

## Erika trial told of cancelled Mayday call

Situation was 'under control', writes Andrew Spurrier in Paris – Friday 16 March 2007

**THE court hearing the Erika trial in Paris has been told that the tanker's master cancelled a mayday call the day before it broke up and sank despite having detected cracks on its deck and a ballast tank half full of oil.**

Karun Mathur, who is not present at the trial, told French investigators that he became aware that the vessel was listing abnormally to starboard shortly after midday on Saturday, December 11.

The heavy seas prevailing at the time prevented an inspection of all the vessel's ballast tanks but an inspection of the two number four ballast tanks indicated that ballast water levels had not changed since departure from the port of Dunkirk.

The master ordered that ballast levels in the two tanks were reduced in an attempt to eliminate the list.

Shortly after 1400 hrs, however, he was obliged to send a first distress call. The vessel was listing by up to 15° and the master admitted to French investigators: "I was afraid the ship would capsize."

But a few minutes later he noted that the list had diminished, apparently under the effect of the deballasting, and he was able to turn his ship about and inspect the forward part of the deck, which had been largely under water previously.

At this point he discovered three cracks on the deck at the level of the number two starboard ballast tank and indications of heavy leakage of fuel oil from the number three central cargo tank to the adjacent number two ballast tank as well as some leakage into the sea.

The cracks varied from one to 1.7 m in length and from 1 cm-5 cm in width and were accompanied by "folds" in the deck

plating which were 5 cm or 6 cm high and two or more metres long.

The number two starboard ballast tank, which had been virtually empty, was half full of oil, while the level of fuel oil in the number three cargo tank had fallen sharply.

However, at 1434 hrs Capt Mathur cancelled his mayday call, telling the French coastguard service that he had the situation under control. He said that he would continue to monitor the situation but made no mention of the cracks or the cargo leakage.

A few minutes later he nevertheless referred to the cracks and leakage in telephone and telex messages he sent to Antonio Pollara, head of the vessel's technical manager, Panship Management.

He indicated in those messages that oil was leaking from the ship into the sea and that he suspected that the vessel was suffering from "hull failure".

The court heard that subsequently Capt Pollara contacted his collaborators, the vessel's insurers, its commercial manager and its owner but not the French authorities, a task he entrusted later to the vessel's French agent.

Asked by court president Jean-Baptiste Parlos why he had not contacted the French authorities directly as stipulated by Panship's own safety procedures, he said: "It would not have changed anything. Only the insurer (P&I club) could provide the means to intervene."

He added that he did not consider it necessary to contact the French authorities himself since he knew that the master was in contact with them and claimed that in any case it was more efficient to contact the authorities through the company's representatives in France.

Earlier, French coastguard officers were asked why they had not asked the master of the Erika about the reasons for the list he had reported.

Mr Parlos said: "One can be astonished by the lack of curiosity of the CROSS (coastguard station) at that time."

But coastguard officer Jean-Luc Lejeune told the court that following the master's mayday he had been preoccupied by the possibility that he would have to launch a rescue operation to save the Erika's crew.

"In the circumstances we were in, it did not enter my mind that he (the master) had not given an explanation of the list," he added.

He said that when the master cancelled his mayday and said that he had the situation under control he had taken him at his word as a "professional".

There followed extensive questioning of other French coastguard service officers as well as of Capt Pollara and the Erika's owner and commercial managers regarding their reactions to the news of the vessel's difficulties on December 11.

At the end of this session Mr Parlos created some surprise by coming to the defence of the absent Capt Mathur.

Noting that certain defendants had explained their own behaviour by indicating that it was the master's prerogative to take certain courses of action, he said that in the master's defence it should be recalled that he was in an extremely worrying situation in difficult weather and sea conditions.

Was it reasonable, he asked in a rhetorical question, to claim that "everything which should have been done and was not done should have been done by the master"?

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
ACACIA	ro-ro	VCT	NV	13,436	9,640	1974	Reported in lat 36 38.1N, long 27 10.1E, Mar 4 with mechanical failure. Towed to Kos and anchored awaiting class inspector. Towed to Piraeus for repairs.
AYU PERMATA	general	IDN	KI	5,045	8,621	1978	Grounded in lat 30 58 36N, long 122 10 18E, following ingress of water.
BBC ICELAND	general	ATG	GL	4,086	4,806	1999	Lost power in bad weather in lat 66 32.9N, long 11 50.9E, Mar 2. Towed to Sandnessjoen
KHOROL	refrig	KOR	—	5,286	4,809	1990	Assisted safely into Port Angeles due engine problems Mar 2. Repairs under way. Still anchored at Port Angeles Mar 8.
KING EDWARD	chem/oil tanker	MHL	NV	23,240	37,384	2004	Discovered sunk near Sapperton Dock, Fraser River, BC, in lat 49 13N, long 122 53W, Mar 7. To be raised.
KOEI MARU	dredger	JPN	—	421	1,292	1985	Stranded in lat 34 10 17N, long 132 22 22E, Mar 7. Tug proceeding.
LARGS BAY	naval auxiliary	GBR	LR	20,000	13,000	2006	Reported Mar 3 in lat 50 13.62N, long 06 00.8W, restricted manoeuvrability following fire in port transformer-room. Continued passage for Plymouth, still with problems. Arrived Plymouth Sound Mar 6.
MAI	fish carrier	BLZ	LR	3,938	2,836	1988	Dragged anchor and grounded at Busan in strong winds Mar 4. Salvage commenced Mar 8, ETC Mar 14.
MARINA Z	trawler	ARG	—	110	—	1966	Reported Mar 4 being towed in lat 41 32S, long 64 06W, bound San Antonio port
NORDICA HAV	general	BHS	GL	1,514	1,900	1982	Had engine problems in lat 46 39N, long 03 14W, and reported under tow of tug <i>Abeille Languedoc</i> Mar 2, bound St.Nazaire. Arrived same day. Repairs ETC Mar 7.
REPUBBLICA DI GENOVA	ro-ro/ container	ITA	RI	42,567	25,450	1988	Capsized alongside berth at Verrebroek Dock, Antwerp, Mar 8. Crew disembarked. Some containers fallen into water.
SCOT PIONEER	general	GBR	GL	1,587	1,901	1984	While entering Brunsbuttel locks, Kiel Canal, Mar 3 a buoy and chain entangled with propeller. Buoy torn off and stuck fast on propeller. Tug assisted vessel and towed her to berth in Brunsbuttel.
SEREZ	general	TUR	—	3,964	6,225	1976	Had engine trouble in lat 40 13N, long 26 25E, during passage near Dardanelles Mar 2. Repaired engine Mar 4 and proceeded.
TIAN HE	general	PAN	CS	5,546	6,637	1985	Dragged anchor and grounded on coast of Taejongdae, Busan, Mar 4. Twenty crew rescued. Heavy damage to bottom, engine-room flooded. Still aground Mar 8.
XIN JING HAI	bulker	CHN	CS	36,983	68,377	1988	Grounded near Shantou Mar 6. Refloated same day by salvors and crew.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



## ACACIA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Mar 5 — Roll On Roll Off *Acacia* (13436 gt, built 1974), with 27 persons on board, was reported in lat 36 38.1N, long 27 10.1E, with mechanical failure. (Note — *Acacia* was due Limassol Mar 5 from Piraeus.)

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1230, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Acacia* reported propeller problems at 0830, UTC, yesterday. Vessel is now at anchor at Kos anchorage awaiting a class inspector.

London, Mar 6 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the morning of Mar 4 the master of Roll On Roll Off *Acacia* reported engine damage while sailing between islet Gali and rocky islets Stroggili, in lat 36 38N, long 27 10E. Immediately Coast Guard patrol boats were despatched to assist the crew and look for any pollution. The vessel was towed into Kos by tug *Demosthenes Giannisis*. The vessel's departure has been prohibited until issuance of a class maintain certificate. Previously vessel had departed from Piraeus bound for Cyprus with 27 crew on board and a cargo of vehicles.

Piraeus, Mar 7 — Roll On Roll Off *Acacia*, Piraeus for Cyprus, had a mechanical failure near to the island of Yali Mar 4. The said vessel was towed to Kos and subsequently to Piraeus for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

## ACCORD (Philippines)

Manila, Mar 2 — General cargo *Accord* remains grounded near the 625-hectare Curangon shoal in Malinao town, Albay. Avega Shipping Services, operator of *Accord*, said that they were still awaiting instructions from the National Food Authority (NFA) on what to do with the remaining rice. The NFA owns the 58,000 bags of rice carried by the vessel. About 4,900 bags of rice have already been offloaded. The NFA, however, has not decided what to do with the remaining rice, most of which has been spoiled by seawater and fuel oil. The remaining rice has to be offloaded before *Accord* can be refloated. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

## AFRICAN TRADER (Greece)

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1200 UTC: Bulker *African Trader* (8431 gt, built 1982), loaded, in collision with general cargo *Suez Express* (17109 gt, built 1982), berthing with two tugs and pilot on board, in Douala port at 2130, UTC, Mar 7. *African Trader* damaged on starboard bow and class surveyor attending. Damage minor.

## AKTI (Panama)

Piraeus, Feb 28 — Bulker *Akti* sailed Piraeus Feb 27 for Argentina. — Lloyd's Agents.

Piraeus, Mar 8 — Our salvage tug *Megas Alexandros* sailed from its Piraeus salvage station at 0630, local time, Feb 16, to assist bulker *Akti*, disabled 10 miles off the east coast of Crete. Vessel was laden with 33,006 tonnes of phosphate in bulk. *Megas Alexandros* safely towed the casualty to Piraeus at 1355, Feb 19. — Alexander G.Tsavliris & Sons.

## AL BARAKAT 1 (Bolivia)

Chittagong, Mar 8 — According to the local agent of chemical tanker *Al Barakat I* they are now under the process of purchasing some parts for engine repairs. After completion of purchase repairs will be undertaken. Vessel is present lying idle at RM-9. — Lloyd's Agents.

## AMELIA (Cambodia)

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1215, UTC: Bulker *Amelia* (17107 gt, built 1976), berthed at Castellon, broke mooring lines due heavy wind and in collision with general cargo *Viana do Castelo* (2977 gt, built 1992) and general cargo *Ryshkany* (4966 gt, built 1973), both berthed at castellon, at 0745, UTC, today. Extent of damages unknown.

## ANTONIA (Croatia)

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Rijeka MRCC, timed 1135, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Antonia* (231 gt, built 1990), Dubrovnik for Split, in ballast, with five persons on board, reported aground at 2125, UTC, yesterday in lat 43 35N, long 17 01E. Vessel is still aground. No damage or leakage/pollution reported. At the moment an underwater inspection is being carried out.

## AYU PERMATA (Indonesia)

London, Mar 8 — Understand general cargo *Ayu Permata* (5045 gt, built 1978), Wewek for Yangzhou, cargo logs, was reported Mar 6 to have been put aground in lat 30 58 36N, long 122 10 18E, following ingress of water. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Ayu Permata* was still in the same position at 0608, UTC, today.)

## BALTIMAR BOREAS (Bahamas)

London, Mar 7 — General cargo *Baltimar Boreas* sailed Newcastle, AUS, Mar 5.

## BBC ICELAND (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Bodo RCC, timed 0955, UTC: General cargo *BBC Iceland* (4086 gt, built 1999) lost power in lat 66 32.9N, long 11 50.9E, Mar 2 in bad weather. The vessel was held in place by a coastal rescue vessel until tugs *Boa Siw* and *BB Worker* arrived on scene. *BBC Iceland* was subsequently towed into Sandnessjoen.

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

**BBC PLATA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Mar 8 — General cargo *BBC Plata* arrived Corpus Christi Mar 4.

**BLUE STAR (Panama)**

See *THE 205*.

**BOS EN LOMMER (Netherlands)**

Portsmouth, Mar 5 — Inland general cargo *Bos en Lommer* (727 gt, built 1975) and inland non specific tanker *Majestic* (1927 gt) in collision early this afternoon on gelderse IJssel off the Havikerwaard. *Bos en Lommer* had a breach forward and also damage to the engine and rudder. The KLPD are investigating the cause of the collision.

**BOW FAVOUR (NIS)**

London, Mar 7 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS chemical tanker *Bow Favour* was moored at ASRY shipyard, Bahrain, at 0855, UTC, today.

**BULOU NI CEVA (Fiji)**

Suva, Mar 4 — The situation of passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva* remains unchanged mainly because the local insurers has declined the owners claim. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CAMILLA DESGAGNES (Barbados)**

London, Mar 1 — Roll On Roll Off *Camilla Desgagnes* sailed from Saint John(CAN) on/about Feb 24.

**CELTIC MIST (Cyprus)**

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

**CHACABUCO (Liberia)**

London, Mar 6 — Container Carrier *Chacabuco* sailed from off Singapore Mar 2, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was three nautical miles from Sha Tin, China, at 0643, UTC, today.

**CHELSEA-4 (Georgia)**

Bucharest, Mar 5 — General cargo *Chelsea-4* sailed Constantza Mar 4 for Tekirdag. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CLEARWATER (Netherlands)**

London, Mar 4 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: On Mar 2 (? Mar 1) the tugs *Fairplay* and *Smit Clyde* assisted chemical tanker *Clearwater* (1631 gt, built 1995) which had sustained problems in rough seas off the Dutch coast in the Maas estuary. They towed the vessel to port.

Maassluis, Mar 5 — Chemical tanker *Clearwater* arrived Rotterdam under tow, from just outside of the Hook of Holland. The weather conditions were not good at that time. The vessel's minor engine problems were repaired and she sailed the next day. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Clearwater* was reported arriving Rotterdam at 1610 hrs, Mar 1 and sailing at 1925 hrs, Mar 2.)

**CLIPPER LIS (Bahamas)**

Piraeus, Mar 8 — Our salvage tug *Fotiy Krylov* sailed from its Azores salvage station pm, Feb 16, to assist bulker *Clipper Lis*, disabled about 70 miles north-west of the Azores. Vessel was loaded with 22,612 tonnes of citrus pulp pellets. Apparently local port tug(s) had been unable to assist due to

adverse weather conditions. *Fotiy Krylov* towed the casualty to Ponta Delgada, arriving at 1009, Feb 17. — Tsavlis Russ (Worldwide Salvage & Towage) Ltd.

**CONTI HARMONY (Cyprus)**

London, Mar 2 — Container Carrier *Conti Harmony* arrived at Osaka Mar 1.

Yokohama, Mar 6 — Upon completion of repairs on Mar 1 Container Carrier *Conti Harmony* sailed to Osaka port where it arrived same day and sailed Mar 2 for Colon. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CORONIS (Bahamas)**

London, Mar 6 — Bulker *Coronis* arrived Gdansk, 2300, local time, Mar 1.

**CURRENT (Comoros)**

Piraeus, Mar 5 — General cargo *Current* sailed Piraeus Mar 1 for Eleusis. — Lloyd's Agents.

**DJANGO (Philippines)**

Manila, Mar 2 — The Philippine Coast Guard today reported as negative the presence of an oil slick coming from the disabled tug *Django* in Pandan town in Antique Island, central Philippines. The Coast Guard Western Visayas regional office reported that an investigating team found no oil contamination in the area. "It was a negative incident, there was no oil spill. There were no sightings of an oil slick in the area," Coast Guard officials said. Residents of Pandan said that on Tuesday (Feb 27) they had discovered a 10-metre oil slick contaminating their coastline. The oil slick was reported to have come from *Django* which was anchored off Patria Point undergoing repairs to its engine. Coast Guard officials that the oil may have escaped from *Django* during repairs, but the amount was so small that it dissipated in a few days. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Mar 8 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that tug *Django* completed repairs to its engine and left Patria Point in Antique island on Mar 5. The tug, towing a barge loaded with heavy equipment and steel bars, was headed for General Santos City. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**DOLORES 835 (Belize)**

Manila, Mar 2 — Afloat repairs are being carried out on fishing (general) *Dolores 835* at the Calumpang Wharf, General Santos City, in southern Philippines. The vessel caught fire on Feb 20 while moored at the Calumpang Wharf. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**EAGLE (U.S.A.)**

Portsmouth, UK, Mar 4 — The SSA's ferry *Eagle* (276 gt, built 1987) was removed from service Saturday (Mar 3) night after one of its diesel fuel tanks was discovered leaking. The 2000 hrs.Hyannis to Nantucket trip was cancelled and the vessel will be offline until the leak is repaired and the bilges cleaned, SSA officials said. The boat line's freight vessels and possibly an offline vessel will be used to transport vehicles to and from the island in the meantime, SSA officials said.

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: SSA's ferry *Eagle* returned to service last night after it was taken off-line Saturday when one of its diesel fuel tanks was discovered leaking. The 2000 hrs Hyannis to Nantucket trip Saturday was cancelled, and the vessel was removed from service while the leak was repaired and the bilges cleaned, SSA officials said. The boat line's freight vessels were used to transport vehicles to and from the island in the meantime.

**ELEVEN (Belize)**

Suva, Mar 4 — Fishing (general) *Eleven* remains stuck on the reef. No attempt was made to remove the vessel after the fire. It's understood the hull of the vessel is intact, with the insides of the superstructure gutted. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Eleven* was found abandoned and aground in Suva Harbour on Jun 12.

**ELLIDA ACE (Panama)**

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: bulker *Ellida Ace* (85350 gt, built 1996) was still berthed at Qingdao Beihei Shipyard, for repairs, on Mar 7. She still had an "unofficial" waterline of barnacles and marks from the Yokohama fenders, which makes it likely she is in fact still unrepaired. No paint has been applied to her topsides or boot-topping.

**EVER UNION (Cambodia)**

Yokohama, Mar 2 — General cargo *Ever Union* (1287 gt, built 1987), Dalian for Sakaisemboku, ran aground in shallows in lat 33 57.52N, long 130 49.09E at 0320, local time, Feb 27. Refloated under own power at 0525, local time, Feb 27. Scratching damage to bottom, no water ingress or oil spill reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

**FAIRPARTNER (Netherlands)**

Port Said, Mar 4 — General cargo *Fairpartner* completed repairs after three hours and resumed its passage again with the Southbound convoy the same day and cleared the Canal at Suez at 0600 hrs, Mar 1. — Lloyd's Agents.

**FALCON (U.K.)**

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Coastguard Swansea MRCC, timed 1025, UTC: General cargo *Falcon* (1382 gt, built 1991) reported a engine problem at 0615, UTC, today. The vessel's master believes one of his engines has seized. The vessel is now proceeding to Swansea where eta 1800, UTC. (Note — *Falcon* sailed Beverwijk 2055, Mar 3 for Glasson Dock, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 51 31 50.27N, long 04 55 15.37W, at 1019, UTC, speed 4.2 knots, course 120.1 degrees.)

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC, timed 1159, UTC: General cargo *Falcon*, Beverwijk for Glasson Dock, cargo 2,050 tonnes fertilizer, reported engine problems, port engine seized, in lat 51 34.4N, long 05 22.5W, at 0614, UTC. At 0743, UTC, vessel heading to Swansea Docks for engine repairs. Risk

assessment being carried out by vessel and port authority prior to vessel arriving off Swansea Docks. Wind west force 3 (gentle breeze).

**FIONE (Panama)**

London, Mar 3 — General cargo *Fione* arrived at Ipswich at 0242 hrs, Mar 2, from Rouen.

**FOSTRAUM (NIS)**

London, Mar 1 — River traffic in the River Elbe was temporarily shut down yesterday after approximately 300 litres of heavy fuel spilled from chemical tanker *Fostraum* (2470 gt, built 1991) at Butzfleth. Local Coast Guards and oil pollution vessels quickly attended and promptly contained the spill. The cause of the spill is still to be established but early indications are that it was most likely caused during the transfer of oil between tanks onboard the vessel.

London, Mar 2 — Chemical tanker *Fostraum* sailed from Hamburg at 1619 hrs, Mar 1, bound for Delfzijl.

London, Mar 4 — Chemical tanker *Fostraum* arrived at Delfzijl at 0914 hrs, Mar 3.

**GARIP (Slovakia)**

London, Mar 2 — General cargo *Garip* was reported passing Istanbul, into the Black Sea, at 0352 hrs, Mar 1, with a reported destination of Tuapse.

London, Mar 7 — General cargo *Garip* arrived Tuapse Mar 2 and sailed Mar 4 for Gebze.

**GERJA (Netherlands)**

London, Mar 2 — A report, dated Mar 1, states: Tug *Multrasalvor* and floating sheerleg crane *Delta* have arrived Vlissingen after assisting inland cargo vessel *Gerja*. After *Gerja's* shifted cargo was corrected it was refloated and subsequently proceeded on voyage.

London, Mar 2 — Inland cargo vessel *Gerja* was refloated at about 0200, local time, yesterday. At high tide the floating sheerleg crane *Delta* managed to secure the 445 tons of steel rolls in its hold and the vessel was then refloated by tug *Multrasalvor*. *Gerja* could then proceed on voyage. The operation has been co-ordinated by Mutraship Towage & Salvage, Terneuzen.

**GOLDEN GLORY (Bahamas)**

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

**GRACECHURCH JUPITER (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Falmouth, Mar 5 — Container Carrier *Gracechurch Jupiter* completed repairs and sailed Falmouth 0750, Mar 3 for Liverpool. — Lloyd's Agents.

**GRACIA (Malta)**

London, Mar 2 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0205, UTC: Understand all 25 crew members of bulker *Gracia* were safely rescued by container *Ever Gaining*, ETA Durban, Mar 4. It is reported the *Gracia* has sunk but this is unconfirmed.

London, Mar 2 — Following received from Reunion MRCC, timed 0945, UTC:

Since bulker *Gracia* was abandoned there has been no further information regarding the state of the vessel.

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The crew of bulker *Gracia* picked up in the Indian Ocean by a South African vessel on Thursday (Mar 1), numbered 23. The vessel was hit by a storm in the Indian Ocean 200 km east of the Reunion Island on Thursday. In view of the vessel's poor condition and the bad weather the crew made a decision to abandon the vessel.

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Container carrier *Ever Gaining* berthed in Durban this morning bringing 23 rescued seafarers off bulker *Gracia*. The 23 sailors, who are made up of Eastern Europeans and West Africans were picked up by the Evergreen container ship after having abandoned their vessel in the aftermath of Cyclone "Gamede" off the southern coast of Madagascar. Their vessel had experienced engine failure at the height of the storm in which waves of 17 metres were experienced, causing the crew to fear for their lives. There are conflicting reports about whether *Gracia* has sunk or is still afloat. The vessel, was on a voyage from Thailand to West Africa with a cargo of rice and is on charter to a Dutch-based company.

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Reunion MRCC, timed 1935, UTC: Bulker *Gracia* has been located at 1850, UTC, today, by fishing *Cap Cloe*, in lat 24 48S, long 51 56E. The general state seems good. List of 20 deg portside, with water passed under port deck. No oil leak.

**GRAMPIAN GUARDIAN (U.K.)**

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated Jan 17, states: Standby safety vessel *Grampian Guardian* which sparked a rescue alert off the Shetlands last month, after losing a rudder, has been towed into the Wear for repairs. *Grampian Guardian* arrived off Sunderland from Lerwick last Wednesday (Jan 10) evening under tow by tug I.Susanne A. After berthing at Greenwells Quay with assistance from the SvitzerWijsmuller tug *Maltby Cross*, it was dry-docked at Wear Dock and Engineering's yard and is expected to remain for about two weeks. (Note — *Grampian Guardian* arrived Sunderland 1908, Jan 10 and sailed 1924, Jan 19.

**HAGONOY (Philippines)**

Manila, Mar 8 — Repairs to non specific tanker *Hagonoy* were completed on Mar 7, at Herma Shipyard at Mariveles, Bataan province. The vessel is now undergoing "housekeeping" activities. Sea trials are scheduled for tomorrow, after which the vessel will undergo an inspection by Petron Corp. officials. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**IKA NO.7**

Suva, Mar 4 — Vessel *Ika No.7* is listed as one of the derelict vessels and currently the vessel is still lying in Suva Harbour — Lloyd's Agents.

**IL SUNG T-1 (South Korea)**

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: About 50,000 litres of oil leaked from a ship (tug *Il Sung T-1*, 134 gt, built 1975) that ran aground near Sogwipo, Cheju (Jeju) Island, yesterday evening. The maritime police are trying to remove the oil but are having difficulty due to the high waves.

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Cheju Maritime Police, timed 1530, UTC: The vessel that ran aground off Jeju Island yesterday was tug *Il Sung T-1*, DSOW8.

Busan, Mar 8 — Tug *Il Sung T-1* still remains grounded at the site without salvage or wreck removal operation schedule fixed. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**INVIKEN (Bahamas)**

London, Mar 2 — Bulker *Inviken* sailed from Quebec on/about Mar 1.

**IRIS (Panama)**

London, Mar 5 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS Container Carrier *Iris* was still at anchor at Singapore at 1105, UTC, today.

Singapore, Mar 8 — Container Carrier *Iris* remains at Western Working Anchorage, Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

**JAGUAR (Philippines)**

Manila, Mar 2 — General cargo *Jaguar* finished unloading its cargo of 4,900 bags of rice on Feb 28 at Tabaco Port. The rice is part of the 58,000 bags carried by general cargo *Accord* which ran aground near the 625-hectare Curangon shoal in Malinao town, Albay on Jan 17. Most of the rice was destroyed by seawater and leaking oil. The unspoiled rice was offloaded onto the *Jaguar* which arrived on site on Feb 14. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**JO ROGN (NIS)**

Port Said, Mar 8 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Jo Rogn* (23189 gt, built 1980, from Indonesia) had fire in the engine-room at 1220, Mar 7 when vessel arrived Suez. Fire was extinguished with the assistance of Suez Canal Authority tugs and vessel is now effecting the necessary repairs. — Lloyd's Agents

**K.PEGASUS (Fiji)**

Suva, Mar 5 — Fishing (general) *K.Pegasus* was towed to Suva by another vessel *Unicorn*. Date of arrival was Feb 27. The owners are currently waiting for instructions from the insurers in Korea in order to commence repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

**KAAPSTAD II (Netherlands)**

Portsmouth, UK, Mar 1 — A report, dated Feb 26, states: On the old Meuse at Heerjansdam at around 0930 this morning there was a collision between the inland non specific tanker *Kaapstad II* and the training vessel *Tender I* (?standby safety vessel *Tender I* (237 gt, built 1954). The tanker was loaded with 2400 barrels of gasoline and as a result of the collision a small quantity of gasoline leaked into the water. The tanker is now at Dordrecht

offloading its cargo to another tanker. *Tender I* wasn't damaged. — Correspondent.

