with no salvage operation in progress. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALASKA RAINBOW (Greece)

See *Sea Express 1*.

ALASKAN FRONTIER (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated today, states: BP's new fleet of oil tankers, already dogged by cracked rudders and missing anchors, now has a new glitch. Fleet managers have been forced to replace mooring bitts on three of four ships after tests showed they were defective and one violently broke down. On Sep 12, crude oil tanker *Alaskan Frontier* (110693 gt, built 2004) was approaching the dock in Valdez when a bitt on the starboard bow broke off as a tug pulled on a mooring line, according to the U.S. Coast Guard, the ship's operator and a Valdez-based oil-industry watchdog group. When it broke, the heavy iron bitt shot over the side of the ship and went into the water. Fortunately, no one was in the way when the bitt broke loose, said Cmdr. Michael Gardiner, captain of the port for the Coast Guard in Valdez. The ship's operator, Alaska Tanker Co. of Beaverton, Ore., used X-rays and other tests to determine that the failed bitt plus dozens more on three ships were defective and needed to be replaced. Anil Mathur, president of the tanker company, said the string of problems has been a disappointment. But he added that he believes the ships are fundamentally safe. The mooring bitt broke despite being rated to handle considerably more force than the tug was applying to it, Mathur said. An investigation found that the cast mooring bitts on three ships were too weak to remain in use, while the fabricated bitts on the fourth ship were OK, he said. Twelve key mooring bitts on three ships have been replaced, but ultimately about 74 will be replaced, said Chris Merten, engineering superintendent with Alaska Tanker Co.

ALASKAN PRIDE (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 10 — A press release from the United States Coast Guard, dated yesterday, states: The Coast Guard is assisting fishing (general) *Alaskan Pride* (51 gt, built 1979), which was disabled with three people on board in Taku Inlet at 1330, today. A Coast Guard HH-60 helicopter from Air Station Sitka remained on scene until a 47 foot motor life boat from Station Juneau arrived at 1530 hrs and took *Alaskan Pride* into tow. There were no reported injuries and the vessel will be towed back to Juneau for repairs. The present weather conditions in Taku Inlet are 35 knot winds with six foot swells.

London, Feb 10 — Following received from United States Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1800, UTC: Fishing (general) *Alaskan Pride* arrived at Juneau in tow at 1830, local time, Feb 9.

ALISON (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 15 — General cargo *Alison* is still aground in its original position with very minimal damage and owners advised further that salvage attempt will commence Feb 15-17. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALYSSA M.II (U.K.)

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The owner of partly completed luxury yacht *Alyssa M.II* that has been berthed at Port Nelson for five years is having it towed to China. The Hong Kong owner of the former British navy survey ship stopped a major luxury refit in Nelson and then put the vessel up for sale after it was damaged by fire in April 2004. The ship had failed to sell, said ship manager Rocka Romcke, owner of Nelson Yacht Services. Although it was initially for sale at \$2.9 million, the price had dropped and the owner would have accepted about \$1.8 million for it, Mr Romcke said. He said potential buyers from Belgium were to have visited Nelson last week but pulled out. A man from Monaco visited Nelson twice to look at the ship but also decided against buying it. The ship's owner, Hong Kong businessman Wing-cheung Fung, now planned to have the vessel towed to China by a tug, and it was likely to leave Nelson on Feb 28, Mr Romcke said. The trip would take about six weeks, he said. The owner would then have work done on the ship in China, and would probably turn it into a floating club or restaurant. It is understood that about \$720,000 would have been paid in berthage fees and other costs to moor the ship at the port for five years. A welder or gas cutter was thought to be responsible for the fire on ship, but Mr Romcke said fixing the fire damage was only about 10% of the work involved. He said that before the ship departed, some work would be done on it to make it watertight and safe, and a surveyor would inspect it.

ANGELIQUE EMILIE (France)

London, Feb 10 — Following received from MRCC Gris Nez, timed 1115, UTC: Fishing (general) *Angelique Emilie* (154 gt, built 1991) and Container Carrier *MSC Roma* (107200 gt, built 2007) were involved in a collision at 0400, UTC, today, in lat 50 06N, long 01 17E. *Angelique Emilie* was damaged, on its port side. It has been taken in tow by another fishing vessel and they are proceeding to Fecamp. Understood *MSC Roma* was not damaged and it has proceeded on passage to Felixstowe.

Le Havre, Feb 13 — Fishing *Angelique Emilie* has been towed to Dieppe. The vessel sustained heavy damage to its aft structure, propeller, propeller shaft, propeller post, stern post, etc. The vessel will be towed to Boulogne for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Feb 12 — Container Carrier *MSC Roma* arrived at Felixstowe at 0302 hrs, Feb 11.

ARDENT (U.K.)

London, Feb 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The crew of general cargo *Ardent* (700 gt, built 1983) visiting Littlehampton harbour had to take emergency measures after two of her mooring ropes snapped early yesterday morning. The 700-ton vessel, carrying 1,100 tons of stone from a French port, swung out across the River Arun after the accident left the vessel with only her aft ropes attached to Railway Wharf. Crew members had failed to slacken the *Ardent's* four ropes to allow the vessel to go down as the tide went out, and eventually the weight was too much for the forward ropes to bear. Harbourmaster Colin Hitchcock was quickly on the scene, ensuring that the ship was secured with her two anchors and the two remaining ropes, and with staff constantly on the bridge. He also alerted the Marine and Coastguard Agency (MCA) to the incident. "We checked there was no danger to any other harbour users or shipping and no threat of any oil spill, and informed the authorities," said Mr Hitchcock. Just before midday, with the tide rising again and new ropes delivered, the *Ardent* was helped back alongside the wharf and was met by MCA officials who carried out a thorough inspection of the vessel.

London, Feb 13 — General cargo *Ardent* sailed from Littlehampton on Feb 8, bound for Calais.

ARGONAUT (U.S.A.)

Aden, Feb 10 — Container Carrier *Argonaut* (17902 gt, built 1979) sustained power failure and was deadship adrift for about three days in the Gulf of Aden. Vessel subsequently towed into Aden and is undergoing repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

AUTOPROGRESS (Madeira)

London, Feb 9 — Understand vehicle carrier *Autoprogress* is to be towed to Emden by tug *Fairplay-23*. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Autoprogress* and *Fairplay-23* were both at Brest at 1651, UTC, today.)

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The tug *Fairplay 23* will not depart before next Tuesday (Feb 13) due the bad weather forecast from Brest with the vehicle carrier *Autoprogress* bound for Emden.

Brest, Feb 14 — Following the fire on board vehicle carrier *Autoprogress* and towage of the vessel to Brest, the cargo was transhipped to vehicle carrier *Autoracer*, which departed Brest for Zeebrugge on Feb 4. After consultation of different repair yards, *Autoprogress* is now ready to depart from Brest in tow of tug *Fairplay 23* bound for Emden, where permanent repairs are due to be performed. Depending on weather conditions the convoy could depart from Brest by the end of the week. — Lloyd's Agents.

BACO-LINER 2 (Liberia)

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

BALDER (Panama)

London, Feb 13 — Heerema Marine Contractors press release, dated Feb 7, states: At 1800, local time today crane ship *Balder* restarts its work in the Gulf of Mexico. Last night *Balder* left its repair position at Ewing Bank and set sail to the project location in the Gulf of Mexico. *Balder* had been out of order since 27 December 2006, when an unexpected flooding hit the vessel. The repair work of the two damaged thrusters started immediately after the incident. No personal or environmental harm occurred in the incident.

BALTIMAR BOREAS (Bahamas)

London, Feb 9 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0020, UTC: General cargo *Baltimar Boreas* (2854 gt, built 1989) had a fire on board in lat 32 42S, long 152 26S at 0300, local time, this morning. The fire has been extinguished, damage unknown. The vessel is currently under tow of tug *Wickham* bound for Newcastle, ETA unknown. (Note — *Baltimar Boreas* arrived Newcastle Feb 7.)

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A flag of convenience ship carrying volatile ammonium nitrate is being towed back to Newcastle after its engine room caught fire. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau said the engine or wiring of general cargo *Baltimar Boreas* had caught fire, disabling the ship, after it left the Newcastle Port on Thursday night. The fire had been extinguished and a tug had been sent to tow the ship back to Newcastle, where it was expected to arrive on Friday evening, an ATSB spokesman said. Dean Summer, an Australian spokesman for the International Transport Workers Federation, said the federal government had to explain what the ship was doing plying the eastern coast of Australia with such a dangerous cargo. "This foreign vessel with a mix of foreign crew has been trading up and down the east coast since Jan 4," Mr Summer said. "It's visited six Australian ports over the past five weeks and it can't do that without some sort of permit from the federal government. "We want the government to come clean. We want to know why a foreign vessel is allowed to carry such high-risk cargo on the Australian coast, putting Australian port communities, our national security and the environment at risk. "If this ship went up in smoke in Newcastle harbour it could take out the whole city. We want the government to tell the Australian people what is going on. "Ammonium nitrate is used as an explosive in mining operations, as a fertiliser and is the weapon of choice for terrorists. It was ammonium nitrate that was used during the Bali bombings." Mr Summers said the vessel was expected to arrive back in Newcastle on Friday evening. The ATSB spokesman said the ship had been heading for Port Moresby with its cargo of ammonium nitrate. He said two investigating officers had been sent to meet the ship on its return to Newcastle to establish the circumstances of the incident.

London, Feb 11 — General cargo *Baltimar Boreas* arrived back at Newcastle 1920, Feb 9.

London, Feb 12 — General cargo *Baltimar Boreas*: Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contract was signed with United Salvage.

Sydney, Feb 13 — The Australian Maritime Safety Authority had cleared general cargo *Baltimar Boreas*, the vessel at the centre of a row over dangerous cargo of safety concerns the Maritime Union of Australia had raised, federal transport minister Mark Vaile said today. "There was an engine fire on the ship which was quickly extinguished," Mr Vaile said. "However, some damage has been done to electrical cables resulting in power failure to the ship's engine. I also understand that no damage was sustained to the cargo on board the ship, which included some ammonium nitrate. I understand *Baltimar Boreas* was on an international voyage, from Newcastle to Port Moresby, at the time of the incident. There is concern in some quarters about the carriage of ammonium nitrate between Australian ports by foreign ships. The reality is that every ship carrying ammonium nitrate into an Australian port, whether on a domestic or international voyage, and whether Australian or foreign flagged, is subject to a comprehensive risk assessment process. I am advised that a New South Wales water police vessel was in attendance while the ship was adrift to monitor the situation. Commercial salvage arrangements had now been made between the ship owner and a local towage company," Mr Vaile's office said. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority had been monitoring the arrangements and the Australian Transport Safety Bureau would investigate the cause of the fire, it said. Tug *Wickham* took *Baltimar Boreas* under tow and it arrived at Newcastle at 1920, Feb 9. — Lloyd's List daily Commercial News.

BALTIYSK (Russia)

Berlin, Feb 12 — Roll on roll off *Baltiysk* is still at Mukran. The vessel's ETD is not presently known. — Lloyd's Agents.

BEN MAYE (Isle of Man)

Ramsey, Feb 15 — General cargo *Ben Maye* is still under repair at Ramsey, ETC two to three weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

BOW FAVOUR (NIS)

London, Feb 9 — An Odfjell press release, dated today, states: Chemical tanker *Bow Favour*: A tug is expected to arrive at the vessel around Feb 11 and the plan is to tow the ship back to the Arabian Gulf to tranship the cargo and to carry out a thorough inspection of the damage. The main reason for this is the close vicinity to the well reputed and recognised repair yards in the Arabian Gulf area. Estimated time of arrival in Arabian Gulf is Feb 20. The weather conditions in the area are good and there is no risk to crew, ship or environment.

BUENOS AIRES (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 13 — Container Carrier *Buenos Aires* arrived at Jebel Ali on

Feb 11 and sailed one Feb 12, bound for Bahrain.

CAROUGE (Panama)

London, Feb 12 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Bulker *Carouge* (77273 gt, built 1992) sustained machine problems on the Maas river at the weekend (Feb 10-11). The vessel was towed into Europoort by the tugs *RT Magic* and *Smit Humber* and berthed at the Emo quay. (Note — *Carouge* according to Lloyd's MIU AIS in lat 52 4' 8.4N, long 03 21 43.8E at 0615, today, speed 12.7 knots.)

Maassluis, Feb 13 — Bulker *Carouge* sailed from Europoort at 0450 hrs, Feb 12 bound for Immingham. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

CITY OF LIVERPOOL (Mongolia)

See "Sri Lanka" under "Political & Civil Unrest"

CLIPPER TOBAGO (Bahamas)

London, Feb 9 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Clipper Tobago* has now left Montreal for Barranquilla.

CREOLE BELLE (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 9 — A press release, issued by Coast Guard Boston, Mass., dated Feb 8, states: Two Coast Guardsmen suffered injuries while assisting a New Bedford, Mass., based fishing vessel with three crew on board, disabled, in rough weather and in danger of sinking approximately 45 nautical miles southeast of Nantucket, Mass., this evening. The two crewmembers on board the Kittery, Maine-based Coast Guard Cutter *Campbell*, which arrived on scene about 1600 hrs, today, were attempting to pass a towline to the 74-foot fishing (general) *Creole Belle* (88 gt, built 1969) when they sustained non life-threatening trauma. The crew of the *Creole Belle* notified Coast Guard Station Brant Point about 1719 hrs, yesterday that the vessel had lost main propulsion and requested assistance. Sector Southeastern New England issued a Marine Assistance Request Broadcast asking vessels in the area to assist, but none were able to assist. An HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter from Air Station Cape Cod hoisted the three crewmen from the *Creole Belle* and the two injured Coast Guardsmen from the *Campbell*. The helicopter is scheduled to land at Cape Cod Hospital where the injured will be treated. Due to gale force winds and sea conditions, the *Creole Belle* has become less stable and is taking on water over the sides. *Creole Belle* crewmen expressed concerns that the onboard pumps would not be able to keep up with the flooding. Current weather conditions are reported be 22-degree air temperature, 30-40 knot winds and eight to 12-foot seas. The Coast Guard is broadcasting a safety marine information broadcast advising mariners of the drifting fishing vessel.

London, Feb 9 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, Mass., timed 0935, UTC: Two/three hours ago fishing (general) *Creole Belle* was reported to still be afloat.

London, Feb 9 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1510, UTC: Coast Guard cutter *Campbell* is still on scene of the abandoned fishing (general) *Creole Belle*. Vessel is reportedly in stable condition and owners are exploring the possibility of seeking a commercial tow back to port.

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated Feb 9, states: An unmanned New Bedford fishing vessel was in danger of sinking off Nantucket yesterday following a rescue effort that injured two Coast Guard crewmen and brought three fishermen safely back to shore. William Norton, the Dartmouth owner of the 74-foot fishing (general) *Creole Belle*, said a salvage vessel was en route to the fishing grounds last night to save the stranded vessel before it sank. "The salvage guy is going out. He's going to get it pumped out. Everybody is safe and happy," Mr. Norton said. The *Creole Belle* lost propulsion when its engine died approximately 35 nautical miles southeast of Nantucket on Wednesday (Feb 7) afternoon. Crew members contacted the Coast Guard for help and spent 24 hours adrift at sea before the Coast Guard cutter *Campbell* arrived on the scene yesterday afternoon. The Coast Guard kept in radio contact with the stranded vessel every half hour, Petty Officer Lauren Downs said. Gale-force winds and heavy sea conditions prevented the *Campbell* from towing the *Creole Belle* to shore yesterday night, according to a Coast Guard release. The *Creole Belle* began taking on water over its sides after the crew cut its scallop dredge to co-ordinate the tow, Mr. Norton said. The dredge had helped anchor the vessel so that it rode the waves well and did not take on water, he said. As the vessel took on water, fishermen "expressed concerns that the onboard pumps would not be able to keep up with the flooding," according to the Coast Guard. An HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter from Air Station Cape Cod was sent to the scene to rescue the fishermen, who were taken to Air Station Cape Cod. The fishermen were also disappointed that they had to end their 24-hour fishing trip early, Mr. Norton said, adding that the scallops they caught could be salvaged if the vessel remained afloat. Another helicopter from Air Station Cape Cod deployed a self-locating datum marker buoy yesterday about 65 nautical miles southeast of Nantucket. The buoy, which is attached to the *Creole Belle*, transmits the vessel's location to the Coast Guard via satellite. The *Campbell* was still on scene last night and expected to be relieved by the cutter *Bainbridge Island*, Chief Carr said. The marker buoy would allow the owner to locate the vessel in the event of another search and rescue mission by the cutter, he said. Mr. Norton, who has owned the *Creole Belle* for eight months, said he was hoping that the 38-year-old vessel would survive the night. "When the salvage guy gets out there, let's hope there is something there to salvage," he said.

London, Feb 11 — A Coast Guard Boston press release, dated today,

states: The Coast Guard has confirmed that the owner of fishing (general) *Creole Belle*, whose crew was airlifted by a Coast Guard helicopter Thursday evening, abandoned the fishing vessel yesterday after a salvage company deemed the scallop boat unsafe to tow. A private salvor hired by *Creole Belle's* owner arrived on scene at 0800 yesterday and boarded the vessel to assess the situation for towing. Upon going onboard, the salvor discovered the fishing vessel's engine-room was half-full of water, and the fish hold had several feet of water in it. The salvor determined *Creole Belle* was unsafe to work on board and too dangerous to tow. After two days of observing and assessing the condition of the vessel, the Coast Guard reached the same conclusion. By afternoon, the owner stated he had no choice but to abandon *Creole Belle* and presented the Coast Guard with a letter to this effect. Coast Guard cutter *Campbell* took proactive steps to eliminate the significant hazard to navigation posed by this unlit vessel on the high seas. *Creole Belle* sank approximately 80 miles southeast of Nantucket in 250-330 feet of water. *Creole Belle* was reported to have 1,000 gallons of fuel oil on board. The minor potential environmental impact posed by the vessel's fuel was weighed against the potential for a life-threatening collision at sea with this substantial vessel, unlit, partially submerged, abandoned, and in close proximity to major shipping lanes.

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard sank fishing (general) *Creole Belle* after it was determined unsafe to tow. The vessel was abandoned off the coast of Nantucket three days ago and its three-man crew airlifted to safety after it began taking in water. A salvage company ruled the 74-foot scallop boat too dangerous to tow. The engine room was half-full of water and the fish hold had several feet of water. The Coast Guard agreed and the owner said he had no other choice but to abandon the vessel. The Coast Guard said the unlit *Creole Belle* posed a hazard to navigation and sank it in approximately 80 miles south-east of Nantucket in 250-330 ft of water.

DALDEAN (Canada)

Troy, Michigan, Feb 14 — A large ice flow combined with a strong north-east wind landed passengers and crew on board ferry *Daldean* (145 gt, built 1951) a little off course at around 1700, Monday (Feb 12). The International ferry which crosses between Marine City, Mi. and Sombra Ont. spent over an hour trying to free itself from being pinned by the heavy ice onto the seawall just south of the Holy Cross Church on the Marine City side of the St. Clair River. By 1900 hrs the ferry was back in operation. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

DEFI (Netherlands)

London, Feb 13 — General cargo *Defi*, which sank in the Albert Canal after a collision with the oncoming unknown *Walcheren* on Jan 30, has been raised

by the Dutch salvage company Bergings en Transportbedrijf BTS B.V. of Schiedam. Last week they received an assignment from the insurers to discharge the cargo of 1,640 tons of steel rolls and then to raise the sunken vessel. Divers placed hooks on the rolls of steel and they were lifted out of the sunken vessel into another inland cargo vessel by the sheerleg floating crane *Phoenix* and a MPC 2000 crane on the pontoon *Zijpe*. After four days the empty vessel was raised. It is not known yet where the vessel will be repaired. The passing shipping traffic did not much delay from this salvage operation.

DESPINA (Greece)

London, Feb 9 — Bulker *Despina* arrived at Haldia on Jan 30 and sailed on Feb 2.

DRESDEN (Germany)

London, Feb 12 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Dresden*, 97 metres, built 1991, owned by Peter Deilmann, Neustadt collided with the Elbe bridges in Hamburg today and is currently stuck fast. The vessel was en route to the Norderwerft (Norder Yard) in Hamburg without passengers. There was no damage to the vessel and no injuries were reported. Understand the master had misjudged the height of the bridge. In the last second he ordered the machine full speed back. To avoid that the stopped vessel got caught by the stream it was secured at the Southern embankment.

London, Feb 13 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Dresden* is now free. It passed the Elbe bridge with low tide in the late afternoon of Feb 12 and proceed to the Norderwerft in Hamburg. To avoid contacting the bridge the master had run the vessel into the embankment before it. Police who proceeded to the scene said that the master had acted correctly after misjudging the height of the bridge but that investigations had to be carried out against him nevertheless.

DUATEPE S. (Malta)

Istanbul, Feb 14 — General cargo *Duatepe S.* (2059 gt, built 1988) has an engine problem under the Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge, Istanbul. Vessel to drop anchor in middle of canal. — Turkishstraits.com

DUTCH PROGRESS (Netherlands)

London, Feb 9 — Chemical tanker *Dutch Progress* arrived at Antwerp on Feb 8 from Tees.

ECO MARINE (Indonesia)

Manila, Feb 9 — The Philippine Coast Guard have reported that the Indonesian-registered tug *Eco Marine* and the barge *Elanor* left the Port of Legaspi, Albay province, in southern Luzon on Wednesday (Feb 7) bound for their home port at Samarinda, Indonesia. The two vessels were taken in tow by the Indonesian tug *Malindo Pacific*. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ELANOR

See *Eco Marine*.

EREN C. (Panama)

Istanbul, Feb 12 — General cargo *Eren C.* (6114 gt, built 2005) has engine problems in the Bosphorus and has anchored in Beykoz Bay, north of Istanbul. North-to-south traffic in the Bosphorus is suspended from 1345 today until night-time. — Turkish Straits.com.

Istanbul, Feb 12 — General cargo *Eren C.*, anchored in Beykoz Bay: Traffic in the Bosphorus from north to south will be back to normal 1200, Feb 13. — Turkish Straits.com.

London, Feb 13 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Eren C.* was located stationary off Istanbul in lat 40 58 11.34N, long 28 54 08.16E, at 1413, UTC, today.

ERIKA (Malta)

London, Feb 9 — The judges hearing the case against the companies and individuals accused of responsibility for the sinking of non specific tanker *Erika* off the coast of Brittany in December 1999 are unlikely to give their judgment before September at the earliest. The programme of hearings in the case, which is due to open in Paris on Monday, is scheduled to end on Jun 13, but according to one of the lawyers taking part, the judges will reserve their judgment for a later date. Alexandre Varaut, who will be representing a number of local authorities and other bodies seeking civil damages in the case, said that, given its complexity, it could be taken as certain that the court president and his two assistants would not give judgment immediately. "It will be September at the earliest," he said, noting that, apart from the time needed for the judges to complete their deliberations, time would also be needed for the drafting of the judgment, which promises to be long and detailed. The case is due to open on Monday (Feb 12) before the eleventh chamber of the Paris Tribunal de Grande Instance. Four companies and 11 individuals are due to appear to answer charges in the case, in which hearings are due to take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons each week until mid-June. All are expected to appear with the exception of the *Erika's* Indian master, Karun Mathur, who has not responded to summonses to attend court nor given instructions to his French lawyer to represent him. A legal source indicated that the court could issue a warrant for his arrest but that this was unlikely to be given effect in the absence of an extradition agreement between France and India.

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The trial over one of France's worst environmental disasters — the oil spill involving non specific tanker *Erika* in 1999 — has opened. The *Erika* sank off the coast of Brittany, spilling 20,000 tons of oil into the sea and polluting 400 km of coastline. Oil giant Total is one of 15 parties charged with endangering lives

or failing to prevent pollution. If convicted, Total could face damages amounting to millions of dollars. The company rejects the charges. There are 74 plaintiffs in the trial, including the French government, local councils and environmental groups. Total executive Bernard Thouillin and two of the company's affiliates are charged with chartering a tanker of dubious seaworthiness in order to deliver the tanker of fuel to Italy on time. The company faces penalties ranging from tens of thousands of dollars for endangering lives to millions of dollars in damages and compensation for causing pollution. Several French maritime officials, the vessel's Indian master and the Italian maritime certification company which said the vessel was safe are also on trial.

EVER UNIFIC (Panama)

Seattle, Feb 8 — Container Carrier *Ever Unific*, Tokyo for Tacoma, off the coast of Alaska reportedly lost 20 containers onboard and damaged 74. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Feb 8.)

London, Feb 14 — Container Carrier *Ever Unific* arrived at Vancouver at 0500 hrs, Feb 6 and sailed at 1110 hrs, Feb 8, bound for Kaohsiung, where ETA Feb 22.

FANTASY (Panama)

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Carnival Cruise Lines passenger (cruise) *Fantasy* (70367 gt, built 1990) was struck by a barge this morning while approaching its home dock in the Mississippi River. According to a company statement, a commercial tow barge lost control and the barge collided with the river bank, then struck the port side of the *Fantasy*. "You can see a 15-foot dent they're working to repair," said Brian Peach, a reporter for the Paducah Sun, who was aboard. There were no injuries to passengers or crew, the company said. The vessel remains fully operational, Carnival said. The vessel was returning from a cruise at the time of the accident. Passengers disembarked and new passengers were allowed to board, Peach said. The statement said it was unlikely the vessel would sail today, although a preliminary assessment determined it was safe for passengers to remain aboard while repairs were made. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, passenger (cruise) *Fantasy* was reported at Gretna in lat 29 56.23.44N, long 90 03 38.49W, at 2005, UTC, today.)

London, Feb 11 — A press release from the United States Coast Guard, dated Feb 10, states: Personnel from Coast Guard Sector New Orleans are investigating a collision at New Orleans today between a barge and the passenger (cruise) *Fantasy* which caused a 30-foot gash in the cruise ship. The cruise vessel and barge collided down river from New Orleans while in the last miles of a homeward journey. The collision resulted in a 30-foot gash approximately five feet above the waterline on the port-stern of the cruise ship. There was minor damage

to the barge, which was one of six rice barges being pushed by the towing vessel *Repentance*. There was minimal damage to the barge and no injuries or pollution resulted from the collision. Coast Guard personnel remain on scene working with personnel from the cruise ship on a repair proposal. The cause of the accident is currently under investigation.

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A barge struck passenger (cruise) *Fantasy* yesterday on the Mississippi River, leaving a 30-foot gash on the cruise liner and forcing the cancellation of a five-day cruise to the Caribbean. There was minor damage to the rice barge. Carnival said the 2,050 passengers who had been allowed to board the *Fantasy* were later told their cruise had been cancelled because repairs would take several days. The cruise line said they would receive a refund.

London, Feb 12 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1553, UTC: Passenger (cruise) *Fantasy* is presently at the Julia Street Wharf, New Orleans, awaiting a Class inspection.

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1517, UTC: Passenger (cruise) *Fantasy* is presently under repair at New Orleans. Damage is estimated in excess of \$100,000.

FAREAST 2 (Belize)

Yokohama, Feb 13 — The port bow of general cargo *Fareast 2* (1372 gt, built 1986) came into contact with the port stern of fishing *Toshi Maru* (5 gt) in lat 33 46.2N, long 131 44.5E, at 1115, Feb 7. *Toshi Maru* sustained cracks and scratching to the port shell plating. No water ingress, pollution or injuries were reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

FEDERAL VENTURE (Hong Kong)

London, Feb 12 — No 1 top tank of bulker *Federal Venture* (21469 gt, built 1989) was damaged by shore crane during unloading operations at Duncan Wharf, Port Saguenay, PQ, in lat 48 19 58N, long 70 51 57W, at 2015, EST, Feb 11.

FEN JIN HAI (China)

London, Feb 9 — Bulker *Fen Jin Hai* passed Yucatan Channel at 1552, UTC, Feb 7, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was located 13.9 nautical miles from Taboga Island, Panama, in lat 08 33 14.46N, long 79 31 17.22W, at 1443, UTC, today, course 198 deg, speed 13.9 knots.

FERRY TAKACHIHO (Japan)

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Ferry Takachiho*, 3891 gt, (built 1990) is suspected of colliding with tuna fishing *Yukiyoshi Maru*, 9.1 tons, before fleeing late last week, leaving two crewmembers and a TV cameraman from the fishing boat to drift in a lifeboat for three days, the vessel's owner said today. The Marue Ferry company based in Kagoshima reported to the 10th Regional Coast Guard Headquarters yesterday that its *Ferry*

Takachiho is highly likely to have collided with the fishing boat off Tanegashima Island, Kagoshima Prefecture. The master of *Ferry Takachiho* found part of the vessel's bow was damaged and reported it to SNK Ocean Co. which leases the ship from Marue. Crewmembers of the vessel claim that they were unaware of the accident. Blue paint from vessel's hull was scratched off and was seen on the fishing boat. *Ferry Takachiho*, Naha for Tokyo, was off Tanegashima Island at about 1000 Friday (Feb 9) when the accident occurred. The *Takachiho* was headed for Tokyo from Naha when it is believed to have collided with the *Yukiyoshi Maru*. Coast guard officers rescued two crewmembers of *Yukiyoshi Maru* and a TV cameraman covering their fishing operations, who were all found in a lifeboat floating off Kushima, Miyazaki Prefecture, on Monday. *Yukiyoshi Maru* is owned by Hyuga Fishermen's Cooperative in Miyazaki Prefecture.

