

# CasualtyWeek

Mar 23 2007

## DNV suggests incompetence among crews is behind rise in accidents

Classification society's study says downward trend of recent years "is about to turn", writes Rajesh Joshi in Connecticut — Thursday 22 March 2007

**G**ROWING incompetence among crews, possibly brought on by new recruits, poor retention and overworked seafarers, could be the reason behind an increase in the frequency of serious maritime accidents since the start of the new century, Det norske Veritas has said.

Data released by the Norwegian classification society at the Connecticut Maritime Association conference purports to show that while accident figures today are half of what they were in the late 1980s, "the trend is about to turn".

This reversal has been clearly felt and seen since the start of the present decade, according to DNV data.

Tor Svensen, chief operating officer of DNV Maritime, told Lloyd's List that this unwelcome reversal of the trend could plausibly be attributed to a "loss of competence" among crews, linked with stress and fatigue but not necessarily attributable to fewer crew members per ship.

The link with reduced competence was only a theory, Mr Svensen stressed.

Nevertheless, figures compiled by DNV on navigational accident frequency for large containerships, ro-ros and crude as well as chemical tankers that date back to 1987 show a downward trend until 2001, followed by an increase from that point on.

Even the tanker segment, with its vaunted focus on safety, has reported more accidents than five years ago, DNV's study notes.

The society says collisions, standing and contact damage are areas of high concern and the figures belie higher technical and transparency standards in the industry today.

Dr Espen Cramer, head of DNV Maritime Solutions, said in a statement: "In sum, the general level of experience on board vessels has been reduced. There are more new recruits, less retention and faster promotion.

"In addition, onboard workloads with respect to paperwork and inspections have increased while crew size is stable. Loss of experience is a stress factor for those... who have to continuously train newer crew members."

Although shipping is going through relatively healthy economic times, it has to contend with increased demand for seafarers and loss of manpower to other industries, DNV's study notes. Dr Cramer suggests "more focus on crew on board and management onshore" as a way to reduce accidents.

"The crew has to be more involved in safety and management has to demonstrate more commitment to safety," he advises.

"In that respect, shipping still has more to learn from industries such as offshore and aviation."

## Fos-Lavera labour dispute talks end in deadlock

Friday 23 March 2007

A MEETING aimed at ending a nine day-long strike at the Fos-Lavera oil and gas hub at Marseille ended unsuccessfully late last night.

Officials from the port union said it was going to be very complicated to end the crisis.

Representatives from the port of Marseille and Gaz de France as well as regional authorities met union officials in a bid to end a dispute that has blocked oil product transit in the southern French port.

Union officials claim the deadlock was a move to brush aside Marseille port staff, which was political in nature.

Minutes of yesterday's meeting will be submitted today to striking workers who will decide whether to continue the action.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>AFRODITE S.</i>	general	VCT	LR	2,760	4,954	1973	Reported 10-20 deg list in lat 34 46N, long 28 32E, Mar 14, due cargo shifted in bad weather. Proceeding to Karpathos Island at 2 knots. Frigate Monmouth tasked to stand by. Abandoned & drifting later same day. Reported Mar 15 still afloat but may sink.
<i>BELOYARSK</i>	product tanker	RUS	RS	1,607	1,660	1970	Had fire in engine-room at Vladivostok Mar 11. Engine-room completely destroyed.
<i>BERGEN NORDIC</i>	chem/oil tanker	NOR	NV	2,490	3,512	2003	Sustained damage and drifting without power off Skongsnes Mar 15. Towed to Maaloy same day by rescue vessel <i>R.S. Platou</i> .
<i>BLUE HORIZON</i>	passenger/ro-ro	GRC	—	27,230	6,005	1987	Struck pier while berthing at Patra Mar 10. Crack in port ballast tanks, resulting in water ingress. Repairs under way, ETC Mar 15.
<i>CAROL</i>	bulker	SGP	NK	39,996	75,608	1999	Grounded at Mile 170, River Orinoco, Mar 9. Lightering expected to begin Mar 14. Navigation in the area disrupted.
<i>CITY OF MERSIN</i>	general cargo	PAN	—	1,061	1,160	1956	Grounded on rocks in lat 38 48N, long 22 48E, Mar 9. Hull damage reported, which delayed refloating attempts. Still aground Mar 15. Fuel removal under way. No pollution but booms deployed as safety measure. Salvage operations under way.
<i>GLORIUS</i>	bulker	CYP	NK	14,141	23,050	1980	Drifted due rudder problems in Bosphorus Mar 12. Struck & sank yacht Hamit. Anchored in Bebek Bay, in lat 41 04 40.48N, long 29 03.27E. Towed to Ahirkapi anchorage by 2 tugs. Investigation under way.
<i>GRETA KOSAN</i>	lpg	IOM	BV	4,086	4,811	1990	Sustained rudder damage north of Ferrol Mar 10. Towed to Ferrol, where berthed at shipyard Mar 12. Expected to be repaired shortly.
<i>KLICKITAT</i>	passenger/ro-ro	USA	—	1,408	—	1927	Taken out of service at Port Townsend Mar 10 after crack found in hull. Entered dry dock at Seattle Mar 13. Returned to service Mar 14.
<i>KURKSE</i>	general cargo	EST	LR	2,658	3,250	1997	In contact with berthed container carrier <i>MSC Bulgaria</i> at Hamburg Mar 9. Damage to superstructure. Prohibited from sailing. Investigation under way. Arrived Felixstowe Mar 11 & sailed Mar 12.
<i>MSC BULGARIA</i>	container	LBR	LR	30,824	25,684	1988	Contacted by general cargo <i>Kurkse</i> Mar 9 while berthed at Hamburg. 2-metre gash in hull. Prohibited from sailing. Investigation under way. Arrived Liverpool Mar 14.
<i>TIPU SULTAN</i>	passenger/ro-ro	IND	IR	4,500	3,028	1982	Reported Mar 12 cancelled departure from Kochi due to main engine problems. One week required for repairs.
<i>VENTO DI LEVANTE</i>	general cargo	CYM	RI	7,335	9,300	1984	Towed into Valletta Mar 8 due engine problems in bad weather in St. George's Bay. Sailed Mar 10.

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**Lloyd's**  
**Marine Intelligence Unit**



The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



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

London, Mar 10 — Roll on roll off *Acacia* arrived Piraeus Mar 8.

London, Mar 13 — Roll On Roll Off *Acacia*: Lloyd's Standard Form was signed with Lybousakis Atlas Shipping Co., on Mar 9.

Piraeus, Mar 13 — Repairs to Roll On Roll Off *Acacia* have not commenced to date. — Lloyd's Agents.

## **ACCORD (Philippines)** See *Jaguar*.

## **AFRODITE S. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

London, Mar 14 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0645, UTC: General cargo *Afrodite S.* (2760 gt, built 1973), Vassiliko Bay for Licata, cargo cement, reported with 10-20 deg list to port, due shifted cargo in heavy weather, in lat 34 46N, long 28 32E, at 0550, UTC. Winds on scene north-west, force 9-10 (strong gale-storm). The vessel has eleven persons onboard and is currently proceeding to Karpathos Island at two knots.

London, Mar 14 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0845, UTC: Frigate HMS *Monmouth* is in the vicinity of general cargo *Afrodite S.* and has been tasked to standby the vessel.

London, Mar 14 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1216, UTC: General cargo *Afrodite S.* has been abandoned by its crew and is presently drifting in lat 34 46N, long 28 32E.

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A Royal Navy frigate, the Devonport-based HMS *Monmouth*, airlifted five people in gale-force winds from general cargo *Afrodite S.*, which was taking in water, between Crete and Cyprus. The *Monmouth* received a distress call from the cargo vessel after its cargo of cement shifted, causing water ingress. The *Monmouth* launched a helicopter to rescue five of the crew of the *Afrodite S.*, while a Greek search and rescue helicopter came to the aid of the other six crew. Commander Tim Peacock of the *Monmouth* said: "As soon as we get a Mayday (distress) call we are honour-bound to render assistance, so I immediately turned the vessel towards the *Afrodite S.* and came up to our full speed." He said he thought it was "fairly likely" the *Afrodite S.* would now sink. "It is getting lower and lower in the water," he said, adding that the rescued crew had now been taken to the Greek mainland by helicopter.

London, Mar 15 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1102, UTC: General cargo *Afrodite S.* is still reported afloat and drifting. Vessel is currently 20 nautical miles south of the island of Rhodes.

Piraeus, Mar 15 — General cargo *Afrodite S.*, Cyprus for Italy, developed a list 80 nautical miles south-east of the island of Karpathos due to cargo shifting as a result of adverse weather conditions (strong winds) prevailing at that time and place. A British frigate picked up five of her 11 crew members and the remaining six were picked up by a Super Puma helicopter of the Ministry of Merchant Marine. All crew members were reportedly healthy. Up to date no tug able to approach the area in order to tow her due to the above-mentioned strong winds (8-9 on the Beaufort scale).

## **AGHIOS MAKARIOS (Greece)**

London, Mar 8 — Bulker *Aghios Makarios* was reported arriving at Lianyungang on Feb 23 and sailing on Feb 28.

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

Troy, Michigan, Mar 14 — Buoy ship *Alder* (1930 gt, built 2004) has been withdrawn from service due to mechanical problems, although it is unknown how long she will be out of service. The Coast Guard said the 140-cutter *Biscayne Bay* or the new *Mackinaw* will replace her on ice breaking duties in Duluth-Superior, Two Harbors, Taconite Harbor and Thunder Bay until she can be repaired and returned to service. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

## **AN PING 6 (China)**

Portsmouth, UK, Mar 11 — Bulker *An Ping 6* (24389 gt, built 1987) and general cargo *Xiehang 528* collided yesterday morning, leaving sunken containers partially blocking traffic near the mouth of the Pearl River in south China's Guangdong Province, local authorities said. The accident occurred at 0350 hrs on the Lianhuashan west waterway, when the outbound *Xiehang 528* collided with the inbound *An Ping 6*, leaving eight men and 43 Twenty-foot Equivalent Units from *Xiehang 528* in the water, according to the Guangzhou Maritime Affairs Bureau. Rescuers recovered all eight crew, along with 39 containers. The maritime authority has imposed a temporary ban on navigation on the affected waterway. It is still unknown what the TEUs contain. An investigation into the cause of the accident is under way and the salvage of the four remaining containers is continuing. — Correspondent.

Anwterp, Mar 13 — Bulker *An Ping 6* was in collision with part containerised general cargo vessel *Xiehang 528*, 1,509 dwt, in the west Lianhuashan channel, at about 0350 hrs, Mar 10. The container carrier sank and 43 containers fell overboard. — "DPS Teamhead Surveyors".

## **ANNABELLA (U.K.)**

London, Mar 12 — A press release from Marine Accident Investigation Branch, dated today, states: Container Carrier *Annabella* (9981 gt, built 2006) had partial collapse of cargo onboard while on passage Feb 26. (Note —

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*Annabella* passed Brunsbuttel Feb 24, arrived Kotka Feb 27 and sailed Mar 5.)

#### **ANTONIA (Croatia)**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Crude oil tanker *Antonia* stranded 50 metres away from Lanterna near Lovisca on Peljesac at 2225 yesterday. It was confirmed to us in the Sate department for protection and rescuing. She was operating on Dubrovnik Split route and had two tons of oil in it, as propellant. There is no danger to the environment; not known if the tanker was refloated.

London, Mar 9 — Following received from Rijeka MRCC, timed 0845, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Antonia* was refloated with tug assistance at 1427, UTC, yesterday. There was no pollution. Divers found no damage to the vessel, however, it was towed to Tregler Shipyard for inspection in dry dock.

#### **AUTOPROGRESS (Madeira)**

Bremen, Mar 12 — Our Sub-agents in Emden have advised that vehicle carrier *Autoprogress* arrived at Emden on Feb 21, and repairs are underway. They are expected to take 50 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **AYU PERMATA (Indonesia)**

London, Mar 15 — General cargo *Ayu Permata* arrived at Yangzhou on Mar 11.

#### **BALTIC BRIGHT (Sweden)**

Portsmouth, UK, Mar 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Roll On Roll Off *Baltic Bright* (9708 gt, built 1996) had a complete blackout, resulting in loss of electrical power and loss of control of the steering systems while off Stockholm at 0400, Mar 10. This resulted in a near collision with passenger/ro-ro *Silja Serenade*. However, due to the quick reactions of the *Silja Serenade* an accident was prevented. — Correspondent.

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Roll On Roll Off *Baltic Bright* and the Silja Line car ferry *Silja Serenade* were involved in a "near miss" incident at 0530 hrs, on Friday morning (Mar 9), in Finnish territorial waters west of the Aland Islands. *Silja Serenade* was carrying 1,850 passengers from Helsinki to Stockholm. *Baltic Bright* had first intersected the course of the ferry from the left at a normal distance. Shortly after, *Baltic Bright* lost electric power and as a result, lost its steering. It then turned 180 degrees, coming directly into the path of *Silja Serenade*. The Silja Line vessel managed to avert a collision by putting its engines into reverse. Esa Saari of the Archipelago Sea Inspection Unit of the Finnish Maritime Administration said that the danger of a collision was very real. "According to a report by the Coast Guard, the vessels came to within 0.04 nautical miles, or about 70 metres, from each other." Tuomas Nylund, head of communications at Tallink Silja, confirmed the seriousness of the situation. He estimated the distance between the vessels at between 207

and 277 metres. The tapes that serve as the so-called black boxes on *Silja Serenade* will be analysed today, and they are expected to provide a more precise estimate of the distance between the vessels. Most of the passengers on board were asleep during the incident, and no announcements were made on the vessel about what had happened. *Baltic Bright*, operated by the Swedish Baltic Carrier shipping line, was en route from England to load paper at Hallstavik. The crew succeeded in restarting vessel's engines again after 15 minutes and the vessel arrived in Hallstavik in the morning. The company's CEO Ture Axelsson said on Friday that the cause for the power failure on board was still unknown. "We have tested all of the machines and reserve systems, and we have not found a reason." Axelsson says that the strangest part of it is that the emergency generator did not switch itself on, as it should have done.

London, Mar 15 — Roll on roll off *Baltic Bright* arrived at Chatham on Mar 14.

#### **BALTIYSK (Russia)**

London, Mar 9 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Roll On Roll Off *Baltiysk* is still berthed in the port of Mukran/Ruegen island after its fire with no repairs having been carried out yet.

#### **BBC ICELAND (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Mar 9 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: General cargo *BBC Iceland* has now left Sandnessjoen and is presently at Kirkenes.

London, Mar 15 — General cargo *BBC Iceland* sailed Kirkenes at 2000 hrs, Mar 11 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 64 03 04N, long 06 56 01E, at 0841, UTC, today, speed 5.5 knots, course 182 degrees.

#### **BELOYARSK (Russia)**

Portsmouth, UK, Mar 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Product tanker *Beloyarsk* (1607 gt, built 1970) had fire in engine-room during night of Mar 11 while in the port of Vladivostok. Fire reportedly completely destroyed the engine room of the vessel and took over an hour to extinguish. No oil leakage reported. Vessel was empty and is alongside mooring wall. — Correspondent.

Vladivostok, Mar 12 — Product tanker *Beloyarsk* caught fire Mar 10, resulting in the engine-room being totally burned out. There were no injuries to the crew and the cause of the fire is unknown at present. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BEN MAYE (Isle of Man)**

Ramsey, Mar 12 — General cargo *Ben Maye* is expected to undergo sea trials this week and should return to service by the end of the week. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BERGEN NORDIC (Norway)**

London, Mar 15 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Combined chemical and oil tank *Bergen Nordic* (2490 gt, built 2003) sustained damage and drifted, without power, towards land, 1.5 miles north-west of Skongsnes Fyr, Vågøy at 0400 hrs. The Norwegian rescue ship *R.S. Platou* departed from MÅaly and towed the vessel to MÅaly, where it was safely berthed at a quay in Trolleb at 0730 hrs.

#### **BLUE HORIZON (Greece)**

Piraeus, Mar 12 — Passenger ro/ro *Blue Horizon* (27230 gt, built 1987) struck the pier during berthing manoeuvres at Patra on Mar 10, due to the adverse weather conditions (strong winds) prevailing at that time. This caused a crack in one of her port ballast tanks resulting in an ingress of water. There were no reported injuries among the 208 passengers and 86 crew. No pollution was reported. The vessel has commenced repairs at Patra. These are estimated to be completed on Mar 15. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BOW FAVOUR (NIS)**

Bahrain, Mar 13 — Chemical tanker *Bow Favour*: According to the vessel's agent, the vessel is still under repair. Repairs are expected to be completed at the end of this month. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CAROL (Singapore)**

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated Mar 13, states: A total of 19 foreign flag vessels are at anchor in the River Orinoco, delayed by bulker *Carol* (39996 gt, built 1999) which ran aground last Friday (Mar 9). The Captain of the port of Ciudad Guayana, Captain Rainier Rojas Esaa, said two contracted vessels would arrive alongside the grounded vessel tomorrow, to lighten part of her cargo, to sufficiently release the vessel's propellers, which are half-buried in a sand bank at Mile 170, of the river. It is hoped to be able to remove the vessel as soon as possible so she can continue her outward voyage towards the Atlantic. Captain Esaa indicated that, as a result of this grounding, 19 vessels are held-up throughout the Orinoco. Seven of them are at Mile 178 and another five were located in the entrance of the river. Also, a further seven are berthed at Matanzas and Punta Cuchillo. The National Institute of Aquatic Spaces (Inea) has commissioned experts to investigate the incident.

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The Guayana City harbour authorities will today try to refloat bulker *Carol* that has been aground in the Orinoco river for six days and has prevented traffic movement on the river. The president of the National Institute of Canalizations, Captain Wolfgang Lopez Carrasquel, has said that the cause of the grounding could have been "a human error" because the "channel is in optimal conditions." The Guayana City authorities said a small dredger,

belonging to the National Institute of Canalizations, already working on site, will stop operations at noon today or this afternoon. Tugs can then initiate refloating manoeuvres. The Guayana City Harbour Master Captain Rainier Rojas Esaa, confirmed that a crane has been obtained, to lighten the cargo, but "first we are hoping to see if we can refloat the ship with the dredger and the tugs. If we manage to refloat it, we will immediately begin to dredge the area using the dredger *Volvox Hollandia*, that is here. If the crane is needed it will take an additional two or three days to lighten the ship." According to the report submitted by the department of Agency of Ships of Marine Radio of Ferrominera Orinoco, at 0800 hrs, yesterday, there were 13 ships in the Orinoco and seven berthed at wharves. Other sources revealed that a vessel cancelled its contract and left. On Tuesday (Mar 13) the *Carol's* propeller was buried approximately 1.80 metres in sand and the rudder was in approximately two metres of sand. The authorities are attempting to remove the sand from this part of the vessel, so that the vessel's own propulsion can be used. "Five tugs are in the area ready to make a refloating attempt," according to sources.

#### **CELTIC MIST (Cyprus)**

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

#### **CHRESTENA II (Panama)**

Mumbai, Mar 13 — General cargo *Chrestena II* is still aground and there is no change in its situation. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Jan 9.)

#### **CITY OF MERSIN (Panama)**

London, Mar 9 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 2030, UTC: General cargo *City of Mersin* (1061 gt, built 1956), voyage Larimna for Tuzla, grounded at 1030, local time, this morning, in lat 38 48N, long 22 48E, on rocky ground. The crew of 10 are all safe. After initial inspection, vessel has damage to her hull and refloating attempts delayed because of this. Action for any pollution which may arise will be dealt with tomorrow.

London, Mar 10 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0926, UTC: General cargo *City of Mersin* is still aground. No pollution has been reported but booms are currently being deployed, as a safety measure.

London, Mar 11 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1036, UTC: General cargo *City of Mersin* is still aground. Fuel removal operations are under way.

Piraeus, Mar 12 — General cargo *City of Mersin* ran aground at shallow waters at the area north of Evia Mar 9. The vessel remains at the area to date and no injuries and no pollution were reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 13 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1157, UTC: General cargo *City of Mersin* is still aground. Operations to refloat the vessel are in progress.

London, Mar 15 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1102, UTC:

General cargo *City of Mersin* is still aground. Efforts to refloat the vessel are still in progress.

#### **CORONIS (Bahamas)**

Poznan, Mar 14 — Bulker *Coronis* will complete repairs tomorrow and will depart tomorrow from Gdansk, bound for Muuga. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ERIKA (Malta)**

London, Mar 12 — Four weeks into the trial in Paris regarding non specific tanker *Erika*, the tanker is finally poised to make its final voyage. The final session of last week's three hearings closed with the vessel at the port of Dunkirk ready to leave with its heavy fuel oil cargo for Leghorn. The court's examination of the final act in the life of the vessel promises to be crucial for the four corporate and 11 individual defendants in the trial. It will clearly be determining for the tanker's former master, Karun Mathur, who is now represented at the trial even if not physically present, and for the four members of the French maritime emergency services who are accused of deliberately neglecting to take action to prevent a casualty representing a threat to the safety of others. For the other defendants it will be a question of determining whether any actions they took or failed to take in the course of the vessel's final hours contributed to its dramatic end. Their roles and eventual responsibilities for the physical state of the *Erika* as it left Dunkirk for its voyage down the French coast have already been largely discussed by the court. French media commentators took the view, moreover, that the Total oil group, which to date has been the principal villain of the piece in the eyes of the French public, marked a number of points in its favour last week. The group with two of its subsidiaries, Total Transport Corp and Total Petroleum Services, and its director of shipping Bertrand Thouilin, are accused of causing pollution, while the Total group and Mr Thouilin are also accused of complicity in putting lives in danger. Last week, however, the group was able to demonstrate to the court that, in chartering the *Erika*, it had not acted under pressure to complete a contract signed in the spring with Italian electricity producer Enel, which provided for it to deliver 200,000 to 280,000 tonnes of heavy fuel oil before the end of 1999. Court president Jean-Baptiste Parlos accepted the group's explanation that it had already met its minimum contractual obligations to Enel before the *Erika* was chartered for its final voyage in late November 1999. As to whether the terms of the charter party concluded by the group for the *Erika* gave it effective operational control of the vessel, there was a feeling that the group had gained from the long and detailed explanation it gave the court of the charter party and the voyage instructions which accompanied it. Whether it convinced the court remains to be seen but the oil group seemed at least to have succeeded in establishing that the charter party and voyage

instructions were not particular to Total but were relatively compatible with standard industry practice. There was a piquant moment, moreover, when the legal representative of Total Transport, Roberto Giovannone, insisted before the court that the terms of the charter party were subject to English law under which no vessel charterer had ever been convicted for pollution. He acknowledged, however — and Mr Parlos was quick to underline the fact — that it was nevertheless for the court to determine whether English commercial law was compatible with French criminal law in this area. Prosecutor Laurent Michel made it clear that he in any case still needed to be convinced that Total's involvement in the tanker's final voyage was not sufficient as to warrant the company being sanctioned under 1983 French pollution legislation. He argued that the voyage instructions placed obligations on the master which were not in the charter party. "Does it not seem strange to add obligations in a document which has not been negotiated?" he asked. No, replied Mr Giovannone, who argued that the instructions reflected only the concern of the group for the cargo it had entrusted to the owner and master of the vessel it had chartered to carry it. "The voyage instructions do not give control over the master or the ship," he insisted. "The master remains sovereign on his ship."