### KAIJIN

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated Mar 4, states: The masters of tugs *Kaijin* and tug *Kaijin No.2* have been ordered to suspend operations following an incident in which a crane on a dredger being towed by their tugs damaged power lines in August, causing a major blackout in the metropolitan area. The Yokohama Local Marine Accidents Inquiry Agency ordered Eiji Wada, master of *Kaijin No.2*, to halt operations for two months, and Kenji Kibata, master of *Kaijin*, to suspend operations for one month and 15 days. In handing down the ruling Thursday (Mar 1), presiding Judge Toyomitsu Imaizumi said: "The route was insufficiently marked out beforehand, and the masters neglected to properly observe their course at the time of the accident. Failure to confirm the route's safety was the reason (of the accident)." Marine accident investigators had demanded suspensions of one month and 15 days for Wada, and one month for Kibata. The punishments handed down were unusual in that they were longer than those sought. The agency also recommended that Gaku Aoki the operator of the dredger, and Mikuniya Kensetsu, the company that owns the tugs, take steps to prevent a recurrence of the accident. The crane damaged power lines over the former main tributary of the Edogawa river running along the border of Tokyo and Chiba Prefecture, affecting about 1.39 million households. The judge concluded that the accident was caused by a series of human errors. He pointed out that Wada overlooked the power lines when he surveyed the course two days before the accident, and did not properly check his maps. Imaizumi said Kibata had taken the same route about 20 times, and had assumed there were no power lines in the area. Imaizumi concluded, "Mr. Aoki raised the crane without checking it was safe to do so, thereby causing the accident."

### KAIJIN NO.2

See *Kaijin*.

### KAMAL XXVIII (India)

Kochi, Mar 2 — The Rail Bridge connecting the mainland with Kochi Port has been closed for traffic since Feb 24, after cutter suction dredger *Kamal XXVIII* collided with one of the columns of the bridge. An inspection by technical experts recommended the immediate suspension of all rail traffic. It is reported that the affected column will be strengthened within three months and all container movements via the rail bridge will be suspended for this period. However, container movements to the port via road is progressing smoothly. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated Mar 3, states: Thoroughfare through the Venduruthy Bridge will be resumed from Friday (Mar 2) night.

The authorities took the decision after obtaining the report of the experts who gauged the impact of the accident. The traffic along the bridge was stopped after it was struck by cutter suction dredger *Kamal XXVIII*. Rail traffic will be restored only after completing the repair works. (See issue of Mar 5.)

Kochi, Mar 5 — cutter suction dredger *Kamal XXVIII* while moving near the Venduruthy Bridge, near Kochi Port, on Feb 24 it lost control and struck one of the piers of the railway bridge. The dredger only sustained minor damage. Understand the the dredger is scheduled to undergo dry-docking at Kochi Shipyard, however, availability of the facility at the shipyard yet to be known. Following the accident there was no fuel spillage/pollution and no crew injuries. The weather at the time was fair. No vessel traffic was affected due to the accident. Railway bridge traffic was immediately suspended as one of the column was broken. The dredger is presently lying near the rail bridge and awaiting accommodation in the dry dock at Cochin Shipyard. — Lloyd's Agents.

### KAPTAN NEVZAT KACAR (Turkey)

Piraeus, Mar 8 — Our salvage tug *Fotiy Krylov* sailed from its Azores salvage station at 2240, UTC, Feb 5, to assist bulker *Kaptan Nevzat Kacar* 300 miles south-west of the Azores. It was loaded with 24,000 tons of bulk corn. *Fotiy Krylov* towed casualty to Ponta Delgada, arriving at 2032, UTC, Feb 10. — Tsavliris Russ (Worldwide Salvage & Towage) Ltd.

### KHOROL

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Department of Merchant Shipping, Cyprus: Refrigerated general cargo *Khorol* was deleted from the Cyprus Registry on Dec 19.

### KHOROL (Cyprus)

London, Mar 5 — A Coast Guard Port Angeles press release, dated Mar 4, states: The rescue tug *Gladiator* stationed at Neah Bay this weekend is assisting refrigerated general cargo *Khorol* (5286 gt, built 1990) safely into Port Angeles and remains on standby while engine repairs are completed. *Khorol* was headed for the Puget Sound when it reported engine problems to Coast Guard Sector Seattle late Friday (Mar 2) evening. The Coast Guard directed the ship to stay offshore until *Gladiator*, a rescue tug funded by the Washington Department of Ecology, could reach the ship to escort it into Port Angeles for engine repair. Crews on *Khorol* made emergency engine repairs at sea, but about three miles outside Port Angeles, the engine failed. The rescue tug, already escorting the vessel, then brought it in to Port Angeles. *Gladiator* will be on standby in the harbour until engine repairs on the ship are completed. Ecology and the Coast Guard will oversee repairs before the vessel is allowed to continue its journey. The agent for *Khorol* has been attempting to find a relief tug since early yesterday, so the *Gladiator* can return to its regular duties at Neah Bay.

### KHOROL (South Korea)

London, Mar 8 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS refrigerated general cargo *Khorol* was still at anchor at Port Angeles.

### KIMBERLY JANE (U.S.A.)

Chicago, Mar 1 — The lower Ohio River has reopened to barge traffic after being shut for more than 12 hours after tug *Kimberly Jane* struck a lock and a barge, leaking a petrochemical into the waterway, the US Coast Guard said today. The stretch of the river near Brookport, Illinois, reopened around 2230 hrs, yesterday (0430, UTC, today), said Lt. Wayne Chapman at the Marine Safety Unit in Paducah, Kentucky. The closure was from mile marker 938 to 940. The barge was carrying 960,000 gallons of cumene or isopropylbenzene, a colourless liquid used in paint thinners, motor fuels and rubber. The closure did not greatly affect the flow of grain or petroleum on the waterway, traders said. The damaged barge remains on the river, with traffic limited to one direction for a mile in either direction of the vessel. About 10,300 gallons of cumene leaked into the river, but further contamination was not expected, Chapman said. — Reuters.

London, Mar 1 — A US Coast Guard press release, issued today, states: Efforts continue today to remove 164,285 gallons of Cumene from a damaged barge in the vicinity of Lock and Dam 52, near Brookport, IL. It is estimated that approximately 10,300 gallons of Cumene have been released from a damaged cargo tank. Kirby Inland Marine Representatives report that a large portion of the spilled product remains in the barge void and that an undetermined amount has entered the water. The barge is loaded with a total of 960,000 gallons of Cumene stored in six separate cargo tanks. During the evening of Feb 28, plans were in place for an empty tank barge to arrive on scene so that lightering operations could begin. While attempting to couple the empty barge with the damaged barge, the tug *Louie Leone*, sustained damage after striking the lock wall at Lock and Dam 52. Lightering operations were delayed until damage on *Louie Leone* could be determined and the vessel stabilized. Divers are expected to arrive today to conduct assessment of the tug and perform temporary repairs. The damaged barge *Kirby 31300* refloated due to a rise in the river level and has been relocated approximately 2 mile down stream. Lightering operations are expected to begin today once the *Louie Leone* is safely transported from the scene. Severe weather is forecasted across the area today and is expected to delay the lightering operation. After extensive chemical related atmosphere testing by the Coast Guard, Kentucky and Illinois Civil Support Teams, and Kirby Inland Marine, the Ohio River was reopened at 2230 hrs, yesterday, to vessel traffic.

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Traffic is returning back to normal today on the Ohio River

as crews begin unloading tug *Kimberly Jane* damaged this week on the river. The barge hit a lock wall near the southern Illinois town of Brookport Tuesday (Mar 1) night and spilled about 10,300 gallons of a toxic chemical. No evacuations or injuries resulted from the accident. Much of the chemical remained trapped in the void between the barge's inner tank and the vessel's outer hull. The amount that actually made its way into the water should be known once crews unload the remaining chemical in the barge. The barge is owned by Houston-based Kirby Inland Marine.

London, Mar 3 — A press release, dated Mar 2, issued by the US Coast Guard, states: Emergency offloading of cumene from the damaged cargo tank and void of the Kirby Barge 31300 in the vicinity of Lock and Dam 52, near Brookport, IL, is complete. Prior to the emergency offloading, Coast Guard personnel examined the transfer arrangements and detected no safety issues. Throughout the transfer, extensive air monitoring in the vicinity of the barge was conducted by the Coast Guard, local hazardous material agencies, Kentucky and Illinois Civil Support Teams, and Kirby Inland Marine to detect any hazardous conditions. Testing results indicated very low health and safety risk to the public and personnel aboard the barge and in the vicinity of the barge. Offloading of the remaining cargo will be performed today and is expected to be completed by late afternoon. Kirby Inland Marine and Coast Guard personnel will then inspect the damaged barge. Plans will then be made for making temporary and permanent repairs to the damaged barge. The Coast Guard marine casualty investigation continues.

**KING EDWARD (Canada)**

London, Mar 7 — Dredger *King Edward* (510 gt, built 1963) was found sunk near Sapperton Dock, in lat 49 13N, long 122 53W, in Fraser River, British Columbia, at 1440, PST, Mar 5. No hazard and minimal pollution reported. Owners intend to refloat the vessel in the next few days.

**KOEI MARU (Japan)**

London, Mar 7 — Following navigation warning issued today: Stranded "cargo" vessel, 421 tons (suction dredger *Koei Maru*, 421 gt, built 1985) exists in lat 34 10 17N, long 132 22 22E.

London, Mar 7 — Suction dredger *Koei Maru*, JK4621, is still aground. A tug is enroute to assist.

**KYROS (Cook Islands)**

Trondheim, Mar 6 — General cargo *Kyros* arrived Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra, Feb 26 for gear repairs and no average repairs carried out. Repairs completed and vessel sailed Mar 2 for Rorvik. — Lloyd's Agents.

**LADY GLORIA (Italy)**

London, Mar 2 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS general cargo *Lady Gloria* was moored in lat 36 30 05.04N, long 06 15 41.34W (Cadiz area) at 1145, UTC, today.

Cadiz, Mar 2 — General cargo *Lady Gloria* is having her main engine (a piston failure) repaired and will leave port in a couple of days to its next destination. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 8 — General cargo *Lady Gloria* arrived Leixoes 0327, Mar 6, from Cadiz.

**LARGS BAY (U.K.)**

London, Mar 4 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0816, UTC: At 1905, UTC, Mar 3, it was reported that Naval Auxiliary Vessel *Largs Bay* (20000 gt, built 2006), in lat 50 13.62N, long 06 00.8W, had reported restricted manoeuvrability following a fire in its port transformer room. Coastguard ETV tasked. ETV was released at 0550, UTC, today and *Largs Bay* has continued passage to Plymouth, where ETA 0900, UTC.

London, Mar 6 — Naval Auxiliary Vessel *Largs Bay*, bound for Plymouth, reported in lat 50 10N, long 04 23.6W, drifting five miles west of Eddystone light. Lost engine power and steering due to engine-room fire on Mar 3, now reduced power and restricted steerage due to weather conditions. Wind south-south-west, gale force 8 to storm force 10, poor visibility, overcast and rain.

London, Mar 6 — Following received from Brixham Coastguard MRSC, timed 0938, UTC: Telephone call was received from Deputy QHM, Plymouth reporting Naval Auxiliary Vessel *Largs Bay*, in lat 50 10.2N, long 04 29.4W, under reduced power and proceeding to Falmouth Bay. Requested location of MCA ETV. Vessel remained in area under limited power with no tugs immediately available due to weather conditions. ETV tug/supply *Anglian Princess* was tasked to stand by *Largs Bay* until weather abated for it to enter Plymouth Sound. At 0925, UTC, *Largs Bay* now inside Plymouth Sound with harbour tugs *Careful*, *Forceful* and *Adept* assisting it to Delta Buoy. *Anglian Princess* released.

**MAI (Japan)**

Busan, Mar 6 — During Sunday (Mar 4) night and yesterday morning there was sudden strong wind with part rain at and near the Busan area. At about 2240 Sunday while barge *Mai*, 2283 gt, built 2003, was lying anchored at the Busan Southern Harbour, Busan, the barge ran aground at Joongri, Youngdo, Busan after dragging anchor. One crew on board the barge was safely rescued. No cargo was loaded on board the barge. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Busan, Mar 8 — The salvage operation of barge *Mai* commenced today by a local salvage company and expected to be completed by Mar 14. The barge is expected to drydock at Busan after refloating. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**MAJESTIC (Netherlands)**

See *Bos en Lommer*.

**MARINA Z (Argentina)**

London, Mar 5 — Following navigation warning issued Mar 4: Fishing *Siempre San Salvador* towing trawler *Marina Z* (110 gt, built 1966) in

lat 41 32S, long 64 06W, line length 350 metres, speed four knots, course 315. bound for San Antonio port.

**MISTRAL EXPRESS (Morocco)**

London, Mar 4 — Passenger ro/ro *Mistral Express* was reported sailing from Nador at 0921 hrs, Mar 3, bound for Cadiz.

**MONTROSE (Liberia)**

London, Mar 1 — A report from Venice, dated Mar 1, states: Motia Compagnia di Navigazione S.p.a., managers of bulker *Montrose*, today reported that the vessel grounded on a soft bottom at the entrance to the Choptank River, Chesapeake Bay, at 0615, local time, Feb 28. Two pilots were on board at the time of the grounding and no damage to the vessel or any pollution has been reported. Two tugs have been in attendance, assisted by the US Coast Guard. First attempt to refloat the vessel did not succeed. Motia has submitted a plan to the US Coast Guard to bring in two further larger tugs to attempt to pull the vessel clear at high tide today, which is at 1700, local time. A lightering plan is also prepared in case the refloat operation is not successful.

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Four tugs were unable to refloat bulker *Montrose* which is stuck in the mouth of the Choptank River near Cambridge. A spokesman said that the Coast Guard tried again at high tide this afternoon to move the 711-foot vessel, using four tugs after trying with two yesterday. Now, the owners of the vessel will have to submit a salvage plan, which the Coast Guard and the Maryland Department of the Environment will review. *Montrose* was heading from Sparrows Point to the mouth of the bay when it grounded. How it veered out of the bay's main shipping channel remains under investigation.

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Montrose* is still aground. Four tugs attempted to refloat the vessel yesterday afternoon but by last night, *Montrose* remained lodged in the sandy bottom near the mouth of the Choptank River. The Coast Guard said the vessel's owners were working on a plan to try again today. Capt. Eric Nielsen, president of the Association of Maryland Pilots, declined to speculate what might have caused the grounding of *Montrose*. Officials declined to identify the pilots who were handling the ship. State and Coast Guard officials are still investigating what happened. *Montrose's* had sailed from China into Baltimore's Sparrows Point terminal, arriving Sunday (Feb 25). It unloaded coke that will be used to make iron, said David Allen, a spokesman for Mittal Steel, which owns Sparrows Point. From there, *Montrose* proceeded to Canton and docked at CNX Marine Terminals, a subsidiary of Pittsburgh-based CONSOL Energy Inc, which mines and transports coal overseas. It took more than 24 hours to load *Montrose* with CONSOL coal, a metallurgical variety used in steel-

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making. The shipment was bound for Romania, said John Pucher, operations manager of T. Parker Host, the agent representing the coal loaders. Two senior pilots, each with about 30 years experience, boarded *Montrose* in Baltimore to accompany it on its 16-hour journey down the bay.

London, Mar 2 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1445, UTC: Bulker *Montrose* is still aground. Discussion are currently taking place regarding lightering plan for the vessel.

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Efforts to free bulker *Montrose*, stuck in the mouth of the Choptank River, are expected to continue today. Four tugs weren't enough to move the vessel yesterday. The owners now have to submit a salvage plan, which the Coast Guard and the Maryland Department of the Environment will review. How she left the main shipping channel and became stuck is under investigation.

London, Mar 3 — A press release, issued by the US Coast Guard, dated Mar 2, states: The Coast Guard Captain of the Port of Baltimore has established a unified command to re-float the Liberian flagged bulker *Montrose*, grounded two-miles North West of Sharp's Island, in the Chesapeake Bay. The Unified Command is comprised of the Coast Guard, the Maryland Natural Resource Police and the Maryland Department of the Environment and has reviewed a salvage plan to lighter the vessel. Motia and ECM Maritime Services have contracted Resolve Marine Group to prepare and perform a cargo lightering operation to assist in refloating the vessel. Plans are being prepared in accordance with agency approval to remove an estimated 7500 metric tons of the coal cargo. This process is anticipated to begin over the weekend lasting approximately 36 hours. There have been no reports of injuries or pollution at this time. The crew of the *Montrose* will remain onboard during the lightering process. The vessel currently has 74,000 metric tons of coal and 210,000 gallons of fuel oil onboard. The Coast Guard Cutter *Albacore* is enforcing a 500-yard security zone around the vessel. The lightering process will be conducted using a barge with a crane onboard using a clamshell bucket. The Unified Command anticipates coal dust to enter the water during the lightering process. Contractors will make every effort to minimize the amount of coal dust dissipated into the environment. The Unified Command had 2,400-feet of 42-inch boom on stand by in case of emergency.

London Mar 4 — A press report dated Mar 3, states: The owners of a huge freighter that ran aground three days ago in the Chesapeake Bay have devised a new plan to try to free the vessel, officials said yesterday. The next attempt to rescue bulker *Montrose*, a 712-foot coal carrier stuck near the mouth of the Choptank River, could begin today or tomorrow and should be completed in 36 hours,

according to Lt. Isaac Saenz, a Coast Guard spokesman. Overseeing the project with the Coast Guard will be Maryland's Natural Resources Police and Department of the Environment, Saenz said. The vessel's crew reported it stranded in 40-foot waters early Wednesday (Feb 28). Since then, two attempts to move *Montrose* with heavy-duty tugs failed. The new plan includes the removal of about 8,500 tons of coal from the vessel, said Saenz. The idea, he said, is to lighten the vessel, allowing its bow to ease out of the sandy bottom. Timing will depend largely on how long it takes to move equipment to the site, including a barge equipped with a crane. The vessel, which is owned by Brentwood BV, apparently sustained no structural damage, poses no hazard to shipping and has shown no signs of leaking any of its 210,000 gallons of fuel or other pollutants, officials said. Officials expect some coal dust to enter the water, but most will dissipate, Saenz said. The Coast Guard cutter *Albacore* will remain on the site to enforce a 500-yard security zone around *Montrose*. The crew will stay on board during the operation. "This could go into early next week," said Saenz. "But it looks like it might get started over the weekend."

London, Mar 4 — A US Coast Guard press release, dated Mar 3, states: A Unified Command is scheduled to transfer coal tomorrow from bulker *Montrose* in order to refloat the vessel in Chesapeake Bay. The lightering process should begin tomorrow morning. Once afloat, the vessel will be taken to safe anchorage for inspection. The Coast Guard Cutter *Cochito* is enforcing a 500-yard safety zone for the vessel. There have been no reports of pollution or injuries. However, the transfer of coal will generate dust in the air and may cause discoloration in the water.

London, Mar 5 — A Coast Guard Baltimore press release, dated Mar 4, states: Responders with the Unified Command have launched operations to transfer coal from bulker *Montrose* to a barge along side it at about 1500 today in the Chesapeake Bay. *Montrose* is carrying 74,215 tonnes of coal. A crane operator is transferring approximately seven tons of coal with each load. Experts estimated the operation to take 36 hours to remove the amount of coal needed to refloat the ship. The next phase of the operation will remove the barges as responders attempt to refloat the ship. Once afloat, the ship will be taken to safe anchorage for inspection. Coast Guard cutter *Cochito* is currently enforcing a 500-yard safety zone for the ship. Coast Guard cutter *Capstan* is scheduled to relieve *Cochito* at midnight.

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated Mar 4, states: The US Coastguard reports that operations are scheduled to begin today to transfer coal from bulker *Montrose* which stranded in Chesapeake Bay this week. The *Montrose*, carrying 74,215 tonnes of coal, ran soft aground Wednesday (Feb 28) near Sharps Island, Md. The

lightering operation should begin this morning. Once afloat, the ship will be taken to safe anchorage for inspection. The Coast Guard Cutter *Cochito* is enforcing a 500-yard safety zone for the vessel. The coast guard say that there have been no reports of pollution or injuries. However, it reminds people that the transfer of coal will generate dust in the air and may cause discoloration in the water. There have been two attempts to move the vessel utilising tugs from the Moran Towing company, but these have been unsuccessful. It is hoped that by removing some of the cargo the vessel will be light enough to float free from the sandbank it is stuck on.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated Mar 5, states: A Virginia-based Coast Guard cutter is protecting the area around a cargo ship that's being unloaded after it ran aground in the Chesapeake Bay. Crews are transferring coal from bulker *Montrose*, which ran aground Wednesday near Sharps Island, Maryland. A crane operator began transferring coal late yesterday. Experts estimated the operation would take 36 hours to remove the amount of coal needed to re-float the ship. The next phase of the operation will remove the barges as responders attempt to re-float the ship. Once afloat, the ship will be taken to safe anchorage for inspection. The Coast Guard Cutter *Cochito*, based in Portsmouth, is one of two ships enforcing a 500-yard safety zone for the ship. The cutter *Capstan*, based in Philadelphia, is alternating shifts with *Cochito*.

London, Mar 6 — A Coast Guard Baltimore press release, dated Mar 5, states: Operations are underway in an effort to refloat bulker *Montrose*. Crews under the direction of the Unified Command began the lightering process at approximately 1500 yesterday. Since then, approximately 4,800 tons of coal have been transferred from the ship to an attached barge. If weather permits, crews on-scene anticipate having the coal of *Montrose* transferred to nearby barges by 0600 tomorrow. When the coal transfer evolution is complete, de-ballasting will begin. De-ballasting is the removal of water that was used to keep the ship stable during the lightering process. Attempts to refloat *Montrose* are scheduled to begin at approximately 1600 tomorrow, weather permitting. Once afloat, the ship will be taken to a safe anchorage where it will undergo an underwater dive inspection. The Unified Command consists of the Coast Guard, ECM Maritime Services, Resolve Marine Group, Maryland Natural Resources Police, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of the Environment, and Motia Navigation who is the operator of the *Montrose*.

London, Mar 6 — A U.S. Coast Guard press released, dated today, states: Responders to bulker *Montrose* stopped offloading coal at about 1900 hrs, yesterday, as weather conditions worsened in the Chesapeake Bay. "The strong winds and increased seas



resulted in suspension of the cargo off-loading activities. As safety is our primary focus, we will stand down until weather becomes favourable," said Tim Dickensheets, a Unified Command representative on behalf of the *Montrose*. The transfer of coal stopped 2,000 metric tons short of the Unified Command's goal of 7,100. Crews, under the direction of the Unified Command, began the lightering process Sunday (Mar 4) afternoon at approximately 1500 hrs. When the crews resume, it is expected to take approximately 10 hours to complete. When the lightering is complete, de-ballasting will begin. Once afloat, the vessel will be taken to a safe anchorage where it will undergo an underwater dive inspection. The cause of the incident is under investigation. (See issue of Mar 7.)

London, Mar 7 — A Coast Guard Baltimore press release, dated Mar 6, states: As weather conditions improved, crews at bulker *Montrose* resumed coal transfer operations at 1357 today in the Chesapeake Bay. At about 1900 yesterday the crews had to suspend operations due to the weather. They were able to move approximately 5,100 tonnes of coal from the ship since Sunday. If weather permits, the crews are scheduled to finish lightering a total of 7,100 tonnes of coal by midnight.

London, Mar 7 — A Coast Guard Baltimore press release, dated today, states: Bulker *Montrose* began its trip to safe anchorage in the Chesapeake Bay at about 0740 today. Divers will conduct an underwater inspection after its arrival 12 miles south of where it ran aground. Crews working for the Unified Command met their goal of transferring approximately 7,100 tonnes of coal to a barge alongside at about 2200 yesterday.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Montrose* was freed this morning, one week after it became stuck off the coast of Tilghman Island. Workers tried for nearly three days to unload a portion of the 74,000 tons of coal aboard the carrier before finally finishing the job late last night. It took another eight hours to remove the vessel's ballast water. Once its load was lightened, four tugs wrested *Montrose* off the shoal. The vessel, which was bound for Romania, is now anchored at Solomons Island, where the Coast Guard is inspecting it. Underwater divers will also examine the vessel's bottom to make sure it is not damaged, Coast Guard Petty Officer Christopher Evanson said. "If all is well with the inspection, and they're given the go-ahead, the coal will be placed back on the ship, and they'll continue on to Romania, where they were headed," Evanson said. The Coast Guard's investigation will continue after the *Montrose* leaves, officials said. The state, which licenses the bay pilots that guide vessels through the bay en route to the ocean, may also investigate the incident.

London, Mar 8 — A United States Coast Guard press release, dated Mar 7, states: Bulker *Montrose* began its

trip to safe anchorage in the Chesapeake Bay at about 0740, local time, today. Divers will conduct an underwater inspection after its arrival 12 miles south of where it ran aground. The divers will look for any damage under the ship. The vessel was carrying 74,215 metric tons of coal when it ran aground Feb 28 near Sharps Island, Md. Multiple tug boats working together were unable to free *Montrose* from being stuck and a Unified Command determined coal needed to be offloaded to refloat the ship. Crews working for the Unified Command met their goal of transferring approximately 7,100 metric tons of coal to a barge alongside at about 2000, hrs, Tuesday. Their operations were suspended Monday evening due to inclement weather and resumed Tuesday afternoon. After they transferred the coal, crews on the ship began de-ballasting.

**MORNING EXPRESS (Panama)**

Singapore, Mar 8 — Product tanker *Morning Express* is still at Eastern Petroleum Anchorage, Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MSC COLOMBIA (U.K.)**

Portsmouth, Mar 2 — Container Carrier *MSC Colombia* (51931 gt, built 1996) experienced mechanical failure on approach to Felixstowe at approximately 1200 today. This occurred with the pilot on board whilst in the deepwater channel leading to Harwich Harbour. Anchors were dropped and vessel came to a halt in the north side of the channel by Nos 7 and 8 buoys. Two tugs were on the scene immediately as they had been requested to assist her movement in the harbour anyway. A further two tugs were deployed and they attended minutes later. The four tugs assisted vessel into the harbour area and it was safely moored at its berth. One of the vessel's eight-tonne anchors was lost in the deepwater channel and all deep draught vessels are using the southern side of the channel as a precaution. The voyage into Felixstowe had already been delayed by a few hours. — Correspondent. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, *MSC Colombia* was located stationary in lat 51 57 53.16N, long 01 17 05.28E, at 1423, UTC, today.)

Zeebrugge, Mar 4 — Container Carrier *MSC Colombia* arrived Antwerp 0040, local time, Mar 4, from Las Palmas. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**MSC KATHERINE ANN (Panama)**

See *OOCL Qingdao*.

**MSC NAPOLI (U.K.)**

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated Mar 4, states: An operation to salvage more containers from Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* has again been hampered by weather conditions. All 853 containers have been removed from the deck of the vessel, but work on removing more from the hold could not go ahead today because of gale force winds. The weather is also likely to disrupt the

operation through next week. About 1,350 containers are still in the hold. They will be lifted off the vessel and taken to Portland in Dorset.

**MSC SUEZ (Panama)**

London, Mar 2 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS Container Carrier *MSC Suez* was still moored at Adelaide at 1253, UTC, today.