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A shipping company said today that one of its vessels was probably the one that sank a tuna vessel and forced two crew members and a TV cameraman to drift for three days in a lifeboat. A Line Ferry Co. said it found large scratches on the bow of the 131-metre-long, 3,891-ton passenger ro/ro *Ferry Takachiho* yesterday. The company said it reported the finding to the 10th Regional Coast Guard Headquarters, and denied earlier suggestions of a hit-and-run at sea. "Crew members were monitoring the route by both radar and visual observations, but no one noticed the collision," Kazuaki Arimura, president of the shipping company, said at a news conference this morning. *Ferry Takachiho*, which regularly transports cars and miscellaneous goods between Naha and Tokyo, has been involved in two previous accidents at sea. The company said *Ferry Takachiho* left Naha Port at 2100 hrs, Thursday (Feb 8), and apparently hit the 9.1-ton *Yukiyoshi Maru* off the coast of Cape Toi in Kushima, Miyazaki Prefecture, on Friday (Feb 9). The three men aboard the *Yukiyoshi Maru* were rescued Monday (Feb 12). They were suffering from minor dehydration. Arimura said he learned through TV news reports Monday evening that the vessel that hit the tuna vessel was blue and white. Blue paint found on the *Yukiyoshi Maru* apparently peeled off the other vessel during the accident. The lower half of the *Ferry Takachiho* is blue, while the upper half is white. Arimura said he contacted the captain of the *Ferry Takachiho* to check the vessel for any signs of a collision. The captain reported to Arimura before 0800 hrs, yesterday that several scratches were evident in the blue part of both sides of the bow. When asked why he was late in reporting the scratches, Arimura said they could not check the vessel earlier because it was dark on Monday. "I have no intention of hiding anything," he said. The ship left Naha

Port around noon yesterday and is scheduled to arrive at Tokyo tomorrow morning.

FIONA SWAN

Bremen, Feb 15 — A local newspaper reports that non specific tanker *Fiona Swan*, with 15,000 litres of gasoil, grounded at 0230 hrs, Feb 14, on the River Weser. The tanker on its way to Bremen Industriehafen grounded on the embankment at Osterort III. When the vessel was not able to free itself a second tug was sent by the river routing authority and with its help was freed at about 0430. No gasoil escaped into the river. The cause of the grounding is still unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

FRIGATE (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See under "Labour Disputes".

GARIP (Slovakia)

London, Feb 13 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS general cargo *Garip* was stationary in lat 40 50 40.89N, long 29 16 21.18E, at 0613, UTC, today.

GAZ DE FRANCE PROVALYS (French Southern Territories)

Marseilles, Feb 12 — Liquid Natural Gas Carrier *Gaz de France Provalys* left Marseilles Feb 10 bound for Algeria. — Lloyd's Agents.

GOLDEN SKY (Cyprus)

London, Feb 14 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Bulker *Golden Sky* is still aground close to Ventspils, Latvia. Bunker barge *Amethyst* is actually pumping out fuel and oil sludge from *Golden Sky*. The vessel is still fully loaded with its cargo of 25,000 tons of fertilisers bound from Ventspils to India.

GOODRICH BAY (Liberia)

Montreal, Feb 13 — Chemical tanker *Goodrich Bay* left Quebec City on Feb 3, bound for Trinidad. Temporary repairs carried out. Do not know owners intention regarding permanent repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

GRANDE ARGENTINA (Sweden)

London, Feb 9 — Vehicle carrier *Grande Argentina* arrived at Tema on Feb 5 from Apapa/Lagos.

HAGONOY (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 14 — Non specific tanker *Hagonoy* is still undergoing repairs at the graving dock of Herma Shipyard at Mariveles, Bataan province. Repairs are expected to be completed on Feb 28. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

HERTFORD (U.K.)

London, Feb 9 — Container Carrier *Hertford* arrived at Antwerp on Feb 8 from Thamesport.

HO FENG NO.6 (Panama)

London, Feb 9 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0020, UTC: General cargo *Ho Feng No.6* remains at Daru.

London, Feb 10 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0945, UTC: General cargo *Ho Feng No.6* remains at Daru.

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

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0330, UTC: General cargo *Ho Feng No.6* is still at anchor at Daru.

HOYO MARU NO.18 (Japan)

London, Feb 9 — Following notice to mariners issued 0500, UTC, Feb 5: Japanese fishing (general) *Hoyo Maru No.18* (319 gt, built 1989) sunk in lat 06 22N, long 64 18E.

HSC GOTLANDIA (Sweden)

Stockholm, Feb 9 — Ferry *HSC Gotlandia* proceeded to the shipyard Falkvarv, at Falkenberg on Tuesday ((Feb 6) for docking and repairs. Estimated time in dock 10 days and a further 10 days alongside the quay at Falkenberg. The vessel will probably not be taken into traffic until April. — Lloyd's Agents.

Gothenburg, Feb 14 — Ferry *HSC Gotlandia* still in dry dock undergoing repairs and is not expected to depart until next week. — Westax Marine Services AB.

HYUNDAI CONFIDENCE (Panama)

London, Feb 8 — Container Carrier *Hyundai Confidence* sailed Long Beach 1920, Feb 7, for Oakland.

London, Feb 10 — Container Carrier *Hyundai Confidence* arrived at Oakland at 1410 hrs, Feb 8.

JAKE VINCENT DOS (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 14 — General cargo *Jake Vincent Dos* is still moored off Trigon Shipyard Corp. in San Fernando, Cebu in central Philippines. Trigon Shipyard officials said that the yard is now fully booked. The earliest that *Jake Vincent Dos* can be accommodated would be in the first week of March at Slipway No. 2. *Jake Vincent Dos* will undergo repairs to its hull which sustained a horizontal crack after it ran aground near the entrance of the DUCOMI (Dumaguete Coconut Mills) pier in Dumaguete City on Jan 22. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

JERIC-JAY (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 15 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that efforts to refloat general cargo *Jeric-Jay* have stalled because of bad weather conditions. The vessel is still aground off Port Sula in Albay province as refloating operations have been temporarily postponed. *Jeric-Jay* ran aground on Nov 30 due to typhoon "Durian". — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

K.PEGASUS (Fiji)

Noumea, Feb 12 — Fishing (general) *K.Pegasus* (136 gt), owned by Blue & Green Marine Trading, Suva, was towed Jan 29 by Navimon fish vessel *Sinda* as its engine broke down and the vessel was adrift near Mare Island. The vessel was safely at Noumea harbour Jan 29. The payment for the no cure no pay salvage was agreed at Euros 39,585. The engine will be repaired at Fiji and *K.Pegasus* will be towed back to Suva by another fishing vessel of the same fishing company. — Lloyd's Agents.

KAGOY

Montevideo, Feb 13 — Fishing (general) *Kagoy* is presently waiting to enter the dry dock to undertake repairs. Vessel is undertaking maintenance repairs. Currently the dock is occupied so it will have to wait its turn to go in. There are no estimates when it will be. — Lloyd's Agents.

KAI LI (Belize)

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Dense smoke was seen rising from fishing vessel "Kaili" (? fish factory *Kai Li* (7765 gt, built 1989) berthed at a dock on the Huangpu River in Shanghai Feb 13. Equipment in the vessel was burnt out. The fire was put out, with no one injured in the accident.

KAIKO MARU NO.3 (Japan)

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Anti-whaling activists say one of their vessels and a Japanese whaling vessel have collided near the Ross Sea, sparking a distress call from the Japanese crew. A statement from the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society said the fishing (general) *Kaiko Maru No.3* (854 gt, built 1974), issued the distress call, which the group had acknowledged, about 1720 hrs, today. Sea Shepherd leader Captain Paul Watson said the confrontation occurred when the conservation group's vessels, the fishery protection *Robert Hunter* (1017 gt, built 1975) and the *Farley Mowat*, caught the Japanese ship bearing down on a pod of whales. "At one point the *Kaiko Maru No.3* turned to starboard and struck the *Robert Hunter*," Sea Shepherd said in a statement. "*Kaiko Maru No.3* has issued a distress signal. We have acknowledged this distress signal but they refuse to say what distress they are in." A spokesman for the Rescue Co-ordination Centre of New Zealand said a distress call had recently been logged from a Japanese vessel. The spokesman said the authorities were still trying to ascertain what had occurred. Captain Watson blamed the Japanese vessel for the collision, saying the whaling ship had backed up on the group's vessel, *Robert Hunter*. *Robert Hunter* had earlier tried to force the whaling vessel into a part of the sea heavy with ice, in an attempt to stop the hunt, Watson said. "They were going after some whales, we moved in and they moved away," he said. "(Then) they backed up and hit the *Robert Hunter*, causing a rip in the hull." He said the hole was about 30cm in diameter, but he did not believe it was large enough to sink *Robert Hunter*. It is understood there were no injuries in this incident.

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The New Zealand Conservation Minister said a collision between a Japanese whaling vessel (fishing *Kaiko Maru No.3*) and a protest vessel (fishery protection *Robert Hunter*) in the Southern Ocean had created a very dangerous situation. The New Zealand Rescue Co-ordination Centre received a distress call from the *Kaiko Maru No.3* today; both sides

contend their vessel was rammed by the other. Conservation Minister, Chris Carter, said it was a very dangerous situation, with neither side prepared to give way and both quite eager to engage in confrontation. He said New Zealand was in a difficult position because it was responsible for search and rescue in the area and he feared someone could be killed. No one was believed to have been hurt and no serious damage to either vessel was reported. The incident was condemned by Japan's fisheries agency. Both crews blame each other for the incident.

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated today, states: More confrontation is expected today in waters off Antarctica as anti-whaling protesters continue to chase a Japanese fleet. It follows yesterday's collision between the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society vessel, fishery protection *Robert Hunter*, and fishing (general) *Kaiko Maru No.3* near the Ross Sea. Each side is blaming the other for the incident, in which the *Kaiko Maru* claims its propeller was damaged, prompting it to send out distress signals. Sea Shepherd says the *Kaiko Maru* hit its vessel on purpose. Paul Watson, the master of another Sea Shepherd vessel, the *Farley Mowat*, said: "I'm not too concerned about what they have to say about it because we have three cameras on the *Robert Hunter* that recorded everything and the documentation will show without any doubt at all who rammed who. It certainly wasn't the *Robert Hunter* that was ramming the *Kaiko Maru*, it was the other way around."

KALYPSO (Singapore)

London, Feb 10 — Bulker *Kalypso* sailed from New Orleans at 0955 hrs, Feb 7.

KAPITAN ARTYUKH (Russia)

Vladivostok, Feb 10 — Container Carrier *Kapitan Artyukh* is still at Petropavlovsk shipyard, but is not dry-docked due to problems with the dry-dock (decreasing its lifting capacity due to "holed some of dock's ballast tanks"). The yard is trying to repair the tanks using divers but it is proving difficult as it is winter time and ice is a problem. — Lloyd's Agents.

KAPTAN NEVZAT KACAR (Turkey)

Ponta Delgada, Feb 10 — Bulker *Kaptan Nevzat Kacar*, in tow of salvage tug *Fotiy Krylov*, arrived at Ponta Delgada outer Roads at 1200 hrs, Feb 9. Due to the current bad weather in the port vicinity the convoy has proceeded to the east coast of the Island for sheltering. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ponta Delgada, Feb 10 — Understand that some spare parts were delivered on board bulker *Kaptan Nevzat Kacar* yesterday during towage by tug *Fotiy Krylov* to the eastern part of the island for sheltering. The vessel was then towed back to Ponta Delgada outer roads this morning. After the satisfactory repairs on the main engine

were completed, the vessel was released this afternoon from the tug and resumed her laden voyage to Bejaia. — Lloyd's Agents.

KEVIN (Panama)

St. Vincent, CV, Feb 13 — General cargo *Kevin* is still under repair at Praia. — Lloyd's Agents.

KITION (Bahamas)

London, Feb 11 — A press release from the United States Coast Guard, dated yesterday, states: Personnel from Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Baton Rouge, La., are investigating the cause of an allision between the I-10 bridge and crude oil tanker *Kition* (53829 gt, built 1994) in Baton Rouge today. The Coast Guard received the report at about 0845 hrs that the 798-foot tanker had allided with the bridge at mile marker 229 along the Lower Mississippi River near the Port Allen Route. The vessel is a Bahama-flagged tanker, owned by Kition Shipping Co. Ltd. in Switzerland. The tanker was carrying 466,000 barrels of carbon black crude oil at the time, an there are no reports of injuries or pollution. The tanker has been moved and is restricted to Mill Anchorage at mile marker 228 along the Lower Mississippi River. The waterway remains open, and the cause of the accident is currently under investigation by personnel from Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Baton Rouge.

London, Feb 12 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1554, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Kition* is presently at Baton Rouge General Anchorage, awaiting survey and repair plans. Damage to the bridge fendering system is estimated at \$10 million. NTSB investigators are proceeding to the scene.

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1518, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Kition* is still anchored at Baton Rouge, awaiting Class inspection.

KNOSSOS PALACE (Greece)

Piraeus, Feb 12 — Passenger ro/ro *Knossos Palace* completed repairs Feb 7 and sailed Perama same day for Iraklion. — Lloyd's Agents.

KOMETA (Cyprus)

London, Feb 9 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 1945, UTC: Divers attempted to remove the obstruction in the propeller of refrigerated general cargo *Kometa* yesterday without success. Divers will make another attempt today.

London, Feb 11 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 2340, UTC: A diver from tug *Jimmy Smith* removed the line from the propeller of refrigerated general cargo *Kometa* Feb 10 and the vessel is now underway.

Honolulu, Feb 12 — It is reported Sea Engineering divers were able to cut the hawser that was wrapped in the propeller of refrigerated general cargo *Kometa* which is now underway on its own power. Tug *Jimmy Smith* will return light to Honolulu on Feb 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

KORYU MARU (Japan)

London, Feb 9 — Following navigation warning issued Feb 10 (local time): Engine troubled tanker adrift in lat 31 17.4N, long 131 20.9E, at 1642, Feb 9.

London, Feb 9 — Following received from Coast Guard Japan, timed 2005, UTC: Chemical tanker *Koryu Maru*, JK4994, (198 gt, built 1990) is still adrift. Owner have arranged a tug which is now en route with ETA 0530, local time.

KRATEROS (Malta)

New York, Feb 14 — Bulker *Krateros*, loaded with peas, finally sailed for India after being stuck in Vancouver(CAN) for several months, shipping sources said today. In this unusual case, the vessel, which was chartered by Toepfer, ran aground at Vancouver port in late September, but was prevented from leaving the port as it was required by Transport Canada to be sent to dry dock for repair work. The pea cargo was pegged at about 40,000 tonnes. "After months of waiting, the ship owner flew some workers from Montreal to Vancouver to repair the ship," a ship broker said. The ship charterer and owner were expected to have settled monetary compensation sought by the charterer from the owner for non-delivery of the \$10 million cargo as well as demurrage costs. Some sources said the vessel sailed late last week, while another source said it departed between Jan 23 and 25. Vessel brokers pointed out that both the owner and charterer lost out in this situation because of the relatively strong freight rates and potential quality problems with the pea cargo. — Reuters.

KURUOGLU III (Turkey)

London, Feb 9 — General cargo *Kuruoglu III* arrived at Apapa-Lagos on Jan 18. She sailed on Jan 23, bound for Rio de Janeiro, where she arrived on Feb 5.

LADOGA 11 (Russia)

London, Feb 9 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0950, UTC: General cargo *Ladoga 11* (1588 gt, built 1978), Thisted for Tallinn, cargo 1,400 tonnes of malt, grounded in lat 56 57.7N, long 08 54.1E, at 1621, UTC, Feb 8. Danish maritime authorities are en route to examine vessel, with divers expected this afternoon. Vessel remains aground.

London, Feb 9 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1735, UTC: General cargo *Ladoga 11* is still aground. Divers have been in attendance and their report is awaited along with a salvage plan.

London, Feb 10 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1130, UTC: General cargo *Ladoga 11* is still aground. Details of the proposed salvage plan are still awaited from the vessel's classification society. Also the water levels "in situ" are very low.

London, Feb 11 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1506, UTC: General cargo *Ladoga 11* is still aground. The classification society are still waiting for the written report from

the divers who inspected the vessel. Once that is received, a salvage plan can then be drawn up.

London, Feb 12 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1257, UTC: General cargo *Ladoga 11* is still aground. The vessel will attempt to refloat by its own means at about 1600, UTC, today.

London, Feb 12 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 2135, UTC: General cargo *Ladoga 11* made an unsuccessful attempt to refloat itself this evening. Tugs are now going to be used for future efforts.

London, Feb 13 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1331, UTC: General cargo *Ladoga 11* is still aground.

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1031, UTC: General cargo *Ladoga 11* refloated last night by its own means and is presently proceeding to Thisted for a diver's survey.

LADY BELINDA (North Korea)

Visakhapatnam, Feb 13 — Bulker *Lady Belinda* is still at Visakhapatnam port. There were reports that the owners and the representatives of the crew, were in negotiations during the fourth week of January. No further reports since then. The vesssl's local agents are unaware of when the the vessel is expected to sail from Visakhapatnam. — Lloyd's Agents.

LADY MOURA (Bahamas)

London, Feb 13 — Yacht *Lady Moura* sailed from Hamburg at 0855 hrs, Feb 9, for trials and returned back to Hamburg at 1724 hrs, Feb 9.

London, Feb 15 — After extensive repairs and overhauls, yacht *Lady Moura* is to be redelivered to its owners by Blohm & Voss Yard, Hamburg, on Feb 16 and will depart at 1000 hrs towards the North Sea.

LE RONG (China)

London, Feb 14 — General cargo *Le Rong* transited the Suez Canal as part of the northbound convoy on Feb 13.

LIBERTY V (Panama)

See "Panama" under "Weather & Navigation".

LINE (NIS)

Copenhagen, Feb 14 — Reported at 1138 hrs. Container Carrier *Line* (2973 gt, built 1976) left Grenaa 30 minutes ago and ran heavily aground just outside the harbour. She has been lifted about 1.5 metres out of the water with her bow. *Line* arrived at Grenaa yesterday, in ballast, to load wood for paper production. — Correspondent.

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 0300, UTC: Container Carrier *Line* refloated at high tide, at 1700 yesterday. Vessel returned to Grenaa where it will be inspected by divers later today.

LITTLE JOE II (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 13 — A press release from the United States Coast Guard, dated today, states: Five fishermen are safe after their vessel fishing (general)

Little Joe II (48 gt, built 1971) off the coast of Ventura County, Calif. this morning. Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach received a call for help just after midnight over VHF radio channel 16 from the 60-foot fishing vessel reporting that they were taking on water. Rescuers from Coast Guard Air Station Los Angeles and Coast Guard Station Channel Islands Harbor responded. The five fishermen were found safe in a 17-foot skiff at 0113 hrs and taken back to shore by a rescue boat from Coast Guard Station Channel Islands Harbor. The vessel was equipped with a marine radio, GPS, and 406Mhz Electronic Positioning Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB), equipment that aided the Coast Guard in locating the fishermen. The vessel was based out of Ventura, Calif. The cause of the sinking is currently under investigation.

LOVE MUSIC (Malta)

London, Feb 13 — General cargo *Love Music* arrived at Fredericia on Jan 30 and sailed on Feb 1, bound for St. Petersburg.

MAERSK VIENNA (Cyprus)

London, Feb 9 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Container Carrier *Maersk Vienna* struck a berth in Baltiysk port at 0700, Feb 5, and sustained a 40-by-40 cm hole in the starboard side. The vessel was mooring in the third sea pool of Baltiysk. One of the vessel's fuel tanks was damaged, resulting in an oil spill of approximately two tons and a slick of 170 by 50 metres, about 5 mm thick. The crew had noticed the hole early in the morning. By this time two tons of black oil had already polluted an area of 160 by 30 metres. The vessel was intentionally listed to the port side to get the leakage out of the water. The repair was then to be carried out by the crew.

St. Petersburg, Feb 12 — Container carrier *Maersk Vienna* sailed Kaliningrad Feb 10 for Bremerhaven. — Lloyd's Agents.

MANILA BAY 1 (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 12 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that passenger ro/ro *Manila Bay 1* (15771 gt, built 1973) caught fire today while undergoing repairs at Gothong Wharf in Mandaue City, Cebu province. Coast Guard officials said that the fire appeared to have started at around 1030 hrs in the upper deck tourist accommodations, where welding operations were being carried out. The fire quickly spread to the lower decks. Firefighters from the Philippine Navy, Coast Guard and Cebu Filipino Chinese Volunteers Fire Brigade were able to bring the fire under control at around 1200 hours. The vessel is owned by Cebu-based Carlos A. Gothong Lines and operates between Cebu and Nasipit in Agusan del Norte. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Feb 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Manila Bay 1*, owned by the Carlos A. Gothong Shipping Lines Inc, caught

fire off Pier 7 in Mandaue City yesterday. Fire officials are still investigating what caused the blaze in the ship and the extent of the damage. A company lawyer said the ship was undergoing renovation when it caught fire. It was to be drydocked at the Keppel Cebu Shipyard in Lapu-Lapu City. But since Keppel could not accommodate the ship yet, the contractor for the renovation proceeded with his job while the vessel was docked at Pier 7. SFO4 Jose M. Laurito, chief fire investigator, said they received the alarm at 1043 hrs and contained the fire at noon. Laurito said they had to connect about seven fire hoses to reach the blaze. Firemen from the Philippine Navy and Philippine Coast Guard arrived but their equipment had low pressure. Laurito said that about 30 American soldiers who are part of visiting US Navy joined in fighting the fire, using fireboats equipped with portable pumps that sucked seawater. Laurito said initial investigation showed negligence on the part of some welders doing repair works on the ship. They failed to cover the decks with protective foam that would have absorbed sparks. Dr. Emmanuel Labella of the Bureau of Quarantine inspected the vessel and found the ship's bridge and decks damaged. Lawyer Francisco Mijares, Gothong company's lawyer, said that had the vessel not caught fire, it would have taken only one week for Keppel to fix the hulls. With the damage caused by the fire, it will take six months to repair the ship, Mijares said.

Manila, Feb 13 — Damage to passenger ro/ro *Manila Bay 1*, which caught fire Feb 12 while docked at Gothong Wharf Pier No 7, Mandaue City, is estimated to have reached Pesos 2.5 million (US\$46,000), Mandaue city fire investigators reported. The vessel had been drydocked and under repair for over a month when the fire occurred. Investigators said that welding operations were under way in one of the suites on the third deck when sparks from an acetelyne torch fell on one of the beds, which immediately caught fire. The fire quickly spread to the tourist section on the second level and the economy accommodations on the first level. The bridge, crew quarters and restaurant were also burned, investigators said. Only the engine-room escaped damage. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Feb 14 — A United States navy press release, dated Cebu Feb 13, states: While in port during a regularly scheduled visit Feb 12, USS *Blue Ridge* responded to a request from local authorities to assist in combating a fire that had broken out on board passenger ro/ro *Manila Bay 1*. The vessel had been undergoing repairs while in port when hot work, or welding, produced an intense fire that ripped through the ship's bridge and continued to burn two decks down and spread aft. Local authorities had initially attempted to control the fire themselves, but once a re-flash occurred, the fire was deemed out of control and the call was made to

the U.S. Navy for assistance. *Blue Ridge* immediately sent its rescue and assistance team to assist. Transporting fire fighting, de-watering, and de-smoking equipment across the harbor, the 15-man fire fighting team was able assist in controlling the fire by overhauling the affected areas and de-watering the ship, as the ship had begun to list, because of combating the blaze from the outside with water. "Some of the gear the crew was using on board was damaged, or degraded," said Senior Chief Damage Controlman (SW) Leif Lairson of *Blue Ridge* Rescue and Assistance Team. "So, a lot of our gear was in better shape and we were able to help the effort significantly." No injuries occurred during the six-hour operation.

MARGRET (Germany)

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated Feb 7, states: German passenger (cruise) *Margret*, built 1993, 25 metres, burned out as a result of arson while berthed at Puschkinallee on the river Spree in Berlin-Treptow on the evening of Feb 5. No passengers were aboard at the time. The vessel's windows were smashed by unknown individuals and the interior set on fire. Firefighters and policed tackled the blaze and prevented the vessel from sinking.

MARIA LOURDES (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 9 — The cargo of copra carried by the grounded general cargo *Maria Lourdes* was offloaded last week, the vessel's owner and operator reported today. Candano Shipping said that despite it's empty cargo holds, repeated attempts to free the vessel have been unsuccessful because of rough waters. Another attempt will be made on Feb 17 when the tide is high. If the refloating is successful, the ship will be towed to Mayon Docks in Tabaco, Albay province, for drydocking. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

MARIE MILJO (Denmark)

London, Feb 15 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Support *Marie Miljo* (194 gt, built 1979) ran aground at Logstor Rende, in the Limfjord, at 1230, local time, Feb 12. The ship was underway to general cargo *Ladoga II* which had grounded on Feb 8. *Marie Miljo* was investigated by divers of the "Soeloeven" and soon refloated with own power. It then resumed its voyage.

MARINE EAGLE (Panama)

Busan, Feb 12 — After completion of repairs at Busan general cargo *Marine Eagle* sailed Busan at about 2000, Feb 9 for Vladivostok. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MARVEL K. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

St. Petersburg, Feb 15 — General cargo *Marvel K.* is under loading operations at St.Petersburg. — Lloyd's Agents.

MERMAID II (Latvia)

Portsmouth, UK, Feb 11 — A gust of wind damaged a vessel at 0415 hrs,

today, at the Scandinavia dock (Lubeck). Passenger ro/ro *Mermaid II* (13730 gt, built 1972) was blown against the jetty by a severe gust of wind and suffered damage "at a height of three metres on the bow". The jetty was also damaged. The vessel's departure for Riga scheduled for 1000 hrs, was delayed. The full extent of the damage is not yet known. — Correspondent.

Hamburg, Feb 15 — Following local repairs, passenger ro/ro *Mermaid II* has resumed regular service in the Baltic Sea. — Lloyd's Agents.

MIGNON (Sweden)

London, Feb 13 — Vehicle carrier *Mignon* sailed from Leghorn on Jan 25 and after calls at Santander, Bristol, Zeebrugge and Ghent, arrived at Bremerhaven at 1615 hrs, Feb 4 and sailed at 1320 hrs, Feb 12, bound for Le Havre.

MIKHAIL DUDIN (Malta)

Riga, Feb 14 — General cargo *Mikhail Dudin* remains at Ventspils awaiting spare parts. — Lloyd's Agents.

MOGAMIGAWA (Japan)

Singapore, Feb 12 — Crude oil tanker *Mogamigawa* remains at Sembawang Premier Dock, Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

MSC LORENA (Panama)

London, Feb 12 — Container carrier *MSC Lorena* arrived Savannah Feb 10.

MSC NAPOLI (U.K.)

London, Feb 9 — Following press release from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated Feb 8, states: The salvors of Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* in agreement with the MCA moved the *Bigfoot* barge back to Portland Port and away from the vessel whilst there remains the prospect of poorer weather and bigger sea swells in the immediate area of the wreck for at least the next 72 hours. The condition of the vessel remains the same. Pumping equipment is in place within the engine-room and is now removing the remaining oils from tanks within the vessels engine spaces. 314 containers have been removed so far. Of the 69 safely removed yesterday, 13 contained dangerous goods which remain a priority for removal. Robin Middleton, Secretary of States Representative in Maritime Salvage and Intervention said No further containers will be removed from the vessel during the bad weather. It is likely that more containers will be lost from the vessel during this bad weather. The oil removal operation will continue as long as safety is not compromised. Contingency plans remain in place right around the coastline and working in close co-operation with all the local authorities and the Police and Coastguard, any containers that may be washed ashore will be marked and secured as soon as they arrive on the beach. Aerial surveillance flights continue and these reconnaissance missions will also help us pinpoint any missing containers.

Security officers are on standby in the various locations to identify and secure any containers that may come ashore on behalf of the Receiver of Wreck. It is vital that members of the public do not approach any container or touch any contents but inform the appropriate authorities immediately. The normal arrangements in terms of recovery of wreck material through voluntary salvage do not apply in the case of the *MSC Napoli*. The reason for this is that comprehensive salvage contracts have already been placed by the owners of the vessel (and the consignors) to recover all items from the vessel, including those lost overboard and washed ashore. Therefore, members of the public have no legal authority to recover items as wreck or salvage from the *MSC Napoli*. If more containers wash up off the East Devon coast we will ensure with Devon and Cornwall Police that strategic points are manned to only allow access for local residents and businesses. In Branscombe those areas have already been identified from the last time containers came ashore and for most of the other towns across the coastline it would be a case of preventing extraneous traffic coming off the A3052, which is the main access route.

London, Feb 12 — A Zodiac Maritime Agencies Ltd press release, timed 1000, Feb 9, states: Zodiac Maritime Agencies Ltd of London, operators of container carrier *MSC Napoli*, report that there has been some general deterioration in the vessel's condition due to unfavourable weather. The discharge of containers was suspended during the evening of Feb 6 in response to the forecast change in the weather. At that stage a total of 314 containers had been discharged and safely landed at Portland. As a precautionary measure the crane barge *Bigfoot 1* and the cargo shuttle vessel *Boa Barge 21*, together with the salvage vessel *Union Beaver*, took shelter at Portland. In addition, the lightering tanker *Fourth Fisher* has arrived at Falmouth, to discharge the 3,532 cu metres of fuel transferred from *MSC Napoli* before weather conditions deteriorated. Meanwhile, pumping of the remaining fuel in the vessel's engine-room continues. The recovery of 75 cu m of oil from the settling tank has been completed. Pumping from the service tank will begin shortly. Container discharge operations will resume when the weather improves. Swells of up to four m are expected over the next 24 hours and the salvage team will be monitoring the status of the vessel throughout this period of poor weather.

London, Feb 12 — A press release from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, dated yesterday, states: Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* continues to remain in a stable condition and has a 10 degree list to starboard. Pumping equipment is in place within the engine-room and the salvors are now removing the remaining oils from tanks within the ships engine spaces. Yesterday six tonnes of oily water was recovered. Due to poor weather and large swells the

barge *Bigfoot* remains in port and no further container removal will occur until more favourable weather occurs. A total of 314 containers have been removed so far. Contingency plans remain in place right around the coastline and working in close co-operation with all the local authorities and the Police and Coastguard, any containers that may be washed ashore will be marked and secured as soon as they arrive on the beach. Aerial surveillance flights continue and these reconnaissance missions will also help us pinpoint any missing containers. Security officers are on standby in the various locations to identify and secure any containers that may come ashore on behalf of the Receiver of Wreck.

London, Feb 13 — A Maritime and Coastguard Agency press release, timed 1443, Feb 12, states: Contractors have progressed well with the clean up of Branscombe Beach following the events which occurred after the arrival of Container Carrier *MSC Napoli*. Fifty-eight containers have now been disposed of and 160 tonnes of steel scrap have been removed and recycled, 169 tonnes of other waste has also been removed from beaches and has gone for licensed disposal.