London, Mar 14 — The former technical manager of non specific tanker *Erika* yesterday angrily denied flying the tanker's Indian crew out of France shortly after its sinking to enable them to escape questioning by the examining magistrate investigating the casualty. In a reply to a question from court president Jean-Baptiste Parlos, Panship management head Captain Antonio Pollara told the court that the master and crew of the *Erika* had been mistreated by the authorities, that documents had been taken from him in a violent way by gendarmes and that he himself had feared that he would be imprisoned, as had been the master. He denied deliberately seeking to prevent the magistrate from questioning the crew. He apologised to the court after Mr Parlos had warned him that he was "near to the limit" but added by way of explanation for his outburst: "I had been subjected to accusations for eight years without being able to defend myself." Mr Parlos had not accused Captain Pollara directly of seeking to prevent the examining magistrate from questioning the crew, but had indicated that he found it "curious" that the crew had been questioned at a hotel in Brest by P&I and Maltese flag state representatives, but had not been made available for questioning to the magistrate. He told the court that the crew had flown to India on December 16, four days after the sinking, despite the magistrate having asked that they remain in France to be available for questioning. Captain Pollara complained, however, that he was the object of unfounded affirmations and

claimed that he had received no indication that the magistrate wanted to question the crew. Earlier, the court had heard that the vessel's master, Captain Karun Mathur, had cancelled a call for assistance the day before the vessel broke up and sank despite having detected cracks on its deck and fuel leaking from its central cargo tank into a ballast tank.

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

Bremen, Mar 12 — Roll On Roll Off *Estraden* (18205 gt, built 1999) damaged its stern when it entered the water gate "Nordschleuse" at Bremerhaven at 1430 hrs, Mar 10. The damage to the vessel is minor. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Estraden* arrived at Bremerhaven at 1637 hrs, Mar 10. It sailed at 2300 hrs, the same day and arrived at Harwich at 1637 hrs, Mar 11.)

#### **EUGENIA (Honduras)**

London, Mar 14 — Following received from the Indian Ports Association, dated Mar 13: General cargo *Eugenia* remains detained by yellow gate police station and arrested by the High Court in Mumbai.

#### **EVVA (North Korea)**

Piraeus, Mar 12 — General cargo *Evva* is still under arrest at Katakolon port. Prospects of release are unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **FALCON (U.K.)**

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Coastguard Swansea MRCC, timed 2135, UTC: General cargo *Falcon* safely moored alongside in Swansea Docks at 2115, UTC.

Avonmouth, Mar 12 — General cargo *Falcon* is currently under repair at Swansea. — Lloyd's Agents.

Avonmouth, Mar 15 — A replacement engine for general cargo *Falcon* is being prepared at the moment. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **FLYING MANTRA**

Freeport, Bahamas, Mar 9 — Fifty foot luxury motor catamaran *Flying Manta*, on a voyage from Jamaica to West Palm Beach, Florida, ran aground on Long Cay, lat 22 32.9N, long 74 22.9W, on Mar 5. Overseas Salvage of Exuma, Bahamas, were called in to undertake the salvage and it is understood they were successful in refloating the vessel at high tide this morning. Full details and vessel's intended movements unclear at this time. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GAS PIONEER (Isle of Man)**

London, Mar 14 — Following received from Coastguard Swansea MRCC, timed 1542, UTC: Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Gas Pioneer* (1173 gt, built 1991) in collision with fishing *Obsession* (11.48 gt, built 1986) in lat 51 36.46N, long 05 10.43W at 0850 UTC, today. Fishing vessel has extensive damage to the bow above the waterline and proceeded to Neyland. *Gas Pioneer* berthed at Milford Haven for inspection and investigation.

#### **GLORIUS (Cyprus)**

Istanbul, Mar 12 — Bulker *Glorius* (14141 gt, built 1980) dropped anchor in Bebek Bay, Bosphorus, at 0025, local time, today, due rudder problems. — TurkishStraits.com. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, *Glorius* was located stationary in lat 41 04 40.48N, long 29 03.27E, at 2323, UTC, Mar 11.)

London, Mar 12 — Following received from Ankara MSRCC, timed 0605, UTC: Bulker *Glorius* was towed by two tugs to Ahirkapi Anchorage, where arrived around 0100, UTC. Vessel will have to effect repairs to its rudder.

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A Russian-flagged freighter went adrift in Istanbul's busy Bosphorus strait today after developing a rudder problem and hit and sank a yacht moored at the shore. No-one was reported hurt. Bulker *Glorius*, carrying wheat from Russia to Tunisia, collided with the yacht near Istanbul's Bebek neighborhood, which is lined with restaurants and cafes, the state-run Anatolia news agency reported. Maritime authorities dispatched rescue vessels to tow the freighter, which stopped about 40 metres from the shore, after the accident.

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Glorius* collided with private yacht *Hamit* on the Bebek coastlin in Istanbul causing the \$300,000 yacht to sink into the Bosphorus waters. *Glorius*, which was carrying 22,000 tons of wheat, spun out of control when its helm got locked near the Bebek coast. She collided with 17-meter long private yacht *Hamit*, owned by Cevdet Ayd'n, a Turkish businessman who was having drinks with his friends at a nearby yacht during the accident. Breaking up in pieces, the yacht, worth \$300,000, sunk into the sea while the Russian liner managed to stop 40 meters away from the Bebek shore. Cevat Ayd'n said the yacht had no insurance.

London, Mar 13 — Following received from the Turkish Ministry of Transport, dated Mar 12: Bulker *Glorius*, loaded with 21,663 tonnes of wheat, anchored in Bebek Bay at 0025 hrs, Mar 12, due to a rudder failure, during navigation from north to south in the Istanbul Strait. The vessel was then in contact with motor yacht *Hamit*, resulting in the yacht semi-sinking. There were no persons on the yacht. Immediately they were alerted to the situation, the Istanbul Vessel Traffic Services, dispatched the search and rescue patrol vessel *Kiyi Emniyeti 8* and tugs *Kurtarma 2* and *Kurtarma 3* to the scene. *Glorius* was anchored in Ahirkapi A area, escorted by *Kurtarma 3* and towed by *Kurtarma 2*. Examination and investigations relating to the accident have been conducted by the Istanbul Port Authority of Undersecretariat for Maritime Affairs.

#### **GOLDEN SKY (Cyprus)**

Riga, Mar 9 — Bulker *Golden Sky* is still aground. Cargo is being discharged to a barge before attempt to refloat the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

Piraeus, Mar 12 — Bulker *Golden Sky*: Discharging of cargo is under way and the vessel is expected to be refloated this week. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

#### **GRACIA (Malta)**

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A navigational coastal warning continues to exist regarding the bulker *Gracia* which was abandoned by her crew earlier in March, after the vessel's engines failed shortly after she encountered Cyclone "Gamede". According to the South African Navy Hydrographic Office, the *Gracia* may still be afloat and should be considered a navigational hazard. The last reported position for the 176 metre long vessel was given by the Hydrographic Office as lat 24 48S, long 51 56E.

#### **GRETA KOSAN (Isle of Man)**

Ferrol, Mar 12 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Greta Kosan* (4086 gt, built 1990), on passage from Antwerp to Sines, in ballast, sustained rudder damage and requested assistance when about 38 miles north of Ferrol late evening, Mar 10. Assistance was rendered by Spanish salvage tug *Ibaizabal Tres* and it towed the vessel to Navantia Ferrol Shipyard, where it was safely berthed at 1900, hrs, today. The vessel is expected to be repaired shortly. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Greta Kosan* sailed Antwerp 0746, hrs, Mar 8, for Sines)

#### **HAGONOY (Philippines)**

Manila, Mar 12 — Non specific tanker *Hagonoy* successfully passed its sea trials on Mar 9 off Mariveles, Bataan province, owner and operator, Herma Shipping and Transport Corp. reported. She has returned to Herma Shipyard in Mariveles and is now undergoing post-drydocking in preparation for its inspection by representatives of its charterer, Petron Corp. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **HAMIT**

See *Glorius*.

#### **HEIMDAL (Malta)**

London, Mar 10 — General cargo *Heimdal* arrived Rauma Mar 7.

#### **HERTFORDSHIRE (U.K.)**

See "Netherlands" under "Port State Control".

#### **ID SYMPHONY (Panama)**

Boston, Mass, Mar 12 — Bulker *ID Symphony* completed repairs and departed Portsmouth. Following compliance with the Port Captain's order, authorisation was received to sail and the vessel departed at 1330 hrs, Mar 10. It was to proceed to the anchorage and await sailing orders from the owners/charterers. It was reported that her next port will be Norfolk Virginia, where the vessel is to take on bunkers. No other details are known at this time. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ILANIA STAR (Cambodia)**

Aalborg, Mar 13 — Refrigerated general cargo *Ilania Star* is still under

repair. The yard in Frederikshavn expect completion / departure on Mar 15. The vessel's next port is Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **IRIS (Panama)**

Singapore, Mar 13 — Container Carrier *Iris* remains at Western Working Anchorage, Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ISLE OF INISHMORE (Cyprus)**

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Harland and Wolff Heavy Industries has completed complex repairs on passenger ro/ro *Isle of Inishmore* (34031 gt, built 1997) in only two days. Damage to the thruster was discovered and the unit was removed in January when the Irish Ferries-owned vessel was inspected by the yard's engineers during a routine docking. As soon as the unit had been repaired by the manufacturer the vessel was brought back to Belfast for its re-installation. David McVeigh, of Harland and Wolff, said while the job was small it was significant in that the vessel could only afford to be taken out of service for a very short period. (Note — *Isle of Inishmore* arrived Belfast Feb 25 and sailed Feb 28.)

#### **JAGUAR (Philippines)**

Manila, Mar 13 — Philippine-registered general cargo *Accord* remains grounded near the 625-hectare Curangon shoal in Malinao town, Albay. The National Food Authority, owner of the 58,000 bags of rice carried by the vessel, reported that it had filed an insurance claim with the state Government Service and Insurance System (GSIS) for the remaining 53,100 bags of rice which are still in the *Accord's* cargo hold. The rice is insured with the GSIS for Pesos284,549 (US\$5,928). The vessel, which has been aground since Jan 17, cannot be refloated until its cargo of rice is offloaded first. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Mar 15 — General cargo *Jaguar* sustained minimal damage when it collided with *Accord*, during cargo offloading operations on Feb 16, and is now back in normal service. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **JAKE VINCENT DOS (Philippines)**

Manila, Mar 13 — General cargo *Jake Vincent Dos* has been repaired and is now back on its normal trading operations. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **JAY BELINDA (New Zealand)**

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Rough sea conditions have stalled efforts to refloat fishing (general) *Jay Belinda*, built 1973, 20 metres in length, which has been stuck on rocks on a remote part of Niue since early on Saturday (Mar 10) morning. The vessel, which is operated by the island's fish processor, Reef Fishing, is laden with fish and also has several thousand tonnes of fuel onboard. The island's police commander, Senior Sergeant Ross Ardern, said they initially tried to remove the fuel from the vessel by

dragging it in drums over the reef and up the cliff, but rough seas made this impossible. Attempts to use the two other trawlers currently in Niue to tow the *Jay Belinda* off the reef were also cut short by the sea conditions. "We got the tows ready but then felt that the conditions were too rough to be able carry on with that plan. We have got a very very short time to work in. The tide here in Niue on that part of the island only gives us about three hours alongside the craft."

#### **JERIC-JAY (Philippines)**

Manila, Mar 15 — General cargo *Jeric-Jay* sustained very minimal damage in the grounding incident off Port Sula on Nov 30, and is now back in service. It is presently at Toledo City, Cebu. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **JIAN SHE 1 (China)**

See *Ocean Leader*.

#### **JO ROGN (NIS)**

London, Mar 9 — Following received from Executive Ship Management Pte. Ltd: We are the technical managers of Combined chemical and oil tank *Jo Rogn*. We would like to inform you that there was a minor incident of fire on board the ship while she was waiting for transit at Suez at about 0800 hrs UTC, Mar 7. The fire occurred in one of the units of the auxiliary diesel engines. It was quickly controlled and extinguished by the ship's crew by the use of portable extinguishers located in the vicinity. Suez Canal authority tugs were not used in extinguishing this minor fire as given in your report. The auxiliary diesel engine is currently being checked thoroughly before it is put in use again. The vessel is at Suez safely anchored and shall resume voyage after the checks and necessary repairs have been conducted in close consultation with the class.

Port Said, Mar 12 — The two generators of combined chemical and oil tank *Jo Rogn* caught fire and are currently not working. The vessel is in Suez awaiting new generators. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 13 — Following received from Executive Ship Management Pte Ltd, technical managers of combined chemical and oil tank *Jo Rogn*, dated today: *Jo Rogn* is presently at anchor awaiting repairs to one generator. The vessel's other generator is fully operational and *Jo Rogn* is presently powered by its own generator.

Port Said, Mar 13 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Jo Rogn* caught fire in both of its generators and is rendered idle. The vessel is awaiting new generators. The cargo on board is vegetable oil. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **JUMBO CHALLENGER (Netherlands)**

London, Mar 13 — General cargo *Jumbo Challenger* arrived at San Diego 0100 hrs, Mar 10.

#### **KACIE LUHR (U.S.A.)**

London, Mar 14 — A Coast Guard Port Arthur press release, dated Mar 13, states: Coast Guard Marine Safety

Unit Port Arthur is responding to a marine casualty on the Sabine-Neches waterway involving a barge under tow, which became unstable and dumped its cargo of rock into the water. At approximately 1520 hrs, yesterday, the Coast Guard received a notice that tug *Kacie Luhr* (169 gt, built 1999), pushing four rock barges, was taking on water and one of the rock barges had dumped about 1,650 tons of rock into the navigation channel. Coast Guard vessels safely transported all six crew members from the tug to a nearby tug. *Kacie Luhr* and two of its barges remain partially in the waterway. Coast Guard investigators conducted an initial survey of the tug and the two damaged barges, while the two rock barges that were completely unaffected by the incident were disconnected from the tow. The local Army Corps of Engineers Office has aided and successfully located the channel blockage with a sonar scan. In addition, local salvage team T&T Marine is currently on scene getting ready to safely remove the damaged vessels. A broadcast notice to mariners was issued yesterday and a safety zone is in effect to keep all vessel traffic a safe distance from the incident. The waterway is currently closed to deep-draught traffic but open to most towing vessels and small craft.

#### **KAMAL XXVIII (India)**

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated Mar 12, states: The disruption of rail movement on the Venduruthy Bridge, which connects Cochin Port Trust with the mainland, after a dredger (cutter suction dredger *Kamal XXVIII*) struck the bridge pier, has disrupted the flow of cargo, both of containers and bulk items, to and from the port. Though the port management has taken steps to move the Inland Container Depot (ICD) cargo by road to the nearby Ernakulam Marshalling Yard for rail transportation, it is alleged that there is no such effort for bulk cargo. Shipping agents handling bulk cargo have started transporting coal from the port to the Goods Shed at Ponnuruni by tipper lorries for onward movement to various destinations. It is estimated that around 20,000 tonnes of coal, 5,000 tonnes of iron ore and some quantity of scrap are awaiting clearance from the port. This has increased the operational cost to the shipping agents because of the double loading and unloading. They have also started collecting additional charges from consignees for the movement of cargo to the Goods Shed. The Port Chairman, Mr N. Ramachandran, said it is easy to make alternative arrangements for moving containers from the ICD. The port and DP World have decided to absorb the additional costs involved in the transportation of containers to the Ernakulam Marshalling Yard. As for bulk cargo, he said except for coal, the other consignments, such as iron ore and scraps, are moved by trucks. No large quantity of coal is awaiting evacuation from the port. "We have set a target to repair the bridge in order to

make it ready for operations in two months," he said. Mr Ramachandran said that the dredger involved in the accident had been detained at the port and would be released only after the cost of repairing the bridge is recovered.

#### **KHALED MUHIEDDINE (Panama)**

Piraeus, Mar 12 — On Mar 10, Tsavlis Salvage was appointed to assist bulker *Khaled Muhieddine* (10931 gt, built 1977), which had lost power while fully loaded with a cargo of sugar in bulk. Tsavlis dispatched salvage tug *Leopard* from Mindelo, Cape Verde, to the casualty, which was located approximately 348 miles away. *Leopard* sailed at 1750, UTC, and, while proceeding to the scene, was informed that *Khaled Muhieddine* was under way at seven knots. *Leopard* was due to rendezvous with *Khaled Muhieddine* in lat 46.3N, long 29.8W, on Mar 11, and escort the vessel to Mindelo. The operation is now in progress and is estimated to end at 0100, UTC, Mar 13. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

#### **KHOROL (South Korea)**

London, Mar 10 — Refrigerated general cargo *Khorol* sailed Port Angeles Mar 9.

#### **KITION (Bahamas)**

London, Mar 10 — Crude oil tanker *Kition* arrived St. Eustatius Mar 9 and sailed the same day.

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

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The ferry service on the Port Townsend to Keystone run has been suspended while Washington State Ferries repair passenger ro/ro *Klickitat* (1408 gt, built 1927), which serves on that run. Crews detected a crack in the hull of the vessel, where water seepage was detected Saturday (Mar 10). Today, ferry officials and the Coast Guard examined the vessel and determined that it should be taken out of service and repaired at a local shipyard. The *Klickitat* is expected to enter dry dock when space becomes available. Space is in high demand this time of year as vessels are being prepared for the summer season. Ferry officials do not know how long the *Klickitat* will be out of service or what kind of repairs will be required. There are no spare ferries available to be used on the Port Townsend run, according to the director of marine operations. Meanwhile, the ferry is sitting idle at the Port Townsend holding dock next to the ferry landing.

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated Mar 14, states: Ferry service between Washington State's Port Townsend and Whidbey Island, will be restored at 1415 hrs, today, after repairs were made to a crack in the hull of passenger ro/ro *Klickitat*, the ferry system said. Repairs to the vessel were completed this morning at Todd Pacific Shipyard in Seattle and ferry system operations director Traci Brewer-Rogstad said follow-up sea tests were successful. Experts

determined the crack was six inches long. Repairs included replacement of an 18-by-nine inch section of hull plating at an estimated cost of about \$50,000. Regular service will resume today, with a sailing from Port Townsend. The vessel was withdrawn from service Monday (Mar 12) after the crack was detected. Brewer-Rogstad said the crack apparently resulted from a "fatigued weld" in the hull metal.

#### **KOMMANDOR STUART (U.K.)**

London, Mar 14 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 1646, UTC: Tender *Kommandor Stuart* (1037 gt, built 1976) reported at 1350, UTC, that it had lost all power in lat 56 27.8N, long 02 06.7E, and was drifting close to oil rigs. The Fulmar Platform sent standby safety vessel *Grampian Conqueror* to assist but *Kommandor Stuart* used its thrusters to manoeuvre. The crew are removing a faulty turbo-charger prior to attempts to restart the engine, ETC five to six hours. *Grampian Conqueror* is still standing by with a towline ready but *Kommandor Stuart* is able to move at about 1.3 knots using its thrusters. The vessel has moved to the north-east to clear the rigs.

London, Mar 15 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 0120, UTC: Tender *Kommandor Stuart* was reported in lat 56 41N, long 01 02E, at approximately 0001, UTC, today. Vessel is currently proceeding at seven knots, bound for Aberdeen, where ETA this afternoon.

#### **KRISTENA ROSE (U.S.A.)**

London, Mar 15 — A United States Coast Guard press release, dated Seattle, Mar 13, states: The Coast Guard and the Neah Bay rescue tug, today assisted fishing (general) *Kristena Rose* (131 gt), which was taking on water and sinking at the dock of the Makah Marina in Neah Bay. Coast Guard Station Neah Bay received a call from the vessel to say that they were taking on water and sinking. It had between 3,000 and 5,000 gallons of diesel onboard and four to five feet of water in the engine-room and was listing to port. A 41-foot utility vessel from Station Neah Bay and the Neah Bay rescue tug *Gladiator* responded and supplied dewatering pumps to assist. They were able to dewater the vessel and secure the source of the flooding. The *Kristena Rose* was boomed by marina personnel. Station Neah Bay personnel reported a moderate sheen around the vessel as a result of bilge slops being prompted overboard by the dewatering. The sheen is mostly within the boom and Makah Tribal response personnel are recovering the oil. Coast Guard Sector Seattle pollution investigators and the Washington Department of Ecology have been notified.

#### **KURKSE (Estonia)**

London, Mar 12 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Kurkse* (2658 gt, built 1997) was in collision with the already berthed, Container Carrier *MSC*

*Bulgaria* (30824 gt, built 1988) at Hamburg in the late hours of Mar 9. The *MSC Bulgaria* sustained a gash of two metres length in the hull. Also the superstructure of the *Kurkse* was damaged. No injuries. Both vessels were not allowed to leave port. Investigations were started by the police using VHF traffic and radar pictures.

London, Mar 12 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: At the time of collision, container carrier *MSC Bulgaria* was berthed at the Predoehlkai. It was hit with the port superstructure in the foreship region, causing a gash of one-two metres in length above the waterline. The wheelhouse of general cargo *Kurkse* was also damaged. (Note — *MSC Bulgaria* was reported sailing from Hamburg at 0700 hrs, Mar 10 and arriving at Antwerp at 1130 hrs, Mar 11.)

London, Mar 13 — General cargo *Kurkse* arrived at Felixstowe 1942 UTC, Mar 11, sailed at 0250, UTC, Mar 12 and arrived at Rotterdam 1340 UTC, the same day.

London, Mar 15 — Container carrier *MSC Bulgaria* arrived at Liverpool on Mar 14.

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

Falmouth, Mar 12 — Naval auxiliary vessel *Largs Bay* arrived Falmouth at 1800, Mar 11, in tow of tug *Carlpl Magnø*. The situation is currently being assessed. The vessel is expected to remain in port until about Apr 12, as it was due to call at Falmouth for scheduled repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **LEENDERT DE MOL (Netherlands)**

See *Winona*.