Adelaide, Mar 6 — Understand from agents of container carrier *MSC Suez* that there was a "small engine fire aboard the vessel resulting in minimal damage only and no injuries". The vessel has now sailed out of Adelaide bound Singapore via Fremantle, Western Australia. — Lloyd's Agents.

**NAUTILUS (Netherlands)**

London, Mar 7 — A SMIT Salvage BV report states: Hopper dredger *Nautilus* was successfully parbuckled at the end of February and will now be dewatered. After having cleaned debris the hopper dredger will be redelivered to the owners. After having finalised this contract floating crane *Taklift 7* will immediately depart for the salvage operation of heavy lift vessel *Mighty Servant 3* in Angola.

**NIJORD (Malta)**

London, Mar 8 — General cargo *Nijord*, Riga for Cardiff, passed Brunsbittel Mar 5, ETA Cardiff Mar 9.

**NISSHIN MARU (Japan)**

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The Institute of Cetacean Research, in conjunction with Kyodo Senpaku and the government of Japan, said yesterday that the Antarctic whale "research programme" for the 2006/2007 austral summer season will be cut short as a result of a fire aboard the fish factory *Nisshin Maru*. Kyodo Senpaku operates the vessels used by the Institute of Cetacean Research, ICR, to carry out its whaling programmes. The target this season was up to 935 minke whales and 10 endangered fin whales. The ICR has not released figures on the number of whales actually taken. The Institute's Director General, Dr. Hiroshi Hatanaka said that after completing a thorough assessment of the *Nisshin Maru* following the Feb 15 fire, it was concluded that some of research equipment could not be recovered, and the ICR "could not responsibly pursue the research activities as originally planned." He added: "While full power was restored, a more detailed inspection over the last few days shows that the *Nisshin Maru* is unable to be fully repaired at sea. The repository, where much of the equipment and tools used for biological research are stored, was heavily damaged, which will not allow for the programme to continue in the Antarctic for this summer." Upon returning to Japan, the *Nisshin Maru* will undergo inspection to investigate the cause of the fire, after which it will enter dock for a thorough refurbishment and preparation for whaling in the western North Pacific later this year. Dr. Hatanaka said that Japan's

Programme in the Antarctic is a long-term research program and will resume in December.

**NORDICA HAV (Bahamas)**

London, Mar 2 — Following received from Etel MRCC, timed 1015, UTC: General cargo *Nordica Hav* (1514 gt, built 1982) reported engine problems in lat 46 39N, long 03 14W. Vessel is now being towed by salvage tug *Abeille Languedoc* to St. Nazaire. (Note — *Nordic Hav* sailed Aviles 1805, Feb 28 for Mistley.)

London, Mar 2 — Following received from Etel MRCC, timed 1852, UTC: General cargo *Nordica Hav*, in convoy, reported in front of St. Nazaire harbour and expected to be secured alongside in approximately one hour.

London, Mar 2 — Following received from Etel MRCC, timed 2030, UTC: General cargo *Nordica Hav* secured alongside St. Nazaire harbour approximately 2015 hrs.

Nantes, Mar 5 — On Friday evening (Mar 2) general cargo *Nordica Hav*, on voyage from Aviles to UK, was towed by the salvage tug *Abeille Languedoc* to St. Nazaire, after a breakdown of its injection pump. Repairs should be completed on Wednesday (Mar 7) morning. — Lloyd's Agents.

**NORDKAPP (NIS)**

London, Mar 3 — Passenger ro/ro *Nordkapp* sailed from Montevideo on Feb 23 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS, at 0644, UTC, today, was reported in port at Niteroi.

**OANA CRISTINA (Romania)**

Lisbon, Mar 5 — As per our sub-agent in Setubal, general cargo *Oana Cristina* arrived on Feb 25, from Eregli, with rudder problems. She was inspected, but the technicians did not find any damages. The vessel kept always anchored at the port of Setubal. Today she was berthed, to be supplied with water and gasoil, and she is expected to sail today to Birkenhead. — Lloyd's Agents.

**OCEAN SAPPHIRE (Singapore)**

See *S.A.Helderberg*.

**OOCL QINGDAO (Hong Kong)**

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1833, UTC: Following received from Gris Nez MRCC, timed 0950, UTC: At 0300, UTC, reported collision between Container Carrier *OOCL Qingdao* (89097 gt, built 2004), Jeddah for Hamburg with general cargo in containers, and general cargo *MSC Katherine Ann* (17700 gt, built 1985), Bristol for Antwerp with general cargo in containers, in position lat 50 53N, long 01 22E. At 0304, UTC, Container Carrier *OOCL Qingdao* reported rudder problems, but situation now under control. At 0310, UTC, radio contact between *OOCL Qingdao* and *MSC Katherine Ann* requesting explanations concerning the collision. *MSC Katherine Ann* asked why *OOCL Qingdao* did not report her deficiency. *OOCL Qingdao* said that *MSC Katherine Ann* was overtaking vessel

and had to give way. At 0320, UTC, both vessels confirmed collision and light damages limited to bulkward, no losing of cargo or fuel. Tug *Anglian Monarch* requested to task position at 0400, UTC, and released at 0600, UTC. At 0550, UTC, after further checks, both vessels confirmed only light damages. (Note: According to Lloyd's MIU AIS system, at 1855, UTC, today, *OOCL Qingdao* was in lat 53 33.35.64N, long 05 24.52.56E, speed 15.3 knots, course 072 degrees.)

Zeebrugge, Mar 7 — General cargo *MSC Katherine Ann* arrived Antwerp Mar 5 and sailed Mar 7 for Vigo. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**OSTEDIJK (Netherlands)**

London, Mar 2 — A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV report, dated today, states: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage yesterday re-delivered general cargo *Ostedijk* back to its owners upon the vessel having safely berthed in the port of Bilbao. The COD was subsequently signed at 1200, local time.

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Work has started in Bilbao of unloading the 6,000 tons of fertiliser being carried by general cargo *Ostedijk*. The part of the cargo which is not burnt is being transferred to warehouses in Bilbao.

**PELICAN (South Africa)**

London, Mar 2 — Cape Town is without a bunker barging service at present after the KZN Oils tank barge *Pelican* (769 gt, built 1966) was taken out of service because it was found on inspection to be out of class. The barge has for several years provided the only barging service in the port, while at the same time the port's pipelines have become less and less adequate to the task. The owners of *Pelican*, Durban-based KZN Oils says it intends replacing the barge with a newbuild, but so far there's been no confirmation that a contract for its construction has been signed. A new barge would take a little over a year to be built either locally or overseas. KZN Oils has been negotiating with local shipyards since the third quarter of last year but until recently no orders had been confirmed. Unless *Pelican* can receive sufficient repairs to have it returned to class it would appear that the port of Cape Town may have to continue to do without a barging service.

**POLAR KING (U.S.A.)**

Honolulu, Mar 5 — Tug *Polar King*, towing barge *Pacific Trader*, arrived Honolulu Mar 4. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Mar 4 — Following received from Yarmouth Coastguard, timed 0353, UTC: At 0241, UTC, today, passenger ro/ro *Pride of Hull* (59925 gt, built 2001), Rotterdam for Hull, reported external fire to starboard funnel casing. Ships fire party investigated and extinguished fire. Investigation and inspection by Humber-side MIRC team and surveyor upon arrival in Hull at 0700, UTC.

Maassluis, Mar 6 — Passenger ro/ro *Pride of Hull* arrived Rotterdam 0755, Mar 5, from Hull, and sailed 2230, same day, for Hull. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**PRUDENCE (Netherlands)**

London, Mar 8 — General cargo *Prudence* sailed Howdendyke Mar 6 for Hansweert, where arrived Mar 7.

**REGAL PRINCESS (Bermuda)**

London, Mar 2 — According to the web cam on passenger (cruise) *Regal Princess* the vessel was shown drydocking at Balboa at 1725, UTC, Mar 1.

London, Mar 5 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS passenger (cruise) *Regal Princess* was still at Balboa.

**REPUBBLICA DI GENOVA (Italy)**

Maassluis, Mar 8 — At 0530, local time, today, passenger ro/ro *Repubblica di Genova* (42567 gt, built 1988) started listing by 20 degrees, alongside berth no. 1339/1341, Kallo area, Antwerp. Fifteen minutes later the vessel was more or less capsized and half sunk. Crew have all disembarked and all authorities are on alert/standby. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 8 — Passenger ro/ro *Repubblica di Genova* has capsized in the Verrebroek Dock, Antwerp. Some containers have fallen in the water. All crew left the vessel in time according to the harbour authorities. The cause of this accident is not known yet.

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A container vessel (passenger ro/ro *Repubblica di Genova*) capsized during loading today in the port of Antwerp, but caused no injuries, officials said. The cause of the capsizing of the vessel of the London-based Grimaldi Lines, was not immediately clear, authorities said. Port of Antwerp Captain Jan Persi said the vessel slowly rolled onto its starboard side in a dead end dock early in the morning. He said the ship began taking on water and that the master ordered the crew to evacuate. The vessel lay resting on its side, part of its hull above the waterline in the dock. Karel Verbeke, head of Grimaldi Belgium, told the VRT radio network that about 100 containers and cars had fallen overboard and that retrieving them "will take a few days." Shipping in and out of the Verrebroekdock was halted.

**RIKA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Maassluis, Mar 7 — General cargo *Rika* (1925 gt, built 1978), while leaving Bath, had an engine failure and grounded around 1150 today. Tugs are underway. Before survey the nautical committee must give permission. Surveyors have been informed and are underway. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Rika* sailed Chatham Mar 6 for Antwerp.)

Zeebrugge, May 7 — General cargo *Rika* was refloated approximately 1220, UTC, and is now awaiting inspection after which vessel will probably continue on voyage to Antwerp. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — According

to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Rika* was in lat 51 20 57N, long 04 16 09E, at 1253, UTC, speed 2.8 knots.)

London, Mar 7 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS general cargo *Rika* was in lat 51 20 09N, long 04 18 03E, at 1539, UTC, speed 5.9 knots.

Zeebrugge, Mar 8 — General cargo *Rika* arrived Antwerp 1530, Mar 7, from Sheerness. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**RIVER PRINCESS**

Mumbai, Mar 8 — The Deputy Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Wilfred de Souza, today reassured that bulk ore carrier *River Princess* would definitely be refloated and towed away within the scheduled time frame of April-end this year. Dr. de Souza, who is also the Tourism minister, said that he had maintained a strict vigil over the salvage operation of the vessel by obtaining regular progress reports from the salvage company, Jaisu Shipping, Gujrat in co-ordination with the official consultants, Indian Register of Shipping. He said initially, Jaisu Shipping was hoping to remove the ship by Mar 15 but the Indian Register of Shipping said March end. Now the Indian Register of Shipping has extended the date to Apr 15 but the ship will surely be removed at least by April end, which is in accordance with the agreement, Dr de Souza said. He said the company is bound to meet the deadline because there is a heavy fine of Rs. 1 lakh per day. He said that while Jaisu Shipping managed to repair one generator on the ship, it was having difficulty in repairing the second generator and probably the delay was because of that, Dr de Souza said. Once the ship is refloated and towed away to a depth of between 200 to 500 meters in the ocean, the government's responsibility ends. But it was unlikely that the company would sink that ship because it had substantial scrap value, Dr de Souza said. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ROKIA DELMAS (Panama)**

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Rokia Delmas* is to be dismantled and removed at last after having ran aground and remained fast since October last year. She ran aground on rocks off the Ile de Re after sustaining engine failure in the early hours of Oct 24. Since then the hapless vessel has remained there, weathering the Atlantic storms and increasingly being in danger of breaking up on the spot. In November she was declared a total loss by insurers, meaning the 21 year old ship was never going to be towed off and repaired. Now she will be lightened by removal of as much of her superstructure as possible and her hull will then be removed from the area with as much regard to ecological concerns as possible. Three companies have been chosen to co-ordinate their efforts in this endeavour: Smit, Scaldis and Les Abeilles International.

**ROMMEL (Philippines)**

Manila, Mar 5 — The Philippine Coast Guard in a belated report said

that the sunken tug *Rommel* was raised on Feb 11. After refloating, the vessel was moved to shore where welding work was undertaken and patches were applied to the holes in its hull. The vessel was then towed to Manila where it is now drydocked. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**ROTORUA (Marshall Islands)**

London, Mar 5 — At 1155, EST, Mar 3, in the port of Montreal, Quebec, a container fell in a cargo hold of Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Rotorua* (16075 gt, built 1993) and perforated the double bottom tank top.

**ROYAL SOVEREIGN (U.K.)**

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated Mar 4, states: Fishing *Royal Sovereign* (53 gt, built 1984), carrying six crew, had to be towed back to shore after it began to sink. *Royal Sovereign* got into trouble a mile and a half south of Beachy Head yesterday. They were rescued by Newhaven Lifeboat at 1430 hrs, who had been doing a training exercise with Seaford Lifeboats nearby. It is not known what caused the leak on the 56-foot crabbing boat but lifeguards said the decks were covered with water and the incident could have been serious. But no-one was injured and the lifeboat pumped the water out of the boat and towed it into Sovereign Harbour, Eastbourne

**ROZEN**

**(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

**RYNDAM (Netherlands)**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A stomach flu affected at least 167 of 1,260 passengers aboard the passenger (cruise) *Ryndam* (55451 gt, built 1994) before it ended a 10-day voyage in San Diego yesterday. It was the second consecutive trip, and the fourth since May, that forced the ship's operators, Holland America Line, to report outbreaks to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention's Vessel Sanitation Programme. CDC staff boarded the vessel in Cabo San Lucas on Thursday (Mar 1) and sailed to San Diego. They planned to conduct an investigation and make recommendations to protect future passengers, the CDC's Web site said. On the previous voyage, 110 of the 1,153 passengers on board reported sick, primarily for bouts of diarrhea and vomiting. More than a dozen crew members also reported illnesses on both voyages. Two cruises last summer resulted in smaller numbers of crew members sick and a total of 163 passengers ill. The norovirus, a gastrointestinal illness, was found to have caused both outbreaks. After each outbreak, the crew stepped up cleaning and disinfection procedures while notifying passengers and collecting stool samples for analysis.

London, Mar 6 — Passenger (cruise) *Ryndam* sailed San Diego Mar 3 for Puerto Vallarta.

**RYSHKANY (Ukraine)**

See *Amelia*.

**S.A.HELDERBERG (Belgium)**

London, Mar 2 — A Safmarine press release, timed 0703, Mar 1, dated, states: Container Carrier *S.A.Helderberg*: Following the completion of essential repairs and with approval of the relevant authorities of Malaysia, the vessel will leave hits current position for the Port of Tanjung Pelepas, where its cargo will be discharged for onward transportation to their final destinations. With the necessary construction of a cofferdam and its fixation to the vessel at sea, subsequent authorisation from the Malaysian Authorities and actual transfer of the ship from current position to Tanjung Pelepas, our earliest estimate for commencement of discharging the cargo onboard is Mar 6. The vessel owners have advised that the vessel will then undergo dry-dock repairs.

London, Mar 6 — A Safmarine press report, dated Mar 5, states: Container Carrier *S.A.Helderberg* remains at anchor off the coast of Singapore, in Malaysian waters, with the necessary repairs to the vessel under way. Progress is being made on repairs, and *S.A.Helderberg* continues to generate its own power. All reefer containers remain operative. The vessel will enter the port of Tanjung Pelepas, instead of Singapore, once permission is granted by the authorities for her to proceed alongside. The salvage company is still working to complete temporary repairs which will facilitate a safe entry of the port and now expect the vessel to berth alongside at the port of Tanjung Pelepas, Malaysia, Mar 7, after which the discharge of containers/cargo on board will be effected. Safmarine are investigating potential oncarriage solutions and will advise the onward schedule for eastbound cargo as soon as this is available. Safmarine's focus remains the safe transfer of the eastbound cargo to port as soon as possible and its onward shipment to final destination. (See issue of Mar 5.)

Singapore, Mar 3 — Crude oil tanker *Ocean Sapphire* arrived Singapore Mar 2. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 8 — A Safmarine press release, dated Mar 7, states: Following clearance by the Malaysian authorities, Container Carrier *S.A.Helderberg* entered the port of Tanjung Pelepas at 1300, today, and berthed alongside the container terminal. The discharge of cargo has commenced. Although a situation of General Average exists, there will be no requirement for customer contributions toward this General Average. Safmarine will cover for the contributions of their customers.

Singapore, Mar 8 — Crude oil tanker *Ocean Sapphire* is currently at Hitachi Shipyard Quay 3, Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SCOT PIONEER (U.K.)**

London, Mar 5 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: On Mar 3 general cargo *Scot Pioneer* (1587 gt, built 1984) had a mishap when entering the Brunsbuttel locks of

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the Kiel Canal. The vessel got a buoy together with its chain into the propeller. The buoy was torn off and stuck fast on the propeller shaft. Tug *Bugsier 19* came to assist the ship and towed it to a berth in Brunsbüttel.

**SEA RUBY (Cayman Islands)**

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 1116, UTC: General cargo *Sea Ruby* (1382 gt, built 1992), Netherlands for Berwick-upon-Tweed, cargo 2,050 tonnes of fertiliser, intends to anchor on lat 52 58N, long 00 21E, will confirm position and time when it has anchored. Vessel is making three knots towards the intended anchoring position. Vessel has problems with main engine gears, but making way under second engine. Wind 279 degrees at 25 knots. Forecast: Wind south-west 5 to 7 (fresh breeze to near gale). (Note — *Sea Ruby* sailed Beverwijk 0423, Mar 4 for Berwick-upon-Tweed.)

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 1301, UTC: General cargo *Sea Ruby* in lat 53 03N, long 00 28.4E, at 1300, UTC. Eta anchor position 1450, UTC.

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 1555, UTC: General cargo *Sea Ruby* in lat 52 58.1N, long 00 21.0E, awaiting improvement in weather before proceeding to Berwick.

London, Mar 6 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 0940, UTC: General cargo *Sea Ruby* departed The Wash at 0851, UTC, bound Berwick. Vessel is still running on one engine and will carry out repairs once arrived at destination. Weather forecast: Wind southwest 5 to 7 (fresh breeze to near gale) , occasionally gale 8, backing south 7 to severe gale 9 later.

**SEAGULL 3 (Panama)**

London, Mar 1 — The Middle East Navigation Aids Service (MENAS) has issued a warning of an obstruction in the Southern Gulf, following the loss of cargo off the coast of the United Arab Emirates. According to the MENAS Warning to Shipping No.023/2007 issued today general cargo *Seagull 3* reported loss of deck cargo in the following position: lat 25 20.96N, long 52 50.20E. 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 in the position. All vessels are required to navigate with caution in the area and maintain a sharp lookout for wreckage. (See issue of Feb 14.)

**SEREZ (Turkey)**

London, Mar 5 — Understand general cargo *Serez* (3964 gt, built 1976) had engine trouble during Dardanelles passage near the Akbas Lighthouse (approximately 40 13N, long 26 25E) at 2020, local time, Mar 2. Vessel repaired its engine then after a surveyor report it heaved anchor at 0330, local time, Mar 4 and proceed to its destination

port. (Note — *Serez* was last reported passing Dardanelles 1925, Mar 2 on voyage “Akcansa” (? Canakkale) for Ambarli.)

**SHAH BADAR-I**

Chittagong, Mar 8 — According to the agents of vessel *Shah Badar-I* they are no longer interested for in repairing the vessel. Presently they are thinking of scrapping the vessel instead of repairing due to its present condition. — Lloyd’s Agents. (See issue of Feb 13.)

**SIERRA LARA (Panama)**

London, Mar 3 — Refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Lara* arrived at Ymuiden at 0945 hrs, Mar 2.

**SKAGERN (Sweden)**

Poznan, Mar 3 — Repairs to general cargo *Skagern* are now being completed and should be completed on Mar 5. — Lloyd’s Agents.

London, Mar 5 — General cargo *Skagern* has been renamed *Anicia*, flag Norway (Int.Register).

London, Mar 7 — General cargo *Skagern*, now renamed *Anicia*, sailed Swinoujscie Mar 4 for Varberg.

**SODADE (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

London, Mar 4 — General cargo *Sodade* arrived at Ghent at 0448 hrs, Mar 3, from Hull.

**SOFIA (Russia)**

London, Mar 2 — Fishing (general) *Sofia* which arrived at Busan on Jan 5, departed on Feb 25.

**SONGA HUA (Marshall Islands)**

London, Mar 2 — Bulker *Songa Hua* sailed from Seattle at 0800 hrs, Mar 1.

**SPANIA (Georgia)**

London, Mar 1 — General cargo *Spania* was reported passing through the Dardanelles at 1820 hrs, Feb 28, on a voyage of Constantza for Volos.

**SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE (Bahamas)**

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: passenger (cruise) *Spirit of Adventure* caught in an Indian Ocean cyclone was forced to limp into a port where its elderly passengers were trapped for five days. The Saga vessel, with 250 British passengers onboard, had problems as it sailed through Cyclone “Gamede” last week. Passengers said that, amid the 50-knot winds and 45ft swells, windows were broken, people were falling off chairs, and they even had to avoid a falling grand piano. Fortunately, only minor injuries among the passengers, all of whom were over the age of 50, have been reported. Martin Breen, the master, took the decision to abort the 14-day cruise and headed for the nearest port of refuge, Antsiranana at the northernmost tip of Madagascar, where they arrived last Tuesday (Feb 27). Engineers then found a length of rope was entangled around one of the vessels’s two propellers. But the company was then unable to charter enough planes to fly the passengers to

the island capital of Antananarivo where they could get international connections. Last night 42 passengers were still in Antananarivo waiting to be flown back to Britain.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Spirit of Adventure’s* current cruise in the Indian Ocean ended abruptly as the ship was caught on the fringes of a cyclone resulting in a decision to make for the shelter of the nearest appropriate port — Antsiranana. It was discovered there that rope had entangled the propeller resulting in some underwater complications. The ship has now been booked into the Durban dry dock where it is due tomorrow, Mar 8.

**SPIRIT OF FAIRBRIDGE (U.K.)**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Sail training *Spirit of Fairbridge*, which grounded yesterday evening in Loch Sween (lat 55 59N, long 05 39W) with 15 people aboard, floated off with no damage, at 0120, UTC, this morning and is now on a mooring at Tayvallich, Loch Sween. Coastguard Clyde MRCC received an emergency call at 2145, UTC, from the replica schooner, 21metres in length, requesting assistance. Vessel had run aground in an isolated rocky area in Loch Sween. There were no reported injuries.

**STATINO (Russia)**

London, Mar 2 — Russian flagged fishing (general) *Statino*, 351 dwt, built 1975, towed by cargo *Komsomoliya Kaliningrada* to Severo-Kurilsk port roads with propeller tangled in net, Feb 18. Trawler berthed outside inner port, as it had to be cleared by border guard. During next 24 hours waiting for divers and border clearing. Weather deteriorated to strong storm, waves 5-6 metres. Trawler drifting on both anchors due to weather conditions, towing to inner harbor impossible. Trawler drifting in breakwater direction, at 0625, Feb 20 all crew evacuated by trawler *Mys Zolotoy*. Weather improved, wind changed to west on Feb 20 , 12 m/sec. At 2230 hrs small fishing vessels towed trawler to inner harbour, crew returned onboard. Trawler berthed Feb 21.

**SUEZ EXPRESS (Liberia)**

See *African Trader*.

**SUPERFERRY 1 (Philippines)**

See “Philippines” under “Port State Control.”

**SUPERFERRY 9 (Philippines)**

Manila, Mar 5 — Roll On Roll Off *Superferry 9* arrived at Keppel Cebu Shipyard at Mactan in Cebu island, at 0945 hrs, Mar 3. The vessel is now at the dock awaiting for the graving dock to become available, where it will undergo repairs to its engine. — Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

**SUPERFLYTE (New Zealand)**

Auckland, Mar 5 — Ferry *Superflyte* completed her repairs and returned to service, in the Auckland Harbour, in December 2006. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**TENDER I (Netherlands)**

See *Kaapstad II*.

**THE 205 (U.S.A.)**

London, Mar 7 — A Todco press release, dated Houston Mar 6, states: Todco today announced the signing of a two-year drilling contract for its drill platform *THE 205* with PEMEX in Mexico. Dayrates for the two-year contract with PEMEX will be adjusted quarterly principally based on the published United States Gulf of Mexico dayrates for 200-foot mat-supported cantilevered rigs plus \$20,000. The contract is scheduled to commence in late October, however, it could start earlier pending completion of ongoing repairs. The rig is currently in a shipyard in Veracruz where it is undergoing leg and helideck repairs as a result of an incident that occurred in December when a cargo vessel (bulker *Blue Star*) struck the rig. Total costs for the rig repairs and tug costs while the rig was standing by to be towed into the shipyard for repairs are estimated to be about \$8 million. Asuit has been filed against the cargo vessel owner in an attempting to recover these costs from the vessel owner. ( According to Lloyd's MIU AIS bulker *Blue Star* was still moored in lat 19 12 21N, long 96 07 32W.)

**THEOFILOS (Panama)**

See "Belgium" under "Port State Control".

**TIAN HE (Panama)**

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Late last night Panama general cargo *Tian He* (5546 gt, built 1985) ran aground on the coast of Taejongdae, Busan. Twenty Chinese sailors were rescued about eight hours later. (Note — *Tian He*, which due Busan Mar 4, was last reported on Lloyd's MIU AIS in lat 35 03 11N, long 129 04 45E, at 1235, UTC, Mar 4, speed two knots, course 75.4 degrees.)

Busan, Mar 6 — At about 2300, Mar 4 while general cargo *Tian He*, cargo some 6,188 tons of steel products, was lying anchored at the Busan Southern harbour, Busan, the vessel ran aground after dragging anchor at Taejongdae, Youngdo, Busan. All the crew members were safely rescued by the marine police. It was reported the vessel sustained heavy damage to its bottom area and the engine-room was flooded. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Busan, Mar 8 — General cargo *Tian He* still remains grounded at the site at Busan, the salvage operation has not yet commenced. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**TIN YI (Cambodia)**

Yokohama, Mar 2 — General cargo *Tin Yi* (1371 gt, built 1978), Hannan to Haimen, made its way into a laver cultivation area and got propellers fouled in nets 6.7 nautical miles, 171 deg, from Kobe Lighthouse, Hyogo prefecture, at 2018, local time, Feb 24. Salvage vessels detached/refloated vessel, which sustained deforming damage to propellers. No water ingress, oil spill, or personal injury reported. —

Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Tin Yi* sailed Hannan Feb 24 and arrived Kobe Feb 25.)

**TURID KNUITSEN (NIS)**

London, Mar 1 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 2012, UTC: Owners of combined chemical and oil tanker *Turid Knutsen* have advised that they have arranged for tug to take the vessel in tow. The tug is proceeding and is due alongside at approximately 1700 hrs, tomorrow. In the meantime the vessel remains at anchor in lat 52 20N, long 03 16E. The master has advised that the vessel had turbo problems, but they have managed to recover partial power.