London, Feb 13 — A press report, dated today, states: More cargo from Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* had been washed overboard as stormy weather continued to batter the stricken vessel, Coastguards said yesterday. About eight bags of yellow plastic strips slipped from the deck of the vessel as high winds whipped up three-metre swells. A spokesman for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency said the strips were non-toxic and had now been collected from Lyme Bay. Several large drums of brake fluid were also found floating in the water which have been removed by a salvage team and sent for tests. Other goods which are still coming ashore include bottles of shampoo and balls of string found 30 miles away in Torbay. MCA officer Derek Smith said yesterday: "There has been no significant deterioration of the vessel. A light sheen of oil has been reopened drifting to the west but there is very little of it and it is being broken up." A giant barge being used to take containers off the *MSC Napoli* was expected to return alongside it yesterday.

MSC ROMA (Liberia)

See *Angelique Emilie*.

NAMAI (Netherlands)

London, Feb 9 — General cargo *Namai*: Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contract was signed with Mourne Shore Feb 8.

London, Feb 12 — General cargo *Namai* arrived at Dublin at 2315 hrs, Feb 11.

London, Feb 14 — General cargo *Namai* sailed from Dublin at 1927 hrs, Feb 13.

NIJORD (Malta)

Riga, Feb 9 — General cargo *Nijord* is still under repair. Repairs are expected to be completed Feb 12-13. — Lloyd's Agents.

NISSHIN MARU (Japan)

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated Feb 15, states: The key vessel of the Japanese whaling fleet, fish factory *Nisshin Maru* (8030 gt, built 1987), is on fire and has been evacuated in Antarctica. The vessel issued a distress call around 0400, eastern Australian summer time, after the fire broke out below decks, according to the search and rescue co-ordination centre at Maritime New Zealand. Of the 162 people on board, 120 were evacuated onto three other vessels in the Japanese fleet, and the remainder had stayed on board to fight the fire, Maritime New Zealand's spokesman, Lindsay Sturt, told smh.com.au. "It's suspected the fire is in the engine-room of the ship, but that is not certain yet," Mr Sturt said. "It doesn't appear that the vessel is in danger of sinking, and we have no report of injuries. The fire is still going." Mr Sturt could not confirm a report of an explosion ahead of the fire, and he said its cause was not known. He said the crew who remained on board would likely attempt to seal off the area where the fire was, and douse it with extinguishing gases. The vessel is believed to be in the Ross Sea, where the weather conditions are good, with no swell and light winds.

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Wellington MRCC, timed 2140, UTC: *Nisshin Maru* currently on fire 250 miles north of McMurdo. Fire started in factory area of vessel. Salvage assistance required.

Canberra, Feb 15 — Fish factory *Nisshin Maru* is on fire and one crew member is missing off the coast of Antarctica after a blaze broke out below decks, New Zealand maritime authorities said today. The fire broke out around 1600, GMT, Feb 14 on the black-hulled *Nisshin Maru*, in the Southern Ocean. "Three other whaling ships have come to their assistance and taken 142 crew off, while 20 remain on the ship fighting the fire and one is unaccounted for at this stage," Maritime New Zealand spokesman Steve Corbett told Reuters. Corbett said the cause of the fire was unknown, as sea conditions in the area had been calm with no wind. The blaze, he said, had nothing to do with environmental activists who had been harassing the fleet for the past two days, at one stage colliding with another Japanese vessel. "It had nothing to do with them, because they are still three days away," Corbett said. No assistance had been requested or sent to the area — 265 nautical miles north of the American McMurdo Base in Antarctica — by New Zealand's government. "The master advises he has the situation under control," Corbett said. — Reuters.

Wellington, Feb 15 — A press report states: Fish factory *Nisshin Maru* sent out a distress call early today and was evacuated by most of its crew as others stayed on board to fight the fire. The Japanese Embassy in Wellington confirmed the ship was on fire but said details were scarce. One of the crew was reported to be missing but Maritime New Zealand spokesman

Steve Corbett said today it was not sure if the crewman was in the ship or had gone overboard. The fire was believed to be in the engine-room of the ship. Mr Corbett said 20 crew had stayed on the ship to fight the fire but the rest of the 161 crew had been evacuated. Maritime New Zealand received a distress call from the ship at 0515 today and since then had been in constant contact with the master. He said there was very little that could be done from New Zealand. "We are standing by, talking to the master. At the moment he has got the situation under control so we are just seeing if he wants any assistance, either with the fire or the missing crewman," Mr Corbett said. The Royal New Zealand Navy said the navy ships that could get there quickly were the Anzac frigates, HMNZS *Te Kaha* and HMNZS *Te Mana*, but both were heading north and would not be sent. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Wellington MRCC, timed 0515, UTC: Fish factory *Nisshin Maru* is still on fire in lat 73 25.8S, long 175 54E. The crew have managed to enter the factory spaces but the smoke is very thick and because of this they cannot locate the seat of the fire so they are spraying water in the area. The vessel has a slight list and is totally "blacked-out."

NOELANI (U.S.A.)

Portsmouth, UK, Feb 12 — A tug fire yesterday caused extensive damage to the 800-thousand dollar vessel. Coos Bay Fire and Rescue responded, just before 1700 hrs, to a reported fire on board a tug docked at Sause Bros. It took about 15 minutes to get the fire under control. Coos Bay Fire says there was extensive damage to the wiring system throughout the vessel. The cause of the fire is under investigation, but believed to be accidental. — Correspondent.

Seattle, Feb 13 — The vessel that caught fire was tug *Noelani* (142 gt, built 1965). No information concerning possible repair schedule at this time. — Lloyd's Agents.

NORDKAPP (NIS)

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Diesel fuel that leaked from passenger ro/ro *Nordkapp*, which ran aground in the Antarctic last week, has caused no damage to the fragile environment, the Norwegian Polar Institute said Wednesday (Feb 7). According to the institute, which is in charge of Norwegian environmental regulations in the Antarctic, some 130-200 gallons of light diesel spilled into the ocean when the crew of the *Nordkapp* tried to transfer the fuel from a damaged tank to one that was intact.

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated Feb 9, states: Passenger ro/ro *Nordkapp* has undergone temporary repairs and is currently en route to Buenos Aires for permanent repairs. The remainder of the ship's season in Antarctica has been cancelled. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS

Nordkapp was in lat 51 31 12S, long 57 33 03W, at 0527, UTC, Feb 11, speed 11.8 knots, course 1.9 degrees.)

London, Feb 15 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS passenger ro/ro *Nordkapp* was in lat 35 34 33S, long 55 37 11W, at 0012, UTC, Feb today, speed 10.1 knots, course 4.5 degrees, bound Buenos Aires.

NYALA (Liberia)

Kingston, JA, Feb 13 — Bulker *Nyala* struck the dock at Kingston, causing a hole into the bow of 1.7m by 75 cm. The vessel also caused substantial damage to the dock. Repairs are being carried out by local engineers and should be completed today. — Lloyd's Agents.

ODISK (Sierra Leone)

Mariupol, Feb 13 — General cargo *Odisk* is still detained for the incident investigation and is lying afloat without crew members under police protection. The judgement against the ship-owner is expected to be at the end of March at Feodosia, Crimea. — Lloyd's Agents.

OEL PEACE (Panama)

London, Feb 12 — Container Carrier *OEL Peace* sailed from Kuwait on Feb 7. She next arrived at and sailed from Abu Dhabi on Feb 9, and then arrived at Jebel Ali on Feb 9, sailing on Feb 10, bound for Jawaharlal Nehru, where ETA Feb 14.

OTTON (Panama)

Bilbao, Feb 14 — Understand from local ship's agents that fire fighting tug *Ottton* is still at the port of Bilbao effecting repairs. Date of completion unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

PELOPONESIAN PRIDE (Panama)

London, Feb 10 — Container Carrier *Peloponnesian Pride* arrived at Hong Kong at 0032 hrs, Feb 9 and sailed later the same day, at 0803 hrs.

PERSEUS V (Panama)

See "Panama" under "Weather & Navigation".

PRIDE OF BILBAO (U.K.)

London, Feb 9 — A man appeared in court yesterday charged with the manslaughter of three sailors who died when their yacht was allegedly in collision with a P&O ferry. Michael Hubble, 61, appeared at Portsmouth Magistrates' Court to face the charges relating to the deaths of James Meaby, 36, Jason Downer, 35, and Rupert Saunders, 36, from the yacht *Ouzo*, between Aug 20 and 23 last year. The case against Hubble, of Capel-le-Ferne, Folkestone, Kent, was adjourned to a hearing at Winchester Crown Court on Feb 16 and he was released on bail without conditions. Hubble, an agency worker, was officer of the watch on board passenger ro/ro *Pride of Bilbao*, which was en route from Portsmouth to Bilbao at the same time as *Ouzo*, a 25ft sloop, disappeared while on passage from Bembridge, Isle of Wight, to Dartmouth Regatta, in Devon. — "The Daily Telegraph"

PRINCESS AVIV (Panama)

See "Panama" under "Weather & Navigation".

PROPONTIS (Greece)

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Crude oil tanker *Propontis* (66919 gt, built 2006) owned by Greek shipowner Tsakos, grounded early today in the Gulf of Finland. The ship was bound from Primorsk, Russia to Western Europe, laden with 110,000 tons of crude oil. There are some ruptures in the vessel's ballast tanks but the cargo space is intact. No oil spills have been observed. *Propontis* is a modern double-hull tanker. Following the incident the vessel discontinued its voyage and the crew are inspecting damages, at sea. Authorities and the shipowner will decide on further actions. *Propontis* is time-chartered by Neste Shipping. Its crude oil cargo is owned by a third party.

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A 250-metre Greek tanker sailing from Primorsk ran aground off the island of Suursaari in the Gulf of Finland early today. The Finnish Coast Guard told the Finnish News Agency (STT) that although the vessel's ballast tanks had been damaged no oil leaks had been detected. The double-hulled crude oil *Propontis* is carrying 100,000 tonnes of crude oil. At 0900 hrs, the vessel was stable in the middle of the Gulf, some 50km south of the Finnish port of Loviisa. The Coast Guard contacted the Estonian and Russian rescue authorities and sent the offshore patrol vessel *VL Merikarhu* to the area. *Propontis* has a complement of 25.

London, Feb 9 — Following received from Neste Shipping, Helsinki, dated today: Crude oil tanker *Propontis* grounded in lat 60 00.6N, long 00 26.35E at 2345, UTC, Feb 8. Vessel had departed Primorsk, approximately five hours earlier and was bound for the United Kingdom. The vessel refloated under its own power and is currently undergoing survey/inspection. The vessel has full use of its own power. There were no injuries to the crew. The cause of the grounding remains unknown.

London, Feb 9 — Following received from Tallinn MRCC, timed 1021, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Propontis* touched ground in lat 60 00 55N, long 26 35 07E, at 0145, local time, today. According to the vessel's owners, it has two holes and leak from ballast tank but no oil spill. Vessel is now anchored in Finnish responsibility area.

London, Feb 9 — Following received from Tsakos Shipping, Athens, dated today: Tsakos Shipping, managers of the 2006 built Aframax crude oil tanker *Propontis*, report that the vessel touched bottom at 2345, UTC, Feb 8, in lat 60 00.55N, long 00 26.35E, having left the Primorsk pilot station at 2140, UTC. The double-hull, Ice Class 1A tanker is loaded with approximately 100,000 mt of Russian Primorsk crude. There has been no pollution and no injuries as a result of the incident. All the appropriate authorities have been notified and the Manager's Emergency

Team, together with the on board team, and supported by the Lloyds Rapid Response Damage Assessment Team are engaged in assessing the situation. There is no danger of any pollution and the vessel has full structural integrity.

London, Feb 9 — Following received from Tsakos Shipping, Athens, dated today: Tsakos Shipping, managers of the crude oil tanker *Propontis*, report that at 1100, UTC, the vessel was at safe anchorage, 35 miles south of Porvoo, Finland, awaiting the arrival of the managers investigation team and the BV Class surveyor, all of whom are scheduled to arrive this afternoon. In addition, a diving team will also be arriving at the scene to inspect the damage to the vessel's underwater outer hull. Meanwhile the vessel's cargo and ballast tanks continue to be closely monitored. As the vessel was delivered in 2006 to Ice Class 1A standard, we are confident there is no pollution threat to the environment.

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated Feb 9, states: Crude oil tanker *Propontis* ran aground briefly off Finland's coast but no oil spills were detected and the vessel was not taking on water, coast guards said. The *Propontis* ran aground to the west of Hogland island in the Gulf of Finland aground 2345 UTC, Feb 8, not long after leaving the Russian port of Primorsk. "The ship is anchored in international waters. There is no problem. Its ... engines are okay, it's able to move by itself," Finnish coast guard commander Marko Tuominen told AFP. Divers inspected the hull this afternoon, and were expected to submit their report to a maritime classification group in the evening. A coast guard helicopter had been sent to the scene and reported seeing no oil, Juha Vuolli, the deputy coast guard commander for the zone said, adding that the tanker must have drifted out of its shipping lane. The waters were calm and there was no ice in the area, he said. There were no injuries to the 25-member Greek and Filipino crew. Tuominen said the tanker briefly touched the bottom at a shallow point, then drifted 15 nautical miles. "It very probably deviated from its route for an unknown reason. The big tankers have to follow special routes. This one has a draught of 14.4 meters," said Vuolli.

London, Feb 10 — Following received from Turku MRCC, timed 1317, UTC: Location of crude oil tanker *Propontis* remains unchanged. Understood her cargo is to be transhipped and vessel is waiting the arrival of another tanker alongside for this purpose. Currently, however, the MRCC are unaware of the ETA on scene of this tanker.

Helsinki, Feb 10 — Crude oil tanker *Propontis* touched ground in the Gulf of Finland on Feb 9. The vessel was sailing from Primorsk, Russia, to the North Sea, carrying 100 000 tons of crude oil. The vessel sustained two holes in her ballast tank, however, the vessel has a double hull and no leaks were reported. Divers surveyed the bottom of the vessel last night, the bow end was found to be cracked and

the starboard side had been dented. The propeller was found to be undamaged. The vessel is at anchor in the Gulf of Finland, approximately 50 km off Loviisa and the 25-person crew remains onboard. Finnish Coast Guard vessel *Merikarhu* is monitoring the situation nearby and Swedish tanker *Stena Arctica* has sailed to the scene as well. For safety reasons, the cargo should be lightened before sailing, but the official report will be given later today, after which the shipping company will make a decision about selling the cargo or transferring it onto another vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 12 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS crude oil tanker *Propontis* was at anchor in lat 60 00 50N, long 25 29 39E, at 2353, UTC, Feb 11.

London, Feb 12 — Following received from the operators of crude oil tanker *Propontis*, dated today: *Propontis*, which touched bottom in the Gulf of Finland on Feb 8, moved under its own power from its original anchoring position on Feb 11, to the outer anchorage at Porvoo. The vessel will move to the inner anchorage today, where its full cargo will be discharged alongside. Following the cargo discharge, the vessel will undergo further Class inspection in way of the forepeak and shell plating. Inspection of the propeller and rudder has revealed no damage. The company's Technical Department are currently engaged in identifying available repair facilities.

London, Feb 13 — Following received from Turku MRCC, timed 1034, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Propontis* is presently discharging cargo at Porvoo.

Helsinki, Feb 13 — Crude oil tanker *Propontis* is at anchor off Neste Oil Harbour, Porvoo, and will berth tomorrow to commence cargo discharge. The extent of damage to the vessel will be established after the discharge is completed. — Lloyd's Agents.

PROSPERO (Sweden)

London, Feb 9 — High Court action has been launched over Combined chemical and oil tank *Prospero's* collision with a jetty at Milford Haven last December. A writ issued at the London High Court says that the 18,000 tonne *Prospero*, which was empty, collided with the jetty as it was trying to dock in the early hours of Dec 10. The collision damaged both the vessel and the berth, which was next to the site of liquefied natural gas storage. Now oil products company SemLogistics is suing the owners and charterers of the *Prospero*, of the port of Donso in Sweden, for damages, alleging breach of duty and contract. The in rem writ issued by solicitors Clifford Chance on Dec 12 says the collision caused substantial damage to berth number two at the port.

PXXI

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Operations to scuttle decommissioned oil rig *A Turtle*,

ex *PXXI*, were carried out on Feb 10. At the first attempt the cable broke from tug *De Hong* and had to be reconnected but at the second attempt the rig came loose and was towed out of the bay around 1800 hrs, towards the dumpsite approved by the Governor of St. Helena. The position was reached at 0330 hrs; eleven of the salvage team remained on board to keep the compressors running pumping air into the airbags fitted into the legs of the rig. All precautions were taken to ensure that the rig sank and the salvage crew left the rig safely. At approximately 1400 hrs the salvage team were taken off after pulling the plugs. At 1730 hrs it went below the surface, 10.3 nautical miles from the nearest shoreline of the island, and within Tristanian waters. Shortly after there was a loud noise that appear to be the busting of the airbags. The salvage master said that the rig sunk in about 3,400 metres of water and virtually no debris of any kind surfaced from the rig, as the remaining diesel fuel had been pumped to the tug during the last week.

QD 01

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Three foreigners were killed and 18 others, including three more foreigners, injured in a collision between a hydrofoil and general cargo *QD 01* yesterday off the coast of Quang Ninh province. The three dead have been identified as Korean Lee Ki Hong and two Chinese, He Da and Yang Yong De. A three-year-old Chinese child and a Vietnamese woman are reportedly in critical condition. Hoang The Tinh, the hydrofoil captain, said thick fog that had obstructed the crew's view and caused the accident. The accident occurred at 0945 hrs off Mong Cai town where the hydrofoil, with 30 people on board, was arriving from nearby Ha Long Bay while the freighter was headed for Hai Phong city. The police rushed to the scene to salvage the vessels and send the victims to hospital for medical treatment. Of the 18 injured, 11 were discharged later that day.

Manila, Feb 13 — Police in Vietnam's northern Qung Ninh province seized Monday (Feb 12) the hydrofoil which collided with general cargo *QD 01* near Mong Cai town last Friday. Police also arrested and held for questioning the hydrofoil's navigator, Nguyen Dung. Three hydrofoil passengers were killed when the hydrofoil, arriving from Ha Long Bay crashed into *QD 01* which was headed for Hai Phong city. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ROBERT HUNTER

See *Kaiko Maru No.3*.

ROBERTA TABOR (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Explosives were used yesterday to break apart a barge (that was in tow of tug *Roberta Tabor*) that has been stranded under Gate 2 of the McAlpine Dam since Jan 16. Several 15-pound explosives were detonated to

break up the barge so that it could be removed from the dam in pieces, according to Carol Labashosky, a spokeswoman for the Army Corps of Engineers. "The barge was broken in two (by the explosives) as we expected," Labashosky said. But it was unclear last night whether the effort was enough to free the barge from the dam. Most of the barge disappeared below the Ohio River surface after two blasts were set off about 1600 hrs. But about a quarter of the barge was still visible above the water and the barge did not appear to move from its location. The explosions were set off about five minutes apart.

RYOSHIN MARU NO.62 (Japan)

See *Sky Express*.

SAINT GOTHARD (France)

London, Feb 9 — Fishing (general) *Saint Gothard* arrived at Castletownberre on Feb 8.

Dublin, Feb 13 — Fishing (general) *Saint Gothard*: Owners' engineers attended vessel, effected repairs and she sailed Castletownberre Feb 11. Lloyd's Agents.

SALINE (Netherlands)

Brest, Feb 14 — General cargo *Saline* (1990 gt, built 1993), on a loaded passage from Swansea to Lisbon, experienced main engine problems off Ushant Island Feb 12 in rough weather conditions. Assistance was requested and the vessel was taken in tow by tug *Abeille Bourbon*. The convoy arrived at Brest yesterday morning. Repairs are now being carried out and should be completed Feb 16. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAVA LAKE (Latvia)

London, Feb 14 — General cargo *Sava Lake* arrived at Liepaja on Feb 2 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS, at 0758, UTC, today the vessel was still in port at Liepaja.

SCI TEJ (Marshall Islands)

London, Feb 13 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Container Carrier *SCI Tej* is still berthed at the Steubenhoeft in Cuxhaven.

SEA AHMED (Liberia)

London, Feb 9 — Vehicle carrier *Sea Ahmed* arrived at Leghorn on Feb 8 and departed later the same day, bound for Tilbury.

Piraeus, Feb 12 — Vehicle carrier *Sea Ahmed* completed repairs and sailed Skaramanga Feb 4. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA BARON (Panama)

Jeddah, Feb 9 — Both Roll On Roll Off *Sea Baron* and general cargo *Le Rong* are under temporary repairs at Jeddah Port. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA EXPRESS 1 (U.K.)

Liverpool, Feb 12 — Bulker *Alaska Rainbow* is presently under repair, ETC unknown. Passenger ro/ro *Sea Express 1* sailed Feb 8 for sea, for orders. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA WORLD NO.101 (South Korea)

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: "An explosion" on fishing (general) *Sea World No.101* (660 gt, built 1975) in Montevideo's port killed four people yesterday, officials said. Officials were investigating whether ammonium gas commonly used as a refrigerant for preserving fish cargos may have caused the blast, according to local firefighters. Emergency teams put on protective clothing to board the vessel after detecting large amounts of gas. Uruguay's Navy confirmed the blast by provided few details.

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated Feb 14, states: Four died and 20 were injured after the escape of ammonia in interior of a Korean fishing boat (fishing *Sea World No.101*), moored at wharf No.10, Port of Montevideo. The boat had a crew from South Korea, Indonesia and Vietnam. Of the 20 hurt were four firemen who had respiratory problems when they entered the vessel to rescue the crew. The naval administrations are trying to clarify the origin of the gas, that is used for refrigeration. An employee of the National Administration of Ports (ANP), Alberto Diaz, explained that the boat arrived Feb 13 and was to have sailed Feb 17. "This boat requested to berth for unloading activities during three days. Repair of any type was not asked for. That was what the operator said before entering", Diaz explained.

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Four people died and 13 others were injured in an explosion on fishing (general) *Sea World No.101* in a port in Uruguay, South Korea's foreign ministry said. The dead include three South Korean and one Vietnamese crew members, said Han Hye Jin, a spokeswoman at the foreign ministry in Seoul. The 13 injured were moved to hospitals nearby, Han added. The ministry has yet to identify the casualties and determine the cause of the explosion. The vessel had a crew of 25 and was fishing for squid, according to the ministry.

SEAGULL 3 (Panama)

London, Feb 12 — The Middle East Navigation Aids Service (MENAS) has issued a warning after the general cargo *Seagull 3* (499 gt, built 2004) reported loss of deck cargo at 1520, local time, Feb 8. The cargo was reported to have been lost at the following position: - lat 25 20.96N, long 52 50.20E. According to the MENAS Navigation Warning No.013/2007 of Feb 11, five sections of crane approximately 40 metres long and weighing up to 10 tonnes were lost. They are yellow in colour and floating. A crane turntable and trailer were also lost and sunk at the above position. All vessels are required to navigate with caution in the area and maintain a sharp lookout for wreckage. Mariners are requested to report sightings to Zirku Radio or Das Marine.

SEALARK (Bahamas)

London, Feb 9 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1010, UTC: General cargo *Sealark* (1059 gt, built 1978), Randers for King's Lynn, six silos on board, grounded in lat 56 37.19N, long 10 20.82E, at 0945, UTC, yesterday. Vessel remains aground but it is hoped it can be refloated on rising tide around midday today.

London, Feb 9 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1735, UTC: General cargo *Sealark* is still aground. At the moment a salvage plan is being drawn up. (See issue of Feb 12.)

London, Feb 10 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0615, UTC: General cargo *Sealark* is still aground. A salvage plan has been approved and a refloating attempt should take place this afternoon.

London, Feb 10 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1130, UTC: The attempt to refloat general cargo *Sealark* this afternoon will involve two tugs and is scheduled to take place at around 1600-1700 hrs. If for any reason it is delayed, or unsuccessful, another attempt will take place around 0300-0400 hrs, tomorrow.

London, Feb 10 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1900, UTC: General cargo *Sealark* was refloated by two tugs at 1435, UTC, and is now proceeding to Grenaa under own power for diver inspection.

London, Feb 11 — A SvitzerWijismuller Salvage BV report, dated today, states: SvitzerWijismuller Salvage yesterday started operations to refloat the grounded general cargo *Sealark* and succeeded to do so during the first attempt. The vessel had grounded near the entrance to Randers on Feb 9. The vessel had six silo's on board as cargo for the UK. Based on the first reports a SvitzerWijismuller Salvage BV salvage master from Denmark was sent in immediately. In close co-ordination the owners and the surveyors prepared a salvage plan based on which permission was obtained from the Danish Authorities for an immediate refloating attempt during the high water early yesterday afternoon. Two shallow draught tugs were mobilised immediately, amongst whom the SvitzerWijismuller tug *Svava*. The tugs connected up and in a controlled attempt under command of the SvitzerWijismuller Salvage salvage master the vessel was subsequently successfully refloated at 1535, local time, yesterday.

London, Feb 12 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1256, UTC: General cargo *Sealark* sailed Grenaa Feb 11.

SERVER (Cyprus)

London, Feb 14 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: On Feb 12 work started to dewater the foreship of t bulker *Server* in Agotnes. 4,200 tons of water will have to be pumped out. The work was carried out by Eide Services A/S within 12 hours. 100m3 of oil left in the bow are secured.

SHAH BADAR-I

Chittagong, Feb 12 — Understand from the owners of vessel *Shah Badar-I* that the dry dock is still occupied by another vessel, however *Shah Badar-I* is expected to be drydocked by the end of the week. — Lloyd's Agents.

SIERRA LARA (Panama)

Gothenburg, Feb 15 — Refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Lara* is still at the shipyard in Falkenberg. Minor damage to the hull has already been repaired. Spare parts are under way from Singapore and are expected to arrive shortly. The intention is to dry dock the vessel Feb 20 in order to replace both the propeller and bow thruster. The work is expected to take 10 days and will be completed in early March. — Lloyd's Agents.

SIERRA NAVA (Panama)

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated Feb 3, states: The judge in the C-diz Mercantile Court has ordered the embargo of the refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Nava* which ran aground on an Algeciras beach a week ago. A preventative embargo of Euro 3.9 million has been issued against the vessel. Meanwhile work has now started to remove the estimated 280 tons of fuel thought to remain in the tanks of the boat, while another slick, some 700m by 100m found in the waters of Algeciras Bay is being investigated to see whether it comes from the vessel or not.

London, Feb 12 — A SvitzerWijismuller Salvage BV report, dated Feb 5, states: SvitzerWijismuller Salvage BV and partners Sea Salvage have yesterday started up the transfer of oil from refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Nava* aground due west of Gibraltar. The vessel grounded during bad weather Jan 28 and breached a number of compartments. Salvage team members from Spain and The Netherlands were sent in immediately and arrived on site the next day. Based on inspections made by this initial team further salvage team members were move in, salvage vessel *Jacomina* was mobilised with additional ground tackles (anchors, tackles and chains) and 10-15 tons of salvage equipment were trucked in to Algeciras from the SvitzerWijismuller Salvage warehouse. The equipment included special oil pumping equipment, amongst others a so-called HOT-TAP with which tanks can be opened, whether above or under water, without any spilling of the contents. A further period of bad weather subsequently prevented an approach to the casualty also with in mind the many shallow spots and just-sub-surface rocks/reefs surrounding the casualty; as such at first a channel towards the vessel had to be identified. After all the preparations had been made and the necessary equipment was installed the first oil was transferred to receiving tank containers on *Jacomina* at about 1815, local time, yesterday. This to the satisfaction of the authorities.

SKAGERN (Sweden)

Poznan, Feb 12 — General cargo *Skagern* is still under repairs, which should take two more weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

SKY EXPRESS (Panama)

Yokohama, Feb 13 — The port bow of container carrier *Sky Express* (3907 gt, built 1991), Dalian for Yokkaichi, came into contact with the starboard midsection of fishing *Ryoshin Maru No.62* (14 gt), proceeding to the fisheries from Fukaura, in lat 32 49.2N, long 132 23.5E, at 1850, Feb 5. *Ryoshin Maru No.62* sank following the collision, and its skipper was seriously injured. A slight oil spill was reported. *Sky Express* sustained scratching to its port shell plating. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Sky Express* arrived Nagoya Feb 8 and sailed the same day.)

STELLAR SEA (U.S.A.)

Seattle, Feb 8 — Fish factory *Stellar Sea* returned to fishing grounds Feb 7 following completion of temporary repairs, approval of class and sea trials. She is scheduled to be drydocked in August when it is anticipated that permanent repairs will be undertaken. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUI YUAN YU 28

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Nine crew members escaped a fire on their vessel (fishing *Sui Yuan Yu 28*, 150 gt) and helped save it from further damage on "Tuesday" (Feb 13) at Walu Bay. Chief Fire Officer Mark Reid said the vessel, which was on fire at around 0600 hrs was saved by the efforts of crew members and the fire department. Mr Reid said the 29-metre boat, which was registered in China, was towed by another fishing boat from the same company to where the firefighters were able to put the blaze out.

Suva, Feb 15 — Fishing *Sui Yuan Yu 28*, 150 gt, 45 nt, length 30 metres, owners Winfull Shipping, berthed at Walu Bay wharf on its own after it had a fire on board at 0630, Feb 12. Only the kitchen sustained extensive damages as reported. Cause of damage is unknown at this stage. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUNNA (NIS)

London, Feb 9 — General cargo *Sunna* sailed from Scapa Flow on Feb 7 bound for Bremerhaven.

London, Feb 12 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 0625, UTC: General cargo *Sunna* is being towed to Bremerhaven by tug *Sveasund*, from Scapa Flow.

London, Nov 14 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS general cargo *Sunna* and tug *Sveasund* were in lat 53 33 47.34N, long 08 32 39E, at 0629, UTC, today, speed 3.3 knots, course 152 degrees.

SUNSET QUEEN (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 9 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1505, UTC: Salvage of passenger (cruise) *Sunset Queen* has not yet commenced. Vessel remains partially sunk in Sheepshead Bay, New York.