#### **LIAFJELL (Norway)**

Narvik, Mar 13 — Fishing (general) *Liafjell*, owned by Sal Laks, Salangen, Norway, had an ingress of water during heavy weather and arrived at Ibestad on Feb 28, where she was docked at a slipway belonging to Ibestad Shipsservice, for permanent repairs. Approximately six metres of the hull was renewed. Repairs were completed on Mar 1, when the vessel sailed and continued fish freighting in North Norway.

Narvik, Mar 14 — Following received from Ibestad bygg-og Skipsservice, Hamnvik, repair yard: Fishing (general) *Liafjell* arrived at Ibestad bygg-og Skipsservice, Hamnvik, on Dec 28 and was docked on the slipway for hull repairs after having sustained heavy weather damage. The shell plates (on starboard side) had been dented in way of one metre ahead of the engine-room bulkhead to a length of about six metres forward and a height of about 1.75 metres, measured from the main deck. Damaged shell plates, frames and knee plates in the area were cut out by means of cutting discs to avoid causing fire in the insulation between the hull and tank plates. Thickness of insulation is about 0.5 metres. Tanksides from 'tween deck and down to the height corresponding with the renewal of the shell plates,



were cut out to make access for welding of plates, frames and knee plates. Dented plate in main deck, about 0.75 square metres was replaced. Damaged fender guard in main deck height and damaged main deck railing was renewed. A new tank side plate (about five square metres) was fitted in place and welded against holder. Checked and pressure-tested welding seams with 0.2 kilograms pressure prior to renewal of insulation material. Dented shell plate in hull between two frames aft of the engine bulk head faired in place. No damage to frames was found. Repairs were completed and vessel was launched on Jan 30. The work was carried out by certified welders. Certificates on steel plates used in hull repairs delivered onboard. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **LIBERTY V. (Panama)**

See "Panama" under "Weather & Navigation."

#### **LOKYS (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Mar 8 — General cargo *Lokys* was reported passing through the Dover Straits on Mar 7, on a voyage of Portland(GBR) for King's Lynn.

#### **LS JACOBA (Gibraltar)**

London, Mar 13 — Combined chemical and oil tank *LS Jacoba* (9800 gt, built 2006), upbound, lost cooling for the port engine, near K-87, Sault au Cochon, St. Lawrence River, Quebec, in lat 47 11.00N, long 70 36.38W at 1945, on Mar 8. The vessel went to anchor for repairs. (Note — *LS Jacoba* sailed Wilmington(NC USA) on Mar 2, for Quebec.)

#### **MAI (Japan)**

Busan, Mar 14 — Barge *Mai* was refloated on Mar 9 and is now at Busan anchorage, awaiting drydocking for permanent repairs at Busan. The vessel is expected to drydock on or about Mar 16. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **MANGALA (India)**

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated Mar 10, states: Ten members of the crew of tug *Mangala* (? 241 gt, built 1996), owned by the Bharti Shipyard, were injured this afternoon, when the tug toppled onto the dry dock of Western India Shipyard in Mormugao. While five of them were admitted to a private hospital in Baina, the other five were discharged after first aid. Mykannan, chief engineer of the tug said that the tug was at the dry dock for minor engine repair work. "We too don't know how the tug toppled. The damage is not yet estimated, since we were immediately rushed to the hospital after the incident," he said and added that work was in progress to lift the tug.

Mumbai, Mar 15 — Tug *Mangala* is presently under repair at Western India Shipyard Limited, Mormugao. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MARCO POLO 168 (Indonesia)**

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Two months ago, Indonesia-registered pontoon *Marco Polo 168* destined for China ran

aground near Cham Island (lat 15 57N, long 108 31E) leading to an oil spill and 3,000 tons of fragments set adrift. After repairs, *Marco Polo 168* raised anchor to leave for China when it "wrecked again" in high wind gusts. On Monday (Mar 12), local residents found wood fragments had washed ashore along 10 kilometres of coast in Danang City and districts like Son Tra and Ngu Hanh Son. Timber splinters also washed ashore on the coast of Quang Nam province, from Dien Ban to Nui Thanh districts. Within the last two days, employees from the municipal environmental department have collected well over 200 tons of splinters. Duong Chi Cong, head of the provincial natural resources and environment sector confirmed the fragments came from the *Marco Polo 168* which was carrying some 3,000 tons of timber shavings when it "wrecked". The local authority was taking emergency measures to avoid a possible oil spill from the wrecked barge.

#### **MARIA LOURDES (Philippines)**

Manila, Mar 15 — General cargo *Maria Lourdes* is still at Mayon docks. No repairs are in progress as yet, reportedly due to financial problems being encountered by the owners. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MARVEL K. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

London, Mar 14 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Marvel K.* was in lat 57 27 38.4N, long 19 13 43.92E, at 2307, UTC, Mar 13, proceeding on a course of 216 deg at 10.1 knots.

#### **MASTER I (U.K.)**

London, Mar 9 — A press report states: Container Carrier *Master I* (23897 gt, built 1997) on charter to Maersk Line and deployed on Maersk and Safmarine's Asia/South Africa service, arrived Port Elizabeth Mar "5" with evidence of having gone through heavy weather — a number of containers on board having been severely damaged. (Note — *Master I* sailed Singapore Feb 18, arrived Port Elizabeth 0824, Mar 4 and sailed 1444, Mar 7 for Durban.)

Durban, Mar 15 — The agents of container carrier *Master I* have advised that the vessel sailed from Durban on Mar 13, bound for Port Louis and then Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 15 — Following navigation warning, dated Feb 28, states: Container Carrier *Master I* lost approximately fifteen 40 foot containers overboard in lat 24 00S, long 51 13E, on Feb 27. These pose a danger to navigation.

#### **MISTRAL EXPRESS (Morocco)**

Cadiz, Mar 13 — Passenger ro/ro *Mistral Express* is still at Cadiz. Her agent has said that she will remain under repair for at least a month. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MOL PRIDE (Liberia)**

London, Mar 15 — A Navigational Warning, dated Feb 15, states:

Container Carrier *MOL Pride* (41126 gt, built 1988) lost an anchor with cable in lat 33 51.S, long 25 42.4E. This poses a danger to navigation and vessels are instructed to give the area a wide berth.

#### **MONTROSE (Liberia)**

London, Mar 8 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS bulker *Montrose* was an anchor in lat 38 26 16.1N, long 76 21 17.67W, at 0506, UTC, today.

London, Mar 8 — A report from Venice, dated today, states: Motia Compagnia di Navigazione S.p.a, managers of bulker *Montrose*, which grounded on soft bottom at the entrance to the Choptank River, Chesapeake Bay on Feb 28, report that following refloating vessel, the underwater inspection has revealed no damage to hull or machinery. She has now received class approval to reload the lightered cargo of coal which will be completed during the morning of Mar 9. The vessel will then resume her passage to Romania for discharge. Owners and managers are pleased to report that there was no pollution of personal injury as a result of this incident and wish to thank the US Coast Guard, the Maryland Dept. of the Environment, the Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources and all those who assisted so professionally with the lightering and refloating of the bulker, including the company's own response organisation ECM Maritime Services.

London, Mar 12 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, bulker *Montrose* was in lat 36 46 36.58N, long 74 58 26.74W, at 0013, UTC, Mar 10, proceeding on a course of 108.4 deg at 12.6 knots.

#### **MORNING EXPRESS (Panama)**

London, Mar 14 — Product tanker *Morning Express* arrived at Singapore at 0910, hrs, Mar 11 and was reported today at berth 20, Sembawang Shipyard.

#### **MSC BULGARIA (Liberia)**

See *Kurkse*.

#### **MSC JOANNA (Panama)**

See *W.D.Fairway*.

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

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of volunteers are helping clean up a beach on a World Heritage Coast hit by debris from grounded Container Carrier *MSC Napoli*. For the first time members of the public will be able to lend a hand in what has been a massive operation since the vessel, laden with more than 2,300 containers, came to rest off Sidmouth, east Devon, on Jan 20. A looting frenzy ensued when containers washed ashore at Branscombe beach in the wake of the grounding, and a clean-up using heavy plant is continuing there. But debris also affected Seaton beach a few miles to the east, and it is there volunteers are swinging into action in an operation organised by East Devon district council. "A lot of of the stuff which went into the sea is being pushed up there," said a council spokesman, who said the volunteers

would be looking out for items like pieces of plastic and polystyrene. The clean-up is one of a series aimed at ensuring that East Devon beaches are in pristine condition in time for the Easter holidays in April, and the summer. Other public litter-picks will follow on beaches along the East Devon coast, including Branscombe. But the beach there is still closed to the public as contractors are working in a compound where tons of debris has been taken. Earlier in the week, two BMW motorcycles from the container vessel were seized by police in a raid on business premises in Seaton. A total of 17 BMWs were taken from containers which washed ashore from the vessel. (See issue of Mar 6.)

London, Mar 12 — Work on removing containers from the hold of container carrier *MSC Napoli* is said to be proceeding well despite delays caused by poor weather conditions off the coast of Devon. A spokeswoman for salvors SMIT said on Friday (Mar 9) that one or two days' work had been lost for weather reasons in the week. However, she added: "This is completely normal for an operation of this kind." All 853 containers at deck level have now been removed, with attention now focused on around 1,350 submerged boxes. Meanwhile, Mediterranean Shipping Co, operators of the *MSC Napoli*, have sent general cargo *MSC Grace* to join the operation. It will be used to transfer containers from Portland to Le Havre after they have been identified and reported to the owners. Plans are now being made with what to do with the remains of the *MSC Napoli*. Options include refloating, repairs in situ or cutting it up and taking it away piece by piece. "It is going to be there for a very long time," said the MCA spokeswoman. "We do not have a timescale yet but hopefully (it will be removed) by the end of the year." Branscombe beach, where the grounding took place, is still closed to the public and there is restricted access to the beach east of Sidmouth. The National Trust, which owns the beach, is hoping to reopen it by Easter.

#### **MYRA (Bahamas)**

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The (Guyanan) Ministry of Agriculture has issued an order against the release of 950 tonnes of soya feed contaminated with Salmonella typhimurium, which is on board general cargo *Myra* (10322 gt, built 1979), moored midstream of the Demerara River. According to a press release from the ministry, the soya was mixed and loaded into hatch No.5 of the *Myra* to be delivered to a company producing food for animals. The Agriculture Ministry's Quarantine Department issued the order after the Guadeloupe Prefecture ordered the withdrawal and destruction of the batch of soya on *Myra*, which was tested and analysed by laboratories there. The ministry, together with the Guyana Revenue Authority, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Legal Affairs, is working on the matter, the release said. According

to sources, the soya feed was transiting Guadeloupe when the laboratory tests were done, but it is not clear if the soya feed was meant for Guadeloupe. One source believes that the feed was meant for Guadeloupe's poultry industry and after it was found to be defective it was being sent back to Europe to be destroyed. The vessel is reportedly here to pick-up an export commodity, but this could not be confirmed. Stabroek News has also learnt that the only way the vessel's captain will release the contaminated soya feed to anyone here, is if the Guyana government signs a letter stating that it has full knowledge that the feed is contaminated with Salmonella. The Agriculture Ministry was alerted after the Foreign Affairs Ministry received correspondence from Guadeloupe, according to a reliable source. This newspaper was also told that authorities here learnt of the vessel's existence over the weekend.

#### **NATIONAL STAR (Egypt)**

Aleppo, Mar 13 — Following received from our Tartous office: General cargo *National Star*: The estimated cost of repairs and compensation for the idleness of Quay No.13 amounted to 115 millions Syrian Pounds. The vessel's P & I in London submitted the requested guarantee to Tartous Port Co., and the vessel sailed from Tartous on Mar 5. No repairs have been carried out and no vessel has berthed on the said quay to date. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NAZLI G. (Turkey)**

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Four tonnes of fuel oil spilled from a tanker flying the Turkish flag at the entry to the Kola Bay at the weekend. The *Nazli* (? bulker *Nazli G.* (20099 gt, built 1984) proceeding to an oil terminal in Murmansk, when the incident took place, the port's administration told Itar-Tass today. Rescue teams towed the tanker to the port, where it is staying in the anchorage under control of environmental services and specialists of the Emergencies Ministry. The investigation that is underway will estimate the environmental damage and find those responsible.

#### **NEW HORIZONS (Guyana)**

Georgetown, Guyana, Mar 13 — Product tanker *New Horizons* is still at anchor and is expected to sail by the weekend. Her Agent needed to change the Guyanese contingent of the crew and the vessel had to be fumigated due to an outbreak of chicken pox amongst some of the crew. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NEW VENTURER I (Panama)**

See *Repubblica di Venezia*.

#### **NISSHIN MARU (Japan)**

Yokohama, Mar 14 — Fish factory *Nisshin Maru* had a fire in its processing factory, on the second deck, when in lat 73 35S, long 175 57E at 0019 hrs, Feb 15. The fire was under control by Feb 19. One crew member died. After temporary repairs, the vessel recovered full power and able to

navigate under its own power, proceeded to Tokyo on Feb 23. The vessel is scheduled to arrive at Tokyo on Mar 22 for docking and investigations as to the cause of the accident. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

Seattle, Mar 13 — Tug *Noelani* experienced an electrical fire, confined to the engine-room, approximately three weeks ago. Following the fire, the main engine was found to have water in the engine sump. The cost to repair the engine or establish the cause of the water in the engine is unknown at this time and the status of repairs has not been determined pending investigation of the engine damage. One repair quote was for \$450,000 and the reported insured value of the vessel is \$700,000. It is unknown, at this time, if the vessel will be repaired. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NORDICA HAV (Bahamas)**

London, Mar 14 — General cargo *Nordica Hav* passed through Dover Straits on Mar 11 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was at anchor at Mistley at 1135, UTC, today.

#### **NORDKAPP (NIS)**

London, Mar 14 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Nordkapp* is expected at the Bredo Yard in Bremerhaven about two weeks to undergo permanent repairs to the damage it sustained when grounding in Whaler's Bay on Jan 30. Her exact ETA is not yet given.

#### **NORTH PRINCESS (Malta)**

London, Mar 12 — Kassian Maritime Navigation has joined the list of shipping companies charged in the US for alleged oily water separator infractions. If an indictment — or a formal allegation sheet — brought against the Greek operator is sustained, Kassian faces up to \$500,000 in fines and the second engineer on the vessel under investigation, bulker *North Princess* (38232 gt, built 1996), faces up to five years in jail. The *North Princess* called at Jacksonville in November, when US Coast Guard officials boarded it for a regular inspection and suspected the use of a "magic pipe" to transfer oil-contaminated waste into the sea, bypassing the OWS. The second engineer is being charged with making false statements to US officials in a US port, under the broader charge of Kassian maintaining an allegedly falsified oil record book on the *North Princess* that failed to account for the illegal discharges.

#### **NOVAYA ZEMLYA (Slovakia)**

London, Mar 15 — Refrigerated general cargo *Novaya Zemlya* arrived at Murmansk on Mar 6.

#### **OANA CRISTINA (Romania)**

London, Mar 13 — General cargo *Oana Cristina* sailed from Setubal on Mar 6, passed Cape Finisterre at 1109 hrs, Mar 9 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was at Liverpool at 1149, UTC, today.

**OCEAN CAROLINE (NIS)**

London, Mar 10 — Roll on roll off *Ocean Caroline* passed Skaw, northbound, Mar 9.

**OCEAN INVESTOR (Canada)**

London, Mar 13 — Wooden fishing *Ocean Investor* (76 gt, built 1926) sank, due to water ingress from intake below the waterline, while in Qualicum Bay, B.C., in lat 49 27.48N, long 124 40.48W, at 1325, Mar 9.

**OCEAN LEADER (South Korea)**

Antwerp, Mar 13 — General cargo *Ocean Leader* (2154 gt, built 1995) Kobe for Shanghai, laden with 2,514 tonnes of steel products, arrived at Changjiangkou during the afternoon of Mar 10. The vessel dropped its starboard anchor 5 shackles in position lat 30 59.36N, long 122 32.69E (inside CJK No.3 Anchorage) at 1500 hrs, the same day. When anchoring, eight cables from product tanker *Jian She 1* (3335 gt, built 1983) collided with *Ocean Leader* on the port quarter. — “DPS Teamhead Surveyors”.

London, Mar 15 — General cargo *Ocean Leader* arrived at Shanghai on Mar 11.

**OCEAN SAPPHIRE (Singapore)**

Singapore, Mar 15 — Crude oil tanker *Ocean Sapphire* is now at Jurong Shipyard Dock 2, Singapore. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**OOCL QINGDAO (Hong Kong)**

London, Mar 8 — Container Carrier *OOCL Qingdao* arrived at Hamburg at 1650 hrs, Mar 6.

London, Mar 12 — Container Carrier *OOCL Qingdao* sailed Hamburg 1345, Mar 8 and subsequently arrived Rotterdam 0230, Mar 11.

**OSEBERG D (production platform)**

London, Mar 13 — Norsk Hydro is investigating a fire on production platform *Oseberg D* in the North Sea, that halted production from the whole Oseberg area. The fire in the platform’s gas turbine-room was put out by the automated fire system. The platform was immediately shut down last week, with nearby installations, including the bridge-linked Oseberg field centre and platforms Charlie, Ost Sor, Veslefrikk and Brage, also closed down. This shut in almost 250,000 barrels of daily production plus a large volume of associated gas reserves from the market for two days last week. All the platforms came back on stream within two days, but Hydro has sent a team to investigate how the incident started. The Oslo-listed firm has several gas export compressors in the Oseberg field centre, to which the Delta platform is bridge linked, so it can handle gas exports until the damaged turbine compressor is back in operation. The Norwegian Petroleum Safety Authority will also be investigating the incident.

**OSLO (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Mar 14 — Following received from Coastguard Liverpool MRSC,

timed 0844, UTC: General cargo *Oslo* (2805 gt, built 1997), cargo fertiliser, ran aground while departing from the berth at Liverpool in lat 53 21.5N, long 02 58.7W at about 1910, UTC, last night. The vessel has been unable to refloat on the high tide this morning and will attempt to refloat on the next high tide this evening, before proceeding to Londonderry. The vessel is aground on mud and there is no hull damage.

London, Mar 14 — Following received from Coastguard Liverpool MRSC, timed 2200, UTC: General cargo *Oslo* remains aground. It is hoped the vessel will refloat tomorrow morning when the high tide, at 0804, UTC, is half a metre higher.

London, Mar 15 — Following received from Coastguard Liverpool MRSC, timed 1241, UTC: General cargo *Oslo* refloated at 0745, UTC, with no apparent damage. The vessel is now underway.

**OSTEDIJK (Netherlands)**

Bilbao, Mar 12 — General cargo *Ostedijk* arrived at Bilbao Mar 1, with a cargo of fertiliser, part of which had been affected by a fire on board. Both the sound and damaged cargo was discharged at Bilbao and after completing the unloading operations, the vessel sailed from Bilbao on Mar 10, bound for Rotterdam. — Lloyd’s Agents.

London, Mar 14 — General cargo *Ostedijk* arrived at Rotterdam at 0615 hrs, Mar 13.

**PELICAN (South Africa)**

Cape Town, Mar 13 — Tank barge *Pelican*: Situation remains unchanged. She is still out of class and of service. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**PERSEUS V. (Panama)**

See “Panama” under “Weather & Navigation.”

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

Honolulu, Mar 9 — Tug *Polar King* with barge *Pacific Trader*, which arrived Honolulu on Mar 4, has since departed on the normal West Coast transit. — Lloyd’s Agents.

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

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated Mar 9, states: Portsmouth, UK-based passenger ro/ro *Pride of Bilbao* (37583 gt, built 1986) arrived at Bilbao on time on Mar 7, but excessive wind speed prevented it from docking at the Spanish port until 1030, Mar 8. Over six hundred passengers had to wait out the ferocious storm for 20 hours. Only one passenger suffered minor injuries while cars were damaged on the vehicle deck as 100 mph winds and 25-foot waves battered the 1986-built vessel. (Note — *Pride of Bilbao* sailed Bilbao Mar 8, subsequently arrived Portsmouth, UK, Mar 10.)

**PRINCE MOUDI (Lebanon)**

Beirut, Mar 15 — General cargo *Prince Moudi* is still laid up at Tripoli

port, carrying engine repairs. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**PRINCESS AVIV (Panama)**

See “Panama” under “Weather & Navigation.”

**PROPONTIS (Greece)**

Hamburg, Mar 13 — Crude oil tanker *Propontis*: Repairs have not yet been completed. It is speculated that they will last until May. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**RAVANDA (Turkey)**

London, Mar 13 — According to Lloyd’s MIU AIS general cargo *Ravanda* was still at Izola at 0405, UTC, Mar 10.

**REGAL PRINCESS (Bermuda)**

London, Mar 13 — According to Lloyd’s MIU AIS passenger (cruise) *Regal Princess* was in lat 11 06S, long 78 06W, at 0600, UTC, today, speed 10.3 knots. Vessel was also reported underway at 1234, UTC, today, bound Callao.

Balboa, Mar 13 — On Mar 9, passenger (cruise) *Regal Princess* had left dry dock and was anchored off Balboa. The following morning, it was noted that the vessel had proceeded. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**REPUBBLICA DI GENOVA (Italy)**

London, Mar 8 — Ro/ro container *Repubblica di Genova* has capsized in the port of Antwerp, shedding several containers. Believed to be carrying 100 containers and 200 vehicles, the vessel arrived from Lisbon (0925, Mar 7). A spokeswoman from Port of Antwerp authority, Ann Wittemans, said that there were no dockers present and the crew had managed to get off the ship. There were no injuries. At the moment, there is no explanation for the cause of the incident which took place at the Verrebroek dock. The weather conditions were fine when the vessel capsized at 0530 this morning, she added. Traffic elsewhere in the port it not affected. The Belgian port authority is trying to locate any containers that may have sunk so around three or four other vessels in the harbour can depart. *Repubblica di Genova* is thought to be laying on the bottom of the dock and listing towards the quay. Most of the containers that have fallen off are on the quay but the port authority wants to make sure there are no containers obstructing the other vessels, added Mrs Wittemans.

London, Mar 9 — Ro/ro container *Repubblica di Genova*, owned by the Grimaldi Group of Naples, capsized in the port of Antwerp early yesterday as it was completing cargo loading operations. In a statement the company said it had opened an internal investigation into the cause of the incident at the Verrebroek dock. It added that all 37 crew members had emerged unscathed and that protective booms had been placed around the ship to contain potential fuel leaks. The Antwerp port authority said no dockers were in the area when the ship capsized. The vessel, which is deployed on the group’s northern Europe-West

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Africa line and was scheduled to leave Antwerp yesterday for Luanda, spilled a number of containers on to the dock and into the water as it capsized. The still unexplained incident took place at 0530 hrs in fine weather. Yesterday afternoon, the local port authority was trying to locate any of the 100 containers on board that may have sunk so as to allow three to four other vessels in the area to leave.