London, Mar 2 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1055, UTC: Combined chemical and oil tanker *Turid Knutsen* is still in the same position. Standby safety vessel *Esvagt Omega* is proceeding to assist and is now approximately 35 nautical miles from *Turid Knutsen*.

London, Mar 2 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1859, UTC: Tug connected to chemical and oil tanker *Turid Knutsen* at 1413, local time, and proceeding towards Flushing.

London, Mar 2 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, Combined chemical and oil tank *Turid Knutsen* in position lat 51 55 34.08N, long 03 20 12.2E, speed 8.1 knots course 205.6 deg at 1733, UTC.

London, Mar 3 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Turid Knutsen* (in tow of standby safety vessel *Esvagt Omega*) arrived at Flushing at 0300 hrs, today.

London, Mar 4 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: On Mar 3 combined chemical and oil tank *Turid Knutsen* sustained machine problems off Scheldepoort on the Dutch river Scheldt. Tug *Esvagt Omega* came to assist during the night and helped to raise its anchors and tow it towards sea.

Zeebrugge, Mar 7 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Turid Knutsen* sailed Flushing 0040, Mar 7, for Antwerp, where arrived 0452, same day. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**TZINI (Malta)**

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Tzini* that spilled over 100 tons of oil into the waters of northern Taiwan is scheduled to leave Taiwan today after it agreed to pay compensation of at least NT\$50 million to related agencies. General manager of the vessel, Lin Mu-hsi, noted yesterday that the Ministry of Transportation of Communications and the Environmental Protection Administration have given their consent for the vessel to leave Taiwan. "The vessel will be leaving the port tomorrow, and will be towed away by other boats to be repaired in Vietnam," Lin said. He noted that the vessel owner agreed to pay an NT\$16-million compensation to governmental agencies, and compensated NT\$30 million for the set fishing nets in coastal areas. As for the indemnity for the affected fishermen, the cargo owner agreed to pay NT\$13 million after negotiations with fishermen in

Nanfngao, where the vessel ran aground and spilled more than 110 tons of oil in the waters of the area. Lin stressed the cargo owner and the insurance company will take the responsibility and pay the compensation as long as fishermen provide enough documents or evidence of pollution. But the amount of compensation offered for Nanfangao fishermen differs largely from their original claim — NT\$1 billion. Representatives from Nanfangao fishermen's union, who attended the negotiation, pointed out that the boats that sustained major or minor losses from the oil spill reach up to over 300 vessels or boats. It is estimated fishermen will lose NT\$200 million per year, and in five years time, the financial loss will be NT\$1 billion. Representatives said fishermen will not deliberately spread their nets on the waters of the polluted area as it would be difficult to find the nets that are soaked with oil. "But the fishing resources are indeed damaged, and the damage will last for a very long period of time," they said. After negotiations with Lin, representatives approved putting the compensation money at about NT\$13 million to NT\$20 million, and will continue negotiations with the vessel owner. The Yilan District Prosecutors office earlier last month filed a public prosecution against three crewmembers of the vessel, including the master. All three are from the Philippines.

London, Mar 7 — Following received from the operators of bulker *Tzini*, dated today: *Tzini* is still at Suao, pending finalisation of procedures for its release. Delays owing to Chinese New Year holidays. Tug *Salvage Giant* is standing by to tow it to Vietnam for repairs.

**UNDEN (Netherlands Antilles)**

London, Mar 2 — General cargo *Unden* sailed from Gothenburg at 2014 hrs, Mar 1.

**UNION MARS (Isle of Man)**

Esbjerg, Mar 6 — General cargo *Union Mars* left Denmark at 0800 hrs, today, bound for Wicklow. — Lloyd's Agents.

**VIANA DO CASTELO (Ukraine)**

See *Amelia*.

**WADI HALFA (Egypt)**

London, Mar 8 — Bulker *Wadi Halfa* sailed Comeau Bay 2345, local time, Feb 17, and arrived Puerto Cabello Feb 27.

**WALARA-K (New Zealand)**

Wellington, Mar 7 — The three crew members off fishing (general) *Walara-K*, which is presumed to have sunk off the New Plymouth coast this morning, have been safely picked up by a container ship. The Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ) was alerted to the plight of the fishing vessel when crew raised the alarm and activated their distress beacon at 0441, local time. They said the 18m vessel, operated out of Nelson

and owned by the Tasman Tuna Fishing Company, was taking on water. A fixed-wing aircraft from Phillips Rescue Trust in Hamilton was initially sent to the area, said rescue coordination mission controller Neville Blakemore. A Royal New Zealand Airforce P3 Orion was also in the area to help with the search, he said. All three crew were spotted floating in a life raft by the Phillips Rescue Trust aircraft about 8.30am. A RCCNZ spokeswoman said that the crew were picked up by the container vessel *Alpana* at about 1100 hrs. *Walara-K*'s sister vessel, *Altair III*, was also on its way to the area and the crew would soon transfer to that vessel and return to Nelson. Conditions at sea were calm and no one was injured, she said. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: The three crew of fishing (general) *Walara-K* have been safely transferred to a sister vessel. Rescue Co-ordination spokesperson, Neville Blakemore says they transferred to the *Altair Three*, which is taking them back to Nelson. *Walara-K* has now sunk. (Note — *Walara-KP* is 100 gt, built 1973.)

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: An investigation has been launched into why fishing (general) *Walara-K* sank off the Taranaki coast yesterday. Three crewmen were rescued by a container vessel six hours after abandoning the vessel at about 0440 hrs. They said the 19m vessel, operated out of Nelson and owned by the Tasman Tuna Fishing Company, was taking on water. The vessel's owner Stuart Morrison told The Nelson Mail he did not know what had happened to the vessel, which was insured, but it was not weather-related. Mr Morrison said the skipper was "a good operator" with 15 years' experience on fishing boats. After bailing out, the men activated an emergency locator beacon, and a fixed-wing search and rescue aircraft from Hamilton spotted the crew floating in a life-raft about 0830 hrs. The men were rescued from their life-raft by the Australia-bound Japanese container vessel *Alpana* about 1015 hrs, and transferred to their sister vessel, *Altair III*, at 1140 hrs. Rescue Coordination Centre mission controller Neville Blakemore said the rescued men reported seeing a large hole in the vessel's hull. The men did not think they had run into anything and were unsure what had happened, he said. Today, the Transport Accident Investigation Commission (TAIC) launched an investigation into the sinking, appointing Captain Doug Monks as investigator-in-charge. Chief investigator of accidents Tim Burfoot said the first stage of the investigation was to talk to members of the crew, who were expected back in Nelson on Saturday (Mar 10). After that, it would be decided whether the vessel would need to be recovered, or if ROV equipment - essentially underwater robots - should be employed to find the cause of the

sinking. Mr Burfoot said it was estimated the vessel was lying at a depth of 400-500m, and a recovery operation would be "hugely expensive".

#### **WARRIOR (Malta)**

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

#### **WELFARE DIANA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Port Said, Mar 4 — General cargo *Welfare Diana* is still under repair. No expected date of completion as yet. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **WESERSTERN (Isle of Man)**

London, Mar 2 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Weserstern* arrived at Paldiski, Estonia, on Feb 28.

#### **WILLIAM II**

Portsmouth, UK, Mar 6 — A press report, dated Mar 5, states: One fisherman is dead, another missing and three were rescued after their boat, fishing *William II*, owned by Guyana Quality Seafood Ltd, New Hope, EBD, capsized in the Atlantic Ocean about three miles from land on Friday (Mar 2) night. The vessel's master Rasheed Hussain said that it was about 2300 Friday, nine days after they had left their homes, the trawler encountered problems and started listing. He said they were in the process of pulling up a net when the boat capsized tossing them into the water. Hussain said it was the first time he had captained that particular boat as his usual vessel was under repair. — Correspondent.

#### **XIN JING HAI (China)**

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Twenty-eight Chinese sailors onboard a bulk cargo ship (bulker *Xin Jing Hai*, 36983 gt, built 1988) that ran aground yesterday near Shantou harbour have been rescued, according to the Ministry of Communications today. The ship was safely dragged back into open waters at 0147 today. At 1937 today, the Nanhai Salvage Bureau under the Ministry of Communications received a report from Guangdong Haidian Shipping Co., saying that one of the company's bulk cargo ships had run aground when it was trying to enter Shantou harbour, and needed help. The ship was carrying 65,000 tons of coal from "Indonesia" to Shantou. The Nanhai Salvage Bureau immediately dispatched a ship to the accident site. Rescuers said there were force seven to eight gales at sea. Working together, rescuers and crew members on the ship managed to drag the ship back to safety, according to sources with the Ministry of Communications. (Note — *Xin Jing Hai* sailed Abbots Point Jan 25.)

London, Mar 6 — Following received from Beijing MRCC, timed 1200, UTC: The vessel that grounded while entering Shantou was bulker *Xin Jing Hai*, BRNC. The vessel is now safe.

#### **YUN TONG HAI (Hong Kong)**

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Venezuela's Lake Maracaibo shipping channel is

currently shut after bulker *Yun Tong Hai* (37519 gt, built 1990) ran aground, said an official at the Maracaibo port captain's office late today. He said all traffic for oil tankers has been "temporarily" halted, and that only small vessels can move in and out of the channel. A shipping agent said the vessel went aground yesterday, and authorities have been unable to remove it after two attempts.

London, Mar 2 — Following received today from Cosco Wallem Ship Management Co Ltd, Qingdao, China, the technical managers of the bulker *Yun Tong Hai*: The vessel grounded in the Maracaibo channel, Venezuela, at 0235 hrs, Feb 28, between Buoy No.22 and 20, in lat 10 02.783N, long 71 35.403W. Vessel is laden with 37,729 tonnes of concs, lead and zinc. The vessel's draught before entry to the channel was 11.35 metres, even keel, no list, and the channel declared depth is 37ft 3ins (11.35 metres) at high tide. The vessels main engine and the steering gear were in good operating condition at the time of grounding. There has been no structural damage to the vessel, no any loss of life, and no environmental pollution. Four attempts to afloat the vessel at high tide, with a maximum of six tugs, with the local Harbour Master and surveyors in attendance, have proved unsuccessful. The vessel has been realigned, in order to keep channel open and maintain traffic movement in the channel. Lightering of the vessel, is planned and is being arranged at present. The owners have declared General average. A Company Superintendent will be on board the vessel, am, local time, today. The vessel has a crew of 23, is classed with the NNV and its P+I Club is The Swedish Club.

London, Mar 2 — Following received today from Cosco Wallem Ship Management Co Ltd, Qingdao, China, the technical managers of the bulker *Yun Tong Hai*: The vessel still remains grounded in the same position, in the Maracaibo Channel. Todate, there has been no reported damage to the vessel, no loss of life nor pollution. A Foreign Salvage team, along with the local partnering company, is active and in consultation with the Local Authorities, and have decided upon a salvage plan and a lightering vessel. Lightering plans will be put into effect by Mar 6 and should take between 30-36 hours, weather permitting.

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Cosco Wallem Ship Management Co Ltd, technical managers of bulker *Yun Tong Hai*: Vessel remains grounded in the Maracaibo Channel.

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Cosco Wallem Ship Management Co Ltd, technical managers of bulker *Yun Tong Hai*: Reported that vessel still remains grounded in the Maracaibo Channel, Venezuela. There is no reported damage to the vessel, loss of life or pollution. Both inbound and outbound traffic was observed during the day but the vessel movements are reportedly restricted in/out of port of Maracaibo due to vessel. The Foreign Salvage team along

with the local partnering company, have the salvage plan and a lightering vessel confirmed with all parties are in order to conduct the lightering of the grounded vessel. Lightering plans have been confirmed to be put into effect by 0800, local time, today, and should take 24 hours, weather permitting. During lightering operations, harbour-master has decided to restrict the movement of vessels to smaller beam vessels transiting at slow speed. He has also given the authority to the pilots to close all traffic, if they deem it necessary at any time. On completion of floating, the vessel will proceed out to Guranao pilot station for underwater inspection under the attendance of the vessels classification society.



#### SOMALIA

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: The crew of hijacked general cargo *Rozen* were reported safe today, more than a week after gunmen seized the vessel in unpatrolled waters off the Somali coast. "As far as we understand from our contacts in Somalia, up to this point, the crew are safe ... but we are still very concerned about their safety," World Food Programme (WFP) spokesperson Penny Ferguson said. The WFP said last week that Somali regional authorities had arrested four of the hijackers, but four others were still in control of the vessel. Karim Kudrathi, manager of Motaku Shipping Company, which controls the vessel, said he had been allowed to speak to the crew. "They are allowing my crew to speak to me just to know that they are fine," Kudrathi said. *Rozen* is currently anchored near the northern Somali port of Eyl.



#### BELGIUM

Flushing, Mar 6 — The departure of general cargo *Theofilos* (8996 gt, built 1984) has been suspended due to the vessel being detained. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Theofilos* arrived at Antwerp at 1834 hrs, Mar 3.)

#### PHILIPPINES

Manila, Mar 4 — Aboitiz Transport System, Inc., owner and operator of Roll On Roll Off *Superferry 1* clarified Friday (Mar 2) that no oil had leaked from a hole in the hull of the vessel. "No oil had escaped from the vessel," Jess Supan, Aboitiz Transport System Vice President for Safety and Security said. *Superferry 1* was prevented from departing Manila on 27 Feb by

maritime regulatory authorities after a hole was discovered near the vessel's aft steering gear. After a patch was applied, authorities allowed the vessel to leave Manila the next day. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

Liverpool, Mar 2 — Bulker *Golden Glory* still remains under detention. To date, we are unable to advise when vessel will be released. — Lloyd's Agents.

London Mar 6 — A press report, dated Mar 5, states: A County Wexford-based vessel has been taken out of operation in Southampton after being declared unsafe by British authorities. Passenger ro/ro *Celtic Mist* (21890 gt, built 1987), chartered by Wexford based Ro-Ro operator Celtic Link, was inspected by the Classification Society in Southampton after it was reported to the British Maritime Coastguard Authority by the International Transport Federation (ITF) yesterday. The vessel can no longer operate in Irish or British waters until major repairs are carried out. According to the ITF, the vessel was chartered from Jay Management of Greece for Celtic Link's daily freight service between Portsmouth and Cherbourg. The ITF said it had reported the state of the vessel after crew members and contractors working on board contacted them about conditions on it. ITF Inspector Tommy Molloy said: "The engine room is a nightmare. There is heavy fuel oil sludge almost a foot deep in the bilges. The continuous vibrations mean huge bolts undo themselves as others are being tightened. The boiler room is so dangerous that the engineers have now refused to work in it. They say they risk CO2 poisoning. One man has already been declared unfit for work as a direct result of CO2 poisoning received in the boiler room. He was taken to hospital in Portsmouth and was told he could not work for at least two weeks. Two days ago he was told he was being paid off and was taken in a taxi to the airport from where, he claims, he had to pay for his own ticket back to Lithuania. Crew accommodation is probably the worst I have seen. I don't think any prison cell in the UK would offer worse accommodation than afforded to this crew. They have had enough. They want the wages they were promised and they want to go home." The vessel was moved last night from Portsmouth to Southampton for extensive repair work. (Note — *Celtic Mist* arrived at Southampton at 1326, UTC, Mar 4.)

#### UNITED STATES

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The owner of Bulker *Warrior* (22135 gt, built 1984) has been charged in federal court in Oakland for allowing the vessel to cross the Atlantic with two large cracks that had been covered with tape and painted over, court records show. Twilight Marine Ltd is expected to enter a guilty plea Tuesday (Mar 6) to a misdemeanor charge of grossly negligent operation of a vessel,

according to court papers filed in US District Court in Oakland. The company also is prepared to pay a fine and restitution, court records show. The company's attorney, maritime lawyer John Giffin of San Francisco, did not immediately return a message seeking comment today. In September, *Warrior*, was crossing the Atlantic toward North America. Sailors on board noticed several small cracks and rust holes in the starboard deck, according to federal prosecutors. "Almost immediately, these small cracks and holes were welded and repaired," according to the charging document. But soon after, sailors found two larger cracks, each about three feet long, on the port deck, the document said. "Instead of being welded, these cracks were covered with tape and painted over to blend in with the painting on the deck," court papers said. "During the Atlantic crossing, Twilight Marine knew that the vessel was in a hazardous condition in that these two cracks were not properly repaired. The vessel arrived in San Francisco Bay on Nov 22. US Coast Guard officers boarded the vessel for an inspection, during which they weren't told of the cracks on the port side, authorities said. (Note — *Warrior* sailed San Francisco Dec 21 and subsequently arrived Ghent Jan 27.)

London, Mar 7— A press report, dated Mar 6, states: The owner of bulker *Warrior* admitted in federal court in Oakland today that the company allowed the vessel to cross the Atlantic Ocean with two large cracks that had been covered with tape and painted over. Twilight Marine Ltd. of Malta pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of grossly negligent operation of a vessel. Through its attorney, maritime lawyer John Giffin of San Francisco, the company also agreed today to pay a \$50,000 fine and \$100,000 in restitution during a hearing before U.S. Magistrate Wayne Brazil. In a plea agreement filed today, Twilight Marine admitted that the crew operated the ship in a "grossly negligent manner that endangered the life, limb and property of a person." As part of the plea, the company also agreed to abide by an environmental compliance program under which its crew members would be properly trained. The ship arrived in San Francisco Bay on Nov 22. U.S. Coast Guard officers boarded the vessel for an inspection, during which they were not told of the cracks on the port side, authorities said. Twilight Marine agreed today to pay \$100,000 in restitution to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Northern Coastal California Restoration Fund for various environmental projects. The investigation forced 22 crew members to stay in San Francisco as the company repaired the ship, Giffin and Assistant U.S. Attorney Maureen Bessette wrote in a court filing today. The Ukrainian crew required translators to converse with government investigators, the attorneys said.

## Seizures & Arrests



### ARCTIC SUNRISE (Netherlands)

London, Mar 7 — Yacht *Arctic Sunrise* sailed Faslane Mar 2 and arrived London Mar 5.

### CARMANIA EXPRESS (Georgia)

London, Mar 3 — Roll On Roll Off *Carmania Express* now named *Kjell Sverre* under Cyprus flag, arrived at Antwerp at 2355 hrs, Mar 1.

### CONGER (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Mar 3 — Container Carrier *Conger* sailed Antwerp 1839, local time, Mar 1, bound for Le Havre, where arrived 2000, local time, Mar 2.

### JAVA BASSET

Karachi, Mar 7 — Anchor handling tugs *Java Beagle* and *Java Basset* are still under arrest by the court. Prospects of release unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

### LAMA (Belize)

Beirut, Mar 6 — General cargo *Lama* is still lying sunk and under arrest at Beirut. — Lloyd's Agents.

### NYZDAN (North Korea)

Karachi, Mar 7 — Due to some cargo dispute general cargo *Nyzdan* arrested and shifted to Karachi Shipyard.

### RAVENI (Tonga)

Messina, Mar 5 — C.c. *Raveni* is still in port under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

### SARATOV CITY (Russia)

London, Mar 3 — Product tanker *Saratov City* departed from Amsterdam at 0822 hrs, Mar 2, bound for Kaliningrad, where ETA Mar 6.

### SKARUS (Russia)

Portsmouth, UK, Mar 1 — Refrigerated general cargo *Skarus* (748 gt, built 1979) was today arrested in the Norwegian port of Kirkenes, according to RIA Novosti. The arrest was made to assist Russian seamen in obtaining unpaid wages owed by the Russian shipowner, dating back to the autumn of 2006. — Correspondent.

### TIAN CONG (China)

London, Mar 1 — General cargo *Tian Cong* sailed from Hong Kong at 2231 hrs, today.

### VTC STAR (Vietnam)

Zeebrugge, Mar 6 — An embargo has been placed on bulker *VTC Star* (13705 gt, built 1990) and vessel is now under arrest at Antwerp. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *VTC Star* arrived at Antwerp at 1640 hrs, Mar 1.)

### WENG TENG NO.688 (South Korea)

Suva, Mar 4 — Fishing *Weng Teng No.688* sailed from Suva Feb 28, at

1700 hrs for highseas after paying a fine to local authorities. — Lloyd's Agents.

## Pipeline Accidents



### DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Mar 5 — A big fire broke out in a gas pipeline owned by gas utility-Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Mar 4. The fire started after an explosion at Water Works Road in Old Town of city. It said the fire originated after a gas pipe line explosion opposite Agrani Bank Posta branch at around 0930 while some technicians of gas utility were repairing a fractured gas pipe in the area. On receipt of the information, four fire fighting units from the Fire Service and Civil Defence office in Lalbagh rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire after more than seven hours efforts. No casualty was reported. The cause of fire and extent of damage are yet to be determined. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

## Pollution



### PUGET SOUND, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated Feb 28, states: Foss Maritime Co. will pay the Suquamish Tribe \$1.1 million for environmental and spiritual damage caused by a 2003 oil spill near Edmonds, Snohomish County. Nearly 4,700 gallons of heavy oil polluted a section of the tribe's shellfish beds at Indianola when a Foss barge was overfilled at a fueling station at Point Wells on Dec 30, 2003. The tribe announced that it had reached a settlement with Foss on Feb 9. Foss, which took responsibility for the accident, previously paid the tribe \$126,000, plus \$265,000 to a federal fund for environmental clean-up projects.

## Weather & Navigation



### HURRICANE "KATRINA"

London, Mar 2 — New Orleans filed a claim today seeking \$US77 billion from the US Army Corps of Engineers for damages caused by flooding after Corps-built levees collapsed during Hurricane "Katrina". The claim had to be filed by last night deadline to

preserve the city's right to sue the agency if necessary to recover Katrina-related damages. "It's certainly an attempt to protect the city's interest," city hall spokesman James Ross said of the huge claim. Long lines of people snaked around the Corps' New Orleans headquarters today as residents of the devastated city submitted their personal damage claims ahead of the deadline. At least 30,000 claims are expected to be filed, the Corps has said. They may be incorporated into lawsuits that have accused the Corps of building shoddy levees that failed to protect the city when "Katrina" struck on August 29, 2005. Water poured through the burst levees and flooded 80 per cent of New Orleans.

London, Mar 2 — The port of Gulfport is now back up to 60 percent capacity since Hurricane "Katrina", but that's not fast enough to satisfy some lawmakers. House Port Committee members want to know what's taking so long, and if the Port Commission has the state's best interest at heart. The Port of Gulfport used to bring in \$21 million in annual revenues, as the country's third largest container port. The state can't go after \$300 million in federal recovery money until the port submits its long-term master plan. Port Director Don Allee says that plan is still three weeks away, and will include gaming, condos and a cruise terminal. Port officials assured lawmakers they do not plan on phasing out their shipping business. "We are really after what our mission statement is and that's maritime. We are out there to protect maritime jobs," MS State Port Authority President Lenny Sawyer said. But one major export, poultry, is still essentially shut down at the port. Work to rebuild freezers still not begun. That's bad news for a state that's the fourth largest poultry producer in the nation. "We're going to come back state of the art, and when our master plan comes out, the people in the chicken business are going to want to do business with the Mississippi State Port," Sawyer said. Port officials told lawmakers 225 employees are back to work at the Port of Gulfport. That's down from more than 1,200 before "Katrina".

### INDONESIA

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 40 people have been killed and scores more are missing in landslides on the Indonesian island of Flores, officials have said. Dozens of homes were washed away in East Nusa Tenggara province and the road to the region's main town, Ruteng, has been cut off. Rescuers are trying to dig out victims but are being hampered by bad weather. Indonesia is in the middle of its rainy season, which each year sparks dozens of landslides. Emergency supplies Officials say at least 20 bodies have been pulled from mud after a hill collapsed in Cibal with scores still reported missing. Local disaster management official, Yos Nono, said torrential rain had struck six hilly districts in the province. Rescuers have been unable to move in



heavy machinery because of the blocked roads. "An evacuation team is digging to search for the victims, but we are facing problems because of bad weather and heavy rain," Mr Nono said. The government is distributing emergency food supplies to those made homeless.

#### MOZAMBIQUE

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Mozambican marines rescued more than 1,700 people, including 900 children, from flooding in central Mozambique, officials said. The marines used eight boats to mount the rescue operation in the central town of Buzi in the province of Sofala yesterday, where at least 28,000 people have been affected by the floods, Buzi district administrator Sergio Moiane said in a Radio Mozambique interview. Mozambique has been inundated by rain since January. The situation was worsened last week when the country was battered by Cyclone "Favio", which left at least 12 people dead in the tourist resort of Vilanculos. International aid agencies have mounted a big relief operation to help the stretched government, which has won praise for limiting the number of casualties by its preparedness and earlier evacuations of tens of thousands of people. The flooding in Tete, Sofala, Manica and Zambezia, in central Mozambique, has killed at least 40 people and affected more than 120,000 people. Nearly 90,000 people have been rescued. Moiane said that many water sources and latrines have been destroyed by the latest floods. He said 13 primary schools were inundated, leaving about 17,000 students without classes. Another eight schools were also closed because their premises are being used as accommodation centers. The town of Buzi has been isolated from the rest of the country because the main highway is impassable. Rescue boats are struggling with strong currents on the river. The World Food Programme promised to send in food to last at least 15 days.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Damage caused by Mozambique heavy rains are expected to cost around R500 million (USD71 million). The estimate was contained in a Mozambique government report distributed at a meeting with foreign donors yesterday. The estimate for some types of reconstruction, such as schools, does not include damage caused by Cyclone "Favio" which hit southern Mozambique's provinces of Inhambane and Sofala late last month. South Africa has meanwhile made available three helicopters to help transport provisions and to monitor refugee centres accommodating flood victims in the Zambezi Valley. Radio Mozambique says the helicopters are expected to arrive today. More than 106 000 victims of cyclone induced floods are being accommodated in the refugee centres.

#### RUSSIA

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A heavy cyclone

has blocked the airport and ferry stations in Russia's Far Eastern city of Vladivostok for the second day, the press service of the city administration told Itar-Tass today. The snowfall yesterday left one-meter snowdrifts. Meteorologists say the snowstorm has been the heaviest in 130 years of meteorological observations. The two-month norm of precipitation, 54 mm of snow, fell in Vladivostok over 24 hours. Teams of public utilities services are engaged in clearing snowdrifts. The airport will begin to receive flights in the morning, while ferry stations will start operating only in the evening. Classes for first- to eighth-grade pupils have been cancelled, the press service

#### TROPICAL CYCLONE "GAMEDE"

London, Mar 2 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Gamede" located near lat 31.5S, long 48.8E, at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 160 deg at 8 knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds 50 knots with gusts to 65 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 75 nautical miles northeast quadrant, 85 nautical miles southeast quadrant, and 65 nautical miles elsewhere.