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

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated Feb 13, states: Donjon Marine have salvaged passenger (cruise) *Sunset Queen* which sank on Jan 28 alongside one of the Municipal Piers located in Sheepshead Bay, New York, in about 20 ft. of water. The salvage effort involved lifting the vessel to the surface with the use of the 400-ton capacity Donjon derrick barge *Columbia New York*, and then pumped free of water with the use of portable pumping systems and subsequently refloated. Upon successful refloating, the vessel was delivered to owners at Mays Shipyard located in Staten Island, New York, for survey and repair work.

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 0035, UTC: Passenger (cruise) *Sunset Queen* was towed from Sheepshead Bay to Port Newark Feb 11.

SUSAN BORCHARD (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Feb 9 — Container Carrier *Susan Borchard* sailed from Alexandria on Feb 1. It next arrived at and sailed from Barcelona on Feb 6. It then arrived and sailed Marseilles on Feb 7, arriving at and sailing from Genoa on Feb 8.

SYMPHONY I (Liberia)

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated Feb 14, states: Chemical tanker *Symphony I* (22103 gt, built 1982) waited off Bermuda for a crew member to arrive with spare parts on Monday (Feb 12). *Symphony I* was carrying a type of ammonium nitrate to Baltimore when it stopped to the east of the Island. It called off of Bermuda to pick up a technician who had brought spare parts for the vessel at 1300 Monday. It left for the US yesterday morning after repairs were completed. (Note — *Symphony I* sailed Constantza Jan 18, arrived Gibraltar 1913, Jan 27 and sailed 1655, Jan 29 for Baltimore.)

TASCO (NIS)

Hamburg, Feb 13 — Having completed repairs, vehicle carrier *Tasco* sailed from Hamburg on Feb 12 bound for Cuxhaven. — Lloyd's Agents.

TASSILI II (Algeria)

London, Feb 13 — Understand that passenger ro/ro *Tassili II* (20024 gt, built 2004) was at risk of sinking at Genoa on Feb 12 due to water ingress in the engine-room. Two units from the Harbour-masters office and the National Fire Department assisted in stabilizing the vessel.

Genoa, Feb 14 — Passenger ro/ro *Tassili II*: Understand that the engine-room was flooded with water up to with six metres and the vessel is not expected to sail in the near future. Owners, shipyard and Port Authority are presently investigating, in order to ascertain the causes of the accident. An official enquiry from the Courts/Authorities is also expected. — Lloyd's Agents.

TEKEZE (Ethiopia)

London, Feb 8 — Following Navigation Warning timed 0222, UTC, today, states: General cargo *Tekeze*

(13651 gt, built 1990) on fire in lat 11 13.5N, long 62 48.2E. Vessels in the vicinity are advised to keep a sharp lookout, assist if possible.

London, Feb 12 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS general cargo *Tekeze* was at anchor in lat 11 40 13N, long 43 08 58E (near Djibouti) at 0223, UTC, today.

THEODOROS (Panama)

Genoa, Feb 14 — Wine tanker *Theodoros* remains under arrest at Genoa. — Lloyd's Agents.

TONG CHENG (China)

London, Feb 12 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 1900, UTC: General cargo *Tong Cheng* remains under repair at Barbers Point, with ETC Feb 19.

TOSHI MARU (Japan)

See *Fareast 2*.

TRANS FREJ (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Feb 9 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Trans Frej* (2997 gt, built 1994), a ship from the Sietas Yard in Hamburg Neuenfelde, ran aground in the Baltic. It sustained bottom damage to the whole length of the hull. The vessel proceeded to the Bredo Yard in Bremerhaven, where 200 tons of steel have to be replaced. (Note — *Trans Frej* arrived at Bremerhaven on Jan 30.)

TZINI (Malta)

London, Feb 14 — Following received from the operators of bulker *Tzini*, dated today: *Tzini* is still at Suao and is expected to sail later this week for a shipyard in Vietnam.

VASSILIOS I (Greece)

Piraeus, Feb 15 — The minor scale fire that broke out on board product tanker *Vassilios I* affected only some raw material used during repairs. No damage to the vessel was reported. Her current location is Neos Molos, Drapetsona, where steel repairs are still in progress. The estimated time of repairs is unknown to date. — Lloyd's Agents.

VIRGEN DEL CARMEN (Argentina)

London, Feb 14 — Following navigation warning, dated today, states: Fishing *Paola S* towing fishing (general) *Virgen Del Carmen* (204 gt, built 1973) in lat 45 13S, long 65 52W, line length 450 metres, speed 5.7 knots, course 021, bound for Mar Del Plata port.

VOLGO-BALT 246 (Russia)

London, Feb 9 — General cargo *Volgo-Balt 246* arrived at Lesport, Bulgaria, on Feb 6 and sailed on Feb 8, bound for Kalamaki.

WADI HALFA (Egypt)

London, Feb 13 — Two cracks were observed on the main deck of bulker *Wadi Halfa* (22895 gt, built 1985) in lat 49 13.59N, long 68 07.59W at 0800, EST, yesterday.

WESTERN STAR (South Korea)

See "Belgium" under "Port State Control".

WILSON MUUGA (Cyprus)

Reykjavik, Feb 14 — Bulker *Wilson Muuga* is still aground. No salvage operations are in progress, only legal dispute. — Lloyd's Agents.

WIZARD (Panama)

London, Feb 14 — Fire fighting tug *Wizard* arrived at Piraeus on Feb 8.

WUNMA (Australia)

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Mining company Zinifex says it remains confident a salvage operation to rescue stricken zinc carrier bulker *Wunma* in the Gulf of Carpentaria will be a success. The barge, with 5,000 tonnes of zinc, was swamped by heavy seas during ex-tropical cyclone "Nelson" earlier this week. Zinifex spokesman Greg MacMillan says more than 20 salvage workers are now on board, but it will be another day before it is known whether the barge will need to be towed to port or whether it can travel under its own steam. He says the vessel is in no danger of sinking and remains stable.

London, Feb 9 — Bulker *Wunma*: Lloyd's Open Form salvage contract was signed with United Salvage on Feb 7.

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Stricken bulker *Wunma* in the Gulf of Carpentaria will be towed to the port of Weipa for repairs to its electrical propulsion system. The crew was airlifted to safety earlier this week after it was battered by heavy seas as a result of cyclone "Nelson". Despite initial concerns, mining company Zinifex says the cargo of 5,000 tonnes of zinc ore has been stabilised. Spokesman Greg MacMillan says it is unclear how long the barge will be out of action. "We have electrical people on board at the moment with the salvage crew and we're making that assessment," he said. "It could be one to two weeks."

London, Feb 12 — Following received from Australia MRCC, timed 0330, UTC: Bulker *Wunma* is currently being towed to Weipa, by tug/supply *Pacific Responder*, where due later today.

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) has started investigating why bulker *Wunma* started sinking during a cyclone off the coast of far north Queensland last week. The vessel was carrying 5,000 tonnes of zinc concentrate when it was swamped by heavy seas whipped up by cyclone "Nelson" in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Ten crew members had to be winched to safety and there were fears the *Wunma* would sink before a salvage team could secure it. The vessel arrived in Weipa this morning, where investigations and repairs will be carried out. A spokesman for MSQ today said that officers would carry out physical inspections of the *Wunma* and ensure that crew members on board followed the appropriate procedures during the cyclone. "They'll also be

making sure the crews had appropriate training for this sort of situation," the spokesman said. He said the investigation could take as long as two months. Mining company Zinifex, which owns the *Wunma*, had been warned in an academic report in 2002 there was a high risk it would spill its load or sink in a cyclone. However, Zinifex is now confident the cargo will remain secure. The damage to the vessel had caused community concern that any spillage of the toxic cargo could result in an environmental disaster. The gulf is home to a wide variety of fish, plant and animal species and has one of the largest dugong seagrass beds in the region.

London, Feb 14 — A Zinifex press release, dated today, states: Following its arrival in Weipa Feb 12 a full assessment of bulker *Wunma* has revealed that it sustained no significant damage from being caught in heavy seas as a result of Cyclone Nelson last week. The electrical system of the vessel requires repairs which are expected to be completed by this weekend. Subject to receiving all the necessary approvals and certification, we are confident that *Wunma* will return to service by early next week. On this basis, we do not expect any disruption to production at Century Mine and only a moderate delay to our concentrate deliveries. Accordingly we do not expect that there will be a material cost associated with this incident. When the cyclone struck, *Wunma* had a cargo of 5,000 tonnes of zinc concentrate on board. Inspection has revealed it to be in good condition with little water damage. This cargo will be recovered and sold.

YUKIYOSHI MARU (Japan)

See *Ferry Takachiho*.

ZENITH LIGHT (South Korea)

Portsmouth, UK, Feb 14 — Nine crew members of general cargo *Zenith Light* (2016 gt, built 1990) are missing after the vessel made a distress call today in waters off Shima, Mie Prefecture, while two others were rescued from a raft, the Japan Coast Guard said. The vessel made the emergency call around 1520 hrs, saying it was taking on water some 23 km off the city of Shima. When the coast guard arrived on the scene, four rescue rafts were found floating and two people on one of the rafts were rescued by a patrol vessel at around 1950 hrs. The three other rafts were not carrying any people, according to the coast guard. The vessel's crew is composed of five Myanmar nationals, four South Koreans and two Indonesians. The rescued crew members claimed to be Myanmar nationals. The ship left Kisarazu at around 1500 yesterday and was headed for South Korea. A strong wind and wave warning was issued yesterday evening for the area around the accident scene. The warning was upgraded to an extreme wind and wave warning late this afternoon, with waves measuring up to five metres predicted in a forecast, according to a local meteorological observatory. — Correspondent.

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Eight crew members of general cargo *Zenith Light* are still missing today as Japanese patrol boats retrieved the body of a crewman from Myanmar in an overnight search operation, the Korea Coast Guard said. Two Myanmar seamen were rescued last night, just hours after *Zenith Light* disappeared nine miles off Nagoya amid high seas and strong winds.

ZHEN HUA 16 (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Feb 9 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1610, UTC: Semi-sub HL vessel *Zhen Hua 16* is currently offloading cargo. Vessel is now free to proceed whenever it finishes cargo operations.

London, Feb 15 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, semi-sub HL vessel *Zhen Hua 16* was in lat 33 31 55.12N, long 77 31 17.51W, at 0534, UTC, proceeding on a course of 089.4 deg at 12.9 knots.



BELGIUM

London, Feb 14 — Refrigerated general cargo *Western Star* sailed Antwerp Feb 10.



AL ZAHRAA (Egypt)

London, Feb 12 — General cargo *Al Zahraa* sailed from Antwerp at 0509 hrs, Feb 11, bound for Mersin.

ALALAA 1 (North Korea)

Bucharest, Feb 14 — General cargo *Alalaa 1* is still under arrest at Constantza. Understand that payment of debts by the owners/vessel's release unlikely in the near future. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANNIE SIERRA (Cyprus)

Karachi, Feb 12 — The Sindh High Court has adjourned the hearing of an admiralty case on Jan 23, against bulker *Annie Sierra*, which was filed by the vessel's crew for non-payment of their wages for the last six months. Understand from the Pakistan Seamen's Union that it has received an official appeal for assistance in resolving the issue from the vessel's 21 crew. Ghulam Rehmani, Vice President, and Adam Panjri, General Secretary of the PSU, visited the vessel to get obtain first-hand information about the condition of the crew, but noted that the vessel was allegedly being occupied by marine security guards, who were

not allowing crew to arrive and depart freely. The union has sent letters to the Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping, the Government of Pakistan, the Chairman of Port Qasim Authority and the Director General of Ports and Shipping, protesting the blockade and asking for their intervention to resolve the issue. He also demanded permission to visit the vessel and ascertain the status of the crew. The crew are demanding immediate settlement of their wages and repatriation, as per their hiring contract. The union said that, following negotiations with a representative of the vessel's owners, payment part of the crew's salaries to their families had been arranged. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ATHANASIOS T. (Greece)

London, Feb 9 — A report in today's edition of Newsfront, states: Seized in the first half of January by a private creditor, in pursuit of a Euros 7,400 claim in an action against the registered owners Navigator Naftiki Eteria, product tanker *Athanasios T.*, has once again been listed for auction, this time on Mar 7. Lying in Perama, the vessel carries a start-up price of Euros 40,000.

BLUE WATER PRINCESS 2 (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 9 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that it had arrested the Philippine-registered passenger ro/ro *Blue Water Princess 2* (483 gt) today at the Dalahican Fish Port in Lucena City, Quezon province. The vessel was arrested for transporting three vehicles without the proper permits. The transport of vehicles between islands is strictly regulated because of the high incidence of the smuggling of stolen vehicles. The Coast Guard said that the three vehicles have been seized and the vessel and crew detained at the Dalahican Fish Port pending an investigation. *Blue Water Princess 2* is owned by Lucena City-based Blue Magic Ferries, Inc. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Feb 14 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that it had released passenger ro/ro *Blue Water Princess 2* on Saturday (Feb 10) after investigations showed that the vessel and its crew were not involved in the smuggling of vehicles between islands in the Philippines. The vessel is now operating normally on its regular route between Lucena City in Quezon province and Masbate island in central Philippines. *Blue Water Princess 2* was detained by Philippine Coast Guard officials at Dalahican Fish Port in Lucena City on Feb 9 after three of the vehicles it was transporting was found to have insufficient transport permits. The transport of vehicles between islands in the Philippines is strictly regulated because of the high incidence of the smuggling of stolen vehicles. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

GOLDEN TRADER I (Panama)

Singapore, Feb 12 — Roll On Roll Off Container Carrier *Golden Trader I* is

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presently at Eastern Working Anchorage, Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

HIGHGATE (U.K.)

London, Feb 9 — Bulker with container capacity *Highgate* sailed from Antwerp on Feb 8 bound for Hamburg.

JU BAO MEN

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Feb 14 — Part containerised general cargo vessel *Ju Bao Men* is currently still reported at Pun Shan Shek Anchorage, Hong Kong, under Bailiff's Office, Admiralty & High Court arrest.

OCT CHALLENGER (Finland)

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated Feb 14, states: Spanish police were today searching for what was believed to be a large amount of cocaine on board general cargo *OCT Challenger* (863 gt, built 1980), police sources said. The vessel was intercepted off the southern coast and taken to the port of Almeria. It was thought possible that the Italian and Greek crew members had thrown the drug cargo overboard. Police said the cocaine was destined for the Croatian market. (Note — *OCT Challenger* sailed Dordrecht Jan 24, and passed Gibraltar 2113, Feb 12 for Split.)

PATRICIA (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 15 — The Bureau of Customs has initiated seizure and forfeiture proceedings against the cargo of 600,000 litres of diesel fuel, allegedly smuggled by non specific tanker *Patricia*. Hearings are currently being conducted at the Bureau of Customs Head office at the Port of Manila. If the charges of oil smuggling are upheld the diesel fuel will be expropriated by the government. The proceedings are expected to be completed by next week. *Patricia* was chartered by Tri Solid Cargo Movers through its agent, Silver Seas Marine Enterprise, to provide fuel bunkering services to two foreign vessels, *MOL Aspiration* and *Saipan Winner*, docked at the Manila South Harbor. The 600,000 litres of diesel fuel, which was sourced from the Subic Freeport, was classified as a transshipment cargo intended solely for export or for bunkering of foreign vessels. On Jan 1 *Patricia* was arrested by Philippine Coast Guard personnel for allegedly diverting its transshipment cargo of diesel fuel to a local depot, instead of delivering it to the two international vessels. The vessel continues to be detained at the Philippine Coast Guard Arroceros Station along Manila's Pasig River. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SKY (Cambodia)

London, Feb 12 — General cargo *Sky* sailed from Haifa on Feb, bound for Ashdod, arriving later on the same day.

SUNGAI JULAN 1 (Malaysia)

Manila, Feb 10 — The Philippine Bureau of Customs has filed smuggling charges against the captain and chief engineer of the Malaysian-registered tug *Sungai Julan 1*. The charges were

filed at the La Union Provincial Prosecutors Office yesterday. The tug will remain under the custody of the Bureau of Customs pending a decision by the court. If the court finds the vessel's officers guilty, the vessel could be forfeited by the Philippine government as part of the penalties. The rest of the 12-man mixed Indonesian and Malaysian crew of the vessel will be allowed to return home. The crew has been detained onboard their vessel since Jan 1 at Poro Point Port in La Union province when Customs police arrested them for allegedly smuggling oil at the port. Philippine customs authorities have allowed the barge *Sungai Julan 2*, which arrived in tow of *Sungai Julan 1*, to leave Poro Point Port at La Union province after finding no evidence linking the barge to the smuggling attempt by the tug's crew. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TRINITY SIERRA (Cyprus)

Savannah, Feb 14 — Bulker *Trinity Sierra* is presently docked at Liberty Terminals, Savannah. Understand from the lead counsel for the owners that the vessel is seaworthy and could be released as early as Feb 16. — Lloyd's Agents.



ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated Feb 8, states: A huge fire erupted along the Lehtrar Road when heavy machinery being used to dualise the road punctured a gas pipeline today. However, no loss of life or any serious injuries to passers-by were reported. The fire department and the police were informed immediately after the incident that occurred at around 1615 hrs. Thick clouds of smoke could be seen from far away. Fire brigade staff with two fire engines tried to put out the blaze but failed even after more than an hour's efforts. Officials of the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines were called in when the flames started to spread. The gas company suspended the supply considering the seriousness of the situation. The fire was finally brought under control after more than two and a half hours. The police said gas started leaking when the blade of a bulldozer damaged the pipeline and was ignited when someone unintentionally threw a burning matchstick or cigarette along the roadside.



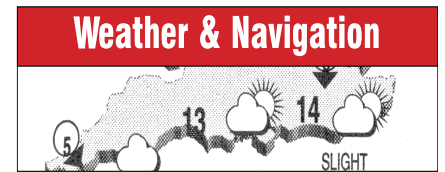
INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 13 — A press release from the United States Coast Guard

dated yesterday, states: The Intracoastal Waterway has been closed for six miles west of Lake Charles, La., due to an oil spill today initially estimated at 700 gallons. A watchstander at Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur received a call at about 0925, today from Kirby Inland Marine reporting fuel from one of their tugs had overflowed into the ICW. The tug was transferring fuel from its fuel tank to its day tank while moving along the ICW when the spill occurred. The area from mile marker 257 to mile marker 263 has been closed to all maritime traffic. Crews from MSU Port Arthur are in the process of locating the leading edges of the spill, and Coast Guard Air Station Houston crews launched an HH-65C helicopter to fly over the spill. Pollution Investigators from MSU Port Arthur are on scene. The Coast Guard opened the Intracoastal Waterway at 1300, today after the fuel that had been spilled earlier this morning dissipated. Pollution Investigators from Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur assessed the waterway and declared that there was no recoverable diesel fuel.

VIETNAM

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Crude oil overflows have caused an oil spill along Vietnam's central coast, local newspaper Labour reported today. According to initial studies, the spill was caused by crude oil overflows in exploration, exploitation or transport process, the newspaper quoted Tran Hong Ha, head of the Environment Protection Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment saying. The ministry will urge the government to ask relevant local and foreign agencies to collect evidence and analysis results to press charges against those responsible. The spill has spread along around 300 kilometres of coastline in the provinces of Quang Nam, Thua Thien Hue, Quang Ngai and Quang Tri, and Da Nang City, and affected popular tourist spots in the region, including the accident town of Hoi An, a World Culture Heritage site recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Local people have collected 212 tons of oil out of an estimated over 400 tons which have blackened the beaches in the region since last week.



AUSTRALIA

London, Feb 8 — Due to adverse weather conditions there is currently no loading at either Hay Point or Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminals. Hay Point terminal continues to monitor weather conditions but have not scheduled a vessel back to the berth at

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this time. They hope to berth a vessel tomorrow morning, subject to weather conditions. Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal has scheduled the next vessel at the berth, with pilot boarding 0130, Feb 10, however they also continue to monitor conditions and will berth next vessel once conditions are suitable.

CANADA

London, Feb 12 — Severe weather in central and western Canada in the past week has wrought havoc on railway operations and further undermined progress in reducing a large backlog at Vancouver's biggest container terminal. Grounded boxes at dock on Friday (Feb 9) at Deltaport remained at about 5,200, a similar level to a week earlier although an improvement over the worst backlog of more than 7,000 in January. The prolonged disruption is being watched with rising apprehension by Canadian importers and exporters. "Delays on the rail systems are especially causing problems for the big retailers," Bob Ballantyne, president of the Canadian Industrial Transportation Alliance, said. "The delays in rail coming out have not changed a lot unfortunately," confirmed Brian Yamaguchi, the Vancouver Port Authority's manager of trade development. "The gateway is not at capacity and all parties are continuing to work together to seek options that will utilise all gateway facilities." Vancouver port officials recently indicated it may take most of February to clear the backlog. Port operations were severely hampered after the worst storms in 20 years struck Canada's west coast around Christmas. Meanwhile, additional rail equipment is being delivered to Deltaport when available and CN and Canadian Pacific Railway are accepting import reefers and dry boxes at their intermodal facilities. Other inland facilities are handling rail traffic and hours of operation are being expanded at Deltaport to facilitate truck movements. Further vessel diversions to regional terminals are contemplated while shippers are reviewing anticipated import volumes and rail supply to measure how long the backlog will continue.

CHINA

London, Feb 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A passenger vessel carrying 321 commuters from Zhejiang Province to Shanghai finally made it to the city yesterday afternoon, 24 hours after it was expected to arrive at the Wusong Port. The vessel was delayed several times by heavy fog, which has been causing havoc for boats operating along the Yangtze River this week. Maritime authorities told almost all ships running along the river to drop anchor or immediately head to port at midnight yesterday as fog greatly reduced visibility along the waterway. Shipping was reopened for two hours for large ships early yesterday morning, but was shut down again when the fog got heavier, according to Gong San, an officer with the Wusong Maritime Safety Administration. Many

passenger vessels running between Shanghai's mainland and neighboring provinces as well as three local islands have been delayed over the past two days. Vessels running between downtown and Hengsha Island, which is near the mouth of the Yangtze, were still suspended as of last night, while boats running to two other nearby islands were allowed to resume operations yesterday afternoon. The vessel that finally arrived in Shanghai yesterday after a 24-hour journey had to call for supplies yesterday morning after it was forced to drop anchor seven kilometres from its destination.

FIJI

London, Feb 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Damage from the flooding in the Northern Division is expected to total \$10 million. Commissioner Northern, Misieli Naivalu, said a survey by government teams showed widespread damage and loss of property. Food worth almost \$250,000 had been damaged in the floods, or condemned since, after widespread and prolonged power blackouts.

INDONESIA

London, Feb 8 — Tens of thousands of people displaced by floods that have inundated the Indonesian capital for almost a week are beginning to leave emergency shelters as the waters recede. Despite heavy rains across the city in the early hours of today, water levels are continuing to fall in most areas. "As of 6:00 this morning, there were only about 160,000 refugees left in registered shelters across the city," said an official at the city's crisis centre who did not wish to be named. The official says authorities have no new figure for fatalities, but the Health Ministry has put the toll at 50 dead. At the height of the floods police said more than 340,000 people had fled their flooded homes. But Ika from the Indonesian Red Cross says the situation is changeable. Losses due to the floods are now estimated at 4.3 trillion rupiah (\$A610 million), up from 4.1 trillion rupiah earlier, the state Antara news agency said, quoting National Development Planning Agency deputy head Max Pohan. He said the figure included losses in public infrastructure and those suffered by private residents but did not yet cover loss of business and other side-effects. Indonesian Traders Association secretary Ngadiran says the prices of basic commodities such as rice, sugar, cooking oil and eggs have risen due to distribution problems. "The distribution of goods to various markets is still disturbed by floods which have affected the region since seven days ago." Police say only about eight areas remain impassable to normal traffic, compared with 30 the previous day. The last train station to reopen, in West Jakarta, is due to resume services and flood victims sheltering there have been told to leave, RCTI television said. Although their homes are no longer flooded, many residents are facing problems

dealing with mud left in their houses by the receding water. Old Batavia, the former colonial port under Dutch rule, from where Jakarta has expanded, was built on marshland and some areas of the capital are below sea level.

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated today, states: More heavy rains have struck Indonesia's capital, hampering clean-up efforts and piling on misery for hundreds of thousands of people camping under make-shift shelters after days of floods. However, an official at the Jakarta Flood Crisis centre said the latest flooding was less widespread than in the past week. The official, Kartawi, added that water levels at sluice gates controlling flows into the largely flat, low-lying city had returned to normal in all cases but one. The death toll from the floods, Jakarta's worst for at least five years, remained at about 50, the official said, with around 230,000 still displaced. Losses at manufacturing firms in Jakarta could top 1 trillion rupiah due to the floods, Sofyan Wanandi of the Indonesian Employers Association told the Jakarta Post newspaper. Insurance firms may face claims of over \$200 million from the floods as the damage is seen to be worse than from floods in the city in 2002, a top industry official said.

Jakarta, Feb 11 — More Indonesians began clearing mud and debris from flood-damaged homes today after days of relatively dry weather, but for many it could be one or two months before they can actually move back into their houses. At the height of the flooding that began more than a week ago, officials reported over 400,000 people displaced by the high water in the Jakarta metropolitan area of 14 million. By today estimates had declined to 77,196 for Jakarta proper and a combined total of 218,583 for nearby West Java and Banten provinces, which stretch well beyond greater Jakarta. However, for tens of thousands still in cramped and sometimes unsanitary temporary shelters, the wait to return home could be lengthy. In the suburban area of Tangerang, water was still two-metres deep in some places and had turned black, causing skin diseases and diarrhoea, Yus, the chief of the neighbourhood unit, told Elshinta news radio. He added that officials lacked boats to get stranded people to safer areas, although some residents had made rafts from scrap material. Estimates of deaths from the floods vary. The national disaster coordination agency put the figure at 48 today for Jakarta alone, while one newspaper said another 32 people had died in West Java and Banten, which would make the total 80. Fears lingered that disease could spread as people stay in cramped emergency shelters or move back into houses often lacking clean water and working plumbing and power. — Reuters.

MOZAMBIQUE

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated Feb 8, states: Mozambique's army has been ordered to evict some 2,500 people

who refuse to leave their homes despite the floods. Prime Minister Luisa Diogo said the floods could be worse than those of 2000 and 2001 but she said the country was now better prepared. Strong winds, heavy rains and flooding have so far claimed at least 29 lives, destroyed more than 4,600 houses, 100 classrooms and four health centres. People want to stay to protect their homes, crops and animals and some feel that the flooding is not yet serious enough to warrant moving, he says. The situation is worst in the country's central region where the Zambezi River and its tributaries - the Shire and Revubue - have become swollen with surging waters from neighbouring Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Mozambique's National Disasters Management Institute director Paulo Zucula says some 46,500 people could be affected. Some are already living in temporary accommodation centres. Rescue operations are due to start in the Zambezi Valley next Tuesday (Feb 13). The relief agency has set up an operations centre in the central town of Caia and has boats and helicopters on hand to rescue anyone trapped by the rising waters. Assistance is also available from naval units of the Mozambican armed forces. The agency had made contingency plans for dealing with serious flooding this rainy season, and had put aside tents, blankets, chlorine for purifying drinking water, and other relief goods at key positions.

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Mozambique's military and relief agencies evacuated about 24 000 people from their homes in the flooded areas along the Zambezi river in central Mozambique, it was reported today. About 500 000 people, mainly in the provinces of Zambezia and Sofala, were at risk from the floods which have killed 29 people and damaged thousands of homes. An official from the national relief agency said the evacuees had been taken to transit and accommodation centres. The Cahora Bassa dam was overflowing after heavy rains in neighbouring Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi.

Caia, Mozambique, Feb 12 — Floods in Mozambique have left 68,000 people homeless and 280,000 more may be forced to evacuate this week, a top official said today as refugees crowded into camps to escape the raging waters. Boats and aircraft have been used to move people from flooded regions around the Zambezi River. However, relocation centres have in some cases been little improvement, with officials saying they are short of drinking water, food and proper shelters. The floods, sparked when rains from neighbouring Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi poured into the overflowing Cahora Bassa Dam, have killed 29 people and damaged thousands of homes and schools, mainly in the central Zambezia and Sofala provinces. Paulo Zucula, head of Mozambique's national relief agency INGC, said around 27,000 people had been moved to accommodation centres and around 41,000 others had no shelter after their

homes were submerged. Zucula was speaking in Caia, one of the worst hit areas, some 1,400 kilometres north of the capital Maputo. As many as 280,000 more people — mostly poor rural folk who live in tiny mud huts and survive by growing vegetables and livestock — would probably be forced from their homes this week as more rains swept the southern African country, Zucula said. Andre Awade, the district administrator in Nhaçlo in Tete province, said some people were reluctant to evacuate because relocation centres were so poorly supplied, with some lacking even chlorine to clean drinking water and fuel for the boats. — Reuters.

PANAMA

Balboa, Feb 9 — General cargo *Liberty V*, general cargo *Princess Aviv* and general cargo *Perseus V* remain in the same condition as last reported. In the case of *Perseus V* it appears that the name has been painted out on the bow and stern. — Lloyd's Agents.

RUSSIA

London, Feb 14 — All vessels operating in the Sea of Japan and the Okhotsk Sea have been ordered to hide from a cyclone in safe bays. Gale force winds and snowfalls are currently raging in the Primorsky Territory, but the cyclone is gradually moving towards Sakhalin and is expected to intensify and hit the island on Feb 15. A storm warning has been issued in the region. Over 100 fishing vessels are currently operating in the Okhotsk Sea, where a heavy storm with up to six-meter-high waves is forecasted. Wind speed in the Sakhalin region will reach 25 meters per second. According to Sakhalin meteorologists, the cyclone will be hovering over the Sakhalin region on Feb 15 and 16.