London, Mar 9 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1055, UTC: Ro/ro container *Repubblica di Genova* remains lying on its side at Antwerp. No pollution or structural damage has been reported. Authorities are still conducting investigations and working on salvage plans.

Zeebrugge, Mar 10 — Passenger ro/ro *Repubblica di Genova* is still lying on its side. Salvage negotiations are continuing. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Zeebrugge, Mar 11 — Passenger ro/ro *Repubblica di Genova* is still lying in the same position. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Mar 13 — Understand Roll On Roll Off Container Carrier *Repubblica di Genova* will be salvaged by Smit Salvage BV.

#### REPUBBLICA DI VENEZIA (Italy)

London, Mar 13 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: Roll On Roll Off Container Carrier *Repubblica di Venezia* (48622 gt, built 1987) and bulker *New Venturer I* (68619 gt, built 1981) were in collision in the North Sea Canal between Amsterdam and Ymuiden a.m. Mar 10. *New Venturer I* sustained serious bow damage, and *Repubblica di Venezia* sustained a large crack in the hull on one of its upper car decks. (Note — *Repubblica di Venezia* arrived at Amsterdam 0146 hrs, Mar 10 from Luanda, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was moored in lat 52 25 04N, long 04 46 11E at 1051, UTC, today. *New Venturer I* arrived at Ymuiden 1914 hrs, Mar 4 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was moored in lat 52 24 02N, long 04 51 28E, at 1052, UTC, today.)

London, Mar 14 — Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Repubblica di Venezia* and bulker *New Venturer I* were in collision in the North Sea Canal between Amsterdam and Ymuiden at 0345 hrs, Mar 10. The *Repubblica di Venezia* sustained a substantial crack in the hull on one of its upper car decks, around 23 metres above the keel. No one was hurt in the incident and the *Repubblica di Venezia* was able to sail to discharge at the USA terminal in Amsterdam. The *New Venturer I* sustained serious bow damage and is believed to be undergoing repairs at another Amsterdam yard. The *Repubblica di Venezia* was due to arrive at Shipdock's north Amsterdam yard late last night for repairs, which are expected to take around two weeks.

London, Mar 14 — Bulker *New Venturer I* sailed from Amsterdam at 2128 hrs, Mar 13, for Santos and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 50 37 57N, long 00 29 51E, at 1103, UTC, today, speed 15.3 knots, course 248 degrees.

#### RIKA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Mar 12 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Rika* was in lat 57 27 48.46N, long 11 23 55.36E, at 1333, UTC, Mar 12, proceeding on a course of 133.4 degrees, at 9.1 knots.

#### RISKY BUSINESS (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 24 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Coast Guard, Juneau, dated Mar 13, states: Five fishermen are safe after being rescued from their disabled vessel by the Coast Guard near Kodiak Island this afternoon in severe weather. At 0748 hrs, fishing (general) *Risky Business* (43 gt, built 1974) notified Air Station Kodiak that their vessel was listing to port and they were heading to Kodiak. At about noon the *Risky Business* reported that they had a mechanical problem, were listing 30 degrees to port and were preparing to abandon ship. A Coast Guard HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter was launched to assist the crew, 69 miles east of Kodiak. The helicopter arrived as the vessel was forced on its port side by 20-foot seas and 50 mph winds. The crew was instructed to put on survival suits and enter the water. A basket was lowered and each crewmember was safely hoisted into the helicopter. The captain and four crewmembers were returned to Kodiak where they were evaluated by emergency medical personnel and released. The Kodiak based longliner was still partially afloat when the Coast Guard helicopter departed the scene. The cause of the vessel's mechanical trouble is under investigation by Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Kodiak.

#### ROEL (Belize)

Portsmouth, UK, Mar 9 — General cargo *Roel* (1927 gt, built 1983) and vessel *Nina* were in contact at Liepaja port Mar 7. Both vessels sustained damage. — Correspondent. (Note — *Roel* sailed Gdynia 1405, Mar 6 for Liepaja, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 55 30 8.97N, long 19 48 53.9E, at 1252, UTC, today speed 8.7 knots, course 211 degrees, bound Gdynia. Vessel *Nina* was not in Liepaja port today.)

London, Mar 14 — General cargo *Roel* arrived at Gdynia at 0606 hrs, Mar 12 and sailed at 1905 hrs, the same day for Greenore.

#### ROZEN (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy".

#### S.A.HELDERBERG (Belgium)

London, Mar 9 — A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV report, dated Mar 7, states: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage Asia assisted Container Carrier *S.A.Helderberg* was successfully berthed in Tanjung Pelepas today after which the cargo discharge started. The vessel was involved in a collision which resulted in damage to the side of the vessel. This damage was patched with a large cofferdam which first had to be constructed before it could be installed. SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage crews from

Singapore, South Africa and The Netherlands assisted in the operation. The team and equipment remain on board until the discharge is completed and the vessel can be delivered in dry dock for repairs.

#### SANMAR SYMPHONY (India)

Beira, Mar 14 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Sanmar Symphony* (28017 gt, built 1985), Durban for Bahrain, was forced to call at Nacala after some of the crew were overcome by gas. One crew member died and two others survived. One was admitted to a local hospital, while the other was taken to a hotel, as his condition had improved. The dead man was taken to a mortuary at another hospital 200 kms from Nacala. The vessel is currently at Nacala and the appointed P&I surveyor is collecting information from the vessel's master concerning the cause of the incident. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Sanmar Symphony* sailed Durban Mar 8.)

#### SANTIAGO STAR (Bahamas)

Chittagong, Mar 14 — According to the local agents of refrigerated general cargo *Santiago Star*, R. S. Shipping, the buyer of the vessel is "S. N." (also reported as "SM") Corporation. We have contacted the buyer who stated that the vessel was beached on Aug 26 and demolition/cutting of the vessel commenced from Aug 28 and is nearing completion. As reported by the buyer, there was no fire incident onboard the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### SAVA LAKE (Latvia)

London, Mar 10 — General cargo *Sava Lake* passed Brunsbittel, westbound, Mar 8.

#### SCI TEJ (Marshall Islands)

London, Mar 11 — Container carrier *SCI Tej* arrived Antwerp Mar 9.

London, Mar 14 — Container Carrier *MSC Oslo*, ex *SCI Tej*, sailed from Antwerp at 0749 hrs, Mar 11, for Piraeus, and passed through the Dover Straits later the same day.

#### SCOT PIONEER (U.K.)

London, Mar 10 — General cargo *Scot Pioneer* arrived Skagen Mar 9.

#### SEA RUBY (Cayman Islands)

London, Mar 13 — General cargo *Sea Ruby* arrived Berwick-upon-Tweed at 0500, UTC, Mar 8 and sailed at 0630, UTC, Mar 11.

#### SELENITOVYY (Russia)

Vladivostok, Mar 12 — As at Feb 28, refrigerated general cargo *Selenitovyy*, was undergoing repairs at Nakhodka. The vessel arrived at Nakhodka on Dec 3. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### SERIO MARU-28 (Russia)

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today states: Russian fishing *Serio Maru-28* was holed near the South Kuriles at 0620, local time, today. Twelve crewmembers of the vessel survived using liferafts. They were picked up by another Russian fishing *Vakhau Maru*. The vessel was

swept by storm waves and carried away from its anchor place in the Shirokaya Bay (? Mys Shirokiy), Yuriy Island (lat 43 25N, long 146 05E).

#### **SHARK (Lebanon)**

Beirut, Mar 7 — General cargo *Shark* is still lying sunk and under arrest at Beirut. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SIERRA NAVA (Panama)**

Cadiz, Mar 14 — Refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Nava* is still aground. Refloating operations will next be carried out on Mar 28. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SINARA (Cambodia)**

Portsmouth, UK, Mar 13 — General cargo *Sinara* (1255 gt, built 1980) from Japan, with 78 automobiles, arrived at Vladivostok port under its own power, after a fire in the hold when located 30 miles from Vladivostok. The crew noticed smoke coming from the hold and began to cool the hold cover and deck with water. The Master directed vessel to Vladivostok at full speed. Rescue vessels *Topaz* and *Yuri Orlenko* assisted. — Correspondent.

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Sinara* that was reported to have been ablaze in Peter the Great Bay, 30 nautical miles from Vladivostok, has moored in Vladivostok. Firemen are dousing the hold where the fire was located, the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry in Primorye told Interfax. According to preliminary data, there are 74 vehicles onboard the ship. She is currently being unloaded. The fire began in the hold of the vessel which was carrying vehicles from Japan. The ship has a 10-man crew.

Vladivostok, Mar 14 — A fire broke out yesterday on general cargo *Sinara* while it was en route from Otaru to Vladivostok, carrying 75 second hand cars. The vessel was approximately 20 nautical miles from Vladivostok when the fire in the tweendeck was discovered at 1410 hrs. According to reports by the crew a first outburst was eliminated, but a second outburst broke out soon after. The crew cooled off the adjacent spaces and deck/hatch covers. The vessel proceeded to Vladivostok under her its own power, escorted/assisted by two tugs and was moored at Berth No.15, where shore fire teams were engaged. No crewmember was injured. The vessel suffered the following insignificant damages: approximately 60 sq metres of tweendeck wooden covers were affected by the fire and cargo compartment, bosun stores and related cabling sustained smoke damage. There were no structural damages to the hull or hatch covers. A preliminary scope of damage to the cargo revealed: four car bodies burnt out completely, two cars burnt out completely, two cars partially burnt out and the plastics on seven cars were affected by the heat and drops of melted lead/aluminium. It is reported that the vessel will stay at Vladivostok for at least two further days. An investigation by the harbour master's office and fire officials is in progress. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SKANDI CARLA (Bahamas)**

Valletta, Mar 13 — Diving support *Skandi Carla* sailed from Valletta on Mar 3, bound Libya. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SOLAR 1 (Philippines)**

Manila, Mar 11 — Work to recover more than one million litres of oil from non specific tanker *Solar 1*, that sank last August in the central Philippines, will begin this week, an official with the Italian salvage operation said. Mark Phibbs of Sonsub International said today the operation would take up to a month to complete. The *Solar 1*, chartered by Petron, sank in rough seas on Aug 11 and is believed to have leaked around 500,000 litres of bunker oil, affecting more than 40,000 people and more than 200 km (125 miles) of coastline in the central Philippines. The bulk of the 2 million litre cargo of oil remains trapped in the tanker, lying at a depth of about 640 metres (2,100 feet) off Guimaras island. — Reuters.

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Salvage operations to retrieve over a million litres of Petron oil from non specific tanker *Solar 1*, which sank off Guimaras seven months ago, began yesterday. Environment officials boarded the international salvage vessel *Allied Shield* to ensure crew compliance with environment precautions required by the Philippine government. *Allied Shield* docked at the Bacolod Real Estate Development Corp (Bredco) port in Bacolod City Saturday night (Mar 10) and sailed for the site yesterday morning. The Philippine Coast Guard will bar vessels from entering the one-km radius around the area to avoid work disruption. Lormelyn Claudio, environment director for Western Visayas, said *Allied Shield* was required to submit an environment compliance certificate. The ECC, among others, required the vessel to outline its mitigating measures should the retrieval operations cause some oil to leak into the sea, said Bienvenido Lipayon, Environment Management Bureau regional director. Mark Phibbs, who heads the Sonsub Remotely Operated Vessels special projects, said it would take two to three days to survey the site after which drilling operations on the tanks of the submerged *Solar 1* to remove the oil would start. "We do not know how much oil is still on board *Solar 1*. The length of the recovery work will really depend on that," he said. *Solar 1* was carrying 13,000 barrels, or over two million litres, of bunker fuel in its 10 tanks when it sank 15 nautical miles south-west of Guimaras Island, at a depth of 2,100 metres, on Aug 11 last year. An estimated quarter of a million litres of the vessel's cargo was spilled as a result of the incident, affecting the coastal waters of Guimaras and part of Iloilo, making it the worst oil spill to hit the country in recent years. The retrieval operation, estimated to cost \$6 million or about Pesos 10 million per day, is expected to last 20-25 days, according to Joe Nichols, International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund deputy director. This is only the second

time in history that such a deep-sea oil retrieval operation will be undertaken, Phibbs said. Sonsub will use the latest technology, including *Allied Shield* and two ROVs, to work on the sunken vessel, he added. The ROVs will drill two holes in each of the 10 tanks containing oil. Water will be allowed to flow into one hole to displace any remaining oil, which will flow from the second hole. A shuttle container will be used to capture the oil to be transferred onto *Allied Shield*, he said. The crew will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week to hasten the recovery. Lipayon said *Allied Shield* had given assurance that oil booms and skimmers would be put in place to prevent any spread of oil that might leak during the retrieval. The Philippine Coast Guard also has a second defence of oil booms while a third defence, made up of indigenous spill booms, has also been set up by Guimaras barangays, he said. Livino Duran, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said the DENR had formed four teams to monitor the operation. One team will be based at Bredco port, where the recovered oil will be offloaded, to monitor the volume of recovered fuel, take samples and ensure safety precautions in its transfer to its final destination. Phibbs said Sonsub had a contingency plan to address possible risks and ensure a fail-safe operation. Among these are oil spill response tugs that will be deployed during the retrieval operations.

Manila, Mar 14 — The Philippine Coast Guard announced that it was now enforcing a one-kilometre exclusion zone around the wreck site of non specific tanker *Solar 1*, as part of its security measures during the oil recovery operations. Enforcement of the exclusion zone has begun following the arrival of the offshore support and recovery vessel *Allied Shield*, which will offload the remaining fuel oil in the *Solar 1*'s storage tanks. The Coast Guard said that there will be "no passing or fishing" within the exclusion zone during the duration of the oil recovery operations. To enforce the exclusion zone, the Coast Guard has created a special task force composed of the search and rescue vessels *Nueva Vizcaya* and *Romblon* and the marine accident response vessel *Corregidor*. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Mar 15 — Oil retrieval preparatory work continued to be carried out on the wreck of the non specific tanker *Solar 1* yesterday. A progress report from the offshore support and recovery vessel *Allied Shield*, reported that it's two ROVs had commenced identification and preparation of the *Solar 1*'s main deck for the installation of hull safety valves. *Allied Shield* also reported that it had completed the securing of mooring lines to the wreck and it was now preparing the five-ton buoyancy tank for over boarding. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE (Bahamas)**

London, Mar 8 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS passenger (cruise) *Spirit of Adventure* was in lat 29 47 19.1S, long

31 17 53.18E, at 1514, UTC, today, speed 11 knots, course 259.5 degrees.

London, Mar 10 — Passenger (cruise) *Spirit of Adventure* arrived Durban Mar 8.

London, Mar 14 — Passenger (cruise) *Spirit of Adventure* sailed from Durban on Mar 11 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was moored at Cape Town at 0719, UTC, today.

#### **SPIRIT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (Canada)**

London, Mar 13 — Roll On Roll Off *Spirit of British Columbia* (18747 gt, built 1993) reported a blackout while alongside at the Tsawwassen Terminal, B.C., in lat 48 43N, long 123 22W, at 2115, Feb 27.

#### **SPIRIT OF ONTARIO I (U.S.A.)**

London, Mar 12 — The mayor of Rochester in the US has called for face-to-face talks with British would-be ferry company Euroferries over the delayed sale of passenger ro/ro *Spirit of Ontario I*. It was last May that mayor Bob Duffy announced that Euroferries had agreed a deal to buy the fast ferry from his authority for \$29.8m. However, there has been delay after delay and now he is seeking direct talks with representatives of the Dover company. The vessel has been shifted from Rochester to Nova Scotia and Mr Duffy and his officials are demanding Euroferries' representatives travel there to close the sale. At one stage, according to some reports, Mr Duffy was threatening to travel to England in a bid to complete the financial arrangements. He now says the meeting must be in Nova Scotia in order to make a final inspection of the vessel before closing the deal. Mr Duffy told his local newspaper, the "Rochester Democrat and Chronicle" that he was not questioning the legitimacy of the reasons given for the delay in the sale and believed Euroferries just needed more time. Meanwhile, Rochester's counsel Thomas Richards is handling negotiations with three other potential buyers for the fast craft, one of which is said to be a German ferry firm named as FRS. Euroferries had planned to operate the craft from Dover hoverport to Calais and Boulogne but Dover Harbour Board, after considerable delay, has given exclusive use of that berth to competitor SpeedFerries run by its Danish founder Curt Stavis. It is still possible for Euroferries, seen as a successor to axed Hoverspeed, to use a berth at Dover's Eastern Docks. That is now being vacated by SpeedFerries when it switches to the former hoverport this month.

#### **ST.LUC EXPRESS (Honduras)**

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The last of 12 vessels abandoned at Port Canaveral after hurricanes "Jeanne", "Charley", and "Frances" three years ago has been removed from the Banana River. The removal of general cargo *St.Luc Express* ends a joint effort with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Florida Wildlife Commission and the Brevard Sheriff's Office to clear Brevard waterways. Port

tenant Beyel Bros patched and refloated *St.Luc Express*, then transported it to their leased property on the Barge Canal. The vessel will be cut up and recycled as scrap metal.

#### **STAR FERRY 1 (Philippines)**

Manila, Mar 15 — Roll On Roll Off *Star Ferry I* is still at Tabaco, Albay, in an unrepaired condition. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

Liverpool, Mar 14 — Passenger ro/ro *Stena Adventurer* is currently in service, operating on three engines. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SUEZ EXPRESS (Liberia)**

London, Mar 12 — General cargo *Suez Express* arrived Luanda 1129, Mar 11.

#### **SUNNA (NIS)**

London, Mar 12 — General cargo *Mariam Hope* ex *Sunna* sailed Bremerhaven 2100, Mar 11 for Tripoli.

#### **SUPERFERRY 9 (Philippines)**

Manila, Mar 13 — Afloat repairs have started on roll on roll off *Superferry 9* at Keppel Cebu Shipyard, Cebu island. Work involves conversion of the passenger deck. After completion of afloat repairs, the vessel is scheduled to enter the graving dock on May 15, for engine repairs. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **SWIFT-FORTUNE (Liberia)**

Istanbul, Mar 13 — Bulker *Swift-Fortune* (40512 gt, built 1982), Vado Ligure to Novorossiysk, while transiting the Dardanelles, had engine breakdown at 2045 hrs, Mar 12, and anchored at the entrance to the Dardanelles. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Swift-Fortune* was reported passing through the Dardanelles, in an easterly direction, at 0310 hrs, Mar 13, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 40 44 54.36N, long 28 50 9.42E, at 1601, UTC, Mar 13.)

London, Mar 14 — Bulker *Swift-Fortune* had engine trouble during Dardanelles passage just in front Kumkale Lighthouse at 2045, local time, Mar 12. Then vessel repaired its engine and after a survey, raised up its anchor at 0210, local time, Mar 13, and proceeded on passage, for its destination port.

#### **TASSILI II (Algeria)**

Genoa, Mar 13 — Passenger ro/ro *Tassili II* is presently at Genoa under repair, but neither the local shipagents nor the yard, Cantieri Navali San Giorgio del Porto, are willing to disclose any information about the cause of the water ingress and damage repairs. Her ETS is presently unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **THEOFILOS (Panama)**

See "Belgium" under "Port State Control".

#### **TIAN HE (Panama)**

Busan, Mar 13 — General cargo *Tian He*: A salvage contract for both the vessel and cargo between the owners

and local salvors, Korea Salvage Co, was reportedly signed on Mar 9. Completion of operations is expected by the end of March. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **TIPU SULTAN (India)**

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated Mar 12, states: The voyage of passenger ro/ro *Tipu Sultan* (4500 gt, built 1982) from Kochi to Lakshwadeep tomorrow has been cancelled. Lakshwadeep Port Officer A.Hamza said today: "The vessel has developed certain snags in the main engine and accordingly requires one week for repairs. Accordingly, the sailing of the *Tipu Sultan* from Kochi on Mar 13 is cancelled".

#### **TONG CHENG (China)**

Honolulu, Mar 9 — Repairs to general cargo *Tong Cheng* are complete and presently the cargo in No. 2 hold is being backloaded. It is reported the vessel will return to China. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TRANS FREJ (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Mar 9 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Trans Frej* left the drydock Mar 8 and was moved to the Labrador-pier in Bremerhaven. Vessel is expected to depart from Bremerhaven at 1400 hrs, today.

London, Mar 13 — General cargo *Trans Frej* sailed from Bremerhaven on Mar 9 and was reported passing Brunsbittel on Mar 10.

#### **TURID KNUTSEN (NIS)**

London, Mar 12 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, combined chemical and oil tank *Turid Knutsen* was in lat 43 51 54.11N, long 03 18 43.87W, at 1237, UTC, Mar 12, proceeding on a course of 338 deg at 14.5 knots.

#### **TZINI (Malta)**

London, Mar 14 — Following received from the operators of bulker *Tzini*, dated today: *Tzini* is expected to sail from Suao on Mar 15, for Vietnam. (See issue of Mar 8.)

Taipei, Mar 15 — Bulker *Tzini* has been released to sail from Taiwan and the vessel departed from Suao today, under tow, bound for Vietnam, for repairs. The voyage is expected to take approximately 10 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **VAN DONG 02 (Vietnam)**

Rabaul, Mar 9 — General cargo *Van Dong 02* (4327 gt, built 1990) grounded at the entrance to Tavanatagir Harbour, Open Bay, on the west coast of East New Britain, Papua New Guinea, in the approximate position lat 04 48.5S, long 151 40.0E, on Feb 20. The vessel is currently in port (in Rabaul) for clearance and was due to sail yesterday, but was delayed due to the National Maritime Safety Authority of Papua New Guinea needing clarification on the vessels status and the under water inspection report from the owners, in order for the vessel to sail. However, the authorities have now received clarification and the

vessel is to sail at 1200 hrs today. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Van Dong 02* was reported arriving at Rabaul on Feb 20.)

London, Mar 13 — General cargo *Van Dong 02* sailed from Rabaul on Mar 9.

**VASILII BURKHANOV (Russia)**

See "Netherlands" under "Port State Control".

**VASSILIOS I (Greece)**

Piraeus, Mar 12 — Product tanker *Vassilios I* completed repairs on Feb 16, at Drapetsona and sailed to Eleusis on Feb 17. — Lloyd's Agents.

**VEGA DIAMOND (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Mar 14 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1010, UTC: Container Carrier *Vega Diamond* (9966 gt, built 2003) stopped in lat 34 46.1S, long 19 34.2E, at 1537, UTC, Mar 13, to effect repairs to an engine problem. Vessel expects to complete repairs later today. Salvage tug *Smit Amandla* is standing-by, in case of an emergency. (Note — *Vega Diamond* sailed from Jebel Ali on Feb 24, arrived at Mombasa on Mar 4 and was scheduled to arrive at Cape Town yesterday.)