Reunion, Mar 2 — As a result of cyclone "Gamede" ports were closed on Feb 23 and re-opened this morning. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### TROPICAL CYCLONE "GEORGE"

London, Mar 4 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, tropical cyclone "George" was centred within 15 nautical miles of lat 14.5S, long 127.7E and moving west at eight knots. The area affected is within 70 nautical miles of the centre. Winds above 48 knots within 20 nautical miles of centre are expected to develop within 18 to 24 hours as the system moves away from the coast. Very rough to high seas and moderate swell. Winds above 34 knots within 60 nautical miles of centre, extending to within 120 nautical miles north of the centre, with rough to very rough seas and moderate swell. At 0600, UTC, Mar 5, the centre is predicted to be within 75 nautical miles of lat 14.7S, long 123.6E, with winds to 50 knots near the centre.

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical cyclone "George" is edging closer to Western Australia's Kimberley region, bringing with it strong winds and heavy rain. Gales with gusts of up to 110 kilometres an hour will be experienced on the coast between the Northern Territory's Daly River mouth and the Kimberley community of Kalumburu, in northern WA. The category 2 storm has already brought torrential rain and widespread flooding to the western Top End. Darwin's northern suburbs have recorded 206 millimetres of rain in 24 hours. The heavy rainfall in the territory's Top End has prompted police to launch the first flood watch under the Katherine Region's new flood plan. Floodwaters have reached three metres

at the Nitmiluk Visitors Centre, near Katherine Gorge. Katherine and Northern Regional Police Commander Greg Dowd says the warning indicates water could reach 14 metres at the town's Railway Bridge within the next 12 hours. About five kilometres of the Darwin-to-Adelaide railway line is under water near the town of Adelaide River, 115 kilometres south of Darwin. Freight trains and the Ghan will terminate at Katherine until the track is repaired.

London, Mar 5 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, tropical cyclone "George" was located within 20 nautical miles of lat 14.5S, long 124.4E. Recent movement: west at eight knots. Maximum winds: 45 knots. Central pressure: 982 hPa. At 0900, UTC, Mar 6, the centre is predicted to be within 50 nautical miles of 14.4S, long 119.2E, with winds to 70 knots near the centre.

London, Mar 6 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0000, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "George" was located near lat 14.6S, long 122.1E, approximately 395 nautical miles north-northeast of Port Hedland, Australia. It has tracked westward, or 265 degs, at nine 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: 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Radius of 050 knot winds: 25 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 70 nautical miles in the northeast and northwest quadrants, 65 nautical miles in the southeast quadrant and 80 nautical miles in the southwest quadrant. The maximum significant wave height is 22 feet. At 1200, UTC, Mar 7, the centre is predicted to be near lat 15.5S, long 115.1E, with maximum sustained winds of 85 knots and gusts to 105 knots.

London, Mar 6 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, severe tropical cyclone "George" located within 25 nautical miles of lat 15.3S, long 118.6E. Recent movement west southwest at six knots. Maximum winds 65 knots. Forecast is for sustained winds to 65 knots near centre increasing to 90 knots by 0600, UTC, Mar 8.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Uranium miner Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA) is expecting a drop in full year output after declaring force majeure on its sales contracts following heavy monsoonal rain. ERA declared force majeure after a tropical low, which led to the formation of tropical cyclone "George", dropped 850 millimetres of rain over the Ranger mine in the seven days to March 4. "ERA has declared force majeure on its sales contracts as a result of the effect of the rainfall on production at the Ranger mine and processing plant," the company said. "The area has received 1,600 millimetres to date this year, which is above the total annual average rainfall. In one 72-hour period alone, a total of

750 millimetres fell." ERA ceased operations at the mine, which is located in the Northern Territory, on February 27. The mine restarted and the processing plant is expected to restart within the next week. ERA said first quarter production is now estimated to be between 20 and 30 per cent lower than in the corresponding period last year, when 1,392 tonnes of yellowcake was produced. "The impact of the water level in the operating pit is still being assessed, however production will be impacted in the second half of 2007," ERA said. "In spite of the high rainfall, water inventories at the mine site have been managed effectively and there has been no adverse environmental impact." ERA said access to and from the Ranger mine and the nearby township of Jabiru remains restricted with highway closures and load limitations due to the widespread flooding in the region. The bureau of meteorology today said "George" shows signs of "intensification" and there is potential for the category two storm to approach the west coast later in the week as a severe cyclone.

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The ports of Dampier, Port Walcott and Port Hedland have been closed due to the approach of tropical cyclone "George". The cyclone continues to intensify as it follows its track south towards the coast. Latest predictions are that it may become a Category 4 storm this evening. At this stage, it appears that the cyclone may cross the coast tomorrow morning close to west of Port Hedland.

London, Mar 8 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "George" was located near lat 18.7S, long 119.0E, approximately 100 nautical miles north-northeast of Port Hedland, Australia, and has tracked southward, or 190 degs, at nine knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on eye being fixed by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 85 knots, gusts 105 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 35 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 105 nautical miles in the northeast and northwest quadrants and 115 nautical miles in the southeast and southwest quadrants. Maximum significant wave height is 28 feet. At 0600, UTC, Mar 9, the centre is predicted to be near lat 22.2S, long 118.5E, with maximum sustained winds of 50 knots and gusts to 65 knots, although it will dissipate as a significant tropical cyclone over land.

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: BHP Billiton PLC said it has temporarily shut down a floating oil production and storage vessel and an iron ore rail and port facility in western Australia due to cyclone "George." The Griffin vessel was "disconnected" late yesterday, while Port Hedland was closed down a few hours ago, said a BHP spokeswoman in Melbourne. Operations at the company's nearby

iron ore mines continue, she added. "We're not sure when (these facilities) will re-open," she said.

#### TROPICAL CYCLONE "JACOB"

London, Mar 7 — following received from the meteorological office today: Tropical cyclone "Jacob" was near lat 12.5S, long 107.3E, at 0600, UTC, today, movement past six hours 275 degrees at eight knots, position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots. Forecast valid at 0600, UTC, Mar 8: Lat 11.9S, long 106.0E. Maximum sustained winds 60 knots, gusts 75 knots. At 0900, UTC, today "Jacob" was near lat 12.4S, long 107.1E, approximately 385 nautical miles south of Jakarta and has tracked westward at eight knots over the past six hours. It is tracking along the westward extension of a sub-tropical steering ridge anchored over south-western Australia. This ridge extension is expected to weaken in response to an approaching midlatitude trough to the south-west of the system.

London, Mar 8 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Jacob" was located near lat 12.8S, long 105.7E, approximately 405 nautical miles south of Jakarta. Movement over the past six hours: 360 degrees at two knots. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 45 knots, gusts 055 knots. Radius of 34 knots winds: 65 nautical miles in all four quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 20 feet. At 0600, UTC, Mar 9, the centre is predicted to be near lat 13.0S, long 106.2E. Maximum sustained winds: 50 knots, with gusts to 65 knots.

#### TROPICAL CYCLONE "ODETTE"

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A category one cyclone off the coast off north Queensland has weakened into a tropical low. Senior Forecaster Tony Wedd says cyclone "Odette" lost momentum in the Coral Sea about 850 kilometres north-east of Mackay, Australia, today. He says the low pressure system is too far offshore to produce any rain for Queensland and the system is not likely to redevelop. "Cyclone 'Odette' has now weakened below cyclone status and is no longer a cyclone and there are still gales to the south-east of the system so it is still a fairly significant tropical low system but the chances of it redeveloping into a tropical cyclone are now slim," he said.

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Hopes of heavy rain from a cyclone off the Queensland coast have all but evaporated. Cyclone "Odette" has weakened into a tropical low and is sitting in the Coral Sea more than 850 kilometres north-east of Mackay. Forecaster Mike Marrinan says the low is likely to eventually move towards the south-east, and

central Queensland can now only expect a few showers along the coast. "Not from the system itself, but a combination of that system and pretty large high over New Zealand will produce showers along the coast and near coastal parts, but inland I think very little will result from the system, some showers or storms further south and in the south-west, but locally here just showers along the coast," he said.

#### TYPHOON "HAITANG"

Taipei, Mar 5 — According to information from the Kaohsiung Harbour Bureau, vessel *Eastern Rich*, ex *Yung Chang*, is still berthed at Pier No 11, Kaohsiung, ETD unknown at this stage. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A train has derailed in Kent after hitting a tree left blocking the line after high winds. Eight people, including the driver and conductor, were on the early morning train from Kent to Surrey. Rail firm Southeastern said no-one was hurt. Spokesman Nigel Jarrett said the front of the train derailed in the collision and crews were being sent to the site. Commuters have been warned that the Tonbridge to Redhill line is likely to be closed for some time. We understand that nobody was hurt although it must have been quite a frightening experience in many ways Nigel Jarrett, Southeastern The three-carriage train that derailed at about 0540, UTC, was the 0456, UTC, Gillingham to Redhill train. The front wheels of the train came off the rails, although the carriages remained upright, travelling for a quarter of a mile before coming to a halt. Mr Jarrett said the class 5083 car, on the line serving Gatwick Airport in West Sussex, derailed between Edenbridge and Godstone, near Penshurst, Kent. A bus had been arranged to take passengers away, and breakdown crews were at the site. Weather disruption Other delays in Kent include lines blocked between Dover and Canterbury, and between Ramsgate and Canterbury, due to fallen trees. Also the 0618, UTC, Ashford to London Victoria service hit a large tree at Barming, near Maidstone, where both lines are now blocked. No-one was hurt and buses were brought in to take people to other railway stations. On the roads, high winds have led to the new Sheppey crossing being closed, but the old Kingsferry Bridge remains open. And on the cross-Channel ferries, passengers were warned of delays of up to an hour on the Norfolk Line's Dover to Dunkirk service because of adverse weather conditions.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: High winds in the North Sea caused the closure of two out of three terminals at the region's main container port. Quayside cranes at the Port of Felixstowe in Suffolk were unable to work safely in the high winds, a spokesman said. Trinity and Landguard terminals were closed until the weather eases. Lorries bringing

containers to the port were being parked along the Dock Spur Road and this was also causing local traffic congestion. One terminal, Dooley, which handles roll-on roll-off ships remains open.

#### UNITED STATES

Birmingham, Ala, Mar 1 — Tornadoes ripped across the Southern and Midwestern United States today and killed at least 11 people, most of whom had been taking shelter in a high school that collapsed in southern Alabama. Five people died when the school building was torn open by the twister in the southern Alabama town of Enterprise, state Emergency Management Agency spokeswoman Yasmie Richardson said. The agency had said earlier that 17 people had died in the town, but later lowered the statewide toll to seven, blaming initial miscommunication among officials. "Enterprise has suffered major and widespread damage," said Gov. Bob Riley, who declared a state of emergency and sent 100 National Guard troops to the town. Riley said rescue workers were still moving debris to search for survivors as night fell. In Georgia, storms that swept through the southwestern part of the state killed at least three people and caused an unknown number of injuries, said Buzz Weiss, spokesman for the Georgia Emergency Management Agency. Two were killed in Americus, Georgia, when the Sumter Regional Hospital was hit by an apparent tornado. Weiss said it wasn't known whether the two were patients. "Sumter County has apparently lost of all its ambulances and rescue vehicles," Weiss said. The third fatality was in Taylor County, which is just a bit north of Americus, Weiss added. In the Missouri town of Caulfield, a tornado killed a girl in a mobile home, damaging six other homes and two gasoline stations, officials said. Television news footage showed helicopters landing on the football field near wreckage of the school in Enterprise, while ambulances came and went. The shredded building was surrounded by broken trees and overturned cars. Emergency officials told local television that at least one teacher was among those killed at the school. CNN quoted an eyewitness as saying he carried the bodies of two young girls out of the building. Parts of several Midwestern states and regions as far south as the Gulf Coast to the Florida Panhandle had been under tornado watches or warnings most of the day. In Chicago, more than 400 flights were cancelled at O'Hare International Airport as gusty storms and fog rolled in. — Reuters.

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated Mar 2, states: Fierce wind blew snow across roads and stranded hundreds of drivers on US Midwestern highways today. Thousands were left without power and airlines were forced to call off hundreds of flights. At least 15 storm-related deaths have been reported since the snow began falling Wednesday (Feb 28), including a 10-year-old Wisconsin boy who died today

in a car accident. The storm left more than a foot of snow in some areas today and although the snow had stopped falling, gusts of 40 mph prompted blizzard warnings and prevented major highways from reopening. Officials at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport cancelled 500 flights, blaming bad weather elsewhere. In the Northeast, a storm dropped snow across northern New England, while areas to the south were left with a messy mix of snow, sleet and freezing rain. Hundreds of miles of interstate highway in Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota remained closed for much of today, with plough drivers forced to pull off roads because of the wind-blown snow. More than 100 vehicles were abandoned as their stranded drivers were rescued in Iowa, where blizzard warnings were extended into tomorrow. In North Dakota, a section of Interstate 94 was shut down. The weather knocked out power to close to 80,000 Michigan homes and businesses, and about half were still in the dark today, utility officials said. Pawlenty mobilized the National Guard, and the governors of Iowa and South Dakota issued disaster declarations. In Wisconsin, a 10-year-old child died of injuries suffered in a two-vehicle crash on a slippery road today, and a 16-year-old girl died when her car skidded on a highway and collided with a truck. A pickup truck driver died in Michigan after colliding with a delivery truck on a slick road. A 75-year-old man also died when his car collided with a semi-truck, authorities said. A truck driver died in Massachusetts when his tractor-trailer rolled down an embankment, and a 16-year-old driver in Minnesota was killed when he passed a semi, spun out and was hit by the truck. A teenage girl and a man were killed in North Dakota in a crash between a sport utility vehicle and a car on an ice-covered highway, the Highway Patrol said today. Traffic accidents Wednesday and yesterday also killed another person in Michigan, a couple in North Dakota and a woman and two teenagers in Wisconsin. A ninth person died while shoveling snow in Nebraska. Minneapolis had 11 inches of snow by sunrise today. Western Iowa got up to 17 inches, and strong wind built up drifts 10 feet high. The eastern Dakotas had up to 18 inches. The storm, the area's second major winter blast in a week, was part of a larger line of thunderstorms and snowstorms that stretched from Minnesota to the Gulf Coast. Tornadoes killed 20 people in Missouri, Georgia and Alabama, including eight students in an Alabama high school, authorities said. In Maine, a woman was critically injured when her car spun into a canal, stranding her for three hours, and a plough driver had to swim to safety after his vehicle smashed through a guardrail and into a river. New York City had 2.5 inches of rain, and drivers in northern suburbs found flooded highways and water that rose above park benches. A mudslide stopped a commuter train, but no-one was hurt.

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated Mar 3, states: The tornado that

ravaged portions of the town of Enterprise, Alabama, on Thursday (Mar 1) caused more than \$320 million worth of damage and left hundreds of people homeless, according to estimates released today. Mayor Kenneth Boswell said the EF3 tornado, packing winds of 160 mph, cut a path a half-mile wide and eight miles long. A total of 596 homes were affected by the storm — 236 were destroyed, 121 received major damage, 140 received minor damage and 99 had slight damage. The mayor said all city schools will be closed in the upcoming week, but his goal is to have all children back in school by March 12.

## Earthquakes



#### CHILE

London, Mar 2 — A report, dated today, states: A magnitude 5.7 earthquake in the region of Coquimbo, Chile, occurred in lat 30.816S, long 71.064W, depth 49 km, at 1307, UTC, today.

#### INDONESIA

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful earthquake has struck the Indonesian island of Sumatra, and was also felt in Singapore and Malaysia. The US Geological Survey said the quake had a magnitude of 6.3, and was centred near the town of Padang. There are no immediate reports of casualties or serious damage, but several buildings in Singapore's financial district were evacuated. The quake struck at 1049 local time (0349 GMT), causing panic among residents in western Sumatra. The quake was also reportedly felt in west coastal areas of Malaysia, and several tall buildings in Singapore's business district are said to have swayed slightly due to the tremor. But traders said there was no impact on financial trading.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful earthquake flattened hundreds of buildings in western Indonesia on Tuesday (Mar 6), killing at least 26 people and overwhelming hospitals with injured, officials and witnesses said. The magnitude-6.3 quake on Sumatra island was felt in neighbouring Malaysia and hundreds of miles away in Singapore, where some office buildings were evacuated. Local TV station SCTV reported that 26 people had been killed, citing correspondents in the area. Officials were not immediately available to confirm that figure but earlier said nine people had died. The dead included at least two young children and a teacher killed when a two-storey building crashed onto a playground in the Sumatran town of Solok, said a police spokesman. Hundreds of buildings collapsed, including a crowded state bank, and hospitals were struggling to cope with a flood of

patients, many suffering cuts and broken bones, Supriadi said. At least one hospital was evacuated. The US Geological Survey said the quake struck 20 miles below Solok, on Sumatra's western coast. It was followed by several strong aftershocks that sent residents pouring into the streets, shattered windows and toppled power lines. The tremor and at least one of the aftershocks was felt in Singapore, 265 miles from the epicentre, forcing the evacuation of several older office buildings, TV station Channel NewsAsia reported. In Malaysia's southern coastal city of Johor, citizens fled offices, buildings and shopping centres.

London, Mar 6 — Operations at Teluk Bayur/Padang port continue as normal, despite the magnitude 6.3 earthquake that shook Sumatra today. The powerful quake flattened hundreds of buildings in West Sumatra, killing at least 70 people and overwhelming hospitals with injured, according to official sources. The tremors were felt in neighbouring Malaysia and hundreds of miles away in Singapore. The epicentre was 20 miles below the town Solok, on Sumatra's western coast. It was followed by several strong aftershocks that shattered windows and toppled power lines.

#### JAPAN

Tokyo, Mar 8 — A magnitude 6 earthquake was registered southeast of Japan's eastern coast, the Meteorological Agency said today. The focus of the tremor was 140 kms below the surface of the earth near Torishima, an uninhabited island 600 kms south of Tokyo, the agency said. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage and no tsunami warning was issued. The earthquake measured up to two on the Japanese intensity scale, which measures ground motion. — Reuters.

### Political & Civil Unrest



#### AFGHANISTAN

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: An Afghanistan Taliban senior leader said hundreds of suicide attackers for a spring offensive against NATO troops have been assembled, media reported today. Mullah Dadullah, Taliban's top military commander and the man in charge of day-to-day military operations for the hardline Islamic militia, claimed that Taliban was ready to take on the 35,000-strong NATO force in Afghanistan. "The suicide martyrs, those willing to blow themselves up, are countless," said Dadullah. "Hundreds have registered their names already and are ready to go and we have hundreds more on the waiting list. Each is anxious to be the first to be sent," the commander said. Dadullah also said that he had a

regular line of communication with Osama bin Laden. "We exchange messages with each other to share plans," said Dadullah. "It's hard for anyone to meet bin Laden himself now, but we know he's still alive." The Taliban top leader's statement came out just a couple days after another Taliban top leader was captured. On Monday (Feb 26), Mullah Obaidullah, the former defense minister of the ousted Taliban regime in Afghanistan, was arrested by Pakistani security forces. Obaidullah was the most senior Taliban figure captured so far since the fall of Afghanistan's Taliban regime in 2001.

Jalalabad, Mar 4 — Eight Afghan civilians were killed today when foreign troops opened fire after a suicide car-bomber attacked their convoy in the east of the country, a provincial police spokesman said. "Initial reports indicate that eight civilians have been killed in the firing," Abdul Ghafour, a spokesman for the provincial police force said. The incident happened outside the eastern city of Jalalabad. — Reuters.

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: At least sixteen civilians have been killed in eastern Afghanistan after a US convoy was ambushed and troops returned fire, the US-led coalition said, as the government said the soldiers killed 10 people. The coalition did not specify how many were killed in the suicide attack in the eastern province of Nangarhar and how many in the subsequent gunfire from the soldiers. A car bomb struck the convoy "as part of a complex ambush involving enemy small-arms fire from several directions," it said in a statement. "Coalition forces returned fire in defence of the patrol. Sixteen civilians died during the initial attack, including four civilians who later died of their wounds. Twenty-four civilians were wounded during the attack." A coalition soldier was also wounded. A spokesman confirmed that the casualties were from the ambush and the return fire. Asked how many were killed in the ambush and how many in the subsequent coalition fire, he said the incident was being investigated. The Afghan interior ministry said the troops killed 10 civilians. "A suicide bomber smashed and detonated an explosives-filled car into a coalition convoy in Nangarhar which killed a number of our countrymen," it said in a statement. "According to the coalition forces, they came under fire following the blast and as a result of return fire, 10 of our countrymen were killed and 25 others were wounded."

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: NATO-led troops have launched an offensive against Taliban militants Tuesday in southern Afghanistan's volatile Helmand province, the alliance said in a statement. The operation, involving about 4,500 NATO and 1,000 Afghan troops, will focus on the northern part of Helmand province, the statement said. This is NATO's largest operation in the country so far and will target

Taliban militants and drug traffickers, the statement said. Meanwhile in Jabar, a coalition airstrike destroyed a mud-brick home after a rocket attack on a US base, killing nine people from four generations of an Afghan family including a 6-month-old, officials and relatives said Monday (Mar 5), one of the latest in a string of civilian deaths that threaten to undermine the government.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The Taleban say they have kidnapped a British journalist and two Afghan nationals in Helmand province in southern Afghanistan. A source close to a regional Taleban commander said that the three men were seized after entering an area of Helmand without permission. He accused them of spying and said they were being detained at a Taleban base. A Foreign Office spokesman in London has said they are checking the reports of the kidnappings. The three men were detained in Nad Ali in Helmand, one of the main opium poppy areas, because they had entered the district without permission, a local Taleban spokesman said. A car, satellite phones and cameras had also been taken and the men were being questioned at a Taleban base, he said. He said they were in the custody of the regional commander, Mullah Dadullah. The two Afghans were named as Ajmal and Syed Agha. Both are known as translators who work with western journalists, and they have been reported missing. The British man was named by the Taleban as John Nichol, but as yet there is little other information on him.

#### ALGERIA

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated Mar 4, states: Suspected Islamic militants attacked a police checkpoint in Algeria with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns today, killing five officers and wounding three others, according to a newspaper report. Separately, a bus hit two land mines near Ain Defla, 90 miles west of Algiers, triggering explosions that left three Algerians and a Russian dead, as well as five others wounded, authorities said. The victims worked for the Russian company Stroitransgaz, which is building a gas pipeline in the area, the ministry said. The Russian government said the bus was being accompanied by Algerian security officers, but it was unknown if any of them were caught in the explosions. Russia's ITAR-Tass news agency said 21 people were on the bus heading back from the work site to their camp at the time. There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the attack.

#### COLOMBIA

Bogota, Mar 1 — At least eight people were wounded when Colombian guerrillas exploded a car bomb in a suspected assassination attempt on the mayor of a southern city, authorities said today. Local television showed a bus in flames near the wreck of the car and debris scattered over the street.

Eight people were wounded in the blast in Neiva, 186 miles south of the capital Bogota, the civil defense agency said. "Everything points to an assassination attempt on the mayor of Neiva," Police Col. Miguel Angel Bojaca told local radio. — Reuters.

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated Mar 4, states: Seven government soldiers and at least 11 guerrillas died in fighting this weekend in Puerto Rico, the Colombian province of Meta, about 300 km south of Bogota, the military said today. General Alejandro Navas, who leads the Omega joint task force, told reporters that the government troops had been engaged in fierce fighting with a large group of guerrillas from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) since yesterday. "We recovered 11 (rebel) bodies, which is nothing compared to the number who fell down. We know from observations and the blood trails, there were more," Navas said, showing reporters rebel bodies in black bags at a local army base in Meta.

#### DENMARK

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Danish police have arrested almost 600 people in Copenhagen, in three days of violent protests over the eviction of squatters from a youth centre. Some 2,000 people attended a peaceful demonstration on Saturday, but police are braced for more clashes overnight. The riots started after an anti-terror squad raid to evict squatters from the Youth House (Ungdomshuset) building. Vandals have also painted Copenhagen's Little Mermaid statue pink, but it is unclear if this is linked to the riots. Left-wing activists have occupied the youth centre in the Noerrebrogade district since 1982, but it was sold by the city in 2000 to a Christian fundamentalist group. That group obtained a court eviction order last year - but the activists vowed not to leave, saying the council had no right to sell the building while it was still in use. Police have been drafted in from outside Copenhagen in readiness for trouble, with activists reportedly using text messages to urge further protests. Officers in riot gear used tear gas to disperse rioters in the early hours of Saturday, as cars were set alight and petrol bombs thrown. "In the last 10 years we haven't had riots like we've seen in the past two days," Copenhagen police spokesman Flemming Steen Munch said. Police say scores of those arrested since the protests began on Thursday have been foreigners, many of them from Germany, Sweden and Norway. Left-wing politicians who spoke at the demonstration in Copenhagen's central square on Saturday appealed to young activists to stop the violence. The BBC's Julian Isherwood in Copenhagen says parts of the city centre resemble a war zone, with the remains of barricades, dug up cobble stones and burnt-out cars. As darkness descended on the capital, and despite the detention of many activists, the Danish police authorities were preparing for another night of trouble, he said. But

miraculously, he said, despite widespread destruction to property and vehicles, only two people have been slightly injured. Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen has condemned the rioters. Last December, a protest in Copenhagen against the eviction plans turned violent, and more than 300 people were arrested.

#### ETHIOPIA

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Ten French tourists were kidnapped today in northern Ethiopia, a businessman and a tour operator who work in the region said. The tourists were in a convoy of four vehicles in Dalol, 500 miles north-east of Addis Ababa, travelling to salt mines in the Afar region, when they were kidnapped, said the businessman. Both he and a tour operator spoke on condition of anonymity because of the issue's sensitivity. One tourist escaped, reached another tourist group and made a satellite phone call to authorities to report the kidnapping, the businessman said. Bereket Simon, special adviser to Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, said he was checking into the situation, but could not confirm anything as yet. In Paris, Foreign Ministry spokesman Jean-Baptiste Mattei said French Ambassador Stephane Gompertz in Addis Ababa was trying to verify the report with Ethiopian officials. A tour operator who has tourists in the area was also aware of the details and said the group was assumed to be kidnapped.