TAIWAN

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Thick fog at Taiwan's Taoyuan International Airport delayed more than 30 departing flights yesterday morning, leaving hundreds of passengers stranded, an airport official said. The foggy conditions were created by a humid maritime airstream, reducing visibility to less than 200m, according to the Central Weather Bureau. Hundreds of passengers were stranded at the airport because of the delay, which affected flights heading to Japan, Hong Kong and other Southeast Asian countries including Singapore, airport official Liu Chuang-sheng said. Five other flights, which arrived from the United States and Europe, were diverted to Kaohsiung airport in southern Taiwan, he said. Fog has engulfed Taiwan's only international airport in the north since Tuesday (Feb 6), causing many flights to fall behind schedule. A number of incoming ones were diverted to either Songshan Airport in Taipei city or Kaohsiung International Airport in the south. Taiwan's Civil Aeronautics Administration said on its website that a few planeloads of passengers who landed in Songshan had to be taken by

bus to Taoyuan airport to complete immigration procedures, in compliance with regulations. Taiwan's weather bureau said yesterday that the fog would last at least until Saturday. The ET Today newspaper said Keelung, Taiwan's northernmost city, was hardest hit yesterday, with land visibility reduced to less than 100m. Keelung port, one of Taiwan's two main ports, had to close. Local weather experts said the fog is the thickest Taiwan has seen in five years.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "DORA"

London, Feb 9 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone "Dora" located near lat 26S, long 62.4E, at 0600, UTC. Movement past six hours 190 deg at six knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 30 knots with gusts to 40 knots. Dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over water.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "ENOK"

London, Feb 10 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today the centre of tropical cyclone "Enok" was located near lat 16.9S, long 60.4E. Movement over the past six hours: 120 degrees at 18 knots. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds: 25 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 75 nautical miles in the northeast quadrant, 65 nautical miles in the southeast and northwest quadrants and 55 nautical miles in the southwest quadrant. The maximum significant wave height is 16 feet. At 0600, UTC, Feb 11, the centre is predicted to be near lat 21.6S, long 64.5E, with maximum sustained winds of 55 knots and gusts to 70 knots.

London, Feb 11 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today the centre of tropical cyclone "Enok" was located near lat 21.8S, long 64.2E, approximately 480 nautical miles east of La Reunion, and has tracked south-southeastward, or 165 degs, at 15 knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 35 knots, gusts 45 knots. The maximum significant wave height is 12 feet. At 0600, UTC, Feb 12, the centre is predicted to be near lat 25.4S, long 64.4E, with maximum sustained winds of 25 knots and gusts to 35 knots, dissipated as a significant tropical cyclone over water.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated today, states: There was travel chaos across a huge triangle of central and southern Britain yesterday, after days of hard frost gave way to blanketing snow. Falls of up to 15cm and heavy drifting closed airports, roads and

schools, whose pupils added to disruption and a 300% rise in work absence which cost business an estimated £124m. Motorists are being warned of more snow, freezing fog and black ice on Friday. The Met Office is predicting heavy snow in the West Country and parts of Wales. Freezing fog and patches of hidden black ice are also predicted for north-east and south-east England. More than 2,000 schools across the south-east of England, the Midlands and Wales were closed on Thursday (Feb 8) and many are remaining shut. Airports are also expected to return to normal, but travellers are being warned to take extra time because of a possible backlog.

UNITED STATES

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated Feb 11, states: More than a week of bitter cold and slippery roads have contributed to at least 20 deaths across the northern quarter of the US — five in Ohio, four in Illinois, four in Indiana, two in Kentucky, two in Michigan, and one each in Wisconsin, New York and Maryland, authorities said. By 2100 Friday (Feb 9) a heavy lake effect band started to intensify over Mexico, NY, said Tony Ansuini, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Buffalo. Officials expected up to 14 inches of snow overnight, a trend that would push the seven day total beyond 100 inches and continue through the weekend. Persistent squalls have pounded Mexico and other Oswego County communities along eastern Lake Ontario since Sunday, leading Gov. Eliot Spitzer to declare a state disaster emergency in the county. Unofficially, the snow measured 123 inches in Orwell and 122 inches in North Redfield, small hamlets in the county's eastern half. Parish received 94 inches and Scriba reported 92 inches, according to the National Weather Service. Mexico Mayor Terry Grimshaw said his village was blanketed by seven feet. Overnight, the lake effect band wallowing Oswego was expected to move on to Lewis and Jefferson Counties. The state transportation department has loaned several pieces of equipment to local municipalities as they work round the clock to remove snow from streets and sidewalks. The state was also expected to send workers to help in the removal effort. Although authorities have reported few problems because of the snow, in Oswego, Fire Chief Ed Geers said his firefighters have had to help three ambulances that got stuck in the snow.

Chicago, Feb 13 — A winter storm packing blizzard conditions to the north and a deadly New Orleans tornado to the south closed schools, forced hundreds of flight cancellations and disrupted travel from Kansas east to Ohio today. The advancing weather system unleashed severe thunderstorms and a tornado on New Orleans, knocking out power and killing an elderly woman living in a trailer. The National Weather Service said one tornado was confirmed, but

there may have been others. The hardest-hit areas in the Midwest could get up to a foot of snow in a band across the middle parts of Illinois, Indiana and into north-west Ohio, forecasters said. Much of that same area was under a blizzard warning because winds up to 40 miles per hour threatened white-out conditions, the weather service said. It advised that travel would be "extremely dangerous." Mitsubishi Motors North America closed its assembly plant at Normal, Illinois, after 250 of its 1,700-member workforce couldn't make it to the plant because of road conditions. In addition, icy roads disrupted the flow of parts to the plant. In Chicago more than 500 flights were cancelled at O'Hare International Airport and dozens more at Midway. Entergy Corp. said the New Orleans tornado had knocked out power to as many as 29,000 customers. — Reuters.

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Snow and ice coated windshields and streets today as a blizzard roared out of the Midwest and shut down parts of the Northeast. Hundreds of thousands of people had lost electrical service in the cold weather. At least nine deaths were blamed on the huge storm system. Airline flights were cancelled and thousands of schools were closed in states from Maine to Kentucky, some in the Midwest for a second day. In Washington, the federal government decided to open offices two hours late. The National Weather Service issued blizzard warnings for parts of New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Maine, where as much as two feet of snow was possible in the western part of the state. Maine Governor John Baldacci declared a state of emergency to ensure the smooth delivery of heating oil. Snowplough operators were ready. Snowfall tapered off today in Illinois but many counties had closed some or all rural roads until the snow stopped drifting. Most of upstate New York reported several inches of new snow on the ground this morning with 10 inches at Owego, on the Pennsylvania line. The weather service said some places around the state could receive as much as three feet. More than a foot of snow had fallen in parts of Indiana and stiff wind piled it into six-foot-high drifts. Springfield, IL, measured 16 inches. Hundreds of flights were cancelled at Albany, Boston, New York City, Washington, Chicago, Philadelphia and Indianapolis. Amtrak reported delays between Baltimore and Philadelphia because of signal problems. Sheriff's offices in several Ohio counties closed roads to all but emergency workers this morning, many extending bans that began yesterday, and said anyone else caught driving could be arrested. School closures across Pennsylvania were estimated at more than 2,000, including all schools in Philadelphia. Thousands of Pennsylvania state workers were given the day off. The University of Illinois in Champaign canceled classes yesterday and today. At least 108,000 customers were without power across Ohio, mostly

because of ice snapping power lines. More than 14,000 customers were blacked out in northern Kentucky. At the colder tail end of the storm system, nearly 7,000 customers in Grand Forks, North Dakota, lost electrical service early today after a substation failed as temperatures dropped to -20 deg Fahrenheit, although most customers were back on line by midmorning. Xcel Energy spokeswoman Bonnie Lund said the cause of the outage was not immediately known. The city has about 50,000 residents. About 4,173 Duke Energy customers remained without power early today in Indiana. The Indiana National Guard opened armouries in over a dozen northern communities for travellers seeking shelter. Maryland's four biggest utilities reported about 107,000 power outages statewide. The huge weather system's snow and ice had been blamed for three traffic deaths in Nebraska, two in Indiana and one each in Missouri, New Jersey and Ohio, and a tornado on the southern side of the huge weather system killed one person in Louisiana.



INDONESIA

London, Feb 12 — An earthquake of 6.1 magnitude on the Richter scale occurred this morning in Indonesia's Papua province, said the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau in Jakarta. The quake, which hit at 0908 hrs, was centred 544 km north-west of Port Moresby in Papua, at a depth of 38 km. There were no casualty reports yet.

PORTUGAL

Lisbon, Feb 12 — An earthquake off the coast of Portugal shook Lisbon today and sent tremors across Morocco and southern Spain, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. The U.S. Geological Survey said the 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck at 1035, GMT, 335 kms from Lisbon and 345 km north-west of Casablanca in Morocco. Portugal's interior ministry said there was no evidence of damage or injuries. A brief tremor was felt in the Moroccan capital Rabat on the Atlantic coast, causing some people to run into the street. — Reuters.

RUSSIA

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A new earthquake force 5.7 Richter scale was registered near the Kurile Island of Simushir. The Geophysical Service of the Russian Academy of Sciences said yesterday the epicentre was 33 kilometres under the bottom of the Pacific Ocean and 515 kilometres from the city of Severo-Kurilsk on the Island of Pumashir and 415 kilometres from the city of Kurilsk on Iturup Island.

TURKEY

London, Feb 10 — At least 28 people were injured when a moderate earthquake struck the eastern Turkish province of Elazig yesterday morning. The quake, which registered 5.3 on the Richter scale of magnitude, struck at 0422 hrs according to the Bosphorus University's Kandilli Seismic Observatory and Research Centre. Most of those injured were hurt jumping from windows while fleeing their homes.


Political & Civil Unrest
AFGHANISTAN

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: NATO war planes killed 10 Taliban militants in Helmand province of southern Afghanistan, provincial police chief Nabi Jan Mullahkhil said yesterday. After receiving credible information, NATO air forces bombarded a Taliban hideout in Sangin district on Thursday night, killing 10 militants and injuring five others, Mullahkhil told Xinhua. Afghan security forces recovered a lot of weapons and ammunition from the battlefield after the bombardment, he added. NATO troops in Afghanistan confirmed there was a clash between the troops and Taliban militants in the district, but declined to provide more details.

Kabul, Feb 13 — British NATO troops in Afghanistan have cleared Taliban insurgents from the vicinity of a hydroelectric dam in the south of the country, the alliance said today. Backed by air support, the British Royal Marine commandos along with Afghan government soldiers secured the Kajaki dam in Helmand province in an operation that began on Sunday (Feb 11), the alliance said in a statement. "More than 300 ISAF troops, supported by the Afghan National Army, cleared a large area near Kajaki, northern Helmand, containing around 60 compounds, which has been the site of regular enemy mortar attacks over the past two months," the alliance said. "The clearance was part of an ongoing operation to create a safe-zone ... to allow engineers to re-enter the area and bring the dam up to full power," said the force, known as the International Security Assistance Force. There were no casualties among NATO or Afghan troops or civilians, NATO said. It gave no information about Taliban casualties in the fighting. Helmand Governor Asadullah Wafa said yesterday at least 700 Taliban fighters had crossed from Pakistan into Afghanistan to reinforce guerrillas attacking the dam. — Reuters.

London, Feb 14 — NATO and Afghan troops killed 22 Taliban insurgents in Helmand province of southern Afghanistan over the past two days, provincial police chief Nabi Jan

Mullahkhil told Xinhua yesterday. NATO and Afghan soldiers fought some Taliban militants near Musa Qala district centre yesterday's morning, killing seven insurgents, Mullahkhil said, adding a local Taliban commander Mullah Toorjan was among the killed. Hundreds of Taliban fighters have occupied the district center from early this month, and lots of NATO and Afghan troops now are deployed outside the centre. Mullahkhil also said about 300 NATO troops backed by helicopters and Afghan forces begun to clean Taliban hideouts around a major dam in Kajaki district.

ALGERIA

London, Feb 13 — A press report, dated today, states: An apparently coordinated wave of bombings largely targeting police killed six people and wounded nearly 30 others in Algeria today, according to the official news agency, police and hospital staff. While no one claimed responsibility for the attacks, they bore the hallmarks of the Salafist Group of Call and Combat, or GSPC, an al-Qaida-linked Islamic insurgency group. Less than a month ago, it announced it was changing its name to al-Qaida in Islamic North Africa, raising the stakes in the region's fight against terrorism. The seven bombings tore through towns and countryside east of Algiers between 0400 hrs and 1000 hrs, the APS agency said.

BRAZIL

London, Feb 8 — A press report, dated Feb 7, states: Authorities were on alert after suspected gang members torched three buses and shot at police, raising concerns the violence could mushroom into a repeat of last year's huge crime wave, officials said today. No-one was hurt in yesterday night's attacks but authorities were investigating whether the violence was orchestrated by the prison-based First Capital Command gang, or PCC, whose assaults on police, banks and buses last year left more than 200 people dead in South America's largest city. "Police are on an above-normal level of alert," Public Security Secretary Ronaldo Augusto Marzagao said. "But there's no reason for people to get alarmed." Agencia Estado reported today that prisons also were placed on alert for the possibility of inmate rebellions. Many of the lockups in Brazil's largest state of Sao Paulo are controlled by the PCC, whose imprisoned leaders can easily order riots or attacks on symbols of government authority when they want to mount a show of force or protest prison conditions. Men on motorcycles stopped the buses late yesterday and ordered the drivers and passengers off before dousing the vehicles with gasoline and setting them ablaze. Nearly simultaneously, suspected gang members on a highway overpass opened fire with submachine guns on a police patrol car parked below them on a street. The officers were not in the cruiser at the time. Four armed men were arrested early today on suspicion of participating in the attacks, Sao Paulo's public safety department said.

ETHIOPIA

Addis Ababa, Feb 15 — Clashes between two Ethiopian tribes over pasture and alleged cattle theft have killed 19 people and left 11 others wounded near the border with Kenya, an Ethiopian police spokesman said today. Clashes over pasture and water are common among the pastoral communities that roam the poorly-patrolled area. "One woman and seven men from Borana side and two women, one boy and six men from Garba side were killed in the three day inter-clan fighting," said Commander Demsashe Hailu, the Federal Police's public relations head. A soldier and a policeman were also killed in the skirmishes between the Borana and Garba tribes that started on Feb 9, he said. Kenyan authorities said Ethiopian women and children were fleeing the fighting and crossing over into Kenya's northern Moyale District to stay with relatives. Moyale's District Commissioner Peter Okioma said two of those seeking refuge had been admitted to the local hospital with gunshot wounds. "We fear that the skirmishes may spill over into Kenya since members of the two rival communities are seeking refuge among their families across the border," Okioma said. — Reuters.

GUINEA

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated Feb 9, states: Guinea's president has named a new prime minister, meeting a trade union deadline to avoid renewed strikes. The announcement ahead of Sunday's (Feb 11) deadline came hours after youths rioted in two towns. In Duinguiraye, some 500km north-east of the capital, Conakry, students set fire to buildings and vehicles. There were also riots in the town of Koyah. Unions only ended an 18-day strike last month, when Lansana Conte agreed to hand powers to a prime minister. The protesters have been demanding that the president steps down. Conakry itself is calm, but many are wondering if this is the calm before the storm and a second demonstration of the people's power. There was no immediate word whether Eugene Camara's nomination as prime minister would be accepted by the unions. They are suspicious that any close ally of President Conte would still be under his control. Mr Camara had been in government as the minister for presidential affairs.

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A soldier was lynched and his body burned by raging crowds as ongoing violence claimed at least 12 more lives in the restless west African state of Guinea amid demands the veteran President resign. Crowds killed the soldier after he fired on demonstrators, killing two at Kankan, 600 kilometres east of the capital Conakry. It was originally reported the soldier had shot three people dead. He was the first army fatality in the unrest which has caused at least 60 deaths in the past three weeks of violence and a general strike. Meanwhile, the political opposition

called for President Lansana Conte, 72, who has ruled for 23 years, to quit, saying the country was in a state of insurrection. The latest explosion of violence followed the appointment yesterday of a close associate of the President to the job of Prime Minister.

Conakry, Feb 12 — Unions in Guinea resumed a general strike today to protest against President Lansana Conte's choice of a close ally as prime minister, witnesses said. For the second time in a month, markets, shops, schools, banks and offices were closed in the capital Conakry and other towns around the West African country, the world's biggest exporter of bauxite. — Reuters.

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated today, states: At least three people were killed in clashes between police and protesters in Guinea today as unions resumed an anti-government general strike, disrupting the strategic bauxite industry, witnesses said. Unions restarted the stoppage in protest against President Lansana Conte's appointment on Friday (Feb 9) of a close ally, Eugene Camara, as the country's prime minister. As gunfire shook parts of the capital Conakry, witnesses said at least three people were killed in the suburbs, while riots in the south-eastern town of Nzerekore injured 20 as a mob burned the governor's offices and a prison there. The renewed strike disrupted bauxite mining and bauxite and alumina shipments by Guinea, the world's leading exporter of the ore from which aluminium is extracted. At least 17 people were killed in rioting over the weekend, just a week after the suspension of an earlier 18-day nationwide stoppage in which dozens of people were killed in widespread clashes with security forces. Markets, shops, schools, banks and administration offices were closed today in Conakry and other towns in the country.

Conakry, Feb 13 — Guinea's military clamped a security lock on the capital Conakry and other towns today after President Lansana Conte declared martial law in the West African state to stamp out violent protests against his rule. Heavily armed soldiers and police patrolled the largely deserted streets of the dilapidated seaside capital, enforcing a strict curfew that will only allow people out of their homes for four hours, between 1600 and 2000 hrs. Residents said they saw truckloads of helmeted troops in camouflage fatigues heading out of the city. Other major towns, such as Kankan and Nzerekore in the east, were also reported to be under tight military control. Conte went on state TV and radio on Monday night to announce the military crackdown, which will last until Feb 23. The martial law decree gives sweeping powers to the military, which has backed Conte since he took over in a 1984 coup, to arrest anyone suspected of threatening state security. The measures also forbid all public meetings and empower the military to censor newspapers and all radio and television broadcasts. The army can

also monitor private communications, such as telephone calls, faxes and emails. — Reuters.

HAITI

London, Feb 10 — Two UN soldiers in Haiti and six civilians were injured overnight in gunfire in a crowded slum partly controlled by gangs, the UN said. The UN troops, a Brazilian and a Bolivian, were hurt in an operation in the Cite Soleil slum in which authorities were trying to remove a gang leader, said General Carlos Alberto Santos Cruz, the Brazilian military chief of mission. Six civilians were hurt over several hours of gunfire in the shantytown of some 300,000 people, hospital sources said.

INDIA

Srinagar, Feb 9 — Three Indian soldiers were killed today when suspected separatist militants ambushed an army patrol in Kashmir, an army spokesman said. A villager was also killed in an exchange of fire in Pulwama district, about 35 km south of Srinagar, Indian Kashmir's summer capital. No militant group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, the second in Pulwama within a week. — Reuters.

Raipur, India, Feb 15 — A policeman was killed defusing a bomb and Maoist guerrillas killed three members of a government-backed militia in overnight clashes in revolt-hit Chhattisgarh state, police said today. Police have arrested 11 suspected Maoist rebels in Chhattisgarh's remote southern Dantewada district since yesterday. Militants shot dead three civilians from the Salwa Judum (Campaign for Peace) militia launched in June 2005 to battle leftist insurgents holding sway in Bastar region for the past three decades. — Reuters.

IRAN

Tehran, Feb 14 — A booby-trapped car blew up a bus owned by the Revolutionary Guards today, killing at least 11 people, in a border city in south-eastern Iran where security forces and drug smugglers often clash, state media reported. Jundollah (God's soldiers), a shadowy Sunni Muslim group that Iran has linked to al Qaeda, claimed responsibility, an Iranian news agency and a Dubai-based TV channel said. The group has been blamed for past kidnappings and killings in the area. Provincial governor Hassan Ali Nouri told the official IRNA news agency 11 staff members of the Guards were killed and 31 injured in the blast in Zahedan city in Sistan-Baluchistan province, which is on the border with Pakistan and Afghanistan. The governor said one of those behind the blast was killed in the incident, suggesting a total toll of 12, but he did not spell this out. IRNA earlier said 18 people were killed, while state TV and radio said the death toll was 11. The bomb was hidden in a car and exploded at about 0630 hrs (0300, UTC) as the bus, belonging to a unit that transports employees of the Guards, passed by, IRNA said. Pictures showed the

wreckage of a bus at the side of the road. "Five people have been arrested," an official in the governor's office of Zahedan said. Fars news agency said four people were in the car which seemed to have broken down on the road. When the bus approached, the four fled on motorbikes and the car exploded. "A group called Jundollah, under the leadership of Abdolmalek Rigi, the eastern rebels in the country, took responsibility for this terrorist act," Fars said. Dubai-based Al Arabiya television also said a caller speaking for Jundollah said the group was behind the attack. — Reuters.

IRAQ

Baghdad, Feb 9 — Three U.S. soldiers died yesterday of wounds sustained in combat in the western Anbar province, the U.S. military said today. "Three soldiers assigned to Multi-National Force-West were killed Thursday from wounds sustained while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province," it said in a statement. The deaths bring to at least 14 the number of U.S. servicemen killed in Iraq in the past three days. — Reuters.

Mosul, Iraq, Feb 9 — A US air strike killed eight Kurdish Peshmerga militiamen and wounded six others in northern Iraq, Kurdish officials said today, describing the incident as an apparent act of friendly fire. The US military said in a statement that US forces had killed five armed men in the northern city of Mosul early today during a raid targeting an al-Qaeda cell. The men turned out to be Kurdish police, the statement said. Kabir Goran, deputy head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), one of two main Kurdish political parties in Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region, said the air strike occurred around midnight last night when a US helicopter attacked what he called a Kurdish Peshmerga watchtower in eastern Mosul. "We think they may have hit us by mistake," Goran said. The military statement said that during the operation, US forces identified armed men from a bunker near the targeted al-Qaeda building. Calls were made in Arabic and Kurdish for the men to put down their weapons. As air support was called in, the statement said small arms fire came from the bunker. — Reuters.

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A suicide bomber has driven a vehicle laden with explosives into a police station near the Iraqi town of Tikrit, killing at least 15 people. At least 25 people were injured in the attack on the station in Adwar, about 175km north of Baghdad. The casualties are reported to include prisoners held in cells at the police station, as well as civilian visitors. The attack comes with US officials set to release what they say is evidence Iran is supporting violence in Iraq. A briefing in the capital is expected to focus on information, weapons and explosives seized in raids, which US officials say provide good evidence that Iran is supporting and supplying militants. Elsewhere, the US military

said it was checking a report that an Apache helicopter had come down near the town of near Taji, about 20km north of Baghdad. The blast at the police station happened at about 0800 hrs (1100, UTC) as police were arriving for work, Capt Abdel-Samad Mohammed was quoted by the Associated Press as saying. The bomber drove a small truck that was packed with explosives covered by hay, and the force of the blast caused the building to collapse, the officer said. On Friday (Feb 9), the new commander of US forces in Iraq, Lt Gen David Petraeus, assumed control ahead of a fresh push to quell violence. Gen Petraeus will oversee President George W Bush's security plan, under which 21,500 extra US troops are being sent to Iraq. Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Maliki has said the US-backed plan will be a comprehensive operation. "The plan will not start from one specific area - it will start from all areas at the same time, so you won't be able to say it's happening in this area but not that area," he said today. "Those who will take part in it will be from all units of the army and police."

London, Feb 12 — Two bomb attacks at popular markets in Baghdad killed 45 people and wounded 140 today as Iraqis marked the first anniversary of a Shi'ite shrine bombing that has pitched the country into relentless sectarian violence. Police gave a combined toll for the two attacks. Iraqi state television said a car bomb near the Shorja wholesale market in central Baghdad had killed 40 people. A Reuters cameraman saw people on fire and more than 30 ambulances arriving. The car bomb had also set a building that houses shops selling clothes ablaze, as well as other shops in the street and more than a dozen cars, another reporter said. The blast echoed across central Baghdad and sent huge clouds of thick black smoke into the air. At the Bab al-Sharji market, also in central Baghdad and home to Sunni Arab and Shi'ite traders, at least five people were killed when a roadside bomb exploded, police sources said. Both markets have been bombed before.

Baghdad, Feb 13 — A suicide bomber driving a small truck rigged with explosives blew up near a Baghdad college today, killing 18 people in an attack that came just a day after bomb blasts destroyed two crowded city markets. US and Iraqi forces have launched a Baghdad security plan, aimed at clamping down on the daily bombings and shootings that have made the city one of the most dangerous places in the world. Police said the bomber detonated in a parking lot between the College of Economic Sciences, a private university in western Baghdad's residential Iskan district, and a large foodstuff warehouse belonging to the Trade Ministry. The blast, which police said destroyed one house and severely damaged others, followed bombings at two markets yesterday that killed at least 77 people and maimed scores. US military officials say the Baghdad crackdown is in its early stages and

that "fully-fledged" sweeps of neighbourhoods to hunt for militants and illegal weapons have not yet begun. President George W. Bush has said he is sending more than 17,000 more troops to Baghdad for the push, which is seen as a last chance to avert all-out civil war between the country's majority Shi'ites and minority Sunnis. Previous attempts to halt bombings and death squad killings in the capital have failed. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Feb 15 — Four U.S. soldiers were killed by roadside explosions during combat operations in Iraq's Diyala province yesterday, the U.S. military said. Three soldiers died when bombs exploded near their vehicles northeast of Baghdad. A fourth died later of his wounds in hospital. Two other soldiers were wounded in the attack, a U.S. military statement said today. The deaths came as U.S. and Iraqi forces set up checkpoints and stepped up patrols in Baghdad yesterday as a long-promised offensive against militants got under way. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Feb 15 — Iraq closed its borders with Iran and Syria as US and Iraqi troops tightened their grip on Baghdad today, setting up more checkpoints that stopped and searched even official convoys for weapons. An Interior Ministry official said the closure of Iraq's four border crossings with Iran and two with Syria took effect yesterday. US officials have long accused Syria of allowing foreign fighters to cross its long, porous border into Iraq, and at the weekend presented evidence of what they said was Iranian-manufactured weapons being smuggled into Iraq. "The plan to close the borders went into effect last night. Many points were closed," US military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Christopher Garver said. Iraq had said it would shut the borders for 72 hours. The US military said yesterday the aim was to choke off the flow of weapons and foreign fighters into the country. The closures came as thousands of US and Iraqi troops stepped up an offensive in Baghdad, the epicentre of sectarian violence between minority Sunnis and majority Shi'ites that has pitched the country towards all-out civil war. Military analysts say many militiamen were likely to lie low or leave Baghdad until the operation is completed rather than seek confrontation with US and Iraqi forces. Fewer members of the Mehdi Army militia of radical cleric Moqtada al Sadr have been seen on the streets of their stronghold, the sprawling Sadr City slum in east Baghdad, in the past week. Several Mehdi Army commanders are also reported to have left the capital to avoid arrest. The United States has identified the militia as the greatest threat to peace in Iraq and hundreds of Mehdi Army members have been arrested. The US military and Iraqi government officials have said Sadr himself left Iraq for Iran ahead of the crackdown, but Shi'ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said he was still in Iraq. The chief US military

spokesman in Iraq, Major-General William Caldwell, said border checkpoints were to be revamped to establish "transfer points" so vehicles could be searched. The US military said last week the operation was under way but Baghdad residents had noticed little change until yesterday, when checkpoints began springing up in the city. — Reuters.

LEBANON

Beirut, Feb 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Bombs exploded on two buses in a Christian area of Lebanon today, killing at least three people and wounding 17, police said, a day before the second anniversary of ex-premier Rafik al-Hariri's assassination. Security sources had earlier put the death toll at 11. A police spokesman said the report of three deaths was preliminary and the toll could rise. Government sources said most of the casualties were on public buses carrying people to work in Beirut from the area around Bikfaya, home town of former President Amin Gemayel, whose son was assassinated by gunmen in November. When the first bomb exploded, the driver of the second bus stopped and got out before his own bus exploded, security sources said. The driver of the first bus was killed. The driver of the second was wounded, the sources added. Tension has been running high in Lebanon since street clashes last month between supporters and opponents of the Western-backed government in which nine people were killed. Pro-government groups had planned a mass memorial for Hariri in Beirut's Martyrs Square tomorrow, despite fears of friction with opposition supporters camped out nearby since Dec 1 as part of a campaign to topple the anti-Syrian cabinet. Interior Minister Hassan al-Sabaa said early information was that the bombs had exploded inside the minibuses. A government source said the possibility of suicide bombings had not been ruled out and investigators were at the scene, which was cordoned off by army troops and police. — Lloyd's Agents.

MEXICO

London, Feb 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen attacked two police stations in the southern Mexican state of Guerrero yesterday, killing at least seven people, according to local media reports. Authorities did not say if the attackers were guerrillas or gangsters, or whether the two attacks, in Acapulco, a tourist resort about 300 km south of Mexico City, were related, according to the reports. In the first attack shortly before 1700, GMT, gunmen wearing green military uniforms and red berets killed three agents with rifles. The second attack came about 30 minutes later in another neighbourhood of the town in which four people were killed, including a woman. The attacks came just one day after a similar case in the town of Tecpan, 96 km west of Acapulco.

NIGERIA

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated Feb 9, states: Militants today killed two naval personnel in Port Harcourt and abducted a foreigner whose identity is yet unknown. According to local residents, trouble began when the militants attacked a Toyota Hilux van carrying the foreigner and the naval men, shooting and killing everybody, excluding the foreigner. The militants also attacked a police station, killing an innocent civilian. In a related development, a few hours before the militant attack, a commercial bank in Port Harcourt city was attacked by armed robbers but the attempt was foiled by the bank's security men.

Abuja, Feb 13 — Nigerian kidnappers have released all 24 Filipino seamen they had been holding captive in the creeks of the oil-producing Niger Delta since Jan 20, the men's employer, German shipping firm Baco Liner, said today. "All 24 hostages are on board our vessel, barge container carrier *Baco-Liner 2*, and they are on their way to Warri now where they will be handed over directly to our agent," a spokesman for the company said, referring to the main city in the western delta. — Reuters.

PAKISTAN

Islamabad, Feb 9 — Gunmen ambushed a van carrying activists of the opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP) today, killing six and wounding two, police and a party official said. Police said the gunmen were from a rival party. A general election is due in Pakistan late this year or early next and parties have already begun manoeuvring for support. Pakistani elections are traditionally plagued by violence between rival supporters. A senior PPP official said the party was investigating the killing of its activists in Attock district, 90 km west of the capital, Islamabad. "This is an election year and for that very reason we are seriously concerned that it is intended to warn our supporters against supporting our party," Farhatullah Babar said of the attack. — Reuters.