London, Mar 15 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0630, UTC: Container Carrier *Vega Diamond* completed repairs and was back under way at 1446, UTC, Mar 14.

**VENTO DI LEVANTE (Cayman Islands)**

Valetta, Mar 9 — General cargo *Vento di Levante* (7335 gt, built 1984) had engine problems in the vicinity of St. George's Bay and tug *Pawlina* rendered assistance by towing the vessel into harbour. Tug *Felicia* subsequently joined *Pawlina* in rendering assistance. The vessel is now securely berthed at Pinto 5. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Vento di Levante* was reported arriving at Valetta at 1758 hrs, Mar 8.)

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Vento di Levante* was assisted by a tug after it encountered problems with its engine in rough sea and rather strong east to northeast winds off Grand Harbour yesterday afternoon. The vessel, which was arriving from Libya to collect containers from the Freeport on its way to La Spezia, started drifting after its engine stalled, a spokesman for H. Mifsud & Sons Ltd said. No one was injured in the incident. Tug Malta tug *Pawlina* went to the assistance of the vessel which dropped anchors to prevent it from drifting further, the spokesman said. As the time the vessel was off the the Sliema front. Later in the afternoon *Vento di Levante* was towed into Grand Harbour. Port director Charles Schembri said when contacted that at one point contacts were made between the agents and the port authority to decide where the vessel should be berthed. After considering several factors, including the condition of the sea and the commercial aspect, it was

decided to tow the *Vento de Levante* into Grand Harbour which was the nearest port.

London, Mar 12 — General cargo *Vento di Levante* sailed Valetta 1551, Mar 10.

**W.D.FAIRWAY (Netherlands)**

London, Mar 9 — A Royal Boskalis Westminster nv press release, dated Mar 8, states: Royal Boskalis Westminster nv announces that at around 1400, local time, today a container vessel ran into its trailer hopper dredger *W.D.Fairway* (22689 gt, built 1997) during dredging operations in Tianjin. There were no personal injuries. The vessel is currently stable and the crew is on board. The cause of the collision and the level of damage are not yet known and are being investigated. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *W.D.Fairway* was in lat 38 55 17.22N, long 118 08 19.96E, at 0754, UTC, Mar 8.)

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Boskalis Westminster said a collision involving hopper dredger *W.D.Fairway* will lead to a Euros 25-30 million loss in revenue for 2007. *W.D.Fairway* was involved in a collision with container carrier *MSC Joanna* (107849 gt, built 2005) during dredging operations at Tianjin last Thursday (Mar 8). The accident resulted in "considerable" damage to the vessel, but no personal injuries were reported. Boskalis said the vessel would be out of action for the rest of 2007, leading to a loss of revenue of about Euros 25-30 million, or two percent of total group sales. The Dutch dredging company said it was insured for the damage and it did not expect any further losses from ongoing contracts and commitments. The cause of the collision is being investigated.

Sydney, Mar 14 — The Port of Melbourne Corporation says it is not fazed by the news from China that Royal Boskalis Westminster's hopper dredger *W.D.Fairway* will be out of action for the rest of the year. The dredger was in contact with container carrier *MSC Joanna* at Tianjin on Mar 8. The *W.D.Fairway*, which was used for dredging at Hay Point last year, had been an option for use on the Port Phillip Bay channel deepening project should Royal Boskalis have decided to proceed with the jumboisation of its sister ship, the *Queen of the Netherlands*, which is scheduled to perform the bulk of the work. PoMC chief executive Steve Bradford yesterday played down any concerns the port may have, saying the corporation had formed an excellent working alliance with the Dutch dredging firm and he was confident that company would supply the appropriate vessel for the project. If the project gained environmental approval, dredging would start early next year and would take 100 weeks. Boskalis spokesman Roel Berends said the *MSC Joanna* had run into the dredger and "pushed it on to a sandbank." A source revealed that the *MSC Joanna* had just disembarked the pilot and was picking

up speed when it ran into the dredger. At first, the Dutch firm was afraid to part the two vessels because the containership was wedged into the *W.D.Fairway*, but the *MSC Joanna* had now been dislodged, he said. A team was working to stabilise the dredger. — "Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News."

**WARBABY FOX (Bermuda)**

See "Bermuda" under "Weather & Navigation".

**WARRIOR (Malta)**

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

**WILSON MUUGA (Cyprus)**

Reykjavik, Mar 13 — Bulker *Wilson Muuga* is still aground. It is believed the vessel will never be refloated. It is sitting close to shore with no or very little bottom (tanktop) with hundreds of metres out to open sea. At the moment matters are stuck in a legal dispute. — Lloyd's Agents.

**WINBUILD 1802 (Singapore)**

London, Mar 13 — Barge *Winbuild 1802* that arrived Singapore 0837, Jan 7 left at 1404, Mar 8.

**WINONA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Mar 14 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 2220, UTC: General cargo *Winona* (6361 gt, built 2003) and fishing (general) *Leendert de Mol* (151 gt, built 2001) were in collision, in lat 51 37N, long 03 21E just before 1048, UTC, this morning. *Winona* sustained a three metre dent above the waterline on the starboard side and proceeded to dock 158 at Antwerp, under its own power. *Leendert de Mol* sustained light damage above the waterline, needed no assistance, and continued fishing. (Note — *Winona* sailed from Klaipeda at 1149 hrs, Mar 11, for Antwerp, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was reported stationary at Antwerp at 2209, UTC, today.)

**WUNMA (Australia)**

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The Queensland Government will launch an inquiry into why a barge carrying zinc concentrate started sinking during a cyclone off the state's far north coast. Bulker *Wunma* was carrying 5,000 tonnes of zinc concentrate when it was swamped by heavy seas whipped up by Cyclone "Nelson" in the Gulf of Carpentaria last month. Ten crew members had to be winched to safety, with fears the ship would sink before a salvage team could secure it. Transport Minister Paul Lucas told State Parliament today it was an incident that "could easily have ended in tragedy." "And I think it is beholden on all parties concerned to consider the circumstances leading up to and during this incident to identify ways to reduce the risks of similar incidents in the future," he said. "For this reason, I intend to exercise my powers under the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994 to convene a board of inquiry into this incident. This will involve the appointment of

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independent experts whose job will be to consider the circumstances and probable causes of the marine incident and prepare a report and recommendations for my consideration and tabling in parliament." Maritime Safety Queensland is already investigating.

#### **XANADU (Malta)**

London, Mar 8 — A Tsavlis Salvage report, dated today, states: On Feb 17 salvage tug *Potiy Krylov* proceeded to Curacao to assist bulker *Xanadu*, on an interrupted voyage laden with 43,710 tonnes of iron ore. Inspections revealed damage to propeller and shaft damage and the operation was still in progress in early March. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Potiy Krylov*, towing bulker *Xanadu*, was in lat 18 21 40.38N, long 63 53 48.48W, at 1241, UTC, Mar 3, speed 7.8 knots, course 24 degrees, bound Gijon.)

Piraeus, Mar 12 — Bulker *Xanadu*: (Towing) Operation is under way and delivery is estimated for Mar 21, weather permitting. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

#### **XIEHANG 528**

See *An Ping 6*.

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

London, Mar 12 — Bulker *Xin Jing Hai* arrived Hong Kong 0333, Mar 10, from Shantou, and sailed 0932 same day for Esperance.

#### **YM COMFORT (Taiwan)**

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: The Colombo Engineering Enterprises, rushed to the assistance of Container Carrier *YM Comfort* (29872 gt, built 1982), which developed a fire and was discharging oil at Colombo Port. The large container carrier, owned by Yang Ming Marine Transport Corporation of Taiwan and under the Agency of Asha Shipping Colombo, had developed a fire at sea in one of its container holds and at the same time experienced a heavy discharge of oil into a another container hold and even having its carbon dioxide fire extinguisher system also discharged, called outside Colombo harbour for assistance. Asha Shipping immediately contacted Kiran Atapattu at Colombo Engineering where a team of top technicians were sent on board to render assistance to the vessel at outer harbour. With the assistance of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority the *YM Comfort* subsequently berthed inside the port of Colombo to discharge containers. Colombo Engineering mobilized on board a team of over 100 top technicians who dismantled 150 Nos. carbon dioxide fire extinguished cylinders within hours, re-filled same and refitted back. (Note — *YM Comfort* sailed Hong Kong Feb 5, arrived Colombo Feb 21 and sailed Feb 22, and subsequently arrived Ashdod Mar 8.)

#### **YM GLORY (Liberia)**

London, Mar 12 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, container Carrier *YM Glory* was in lat 01 14 48.54N, long 104

04 18.06E, at 1526, UTC, Mar 11, proceeding on a course of 89.3 deg at 15.1 knots.

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

London, Mar 9 — Following received from Cosco Wallem Ship Management Co, Qingdao, managers of bulker *Yun Tong Hai*: Lightering started at 1313, Mar 7, and was completed at 0125, Mar 8. Refloating commenced at 0555, Mar 8, and was completed at 0755 same day. After sailing on DS ahead speed by engines in Maracaibo Channel, vessel dropped anchor to check machinery at 0840 hrs. It is expected to depart to Guranao pilot station for underwater inspection under the attendance of vessel's classification society at 2100, Mar 8. The sailing distance to the Guranao anchorage is 80 nautical miles and should take around 10 hours. There has been no damage to vessel, no injuries to crew and no pollution.

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: Venezuela refloated the Hong Kong-flagged bulker *Yun Tong Hai* from the Maracaibo oil shipping channel early today after removing a cargo of coal from the vessel, said an official at the Maracaibo port authority. The tanker first went aground on Feb 28, and low tidal movement in Venezuela's Caribbean forced authorities to remove the tanker's cargo. Authorities have removed all shipping restrictions now that the tanker is free, said the official. While the tanker was stuck authorities limited the draft on outgoing vessels to 35 feet, down from a normal level of 37 feet, and that traffic in and out of the channel had been restricted over the past week.

London, Mar 12 — Following received from Cosco Wallem Ship Management Co, Qingdao, managers of bulker *Yun Tong Hai*: The underwater inspection under Classification society attendance was undertaken from 1000 hrs to 1500 hrs, Mar 10. No damage or abnormality noted. The vessel is, at the moment, awaiting for port clearance from the Harbour Master, to sail to her next discharging port in Brazil.

London, Mar 13 — A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV report, dated Mar 9, states: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage was engaged by owners/underwriters to assist in the refloating of bulker *Yun Tong Hai* in the Maracaibo region, Venezuela. Initial attempts to free the vessel were unsuccessful and the entrance channel remained partly blocked. SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage staff were flown in from The Netherlands, Spain and Argentina at the request of the owners/underwriters, to bring in the necessary specialists to control the operations. Lightering of part of the cargo of steam coal appeared to be necessary and within 48 hours the salvage plan was approved by the appropriate authorities. Lightering vessel *Antwerpen* was chartered and the lightering operation started on Mar 6. After more than 8,000 tons had been discharged, a controlled refloating attempt using a number of SvitzerWijsmuller tugs was carried out.

About 0755 hrs, Mar 8, *Yun Tong Hai* was refloated and guided to an anchorage for further inspections. It was later granted permission to continue with its voyage.

London, Mar 13 — Following received from Cosco Wallem Ship Management Co Ltd, Qingdao, managers of bulker *Yun Tong Hai*, dated today: The vessel has completed all the legal and investigative formalities and has sailed out of Venezuela, proceeding to her scheduled discharging port in Brazil. Port clearance was signed by the Harbour Master at 1420 hrs, Mar 12 and received by the master at 1450 hrs. The vessel raised anchor at 1530 hrs and departed, bound for Praia Mole, where ETA 1200 hrs, Mar 24.

#### **ZILLERTAL (Netherlands)**

Poznan, Mar 14 — General cargo *Zillertal*: Repairs to the vessel have been completed and it departed on Mar 12, for Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Agents.



#### **SOMALIA**

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated Mar 7, states: No further news has come from earlier reports that talks had begun with the pirates that seized general cargo *Rozen*. Previous reports had indicated that the owner had spoken to the crew and that they were said to be fine, but so far nothing new has emerged. The United Nations World Food Programme has made an appeal for an end to the impasse, saying that this is a very distressing situation for the crewmen on board the vessel and their families. The vessel is reported to be anchored near the port of Eyl in northern Somalia. On Feb 28, the UN's World Food Programme Agency said that Puntland authorities had arrested four men whom they said were part of a group that hijacked the vessel. The men were arrested when they went ashore to buy supplies in the town of Bargal. The vessel was hijacked on Feb 25 in the region of Puntland, off the north-eastern coast of Somalia, with six Sri Lankan and six Kenyan crew members on board.

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated Mar 14, states: Negotiations to secure the release of the crew members and the WFP chartered general cargo *Rozen*, seized by Somali pirates a fortnight ago, are still continuing, without any major breakthrough, a Foreign Ministry sources said yesterday. The Kenyan owned *Rozen*, chartered by WFP to supply relief goods to Somalia included six Sri Lankan crew members, including the vessel's Captain and the engineer and six Kenyans. The pirates who have demanded a ransom to release the empty vessel, have assured that all crew members are in good health.



## Port State Control



### BELGIUM

London, Mar 12 — General cargo *Theofilos* sailed Antwerp 1715, Mar 10 for Douala.

### NETHERLANDS

Maassluis, Mar 8 — General cargo *Hertfordshire* (1864 gt, built 1995) is currently under detention in Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Hertfordshire* arrived at Rotterdam at 1310 hrs, Feb 20.)

Zeebrugge, Mar 13 — The departure of Roll On Roll Off *Vasily Burkhanov* (18574 gt, built 1986), which arrived Antwerp on Mar 7, has been suspended due to detentions. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Mar 14 — Following received from the managers of general cargo *Hertfordshire*, dated today: The Managers of *Hertfordshire* would like to make clear that the vessel was not subject to a Port State Control detention order in Rotterdam, nor were any deficiencies found.

### UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 12 — Following received from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated today: Passenger ro/ro *Celtic Mist* was not detained by the MCA.

### UNITED STATES

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Representatives of Malta-based Twilight Marine Ltd. pleaded guilty this week to grossly negligent operation of bulker *Warrior* and were ordered to pay a \$50,000 criminal fine. In addition to the criminal fine, another \$100,000 in restitution will be added to the Northern Coastal California Restoration Fund, which now has \$800,000. The fund, which contains money collected from shipping companies in previous cases, has been used to finance a variety of environmental projects throughout the region.

## Seizures & Arrests



### ANNA (Lebanon)

Beirut, Mar 15 — General cargo *Anna* is still under court arrest, by cargo owners, at Tripoli, Lebanon. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ANNIE SIERRA (Cyprus)

Karachi, Mar 9 — Understand from the Karachi based counsel that bulker *Annie Sierra*, is still arrested at Port Qasim, for settlement of port and other

charges. The Sindh High Court is yet to fix next date for hearing of cases. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

### ARIEL S. (Belize)

Beirut, Mar 7 — General cargo *Ariel S.* is still lying sunk and under arrest at Beirut. — Lloyd's Agents.

### CHERYL ANNE (Philippines)

Manila, Mar 15 — Tug *Jacob* and barge *Cheryl Anne* are still being detained at Surigao Port. The *Cheryl Anne's* cargo of 440,000 gallons of used oil, however, is now in transit to Manila where it will be stored in a hazardous waste containment facility in Manila's Pandacan district. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which has jurisdiction over the *Cheryl Anne's* hazardous cargo, said that it had authorised the transfer of the cargo because of the health and environmental threat it posed to Surigao residents. The used oil is onboard the tanker *Dona Asuncion*, which left Surigao Port on Mar 13 and is scheduled to arrive in Manila on Mar 17. The Maritime Industry Authority have issued a temporary permit to allow *Cheryl Anne* to be dry-docked at a still be to identified Cebu shipyard. The *Cheryl Anne* is reported to have a hole in its hull. The vessel, however, still has to obtain release orders from the Department of Environment and the Bureau of Customs, before it can depart. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

### DAMANIA-1 (India)

London, Mar 14 — Following received from the Indian Ports Association, dated Mar 13: Ferry *Damania-1* is still arrested by the High Court in Mumbai.

### FORWARD (Cambodia)

Vladivostok, Mar 13 — Fishing (general) *Forward* (380 gt, built 1973), which arrived Nakhodka Nov 19, is currently under detention at Nakhodka. — Lloyd's Agents.

### LUTADOR (Portugal)

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated Mar 9, states: Portuguese trawler (All types) *Lutador* (1577 gt, built 1988) and its crew were being held in a northern Norwegian port today, on suspicion of overfishing in the Barents Sea, police said. "The boat was stopped because of irregularities on reporting its catch to Norwegian authorities," Ole B. Saeverud, a local police prosecutor, said. Norwegian coastguards stopped the vessel on Wednesday (Mar 7), west of Bear Island, about 500 kilometres north of Norway. Inspecting the vessel, they suspected it had caught more fish than its quota allowed. "They had incorrect catch reports. So far, it seems the crew had taken 30,000 kilograms above its allowed quota," Saeverud said. He did not specify what quantity the *Lutador*, which was fishing for cod, was allowed to catch. The coastguard ordered the vessel to sail to the port of Tromso, where it arrived Friday morning. Police boarded the ship to question the captain and one crew member, believed to be the person in charge of the

production logs. (Note — *Lutador* sailed Tromso at 0900 hrs, Mar 10.)

### NEMIROV (Russia)

Vladivostok, Mar 13 — Fishing (general) *Nemirov* is still under detention at Vladivostok. — Lloyd's Agents.

### OCEAN NAVIGATOR (India)

London, Mar 14 — Following received from the Indian Ports Association, dated Mar 13: Tug *Ocean Navigator* (398 gt, built 2004), which arrived Mumbai Jan 31, is presently detained by the Mumbai Marine Department.

### OTAPAN (Mexico)

Maassluis, Mar 14 — Tank barge *Otapan* is currently berthed at Rotterdam for asbestos removal. After removal of the asbestos, the vessel will be demolished. It is not known when, where or how the demolition will take place. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

### PATRICIA (Philippines)

Manila, Mar 15 — The Philippine Coast Guard today reported that the non specific tanker *Patricia* is still being detained at the Coast Guard Arroceros Station along Manila's Pasig River. The vessel is being held pending the resolution of several smuggling cases filed by the Bureau of Customs against the owner of the vessel and the owner of its cargo. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

### PAVEL BUTOV (Russia)

Vladivostok, Mar 12 — As at Feb 28, fishing (general) *Pavel Butov* was still under detention at Nakhodka. — Lloyd's Agents.

### RAJ SEVAK

London, Mar 14 — Following received from the Indian Ports Association, dated Mar 13: Tanker *Raj Sevak* is still arrested by the Sheriff of Mumbai.

### REFRIZHERATOR 605 (Russia)

Vladivostok, Mar 12 — As at Feb 28, refrigerated general cargo *Refrizherator 605* (1597 gt, built 1982) was reported to be under detention at Nakhodka. The vessel had arrived at Nakhodka on Jan 2. — Lloyd's Agents.

### RIF (Russia)

Portsmouth, UK, Mar 10 — General cargo *Rif* (498 gt, built 1956) was arrested at Belgorod -Dnestrovskiy on Mar 9. The arrest was reportedly ordered by the Goloseyevskiy district law court of Kiev. The vessel served as a guarantee during the transmittal by the Latvian Bank of credit to the Cypriot company V.G.A. Enterprises Limited, which could not repay the loan on time, giving rise to the arrest. The outstanding debt is reported to be \$2.5 million. — Correspondent.

### SEA LION 2 (Panama)

Vladivostok, Mar 13 — Fishing (general) *Sea Lion 2* (237 gt, built 1978), which arrived at Nakhodka on Nov 12, from Korea, is currently under arrest at Nakhodka. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

**SHIREEN S. (U.K.)**

Maassluis, Mar 8 — Tug *Shireen S.* (312 gt, built 1975) is still under arrest at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**SUNGAI JULAN 1 (Malaysia)**

Manila, Mar 13 — Tugs *Sungai Julian 1* and *Sungai Julian 2* which were both arrested due to undeclared cargo, are still under arrest at Poro Point, together with seven Indonesian and five Malaysian crew members, pending completion of the investigation being conducted by the port authorities at the port. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SZAP 5 (Cook Islands)**

Wellington, Mar 13 — The Official Assignee this morning advised that Pacific Services (New Zealand) Ltd., owner of trawler *Szap 5*, had been placed into liquidation. The registered address of the company was in Christchurch. Trawler *Seafire* is berthed at Waterloo Quay Wharf, adjacent to the Wharf Police base. It is understood that the vessel has about 12 tonnes of diesel oil onboard. Trawler *Atlantic Elizabeth* is berthed at Taranaki Street Breastwotk, adjacent to Te Papa. It is understood that she has about 100 tonnes of diesel oil onboard. — Lloyd's Agents.

**Pipeline Accidents**



**JINNAH AREA, QUETTA, PAKISTAN**

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

**PARKER COUNTY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 13 — All workers have been accounted for and the flow of fuel to a Texas pipeline has been stopped after an explosion and fire, a fire department official said. "The pipeline cut-off point is five miles away from the fire, and we were able to stop the flow of fuel at about 1530, central time", Bob Hopkins, a spokesman for the Weatherford, Texas, Fire Department said. Hopkins said investigators still don't know the size of the pipeline. The fire began about 1400 hrs, when a 15-member crew laying a new natural gas pipeline punctured an existing line in Parker County, which is about 60 miles west of Dallas.

**Pollution**



**NEMBE CREEK, BONNY AREA, NIGERIA**

Lagos, Mar 13 — Royal Dutch Shell has gained access to the oil spill that forced it to close 187,000 barrels per day (bpd) output in Nigeria, but had

equipment seized by community youths, a company spokesman said today. The company is negotiating with youths in the Nembe Creek area of the Niger Delta to release the equipment and allow workers to carry out inspection and repairs to the trunk pipeline that feeds the Bonny export terminal. "We got access but youths from the community seized our equipment and we are talking to them to get it back to work and conduct an investigation," a Shell spokesman said. It is unclear how long the investigation and repairs will take. — Reuters.