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: British embassy officials and their relatives are among a number of foreign tourists missing and feared kidnapped in a remote part of Ethiopia. Whitehall officials told the BBC there was "a national security dimension" to their disappearance. Ethiopian police said the tourists were kidnapped, along with 13 Ethiopian aides, about 800km (500 miles) north-east of the capital, Addis Ababa. There are conflicting reports about the exact number of people missing. One tour operator, Origins Ethiopia, said 10 tourists, whose satellite phone had broken, were now known to be safe. But some estimates say up to 18 people are still unaccounted for. Details of what happened are sketchy, but the BBC's Mike Wooldridge at the Foreign Office understands that a sizeable group carried out an attack or an abduction and that there was small arms fire. Most of the tourists are believed to be French, the others British and Italian. Ethiopian police said the 13 missing Ethiopians were working as drivers and interpreters for the foreigners. They were travelling to the Afar desert, one of the hottest and most inhospitable areas of the world. UK Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett said the British government was working with Ethiopian authorities who "are doing all they can to ensure that the situation is resolved peacefully". Ms Beckett said five of the missing Britons were members of staff from the UK embassy in Addis Ababa or relatives of staff. The UK

government is sending a team to north-east Ethiopia to help with efforts to find them. Officials said the government emergency planning committee Cobra met on Friday to discuss the issue. Earlier, Bereket Simon, communications adviser to Ethiopia's prime minister, told AFP news agency Addis Ababa had "heard about an abduction and we are trying to confirm [the missing people's] whereabouts". "We'll try our best to ensure their safety," he said. French diplomats in Ethiopia said the tourists had been kidnapped. "There has been a kidnapping, that's certain... It happened the evening before yesterday (Wednesday)," the French ambassador to Ethiopia, Stephane Gompertz, said. A businessman who works in the area told the Associated Press news agency that one member of the group managed to escape and use a satellite phone to alert the authorities. Reports suggest that two separate groups - one mainly consisting of French tourists, the other a mixture of nationalities - disappeared. Western diplomats are sending representatives to the largest town in the area, Mekele. Afar is known for its inhospitable terrain and thieves and a small rebel group are active there. More intrepid visitors like to tour the Danakil Depression, one of the lowest and hottest places on Earth known for its salt mines and active volcanoes, Reuters news agency reports. Tourists are advised to travel there with an armed guard.

#### INDIA

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected communist rebels assassinated a prominent lawmaker as he watched a soccer game being played in eastern India, officials said today. Two bodyguards and a civilian also were killed. More than a dozen gunmen opened fire on Sunil Mahato late yesterday as he sat on the sidelines of the match marking the Hindu festival of Holi in the town of Bakudia, located in Jharkhand state, the local police chief, Pankaj Darad, said. Indian officials blamed Maoist rebels who have been fighting for more than two decades in a wide swath of rural central and eastern India, demanding land and jobs for agricultural laborers and the poor. The Maoists, who rarely make public statements, did not claim responsibility. Despite India's economic boom, many in its hinterland remain deeply impoverished and rebel violence has escalated as the sense of alienation has grown among the poor. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has called the Maoists one of the greatest threats India currently faces. Singh condemned the killing, a statement from his office said. Meanwhile, India's junior home minister, Sriprakash Jaiswal, flew out to Jharkhand for emergency meeting with state officials. Mahato, 38, the General-Secretary of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha party and a member of Parliament, was hit by seven bullets, Darad said. Koda said Indian security forces have launched a massive

manhunt and have shut the borders of the state, fearing the gunmen would try to flee the area.

#### IRAN

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Iranian security forces have killed 17 rebels in the latest clashes in West Azarbaijan province close to the Turkish and Iraqi borders in north-west Iran, a Revolutionary Guards commander says. "Seventeen rebels who entered Iran to carry out sabotage work have been killed," Colonel Jalil Babazadeh of the elite force told the IRNA news agency. Four members of the Guards were also killed in the clashes, including one commander, two lieutenants and a rank-and-file member. West Azarbaijan province has been the scene of a string of deadly clashes in recent days between Iranian security forces and rebels linked to the Kurdish separatist group Pejak.

#### IRAQ

Baghdad, Mar 1 — Iraqi security forces killed dozens of al Qaeda militants who attacked a village in western Anbar province yesterday, during fierce clashes that lasted much of the day, police officials said today. Sunni tribal leaders are involved in an escalating power struggle with Sunni al Qaeda for control of Anbar, a vast desert province that is the heart of the Sunni Arab insurgency in Iraq. Interior Ministry spokesman Abdul Karim Khalaf said foreign Arabs and Afghans were among some 80 militants killed and 50 captured in the clashes in Amiriyat al Falluja, a village where local tribes had opposed al Qaeda. A police official in the area, Ahmed al-Falluji, put the number of militants killed at 70, with three police killed. There was no immediate verification of the number of casualties from medical sources. A US military spokesman in the nearby city of Falluja, Major Jeff Pool, said US forces were not involved in the battle but had received reports from Iraqi police that it lasted most of yesterday. He could not confirm the number killed. Another police source in Falluja said dozens were killed. Witnesses said dozens of al Qaeda members attacked the village, prompting residents to flee and seek help from Iraqi security forces, who sent in police and soldiers. The escalating power struggle within the Sunni community in Anbar comes as US and Iraqi troops concentrate efforts in Baghdad to stem violence between Shi'ites and Sunnis that is pushing the country to civil war. It also occurs ahead of a planned reinforcement in Anbar by 4,000 US troops, who could find themselves in the middle of the deadly rivalry. The US military has encouraged an alliance of Sunni tribesmen against al Qaeda in the province, the deadliest place for American troops in Iraq. The US military says it cannot defeat al Qaeda in Anbar without the help of the traditionally minded tribal leaders, who oppose the militant group's plan to impose an Islamic caliphate. In other

violence in the region, a car bomb targeting a convoy of cars carrying guests celebrating the wedding of a policeman killed five people and wounded 10 in Falluja today, a separate police source said. The number of Iraqi civilian deaths in February was the lowest for four months, figures from Iraq's interior, defence and health ministries showed. A new security offensive in Baghdad was launched midway through the month. But at 1,645 civilian deaths, the figures provided by ministry officials are still far above the 545 civilian deaths recorded a year ago during February 2006. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Mar 3 — US air strikes in and around Baghdad killed senior insurgents suspected of targeting American helicopters and seven members of what the US military said today was an al Qaeda cell responsible for car bombings. In the restive western Anbar province, where US forces are battling al Qaeda and other militants, a suicide car bomb killed 12 people at a police checkpoint in the city of Ramadi. Three U.S. soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb that hit their vehicle in central Baghdad where US and Iraqi forces are implementing a major security crackdown regarded as a last ditch effort to stop Iraq tearing itself apart through a civil war. The US military said an air strike yesterday north of Baghdad near the town of Taji, which is home to a major US air base, destroyed weaponry including a vehicle mounted with anti-aircraft artillery. "Coalition forces believe key terrorists were killed during the air strike ... Intelligence reports indicated this network is responsible for threats to coalition aircraft," the military said in a statement, without elaborating. The US military said another air strike in Arab Jabour in southern Baghdad today killed seven al Qaeda suspects thought responsible for a large number of suicide car bombings. After being fired on by insurgents on the opposite side of the Tigris river, US forces called in aircraft which dropped two bombs, setting off a secondary explosion the US military said indicated the targeted building contained explosives. A US spokesman said there were no civilian casualties. In Anbar, today's suicide car bombing killed 12 people including three policemen and one child, according to Lieutenant Colonel Tareq Yussuf. The Iraqi Defence Ministry said in a statement Iraqi security forces had killed 39 militants in the vast western province yesterday and had detained 30 others. It was unclear if there were any government casualties. An al Qaeda-linked group posted a video of the execution of a group of 18 policemen it seized in Diyala province on the Internet today. The footage came a day after the bodies of 14 policemen, all shot in the head, were found north of Baghdad. The video, from the self-style Islamic State in Iraq, showed the men kneeling in a row, their hands tied behind their backs and eyes covered. At least two masked gunmen were shown opening fire on the men from behind with pistols while a third militant

stood by, holding the group's flag. In other violence, insurgents killed six members of one Sunni family today when they stormed a home in the town of Yusufiya, just south of Baghdad, police said. Relatives said insurgents had sent death threats after the family had met local Shi'ite leaders in an attempt at reconciliation. — Reuters.

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Two British soldiers were killed in clashes in Afghanistan yesterday, the Ministry of Defence has said. The two men, both from 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery, were killed in a Taleban rocket attack in the southern Helmand province. Brig Jerry Thomas, Commander of Afghanistan's UK forces, said losing two men was a deeply saddening blow. The British soldiers were taking part in an operation in the Sangin area of Helmand province as part of the Nato-led International Security Assistance Force when they were killed.

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A suicide bomber has killed at least 26 people in the commercial centre of the Iraqi capital Baghdad. The attack was near Mutanabbi Street, a busy district lined with book shops and open-air book stalls. Witnesses said many shops were set on fire and more than a dozen cars were burnt out by the explosion. The blast was the first major attack in Baghdad for several days. While the increase in checkpoints and troop numbers on the streets appear to have reduced death squad killings, US military officials say car bombs remain a risk. In other reported violence, gunmen killed five people when they opened fire on Shia pilgrims in two separate incidents around Baghdad.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Nine US soldiers died in two separate incidents north of Baghdad, the military said Tuesday (Mar 6). Six soldiers were killed when a bomb exploded near their vehicles during a combat operation Monday in Salahuddin province, the military said in a statement. Three other soldiers were wounded and transported to an American military hospital for treatment, it said. In another incident the same day, three more soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb in Diyala province, another statement said. One soldier was wounded. All nine were assigned to Task Force Lightning.

#### ISRAEL

Nablus, West Bank, Mar 1 — Israeli troops pulled out of the West Bank town of Nablus today, ending a five-day incursion in the militant stronghold, a military spokeswoman and Palestinian residents said. One Palestinian civilian was killed during the raid. Israeli troops shot him and wounded several people on Monday (Feb 26) as they watched from their roofs while soldiers searched buildings for gunmen Israel has said were involved in planning anti-Israeli attacks. Troops had called for the surrender of four militants from al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a part of President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah

group, and two from Islamic Jihad. Israeli troops detained 11 Palestinians during the incursion, a military spokeswoman said. She declined to say whether they were suspected militants or if the six the army had been seeking were among the group. Israel often raids Palestinian areas in the West Bank in search of gunmen it says were involved in attacks against its citizens. Israeli forces killed two Islamic Jihad militant leaders in the West Bank city of Jenin yesterday. — Reuters.

**IVORY COAST**

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: The Ivory Coast government and the rebel movement have signed an accord in a fresh attempt to revive the country's stalled peace process. The two sides agreed to form a new power-sharing government within five weeks and set up a joint army command. The deal was signed in Burkina Faso by President Laurent Gbagbo and rebel leader Guillaume Soro. Its aim is to unite Ivory Coast, which has been split since rebels seized the northern half of the country in 2002. The accord, signed in the capital of Burkina Faso Ouagadougou, comes after a month of negotiations between the two sides. It is not yet clear who will be named prime minister of the new government, but there is strong speculation that Mr Soro has been offered the job. The buffer zone between the two sides - known as the confidence zone - is to be removed. It is currently patrolled by 10,000 French and UN troops. The joint army command - to be set up within two weeks - is to include both rebels and supporters of Mr Gbagbo. The deal sets a timetable for disarmament and for a mass identification programme to give identity cards to the millions of Ivoirians who do not have them. It is estimated that elections, which have been postponed twice already, could be held in 10 months. The executive secretary of West African grouping Ecowas, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, said Sunday's accord could succeed where others have failed because Mr Gbagbo and Mr Soro have been involved. "What is different this time is that the two major protagonists have agreed, and have negotiated directly," Mr Chambas said.

**NIGERIA**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven people were shot dead and 10 others were seriously wounded when gunmen opened fire in a crowded district of Nigeria's oil capital Port Harcourt, police said. The unidentified gunmen entered the city aboard two buses and blocked a busy junction before shooting sporadically at passersby, Rivers State police chief Felix Ogbaudu told reporters. The shooting happened in the Port Harcourt's crowded market district known as "Mile 1", which also houses government and business offices. Eight of the wounded were women, Ogbaudu said. He said police had arrested one suspect for questioning and recovered the buses. Ogbaudu said the motive for the attack and the group behind it were not immediately known.

**PHILIPPINES**

London, Mar 2 — Two Philippine government troops and three of the New People's Army (NPA) leftwing guerrillas were killed in a fierce gunbattle yesterday in the jungles outside Davao City in southern Philippines, reported the official Philippine News Agency yesterday. The report quoted report of the Philippine military as saying government forces used attack helicopters to cover ground troops pursuing some 40 heavily-armed rebels and that running gunbattle is still raging near forest and mountainous areas.

**SOMALIA**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated Mar 2, states: Six explosions have hit the Somali capital, Mogadishu, seriously injuring six civilians - a day after Ugandan peacekeepers left for Somalia. Two children were among those injured in a market where some of the mortars exploded during Friday prayers. The African Union is planning to send 8,000 peacekeepers to Somalia, but has only raised half the number required. Somalia enjoyed a six-month lull in the insecurity that has dogged the country for the last 16 years when the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) was in power. But violence has escalated in the past two months. Mogadishu port and the central prison were also hit during the midday attacks, but no prisoners escaped. The government says some 3,500 remnants of the Islamists are responsible for the escalating violence in the capital. More than 10,000 civilians have fled Mogadishu in the past two weeks, the United Nations estimates. An advance team of AU troops reportedly arrived in Baidoa in southern Somalia yesterday. The first batch of 1,700 Ugandan soldiers are expected in Somalia via sea and air next week. Nigeria has said it will start deploying its 850 troops in the middle of April. Burundi, Ghana and Malawi have also pledged to send soldiers for the mission. An insurgent group calling itself the Popular Resistance Movement in the Land of Two Migrations has threatened to wage war against the AU troops.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The first Ugandan peacekeepers arrived in Somalia's capital early Tuesday (Mar 6) to provide protection for the still struggling transitional government and to allow for the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops who intervened in the country. Two cargo aircraft, one carrying 16 Ugandan soldiers and the other carrying two armoured vehicles, touched down at Mogadishu's main airport in the centre of the city. Late Monday, unidentified gunmen killed seven people, including a police commander and a leading cleric, government officials and witnesses said. The police commander and another officer were ambushed at a major intersection in the centre of Mogadishu and two bystanders were wounded in the fire fight.

Mogadishu, Mar 6 — More than a dozen mortar bombs were fired at

Mogadishu's airport today shortly after Ugandan soldiers landed there as the vanguard of an African Union peacekeeping force. At least 16 loud explosions from the mortar strikes went off near the airport where roughly 350 Ugandans were decamped after landing in the morning, a Reuters' witness said. "The military side of the airport has been hit. We cannot cross from this side to the other side. We don't know if anyone has been wounded there," said the reporter for a local media outlet, who saw the mortar bombs hit and who declined to be identified. The military wing is about a kilometre away from the civilian wing of the airport. — Reuters.

Mogadishu, Mar 8 — Insurgents trying to attack African Union peacekeepers hit a restaurant in Somalia's capital Mogadishu with a rocket-propelled grenade, killing at least nine people in the building, residents said today. They said two other people were killed in the clash between the insurgents and the peacekeepers yesterday, but it was not immediately clear whether the two were guerrillas or civilians. "The place was littered with human limbs. The death toll from the restaurant alone is nine people," said a Mogadishu resident. — Reuters.

**YEMEN**

Sanaa, Mar 7 — More than 160 Shi'ite rebels have been killed in clashes with Yemeni government forces over the past two weeks, a state-run Web site reported today, quoting a military official. The figure raises to around 250 the number of rebels officially estimated to have been killed in the sporadic but fierce clashes in the mountainous area of Saada in the north of Yemen since the beginning of 2007. "More than 160 elements of terrorism and sabotage led by Abdul-Malik al-Houthi have been killed in the past two weeks," the Web site, www.26sep.net, quoted the unidentified official as saying. Houthi is the leader of a rebel group which the government says wants to install Shi'ite religious rule. A source close to the rebels said he was doubtful about the figure but did not give his own estimate. "The government forces are losing considerably every day," the source told Reuters. The Web site did not give a figure for deaths among soldiers. Officials in late February put this at about 105. The military official said the militants were using citizens as human shields in private farms after government forces surrounded them. About 40 unidentified bodies and a number of wounded were found in the area of the fighting, he said. — Reuters.



**ETHIOPIA**

See under "Political & Civil Unrest".

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## Labour Disputes

**ARGENTINA**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated Mar 7, states: A transport lockout by Argentine truckers started yesterday, for an indefinite period of time. The truckers, who transport the country's agricultural production to port terminals and crushing mills are seeking an all-year round, fixed tariff of around \$21 per tonne for a standard 300 km trip to terminals and storage silos. They currently get half the amount, which they claim is insufficient to cover their own costs. The current sunflower crop and soon to be harvested maize crop are set to be the most affected. The lockout saw a reduction of lorries entering the area around Rosario, from the normal daily average of 1,700 to 140.

**FRANCE**

London, Mar 2 — Port staff at Montoir, Donges and St. Nazaire were expected to strike from Mar 1 as a result of a national dispute over salaries. It is expected to involve port personnel such as crane drivers, mooring gangs, and St. Nazaire lock keepers. Private mooring private companies are so far unaffected. Port activities may be disrupted due to the suspension of overtime, special operations and derogations.

**GERMANY AND FRANCE**

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Protests have taken place at Airbus plants for a second day after it announced huge job cuts, while future strike action remains possible. About 1,000 workers stopped work at the Laupheim plant in southern Germany, in protest at the aviation firm's decision to consider selling the site. This followed a spontaneous walk-out by staff at Nordenham and reports of other stoppages at factories in France. Airbus wants to cut 10,000 jobs by 2010 to make the business more competitive. The IG Metall union said staff would not resume work at Nordenham until tomorrow. Meanwhile, French union Force Ouvriere said a half-day national strike had been called for Mar 2. All four factories in France, including the company's main production facility in Toulouse, could be affected. But the European Metalworkers Federation said there was no concerted strike action and it would only consider its response after meeting with Airbus management on Mar 5. "Any strikes or stoppages taking place are local and spontaneous actions," a union spokesman said. Unions have expressed anger at the scale of the company's plans, which would see a total of 8,000 jobs being lost in France and Germany. While Airbus has said it would not force any compulsory

redundancies, unions have promised to defend jobs and have not ruled out industrial action. Prolonged strikes would be hugely damaging for Airbus, which has admitted its current financial position is "unsustainable". As well as Laupheim, Germany's Varel site and the French factory of Saint-Nazaire are set to be sold or potentially closed, affecting some 3,000 workers. Airbus is also looking for new investors for a further three sites, including Filton in the UK. British unions are seeking talks with ministers in an effort to avert the 1,600 job cuts earmarked for Filton and the firm's other factory at Broughton. Airbus said the restructuring was necessary because of the weakness of the US dollar and a series of major setbacks to its flagship A380 superjumbo project. It said the proposed changes would speed up production and improve the quality and reliability of its aircraft.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of French Airbus workers have gone on strike in protest at the company's restructuring plans, which include cutting 10,000 jobs. Organisers of the day-long protest have warned of further action if the proposed redundancies are enforced. France will lose 4,300 jobs as its share of the planned shake-up - with a chain of suppliers also threatened. German workers took part in walkouts and stoppages last week in protest at the proposed changes. About 1,500 workers at Meaulte in northern France marched against the cuts. Today, French Finance Minister Thierry Breton said that the government was prepared to buy a bigger stake in Airbus' parent company EADS to give it extra capital. Airbus has been struggling in the wake of production delays to its flagship A380 passenger jet project, which has cost the firm about 5bn euros (£3.4bn; \$6.6bn). Last week the firm said it was suspending work on a freight version of the A380 super-jumbo. Unions at Airbus's UK factories in Flintshire and Bristol have met with managers to discuss the proposed 1,600 job losses across the two sites. Redundancy packages are expected to be drawn up over the next three months.

**INDIA**

Kochi, Mar 6 — Port activities at Beypore have been paralysed since Feb 24 following a dispute between two sections of workers engaged in loading/unloading etc. It is understood some vessels and dhows scheduled to call at Beypore have been diverted to other destinations. — Lloyd's Agents.

**NEPAL**

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated Mar 1, states: Normal life in Terai districts was affected today as well due to the transport strike and customs office bandh called by the Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (MJF). The MJF is organising transport strike and customs office bandh from Feb 26 till Mar 5 in order to pressure the government to fulfill its demands. Traffic movement has come to a halt in

Birgunj, Biratnagar, Siraha Bazaar, Lahan, Gaur and several other towns in Terai. Thousands of passengers have been stranded at various places due to the strike. Similarly, collection of revenue and other transactions at major custom points in Terai have been affected customs due to the MJF bandh. However, the MJF has announced to allow farmers to export their sugarcane to the sugar factories.

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (MJF), which is carrying out agitation in Terai region, postponed its protest programmes for three days from tomorrow in view of the Holi festival. Issuing a press statement today, the MJF said it had decided to postpone the Chhakajam and other protest programmes for three days. The MJF, however, said that it would continue the strike at customs points. The statement signed by MJF chairman, Upendra Yadav, also said the general strike and other protest programmes would resume from Tuesday (Mar 6) until the demands of the forum are fulfilled. The Forum has been organizing violent protest programmes in terai region demanding federal structure of the state, establishment of autonomous regions with rights to self decision, proportional electoral system and participation of all Madhesi, Indigenous Nationalities in all mechanism of the state. The MJF decided to continue its strike even after the government agreed to amend the constitution to add electoral constituencies in terai region and to go for federal structure of the state.

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Normal life in eastern Terai districts has been badly affected for the second day of the indefinite transport strike called by the transporters yesterday demanding that strikes end once and for all. Transporters had announced indefinite transport strike in protest against the frequent bandhs called by the Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (MJF). The announcement was made immediately after the MJF called off its strike for three days to allow Holi celebrations. Vehicles remain off the roads today in most of the Terai districts including Sunsari, Morang Jhapa, Dhankuta, Ilam, Panchthar, Siraha, Saptari, Udaypur, Dhanusha, Sarlahi and Mahottari. According to state-run Nepal Television, protesting transporters vandalised half a dozen vehicles in Ithari for defying the strike. Flight services in the eastern region have also been affected as the protesters padlocked the main gate of the Biratnagar Airport since Saturday (Mar 3). A number of flights to and from Biratnagar have been cancelled due to the lockout. Biratnagar, the main town in eastern region, has been closed down. The transport entrepreneurs called the transportation strike demanding end of bandhs and transport strike forever. They have also demanded security to the entrepreneurs and vehicles. The strike has also affected Holi festival, which is



celebrated in Terai districts today, as hundreds of passengers bound for Terai district to celebrate Holi festival are stranded in different places.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: An ethnic Nepali group which organised an indefinite transport shutdown in large parts of the southern plains last week intensified its fight for autonomy today by extending the strike to shops and industries. The supply of essential goods and fuel in much of the landlocked nation has already been disrupted due to the transport strike by the Madhesi People's Rights Forum, which says it represents ethnic Madhesis living in the southern plains. The Forum claims that Nepal's hill-dwelling ruling elite has discriminated against the Madhesi community, which makes up around a third of the country's 26 million population. The region's residents said the strike's extension had brought life to a standstill in the eastern part of the Terai, the southern plains bordering India. "Everything is closed," said Guna Dev Lamichhane, who works in a private firm in Biratnagar, 200 km south-east of Kathmandu. "We are stepping up our protests and extending the strike since the government has failed to respond to our just demands," said Upendra Yadav, the chief of the Forum.

#### NETHERLANDS

Sydney, Mar 2 — Harbour towage employees of Smit have turned a 24-hour strike into indefinite action, tying up at least 20 vessels at the port of Rotterdam. The strike was scheduled to end at 1000, yesterday morning but the FNV union's members decided not to return to work. The dispute centres on a collective labour agreement and a row over a pay increase. By the end of the afternoon 10 vessels were waiting to enter the port and another 12 reported for departure but were stranded due to lack of available towage. Smit management had again approached the union with the offer of a mediator of the union's choice but as yet the company had not had any response. Typically, Smit Harbour Towage handles around 35 vessels a day in the port of Rotterdam. Smit had originally offered its harbour towage employees a 4% structural pay rise, plus an incidental bonus of £2,000 (\$2,590) for this year and next. But this offer was withdrawn following the first strike. The FNV is believed to want an 8% pay rise plus a bonus, but this is only for the present year. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News. (See issue of Mar 2.)

London, Mar 7 — A press release, issued by the Port of Rotterdam, dated Mar 6, states: Tug crews will stop work for 24 hours from this morning. The 240 employees of the tug service in the port of Rotterdam are in dispute with the Smit management about a new collective labour agreement. According to union spokesman Mr Bos the crews have no choice but to take strike action again because of the "deafening silence" on the management side.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: By the end of the morning today, eight vessels were waiting outside to get in at the port of Rotterdam and 11 vessels were reported for departure but are hindered by the industrial actions at Smit Harbour Towage, reports the Port of Rotterdam Authority. On average, 85 vessels are coming in and 85 are leaving every 24 hour the port of Rotterdam. Larger vessels need towage assistance, so in tonnage the hindrance is larger. The port authority hopes that the employer and the employees will come to an arrangement that ends the actions as soon as possible in order to avoid further direct and indirect (image) damage.

#### PAY DISPUTE ON UKRAINE FLAGGED VESSEL, LYTTELTON, NEW ZEALAND

Wellington, Mar 5 — Fish factory *Malakhov Kurgan*, in pay dispute at Lyttelton since May 2006, is still alongside at Lyttelton. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Rail passengers are experiencing a second day of disruption as a strike by signal workers continues in Scotland. Thousands of people were affected after members of the RMT union began the 48-hour stoppage yesterday over proposed changes to shift patterns. Many services have been cancelled and others will operate on a reduced timetable until tomorrow lunchtime. RMT general secretary Bob Crow warned that the strike could spread to other parts of the UK. He told the BBC's Good Morning Scotland programme: "Unless management sit down and resolve this very, very quickly, (ie by next Thursday), then our executive committee will be balloting the entire number of signal workers, in England and Wales as well." Mr Crow said the union had not gone to the arbitration service Acas as "they are not binding by law" and because an agreement was already in place. Transport Minister Tavish Scott told the programme Mr Crow's comments were a "throwback to the 1970s". "There is a mediation and arbitration service available and the union should use it," he said. He added that he would invite both sides into his office if he thought it would achieve anything, but urged the union to contact Acas. Nationally, the union and Network Rail agreed last July to introduce a 35-hour week. The dispute centres on how that change will be implemented. The RMT said the strike had been "rock solid" yesterday, when about 400 signalling and supervisory staff walked out at 1200, UTC. General secretary Bob Crow said: "Network Rail should understand that our members are determined to achieve the 35-hour week we agreed to last July, and it is the company that holds a very simple solution in its hands. Network Rail now

has the choice of engaging constructively with us to resolve this dispute or facing a ballot of our signalling members throughout Britain." However, David Simpson, route director for Network Rail Scotland, labelled the action "regrettable" and "unnecessary" and insisted the company was willing to engage in discussions with RMT. No trains will run north of Stirling, and those operating further south will operate on a reduced timetable. The Glasgow to Edinburgh service will run every 15 minutes every first hour and then every 30 minutes for the rest of the day. Last trains will leave Edinburgh at 1745, UTC and Glasgow at 1800, UTC. The Caledonian Sleeper service between Scotland and London is not running yesterday or today, but should operate tomorrow.