Islamabad, Feb 10 — Suspected militants blew up a major gas pipeline in Pakistan's southwestern province of Baluchistan today, disrupting supplies to over one million people, gas officials said. "The pipeline was blown up by explosives around noon and we are now trying to assess the damage," Sheikh Nawaz, General Manager of the state-owned Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) told Reuters. He would not say when the supplies could be resumed. The 16-inch diameter pipeline was ruptured in the Tilli Kambrani area on the outskirts of the provincial capital Quetta, halting supplies to the city. — Reuters.

London, Feb 15 — A gas pipeline was blown up in Dera Bugti today causing suspension of gas to the purification plant. Official sources told Online that the explosives planted under gas pipeline near well number 21 on Kashmir road went off damaging eight-inch diameter pipeline. The blast broke

two feet portion of the pipeline and partly damaged the nearby bridge. No casualties were reported. The officials of the local administration and department concerned arrived at the site of the incident and started repair of the pipeline.

PHILIPPINES

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected Muslim rebels shot dead today two patrolling policemen in an ambush near the Philippine capital Manila, police said. Police officer Jimmy Fonang said the gunmen killed two policemen in a village in Taytay of Rizal province east to Manila. He said the gunmen were believed to be Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels out to avenge the killing of a rebel and the arrest of several others in a recent raid by soldiers and policemen on a hideout in Rizal province. In a separate incident, government forces shot dead a fugitive of a jailbreak nine days ago in North Cotabato, southern Philippines, and captured two others in a raid on a village in the province yesterday, said the military today. Forty-eight inmates escaped from the prison in the jail break reportedly organised by a local criminal kidnap-for-ransom syndicate called "the Pentagon". Meanwhile, the Philippine government has asked the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the former rebel group of Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to hold a tripartite peace talks in Manila instead of Saudi Arabia, because it would not allow a former MNLF leader to attend the meeting abroad, said a Syrian diplomat here today. Nur Misuari, a former MNLF leader, has been temporarily released from prison to attend the tripartite meeting as a representative of MNLF with the government and OIC. The meeting is set to discuss the implementation of a 1996 peace deal between MNLF and the government. The government and MNLF have accused each other of violating the OIC-brokered peace deal and Misuari was charged with rebellion some years ago and was imprisoned by the government.

London, Feb 12 — Philippine Marines pursuing al-Qaida-linked militants on a southern island clashed with unidentified gunmen today, killing two and capturing two others, the military said. Marine spokesman Lt. Col. Ariel Caculitan said it wasn't immediately clear whether the gunmen belonged to the Abu Sayyaf group - the target of a monthslong U.S.-backed offensive on Jolo island. The troops were approaching the village of Andanan, about 950 kilometres south of Manila, when armed men opened fire, triggering a 30-minute clash, he said.

Manila, Feb 12 — Hundreds of people have fled a village in the southern Philippines after troops stormed a Muslim rebel base, hunting for dozens of prisoners who escaped from jail earlier this month, the rebels and officials said today. Tanks rolled into the remote village on the island of Mindanao as soldiers shelled positions

of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), with 105-mm howitzers, Mohaqher Iqbal, an official from the group said. The MILF, the Philippines' largest Muslim separatist group, has a shaky ceasefire with the government of the largely Catholic country. There were no casualties reported but more than 200 families starting fleeing their homes and farms before daybreak yesterday when soldiers launched an offensive in the area, Iqbal said. The Philippine military denied targeting the MILF and said it was pursuing a group of 50 prisoners who escaped from a local jail on Feb 2. "Our pursuit operations were not directed at them but against those who escaped from the provincial jail in Kidapawan," army spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Julieto Ando said, adding soldiers had come under heavy gunfire while approaching the village. — Reuters.

SERBIA

Pristina, Serbia, Feb 12 — Kosovo's interior minister resigned today over the deaths of two protesters in clashes between police and ethnic Albanians demonstrating against a United Nations plan for the breakaway province. UN and Kosovo police used tear-gas and rubber bullets to disperse 3,000 ethnic Albanians who took to the streets on Saturday (Feb 10) against the plan, which they say falls short of full independence for the breakaway Serbian province. Fatmir Rexhepi, Kosovo's first interior minister, said he felt a "moral responsibility" for the deaths. "Because of these tragic events, I feel it would be a moral act to offer my resignation in the interests of the Kosovo citizens, the bereaved families, my parents, my family and the joint project for the Kosovo state," he said. Two Kosovo Albanian men aged 30 and 34 were confirmed dead yesterday after the clashes, the worst since March 2004 when 19 people died in Albanian mob riots against Serbs. A third man was in a coma. All were believed to have been hit by rubber bullets. The violence underscored Western fears of widespread civil unrest if a decision on the Albanian majority's demand for independence does not come soon. UN police chief Stephen Curtis said police had been compelled to take "defensive measures" when protesters tried to force their way through barricades around the parliament in the capital, Pristina. At least 15 people were arrested. Kosovo Prime Minister Agim Ceku said police had used "excessive force" and called for an independent investigation. Rexhepi, 50, became the first person to head Kosovo's interior ministry after its creation by the United Nations in March 2006, part of a process of transferring powers as the province edges towards a decision on its future. Kosovo, where 90% of the two million people are ethnic Albanians, has been run by the United Nations since 1999, when NATO bombs drove out Serb forces accused of atrocities in a two-year war with guerrillas. A UN plan unveiled this month, if adopted by the UN Security Council, would set the province on the

path to independence supervised by the European Union. Western powers and Kosovo Albanian leaders have welcomed the plan, which provides for a powerful European overseer and broad self-government for the remaining 100,000 Serbs. However, some Kosovo Albanians say it does not go far enough in ending Kosovo's limbo status and will leave Serbia with a permanent foothold in the territory. A final round of Serb-Albanian talks are due to begin in Vienna on Feb 21. Ahtisaari hopes to present the final version to the council in late March. — Reuters.

SOMALIA

London, Feb 11 — At least eight people were killed and several others wounded yesterday in mortar and grenade attacks in an escalation of guerilla-style attacks in the Somali capital, witnesses said. Assailants fired several mortar shells at a crowded market in the south of the city, killing three people and wounding several others, forcing many to flee the volatile area. Two children were also killed when shells landed in a camp for displaced persons and in a position near a former military camp in the capital's southern district, local resident Nur Hassan Waberi said. Other casualties occurred when a barrage of mortar and grenades was fired into positions near the United Nations Development Programme offices and the international airport as well as into the Gupta neighbourhood.

Mogadiscio, Feb 12 — Five mortar bombs struck northern Mogadiscio today, killing at least three people, wounding several others and flattening homes in the Somali capital's latest outbreak of postwar violence, witnesses said. Near daily attacks blamed on ousted Islamist hardliners have put pressure on the interim government, which is struggling to restore stability so Ethiopian troops who helped it take the capital over the New Year can return home. However, with few signs a proposed African Union (AU) peacekeeping force will be on the ground soon, Mogadiscio — already one of the world's most dangerous cities — seemed to be sliding further into chaos. Before dawn today, mortar rounds crashed down on residents as they slept in a northern district. The government suspects Islamist remnants, who have vowed to wage a holy guerrilla war, along with foreign extremists. — Reuters.

Mogadiscio, Feb 15 — A mortar bomb struck a residential area of eastern Mogadiscio today, wounding a young girl in the latest in a string of almost daily attacks in the chaotic seaside capital, residents said. It was not clear who carried out the attack. The strikes have sent residents fleeing the capital of the Horn of Africa nation where the interim government is struggling to impose security after defeating Islamist rivals in a December war. "I was driving along the Tarbuunka Square when suddenly a mortar bomb landed on the other side of the road in a residential area," said a resident.

Tarbuunka Square is in the east of the city and a site where the Islamists regularly held rallies during their six-month rule of Mogadiscio. Residents said the strike may have been in retaliation for another mortar bomb which reportedly hit north of the seaport. "I understand an explosion was heard on the north of the seaport," port security chief Abdirahman Mohamed said. It was not immediately clear if anyone was injured in that attack and government officials could not immediately be reached for comment. The port has been targeted before because of the presence of interim government troops and their Ethiopian military backers, who are often attacked by unknown assailants that may include Islamist remnants who have vowed to fight them. — Reuters.

SPAIN

London, Feb 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A bomb detonated at a rail station outside of Bilbao early today, causing serious damage and igniting a fire, Basque police said. No one was injured. The device exploded in Barakaldo, a town on the outskirts of Bilbao, Basque regional police said. The blast occurred about half an hour after midnight and bore the hallmarks of the kind of attack waged by young supporters of the armed separatist group ETA. But a Basque police official said it was too early to say who was behind the explosion. Yesterday police detained 18 fugitive members of an outlawed Basque youth group which the Supreme Court ruled last month is a terrorist organization because of its alleged links to ETA. Spanish National Radio suggested the bomb blast today might be in reprisal for these arrests. The explosion set off a fire inside the station, which handles commuter trains. Firefighters worked for several hours to extinguish the blaze, and rail service was halted until it was put out.

SRI LANKA

Colombo, Feb 6 — Sri Lankan helicopter gunships rocketed Tamil Tiger rebels in the island's far northeast today, the military said, but there was no immediate word on casualties. The attack in the northeastern district of Trincomalee comes just days after President Mahinda Rajapakse vowed to defeat and tame the Tigers while offering to resume peace talks to end a new chapter in their two-decade civil war. "There was a gathering in Kaddawan jungle in the north of Trincomalee district. Air force helicopters took air targets this morning," said military spokesman Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe. The Tigers were not immediately available for comment on the air attack, which comes after a rash of minor clashes and attacks in the northern district of Vavuniya and Trincomalee yesterday that killed three security forces personnel and wounded four. The Tigers laugh off Rajapakse's calls to surrender arms, and say they do not trust his government to be sincere at talks — instead vowing to

fight on for independence. Apparently emboldened by the capture last month of a key eastern Tiger enclave, the government has vowed to destroy the rebels' entire military machine. Analysts fear that means a fresh escalation in a war that has killed more than 67,000 people since 1983 and more than 4,000 in the past year alone. The island's main opposition party, the United National Party (UNP), today formally declared dead a cross-party pact with Rajapakse's ruling coalition aimed at seeking a consensus solution to the conflict. UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe, who narrowly lost to Rajapakse in 2005 presidential elections, is furious at a mass defection to the government from his party, which lost 18 MPs in January. "This has destroyed all possibilities of having an inclusive approach to the critical national issues," Wickremesinghe said in a statement to parliament. "The UNP thus finds it impossible to work with the government in finding a solution to the issues referred to in the memorandum of understanding when the government has broken (it)," he added. However some analysts doubt that the pact would have achieved much even if it had held, pointing out that the government's devolution proposals fall far short of the Tigers' demands. — Reuters.

London, Feb 12 — Sri Lanka's navy said it destroyed a vessel of the separatist Tamil Tiger movement and killed at least eight rebels off the country's east coast today. Navy spokesman Cmdr. D.K.P. Dassanayake said the sea clash broke out after the navy spotted suspicious movements of two boats in a restricted area off the coast of the eastern town of Pulmoddai, about 140 miles from the capital Colombo, at dawn today. At least eight Tigers were killed in the battle and the navy suffered no damage, Dassanayake said. "One boat was destroyed while another boat was recovered later along with a body of insurgents' sea wing," he said.

London, Feb 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The owners of cargo ships leased to the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) to transport of essential food items from Trincomalee harbour to Point Pedro have requested Commissioner of Essential Services assurance of protection by security forces, sources said. Safety of vessels in northern water has become a contentious issue after the attack on general cargo *City of Liverpool* at Point Pedro Harbour on Jan 21. The Commissioner has not provided the assurance yet, giving rise to speculation that Point Pedro may not be used for future unloading of cargo, sources said. Meanwhile, the damaged ship towed to Myliddy, near Kankasanturai (KKS), has been lying idle for the past two weeks as efforts to move the ship closer to the unloading dock, were unsuccessful. On Saturday (Feb 10), another ship was moved parallel to the damaged ship so that unloading of cargo could start. Ships unload cargo destined to the Security

Forces at the KKS harbour while essential items to the public are loaded in Myliddy. The lack of facilities in Myliddy harbour has reduced the rate of unloading by 50%, impacting food deliveries to peninsula residents, civil sources said. Meanwhile, damaged *City of Liverpool* remains immobile with the prospect for its sea-worthiness uncertain.

UGANDA

Kampala, Feb 15 — More than 50 cattle rustlers and four soldiers were killed this week in a sharp escalation of a conflict between the military and Karamojong warriors in Uganda's lawless north-east, the army said today. In the latest fighting, the military said troops backed by a helicopter gunship opened fire yesterday on AK-47-wielding bandits who tried to seize stolen cattle recovered by the army. "We pursued these people. We killed 45 in one battle, bringing the total killed (since Feb 12) to 52," said Ugandan army spokesman Henry Obbo. On Feb 12, a group of warriors opened fire on an army patrol, killing four soldiers and prompting the unit to chase them. Ugandan soldiers killed seven bandits and impounded 1,000 cows in the chase, Obbo said. "Then the warriors regrouped themselves with reinforcements yesterday. However, they were repulsed by our firepower, we had military vehicles and a chopper," he said. Attempting to pacify Karamoja, Uganda's military launched a forceful disarmament programme last year but the conflict has since worsened. Clashes between the army and warriors killed 16 soldiers and scores of civilians in October. — Reuters.

YEMEN

London, Feb 5 — At least 42 Yemeni soldiers have been killed and 81 wounded in over a week of sporadic clashes with Shiite Muslim rebels in the north of the country, a Yemeni official has said. The official said the casualty toll had been cited in a report presented by Yemen's national security chief, Ali al-Ansi, to the country's consultative council. Yemeni government forces have clashed with rebels officials say are led by Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, son of Sheikh Badr el-Deen al-Houthi and brother of anti-American cleric Hussein al-Houthi who was killed in 2004.

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Clashes between the Yemeni army and followers of a Shiite rebel leader have killed 16 troops and 69 guerrillas during the past three days, military officials said today. An army official said government forces bombarded areas where followers of Abdel-Malek al-Hawthi are believed to be hiding out about 112 miles north of San'a, the Yemeni capital. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said about 50 other militant rebels have been arrested.

ZIMBABWE

London, Feb 6 — A press report, dated Feb 5, states: Zimbabwe's national security minister has told the country's last remaining white farmers that they will be jailed if they refuse to abide by a deadline that passed over the weekend for them to leave their farms, according to a newspaper report today. The official Chronicle newspaper quoted the minister Didymus Mutasa as saying police would be "unleashed" to deal with white farmers who ignored the eviction notice. "Those farmers who do not comply with the orders to vacate the land will be dealt with severely," said the minister, known to be close to President Robert Mugabe. The deadline was on Saturday (Feb 3). Farming officials said there were no immediate reports of arrests but they feared the worst. Zimbabwe is suffering its worst economic crisis since independence, with acute shortages of hard currency, food, gasoline, medicines and essential imports. The meltdown is blamed largely on disruptions to the agriculture-based economy after the often violent seizures of thousands of white-owned commercial farms began in 2000. Annual inflation is running at more than 1,000 percent, the highest in the world. The U.S. State Department last year put Zimbabwe on a list of six countries where restrictions on rights were particularly severe, along with China, Cuba, Iran, Myanmar and North Korea. There were around 4,500 white commercial farmers in Zimbabwe in 2000, when Mugabe launched the programme of land seizures that has seen agricultural production plummet. Now only around 400 white farmers remain - and at least 150 of them were handed eviction letters in December giving them just 45 days to leave their land to make way for new black farmers. Mugabe says land reform was necessary to correct colonial-era imbalances in ownership. The longtime Zimbabwean leader blames the more-than-40-percent drop in production on repeated drought and Western sanctions. Critics say many of the new black farmers were allocated farms on the basis of political patronage rather than agricultural expertise, and lack the dedication and financial resources to make a success of farming. The chairman of farming lobby group Justice for Agriculture, John Worsley-Worswick, said that white farmers were feeling "very exposed and very vulnerable." Farming groups like the Commercial Farmers Union and Justice for Agriculture had told their members to stay on their land and risk arrest. Mutasa said security officials would check this week on white farmers. "It's the duty of police to see to it that those who don't abide by the laws are incarcerated," the minister was quoted as saying by the Bulawayo based newspaper. Farmers were given a glimmer of hope last month when Ngoni Masoka, a senior official from the Lands Ministry, said they would be allowed to stay on to harvest crops they had planted "without any disruption in that process." U.N. agencies estimate that about four million people are in

need of food aid in Zimbabwe. Last year, some 700,000 people lost their homes or livelihoods in a government demolition campaign aimed at street vendors, market stall holders and allegedly illegal housing.

London, Feb 7 — A press report, dated Feb 6, states: A Zimbabwean minister has said the last white farmers can stay on their land long enough to harvest their crops even though a deadline has passed, but Lands Minister Didymus Mutasa told the UN's Irin news agency that the farmers would still have to leave. Many of Zimbabwe's remaining 400 white farmers were supposed to have left their farms at the weekend. The seizure of some 4,000 white-owned farms has seen a collapse in Zimbabwe's agricultural production. "We have, as a government, agreed to let them stay put and wind up their businesses, at least until harvest time. It is then that they will be moving out and making way for our own people, who urgently need land," Mr Mutasa said. This is likely to mean the farmers can stay until August. The Commercial Farmers Union (CFU) has advised members to resist forcible eviction - saying arrest and prosecution is their only way of getting a hearing in court. Zimbabwe's laws have been changed to prevent farmers going to court to challenge the seizure of their land.

Labour Disputes



CANADA

London, Feb 10 — A lockout yesterday at four towing firms idled tugs, barges and water taxis that serve mills and processing plants along the Fraser River and on Vancouver Island. The early-morning lockout came as bargaining stalled between the Canadian Merchant Service Guild, which represents the some 100 workers affected, and Hodder Tugboat and Riverside Towing, both of Richmond, Harken Towing of Port Coquitlam and Jones Marine Services of Chemainus. Work at mills and processing plants supplied by the four firms appeared unaffected yesterday as operations continued with stockpiled supplies. The companies also handle export logs moving from the Fraser. A spokeswoman for the Fraser River Port Authority said that port operations appeared to be unaffected by the idled tugs as of late yesterday afternoon, but that the situation could change if the lockout dragged on. The dispute is believed to centre on benefits. Neither side would comment on the state of negotiations. A spokesman for Hodder Tugboat, which specializes in log and barge towing, confirmed that the company's five tugs were idled by the lockout. An official at Harken Towing, a larger operation, referred calls to the Council of Marine Carriers, which speaks for tug-and-barge operators.

Calls to the council were referred back to the affected companies. Riverside and Jones could not be reached for comment. Should the lockout drag on, Fraser River sites that would potentially feel the effects include West Coast Cellulose, Goldwood Industries, Terminal Forest Products, Western Whitewood and Shook Mills. Vancouver Island operations in Harmac, Ladysmith, Crofton, Chemainus, Duke Point and Cowichan Bay would also be affected by the lockout.

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Canadian National Railway, the country's largest railroad, said today that its conductors had struck illegally after a midnight deadline on contract talks passed without agreement. The company, which is based in Montreal, said on its Web site that managers would replace the 2,800 conductors and yard workers represented by the United Transportation Union and keep the railroad's freight operations running. Commuter rail services in Toronto and Montreal will not be affected, it said. The strike could disrupt shipments of metals, grain, vehicles and other cargo across the continent. Canadian National said it would ask the Canada Industrial Relations Board to declare the strike illegal.

London, Feb 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Striking CN conductors and yard service workers will call off their national strike if the Canada Industrial Relations Board rules that the work stoppage is illegal, the union's chief negotiator said yesterday. "If the board rules (Tuesday) that it is an illegal strike and they issue a back-to-work order, we'll comply with that and get back to work immediately," Rex Beatty said in an interview. CN filed a complaint with the federal labour board on Saturday (Feb 10) after nearly 3,000 United Transportation Union workers walked off the job across Canada after negotiations broke down. The company argues the union's pressure tactic is against the law because the UTU International — the certified bargaining agent for the employees — has not authorised the strike. The strike hasn't affected Via Rail service or commuter trains in Montreal and Toronto. Workers are seeking a wage increase of 4.5 per cent over two years, along with a four-per-cent increase in the third year of the contract. That's in addition to \$1,000 per year over three years. Non-monetary issues include longer lunch breaks, excessive investigations of personnel and the threat of pensions being slashed if an employee is fired. (See issue of Feb 13.)

New York, Feb 13 — Longshoremen at the Vancouver wharves returned to work today after staying away for three days, said the attorneys representing the longshoremen and the terminals. Longshoremen were not required to cross the picket lines according to their contracts, said Leah Terai, an attorney with Laughton & Co. "The longshoremen stayed away from work because of the picket lines," she said. The picket lines were formed as a

result of the Canada National Rail Co. strike, which started on Saturday (Feb 10). However, the rail remained operational at about 75 to 80 percent of maximum capacity. The return to work at Vancouver Wharves was prompted by a declaration of unlawful strike by the Canada Industrial Relations Board late yesterday. Cargo loading for green peas, lentils, wood pulp, sulfur and coal at the Vancouver wharves, Neptune Bulk terminals and Pacific Coast Terminals were disrupted since the picketing began on Saturday. — Reuters.

London, Feb 15 — Now in its sixth day, a strike at Canadian National Railway is slowing deliveries of cargoes ranging from Asian consumer goods to grain exports through the country's ports. The dispute is compounding existing weather-related problems encountered by container shippers over the past few weeks on the west coast. Following the breakdown of negotiations the work stoppage was launched last Saturday (Feb 10) by 2,800 CN conductors and yard workers. But the railway deployed management personnel to keep its freight trains rolling. The railway's extensive network in the US is not affected. At the same time, CN claimed the strike was illegal and filed a claim with the Canada Industrial Relations Board. It argued that the certified bargaining agent for the employees, United Transportation Union International in Cleveland, did not authorise a strike approved by the Canadian members. A first hearing was held on Tuesday and the two parties have been asked to reconvene next Monday. The main outstanding issues revolve around meal breaks and wages. The union is seeking a 40-minute lunch break during nine-hour shifts instead of the 20 minutes workers are allowed at present. And union negotiators are pushing for a 4.5% wage increase over two years and a 4% increase in the final year of a contract. The railway has countered that such demands are "excessive" — considerably higher than recent collective agreements in the private sector. Management and the union are also at loggerheads over the impact of the strike on rail operations. CN spokesman Mark Hallman asserts that the railway's system is functioning at a 75% level based on traffic handled and network fluidity. "We have the resources and resolve to keep the freight operations going," he said. The railway declines to specify how many managers are filling in, but the union puts the number at 600 and estimates the performance level to be closer to 25% of normal operations. "The truth is likely to lie somewhere in between," suggested the Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association. Meanwhile, the Canadian Wheat Board is urging the federal government to intervene to end the conflict. Already bad weather has caused delays at the ports of Vancouver and Prince Rupert, where a dozen ships are waiting to receive grain.

FRANCE

London, Feb 8 — French teachers, tax collectors, postal staff and other public sector employees staged a one-day strike overnight to demand higher pay and denounce job cuts. More than half of all teachers took part in the stoppage, unions said, but the turnout in other sectors was weaker. The strike has taken on heavy political overtones, coming less than three months before the presidential elections, with the rightists promising to reduce France's army of 5.2 million civil servants and the Socialists expected to maintain numbers. Demonstrations were staged in cities across France, including Paris, where unions predicted tens of thousands of protesters would take to the streets. The civil service ministry said that by midday 22.9 per cent of all state employees had heeded the strike call.

FRIGATE (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Feb 14 — General cargo *Frigate* arrived at Ajman at 0427 hrs, Feb 13.

GUINEA

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

INDIA

Bangalore, Feb 12 — A general strike in Bangalore prompted by a long-running water dispute closed software firms and schools and prompted the postponement of an international women's tennis tournament today. The 12-hour stoppage in the southern state of Karnataka, whose capital is India's technology hub, Bangalore, came a week after a federal tribunal ruled the state would get less water from the Cauvery River than neighbouring Tamil Nadu. The Cauvery has been a bone of contention and a hugely emotive issue in the region for nearly a century. In 1991, an interim court order for Karnataka to release 205 billion cubic feet of water to Tamil Nadu sparked riots against minority Tamils in Bangalore, leaving 18 people dead. Most of the 6 million residents in Bangalore — home to more than 1,500 information technology and outsourcing firms — stayed indoors with many fearing a repeat of the 1991 riots. The shutdown will have cost the state's industry around \$225 million. Today, thousands of police officers patrolled roads in the city where traffic was sparse and manned barricades that were set up in areas where minority Tamils live. This is the third time in a month that social unrest has hit India's flagship technology city. A spokeswoman for Infosys Technologies Ltd., India's second-largest software services exporter, said the company had closed its software development facilities for a day. "We are closed today on account of employee safety," she said. Offices of Bangalore-based Wipro Ltd., India's third-largest software exporter, and multinational IBM were also closed, as were factories across the state. "The manufacturing loss for the industry will be about \$225 million," R.C. Purohit, president of the

Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industries, said. — Reuters.

ITALY

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Italy's petrol service stations will strike for four days from Feb 27 to March 2 in protest against government liberalisation, said Ansa news agency, citing petrol station managers. Earlier this week, petrol stations were on strike for two days over government plans to allow supermarkets to sell petrol and to remove restrictions on where stations can be sited. The stations plan an overall package of 14 days of strikes, Ansa said.

London, Feb 13 — Representatives of terminal operator Contship Italia and the main dockworkers' unions will meet with Italy's transport minister Alessandro Bianchi today in an effort to resolve a labour dispute that has paralysed the port of Gioia Tauro twice in the last two months. The stoppages forced significant cargo diversions and prompted threats from Contship to quit its Medcenter container terminal. Workers affiliated with the newly formed Sindacato dei Lavoratori union suspended industrial action and returned to work on Saturday (Feb 10) after an initial meeting that saw the new union granted standing to participate in contract negotiations with the company, Italy's largest terminal operator. The suspension of hostilities is not yet permanent, however, with the union threatening further action if no agreement is reached today. The workers, who claims to number 350 of the 650 workers at the facility, first struck Italy's largest container port in late December, citing differences with the company on wages, overtime and shift schedules. Its members at Gioia Tauro came out again last week, claiming that Contship was "taking us for a ride" by refusing to negotiate seriously. Contship, which notes that the three long-established unions have already signed off on the contract, argues that it has offered 80% of what the unions requested and that, unlike the union, it has followed proper legal procedure for the management of industrial disputes. It also alleges intimidation of workers who want to return to work, a charge strongly denied by the union. More broadly, Contship claims to have lost around 200,000 teus and the business of MSC to the dispute, with the Aponte-controlled container giant alleged to have lost interest in its terminal as a result. Contship also claims Maersk is beginning to organise for a life without Gioia Tauro. As a result, Contship president Cecilia Battistello said, the company is considering pulling out of the terminal altogether, though the promise of further talks suggests such a drastic course of action is still some way away. The situation also features a major dispute over turf between the new group and Italy's established port unions, who allege links between the SdL and the hard left political party Rifondazione Comunista, and accuse it

of using the strike to carve out a niche in the port, a charge the workers and their union deny.

Genoa, Feb 13 — Local branches of two trade unions representing transport workers blocked Genoa port's truck entrances Feb 12 after disputing agreements being reached on a national basis. Understand that the strike, which is in protest at the Government, vessel owners, vessel agents and freight forwarders, and concerns contracts for road carriage of container boxes, is on an all-out basis. — Lloyd's Agents.

RUSSIA

London, Feb 14 — Almost 1,400 workers at Ford's only car assembly plant in Russia went on strike today for at least one day to demand more money for working in hazardous conditions and other benefits. Alexei Etmanov, head of the labor union at the plant in Vsevolozhsk, near St. Petersburg, said the plant's production line had stopped at midnight yesterday for a 24-hour strike. He said workers would resume their strike if expected talks tomorrow with the plant's director do not produce adequate concessions from management. Among workers' demands was that the company stop using temporary workers, guarantee jobs for workers injured at the plant and extra pay and other benefits for hazardous assignments, Etmanov said. About 8 percent of the plant's work force are temporary workers, monthly wages at the plant average between 13,000 to 19,000 rubles (\$495-\$720). Ford Motor Co. spokeswoman Ekaterina Kulinenko said that a court had ruled the strike was illegal, but workers called the strike anyway. Ford said it would speed up the import of 1,700 Focuses to make up for the possible loss in production. NTV said daily losses during the strike could reach \$4 million.

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Ford Russia's plant, located in the northern town of Vsevolozhsk near St. Petersburg, restarted production after a one-day strike over pay and conditions. "The employees have gone back to work. The assembly line restarted at midnight," Yekaterina Kulinenko, Ford Russia spokeswoman, was quoted by Reuters as saying. "The daily production norm is 303 Ford Focus models. We will make up for lost production in due course." Trade union officials were unavailable for comment, but late yesterday union leader Alexei Etmanov did not rule out a resumption of work and more negotiations with management. Kulinenko said new talks were scheduled for today. She said that management's latest proposal was a wage increase of 14-20 percent, payments for those who have worked for more than five years, an increase to 7,400 rubles (\$280) in the bonus for having a baby, interest-free credits and other privileges. Assembly line workers typically earn 13,000-19,000 rubles (\$490-\$720) per month, which is above the national average wage in Russia. Annual inflation was nine percent last

year. The plant produced 60,000 cars last year - mainly the Focus model - and had planned to increase output this year to 75,000 cars.