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Communities in the Nembe Creek Trunk Line of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) in Rivers State have physically prevented Shell workers from cleaning up an oil spill at the trunk line. The trunk line is one of its major crude evacuation facilities in the Niger Delta region. In a statement signed by the external affairs director of SPDC, Mrs. Diezan Alison-Madueke the company said the oil leakage occurred on Mar 4 this year, in the trunk line passing through the Cawthorne Channel Field. "SPDC, the statement added, sent a clean-up team to the spill area to repair the damaged line, but have been physically prevented from working", said Mrs. Alison-Madueke. The statement also explained that as soon as the oil leakage was detected, SPDC immediately shut down the flow stations which feed into the trunk line and quickly deployed booms to contain the spill and minimise the impact on the environment. According to the company, Shell's piling/crane barge has been seized by people from its host communities adding that "unknown people" have also removed the booms placed to contain the spill. Although the statement did not comment on any reasons for the action of its host communities, the company, however, appealed to the communities to allow its repair teams access to the oil spill area for immediate clean up, "as delay could expose the environment to further damage". "SPDC is working to replace the booms while the repair teams continue to remain on standby and will remobilise to the site once they are assured of access and safety", the statement added. Expressing "deep concern" that the action of the communities has delayed a quick response to the oil spill, the company, however, commended the Rivers State Government, Federal Ministry of Environment and some community leaders for their efforts in ensuring that the repair teams and the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) gained access to the area for immediate clean-up. The JIT comprises officials of the Rivers State Ministry of Environment, Federal Ministry of Environment, Department of Petroleum Resources and SPDC as well as representatives of SPDC host communities, the statement added.

**VIETNAM**

London, Mar 14 — The central province of Thua Thien-Hue had, by yesterday, basically completed the

collection of oil spilt along its coastline, with a total of 313,620 kgs of oil gathered. The oil will be transferred to the Da Nang-based Central Region Centre for Oil Spill for treatment before tomorrow. An oil spill, which was discovered on Jan 28, has spread to the shores of 20 communes in the districts of Phong Dien, Quang Dien, Huong Tra, Phu Vang and Phu Loc of Thua Thien-Hue province, affecting local marine environment and shrimp breeding.

**Weather & Navigation**



**ALGERIA**

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A flash flood killed six people in southern Algeria when torrential rains caused wadis to overflow, while high winds brought down trees and walls, press reports said today. Two teenage schoolgirls and four shepherds were swept away in separate incidents in the Djelfa region, 270 km south of Algiers on Thursday (Mar 8) when more than four inches of rain fell in just a few hours, the reports said. Other people were injured by falling walls, trees and telegraph poles as winds reached 75 mph, the reports added. In Algiers itself some 30 houses were flooded in the east of the city when a river overflowed for the first time in 15 years. Firemen had to use boats to evacuate the residents. In the mountainous east of the country, meanwhile, roads were blocked by snow, and weather forecasters predicted conditions would worsen tomorrow.

**BERMUDA**

Bermuda, Mar 12 — Understand repairs to ferry *Warbaby Fox* have been completed and the ferry is now back in operation. The ferry remains in Bermuda waters and does not leave Bermuda waters. It merely acts as a ferry between various locations on the island. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bermuda, Mar 14 — The temporary repairs to ferry *Warbaby Fox* are now complete, and final touches will be administered before the vessel goes back into operation on Friday (Mar 16). The Lloyd's register surveyor has inspected and approved the temporary repairs. *Warbaby Fox* is a local ferry and only travels between the ferry terminal located in Hamilton Harbour and the one in St. George's Harbour. The vessel does not leave Bermudan waters. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CYCLONE "GEORGE"**

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: At least three people are feared dead and up to 20 injured, after a powerful cyclone hit north-west Australia. Cyclone "George" packed winds of up to 280km/h (170 mph), damaging homes and disrupting

power in the remote town of Port Hedland. A local mining company closed its iron ore operations, and some offshore oil production was also suspended. Officials say the cyclone is the worst storm to hit the region since Cyclone "Vance" in 1999. Cyclone "George", which forecasters said may have been a maximum level five storm as it crossed the coast, hit a mine construction camp owned by Fortescue Metals Group, based about 100km (62 miles) south of Port Hedland. It destroyed many temporary housing units at the camp, where workers were staying while building a railway. At least one person is known to have died, but Western Australia Premier Alan Carpenter said there were unconfirmed reports that three people had been killed at the site. An emergency team has recently been able to reach the camp and evacuate the injured, according to the metals company, but rescue attempts are still being hampered by continuing strong winds.

Sydney, Mar 12 — Western Australia's big two bulk ports plan to reopen today after reporting no significant damage from five days of severe weather. The category four cyclone "George" forced the closure of ports between Port Hedland and the port of Onslow last week, tearing roofs from houses and killing at least three people in the Pilbara region. Cyclone "George" whipped up 275 kph winds when it crossed the Western Australia coast near Port Hedland on Friday (Mar 9) before devastating an inland rail construction camp operated by Fortescue Metals Group. Two of the three fatalities were at the FMG camp where demountable houses were destroyed, injuring at least 28 people. Despite claims the storm was the strongest in 30 years, there was no major damage to port facilities, which had all locked down well before "George" hit. Port Hedland deputy harbour-master Joseph Pereira said the wind strength was near a category five but the town and port had fared well given the circumstances. The port has begun a phased reopening, despite the Bureau of Meteorology's prediction that a second storm, category one cyclone "Jacob," would cross the Pilbara coast by midday today. Mr Pereira said Port Hedland remained on yellow alert but had reopened the anchorages and would begin berthing vessels tonight. Eighteen vessels are waiting at the port, almost double the port's normal operating queue. BHP Billiton is estimated to have lost about 1.5 million tonnes of iron ore shipments during the five-day shutdown. The port of Dampier, which has been closed since Wednesday, could take a month to return to its normal queue. Dampier Port Authority chief executive Steve Lewis said that while the port had not sustained any significant structural damage or flooding, it would probably take at least a fortnight for operations to return to normal. "It might even stretch to a month (because) Rio Tinto will have all of the vessels that were booked in, plus all the ones backed up," Mr Lewis said. "Last year it took them

around a month before they cleared the backlog and were back to their normal rate." Dampier has re-opened its anchorages and will re-open this afternoon or early this evening. — "Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News." (See issue of Mar 12.)

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The Western Australian Pilbara town of Port Hedland says a massive relief effort is under way to help victims of cyclone "George." About 150 people attended a public meeting at the town's Civic Centre last night to be updated on the recovery effort. The council has set up a Tropical Cyclone "George" Relief Fund and BHP Billiton has already contributed Aus\$250,000. Port Hedland Town Council's chief executive officer, Chris Adams, says life in the town is expected to return to normal quite quickly. The Federal Minister for Human Services, Chris Ellison, attended last night's meeting to inform residents help is available. Senator Ellison says people badly affected by the cyclone should contact Centrelink and apply for assistance. An emergency physician who headed a team of six medical staff from Royal Perth Hospital to help victims of cyclone "George" in Port Hedland, Stefan Mazur, says he has never seen so much devastation.

London, Mar 15 — Western Australia's largest bulk ports are resuming operations after last week's cyclone "George," which left three people dead and iron ore exports suspended. Latest reports have said that Australia's main iron ore export facility at Port Hedland was open for anchorage and BHP Billiton was poised to resume shipments from the facility. Port Walcott had by Tuesday (Mar 13) reopened to all vessel movements after it was declared open for vessels to anchor last Friday (Mar 9) and Dampier has also opened its outer anchorage. BHP Billiton had been awaiting the outcome of a subsequent, less powerful storm, cyclone "Jacob," which struck land on Tuesday before Port Hedland returned to normal activity. Mining operations run by bulk giants BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto and FMG have also made a gradual return to operations after last week's Category 4 storm. "Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News" said on Monday that 18 vessels were waiting outside Port Hedland, around twice the usual operating queue. Dampier's port authority chief Steve Lewis estimated it could take from a fortnight to a month for operations to return fully to normal. BHP Billiton is understood to have lost 1.5 million tonnes of iron ore shipments over the five-day shutdown. Bloomberg reported that, as well as closing Port Hedland, BHP halted work at its Area C, Yarric and Yandi, Jimblebar, Orebody 18 and Orebody 25, mines. BHP spokeswoman Emma Meade also told Bloomberg in Melbourne that rail shipments of ore had been suspended until the second cyclone passed. Meanwhile, workers in Western Australia have called for an investigation into why 200 colleagues were left in the storm's path at the

Fortescue Metals Group railway camp where three fatalities occurred. BHP Billiton has contributed A\$250,000 to a Tropical Cyclone "George" Relief Fund which has been set up by Port Hedland town council.

#### FIJI

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Five people have drowned in flash floods in Fiji and at least one other person is missing, according to local reports. Three people were confirmed to have died on Saturday (Mar 10) as rivers broke their banks around Labasa, the main town on Fiji's second-largest island, Vanua Levu, commercial radio quoted police as saying. Another woman was reported missing from the Labasa area and Fiji TV reported that 13 people had saved themselves from rising flood waters by climbing into trees. The radio station also said two people were reported to have drowned on Friday (Mar 9) in flooding around Nadi, the country's tourism capital on the west coast of the main island Viti Levu. Heavy rain is forecast to continue falling during the early part of this week.

#### HURRICANE "KATRINA"

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: South Shore Harbour marina on Lake Pontchartrain could be back in business on a limited scale by fall, 18 months after being hit by Hurricane "Katrina." In January the marina's landlord, the Orleans Levee District, launched a massive salvage operation that has fished nearly 100 boats and 550 tons of debris from the harbour floor. With that effort winding down, levee district officials say they hope to begin rebuilding by month's end, with full restoration scheduled for late next year. The \$4.6 million a year in lease payments and gambling fees from a floating casino docked there and more than \$500,000 in slip fees from boat owners constituted more than 20% of the agency's operating budget.

#### PANAMA

Balboa, Mar 9 — General cargo *Liberty V*, general cargo *Princess Aviv* and general cargo *Perseus V* remain in the same condition as last reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### RUSSIA

London, Mar 12 — The cyclone, that has been hovering over Russia's Khabarovsk region since Saturday (Mar 10), has hit it with record snowfalls, sources from the regional department of the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations said today. Up to 28 millimetres of precipitations have fallen in southern parts of the region over the past 24 hours with a monthly norm of 13 millimetres, while in eastern parts of the region more than three monthly norms of snow have fallen. According to the Far Eastern meteorological centre, the cyclone is moving north-east. Winds in Khabarovsk are gradually losing their strength, but heavy snowfalls and snowdrifts persist on the seaside. Three

settlements remained without electricity, but reserve diesel generator sets have been activated there. Federal highways connecting Khabarovsk with Vladivostok, Birobidzhan and Komsomolsk-on-Amur are closed for passenger vehicles. Ferries are not allowed to leave the port city of Vanino. The airport of Khabarovsk is operating in a routine regime, as well as the Far Eastern railway.

#### **TROPICAL CYCLONE "GEORGE"**

London, Mar 9 — Tropical cyclone "George" passed well inland and winds and rain are slowly abating at the ports of Port Hedland, Port Walcott and Dampier. Port Hedland remains closed. There is a possibility that it will re-open Saturday, Mar 10, subject to inspection of channel markers and infrastructure etc. Port Walcott was declared partially re-opened for vessels to anchor at 1200, local time, today. There is currently no information about when any vessels will be berthed. The port is monitoring the approach of Tropical Cyclone "Jacob", which may start affecting local conditions in the next day or so. All vessels are being notified that they may be required to go to sea at short notice, if it becomes necessary to close the port.

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A union which represents thousands of workers in Western Australia's north is calling for an investigation into why about 200 people were left at a construction site during severe tropical cyclone "George". One person was killed and 26 injured when cyclone George swept through the Fortescue Metals Group railway camp late on Thursday night (Mar 8). The workers were sheltering in structures known as dongers when the 275 kilometre an hour winds ripped the roofs off some and blew others over. The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) has undertaken three flights overnight to bring six injured patients to Perth from the site. Michelle Fraser from the RFDS says the men are now in Royal Perth Hospital suffering a range of injuries. "Their conditions range from serious through to critical they had head injuries and fractures, back injuries and also neck injuries," she said.

#### **TROPICAL CYCLONE "INDLALA"**

London, Mar 13 — Following received from Meteorological Office, dated today, states: The centre of tropical cyclone "Indlala" was within a 30 nautical mile radius of lat 12.9S, long 54.7E at 0600, UTC, today. Maximum average wind speed 65 knots.

London, Mar 14 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: The centre of tropical cyclone "Indlala" was located near lat 13.7S, long 52.9E at 0000, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours: 230 degrees at six knots. The position is accurate to within 25 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots, gusts 110 knots. Forecast position at 1200, UTC, today: lat 14.4S, long 51.9E. Maximum sustained winds 100

knots, gusts 125 knots. Forecast position at 0000, Mar 15: lat 15.1S, long 51.1E. Maximum sustained winds 115 knots, gusts 140 knots.

London, Mar 15 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today. At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Indlala" was located near lat 15.0S, long 50.2E, with maximum average wind speeds of 90 knots. At 1800, UTC, today the centre is predicted to be near lat 15.4S, long 49.6E, with maximum winds of 60 knots. At 0600, UTC, Mar 16, the centre is predicted to be near lat 16.1S, long 48.7E.

#### **TROPICAL CYCLONE "JACOB"**

London, Mar 9 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Jacob" was located near lat 14.7S, long 108.1E, approximately 560 nautical miles northwest of Learmonth, Australia and has tracked south-southeastward, or 155 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 50 knots winds: 30 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knots winds: 75 nautical miles in the northeast quadrant and 65 nautical miles in the other three quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 20 feet. At 0600, UTC, Mar 10, the centre is predicted to be near lat 17.0S, long 111.4E. Maximum sustained winds: 70 knots, with gusts to 85 knots.

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Dampier Port Authority advise that at 0600, WDT, Tropical Cyclone "Jacob" was 700 miles north-west of Dampier and tracking south-east at four knots, with its speed expected to increase. "Jacob" is currently a Category 2 storm, which may intensify. Its impact on the Dampier coastline could be felt as early as Sunday, Mar 11. It is presently intended to keep the port anchorages clear, pending advice on the progress of "Jacob." At 0700, WDT, the seas off Dampier were too high for vessels to anchor and Tropical Cyclone "Jacob" swell conditions are expected to continue rising over the next few days. This adverse weather precludes reopening terminals for the moment. There is currently no schedule for berthing and/or re-commencement of loading operations.

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical cyclone "Jacob" is continuing to track towards Western Australia's north-west coast. The cyclone weakened overnight to a category two system, easing fears that it may repeat the damage caused by cyclone "George" which hit the Pilbara region two days ago. The Bureau of Meteorology says while cyclone "Jacob" has been downgraded it may still generate destructive winds of up to 145 kilometres an hour when it crosses the coast late tonight or early tomorrow

morning. A number of north-west communities have been placed on blue alert including Karratha, Port Hedland and Dampier with residents being warned to prepare for the passage of the cyclone. The Fortescue Metals Group says it has evacuated most of its workers from the Pilbara. More than 200 workers from Rail Camp One, which bore the brunt of cyclone George, have already flown back to Perth. Another 200 from Rail Camp Two have also been evacuated and are being flown out of Port Hedland. The company says it also has workers accommodated near the Port Hedland Airport who are heading home before cyclone Jacob hits the coast. Fortescue says it will evacuate its Cloudbreak mine-site, which is more than 260 kilometres south of Port Hedland, if advised to do so by the Fire and Emergency Services Authority.

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated Mar 10, states: More than 2,000 vehicles formed a 10-kilometre queue that started at Gilimanuk harbor in Jembrana, Bali, after Cyclone "Jacob" forced the closure of the port Thursday afternoon (Mar 8). Gilimanuk Port head I Gede Putrawan said the port would be closed until the weather improved and that they were waiting to hear from the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency (BMG). "We heard on Thursday afternoon from Ketapang ferry port that two of the five ferries leaving for Gilimanuk failed to reach Bali because of the strong wind and stream. Actually the waves were normal, at about 2.5 metres in height," he said Friday. The strong current, however, could endanger vessels. Some 21 ferries usually operate out of the port each day, running a total of 168 trips from Gilimanuk to Ketapang harbor. The port has closed several times over the last seven years due to bad weather. Gilimanuk Port is an important trade hub for the island, which relies on various commodities from Java, such as fruit and vegetables. Local police have been deployed to the port to ensure safety, as thousands of passengers have been waiting there for 40 hours. At Padang Bai Port in Karangasem, East Bali, only one ferry was allowed to travel to Lembar Port in Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara. Three ferries were able to head to Bali from Lombok. No ferries had been allowed to cross the Lombok Straits since Tuesday, and air transportation was also halted due to strong winds, effectively isolating Lombok. Ahmad Munir, a spokesman for Ngurah Rai International Airport in Bali, said that the weather had improved on Friday and there had been no flight cancellations or diversions as of the afternoon. A large number of flights were delayed on Thursday. H. Sutrisno, head of the BMG III Bali office overlooking East Java, Bali, West Nusa Tenggara and Kalimantan, said that the impact of Cyclone "Jacob" had already lessened. On Thursday, the tail of "Jacob" cyclone had caused strong winds in several top tourist destinations in Bali, including Kuta,

Nusa Dua, Bena, Sanur and In Denpasar and nearby cities, five people died and hundreds of others were severely wounded after being hit by falling trees and buildings. Numerous historical temples and sacred buildings across Bali were damaged.

London, Mar 12 — While the anchorage is open, as yet Port Hedland remains closed to shipping. At this stage it is hoped that vessels will commence berthing this evening. Port Walcott: Vessels are expected to commence berthing this evening with the first vessel expected to have POB at 2300 hrs. Dampier: Vessels are expected to commence berthing this evening. However, no confirmation has been received as yet. East Intercourse Island berth will be the first to be reopened to shipping. As soon as the shippers at the three Pilbara Iron ore ports issue new lineups, which will hopefully be tomorrow, we will send another broadcast.

London, Mar 12 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Jacob" was located near lat 20.8S, long 105.0E, approximately 310 nautical miles east-northeast of Learmonth, Australia and has tracked east-southeastward, or 105 degs, at 14 knots, over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 30 knots, gusts 40 knots. "Jacob" is dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over land. At 0900, UTC, Mar 13, the centre is predicted to be near lat 21.2S, long 120.0E.

London, Mar 13 — Port Walcott officially opened to all vessel movements at 1100, hrs yesterday. The outer anchorage at Dampier opened to vessels at 0530 hrs, yesterday.

London, Mar 13 — Pilbara ports are resuming shipping work after the passing of Tropical Cyclones "George" and "Jacob". Port Hedland had closed on Mar 8, as "George" approached, and remained closed due to "Jacob", until reopening yesterday after it was judged that the storm posed no further threat.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The Houston Ship Channel was shut to traffic late last night, owing to heavy fog, and opened today, according to a Houston Pilots Association dispatcher. The Pilots Association, which regulates vessels on the channel, stopped allowing vessels to enter or leave the channel just after 2200, hrs, yesterday, according to Coast Guard spokesman Adam Wine. The channel reopened to traffic this morning, a Pilots Association dispatcher said at 1000, hrs. At the time of the closure, 18 vessels were waiting to arrive and eight were waiting to leave the channel, Wine said. Traffic to the Texas City ship channel was suspended as well, but resumed at 0830, hrs, with no delays.

## Earthquakes



#### JAPAN

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated Mar 11, states: A moderate earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.6 shook northern Japan today. The 1609 hrs, (0709, UTC) quake was centred off the eastern coast of Japan's main northern island of Hokkaido, at a depth of about 19 miles under the ocean floor, the Meteorological Agency said in a statement. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

#### MEXICO

London, Mar 13 — A magnitude 5.5 earthquake struck northwestern Mexico at 1959, hrs, yesterday, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The quake was centred under the Gulf of California, 55 miles east-northeast of Loreto, on the Baja California Peninsula, and 581 miles south-east of the city of Tijuana, the USGS said. While the quake was felt in the area, there were no immediate reports of damage.

#### RUSSIA

London, Mar 9 — A report, dated today, states: An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.2 was reported in lat 43.218N, long 133.545E, Primor'ye, Russia, at 0322, UTC, today.

London, Mar 13 — An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale occurred in the area of the Kuril Islands this morning. The epicentre of the jolt was between Shimushir and Urup islands at a depth of 140 kms, the Geophysical Service of the Russian Academy of Sciences reported. The distance between the earthquake's epicentre and the nearest populated area, the town of Kurilsk on Iturup Island was 355 kms.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Mar 13 — A report, dated today, states: An earthquake of 6.0 magnitude was reported in lat 26.30.5N, long 110.51.4W, Gulf of California, at 0259, UTC, today, at a depth 42 metres.

## Volcanic Activity



#### SOUFRIERE HILLS, MONTSERRAT

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated Mar 10, states: Volcanic ash from Montserrat disrupted airport traffic in Puerto Rico today, prompting delays and cancellations by several airlines. Most of the problems were in the small airport in Ponce, but four Delta Airlines flights were cancelled in San

Juan, said Fred Sosa, the general manager of the capital's Luis Munos Marin International Airport. A large cloud of dust from the Sahara Desert was also contributing to the poor visibility, said Miguel Calimano, general manager of Puerto Rico's regional airport system. Ash from the volcano in Montserrat often clouds the skies of the Caribbean. In recent days, officials have warned that a dome of hardened lava over the Soufriere Hills volcano has swollen to near-record size and could collapse. On Wednesday (Mar 7), the Montserrat Volcano Observatory said the ash cloud had reached 8,000 feet and was blowing west. People in Montserrat have been on alert since December 24, when the dome's growth shifted toward the volcano's north-western flank, which is home to many of the island's 5,000 inhabitants. In January, the government issued an evacuation order for dozens of households.

## Political & Civil Unrest



#### AFGHANISTAN

Kandahar, Mar 12 — Western forces killed five Afghan civilians in an air strike in the southern province of Helmand, a tribal elder said today. The elder, Meera Jan, said civilian houses were hit in the attack. As well as the five people killed, four were wounded, he said. A spokeswoman for NATO troops in Afghanistan said an air strike had been carried out in the Gereshek district of Helmand province late yesterday but NATO forces were not involved. A spokesman for a separate U.S.-led force said he had no information about any air strike. — Reuters. (See issue of Mar 7.)

Herat, Mar 12 — A roadside bomb detonated by Taliban fighters killed ten Afghan policemen in the western province of Farah today, a security official said. The remotely-detonated bomb exploded as a police vehicle travelled through the province's Bakwa district. "The newly-appointed security head of Bakwa was also among the dead," Khair Mohammad Baryali, an aide to Farah's security chief, said, adding that one policeman was wounded. "Pakistan-linked Taliban" were behind the attack, Baryali said. — Reuters.

#### CHINA

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A protest staged by thousands of rural workers in central China ended in violent clashes last week, according to reports. Several people were injured as up to 20,000 people clashed with 1,000 police in Hunan province on Friday (Mar 9), a local official said. The Boxun Chinese news website said the clash was sparked by rising public transport costs. A witness said sporadic incidents continued yesterday. The latest

reported unrest came as the Chinese legislature, the National People's Congress, held its annual session in Beijing. At least nine police cars were burnt during the clashes, the Boxun report said. An eyewitness said that "the authorities sent over about 1,000 armed police, special police and local police and attempted to cordon off the roads in front of the local police station and government buildings." He said the police were confronted by protesters and "large-scale conflicts broke out." Police were reportedly armed with guns and electric cattle prods. A number of police and protesters were injured, with some taken to hospital, but none were thought to be in a serious condition.