#### ZAMBIA

London, Mar 8 — Unionised workers at Luanshya Copper Mines (LCM) yesterday called off their seven day long strike after management rescinded plans to dismiss ring leaders and agreed to continue talks with workers' representatives aimed at ending the impasse. The more than 1000 workers reluctantly agreed to return to work after they were assured that management would be flexible and make attempts to look at their demands for salary increment. Mine Workers Union of Zambia (MUZ) president, Rayford Mbulu, said his union was optimistic that a win-win situation would be attained with the commencement of fresh talks yesterday. LCM officials disclosed that the company's chief executive, Mr Derek Webbstock, was yesterday locked up in a crucial meeting with the mine's shareholders aimed at addressing the problems being experienced at the Luanshya mine. The talks were held at Chambishi Metals which was a LCM sister company. As talks between management represented by the chief executive officer and the shareholders were going on in Chambishi, in Luanshya the chief operating officer, James Bathel, was holding talks with a MUZ team lead by the union's president. MUZ branch chairman, Elias Kafulwende, said that the miners that were demanding for a 40 per cent salary increment and opposed to the management offer of 18 per cent, only reached a compromise after assurances by management that no one among them would be fired for going on strike. "We have secured the jobs for all the miners and we now hope that the talks with management will come up with a lasting solution to the demands of the unionised workers at LCM," Mr Kafulwende said. LCM workers were initially demanding an 80 per cent increment before settling for 40 per cent. The workers argued that production at the mine, which produced an average of 40 per cent of copper, had increased and that copper prices on the world market were at the highest.

## Awards & Settlements



### MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A high-flying City (London) lawyer who claimed more than £5 million in damages after being misprescribed medication for a minor ailment was awarded £1.43 million in compensation at the High Court today. Cathy Horton, 44, described by the judge as a “woman of many accomplishments” suffered paranoia, depression and psychotic episodes after taking steroid tablets eight times the strength of her normal dose. Mrs Horton, who is also an ordained priest, launched a claim against her doctor and Lloyds Pharmacy for compensation for the deterioration in her health and the “enormous disruption to her life” which followed. In November, Mr Justice Keith found that Lloyds had been negligent in prescribing the medication without questioning its suitability. This morning, the same judge awarded Mrs Horton, a former corporate lawyer, £1,435,950 in damages including £40,000 for pain and suffering. The judge said the award took into account the fact that Mrs Horton had already secured a £1.5 million settlement from the doctor who incorrectly prescribed the medicine in a separate case. At a previous hearing the court was told that Mrs Horton, who has since returned to her former home in America, was taking steroids to supplement an adrenal deficiency. Her lawyers said that prior to suffering from mental illness she was earning £287,000 a year and was a regular preacher at St Leonardos Church in Chelsham, Surrey. The judge previously ruled that when the prescription was dispensed at a Lloyds branch in Surrey in July 2001, the pharmacist should have followed the instructions in the branch procedures manual and questioned whether the medicine and dose prescribed was correct. In a joint statement Lloyds Pharmacy and the National Pharmacy Association said: “While we regret the distress that the Reverend Horton has suffered, we do not believe that we should have lost this case in the first place as the pharmacist dispensed the prescription in accordance with the details on the prescription script. In any event we welcome the fact that by assessing the damages as it has the court has recognised that the Reverend Horton has received adequate compensation from the general practitioner who originally prescribed the tablets.”

### ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A medical equipment company and other

defendants have agreed to pay \$5.3 million to the family of a baby who suffered severe head injuries when a vehicle slammed into an ambulance carrying the child in 2003. International Biomedical Inc. will pay more than \$4.6 million to settle the family’s allegations that a faulty aluminum restraint bar made by the company led to injuries that left Joanne Knabb, now 4, deaf and unable to walk or speak. The family alleged that the bar, which held the baby’s incubator in place, snapped and hurled the baby onto the ambulance floor. The other defendants were Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, Guardian Angel Ambulance Services of Allegheny County, and the estate of John E. Bridge, who was driving the vehicle that collided with the ambulance on Route 8 in Venango County. After paying legal costs and fees and reimbursements for the girl’s past medical costs, the Knabbs will receive \$2.9 million, according to court records. Under the terms of the settlement, the defendants do not admit any wrongdoing.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated Mar 6, states: A Pima County jury awarded a Tucson teenager and his parents more than \$9.1 million today, more than two years after he was struck in a crosswalk outside Mountain View High School. After deliberating eight hours over two days, the jury said Pima County, which operates the road, was 20 percent at fault for the accident, meaning taxpayers are responsible for about \$1.8 million of the judgment. The driver who struck Talin Rogers was 79 percent responsible, and the teenager himself was one percent responsible. Pima County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry said he will have to meet with the Pima County Attorney’s Office to decide if an appeal should be filed. It’s unclear at this point how much of the \$1.8 million county obligation would be covered by insurance, Huckelberry said. Rogers was walking from Mountain View to a nearby seminary on October 1, 2004, when he was struck by Judith Ealey, then 59. Rogers, then 15, suffered life-threatening injuries and spent nearly seven weeks in a coma and three months in a rehabilitation center. According to a traffic study the county did after Rogers was hit, nearly 900 people crossed the area on West Linda Vista Boulevard in front of the school each day. Rogers once an avid soccer player, now has problems with his motor skills and is in special-education classes at Mountain View, said attorney Ron Mercaldo.

### SEXUAL AND PHYSICAL ABUSE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Alleged victims of sexual and physical abuse at children’s homes across Manchester have been awarded more than £2 million in compensation, their lawyer has revealed. A massive police operation investigated 66 children’s homes in Greater Manchester between 1997 and

2002, leading to several prosecutions. The group of 168 individuals have secured £2,260,000, averaging out at approximately £15,000 per person. The victims formed The Manchester Children’s Home Abuse Group in March 2000 following the five-year police investigation, named Operation Cleopatra. Manchester City Council Social Services Department ran most of the homes investigated. The main homes were Rosehill in Northenden, Broome House in Didsbury, and Mobberley Boys’ School in Mobberley, Knutsford. In December 2001, Ronald Hall, the warden of Broome House, was found guilty of 18 charges of indecency against children in his care stretching back 30 years. He was jailed for 11 years. His colleague, Ian Gray, was jailed for 14 years earlier that year after being convicted of 23 similar offences. The city council was ordered to pay the compensation at a hearing at Manchester High Court last Thursday (Mar 1).

### WRONGFUL DEATH, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated Mar 6, states: The widow of a Columbia municipal worker killed in a car accident in 2005 has been awarded a wrongful-death settlement of \$1.3 million. Regina Greenplate, 33, of Columbia will receive more than \$500,000 of the settlement from Martha Miller, 39, and Alfa Vision Insurance Co. The settlement was approved yesterday by Boone County Circuit Judge Kevin Crane. Miller was sentenced last year to 10 years in prison after pleading guilty to involuntary manslaughter in the death of 34-year-old Clay Greenplate, who worked at the Columbia wastewater treatment plant. On November 27, 2005, Greenplate died after a head-on collision on Broadway near Strawn Road in west Columbia. Tests later showed that Miller’s blood-alcohol level was above the legal limit when Miller’s sport utility vehicle crossed into the path of Greenplate’s vehicle. Under the agreement, Regina Greenplate will receive \$510,066.82, and each of the couple’s four children will receive \$90,000 for the purchase of an annuity to pay for college expenses. Lawyers’ fees and expenses will account for the remaining \$429,933.18 of the settlement.

## Railway Accidents



### KENDAL AREA, CUMBRIA, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The operation to remove the wreckage of a high-speed train which derailed in Cumbria has begun. Two new roads have been built to allow access to the site at Grayrigg, near Kendal, and heavy lifting equipment has been set up. Technical

problems meant the operation was delayed from this afternoon to the evening. The initial report from the Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) said faults with the points meant the tilting train could not follow its intended path over the tracks and derailed. A 800-ton crane was used to hoist coach B from the railway bank. It was lowered onto a mound of earth at the same angle as it had come to rest after it careered off the rails so as not to disturb any forensic evidence. Martyn Ripley, British Transport Police's senior officer on site, said because of the way the carriages had landed it had previously been unsafe for anyone to enter them. Once they had been corrected, forensic teams would be able to get inside to start recovering passengers' property. He said: "More importantly we will be able to have a look at the underside of the vehicle to examine it and perhaps gain more forensic evidence. "There's a possibility there might be marks and damage under the vehicle that will tell experts more information about how the vehicles came off the railway line and give them an indication about how the accident happened." Once examined, coaches will be lifted onto a low loader lorry and transported from the crash site. The work is expected to carry on throughout the night and it may be days before all carriages are removed. Once all nine carriages are removed it will pave the way for the West Coast Mainline to reopen fully, although the earliest this is expected to take place is Mar 10.

**PENSHURST AREA, KENT, UNITED KINGDOM**

See "United Kingdom" under "Weather & Navigation."

**TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Twenty-eight cars of a Union Pacific train derailed Sunday afternoon (Mar 4) just west of the Neches River in Henderson County. No injuries were reported but some nearby homes were evacuated as a precaution when a fire broke out, Henderson County Sheriff's Lt. Pat McWilliams said. Evacuations also took place in Smith County. Residents were allowed to return to their homes Sunday night. Some lubricant oil had leaked from one of the cars. But there were no toxic inhalants in the 28 cars that derailed. The cars were part of a 115-car train headed from Shreveport, La., to Houston. Greg Morgan, operations manager for Tyler Water Utilities, said in a story in Sunday's online edition of the Tyler Morning Telegraph that the city shut down its Lake Palestine water treatment plant as a precaution because some material spilled into the lake. He said the city's other plants had enough water to handle the demand for now. The derailment occurred just west of the river and south of State Highway 31 east of Chandler, McWilliams said.

**TORONTO AREA, CANADA**

London, Mar 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Canadian National Railway Co. said a train derailment resulted in 32 cars leaving the track, east off Toronto, leading to delays on the GO Transit commuter rail service that serves Canada's largest city. Two cars carried "dangerous commodities", CNRC spokesman Mark Hallman said. The derailment at Pickering junction will be cleared by noon tomorrow, and operations should be running normally by then. The cause of today's accident is still under investigation, Hallman said. GO Transit, which serves the Toronto area, has one track open out of the two next to the section under the derailed train, spokesman Edmund Shea said, adding: "The good news is that we have one track open, but there will be delays and the bad weather is compounding the problem."



**OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"**

Hanoi, Mar 2 — Bird flu has been detected in ducks in southern Vietnam more than two months since the last infection in poultry there, leading to the slaughter of 800 ducks, the Agriculture Ministry said today. Tests found the virus in the 45-day-old waterfowl in the Mekong delta province of Vinh Long, the ministry's Animal Health Department said in a report. It said the ducks had not been vaccinated against the deadly H5N1 virus. The 800 ducks were slaughtered and officials disinfected the affected area in Vinh Long, about 140 km southwest of Ho Chi Minh City. Vietnam has had no human cases since November 2005 but bird flu returned to poultry in the southern region late last year and struck the northern province of Hai Duong in February, where 10,500 chickens were slaughtered to prevent the virus spreading. This week, Vietnam's neighbour Laos confirmed its first human case of bird flu and there were also reports of human infections in China and Egypt. Myanmar also reported infection in poultry, its first in a year. Worldwide, the virus has killed 167 people since 2003, according to the U.N. World Health Organisation. At least 200 million birds have died or been slaughtered. — Reuters.

Yangon, Mar 3 (Reuters) - Myanmar has banned the transport and sale of poultry in parts of the commercial capital Yangon where the deadly bird flu virus appears to be spreading, officials said today. In the latest case, a dozen chickens infected with the H5N1 virus were found yesterday on a backyard farm in Hlinethaya, a township in western Yangon, said Than Hla, a senior official from the Ministry of Livestock Breeding and Fisheries. Authorities stepped up surveillance after fowl on four farms on the northern outskirts of Yangon tested

positive for the virus last week, the country's first outbreaks in a year. Restrictions on bird movements in affected areas were imposed yesterday. Some 2,000 chickens and ducks have been culled so far, but there was no immediate evidence of human infections. "We have been carrying out constant surveillance on the spread of this virus. No suspected human case has been found so far," Soe Lwin Nyein, a senior Health Ministry official, told Reuters. "About 300 people who had contact with infected birds have been under observation, but nothing has been found," he said. — Reuters.

Kuwait, Mar 6 — Kuwait said today it had found two new cases of the deadly H5N1 strain in live birds, raising to 52 the total number of infected birds in the Gulf Arab country this year. The new cases were a falcon and a chicken, Health Ministry official Ahmed al-Shatti said in a statement, adding that experts from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) had arrived to help efforts to combat the outbreak. He said 250 people who had been in contact with the birds and their families had so far tested negative for the disease while more than 25,000 birds had been culled since the outbreak. Kuwait has closed down the country's zoo and poultry shops in residential areas, and banned the import of live birds. Kuwaiti officials were unable to say whether the bird flu cases have affected poultry consumption or sales prices but residents said they have not stopped consuming poultry. Kuwait last reported a case of bird flu in 2005. — Reuters.

Hanoi, Mar 7 — Bird flu has killed more than 1,000 chickens at two farms on the outskirts of Hanoi, the country's animal health authority said today. Health workers slaughtered scores of chickens at the farms in Dong Anh district after tests confirmed that the H5N1 virus had killed a total of 1,150 birds, the Animal Health Department said in its daily report. "The Hanoi animal health department has coordinated with the local authority to destroy the remaining poultry, disinfect the outbreak area and closely monitor poultry and humans," the report said. Vietnam has had no human cases of bird flu since November 2005, but the virus, which first arrived in late 2003, returned to poultry in the south late last year. More infections were detected in ducks in the southern province of Vinh Long and in chickens in the northern provinces of Hai Duong and Ha Tay in the past three weeks. On February 27, all 550 chickens were slaughtered on a farm in Ha Tay province, the largest poultry supplier to Hanoi, officials said. In late February, 10,500 infected chickens were killed in Hai Duong province, east of Hanoi. Agriculture Minister Cao Duc Phat said last week the H5N1 virus existed throughout Vietnam, even though poultry vaccination had helped prevent its spread. Vietnam is expected to start its next phase of vaccinating poultry in the second half of March and will allow the resumption of raising and hatching waterfowl from March 15. — Reuters.

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Bangkok, Mar 8 — A 15-year-old Laos girl has died from bird flu, the country's first confirmed death from the H5N1 virus, the Health Ministry said today as it stepped up surveillance and public awareness efforts. The teenage girl had lived in a suburb of Vientiane, the capital, where the virus was found in poultry in January, but officials say the level of her exposure to infected poultry is still unclear. It was the first poultry outbreak in seven months in the country, most of whose 5.6 million people live in villages. "The government is enforcing immediate and stringent interventions such as culling of all infected poultry, strengthening hospital surveillance and carrying out intensive information campaigns to educate people on key preventative measures," Health Minister Ponmek Dalalay said. — Reuters.

Seoul, Mar 8 — South Korea confirmed today its seventh outbreak in the past several months of highly virulent bird flu, despite a mass culling and other measures to prevent the spread of the deadly H5N1 strain. The latest outbreak was at a poultry farm in Chonan, about 90 kms south of Seoul, where a similar outbreak had taken place in January, the agriculture minister said. — Reuters.

## Fires & Explosions



### COAL MINE, NIUMASI, HUNAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion at a coal mine in south China killed at least 15 workers, state media said today. Thirty-two workers were underground when the blast occurred Tuesday (Mar 6) at the Hongfa Mine in Hunan province's Niumasi town, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Seventeen managed to escape. Rescuers pulled out five bodies Tuesday and found another ten in the mine yesterday, Xinhua said.

### COAL MINE, SIMITLI, BULGARIA

Sofia, Mar 5 — Twelve miners were injured in an explosion at a Bulgarian coal mine today, a civil defence official said. One man was in a serious condition and the others suffered various injuries. They were rushed to hospital after what was most likely a methane gas blast in a privately held mine near the southwestern town of Simitli. All 33 miners who were underground managed to leave the mine, the official said. "No one is trapped inside," a civil defence official at the site told Reuters. — Reuters.

### HAZARDOUS WASTE PLANT, RALEIGH AREA, NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: State regulators have fined a chemical storage company more than \$550,000 for violations after an October fire that prompted a

massive evacuation in Apex. The Division of Waste Management also proposed revoking the hazardous waste permit of EQ Industrial Services Inc., officials said yesterday. Regulators said EQ did not comply with permit conditions, including disaster preparedness and prevention, emergency procedures and record keeping. Investigators found that previous chemical reactions, fires and waste releases had occurred prior to the October fire in the Raleigh suburb. None of those prior incidents had been reported, state officials said. EQ has 60 days to contest or pay the fine of \$553,225. The state will also hold a public hearing as they decide whether to terminate EQ's hazardous waste permit. Diana Kees, a spokeswoman for North Carolina's Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said the fine was among the highest ever levied by the Division of Waste Management. The October 5, blaze at EQ blanketed parts of Apex in a yellow-green haze, prompting town officials to urge as many as 17,000 people to evacuate.

### REFINERY, ASSAM, INDIA

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire at a 20,000 bpd refinery run by state firm Indian Oil Corp Ltd in the northeastern state of Assam at 2130, local time, last night, has shutdown its crude distillation unit (CDU), IOC's director of refineries said on Tuesday (Mar 6). "There was a small fire last night, it looks like due to a pump seal leak. So we have shutdown the CDU. The rest of the units are working," BN Bankapur said. A fuller view of the damage would be known by late Tuesday. "The CDU will be shutdown for the next three or four days but there will be no shortages of products in the region as other units are working."

### VEHICLE BATTERY PLANT, SALINA, KANSAS, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated Mar 5, states: A fire over the weekend does close to \$3 million damage to a vehicle battery plant in Salina. The Exide Technologies facility is the largest vehicle battery manufacturing plant in the world. It makes about 40,000 lead-acid batteries each day and employs 800 people. Investigators say a leaking propane tank sparked the flames. The explosion happened in the formation area, where batteries are processed before being charged. Authorities say despite the massive damage, no-one was hurt and no hazardous material was released.

### WAREHOUSE, ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated Mar 4, states: Nearly 100 firefighters battled a three-alarm warehouse fire in south Orange County this evening. Orange County firefighters responded about 1700 hrs, to a fire at the Innercept warehouse at 9400 Sydney Hayes Road and found smoke and flames pouring from two sides of the 10,000-square-foot, two

story warehouse building. Investigators say the business was a recording studio, but also stored vinyl records, which caused excessive smoke. It was empty at the time, and no one was injured. The blaze took more than four hours to get under control. "This is a very large building with a lot of items being stored. Our crews got in fast and made an aggressive attack, but we'll be here late mopping up," Battalion Chief Vince Preston said. It's not clear what caused the fire. State fire investigators are investigating.



### AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: An American Airlines flight heading to Honolulu returned to Los Angeles on Monday (Mar 5) after the pilot reported smelling smoke. It wasn't immediately known whether the smell came from the cockpit or the cabin, but no injuries were reported, said airline spokesman Tim Wagner. "It was a precautionary diversion," Wagner said. Some time after the Boeing 757 departed from Los Angeles International Airport at 1810, the pilot reported smelling smoke and requested an emergency landing, Wagner said. The jet landed safely at about 1950, and was undergoing inspection. Wagner said he didn't have immediate information on the number of passengers aboard the flight. He said some passengers were transferred to a 2100 hrs flight to Honolulu while the rest will board a Tuesday flight.

### CRASH, BEDFORD, INDIANA, AREA, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A single engine aircraft crashed into a house in Lawrence County, about a mile from Grissom Memorial Airport, in Bedford, Indiana, around 1045 hrs. There has been a report of two fatalities, one of them a girl around the age of 10. According to the airport, the pilot rented a Cessna 150M and shortly after taking off, the aircraft crashed into a nearby house. There were no calls for help from the aircraft. The owner of the home, Vivian Pace, was in the living room of the house when the crash occurred in the bedroom. She was not injured. The pilot and the girl were killed. Their bodies were removed from the aircraft this afternoon, around 1600 hrs. The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) will investigate the crash, Indiana State Police are securing the scene until they arrive.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A pilot and his eight-year-old daughter were killed yesterday when their leased small plane crashed into his former mother-

in-law's house near a southern Indiana airport, authorities said. Indiana State Police spokesman 1st Sgt. Dave Bursten said a preliminary crash investigation leads "us to believe that this was an intentional act." The crash killed Eric Johnson, 47, of Bedford, and his daughter, Emily, he said. The plane crashed into the home of Vivian Pace, who was uninjured, Bursten said. Mrs Beth Johnson had reported to police that she suspected her ex-husband had abducted their eight-year-old daughter. However, by the time she had reported her concern, investigators already were examining the wreckage of the plane crash at the home of her mother. Authorities will not know for sure whether the crash was intentional until the National Transportation Safety Board completes its investigation, which could take up to a year.

### **CRASH, YOGYAKARTA AIRPORT, INDONESIA**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Fears are growing for five Australians still missing after a passenger jet crashed at Indonesia's Yogyakarta Airport yesterday. Twenty-two people have been confirmed dead after the Garuda jet carrying 140 passengers and crew overshot the runway on landing at Yogyakarta. Australian Prime Minister John Howard told Nine Network "grave fears" must be held for the Australians still missing, but that every effort was being made to find them. "It's one of these very difficult situations," he said. "They are unaccounted for and obviously as time goes by the fears can only grow." Australian officials had been in touch with the families of those missing or injured in the crash. Mr Howard said Foreign Minister Alexander Downer had visited hospitals in Yogyakarta and spoken to the crash victims. "He assured me that what was happening was a meticulous check was being made of the hospitals in Yogyakarta to make absolutely certain that people who are now unaccounted for were not there," Mr Howard said. He could not confirm any new information about the treatment and evacuation of the Australian survivors. "One of them has been taken to Perth, that's Cynthia Banham, and she will be treated there," he said. "There are ... remarkable burns facilities at the hospitals in Perth and that is the best place for her to go. "The businessman Mr (Roger) Tallboys has gone to Singapore. "The others are still in hospital ... I think one of them is essentially not needing hospitalisation." Mr Howard said Australia had offered to provide extra medical assistance for victims of the crash. "Our embassy has been in touch with the office of the Indonesian president, and we have made an offer of additional medical assistance," Mr Howard told the Nine Network today. "The Indonesians have indicated that they will be very ready to take that up if it is needed." Mr Howard said he was satisfied with the emergency response to the disaster. Australia had sent two medical teams to Yogyakarta and stood

ready to provide more assistance to Indonesia if needed. "If more are needed they will be sent. But I think it's fair to say that the response has been swift and has been very adequate," he said. "This is a common tragedy and we are only too ready to ensure that Indonesian people who have been affected, been injured, been burnt, that they should receive, as far as possible, the same sort of treatment that is given to Australians." Mr Howard said the Australian Federal Police would have the difficult task of identifying the disaster victims and could be there for some time. He expressed sympathy to the families of those listed as missing. "I always feel a sense of particular responsibility when something like this happens to people who are in the service of Australia, diplomats and police and military personnel," he said. "They are doing our work in our name in another country and I do feel a particular responsibility. "Also for those who report and cover the news because they are all part of our democratic network. "It's a terrible tragedy for their families and it's a period of intense anguish and anxiety for those close to people who are missing and for whom very grave fears are held." Mr Howard later told ABC Radio he had received no information to indicate foul play was to blame for the crash. "There is no evidence that I am aware of suggesting it was sabotage or a terrorist attack, but it's impossible for me to rule out anything," he said. Those feared dead are Australian Financial Review journalist Morgan Mellish, Australian Federal Police agents Brice Steele and Mark Scott, Australian embassy spokeswoman Liz O'Neill and AusAID's Allison Sudrajat.

### **D-ILFB**

London, Mar 6 — Britten-Norman BN-2B-26 Islander D-ILFB operator LFH Luftverkehr Friesland Harle, overshot the runway on landing in poor weather, at Ruhnu Airport, Estonia, and ended up in trees at approximately 1640, Mar 3. There was one crew member and two passengers on board. there were no fatalities.

### **EMERGENCY LANDING, BATAM ISLAND, INDONESIA**

London, Mar 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A Boeing 737-200, operated by domestic carrier Merpati Nusantara, made an emergency landing on Batam Island today after its pilot detected a leakage in the aircraft's oil pipe, AFP cited Indonesian state media. The aircraft was flying from Kuala Lumpur to Surabaya, the Antara news agency said.

### **MID-AIR COLLISION, ZELL AM ZEE AREA, AUSTRIA**

Vienna, Mar 5 — Eight people were killed today when a light plane and a helicopter collided near the Austrian ski resort of Zell am See, authorities said. The transport helicopter had seven people aboard, local Red Cross spokesman Gerhard Huber said, and all were killed in the crash as well as

the plane's pilot. The plane had no passengers, according to an employee of Zell am See airport, where it had taken off from. Weather conditions had been excellent and the cause of the crash was not immediately clear, Huber said. The Super Puma D-HLOG helicopter was owned by Swiss company Helog-Heliswiss AG and the local government said it was on its way to the German town of Berchtesgaden. The crash happened at an altitude of 1,000 metres and debris was scattered over a wide area. — Reuters.

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Eight people died in a mid-air collision between a helicopter and small sport plane near a ski slope in central Austria yesterday. Five Swiss nationals, a German, a French and an Austrian were killed in the collision near Zell am See, in Salzburg province. Six bodies have so far been recovered from the helicopter, which altogether had seven people on board. The small plane had only one person on board at the time of the accident. Apart from the pilot, the other six passengers in the helicopter worked for Swiss company HELOG, it said. Austrian Television pictures showed wreckage scattered in an inaccessible wooded area and eyewitnesses interviewed by television reporters said the small plane exploded near the ski slope, becoming a "fireball in the sky." The cause of the accident remained unclear yesterday evening. A spokesman for the Austrian Red Cross said weather conditions at the time of the collision had been very good.

### **N30401**

London, Mar 6 — Boeing 737-924, N30401, operated by Wells Fargo Bank Northwest NA Trustee, while on one mile final, at Portland Airport, at 0415, UTC, Mar 5, ingested birds in its No.2 engine. Damage reported to the No.2 engine. Aircraft landed at airport without incident.

### **N66513**

London, Mar 6 — Cessna 150M, N66513, operated by Stacey E. Cummings, with two persons on board, crashed into a house, at 1600, UTC, Mar 5, at Bedford, Indiana. The aircraft was destroyed and both persons on board were killed.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Cessna 150M, N66513 crashed into a house in Lawrence County about a mile from Grissom Memorial Airport in Bedford around 1045 hrs Mar 5. The pilot of the aircraft was 47-year-old Eric Johnson of Bedford and the passenger his 8-year-old daughter Emily; both were killed. Findings from a preliminary crash investigation have led police to believe the aircraft intentionally crashed into the Bedford home. However authorities will not know for sure until the NTSB completes its investigation which could take up to a year. Johnson rented the Cessna 150M Monday morning (Mar 5) and shortly after taking off the aircraft crashed into the home of Vivian Pace, Johnson's ex-wife's mother. No calls for help from

the aircraft were made. Pace was in the living room of the house when the crash occurred in the bedroom. She was not injured. Emily's mother, Beth Johnson, went to the Bedford Police Department Monday morning at 1130 hrs to report her daughter missing. She told police Emily was not in school and she believed her father Eric had abducted her. A missing persons report was started and an Amber Alert was considered, however, the crash had already happened and upon checking that information it was discovered Emily was aboard the aircraft. Both Eric and Emily's bodies were removed from the aircraft wreckage Monday afternoon around 1600 hrs. It has not been decided when the aircraft will be removed from the house.