SENEGAL

London, Feb 8 — A press report, dated today, states; South African Airways (SAA) flights to the United States will operate via Ilha do Sal in Cape Verde due to a strike action at the Dakar airport in Senegal, SAA said today. Spokesperson Jacqui O'Sullivan said workers at the airport, who were not SAA employees, were on strike for various benefit payments. The strike will begin at 2000, tomorrow and was expected to go on until Tuesday. "The SA204 out of New York today [today] will operate via Ilha do Sal and SA203 from Johannesburg will operate to Dakar with a technical stop in Ilha do Sal," O'Sullivan said. The SA203 to New York, SA207 to Washington and SA204 from New York will be affected by the re-routing but the changes will not create delays for passengers connecting within the US.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Feb 14 — The strike at the Modikwa Platinum mine entered its 20th day today with an estimated loss in revenue of about R100-million. Modikwa Platinum, a joint venture between Anglo Platinum and African Rainbow Minerals (ARM), has been in a dispute with employees belonging to the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) over continuous operations since Jan 26. ARM spokesperson Pieter Rorich said today that halted production at the mine since the strike commenced had caused a loss of revenue of about R5-million per day. The issue of continuous operations (Conops), where the mine operates every day of the year except public holidays, remained a sticking point between the union and Modikwa in the dispute which began over racism allegations.

UNITED STATES

London, Feb 8 — After six non-production days related to a strike at its largest assembly plant, Harley-Davidson Inc. announced today that its motorcycle shipments for the first quarter of the year will not meet previously established guidance. First-quarter shipments of Harley-Davidson motorcycles had been expected to be between 82,000 and 84,000 units. In a statement today, the company said, "At this time, the company is not providing motorcycle shipment guidance for the first quarter, nor is it prepared to predict whether the strike will have an effect on full year financial guidance." Approximately 2,800 union workers who are members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) Local 175 are currently on strike at the company's facility in York, Pa. The Harley-Davidson employees in York primarily manufacture and assemble Touring and Softail model motorcycles. As a result of the strike, the company has reduced production of engines and

transmissions at its facility in Menomonee Falls and injection-molded and other components in Tomahawk. Temporary layoffs of as 740 Harley employees in Wisconsin could begin as soon as next week.

Awards & Settlements



MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 11 — A family has been awarded \$28 million in a wrongful-birth lawsuit against a New Jersey doctor and a national medical testing company. Justin Tineo, a 3-year-old Congers boy born with a rare and deadly genetic condition, was awarded \$15 million. His mother, Wanda Tineo, was awarded \$13 million by a New Jersey jury for her emotional distress. Tineo went to a doctor in New Jersey for testing when she found out she was pregnant to determine if the fetus had myotubular myopathy. The rare disease runs in her family and is marked by a defect in the cell structure of voluntary muscles. It causes low muscle tone. Children with the disease have trouble breathing on their own and usually need a ventilator to survive. They generally have a limited life expectancy. Tineo was told that tests showed her baby did not have the disease. But when he was born in April 2003 at Nyack Hospital, doctors saw right away that he did, the family's lawyer, Gerald B. O'Connor of Chatham, N.J., said yesterday. An investigation showed that the test for myotubular myopathy had never been performed, he said.

WRONGFUL CONVICTION, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A federal jury awarded \$14 million today to a former death row inmate who came within weeks of execution but was exonerated. John Thompson, 40, maintained through 18 years in prison that he was innocent of killing hotel executive Ray Liuzza, 34, during a robbery in December 1984. In 1999, weeks before Thompson was to die, a defense investigator found a crime lab report that cleared him of the robbery charge. The blood type of the robber, found on the victim's pants, did not match Thompson's. A judge resentenced Thompson to live in prison without parole, but the murder conviction stood until a state appeals court overturned it and ordered a new trial. Thompson was found not guilty in the retrial. Jurors in the civil trial ordered the Orleans Parish and several current and former prosecutors to pay Thompson, said Gordon Cooney, who along with fellow attorney Michael Banks worked 14 years to have Thompson retried and acquitted.

Miscellaneous



BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY, CANADA

London, Feb 8 — A press report, dated Feb 7, states: Another case of mad cow disease, Canada's ninth, was confirmed today by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. That animal is a mature bull from Alberta. The agency said preliminary information indicates the age of the animal falls within the age range of previous cases detected in Canada under the national BSE surveillance programme. As such, it's likely the animal was exposed to a small amount of infective material, probably during its first year of life, the agency said in a release. The exact age of the animal was not released, but so far five of Canada's diagnosed cases of BSE have been born between 1996 and 1998. The agency said an epidemiological investigation is underway to examine what the animal was fed early in its life and to identify its herd mates at the time. All findings will be publicly released once the investigation concludes. No part of the animal entered the human food or animal feed systems. Dennis Laycraft, executive vice-president of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, said he did not anticipate this latest case of BSE would affect Canada's markets. Although any new case of BSE is unwelcome, it is not unexpected given Canada's level of surveillance. Such findings are consistent with the experiences of other countries around the world, he noted. Canada reported its first case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE, in May 2003. That case prompted dozens of countries to ban Canadian beef and cattle, sending the industry into turmoil. The majority of these markets have since been recovered. Older cattle and their beef products are still banned from the U.S., although the process to resume that segment of trade is now underway. In 2005, it was estimated the crisis had cost the Canadian cattle industry \$7 billion. Prior to today, Canada's last case was in August 2006, detected in an cow in northern Alberta.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Feb 8 — Scientists investigating last week's outbreak of bird flu in a British flock of turkeys said today there might be a link with an outbreak in Hungary in January. The government said there was a possible connection, contradicting statements by British officials in Brussels yesterday that it was unlikely there was a Hungarian link. "Our investigations have shown that one possible route of infection is poultry product imported from Hungary," said deputy chief veterinarian Fred Landeg. "The company involved have voluntarily agreed to temporarily

suspend the movement of poultry products between their outlets in the UK and Hungary until the investigation is complete," he said. The cull of 160,000 turkeys on a farm in Suffolk, eastern England, where the H5N1 strain of bird flu broke out was completed on Tuesday. Russia and Japan banned British poultry imports after the country's first outbreak of the H5N1 strain in farmed poultry that sparked the cull. (See issue of Feb 8.)

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The government was forced to concede last night that the bird flu outbreak was more widespread than previously thought after more turkeys at the Bernard Matthews plant in Suffolk were found to be contaminated with H5N1 and the company admitted that birds had arrived in the UK from the Hungarian plant hit by the same virus last month. The infection is being linked to the Suffolk processing plant from which the company transports meat across Britain. The Observer reported on its website last night that a consignment of partially processed turkeys had travelled from Bernard Matthews' Hungarian plant and arrived in the UK a few days before Jan 27, when farmworkers began to notice signs of illness in the turkey chicks in one shed of the farm near Holton, Suffolk. The discovery of the virus in another three of the 22 sheds in Suffolk crushed hopes that the infection had been isolated. It also questioned the integrity of the plant's bio-security. The government denied suggestions that it had sought to cover up the possibility of infection from Hungary. A spokeswoman for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) said last night: "There is no delay [in informing the public]. We are making information available as it comes to light." She said Defra thought the birds had come from an uninfected part of Hungary, but that test results had changed that view: "The test results revealed that the strain might be identical." The shadow environment secretary, Peter Ainsworth, questioned the government's previous suggestion that the virus had been spread by wild birds. "It always seemed unlikely that avian flu arrived in Suffolk via the wild bird population, since there has to date been no evidence of infected wild birds," he said. "Bernard Matthews now have some very serious questions to answer about their bio-security arrangements and the version of events they have told so far." Yesterday a spokesman for the company said: "We are cooperating fully and as a precautionary measure we have volunteered to cease any movements to and from Hungary." The investigation is now expected to centre on the Suffolk processing plant, which is near the turkey sheds, and on the company's farm in Hungary.

London, Feb 10 — South Korea has confirmed a sixth case of bird flu despite the culling of poultry after earlier cases, officials said today, raising concerns that quarantine measures had failed to control the

outbreak. The latest case occurred at a poultry farm in Ansong, Kyonggi Province, around 66 km south of the capital, Seoul, and about 24 km from Chonan, where the fifth case was found. "We confirmed that a case at a farm in Ansong was highly pathogenic," an Agricultural Ministry official said. Quarantine authorities plan to cull poultry within a 3-km radius of the infected farm, an official of Ansong said. There were no reports suggesting human infection. In November South Korea confirmed its first case of the H5N1 strain in about three years.

London, Feb 12 — Indonesia's death toll from the often lethal H5N1 strain of bird flu rose to 64 after independent laboratories confirmed today blood samples from a 20-year-old woman who died early yesterday contained the virus. The confirmation was received from the Health Research and Development Health Agency and the Eijkman Molecular Biological Institute - both based in Jakarta - yesterday and this afternoon, respectively, according to Joko Suyono, an official at the Health Ministry's bird flu centre.

Hong Kong, Feb 13 — Hong Kong confirmed today that two birds found in the city last week carried the H5N1 avian influenza virus, bringing the total number of birds officially declared to be infected this year to 10. The dead silver-eared mesias were discovered in Mong Kok area on Feb 7 and taken for tests, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said. — Reuters.

London, Feb 13 — Tests on H5N1 bird flu viruses found in Britain and Hungary showed they are "essentially identical" and the most likely transmission route was from poultry to poultry, Britain said today. The government said in a statement it had not found any evidence of illegal or unsafe movements of poultry products from Hungary to Britain and was still investigating all possible routes of transmission. Tests on the two strains of avian influenza were carried out at Britain's Veterinary Laboratory Agency this week. The final results showed a very high similarity (99.96%) at the whole genome level. "These results indicate that the viruses are essentially identical," the statement said. "Although other European viruses have shown close relationships to these viruses, these levels of identity are much closer than with other Asian lineage H5 viruses for which data is available, including those isolated from wild birds in Europe in 2005/06," the VLA's Chief Avian Virologist Ian Brown said. Britain's deputy chief veterinarian Fred Landeg said the working hypothesis, based on the work of the VLA, was that the virus had most likely been transmitted from poultry to poultry. "However, I must reiterate that we are not discounting any line of inquiry and this is an on-going investigation," he added. — Reuters.

London, Feb 13 — Four more villages in southeastern Turkey have been quarantined over bird flu fears after the authorities confirmed last week the

new outbreak of the virus in the region, local newspaper Zaman reported on its website yesterday. Mustafa Kayhan, the head of the agriculture department in the southeastern province of Diyarbakir, was quoted as saying that the village of Akcay and three nearby hamlets in Silvan town were placed under quarantine after some chickens died in a farm there. "There is a suspicion of bird flu," Kayhan said, adding that samples from dead chickens were sent to a laboratory in Elazig province for analyses yesterday. Last week, the Turkish authorities confirmed that the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus have been found in the village of Bogazkoy in Diyarbakir's neighbouring province of Batman, just over a year after the virus claimed the lives of four children in the region. The Health Ministry said yesterday that three people with flu-like symptoms, aged between 68 and three years old, have tested negative for the virus. Earlier, four children from bird flu-stricken Bogazkoy village who were hospitalized on suspicion that they might have contracted the disease, also have tested negative for the virus, the ministry said. No human cases have yet been reported since the outbreak, officials said. Local media reported that the authorities have imposed a 10-km quarantine zone around Bogazkoy and nearby villages and culled more than 1,300 chicken, turkeys and ducks in the area.

POWER OUTAGE, SAIPAN

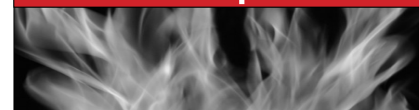
London, Feb 10 — Electrical problem triggered Tuesday's (Feb 6) power outage that hit some areas on Saipan, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. CUC spokesperson Pamela Mathis said that the problem occurred on Engine No. 5 at the power plant in Lower Base. Mathis said the power tripped off at 1338 hrs, but CUC crew managed to fix the problem after an hour. "The electrical problem has to do with the sensors that measure the RPM or the speed [of the power generating machines] and relay that information to the control panel and the control room. So they had to fix it," she explained. The CUC spokesperson said when Engine No. 5 went down, the operators took Feeder 2 offline at 1338 hrs. Feeder 2 has two sections. The first partial or the first section of Feeder 2, which is Garapan, was brought back on line at 1453 hrs. The second partial or second section of Feeder 2, which is Garapan-Beach Road going south to San Jose, was brought back on line at 1459 hrs.

PROBO KOALA (PANAMA)

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Dutch-based oil trading group Trafigura is to pay the Ivorian government \$198m (£102m) for a clean-up and inquiry after a "toxic waste" incident in 2006. Trafigura say this is not "damages" and that there is no admission of liability on their part for whatever happened. Ten people died and many fell ill after waste was shipped to Abidjan and left around the city in August. As part of the deal, the

Ivory Coast will drop any prosecutions or claims, now or in the future, against the firm. Trafigura also said its employees Claude Dauphin, Jean-Pierre Valentini and Nzi Kablan, held by the Ivory Coast authorities after the incident, would now be released. Thousands suffered diarrhoea, vomiting, breathing problems and nosebleeds and 10 died, say Ivorian health officials. After announcing the clean-up settlement Eric de Turckheim, a Trafigura director, said: "Both the Ivorian government and Trafigura can now move forward together to act in the best interests of the people of Abidjan." He said Trafigura would continue doing business in the Ivory Coast. Trafigura first attempted to discharge the chemical slops from one of its vessels, combined bulk and oil carrier *Probo Koala*, in the Dutch port of Amsterdam in early August. But the company that was to dispose of the waste suddenly increased its charges dramatically, asking for more to treat the waste. Trafigura refused, and the tanker proceeded to Nigeria. There it failed to reach an agreement with two local firms about offloading the waste and only in Ivory Coast did it find a company to handle the waste. On Aug 19 the waste was discharged near Abidjan, the commercial capital. Two weeks later the first complaints arose. Instead of being incinerated as it should have been, the waste had been dumped. Trafigura said it had been given to a local accredited company in Abidjan's main port to deal with properly.

Fires & Explosions



CHEMICAL PLANT, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Another explosion today slowed firefighters' progress as they tried to put out a day-old fire that engulfed a chemical distribution plant. The last of the hot spots were being doused this morning when another explosion came from inside the Chemcentral Corp. plant, Battalion Chief Joe Vitale said. A number of 55-gallon drums had ignited at the plant yesterday, sending fireballs into air and black smoke over the downtown skyline. Two plant workers suffered minor injuries. Vitale said today's explosion did not come from the three 30,000-gallon rail tank cars that were parked nearby. Firefighters were concerned the tank cars, which held flammable materials, would ignite. Small pockets of fire and the threat of additional explosions have kept investigators from examining the site and determining the cause of the initial explosions. Despite the smoke plume's ominous appearance, officials said tests had found no threat to human health.

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated Feb 8, states: Firefighters doused the

last flames and watched for hot spots Thursday (Feb 8) at a chemical distribution plant that was devastated by fire a day before. Robert Garner, senior vice president of environmental affairs for plant owner ChemCentral Corp., said an environmental team was ready to begin its investigation in tandem with the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Evacuation orders remained in effect Thursday for people within a half-mile of the site.

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated Feb 8, states: Firefighters pumped foam this evening over smoldering remnants of a blaze that a day earlier cast a threatening black cloud over Kansas City, but some stubborn hot spots remained. Residents who evacuated in the shadow of the 100-foot high flames still awaited word on when it would be safe to return home. ChemCentral Corp. pegged losses at its five-acre facility at well more than \$1 million, but the company vowed to rebuild in Kansas City. Thermal-imaging cameras pegged the temperatures of some of the site's remaining storage tanks at more than 300 degrees. Firefighters waited until after 1700 hrs, once the temperatures had dropped and stabilised, to move back in. Residents were forbidden from entering a zone a half-mile square around ChemCentral and were discouraged from coming within a mile of the facility. Officials were uncertain when residents could return. ChemCentral and fire officials shed some light today on the first frightening moments of yesterday's blaze. The fire began outdoors about 1420 hrs, while two employees were transferring a polymer product - used to make caulk, sealants and lubricants - from a tank into a smaller container for delivery to a customer, a company official said today. "During the process, a fire started," said Robert Garner, ChemCentral senior vice president for environmental affairs. "The two workers doing the transfer noticed the fire and immediately started an evacuation process." Garner said he was not sure what sparked the fire. Smoking is banned in the plant. Although losses to the plant were devastating, Fire Chief Smokey Dyer said the outcome of the blaze could have been worse. Most neighbouring structures escaped damage, with the exception of a house near the flames, which sustained significant damage.

COAL MINE, HENAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Feb 11 — The death toll in a colliery fire in central China has risen to 24 after a cover-up of 17 fatalities was unveiled, state media said. "The number of deaths is 24, not seven, as announced previously by the local authorities," said Li Jiucheng, director of the Coal Mine Safety Bureau of Henan Province. "The deaths of 17 miners were deliberately concealed," Mr Li was quoted as saying by Xinhua news agency. Colliery managers and local officials originally said that seven

miners had been killed and four others injured in a fire which broke out on Feb 2 in Xing'an Colliery, located in Henan's Tianchi town. When reporters visited villages to investigate the accident, they heard stories of a possible cover-up. "Five people, including the owner and manager of the mine, have been taken into custody, and four government officials have been sacked," Mr Li told Xinhua. He said they included a deputy head of Mianchi county, the director of the county coal bureau, the head of Tianchi town and the town's Communist Party chief.

FACTORY, PABNA, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Feb 11 — A huge fire broke out in the factory owned by Square Consumer Products Limited, at Shingha bypass crossing in the Pabna district in west central Bangladesh on Friday (Feb 9) night. Company officials said that the fire was probably started by an electrical short circuit at about 2130 hrs. It soon engulfed the whole factory along with its warehouse, destroying assets, including 11 machines, 15 computers, raw materials and other goods worth about Tk 400 million (\$5.75 million). Five fire fighting units from Pabna, Ishwardi and Bera put out the fire with the help of local people at about 0400 hrs. The company was established in 2001 and was producing powdered spices (chili, turmeric, cumin, coriander & mixed spices) and ethnic snacks for export and local markets. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

FIREWORKS FACTORY, SHORTGATE, SUSSEX, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated Feb 8, states: The total cost of dealing with a fire at a fireworks factory in Sussex has been estimated at more than £3m. East Sussex Fire Authority has been told it will cost £3.15m to replace vehicles and equipment. The fire service lost nine pumps, three specialist appliances and several cars in the blast at Ringmer, near Lewes. Two fire service staff - Brian Wembridge and Geoff Wicker - were killed in an explosion on December 3, at Festival fireworks UK Ltd. An investigation is ongoing to try to establish the cause of the fire and explosion at the fireworks depot, at Marley Farm, Shortgate.

PREMISES, MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The historic Monterey building that went up in flames Wednesday (Feb 8) will be demolished, Monterey city officials said yesterday. They gave neighbouring shops the go-ahead to reopen their doors. Four structural engineers who assessed the T.A. Work Building at 467 Alvarado St. found that the 100-year-old structure was too badly damaged to be saved, said city building official John Kuehl. The building housed 21 shops and offices when fire ripped through the structure late Wednesday.

Fire officials estimated that damage to the building and contents could approach \$5 million.

PREMISES, MUANG DISTRICT, THAILAND

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire raged through a shopping mall and neighbouring shophouses in front of a police station in Muang district on Friday (Feb 9), causing an estimated 50 million baht in damage. No casualties were reported. The fire swept through Sentosa shopping mall in Bang Lamphu Fresh Market at around 2130 hrs, sparking chaos in the nearby area, with businesses fearing the fire could spread. More than 40 fire trucks were called to try and tackle the blaze. The area was cordoned off due to fears the building could collapse. The sound of gas explosions could be heard coming from inside the fire-gutted building as firefighters struggled to bring the blaze under control. Power supply to the area was also severed, causing blackouts in three nearby shophouses, sending residents into a panic to try and salvage belongings. It took firefighters more than four hours to bring the fire under control. More than 20 units of a nearby commercial building including the shopping mall were destroyed. Police said an electrical short-circuit could have triggered the blaze. However, the mall's managing director Sanchai Chinchaturapat said he did not believe a short-circuit was the cause of the blaze as the building was rewired just three months ago after a small fire last November.

REFINERY, DELAWARE, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated yesterday states: Firefighters were called to the Valero Refinery in Delaware City, Delaware tonight after a fire broke out. Officials said flames broke out at 1730 hrs in a hydrocracker unit, where heavy oil is processed. It was under control in 30 minutes and no injuries were reported.

New York, Feb 13 — A fire in a crude distillation unit at Valero's 210,000 bpd Delaware City, Delaware, refinery today — the second fire at the plant in five days — has been extinguished, the company said. "At approximately 1244, ET, today, the Valero Delaware City refinery experienced a small fire in the plant's crude unit," the company said in a release. "Valero refinery personnel responded quickly to contain and extinguish the fire. There were no injuries." — Reuters.

TRAIN, HONG KONG

London, Feb 14 — Eleven people were put in hospital and 1000 passengers evacuated after a train fire in Hong Kong today which was apparently caused by an electrical short circuit. The fire broke out at about 0915 hrs on a train heading for Tsuen Wan in the Kowloon district. Some passengers said they heard a loud bang and saw smoke pouring out of a carriage, local radio RTHK reported. A spokesman for the fire services department said the fire

was put out in a few minutes. Passengers were evacuated through a dark tunnel and walked about 15 minutes to the nearest station. Cameraphone footage taken by some passengers and played on local television showed frightened passengers fighting through smoke. Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation chief executive James Blake promised an investigation, saying initial findings suggest the fire was caused by a short circuit in a transformer.



C-GKCJ

London, Feb 13 — The DHC-6-300, C-GKCJ, operated by Air Inuit, with five passengers and two members of crew, at the time of the landing at Berbegamau, Quebec, in drifting snow, crashed at 1159, Feb 11. Nobody was wounded. Substantial damage to the aircraft.

CRASH, GULF OF MEXICO

London, Feb 13 — Eurocopter EC120B, operated by Era Helicopters of Lake Charles, LA, crashed during a landing attempt on an oil production platform in the Gulf of Mexico at approximately 0830, local time, yesterday. According to FAA records, the chopper was owned by CFS Air, a limited liability company of Connecticut registry. An Associated Press report of the crash says the crew of two are listed as missing, while the NWS report say both died.

CRASH, ISERE REGION, FRANCE

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The bodies of a family have been found in the wreckage of a light aircraft that took off from Shoreham Airport, in West Sussex, and crashed in France. The twin-engine Piper PA 34 Seneca aircraft left the airport yesterday for Cannes. Wreckage of the aircraft was found in the Isere region of the French Alps, 1,960 metres up in the Vercors. The couple and their child are believed to have been from the US originally, but had been living in the UK. French officials said an American passport belonging to the pilot was found with the aircraft. The Foreign Office confirmed one body was that of a US citizen. The manager of Shoreham Airport said the aircraft was owned by the pilot and had regularly flown from Shoreham. Gilles Barsacq, secretary general of the prefecture in the Alpine Isere region of France, said the aircraft had lost control in a snowstorm as it flew over the Alps. He said the pilot contacted air traffic control yesterday afternoon to say he was in trouble, but the twin-engine aircraft disappeared from radar screens moments later. The wreckage was discovered this morning following a

search operation involving up to 100 men and five helicopters which lasted through the night.

CRASH, MARLETTE LAKE, NEVADA, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated Feb 8, states: The wreckage of a plane found on a frozen Sierra Nevada lake today was confirmed to contain the body of a missing Reno pilot, an official said. Steve Brown, 51, was found in the cockpit of the overturned aircraft, which was spotted on Marlette Lake by an airborne searcher about 1030 hrs, today, said Carson City Sheriff Kenny Furlong. "A civilian aircraft aiding in the search for Brown flew the Marlette area and saw the plane," said Furlong. He said a National Guard helicopter pilot was able to get low enough to confirm the aircraft was Browns' Pitts S-1 biplane, yellow and black with the numbers "00" and words "Tonopah Low" on its side. Brown was last seen flying south from the Carson City Airport at 1530 hrs, Tuesday (Feb 6) after telling people there he was going to fly along the Carson River. Police began to search for the pilot after he hadn't returned home by yesterday morning. He had fuelled up prior to departure but only had enough fuel for an hour, Furlong said. The plane was found near the Carson City and Washoe County border on the west edge of the 8,000-foot-elevation, man-made lake. Furlong said the scene was turned over to the Washoe County Sheriff's Department and its Search and Rescue teams within an hour of its discovery. About 1500 hrs, two rescuers, reached the wreckage. A debris trail of about 90 feet could be seen from the air. The nose of the plane was severely damaged, it appeared to be missing its wings and looked to be lying on its top. Furlong confirmed the aircraft "rolled. An American Airlines pilot, Brown flew his Pitts S-1 in local air shows. The aircraft is small at 15 feet, six inches long and a wing span of 17 feet, four inches. It weighs just more than 1,000 pounds. The plane had the third fastest time of 212.9 mph during its qualifying lap for the 2006 Reno National Championship Air Races. Officers from the Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation and Safety Board were en route to the scene to take over the investigation. The results of that investigation may not be available for months.

CRASH, ROCKSPRINGS AREA, SAN ANTONIO, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today states: Two men died after their twin-engine aircraft caught fire when it crashed near Edwards County Airport Friday (Feb 9) after trying to land in foggy weather. Richard Leland Jordan, 32, of Spring and Joseph Lee Walter, 44, of Houston died in the 1730 hrs crash just south of Rocksprings. The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the cause of the crash.

CRASH, ROCKSPRINGS AREA, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

See N69845.

CRASH, VNUKOVO AIRPORT, MOSCOW, RUSSIA

London, Feb 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A corporate jet carrying only its crew crashed at a Moscow airport today while taking off during a snowstorm, officials said. Everyone on board survived. Before the twin-engine Challenger 850 crashed, a fire broke out on board as it took off from Vnukovo Airport on a flight to Berlin, Transport Ministry spokesman Timur Khikmatov said. Khikmatov said four crew members were on board and two were injured. Air traffic controller Konstantin Fyodorov told state-run television that the aircraft caught fire and overturned while taking off. Moscow was enveloped in blowing snow Tuesday. Vnukovo closed after the accident and the aircraft was being removed from the runway, Russian news agencies reported.

DQ-SKY

London, Feb 11 — Authorities in Fiji are unable to conduct a post mortem examination on two Canadians killed in an aircraft crash because of delays in locating their next of kin. The elderly couple and the 22-year old pilot died when their Cessna aircraft crashed into a mountainous region in Lautoka about a fortnight ago. Police say the Canadian Consulate is still trying to locate relatives of the Canadian victims. The couple has been identified but their names are not being released publicly until their relatives have been informed. Meanwhile a New Zealand expert has begun investigations into the crash. Andrew MacGregor was appointed by the Civil Aviation Ministry to conduct the investigations.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated Feb 8, states: A Delta Airlines plane made an emergency landing at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport today after experiencing hydraulics problems, authorities said. No-one was hurt. Flight 6023, which was headed to New York, had to shut down one of two propeller engines. Eleven people, including crew were on board when the plane landed about 1730 hrs.

FLIGHTS SUSPENDED AT ZIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Feb 12 — The Zia International Airport (ZIA) of Bangladesh remained closed for all flights operation following worn out of tyres of Saudi aircraft with 400 passengers on board yesterday. Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CCAB), told media that the captain of scheduled flight of Saudi Arabian Airlines-Boeing 747 aircraft during taxing at the runway at about 1430 hrs has noticed that numbers of its tires flattened and thereby he postponed take off for Saudi Arab. Soon after ZIA

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authorities suspended all international and domestic flights from the ZIA from 1430 hrs. As a result, the four flights of Biman Bangladesh Airlines; two of GMG Airlines and one of Saudi Arabian Airlines were disturbed. However, all flight operations were partially resumed after a 16-hour suspension. The Saudi aircraft is being grounded until new tires are arrived with a team of engineers to get ready aircraft. A Saudi Airlines official said that the aircraft of flight SA-747 made a hydraulic emergency break on the runway. The aircraft screeched to a halt at the far end of the runway. Rear wheels heated and burst one after another. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

N1116Y

London, Feb 8 — Cessna 208B, N1116Y, owned by Suburban Air Freight Inc., on approach to Alliance Municipal Airport, NE, north-west of airport, hit a building then crashed at 0925, today. Damage is substantial. One person on board sustained a serious injury.

N168CK

London, Feb 13 — Canadair CL-600-2B19 Challenger 850, operated by Clear Sky Holdings, N168CK, three persons on board, crashed onto the runway at Moskva-Vnukovo Airport, on takeoff at 1636, today. It skidded and overturned before coming to rest. Aircraft has been written off. No fatalities.

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated Feb 14, states: Russian officials today opened a criminal investigation into the crash of a corporate jet at a Moscow airport that left one of the aircraft's three crew members in a coma, a top prosecutor said. The Canadair CL-600-2B19 Challenger 850 (N168CK) crashed yesterday after one of its two engines caught fire as it took off in a snowstorm from Vnukovo Airport on a flight to Berlin. A Moscow-based company, Fort Aero, said it owned the aircraft. The prosecutor general's office said a criminal investigation had been opened into the crash - a routine practice in Russia after major transportation accidents. Russian news agencies said investigators had yet to recover the aircraft's flight recorders. Alexander Badenkov, an official with the Moscow regional transport prosecutor's office, said that the American crew member was in a coma and a Russian was in intensive care. The third crew member, a Russian, was hospitalised with lesser injuries, he said. No one else was on board. Moscow was enveloped in blowing snow yesterday, and Vnukovo officials said visibility was about 3,950 feet at the time of the crash. A spokeswoman for Canada-based aircraft manufacturer Bombardier said the manufacturer had had no problems with the aircraft, which was put into service in 1997.

N17337

London, Feb 11 — Canadair CRJ200LR RegionalJet, operated by Mesa Airlines / America West Express,

N17337, climbing through 24,000 feet, Flight 2985 experienced an uncontained engine failure at 1650, Jan 25. The left engine cowl, fan, and other forward components separated over sparsely populated mountainous terrain in an area beginning just south of Woodland Park, CO and running south-southwest to 10 miles south-west of Cripple Creek, CO. The airplane's flight crew declared an emergency and immediately returned and landed uneventfully at the Denver International Airport at 1730 hrs. The aircraft itself sustained minor damage to the fuselage, left engine pylon, and tail section during the engine separation.