#### ECUADOR

Quito, Mar 13 — Ousted Ecuadorean lawmakers scuffled with police and a shooting wounded two of their supporters today, worsening the discord between Congress and President Rafael Correa. About 20 lawmakers barged through a cordon of police, who used riot shields to try to stop them from entering Congress, as tear gas billowed in the air. One legislator was carried away on a stretcher after he was knocked to the ground and injured. Two congressional aides were lightly wounded by gunshots. Lawmakers said their supporters were targeted by unknown gunmen on motorcycles but police said the two men had been hit by stray bullets from an unrelated robbery. Dozens of Correa supporters had earlier traded kicks and punches with protesters backing the dismissed lawmakers. — Reuters.

#### ETHIOPIA

Mekele, Mar 10 — Ethiopia said today it was in contact with an armed group that kidnapped five Europeans and eight locals in a remote northern region, but ruled out a military operation to rescue them. "Those who are responsible are being reached through different channels, and we are hoping that these people would be freed unharmed and safe," Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin told reporters in the northern town of Mekele. Amid speculation British special forces were in the area, Seyoum said a rescue mission was not being prepared. "We still have not reached that stage. So let's rule out this option for the moment, because the safety and the security of these people is most important for us," he said. "We should focus on saving the lives of these people." The hostages were seized by an armed band nine days ago during a tour of the Afar region in north-east Ethiopia. As well as eight Ethiopian translators, drivers and guides, the hostages include three British men, one Italian-British woman, and a French woman. The five expatriates are all linked to the British Embassy in Ethiopia. Local Afar people and some regional officials have said the hostages were marched into neighbouring Eritrea, possibly in the hands of Afar separatists. Asmara denies the allegation. — Reuters.

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Five Europeans abducted almost two weeks ago in one of Ethiopia's most remote, inhospitable regions were released today in neighbouring Eritrea, after the government there pressured tribal leaders to intervene, officials said. Britain's Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett said the three British men, an Anglo-Italian and a French woman — all British diplomats or their relatives — were released in Eritrea and taken to the British embassy in Asmara, the Eritrean capital. "The five are being fed and given fresh clean clothes," Beckett said in London. "They are seeing a doctor and medical checks are continuing, but I understand they are broadly in good health." Yemani Gebremeskel, the Eritrean president's spokesman, declined to give details on the role Eritrea played other than to say they helped influence local traditional elders in the desert region where the hostages were being held. Beckett said officials "continue to be concerned for the welfare" of a group of Ethiopians abducted at the same time. The hostages were on a tourist trip to the remote Afar region of northeastern Ethiopia when they were seized at gunpoint along with 13 Ethiopians. Their vehicles were later discovered abandoned, riddled with bullet holes and grenade shrapnel. British officials today lifted a reporting restriction on identifying the five. They are Peter Rudge, first secretary of the British embassy in Addis Ababa; embassy worker Jonathan Ireland; Malcolm Smart and Laure Beaufrils of the Department for International Development and Rosanna Moore, an Anglo-Italian whose husband Michael Moore heads the British Council's Ethiopia office.

#### INDIA

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: One person was killed and 18 wounded by a powerful bomb at a marketplace in India's restive north-eastern state of Assam, officials said today. Police said they suspected the separatist United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) was behind the attack, the first blamed on the group since it offered talks with the government in New Delhi a few weeks ago. No group has claimed responsibility for the blast. A police spokesperson said the device went off late yesterday outside a hardware shop in the village of Kakopathar, about 530km east of Assam's main city of Guwahati. Sadhani Dar, a senior police official, said that a shop owner sounded the alarm over an unclaimed bag shortly before the blast. "Less than two minutes after we were informed about the bag, the explosion took place. There was a crowd of people who gathered around the bag and hence so many were injured," he said by telephone. Seven members of the shopowner's family were among the casualties, of whom one died in hospital later. "Minutes later we recovered another powerful bomb barely 100 metres away from the blast site," the official said.

Another police officer, who asked not to be named, said the "modus operandi of the blast points to ULFA, as they are known to attack in crowded places". ULFA, which has been fighting for an independent homeland since 1979, was blamed for a string of attacks in January that killed about 80 people, 61 of them Hindi-speaking migrant workers in eastern Assam. To date there has been no response from the Indian government to the offer of talks. More than 10,000 people have lost their lives in the insurgency over the past two decades. (See issue of Mar 6.)

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated Mar 9, states: Unidentified militants shot dead five migrant labourers as they slept in a remote village in India's volatile Manipur state, police said today. They were among six people killed and more than a dozen wounded in overnight rebel attacks in two troubled states in India's north-east. The five migrants were from the eastern state of Bihar and were working on a road construction project in the Bishenpur area, 30 km south-west of Manipur's state capital, Imphal. No group has claimed responsibility.

#### INDIA-PAKISTAN

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The Haryana Police have made a major breakthrough in the investigation into the Delhi-Attari Express train blasts, near Panipat, which claimed the lives of 68 persons, most of them Pakistanis. It has been able to establish conclusively that the blasts had a link with Madhya Pradesh in general and Indore in particular. Additional director-general of Haryana Police V.N. Rai, who is supervising the investigations, said from Bhopal that a police team of the state had identified the shop from where six suitcases were purchased by the suspects. These suitcases were used to pack explosives as well as plastic bottles containing petroleum products. These suitcases were placed in the couches of the train at Old Delhi Railway Station. He said the police had also identified the tailor who stitched the cloth covers of the suitcases. The shop, which sold the suitcases, and the tailor shop are located in Indore. The police have carried out questioning there. The Haryana Police have contacted the manufacturers of the suitcases and plastic bottles used in the train blasts. From the manufacturers, it discovered the names of distributors; further inquiries then led the police to Indore. The owner of the shop selling suitcases confirmed that he had sold six suitcases to certain persons, the identity of whom is yet to be established. Similarly, the tailor also confirmed that he had stitched the covers. He identified one cover recovered from the site as the one stitched by him. The cover had his mark, "600", on it. The tailor also confirmed that the mark was in his handwriting.

#### IRAQ

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Two bomb blasts killed dozens of people and injured

several others while foreign envoys held peace talks just three kilometers away, a security official said Saturday (Mar 10). Initial reports put the death toll close to fifty, which medics say could increase due to serious injuries to a number of men, women and children. A suicide bomber attacked an army checkpoint in Baghdad killing 35 people. Six soldiers were among those killed when the attacker rammed a military position guarding the entrance to the east Baghdad Sadr City as part of a city-wide operation to quell sectarian violence, he said. A doctor in Sadr City said medics had received 25 bodies and treated 40 wounded, while an official at Ibn Nafees Hospital said it had seen at least ten wounded. The blast erupted in Mudaffer Square on the edge of Sadr City, a short distance from a police checkpoint, a news agency photographer said from the scene. Another car bomb occurred in Eastern districts of Baghdad killing eleven people and injuring many others. Earlier, three mortar shells fell near a building of Iraqi foreign ministry causing damage to building, but no loss of life was reported. In central Baghdad, two mortars fell near Iraq's Foreign Ministry, where envoys gathered for an international conference on how to quell the violence and bolster Iraq's government. There were no reports of injuries, but smoke was visible from the meeting area. An alleged member of the Islamic State of Iraq was among 27 suspects detained in US raids across Iraq overnight, the US military said. One suspect was killed and 18 were detained in Taji, an area on the northern outskirts of Baghdad, the military said in a statement. Eight suspects were captured in Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad, and one was detained in Ramadi, 115 kilometres 70 miles west of Baghdad, it said. Also Saturday, the US military said it was investigating the shooting of three Iraqis in Baghdad's Azamiyah neighbourhood. American paratroopers fired on a vehicle when it failed to respond to warning signals, the military said in a statement. Three Iraqis were killed and three others were wounded in Friday's incident, it said. In other violence, a roadside bomb killed three Iraqi policemen and wounded another Saturday in central Ramadi, police said. Gunmen opened fire Saturday on pilgrims in Latifiyah, about 20 miles south of Baghdad, police said. One person was killed and three were wounded. Later, two more pilgrims were killed in shootings in eastern Baghdad, police said.

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen attacked a convoy carrying security member of an Iraqi ministry in southeastern Baghdad today, killing one of them and wounding two others, an Interior Ministry source said. "Unknown gunmen ambushed a convoy carrying security members of the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture while travelling near the Zaiyounah neighborhood," the source said. The attackers showered the

convoy with bullets, killing a security member and wounding two others, he added.

### ISRAEL

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Palestinian gunmen from Hamas and Fatah exchanged fire in the Gaza Strip early Sunday (Mar 11), killing a local militia leader and wounding seven people in the most serious flareup of violence since a power-sharing deal between the political rivals last month. Both sides blamed each other for starting the battle in the northern town of Beit Hanoun. Hamas said a truckload of Fatah gunmen opened fire on the militant group's forces near the town's sports club, killing a Hamas field commander, Mohammed Kafarneh. Fatah said the shooting began when Hamas attacked a compound of the security forces with rocket-propelled grenades. Later, Hamas and Fatah gunmen also exchanged fire for a few minutes in Gaza City. In another incident, two Gaza fishermen were wounded when an Israeli navy vessel fired on their boat near the Gaza-Egypt border, Palestinian security officials said. The Israeli military had no immediate comment. Sunday's death was only the second since last month's Saudi Arbaia-backed Hamas-Fatah cease-fire which cleared the way for talks on setting up a Hamas-Fatah coalition government. The violence followed an incident in the West Bank on Saturday in which gunmen fired on the car of Prisoners Affairs Minister Wasfi Kabaha of Hamas, security officials said. Nobody was injured in the attack, which Hamas blamed on Palestinian security officials with ties to Fatah. Security officials said they did not know who was responsible.

### MOROCCO

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A suicide bomber has wounded three people in an attack on a cafe in the Moroccan city of Casablanca, according to police. The attack, which took place yesterday evening in the Sidi Moumen district of the city, left the bomber dead. There has so far been no claim of responsibility for the attack.

### NIGERIA

Abuja, Mar 9 — A Filipino oil contractor abducted on February 6 in Nigeria's southern Niger Delta has been freed and returned to his employers, police said today. Gunmen seized the man on the road to Port Harcourt and killed at least one of the Nigerian policemen who were escorting him. The police commissioner of Rivers state, where Port Harcourt is located, said the man was freed yesterday. He did not have any details on the terms of his release. Kidnappings for ransom are frequent in the Niger Delta, home to Africa's biggest oil industry. A Lebanese hostage was freed on Saturday (Mar 3) for a ransom of 15 million naira (\$117,000). Another seven expatriates are still missing after being abducted in the delta. Two Italian oil

workers kidnapped on December 7 are still in captivity as are one Filipina, one Frenchman and three Croats abducted in three separate incidents in February. — Reuters.

Port Harcourt, Mar 12 — Nigerian troops today rescued two Croats and one Montenegrin man who were being held by suspected ransom-seekers in Nigeria's oil-producing Niger Delta, a military spokesman said. The three men working for oil services company Hydrodive were kidnapped on February 19, from a bar outside their base in Port Harcourt. "The joint task force, following a security tip-off that some militants were holding foreign hostages in the Ogbakiri area, have searched the location in an attempt to rescue the hostages. The operation was successful. We encountered little or no resistance," said military spokesman Sagir Musa. Two Italians and one Frenchman seized by different armed groups are still in captivity in the Niger Delta. A community leader in Ogbakiri, a waterside village a few miles outside Port Harcourt, said troops had invaded the area. "They said they were looking for the people who kidnapped some expatriates. They were shooting and everyone ran into the bush. Some people were wounded and some arrested," the community leader said, asking not to be named because he is being monitored by the security agencies. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, which is holding two Italian hostages, is fighting for more regional autonomy in the delta, including control over its oil wealth. MEND has vowed to sustain a campaign of attacks to shut down the industry and force the central government to renegotiate the terms of the delta's union with the rest of Nigeria. Armed groups also engage in large-scale theft of crude oil from pipelines criss-crossing the delta, often with the help of corrupt officials in government, oil companies and the military. Industry executives estimate Nigeria loses about 100,000 barrels, worth \$6 million, every day to this type of theft. — Reuters.

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated Mar 13, states: Two policemen escorting a Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas vessel (NLNG) from Port Harcourt to Bonny Island in Rivers State were yesterday evening killed by suspected militants who attacked the vessel mid-sea. According to the Commissioner of Police, Rivers State, Mr. Felix Ogbaudu, who confirmed the death of the policemen, they were attacked around the Okrika channel by some people that he said were difficult to identify. "The two policemen were killed after their boat was attacked around Okrika channel. The passengers were robbed while the policemen were shot dead. I don't know whether to say they were attacked by militants or robbers since the passengers were robbed. If robbery has been mixed with the militancy then we do not know what to call it", he said. He did not, however, disclose the names of the policemen involved in the unfortunate incident as an

investigation into the attack which took place around 1730 hrs, was still going on. A statement from NLNG General Manager, External Relations, Ms Siene Allwell-Brown last night read: "A passenger boat carrying 29 persons onboard, including staff of Nigeria LNG Limited and other people from the host community was attacked around Dawes Island, near Port Harcourt, on its way to Bonny in Rivers State. The two armed Marine Police escorts onboard were killed. No other passengers were hurt in the incident which lasted about five minutes. Two armed men boarded the boat demanding money and handsets shot the policemen and escaped with their guns. The police in Port Harcourt are investigating the incident." The Bonny channel route has recently become dangerous and several attacks have been recorded there, most of them with casualties.

Port Harcourt, Mar 15 — Nigerian militants today released two Italian oil workers they had been holding hostage in remote creeks in the oil-producing Niger Delta for more than three months, a Reuters witness said. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), which demands greater autonomy for Africa's top oil province, had seized the employees of Italian-owned Agip, a unit of ENI, in a raid on an oil export terminal on December 7. MEND said in a statement it would step up attacks on the industry and stage bombings across the delta. "We will take more hostages and concentrate on locations believed to be secure to dispel the false sense of security being felt by some in the oil industry and foreign industry watchers," it said in the email statement. Heavily armed militants dropped the Italians, Francesco Arena and Cosma Russo, with a small group of journalists at an oil company boat yard on the outskirts of Port Harcourt. They appeared to be in good health, but were sporting long beards and said they were suffering from stress. MEND said it used the Italians to highlight the problems of the Niger Delta to the people of Italy. The Italians were originally supposed to have been kept until the exit of the Nigerian despot," MEND said in the email, referring to President Olusegun Obasanjo, who is due to step down in May. "Their premature release is in response to pleas from certain quarters, which could not be ignored. This will not be repeated for future captives we will shortly take for as long as the Nigerian government refuses to address our demands." The only expatriate still in captivity is a French contractor for oil company Total who was abducted by suspected ransom-seekers on February 7. Oil companies have reinforced security across the vast wetlands region, and thousands of oil workers and their families have left because of declining security. — Reuters.

#### PAKISTAN

Karachi, Mar 13 — Another attack on a gas pipeline owned by state owned gas utility Sui Southern Gas Company

(SSGC) was reported in the western province of Pakistan on Mar 12. According to media reports, a portion of the six-inch diameter pipeline was blown up near Jinnah town, disrupting the supply to many areas for several hours. An explosive device planted under the pipeline went off at 1045 hrs police and gas utility officials said and adding that as a result of the explosion, the gas supply to Arbab Town, Killi Ismail, parts of Jinnah town, Samungli Housing Scheme and some areas on the outskirts of Quetta remained suspended for several hours. Water supplies to parts of the city were also affected as a water pipeline was also damaged in the explosion. An engineering team of SSGC later restored the gas supply. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### RUSSIA

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: The first regularly scheduled civilian passenger flight since 1999 arrived at Chechnya's main airport today, in what officials say is yet another sign that the war-ravaged Russian region has returned to normal. A Tu-134 jet carrying 68 passengers touched down at Grozny's renovated airport just after 1300 hrs. Round-trip Moscow-Grozny flights will initially run three times a week, and could increase to six weekly flights by the summer, officials said. "A lot has been done in the past several years to revive the republic and return it to peaceful life. But the opening of the airport is of the greatest significance. This is a turning point in people's minds. This means that peace has returned to the republic forever," newly elected President Ramzan Kadyrov was quoted by Interfax as saying. Despite the rebuilding efforts and government pronouncements, Chechnya remains plagued by widespread unemployment, a battered infrastructure, a large refugee population and rampant kidnappings of civilians that have been blamed on paramilitary forces controlled by Kadyrov. The last civilian flight into or out of Grozny was in March 1999. Passenger service was halted after masked men boarded a plane departing for Moscow and kidnapped the Russian Interior Ministry's top envoy in the breakaway republic. In recent years, large-scale fighting has all but ended in Chechnya. The Kremlin and the Chechen administration it backs have spent lavishly to renovate the ravaged capital and other towns and hosted concerts, beauty pageants and sporting events to try and show that calm has returned.

#### SOMALIA

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: An Ilyushin IL-76 aircraft owned by the Belarusian company "Transaviaexport" was brought down while landing in Somalia, the Aviation, Communication and Transport ministry reported. "A transport aircraft of Belarusian company "Transaviaexport" was attacked by a hand-held grenade launcher in the capital Mogadishu," a

source said. The crew managed to land the aircraft. According to preliminary reports, all members of the crew are alive. The Aviation, Communication and Transport ministry of Belarus reported that the aircraft was delivering goods in the framework of the peace-support mission carried out by the African Union under the aegis of the U.N.

Mogadiscio, Mar 13 — Mortar rounds crashed into Somalia's presidential palace today, hours after President Abdullahi Yusuf flew back into the capital Mogadiscio. Yusuf's interim government voted overwhelmingly yesterday to move to the city, despite near-daily insurgent attacks, blamed on an Islamist movement defeated two months ago. Residents said government troops and their Ethiopian allies based at the hilltop Villa Somalia compound immediately returned fire with artillery. At least three areas in the city were said to have been hit but details were scarce. In other violent incidents in Mogadiscio today, a remote-controlled bomb — the first known use of such a device in Somalia's insurgency — destroyed the car of a city official, although it was unclear if he was in the vehicle at the time. Police cordoned off the site of the blast and stopped journalists from viewing the wreckage. Elsewhere, residents said two civilians were killed and three wounded when Ethiopian troops opened fire after their convoy was ambushed by gunmen. — Reuters.

#### SRI LANKA

Colombo, Mar 9 — Sri Lankan troops captured four Tamil Tiger bases and inflicted heavy casualties in the restive northeast before dawn today, the military said, pushing on with an offensive the rebels warn could end in a bloodbath. Ground troops backed by artillery and multi-barrel rocket launchers advanced overnight on rebel-held territory in the district of Trincomalee, and around 150 Tiger fighters withdrew, military spokesman Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe said. "We have cleared three major bases and (a satellite base). The Tigers fled the area when we fired artillery and multi-barrel rocket launchers. We have cleared the area because (the Tigers) were a threat to the villages and the camps close by". The capture comes a day after thousands of civilians fled Tiger-held territory further south in the district of Batticaloa, which troops are also trying to clear, as the foes battled with artillery and mortar bombs. The military has already captured a large coastal swathe of territory in recent months that the Tigers held under the terms of a now-tattered 2002 ceasefire pact, forcing the rebels to flee to areas of jungle further inland or to their northern base by sea. The Tigers on Monday (Mar 5) warned of a bloodbath if the international community was unable to convince the military to halt a declared plan to entirely wipe them out. President Mahinda Rajapakse's government has vowed to unveil a power-sharing



proposal within weeks, but rejects Tiger demands for a separate homeland. — Reuters.

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: Sri Lanka is looking for at least two more cargo vessels and was talking to the World Food Programme to charter a large cargo aircraft to build a buffer stock of food in the Jaffna peninsular, an official said. "We want to charter two more ships, but foreign shipping companies are asking for exorbitant insurance risk premiums," Commission General of Essential Services S B Divaratne told reporters. "They also want us to pay for six months up front." The government is now using five ships from three parties to ferry food to the Jaffna peninsular. Divaratne said the government had carried 81,345 metric tonnes of essential items to Jaffna by ship in 34 voyages from August last year since the main highway to the northern peninsular was closed. Now 523 co-operative outlets, 31 shops operated by the military and 481 registered retailers were issued goods on the undertaking that they would be sold at specified prices. Though private traders had been invited to take goods, four traders who had used the facility were selling them at much higher prices, and the government had decided yesterday they would also have to sell through the distribution network because the people were being 'fleeced', Divaratne said. The United Nations Development Programme had recommended that the building of a buffer stock of food 12,000 tonnes of food in the peninsular to prevent sudden price rises. Divaratne said they were discussing with the World Food Programme to bring down a large cargo aircraft and was also on the lookout for two more ships. "Since the LTTE attacked a ship at the Point Pedro harbor unloading cargo has slowed down", he said. Officials were now using Kankasanthurai and Karainagar harbors to unload cargo, but with few barges available, the process was slow. A round trip for a ship takes nearly three weeks. Food imports from India is also due to be increased to three times a month. "Food is cheaper in India and many of the food items are anyway imported to Sri Lanka from India, and it is quicker to ferry food from Chennai," Divaratne said. Medicines and items like saline were now being transported by air with the help of the military.

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Tens of thousands of civilians are fleeing intensifying fighting in the east of Sri Lanka. The army says more than 13,000 crossed from Tamil Tiger-controlled areas into government-held territory yesterday. The Tigers have said the government is pushing them into a full-scale war and warned the conflict will engulf the entire island. More than 30,000 people have now fled the area to the west of the town of Batticaloa for refugee camps. There have been increasingly heavy exchanges of artillery fire between the Tigers and government forces and the military says it will

drive the rebels from the area. In Ampara district, to the south, soldiers overran a Tiger camp. According to the army, 20 rebels were killed. The government is now intent on taking control of the remaining pockets of the Eastern Province which the Tigers still hold. (See issue of Mar 12.)

Colombo, Mar 12 — Sri Lankan troops killed at least 20 Tamil Tiger rebels in a gunbattle in the island's restive east today, the military said, as fighting that has displaced more than 100,000 civilians in the area flared. Troops confronted a group of Tigers in the eastern district of Batticaloa, where the military has mounted an offensive to drive the rebels from territory that they control under the terms of a battered 2002 ceasefire pact. One soldier was also killed in the clash, while two elite police commandos were killed in a Claymore mine ambush further south in the district of Ampara. "Forceful gunfire of troops killed at least 20 terrorists and injured many others," the Media Centre for National Security said in a statement. — Reuters.