#### PK-GZC

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 49 people have been confirmed dead after a Boeing 737-400 (PK-GZC) with 140 on board - including Australians - crashed and burst into flames at Indonesia's Yogyakarta Airport. Garuda Airlines said there were 133 passengers and seven crew on flight GA-200 from Jakarta when it crashed at 7am today (1pm NZT). "We found 48 dead bodies at the spot. One person died at Sardjito hospital," provincial secretary Bambang Susanto said, referring to the city's main medical centre. The New Zealand Ambassador in Indonesia says a New Zealand diplomat is in the process of visiting the three hospitals injured survivors are being treated in. As yet it is unconfirmed if any Kiwis have been caught up in the tragedy. Indonesia's Ministry for Transport said some 76 survivors had been taken to hospital, Sky News reported. Witnesses said the Boeing 737-400 hit the ground and then overshot the runway, before being engulfed in flames. Others reported hearing explosions. Australian Prime Minister John Howard said there had been a "significant loss of life". "I'm very sorry to inform you there appears to have been a very serious plane crash in Yogyakarta where a Garuda jet appears to have overshot the runway," Mr Howard told Southern Cross Broadcasting. "There appears to have been a significant loss of life. There were up to 10 Australians on board and not all of those have been accounted for." The Australians included journalists, a policeman and Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) member and diplomatic staff who were taking part in a tour of Indonesia by Foreign Minister Alexander Downer. Mr Howard said Australia had offered to provide emergency aid. "I've given authority for any aircraft, medical assistance and the like that is needed — not only for the Australians but for others involved in the accident — to be made available immediately," he said. A spokesman for DFAT said Mr Downer's RAAF flight was on route from Jakarta to Yogyakarta carrying additional consular and medical resources. Australian Federal Police (AFP) resources had also been made available to DFAT at the crash scene,

he said. Sky News said 16 survivors had been taken to Yogyakarta's main airport and another 16 were being treated at a military hospital. AFP news agency said airport official, Captain Yos Bintoro, had told Elshinta radio dozens of people had been killed. "I saw many bodies, dozens of bodies badly burnt near the exit," he said. "I saw people dead in the cockpit. I cannot say if that's the pilot or co-pilot." It said another witness, Hariman, told the station: "The plane is burnt. The fire came suddenly from the front wheel". "It is true that a plane caught fire while landing. It happened when it overshot beyond the runway and burst into flames," Yogyakarta provincial secretary Bambang Susanto told Reuters through texted messages. "The number of passengers is still unclear but we know that there are passengers being treated at the air force hospital," he added. "The plane overshot the runway during landing and hit the airport fences," Julianto, one of the survivors, told Metro TV. "I was sitting at the back of the plane and people started to jump out of the plane after that. Some even jumped into the paddy field," he said. Associated Press quoted passenger Muhammad Dimiyati as saying "We overshot the runway, then I heard the sound of an explosion and ran through an emergency exit. "I believe many passengers remained trapped on board."

London, Mar 7 — Boeing 737-497 PK-GZC operator Garuda Indonesia Airways, Garuda flight 200 was an early morning service from Jakarta to Yogyakarta. The aircraft overran runway 09/27 Yogyakarta-Adisutjipto Airport at 0714, today, skidded through the perimeter fence and ended up in a rice paddy. The aircraft caught fire and burned out. There were seven crew and 133 passengers on board. Australian Prime Minister John Howard said Indonesian officials had confirmed 49 deaths.

#### V8-RBH

London, Mar 7 — Royal Brunei Boeing 767-300, V8-RBH, experienced an overheated brake during take-off from a London airport, at approximately 1630, UTC, Mar 3. The take-off was aborted and the aircraft came to a stop on a high-speed taxiway in the port main gear wheelwell area. There were no injuries to the 200 passengers and crew on board



#### FORD MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Ford Motor Co. is recalling 155,000 pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles including 2003 F-150, F-250, F-350, F-450 and F-550 Super Duty truck, the Ford Excursion

SUV and the Lincoln Blackwood pickup. A faulty cruise control switch suspected of causing fires in older model Ford trucks is the reason for the latest recall. The F-150 pickup is the top-selling vehicle in the U.S. Ford recalled 5.8 million vehicles in 2006 after a lengthy investigation by the national Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) because of engine fires linked to the cruise control systems in trucks, SUVs and vans. The investigation concluded that brake fluid could leak through the cruise control's deactivation switch into electrical components and cause to corrosion which might lead to overheating and fire. Ford officials now say an internal check discovered the same switch systems in some early 2003 trucks and SUVs. NHTSA has received 1,472 complaints connected to the problems, including 65 reports of fires but the agency reports there are no confirmed deaths or injuries. To fix the problem, dealers will install a fused wiring harness to the cruise control deactivation switch to prevent the risk of fire if the switch leaked.

#### GAS GRILLS, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 7 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Mar 6, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Weber-Stephen Products Co., of Palatine, Ill., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 14,000 Weber Genesis 320 Series Gas Grills. The gas hose attached to the side burner of the grill can crack or break off during shipping, causing it to leak gas when in use, which poses a fire hazard to consumers. Weber has received 49 reports of hose damage or gas leaks. No injuries have been reported. This recall involves the Weber Genesis 320 Series gas grills which are designed to be used with either natural gas or with liquid propane gas tanks, and are equipped with a flush-mounted side burner accessory. The gas hose is made of stainless steel. The grills are sold in stainless steel and in black, blue or green porcelain enamel. All serial numbers begin with the prefix 0DI0. The model and serial number are located on the tank blocker/drip pan holder located inside the storage cart. Manufactured in the United States, they were sold at Home Depot, Ace Hardware and Home Centres, Tru-Serve, Do-It Best, and other home improvement and hardware stores nation-wide from November 2006 through February 2007 for between \$450 to \$770.

#### LAPTOP BATTERIES, WORLDWIDE

London, Mar 2 — Lenovo recalled about 205,000 laptop computer batteries yesterday, warning they could overheat and cause a fire. The battery recall was the second for the company in the past six months and comes as Lenovo, the world's No. 3 computer maker, tries to gain ground on its better-known competitors. The latest recall involves batteries made by

Japan's Sanyo Electric and follows four reports of overheating. In one case, a user suffered minor eye irritation, the company said. The Chinese PC maker, which has its world headquarters in Research Triangle Park, said consumers should stop using the recalled products immediately. It said the batteries can overheat if the laptop is dropped a certain way, striking the battery on a corner edge. The advisory was made with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. In September, IBM and Lenovo said they were seeking the recall of 526,000 rechargeable, lithium-ion Sony batteries purchased with ThinkPad computers after one of them caught fire at Los Angeles International Airport. Lenovo bought IBM's personal computer division in May 2005. The earlier recall was part of a global recall of more than 10 million Sony-built batteries that were used in notebooks from Apple, Dell, Lenovo and others. The recalled nine-cell batteries have the part number FRU P/N 92P1131 and sell for about \$US180.

**TOYOTA MOTOR VEHICLES, AUSTRALIA**

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Toyota is recalling almost 140,000 vehicles across Australia. The recall covers more than 134,000 Land Cruiser 70 and 100 series vehicles, along with about 3,000 Lexus LX470 vehicles. The cars were all produced between September, 1997 and December 5, 2005, and may have a problem with the front-disc brake rotor retaining bolts. Toyota spokesman Glenn Campbell says letters are being sent to owners this week. "When they receive their letter, we ask them to contact their local Toyota dealer," Mr Campbell said. "Then we can arrange for their vehicle to be inspected, repaired and get them back on the road. The vehicle will be repaired at no cost to the customer."



**AUSTRALIA**

Sydney, Mar 2 — The squeeze on the Hunter coal chain could worsen over coming months as logistics providers prepare for a queue of 90 vessels at Newcastle by the end of March. But Hunter Valley Coal Chain Logistics Team (HVCCLT) chairman Graham Davidson warns that the figure is dependant on Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)

approval for coal producers to move back to a capacity balancing system. The 90 vessel prediction was forecast in the logistic's team's latest report, which calculated the present queue at a record 73 vessels. It expected that figure to fall to 63 by mid-March but then to grow to 90 by the end of the month. The team forecast 86 vessels to be waiting off the port at the end of April. But Mr Davidson told Lloyd's List DCN this morning that he did not believe the queue would reach 90 by month's end. Mr Davidson said that the length of the queue might have been a factor in a drop-off in expected arrivals in March. Coal chain capacity was limited to 6.6m tonnes in February, down from 7.6m tonnes in January. The limited capacity meant the port loaded coal into vessels at a rate of 81.6mtpa for the month, slightly better than the total of 80.3mtpa in 2005/06. Declared capacity will increase to 7.1m tonnes in March, but coal producers have collectively notified logistics providers that they want up to 8m tonnes of coal to be moved. Mr Davidson said the drop-off in nominated vessel arrivals in March would see the queue maintained in the mid-60s through the month, but the projected queue was still difficult to accurately predict due to the possible re-introduction of the capacity balancing system. The trend for the vessel queue was down, Mr Davidson said. There were variations of up to 20% in the queue predictions because customers have to give PWCS only 14 days' notice. The port has battled to contain the queue, which began to surge late last year and has been complicated by scheduled system shutdowns and an unusually high vessel arrival rate. Meanwhile, Macarthur Coal conceded it would struggle to reach its target of 4.5m tonnes of coal production this year. Smaller shipping allocations and extensive queues at Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal (DBCT), combined with wet weather last month, is expected to put the coal company behind its forecast target. DBCT and Hay Point Coal Services had a combined vessel queue of 48 at the start of the week. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

**BANGLADESH**

Karachi, Mar 2 — To ease container congestion and reduce the turnaround time for vessels at Chittagong Port of Bangladesh, the Chittagong Customs Authority (CCA) has decided to introduce 'green channel' facility at port. According to media, under the facility, importers will be able to take their containers directly from the ships to seven private inland container depots (ICDs). The customs formalities of the imported containers will be done

at the seven ICDs, Eshaq Brothers, Port Link Logistic, Ocean Container Ltd, Fisco Bangladesh Ltd, CCTCL Unit-2, SAPL (West) and K & T Logistics Ltd. The customs has issued a circular in this regard and initially selected 45 garment factories, which will get the facility. Besides, containers with nine types of essential commodities are also entitled to get the facility. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Mar 5 — To further ease congestion and accelerate the container handling at Chittagong Container Terminal (CCT), the port authorities have give the goahead for a private firm: Saif Powertec Limited authority to take over running the entire container handling activities at CCT, with effect from today. A circular issued by the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), states that in the first phase, the Company will operate on a test basis, said. For vessels coming from March 5, the plans for container discharge and loading, report writing and all vessel related works will be handled by Saif Powertec Limited, along with the "preserving of containers at the back yard", container tracking and all other activities, until further notice. As part of the reform programme, a three shift working system, instead of the two shift system introduced earlier, has been brought in to accelerate the port activities. In August last year, Saif Powertec Limited was given the charge of handling four sophisticated gantry cranes at the port. Now they will, in addition to the four gantry cranes, operate eight rubber tyre gantry cranes, 14 tractor trailers, movers and "reach the container up to the delivery yard". — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**NIGERIA**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated Mar 7, states: According to local reports, contract staff at Qua Iboe terminal have been on strike since yesterday. Terminal operations have not been affected so far. However, there has been an impact on flights and vehicular movements as striking workers have closed down major entrances of the Eket airstrip, Helipad and main gate of the shore terminal. Since this morning, helicopters have started to fly but not on a full scale. said.

**INDONESIA**

See "Indonesia" under "Earthquakes".

**ITALY**

Genoa, Mar 5 — Current berthing delays: Genoa: No vessels waiting for berths. La Spezia: No vessels waiting for berths. Savona: No Vessels waiting for normal berths. One vessel waiting for a special berth. — Lloyd's Agents.

## Port Delays

### Information received from BIMCO, Denmark and the Indian Ports Association

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbot Point	14-March-2007	Coal: 3 vessels waiting; 10 vessels due by 29/3.
Brisbane	14-March-2007	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 4 vessels due by 25/3.
Dalrymple Bay	14-March-2007	Coal: DBCT berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 6 waiting; DBCT berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; DBCT berth 3: 5 vessels waiting; other vessels not scheduled: 19 vessels waiting; 24 vessels due by 30/
Esperance	14-March-2007	Grain: 4 vessels due by 20/3, 1 to load wheat, 3 unknown grain cargo; up to 10 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability
Geelong	14-March-2007	No. 3 bulk grain pier: 4 vessels due 30/4, all to load wood-chips; no delays expected.
Geraldton	14-March-2007	Grain: 1 vessel due 15/3 to load unknown grain cargo.
Gladstone	14-March-2007	Coal: R.G. Tanna (Clinton) coal terminal: 3 vessels berthed, 20 waiting; 32 vessels due by 11/5; 24 hour shiploader maintenance shutdown from 13-15/3; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed; 16 vessels due by 26/4
Hay Point	14-March-2007	Coal: Berth 1: 1 vessel berthed, 7 waiting; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 6 waiting; 9 other vessels waiting, not yet scheduled and 5 vessels due by 22/3, not yet scheduled
Kwinana	14-March-2007	Grain: 6 vessels due by 29/3, 2 to load wheat, 3 unknown grain
Newcastle	14-March-2007	Grain: 5 vessels due by 23/2, of which 3 to discharge wheat, 1 canola, 1 barley. Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 3 vessels berthed and loading, 43 waiting; 34 vessels due by 30/3; 20-26 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; approx. 43 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 20 waiting; 15 vessels due by 27/3; 20-26 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 20 vessels off port awaiting coal
Port Adelaide	14-March-2007	Grain: No. 27 berth: 4 vessels due by 30/4, 1 to load barley, 3 wheat. The terminal will be closed to export shipping from 14/5 to 3/6 for maintenance to shipping weighers and rain inwards infrastructure.
Port Kembla	14-March-2007	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 13 vessels due by 5/4
Whyalla	14-March-2007	Iron ore: 4 vessels due by 22/4; 3 vessels due by 25/4 for transshipping; ore jetty belt maintenance from 19-25/3 inclusive.
<b>Azerbaijan</b>		
Apsheron	12-March-2007	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 1 vessel berthed, completed discharging fuel oil; 1 vessel due 12/3 to discharge fuel oil
Baku	12-March-2007	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: 1 vessel in roads, to discharge crude oil; Sangachal district: no vessels
<b>Bulgaria</b>		
Bourgas	12-March-2007	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading (2 coils, 1 metals, 1 copper anodes), 7 discharging (2 metals, 1 DRI, 1 iron ore, 1 copper/zinc concentrate, 1 copper concentrate, 1 sugar); 1 vessels in roads to load coils; 7 vessels due, of which 4 to load (2 coils, 1 pig-iron, 1 sulphur), 3 to discharge (1 machinery, 1 coke, 1 kaolin)
Varna	12-March-2007	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Twenty-five vessels in port operating of which 12 loading (1 equipment in packing cases, 1 caustic soda solution, 2 bulk clinker, 1 bulk wheat, 3 bulk kaolin/bagged chamotte, 1 bulk silica sand, 3 soda), 5 discharging bulk coal, 8 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in road
<b>Cyprus</b>		
Larnaca	12-March-2007	One conventional vessel discharging at berth; no vessels due 14/3; no delays expected.
Limassol	12-March-2007	Four container vessel discharging/loading at berth, 1 conventional vessel discharging at berth, 1 Ro/Ro discharging/loading at berth; 4 container vessels due 14/3; no delays expected.
<b>Egypt</b>		
Adabiya	12-March-2007	Four vessels berthed (loading/discharging), all general cargo.
Alexandria	12-March-2007	Thirty-eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 32 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier, 3 tankers, 2 container vessels; 11 vessels at inner anchorage.
Damietta	12-March-2007	Thirty-nine vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 28 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 6 container vessels; 21 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage
Dekheila	12-March-2007	Fourteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 12 bulk carriers, 1 container vessel; 14 vessels at outer anchorage
Port Said	12-March-2007	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 4 general cargo, 3 container vessels
Suez	12-March-2007	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 4 passenger vessels; 3 tugs, 1 vessel dry-docked
Suez Canal	12-March-2007	Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 25 Southbound.

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## Port Conditions

### Estonia

Tallinn 12-March-2007 Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 3 vessels loading at berth, of which 2 coal, 1 fertiliser; no vessels anchored; 2 vessels due, with 7 days berthing delay expected.

### Georgia

Batumi 12-March-2007 Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, of which 1 discharging LPG, 1 loading crude oil, 1 synthetic fuel oil/gasoil/other; 1 vessel in roads to load synthetic fuel oil/gasoil/other; 3 vessels due by 22/3, all to load, of which 2 crude oil, 1 gasoil

Poti 12-March-2007 Oil products: 1 vessel in roads to load ULSD; 2 vessels in due by 13/3, both to load gasoline.

### India

Kolkata 12-March-2007 5 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading General Cargo, 3 vessels discharging ( General Cargo, Edible Oil-2), 1 vessel waiting to load General Cargo; 3 vessels working at midstream discharging (Pulse-2, Crude, Coke); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 4 vessels under repair; 1 vessel under dry docked; 1 vessel under arrest; 3 vessels waiting to sail.

Haldia 12-March-2007 12 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading ( Iron Ore, POL-2), 5 vessels discharging ( Crude, Coke, Moke, General Cargo), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel waiting to load Iron Ore, 1 vessel waiting to discharge Coke; 3 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load ), 3 vessels waiting berth at anchorage ( 1 to discharge, 2 to load); 10 vessels due ( Thermal Coal, Moke, Iron Ore, Containers).

Paradip 12-March-2007 10 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading ( Iron Ore, Thermal Coal-2, Chrome. Ch.), 6 vessels discharging ( A. Coal, High Speed Diesel, C. Clinker, CP Coke, Coking Coal, Rock Phosphate); 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting berth at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load); 11 vessels due.

Vizag 12-March-2007 14 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading ( Iron Ore, Thermal Coal, Product Tankers), 7 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, Crude Oil, DBM, General Cargo, Alumina, Steam Coal), 3 vessels lading and discharging ( General Cargo & Granite, CP Coke & Granite, Containers); 8 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage ( 4 to discharge, 4 to load); 1 vessel under arrest; 48 vessels due ( Iron Ore-7, Steel Cargo-2, Soya-3, B F Slag-2, Granite, C.P. Coke, Food Grains, Crude Trap & Product Tankers-10, Urea, Coking Coal-7, Containers-2, General Cargo & Steel Pipes-2, Chemical Cargo, Caustic Soda, Alumina, Steam Coal, Crude & Product Tanker-4, Peas ).

Chennai 12-March-2007 13 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Granite Block-2, Molas, High Speed Diesel ), 7 vessels discharging (Steel, Project/ Steel, Thermal Coal, PFAD, Steam Coal-2, High Speed Diesel), 3 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage ( 1 to load and discharge, 1 to load); 10 vessels due ( Project Cargo-2, Wood Pulp/Steel Pipes, Steel Coils/ Project, Granite Block, Furance Oil, Supply).

Tuticorin 12-March-2007 7 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Granite, 5 vessels discharging (Logs, Thermal Coal, Coke, Coal, Rock Phosphate), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge, 1 vessel not ready to work at anchorage to load, 1 vessel awaiting order at anchorage to load.

Cochin 12-March-2007 4 vessels operating at berth discharging (Iron Scrap, Crude, Sulphur, Defence Cargo); 1 vessel awaiting order at anchorage to discharge.

New Mangalore 12-March-2007 9 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Containers, Iron Ore Fines, POL Product), 6 vessels discharging (Fertilizer, Coal, Timber, Iron Ore Fines, POL Product, POL Crude); 5 vessels waiting at anchorage ( 3 to discharge, 2 to load); 13 vessels due (POL Crude-2, POL Product-5, Urea, Phosphoric Acid, LPG, Coal-2, Iron Ore Fines).

Mormugao 12-March-2007 4 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Iron Ore, Alumina), 2 vessels discharging ( Fertilizer, Palm Fatty Acid); 4 vessels working at midstream loading Iron Ore; 2 vessel under dry docked; 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to load; 5 vessels due (C. Coal, R. P. Coke, MOP, Iron Ore).

Mumbai 12-March-2007 16 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading ( Steel, Bagged Sugar, Machinery, Used Cranes, POL-2), 7 vessels discharging ( Rock Phosphate-3, Steel/Soc/Ship Loose Accessories, POL), 2 vessels loading and discharging ( Steel/ General/ Vehicles/ Bagged Fly Ash); 1 vessel working at midstream discharging Lubricant Oil; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage Lubricant Oil; 11 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 5 vessels under arrest; 1 vessel under laid up ( Berths not required for cargo operations); 38 vessels due (Contaners-4, General Cargo-34).

J.N.P.T. 12-March-2007 8 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Naptha, 7 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load and discharge; 1 vessel due Containers

Kandla 12-March-2007 13 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Agriculture Product, Rice), 8 vessels discharging (Timber Logs-2, Lump, MOP, Urea, MAP, Scrap, Wheat), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels working at midstream at anchorage to discharge (Sulphur, Coal); 8 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage ( 5 to discharge, 3 to load), 4 vessels not ready to work at anchorage ( 2 to load, 2 to discharge).

Ennore 12-March-2007 1 vessel working at inner anchorage to load Iron Ore, 4 vessels due (MV Bright Jhejiang (Coal), MV Good Season (Coal), MV Apj Sri Devi (Coal), MV Tamil Anna( Coal),

### Israel

Ashdod 13-March-2007 No labour problems. One general cargo vessel loading at berth, 11 vessels discharging at berth (8 general cargo, 3 bulkers); 2 general cargo vessels waiting at anchorage to load discharge, 7 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (6 bulkers, 1 car carrier); 23 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.

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## Port Conditions

Eilat	13-March-2007	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 1 vessel due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	13-March-2007	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel loading at berth, 8 discharging at berth (4 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 10 loading/discharging at berth (3 containers, 1 car carrier, 5 tankers, 1 passenger vessel); 2 general cargo vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge, 12 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (1 bulker, 9 containers, 1 tanker, 1 car carrier); 7 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 17 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
<b>Kazakhstan</b>		
Aktau	12-March-2007	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, both completed loading crude oil; 4 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargo; 3 vessels due by 13/3, all to load unknown cargoes.
<b>Russia</b>		
Novorossiysk	13-March-2007	Eighteen vessels in port operating, of which 14 loading, (1 bulk cement, 2 vegetable oil, 1 scrap, 2 steel billets, 2 pipes, 1 coils/H-beams, 1 coils, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 wheat, 1 aluminium), 3 discharging (2 bulk sugar, 1 vegetable oil), 1 discharging/loading containers; 14 vessels waiting in roads, of which 7 to load (1 equipment, 2 steel billets, 2 coils, 1 containers, 1 copper), 6 to discharge (5 bulk sugar, 1 vegetable oil), 1 to discharge/load containers; 66 vessels due, of which 61 to load (9 steel billets, 9 copper, 8 coils, 3 DRI, 3 WRIC, 1 bulk NPK, 1 tin plates, 2 coils/steel billets, 1 steel billets/pipes/coils, 1 vegetable oil, 2 bulk cement, 5 slabs, 1 ammonium sulphate, 3 cellulose, 1 coils/ vehicles/spare parts, 1 scrap, 1 barley, 2 pipes, 1 wheat, 2 aluminium, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 diesel oil, 2 steel sheets), 5 to discharge (1 bananas, 1 debars, 2 citrus, 1 bulk sugar). Oil terminal: 1 tanker berthed loading diesel oil; 2 tankers in roads, both to load crude oil; 6 tankers due, all to load, of which 5 crude oil, 1 fuel oil
<b>Spain</b>		
Bilbao	12-March-2007	Thirty-four vessels in port operating (9 tankers, 25 others), of which 8 loading, 15 discharging, 11 loading/discharging.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>		
Colombo	12-March-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 vessels loading at berth (7 containers/feeders, 1 cement blocks on pallets), 13 discharging at berth (10 containers/feeders, 2 bulk cement, 1 steel billets); 3 container/feeder vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 5 vessels dry-docked; 9 vessels due (8 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement), with no delays expected.
<b>Turkmenistan</b>		
Aladja	12-March-2007	Oil products: 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	12-March-2007	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed loading gasoline; 2 vessels in roads, both to load, of which 1 fuel oil, 1 jet fuel; 2 vessels due by 13/3, 1 to load gasoil, 1 unknown cargo.
<b>Ukraine</b>		
Ilichevsk	12-March-2007	Seven vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading (3 steel products, 1 iron ore), 2 discharging (1 cake, 1 citrus), 1 loading/discharging containers; 5 vessels in roads, of which 1 to load steel products, 3 to discharge (2 steel products, 1 citrus), 1 to load/discharge containers; 18 vessels due, of which 9 to load (4 steel products, 1 barley, 3 sunflower oil, 1 ore), 1 to discharge ore, 8 to load/discharge containers.
Mariupol	12-March-2007	Fifteen vessels in port operating, of which 13 loading (7 steel, 4 coal, 1 fire-clay, 1 equipment), 1 discharging equipment, 1 discharging/loading fire-clay/containers; 7 vessels in roads, of which 6 to load (4 steel, 1 coal, 1 sulphur), 1 to discharge/load marble/steel; 46 vessels due, of which 43 to load (31 steel, 2 coal, 1 slag, 3 sulphur, 3 fire-clay, 1 fire-clay/containers, 1 sunflower beans, 1 heavy lift cargo/containers), 2 to discharge equipment, 1 to load/discharge pipes/equipment/steel.
Odessa	12-March-2007	Twenty-five vessels in port operating, of which 11 loading (9 metal, 2 barley), 9 discharging (2 luggage, 1 sugar, 1 general cargo, 2 citrus, 2 bananas, 1 oil), 3 discharging/loading (1 containers, 1 metal/rice, 1 metal/sugar), 2 passenger vessels; 17 vessels in roads, of which 8 to load (5 metal, 1 scrap, 1 pellets, 1 corn), 7 to discharge (3 citrus, 2 sugar, 1 general cargo, 1 metal), 2 to discharge/load containers; 69 vessels due, of which 28 to load (20 metal, 2 pig-iron, 4 oil, 1 barley, 1 ferro alloy), 8 to discharge (3 citrus, 1 general cargo, 2 bananas, 1 fertiliser, 1 sugar), 33 to discharge/load containers.

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