N45GM

London, Feb 12 — Beechcraft 18 N45GM crashed near Great Bend, Kansas, at 1415, Feb 9, while on a flight from Wichita, KS, to Great Bend. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N506BC

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Four people died when a small civilian aircraft crashed in south-east Georgia, authorities said today. The aircraft, a Beechcraft Bonanza, crashed yesterday evening in Fort Stewart. It was en route from Titusville, Florida, to Anderson, South Carolina, said Kathleen Bergen, spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration in Atlanta. The cause of the crash was unknown. Fort Stewart spokesman Kevin Larson said today the aircraft went down in a training area about five miles north of the tiny town of Gum Branch in Liberty County. Bergen said the aircraft crashed at about 1830 yesterday. Military police and firefighters responded to the crash and found four bodies among the wreckage. Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board were heading to Fort Stewart to recover the wreckage and investigate the cause of the crash.

London, Feb 11 — The Federal Aviation Administration has confirmed a small aircraft that crashed in south Georgia late Friday (Feb 9), killing four people, while en route to Anderson, S.C., flew out of Titusville. The aircraft apparently lost contact with air traffic control in Hilliard, Fla., around 1815 hrs, Friday. The wreckage was discovered in a swampy, wooded area on the west side of Fort Stewart in a training area for the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division around midnight, according to the FAA. The aircraft is a Beechcraft Bonanza 36, tail number N506BC. FAA records show Blue Heron Aviation Sales in Melbourne owns the aircraft.

London, Feb 12 — Beechcraft Bonanza A36 N506BC crashed near Savannah, Georgia, at 2316, Feb 9. The aircraft was destroyed. The four persons on board were killed.

N6390U

London, Feb 10 — Cessna T210R, N6390U, crashed after take-off at Rexburg, ID, at 2250, Feb 8. The sole occupant died. Aircraft was destroyed.

N676FE

London, Feb 14 — While taxiing on Fedex Ramp, Airbus Industrie A300F4-605R, N676FE, right wing struck and tipped over a deicing truck at Indianapolis, at 0135, Feb 12. Damage is substantial.

N690WR

London, Feb 13 — Eurocopter EC 120B (Colibri) N690WR struck a flare boom on approach to an oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico at 1411, Feb 12. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N69845

London, Feb 12 — Cessna 414 N69845 crashed near Rocksprings, Texas, at 2330, Feb 9, while on a flight from Houston, TX, to Rocksprings. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

VQ-TIU

London, Feb 13 — Beechcraft Super King Air B200, VQ-TIU, operated by Air Turks & Caicos, while on final approach, crashed short of the runway at East Bay Cay, Turks & Caicos Islands at 0720, Feb 6, killing the pilot who was the nephew of Turks & Caicos Premier.

Product Recalls



BATTERY PACKS FOR TOY VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 15 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Feb 13, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with JAKKS Pacific Inc., of Malibu, Calif., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 245,000 Battery Packs for Toy Vehicles. The lithium-ion polymer batteries used to charge the toy vehicles can ignite while charging, posing a fire hazard. JAKKS Pacific has received 33 reports of the batteries melting or catching fire while charging, including three reports of minor burns to fingers and 23 reports of property damage to flooring, seats or walls. This recall involves battery packs used with FLY WHEELS XPV toy vehicles. The battery packs were sold with a charger (item number 73904) and with the radio-controlled XPV toy (item number 73906). Item numbers are printed on the product's packaging above the barcode label. The batteries are marked øFly Wheelz, øXPV, ø and øJAKKS Pacific, ø Lithium-ion Polymer battery (LiPo) ø followed by a list of warnings and precautions. The XPV Xtreme Performance Vehicle is not the subject of this exchange programme. Manufactured in China, the packs were sold at toy stores, discount department stores and Internet retailers nationwide from August 2006 through to January 2007

for about \$30. Battery packs and toy vehicles packaged together sold for between \$80 and \$90.

CURLING IRONS, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 8 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Feb 7, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Conair Corp., of Stamford, Conn., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 322,000 Curling Irons. The handle of the curling iron can come apart exposing its line cord, posing a shock or electrocution hazard to consumers. No incidents/injuries have been reported. This recall involves ceramic, gold-matte finish curling irons. The irons have a one, 1", or 1 1/2-inch barrel, metal counter rest, vertically placed ON-OFF buttons, and a heat set dial that ranges from 0 to 30. A four-digit date code can be found on the plug prong. Date codes included in this recall range from November 2005 through to July 2006 (ex. 0706). The name "Conair" is printed on the handle of the iron. Manufactured in China, the curling irons were sold at discount retailers and drug stores nationwide during January 2006 for about \$25.

HONDA MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLD-WIDE

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Honda Motor Co. plans to recall 45,335 Civic Hybrid sedans worldwide to repair an electrical defect that could stop the cars' engines, a company spokeswoman said today. Japan's No. 2 automaker plans to recall 7,219 of the vehicles sold domestically and another 38,116 sold overseas, mostly in the United States, a Honda spokeswoman said on condition of anonymity, citing company policy. Honda learned about the defective voltage converters - which could cause a short circuit that would stop the engine and prevent it from restarting - from overseas reports, the company said in documents filed Thursday with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. Honda has received no reports of accidents related to the defect, the documents said. The affected vehicles were manufactured between September 2005 and September 2006, they said. In Japan, Honda plans to notify affected vehicles' owners by mail and to repair the defective parts, the spokeswoman said. The overseas recalls and repairs will be handled according to local laws, she said, without giving further details. Honda also plans to recall 72,597 Elysion minivans due to defective sliding door locks, according to separate documents filed yesterday with the ministry. The model is sold only in Japan, the spokeswoman said. Honda has received 27 complaints about the locks, but no reports of related accidents, the documents said. The company plans to replace the defective locks on affected vehicles, manufactured between April 2004 and November 2006, they said.

MICROCONTROLLERS USED IN CELLULAR COMMUNICATORS, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 15 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Feb 12, states: Atmel Corp., of San Jose, Calif. has voluntarily recalled approximately 4,000 Atmel Microcontrollers used in Honeywell Digital Cellular Communicators. The microcontroller in the communicator can enter an unrecoverable lock-up state due to a programming issue. The lock-up could result in a service interruption, and fail to transmit an alarm signal in the event of a fire or property invasion. Honeywell has received 39 reports of problems with the microcontroller where it reportedly entered an unrecoverable lock-up state. There have been no reports of failure to report an emergency and no reports of injury or property damage. The digital cellular communicator can be used as a primary means of security communications for a residence or business. The recall involves the Atmel microcontroller AT91SAM7S256 installed in Honeywell digital cellular communicator, Model 7845GSM. Distributors nationwide sold the recalled communicators to commercial installers from July 2006 through to October 2006 for about \$250.

MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Feb 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Mitsubishi Fuso Truck & Bus Corp said Tuesday (Feb 6) it will recall 55,057 heavy-duty trucks to fix faulty wheel hubs in light of an accident last October involving one of its Super Great trucks. The trucks, made between October 1990 and December 2005, are in five Super Great models as well as three The Great models, the company said in a recall report filed with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. The 55,057 include the 12,873 whose hubs were replaced by new ones in a series of recalls since March 2004 necessitated by a 2002 accident in which a wheel that came off a moving truck hit and killed a Yokohama woman and injured her children, it said.



AUSTRALIA

London, Feb 12 — Abbot point: Delay for vessel arriving today, two-seven days, delay for vessel arriving in one week, four-seven days. Hay Point & Dalrymple Bay: Number of vessels alongside: Hay Point: two, no. of vessels at anchor, Hay Point, 10. Delay for vessels arriving today seven to 20 days. Gladstone: No. of vessels at anchor 29, no. of vessels alongside, five.

Newcastle: No. of vessels alongside: four, no. of vessels at anchor, 61. Port Kembla: no. of vessels alongside one, no. of vessels at anchor, two. Dampier: No. of vessels alongside, three, no. of vessels at anchor, 12. Delay for vessels arriving today and arriving in one week, 5-8 days. Port Walcott: No. of vessels alongside, two, no. of vessels at anchor, 10. Port Hedland: Number of vessels alongside three, number of vessels at anchor, eight.

Sydney, Feb 13 — Coal ships arrived at the port of Newcastle at more than twice the rate that the coal chain could handle last week, pushing the port's queue to a new record. The vessel queue has now reached 61, breaking the previous record of 56 ships waiting in April 2004, and a significant jump from the 50 ships waiting at the start of last week. The queuing vessels are waiting to load more than 5.1m tonnes of coal. Port Waratah Coal Services (PWCS) typically loads 17-21 vessels a week, with the high arrival rate this week causing another 11 vessels to be added to the queue and putting more pressure on coal producers to find a solution. The five month-long battle to bring the queue down to a manageable level, about 20-25 ships, was complicated by scheduled maintenance in November, the decision by coal producers to dump a rationing system for the port and a high arrival rate. The 61 vessels said to be waiting yesterday were calculated as part of weekly reports carried out by the coal chain providers. The number may have been temporarily higher between the weekly reports, which are issued by the Newcastle Port Corporation and the Hunter Valley Coal Chain Logistics Team. The logistics team's report predicts that the queue will reach 69 within a fortnight, which could leave ships waiting for almost a month to enter the port and load coal. The continue queue blowout has coal producers worried, but there are no indications whether a working group established to find a solution to the delays will fast-track a decision on a possible rationing system. The coal producers voted in September to scrap a capacity balancing system, which took effect from Jan 1, but have since expressed a desire to return to some form of system that would ration the coal chain capacity in the short to medium term. Xstrata spokesman James Rikards said this morning that the working group had met but that it was too early to give specific information about what had been discussed. "Sixty-one ships is not in the interests of any party and demonstrates that a solution is needed now," Mr Rikards said. There is no publicised deadline for the working group to decide on a potential return to a rationing system, but with demurrage costs estimated to be collectively costing producers about \$1m a day, pressure to find a solution is mounting. The logistics team's report released yesterday showed that coal chain capacity was expected to drop to 6.6m tonnes of coal in

February, before increasing to 7.1m tonnes in March. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

Sydney, Feb 14 — Coal producers are being hit with further delays as Australia's big three coal ports battle congestion, two having set record coal queues this week. Just as the port of Newcastle's queue peaked at 61 ships this week comes news that the number of anchored ships waiting to berth at the port of Gladstone has topped 30. The port of Hay Point's coal queues have also surged in the last month. The combined queue for Hay Point and Dalrymple Bay was about 25 on Jan 4. Both terminals lost valuable loading days during last week's bad weather, with bulkers at one stage being removed from the berths until conditions improved. The combined queue at the port of Hay Point is now 46 ships. Gladstone's queue is believed to be a record and comes after the port experience its highest January arrival rate in six years — 134 vessels loading 5.1m tonnes, although only 70% of Gladstone's tonnage is coal. The news of the long queues is a further complication for producers already reeling from million dollar demurrage costs at the port of Newcastle. Central Queensland Ports Authority (CQPA) figures on recent coal output were outdated, but showed that the RG Tanna Coal Terminal loaded, on average, about 920,000 tonnes a week during January. Gladstone's coal queue was 12 ships just a month ago — a normal operating queue — but has steadily increased since. The port had 30 coal ships anchored off the coast this morning, including 26 waiting to enter the R.G Tanna Coal Terminal and four waiting to load at Barney Point. A \$600m expansion plan at Gladstone is due to push coal output to 65m tonnes this year. CQPA chief executive Leo Zussino said this afternoon that there continued to be strong demand for coal from Gladstone. The port had scheduled a four-day maintenance shutdown last week which was complicated by the breakdown of a Barney Point shiploader for several days. The Barney Point terminal had set a shiploading record of 270,000 tonnes of coal last week just before it needed repairs. Mr Zussino said the downtime and 14 new arrivals last week, had a big impact on the queue. "We expect that by Sunday the queue for RG Tanna will be at 20," Mr Zussino said. "We have a capacity balance between shiploading capacity and what the coal mines want to ship." The balance could be disrupted if heavy rains last week delay mine production. The commissioning of a new shiploader by early April could add another 8m tonnes of capacity ahead of the completion of a fourth berth in September. A similar situation is unfolding at the port of Hay Point, where 46 ships are now anchored off the coast waiting to load at either the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal (DBCT) or Hay Point Coal Services. DBCT's queue is likely to be considerably

higher than the 15-20 vessels waiting to berth about a month ago. However, the 46 ships includes vessels expected to berth at Hay Point. A queue of eight ships for Hay Point Coal Services is considered high, meaning either or both terminals are likely to be congested. DBCT's queue dropped to as low as five vessels during September last year. DBCT operations manager Greg Smith said last month, when the queue was less than 20, that the terminal was operating at 90% of its capacity and that coal producers would begin making an issue of demurrage costs if it grew any larger. It is unclear how many ships are expected to berth at either terminal. — Lloyd's List daily Commercial News.

BANGLADESH

Karachi, Feb 11 — The Bangladesh government, in a bid to ease container congestion at Chittagong Port, has decided to keep separate the containers bound for the two terminals: Chittagong Container Terminal (CCT) and New mooring Container Terminal (NCT). It said Chittagong Port is now jam-packed with export and import containers, having over 20,000 TEUs at different shades and seven vessels at the outer anchorage waiting to off-load another approximate 8,000 TEUs. Stevedores are also allowed to hire workers for clearance of containers at port yards. According to the local media, a high-profile meeting, with Terminal Manager Moshir Rahman Beg in the chair, reached the decision that import containers unloaded at the NCT would be kept there and export containers would also be loaded from the jetty. This jetty has a wide space vacant where a lot of containers can be kept. The new decision will, it is hoped, expedite the clearance of containers from the yard besides streamlining the business. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

COLOMBIA

London, Feb 14 — Colombian ports have come under increasing strain due to a string of difficulties in the country's most important port, Buenaventura. Severe delays in the only main port on the nation's Pacific coast have prompted shipping lines to call a crisis meeting with the ministry of transport to resolve the issue. A top delegation, including AP Moller-Maersk, met the government last month to urge it to take steps to transform the way the port is run. Lars Nielsen, Maersk Line's general manager in Colombia, said conditions in the port had reached intolerable service levels. "Waiting times are unacceptable as it stands at the moment," he said. "We need to have berthing windows. You cannot operate that facility without them." Container lines have imposed a surcharge of \$160 per teu for shippers using the port since September due to average waiting times of more than 12 hours. Vessels have experienced delays of up to 45 hours according to figures presented to the ministry of transport by

Mediterranean Shipping Co. MSC's figures suggest that delays have forced the cost of calling in Buenaventura up by nearly 400% to \$91,772 in some extreme cases. Dozens of ships have been forced to divert to other ports or skip calls in Colombia altogether. Lines are particularly sensitive to delays on the northbound leg where vessels heading through the Panama Canal have to meet tight schedules to transit the waterway, hit berth windows in Panamanian ports or face further delays. Sociedad Portuaria Regional de Buenaventura, the private manager of the port, has admitted it is limited in the steps it can take to offer berthing windows owing to the multi-purpose nature of the port and the diverse interests of its shareholders. As well as 622,233 teu, the port handled 5.1m tonnes of sugar, coffee, coal and grain cargoes last year. SPRBun's ability to improve operating conditions in the port is limited by a lack of control over cargo handling there. "We are not operators in Buenaventura," said Nancy Ceballos, managing director of SPRBun. "The people that do the operations are the stevedores. Precisely at this moment we want to create strategic alliances to be more efficient." She said the company would look at allocating berthing windows but was waiting for the arrival of new container handling equipment before doing so. SPRBun has ordered two new gantry cranes from Noell to complement existing gantries. The first of two cranes is due to arrive at the end of the year. Buenaventura's problems stretch back to May when landslides blocked the main road to the port, creating a backlog of cargo that the port has struggled to deal with. "It was operating at 140% of capacity with delays of three to six days for ships until [the lines] decided not to call," said Oliver Riebow, Kuehne + Nagel's national manager for seafreight. "If they saw ships waiting they would just keep going." The port, he said, was operating at 110% capacity as a result of the diversion of ships and cargoes to other ports but damage to a gantry and a mobile crane in December had resulted in more delays. Shippers have started to divert cargoes to Cartagena on the Atlantic coast, he said. But he added that vessels' calls at the port had placed its infrastructure under pressure as well. Maersk Group's terminal handling arm, APM Terminals, made a proposal to SPRBun's board of directors and the government where it promised to "eliminate the backlog in three months" if it was handed control of operations, said a government adviser.

ITALY

Genoa, Feb 12 — There are currently no vessels waiting for berths at Genoa and La Spezia. Savona: One vessel waiting normal berth. Average number delays delay in berthing 12-24 hrs. One vessel waiting special berth. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

Information received from BIMCO, Denmark and the Indian Ports Association Feb 14-15

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	19-Feb-2007	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 11 vessels due by 9/3.
Brisbane	19-Feb-2007	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 7 vessels due by 25/3.
Dalrymple Bay	19-Feb-2007	Coal: DBCT berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; DBCT berth 2: berth empty; 2 vessels waiting; DBCT berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; maintenance shutdown for approx. 3 days from 12/2; other vessels not scheduled: 24 vessels waiting; 22 vessels due by 8/3
Dampier	19-Feb-2007	Iron ore: Parker Point berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 7 waiting; 8 vessels due by 14/3; Parker Point berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; 3 vessels due by 26/2; Parker Point berth 3: dredging underway until the end of February; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; 7 vessels due by 2/3
Esperance	19-Feb-2007	Iron ore: 2 vessels due by 2/3
Geraldton	19-Feb-2007	Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed; 5 vessels due by 8/3; regular maintenance shutdowns are expected at berth No. 4 from approx. 19/3 during construction of a new iron ore berth No. 5
Gladstone	19-Feb-2007	Coal: R.G. Tanna (Clinton) coal terminal: 3 vessels berthed, 23 waiting; 36 vessels due by 5/4; Barney Point: 2 vessels waiting; 10 vessels due by 15/3
Hay Point	19-Feb-2007	Coal: Berth 1: berth closed for approx. 1 month for maintenance from 19/2; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 9 waiting; 4 other vessels waiting, not yet scheduled and 12 vessels due by 18/3, not yet scheduled
Newcastle	19-Feb-2007	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 3 vessels berthed and loading, 43 waiting; 41 vessels due by 15/3; 17-22 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; approx. 42 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 21 waiting; 23 vessels due by 17/3; 17-22 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 21 vessels off port awaiting coal
Port Hedland	19-Feb-2007	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 3 vessels waiting; 3 vessels due by 26/2; shiploader maintenance: 60 hrs. from 06.00 21/2 to 18.00 hrs. 23/2 and 48 hours from 18.00 hrs. 25/2 to 18.00 hrs. 27/2; "B" berth: 3 vessels waiting; 7 vessels due by 1/3; shiploader maintenance: 60 hrs. from 06.00 hrs. 19/2 to 18.00 hrs. 21/2 and 12 hours from 06.00 hrs. 28/2 to 18.00 hrs. 28/2; 7 other vessels due by 13/2, no e.t.a. received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: berth undergoing refurbishment and closed until further notice; Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 8 vessels due by 1/3; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel due 1/3
Port Kembla	19-Feb-2007	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 14 vessels due by 15/3.
Port Walcott	19-Feb-2007	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and completed loading, 10 waiting; 7 vessels due by 28/2; shippers may experience product shortage which might affect berthing schedules
Whyalla	19-Feb-2007	Iron ore: 4 vessels due by 23/3; 3 transshipping vessels due by 25/3 to load by barge at anchorage; ore jetty belt maintenance from 19-25/3 inclusive.
Azerbaijan		
Apsheron	19-Feb-2007	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 3 vessels berthed, of which 1 empty, 2 completed discharging, of which 1 light gasoil, 1 crude oil.
Baku	19-Feb-2007	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: 1 empty vessel berthed, completed discharging; Sangachal district: no vessels
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	19-Feb-2007	Two vessels in port operating, of which 1 discharging DRI, 1 under repairs; no vessels in roads; 7 vessels due, of which 2 to load (1 steel, 1 coils), 5 to discharge (1 zinc concentrate, 1 copper concentrate, 1 containers, 1 steel, 1 kaolin).
Varna	19-Feb-2007	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 12-18 February: Twenty-seven vessels in port operating of which 19 loading (2 sunflower seeds, 1 bulk wheat, 3 bulk sulphuric acid, 3 bulk clinker, 1 bagged chamotte/bulk kaolin/bagged kaolin/bulk silica sand, 1 bulk silica sand, 1 packed hardboard/ bagged STTP, 1 bagged dolomite/bagged silica sand, 1 scrap, 1 TSP/soda, 4 soda), 4 discharging (1 raw phosphate, 2 bulk coal, 1 containers), 4 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads

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Port Conditions

Cyprus

Larnaca	20-Feb-2007	No vessels operating, none due 21/2; no delays expected.
Limassol	20-Feb-2007	Five container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 2 conventional vessel discharging at berth; 6 container vessels, 2 conventional vessels and 2 Ro/Ros due 21/2; no delays expected

Egypt

Adabiya	19-Feb-2007	Four vessels berthed (loading/discharging), all general cargo
Alexandria	19-Feb-2007	Forty vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 23 general cargo, 12 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 4 container vessels; 6 vessels at inner anchorage, 15 at outer anchorage
Damietta	19-Feb-2007	Fifteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 9 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 4 container vessels; 5 vessels at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage
Dekheila	19-Feb-2007	Sixteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 5 general cargo, 8 bulk carriers, 3 container vessels; no vessels at outer anchorage
Port Said	19-Feb-2007	Four vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 2 container vessels
Suez	19-Feb-2007	Five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 2 passenger vessels; 2 tugs, 1 vessel dry-docked
Suez Canal	19-Feb-2007	Nineteen vessels transiting Northbound, 22 Southbound.

Eastonia

Tallinn	19-Feb-2007	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): no vessels berthed, none anchored; no vessels due, with 10 days berthing delay expected.
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India

Kolkata	19-Feb-2007	5 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Containers, 3 vessel discharging Containers, 1 vessel waiting to load General Cargo, 1 vessel working at midstream loading Iron Ore, 1 vessel waiting at midstream discharging Crude; 2 vessels working and waiting at anchorage to discharge; 5 vessels under repair; 1 vessel under dry docked; 1 vessel under arrest; 4 vessels due (Containers-3, Puls).
Haldia	19-Feb-2007	14 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Iron Ore-4, Thermal Coal), 7 vessels discharging (Coking Coal, Crud, Met Coke-2, POL, LPG, Steel), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers, 3 vessels waiting to load; 3 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 8 vessels waiting berth at anchorage (5 to discharge, 3 to load); 6 vessels due (Crude-2, Iore-2, Containers, POL).
Paradip	19-Feb-2007	9 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading Iron Ore, 6 vessels discharging (Coking Coal, L. Coke, Rock Phosphate, C. Clinker); 11 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (5 to discharge, 6 to load), 4 vessels waiting berth at anchorage (3 to load, 1 to discharge); 16 vessels due.
Visakhapatnam	19-Feb-2007	12 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Feld Spar, Steel Cargo, Soya), 8 vessels discharging (POL Product-2, Urea-2, Alumina, Pet Coke-2, Steel Pipes, Rock Phosphate, Lam Coke), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 5 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (3 to discharge, 2 to load); 1 vessel under arrest; 35 vessels due (Iron Ore-21, Pig Iron, Soya, Alumina, C P Coke, Sulphur, Rock Phosphate, Coking Coal-4, Tourist, Containers, Caustic Soda, Steam Coal, POL Product Tankers-4).
Chennai	19-Feb-2007	15 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Project Cargo, Granite Blocks, Iron Ore), 9 vessels discharging (HR Coil/Steel Plates, C P Oil, S. Coil/ Steel Pipe, Steel Scrap, Rock Phosphate, Thermal Coal, Steam Coal, C. Coal, C. Oil), 3 vessels loading and discharging (Project Granite Blocks, Containers-2); 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge; 5 vessels due (IOL, Cars, Orxyl, General Cargo, Thermal Coal).
Cochin	19-Feb-2007	3 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels discharging (Sulphur, Rock Phosphate), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load.
Tuticorin	19-Feb-2007	6 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading General Cargo, 3 vessels discharging (Logs, Thermal Coal-2); 2 vessels awaiting order at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load); 1 vessel under arrest.
New Mangalore	19-Feb-2007	5 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (POL Product, Granite Stone), 3 vessels discharging (Fertiliser, POL Crude, Coal); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 15 vessels due (Iron Ore (P), Containers, POL Crude-3, LPG-2, POL Product, Coal-2, Methanol-2, Iron Ore Fines-2, Phosphoric Acid).
Mormugao	19-Feb-2007	2 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Iron Ore, 1 vessel discharging High Speed Diesel & Motor Sprit/ Super Kerosene Oil, 9 vessels working at midstream and loading Iron Ore; 2 vessel under dry docked; 10 vessels due (Coal-2, Met Coke-2, Steel Coils & S. Slabs, Iron Ore-5).
Mumbai	19-Feb-2007	15 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels loading (Bagged Sugar/ SBM, SBM in Bulk, Steel/ Project Cargo-2), 5 vessels discharging (Steel Pipes, Coils Plates, Pellets, POL), 4 vessels loading and discharging (Steel Cargo/Project Cargo/Heavy Lift, Containers); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 12 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 5 vessels under arrest; 1 vessel under laid up (Berths

Port Conditions

J.N.P.T.	19-Feb-2007	not required for cargo operations); 31 vessels due (Containers-5, Oil, General Cargo-25). 8 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading RKO, 1 vessel discharging Cement, 6 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load and discharge; 1 vessel due Containers.
Kandla	19-Feb-2007	14 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels loading (Soya-4, Granite Marble Blocks, Rice), 5 vessels discharging (MOP, Timber Logs, Chemical, Phosphoric Acid-2), 3 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels not ready to work at anchorage to load.
Ennore	19-Feb-2007	1 vessel operating at berth discharging Iron Ore; 4 vessels due (MT Jag Payitra (POL), MV Good Season (Coal), MV Tamil Anna (Coal), MT Shogun (POL).
Israel		
Ashdod	19-Feb-2007	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel loading at berth, 10 vessels discharging at berth (5 general cargo, 5 bulkers), 1 tanker loading/discharging at berth; 7 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (3 general cargo, 4 bulkers); 15 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	19-Feb-2007	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 3 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	19-Feb-2007	No labour problems. Five vessels discharging at berth (2 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 10 loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 5 tankers, 1 passenger vessel); 8 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (7 containers, 1 tanker); 7 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 12 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	19-Feb-2007	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, both loading crude oil; 2 vessels in roads, both to load unknown cargo; 3 vessels due by 20/2, all to load unknown cargoes.
Pakistan		
Karachi	19-Feb-2007	Five vessels loading at berth (1 clinker, 3 rice, 1 general cargo), 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 2 vessels due (1 containers, 1 ethanol), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	19-Feb-2007	Two rice vessels loading at berth, 1 palm oil vessel discharging at berth; 4 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (4 containers, 1 fuel oil, 1 palm oil)
Russia		
Novorossiysk	19-Feb-2007	Twenty vessels in port operating, of which 17 loading, (1 bulk cement, 3 vegetable oil, 1 ammonium sulphate, 1 scrap, 1 pipes, 1 steel billets, 2 wheat, 1 slabs/coils, 1 pipes/steel billets/coils, 1 slabs, 1 copper, 1 wire rods, 1 slabs/pipes, 1 equipment), 3 discharging (2 bulk sugar, 1 zinc concentrate); 8 vessels waiting in roads, of which 5 to load (1 copper, 1 equipment, 1 pipes, 1 slabs, 1 H-beams/steel billets), 3 to discharge (2 bulk sugar, 1 equipment); 78 vessels due, of which 70 to load (2 HBI, 4 DRI, 7 copper, 16 steel billets, 7 coils, 3 slabs, 3 aluminium, 1 copper/copper WRIC, 1 copper WRIC, 2 steel billets/steel sheets, 4 vegetable oil, 1 vehicles, 3 pipes, 2 cellulose, 1 scrap, 2 barley, 1 bulk urea/bulk NPK, 1 WRIC, 1 pipes/wire rods, 1 bulk cement, 2 bulk urea, 2 wheat, 1 UAN solution, 1 lead, 1 pig-iron), 6 to discharge (2 bananas, 1 vegetable oil, 2 bulk sugar, 1 zinc concentrate), 2 to discharge/load containers. Oil terminal: 4 tankers berthed, all loading, of which 3 crude oil, 1 diesel oil; 6 tankers in roads, all to load, of which 5 crude oil, 1 diesel oil; 7 tankers due, all to load, of which 6 crude oil, 1 fuel oil.
Spain		
Bilbao	19-Feb-2007	Twenty-seven vessels operating (6 tankers, 21 other vessels), of which 5 loading, 12 discharging, 10 loading/discharging.
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	19-Feb-2007	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Eight container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 11 vessels discharging at berth (9 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement, 1 bulk LPG); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 bulk cement, 1 bulk base oil products; 4 vessels dry-docked; 7 vessels due (6 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement), with no delays expected.

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Port Conditions

Ukraine

Ilichevsk	19-Feb-2007	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (2 steel products, 1 iron ore concentrate, 1 sunflower oil, 1 wheat, 1 barley), 2 loading/discharging containers; 4 vessels in roads, of which 2 to load (1 steel products, 1 cars), 2 to load/ discharge containers; 14 vessels due, of which 8 to load (5 steel products, 1 sunflower oil, 1 pellets, 1 equipment), 1 to discharge palm oil, 5 to load/discharge containers.
Mariupol	19-Feb-2007	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (6 steel, 1 fire-clay, 1 sulphur, 1 sunflower beans/ husks), 1 discharging magnetite, 1 discharging/ loading equipment/steel; 5 vessels in roads, all to load steel; 36 vessels due, all to load, of which 19 steel, 3 fire-clay, 8 coal, 1 sulphur, 1 fire-clay/kaolin, 2 equipment, 2 coke
Odessa	19-Feb-2007	Twenty-two vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (6 metal, 2 scrap, 1 barley), 10 discharging (2 luggage, 1 general cargo, 1 citrus, 2 bananas, 2 sugar, 1 fish, 1 fertiliser), 1 discharging/loading containers, 2 passenger vessels; 4 vessels in roads, of which 2 to load metal, 2 to discharge sugar; 86 vessels due, of which 45 to load (26 metal, 8 pig-iron, 2 scrap, 3 wheat, 1 soya, 1 general cargo, 2 barley, 1 iron ore pellets, 1 corn), 8 to discharge (2 metal, 2 citrus, 1 general cargo, 2 bananas, 1 sugar), 33 to discharge/load containers.

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