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The Sri Lankan air force bombed a strategic Tamil Tiger jungle base in eastern Sri Lanka, killing at least eight rebels, including two senior guerrillas, a military spokesman said today. The air raid comes as relief agencies warned of an impending humanitarian crisis in the east, where tens of thousands of people have fled their homes in recent weeks due to an escalation of fighting. Kfir and MiG-27 jets carried out the airstrikes on the base in Thoppigala yesterday, said air force Group Captain Ajantha Silva. The rebels, formally known as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, confirmed the air raid, but denied there were any casualties. "Yes, there was some air movement and some sort of bombing, but we suffered no casualties. The report is negative," spokesman Rasiah Ilanthirayan said from Kilinochchi, the de-facto rebel capital in the north. The Thoppigala camp serves as a major training base for the rebels. It is considered one of the last major LTTE redoubts in the east as Sri Lankan forces have carried out several ground and air attacks over the past year and captured territory. "As fighting continues, we are also worried for the safety and protection of all civilians, as reports indicate that shelling is occurring from and to highly populated areas," the Inter Agency Standing Committee, a group of U.N. and private relief agencies, said yesterday in a statement. More than 40,000 people have fled their homes in eastern Batticaloa over the past few weeks seeking shelter in nearby government-controlled areas where an estimated 60,000 people are already packed into refugee camps, the International Committee of the Red Cross has said. Separately, security forces discovered two roadside bombs each weighing 10 kg in the northern Jaffna peninsula, the military said in a statement. The bombs which can be triggered by remote control, are a

favoured weapons of the Tamil Tigers. The military also recovered a suicide belt from an abandoned house yesterday, the statement said.

#### THAILAND

Yala, Thailand, Mar 14 — Gunmen attacked a civilian minibus in Thailand's rebellious Muslim south today, killing eight people and wounding one, an army spokesman said. Militants fired at the bus on a highway in Yala, one of the three provinces hit by a three-year separatist insurgency, as it headed to Hat Yai, the commercial capital of the south, from Betong on the Malaysian border, Colonel Arca Tiproch said. The attack took place on the anniversary of the founding of the separatist Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN), or National Revolutionary Front, which the government had feared would be marked by an increase in violence. A bomb left at the scene exploded after police and soldiers arrived but was not planted close enough to wound anyone, Arca said. — Reuters.

#### YEMEN

Sanaa, Mar 14 — Yemen said today 12 of its soldiers had been killed in clashes with Shi'ite rebels, two days after the country's president urged them to surrender to end six weeks of fighting. A government official said the troops were killed in battles with followers of Shi'ite Muslim rebel leader, Abdul-Malik al-Houthi on Monday (Mar 12) and yesterday. President Ali Abdullah Saleh said on Monday his government was not willing to negotiate with the rebels and urged them to surrender to end the violence. The official said six fighters from Houthi group were also killed in the clashes which have been going on sporadically in the mountainous Saada region since late January. Government officials say at least 250 rebels and 117 soldiers have been killed in the clashes. Houthi's followers deny the government figures but give no numbers of their own. — Reuters.

#### ZIMBABWE

Harare, Mar 11 — Zimbabwean riot police arrested the country's top opposition leader and shot a man dead today as they crushed a prayer rally planned to protest against President Robert Mugabe. Witnesses said police fought skirmishes with rock-throwing opposition supporters in the Harare township of Highfield, where organisers had tried to hold the rally to address Zimbabwe's deepening political and economic crisis. Police arrested Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) leader Morgan Tsvangirai and other opposition officials after blocking their motor convoy from driving to the rally site. The party said Tsvangirai and the others were severely assaulted and that one MDC activist had been shot dead. "Morgan Tsvangirai, his aides, civic leaders and several senior MDC officials have been arrested, detained without charge and severely assaulted," MDC national organising secretary Elias Mudzuri said in a

statement. Police spokesman Wayne Bvudzijena said in a statement a police patrol had killed a man after being attacked by a mob of "MDC thugs" at a shopping mall in the area, and that three police officers had suffered severe injuries. "The police shot one male adult who appeared to be the leader of the group in the chest. He died on the spot and the group dispersed," he added, saying another group had burned a military truck and attacked a police patrol while using children as human shields. Bvudzijena said Tsvangirai, Arthur Mutambara, who leads another faction of the MDC, and other MDC officials were detained because "they had been observed going around inciting people to indulge in violent activities." In a statement, the opposition Save Zimbabwe Campaign said lawyers were being denied access to the detained and that police had arrested five student activists at a workshop in Harare. The group charged that riot squads had forced shops, bars and churches to shut down for the day and assaulted patrons in beer halls. "Highfield has been turned into a war zone," it said. Riot police moved in force early today to head off the rally, saying it would violate a ban on political protests imposed after opposition supporters clashed with police in Highfield last month. Organisers had argued the ban should not apply to a prayer vigil. Witnesses said later in the day police had fired tear gas at youths who were throwing stones at their patrols, taunting them and defying orders not to move around in large numbers. "There have been several skirmishes between the police and some youths, people throwing stones, and the police firing tear gas," a Zimbabwean journalist who lives in Highfield said. Riot police mounted road blocks on major highways into the township, and were searching vehicles for arms and questioning motorists. Police yesterday accused some elements in the MDC of hiring and arming "thugs" to attack officers. — Reuters.

Harare, Mar 12 — Zimbabwean police arrested 240 more pro-democracy supporters today, as they protested the killing of an opposition party member and the crackdown on civil rights groups and political parties. More than 140 opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) supporters were arrested in the eastern city of Mutare, about 300 kms from the capital, Harare, today as pressure mounted on the government to create more democratic space and release those arrested. Police arrested 110 opposition supporters in Harare, in a continued crackdown on dissent over the arrests yesterday. In spite of the arrests, the MDC said the month-old "defiance campaign," launched by a coalition of civil society groups and political parties, would continue. Morgan Tsvangirai and Arthur Mutambara, the leaders of the two MDC factions, and several other party and NGO officials were arrested yesterday ahead of a planned prayer meeting in Highfield, Harare's most

populous working-class suburb, where an "opposition ringleader" was shot dead and three policemen were injured in an altercation in the same suburb, also yesterday. The meeting was called under the auspices of the Save Zimbabwe Campaign (SZC), a pro-democracy drive launched by several NGOs, labour unions, students and opposition parties in February. — Reuters.



#### BARBADOS

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The industrial dispute between the Barbados Workers Union and the Barbados Port Incorporated has been settled. A financial settlement has been reached on behalf of the fired security guard at the centre of the impasse and the union and port will have further talks. Under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Owen Arthur, the parties met on Wednesday (Mar 7), and after discussions that ran late into the night, agreed to that solution. Arthur said the entire dispute was caused by a breakdown in communications between the union and the port and the two will work together to thrash out their differences regarding the code of conduct instituted by the port. BWU General Secretary Sir Roy Trotman said the lack of respect which the union believed the company was exercising in dealing with issues of procedures and conditions for workers, was among the important matters raised. Strike action which saw a shutdown of the Bridgetown Port on Tuesday, was put on hold on Wednesday after Prime Minister Arthur stepped in an effort to resolve the dispute.

#### CANADA

London, Mar 12 — Workers at the Iron Ore Company of Canada in Labrador City have been walking the picket line since Friday (Mar 9) night after rejecting a last-minute offer from the company. More than 850 members of the United Steelworkers union are off the job in a dispute over seniority and wages. It's the second time in less than three years the steelworkers have been on strike, and local union president George Kean said workers on eight-hour shifts plan to keep the picket lines going 24 hours a day.

#### ELWOOD (Panama)

Maassluis, Mar 8 — General cargo *Elwood*, now named *Cote Aranza* is still under detention at Bolnes. — Lloyd's Sub-gents.

#### FRANCE

London, Mar 14 — Operations at Lavera & Fos public oil terminals were stopped at 0600 hrs, this morning, due to a strike by port staff. Discharging and loading operations have been

halted and vessels disconnected for the duration of the strike, which is due to last until 0600 hrs, tomorrow morning.

London, Mar 15 — The strike by workers at Lavera & Fos public oil terminals is still in force this morning, as work did not resume at 0600 hrs, as originally stated in the strike notice. A workers' general meeting is expected to be held this morning. However, no improvement in the situation is anticipated before 1400 hrs, and any change will be subject to the results of this morning's meeting.

#### INDIA

Kochi, Mar 12 — Conditions at Beypore port returned to normal with effect from Mar 10, following a settlement of the dispute between the two sections of workers. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### ISRAEL

London, Mar 12 — Israel Bank employees today declared a general strike to go into effect immediately, as ongoing negotiations with state authorities over their general salary agreement hit a new deadlock. Starting at 1200, today, all bank employees left their positions, ceasing to stock ATM machines with cash, withholding surpluses from the stock exchange and refraining from investing foreign currency. It is not yet clear if the bank will publish today's foreign currency exchange rates. In the latest turn of events in a four-year saga, Israel Bank employees decided to go on strike last night after Chancellor Stanley Fischer called on the Treasury's wages commissioner, Eli Cohen, to make every effort to bring salary negotiations to completion.

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Ashdod port workers went on strike on Sunday (Mar 11) night in reaction to the Finance Ministry's insistence on making changes in an agreement in the works between port workers and the Ashdod Port Authority. The cost per day of the strike is estimated at anywhere from NIS 15m up to NIS 50m and according to the Israel Manufacturers Association, more than \$35m worth of products are currently stuck at the port. The port workers and the Ashdod Port Authority had almost reached an agreement in the negotiations that they had been conducting for the last three weeks over numerous issues, including employee mobilization, when the Treasury informed the sides that the settlement was not going to be approved by the government. In response, the workers went on striket at 2030 hrs, Sunday night. Manufacturers Association President Shraga Brosh met yesterday morning with Finance Minister Hirschson and Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz, in the hopes of bringing a quick end to the strike. The port management was required by law to enter into negotiations with the workers after they filed grievances with the Histadrut complaining of poor work conditions at the ports and have been in talks with the workers for the last

three weeks. Companies Authority Director-General Eyal Gabai, and Finance Ministry Wage Director Eli Cohen informed the Ashdod port management that the agreement they were hoping to sign with the port workers included unacceptable details that placed too much control in the hands of the workers, such as allowing the workers to control the awarding of outsourcing contracts, as well as making the port workers committee responsible for handling employee discipline. The port workers engaged in a similar strike in early February.

London, Mar 13 — A strike in the Bank of Israel which began yesterday, continued today, as Finance Ministry employees began negotiations with the bank's management aimed at resolving the dispute. Discussions were held between teams from the Finance Ministry and the bank, headed by the wages director in the ministry Eli Cohen and the director-general of the Bank Jacob Danon. The Finance Ministry negotiators have been instructed to do everything possible to help the bank's management reach an agreement acceptable to the workers, as long as the solution could "withstand scrutiny of the legal system and the public."

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated Mar 13, states: Ashdod port workers announced an end to their strike tonight, Israel Radio reported. The workers went on strike on Sunday (Mar 11) night in reaction to the Finance Ministry's insistence on making changes in an agreement in the works between port workers and the Ashdod Port Authority. The cost per day of the strike is estimated at anywhere from NIS 15 million up to NIS 50m. and according to the Israel Manufacturers Association, more than \$35m worth of products are currently stuck at the port.

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The Finance Ministry and the management of the Bank of Israel have made progress in their negotiations to end the bank strike, the two parties reported today. According to Army Radio, the sides reached understandings on several issues and were continuing the talks in an effort to resolve the remaining problems. Bank of Israel Governor Stanley Fischer was expected to consult with the workers' union this afternoon to get their approval on the agreements that were reached. If the workers do not agree to accept the terms, the report said, the bank will appeal to the National Labour Court to order an end to the strike.

London, Mar 15 — A strike at the Ashdod port has led to 10,000 tons of produce being held up, according to fruit and vegetable grower organizations. The goods, valued at NIS 50 million, include avocados, citrus, peppers, herbs and other produce. Fruit Growers Association director Ilan Eshel said that the goods in question are perishable and farmers would suffer millions of shekels of damages if they are not shipped immediately.

### ITALY

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A four hour strike by Rome's air traffic controllers today, forced Italian airline Alitalia to cancel 96 flights. Unions called the strike to protest over the lack of staff, and workers were scheduled to leave their posts from 1000 to 1400 hrs, 0900-1300, UTC. Most of the cancelled flights are domestic but also include routes to Amsterdam, Netherlands, Frankfurt, Germany, Lisbon, Portugal, Paris and Cairo, according to Alitalia.

### NETHERLANDS

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated Mar 10, states: Tugboat workers returned to work at Rotterdam today, ending a four-day strike after a local court ordered them to resume operations. A dispute over a new collective labour agreement by main tug company Smit Harbour Towage had shut down the port, leaving 31 large vessels stranded. The Rotterdam Court of Justice ordered tugboat operators to begin work again at 0700 hrs (0600, UTC) and resume at least three quarters of towage services for four days. "It is, of course important that we can get back to work almost completely," Hans Smits, CEO of the Port of Rotterdam Authority, said in a statement. "Besides that, the court recognition of the disproportional effects of the actions is an extra stimulus for the parties involved in the dispute to restart negotiations as soon as possible and to come to an agreement." The lawsuit was brought by Rotterdam's oil refineries, which said they would have had to shut down three refineries due to interrupted supplies of crude oil. Workers at Smit Harbour Towage, owned by Dutch maritime service provider Smit Internationale SMTNc.AS, also staged a two-day walk-out last week over a conflict with management on a new collective labour agreement. Last week's walk-out left about 35 vessels stranded in Rotterdam and forced others to divert to other ports in the Netherlands, Belgium and Britain. Smit workers want higher salaries, an annual bonus and a better pension agreement. The Smit management said it was ready to get back to the negotiation table only after the strike was over but workers demanded talks now.

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Customs officers at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport are on a 24-hour strike until midnight tonight, in support of a 2.5% pay rise for civil servants. According to reports, passengers' passports and hand luggage will still be checked by the military police who remain on duty. Security at the airport is not affected by the industrial action, a spokesman for the military police said. "Ensuring public order and security at Schiphol is the job of the military police and not customs officers," said Rob Stenacker. The so-called 100% drugs control on passengers from high risk countries such as Suriname, the Antilles, Aruba

and Venezuela will also continue, Stenacker said. However this is disputed by the Abvakabo trade union representative Jan Willem Dieten, who said that 90% of the staff who carry out these checks are on strike. The Schiphol strike is part of a long running dispute over a new collective labour agreement for civil servants.

### UNITED STATES

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: Union workers at Northrop Grumman Ship Systems' Ingalls shipyard went on strike today after twice rejecting contract offers from the defense contractor. All unions, except for office workers, are now on strike at the shipyard, according to Jim Couch, business agent for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 733. But office workers will recognize the picket line, he said. Pascagoula police said there were six different sites where the workers have set up and that police would provide 24-hour security at these sites. The picket line outside the main gate has been orderly, police said. The strike halted work at Mississippi's largest private employer. The shipyard, among other things, builds ships for the Navy. The strike was sanctioned by both the 1,200-member IBEW and the Pascagoula Metal Trades Council. The council represents 11 unions and 6,200 workers. Employees at Northrop Grumman plants in Gulfport, New Orleans and Tallulah, La., approved their new labor agreements, Glenn said. In a statement released today by National Medal Trades Department, President Ron Ault said the strike is the result of the stresses of post-storm life. "Our members at Ingalls are frustrated and angry. Ever since the Gulf Coast storms two years ago their quality of life has taken a nosedive. Housing is expensive and hard to find. Paying for everyday commodities and services like gasoline and even groceries takes a much bigger bite out of their home pay than two years ago. What we are seeing here is something like post-traumatic stress in combat troops. They are fed up with what they see as abandonment and neglect of this region. Our members are the world's best shipbuilders, living in one of the nation's most devastated areas. Something has got to give." The latest version of the contract offered by the shipyard's management wouldn't give workers enough of a raise to offset cost-of-living increases caused by Hurricane "Katrina", IBEW members said.

## Awards & Settlements



### ACCIDENTAL DEATH, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A federal jury has awarded more than \$4.3 million in damages to the estate of a Fairfield

assistant train conductor after finding Metro-North responsible for his death in a 2004 accident. The \$4,344,053 award to the estate of Robert Ard Jr constituted the largest jury verdict in Connecticut in any Metro-North accident, according to Charles C. Goetsch, who, with George J. Cahill Jr., represented the estate. Ard, 46, of Fairfield, was crushed to death when an engine struck another train that ran over him on Mar 10, 2004, during a car switching operation in the railroad's Stamford yard. "The jury determined that Metro-North and its managers failed to properly supervise the yard crews and enforce and follow its own safety rules," Goetsch said. It is expected the railroad will file a motion to set aside the verdict. However, such motions are rarely granted. Once that is denied, they may contest the verdict in the US 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals. Evidence during the nearly two-week trial before US District Judge Janet C. Hall showed Ard was killed as third shift workers were lining up trains for the morning commuter run. "They were adding and moving cars," Goetsch said. Ard, a 28-year veteran assistant conductor, was working with an engineer and a conductor as part of a three-man yard crew. However, the conductor left the crew to work on another move while the engineer was backing up the train that ran over Ard. "The engineer was at the rear of the train while it was backing up. When the conductor left, there was no one at the lead end to give him directions," Goetsch said. The engineer, Philip Waisovitz, said Ard radioed him approving the move, but no other Metro-North employees heard that communication.

#### **ILLNESS DUE TO DRUG TREATMENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Merck & Co.'s painkiller Vioxx contributed to the heart attack of an Idaho postal worker, a state jury in Atlantic City ruled today. The jury awarded Frederick "Mike" Humeston and his wife \$20 million in compensatory damages. The verdict at the end of the eight-week trial means Merck has now won nine cases and lost five in the mushrooming litigation over its former blockbuster arthritis pill. Humeston, 61, of Boise, Idaho, suffered a heart attack in September 2001, several months before Merck - under pressure from federal regulators - put a stronger warning about the cardiovascular risks of Vioxx on the drug's detailed package insert. Humeston had taken Vioxx intermittently for about two months for knee pain from a Vietnam War shrapnel wound. The five-man, three-woman jury ruled on Mar 2 that Merck was negligent and did not provide adequate warning about those risks prior to Humeston's heart attack. The jury last week heard evidence on whether Vioxx contributed to Humeston's heart attack, entitling him to damages. The jurors awarded Humeston \$18 million in compensatory damages and awarded another \$2 million to his wife.

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

Alexandria, Virginia Mar 9 — A jury dealt a blow to loss-making Internet phone provider Vonage Holdings yesterday, ordering the company to pay \$58 million plus royalties on future sales for infringing three patents owned by Verizon Communications. The eight-member federal jury found that Vonage had infringed on three of five Verizon patents covering key Internet phone call technology. It rejected Vonage's argument that the patents were invalid and said Vonage must pay a 5.5% royalty rate on sales going forward. However, the penalties were less than the \$197 million in damages and a 19% royalty rate sought by Verizon. Vonage said it would appeal the verdict. Customers "should see no change" in their service, said Vonage, which reported a net loss of \$65 million in its fourth quarter. Stanford Group analyst Clayton Moran said the verdict was harsher on Vonage than he expected. "In and of itself, it doesn't render its business model as not viable, but I think it will have a significant impact on the stock," Moran said. Shares of Vonage shed nearly 4% after the verdict to \$4.86 in regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange before dipping another 4% to \$4.67 in extended trading. The patents at issue in the case are related to voice-over-Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology, which allows consumers to make calls over the Internet. After a day of deliberations, jurors concluded that Vonage infringed two Verizon patents covering technology to connect Internet calls to the traditional phone system and for features such as call-waiting and voicemail. The jury said Vonage also infringed on a third patent involving wireless Internet phone calls. Verizon has asked the judge to impose an injunction barring the use of the technologies that infringe its patents. US District Judge Claude Hilton has set a Mar 23 hearing for arguments on whether he should issue an injunction. The jury said Vonage was not "wilful" in its infringement of the three patents, sparing the company even stiffer penalties. — Reuters.

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

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated Mar 9, states: A federal jury has awarded a man \$10 million after ruling that his employer's insurance carrier acted in bad faith in denying his claim for benefits from a 1999 back injury. The jury is still deliberating whether to award the man additional compensation for punitive damages. Court records showed that Kris Zimmer, 47, worked as a computer technician for Norwest Financial when he injured his back when he bent over to pick up papers that had been dropped and were blowing around. Doctors diagnosed him in severe pain, but a lawsuit claimed that Travelers Insurance Co denied his worker's compensation claim. The insurance adjusters argued that Zimmer had a history of back problems that included

at least two surgeries before the latest incident. They said the injury worsened Zimmer's already existing psychological conditions. The \$10 million judgment was aimed at compensating Zimmer for his emotional distress, and for pain and suffering for what the jury found was bad faith denial of his claim for medical assistance. Lawyers declined to comment on the decision because the jury was still considering whether to award punitive damages. No timeframe was announced for that decision.

#### **PRODUCT LIABILITY, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A jury ruled this week that DaimlerChrysler must pay about \$54 million to the family of a California longshoreman who was killed by a Dodge truck that backed over him at the Port of Los Angeles, attorneys said yesterday. A Superior Court jury awarded damages to the family of Richard Mraz, 38, of San Pedro, in a negligence and product liability suit. The panel awarded \$50 million in punitive damages on Wednesday (Mar 7). It awarded \$5.2 million in compensatory damages on Mar 2, of which DaimlerChrysler was to pay about \$4 million. The company said it was considering an appeal. Mraz suffered fatal head injuries when he was run over by a 1992 Dodge Dakota at a container terminal on Apr 13, 2004. Both sides said he had left the truck running without setting the parking brake, but they differed on who was to blame for the accident. Attorneys for Mraz's wife and family argued a defect in the truck's automatic transmission made it appear it was in the park position when it actually was between gears. They say the truck slipped into reverse after Mraz got out. They argued that the automaker had received more than 1,000 "park-to-reverse" complaints involving 1988 through 2003 model Dakotas. The company issued a recall in 2000 but it was for repairs that failed to fix the problem, said Charles Naylor, an attorney for the family. The jurors found that DaimlerChrysler was negligent in the truck's design and for failing to warn consumers or adequately recall the vehicle, Naylor said. The suit did not request a court order requiring DaimlerChrysler to fix the alleged problem because that might impinge on federal regulatory statutes, Naylor added. DaimlerChrysler denied there was a defect and argued that Mraz failed to follow safety procedures. The jurors found the company was 75% responsible for the accident, while assigning 10% of the blame to Mraz and 15% to Mraz's employer, who owned the truck. However, the employer, APL, settled its portion of the case for an undisclosed amount last autumn and will not have to pay any more damages, Palese said.

#### **ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A young woman

who was left paralysed and in need of 24-hour care after being knocked down by a motorist as she crossed a road, has been awarded a record £8.5 million in compensation. Leanne Evans, 22, was hit as she used a pelican crossing just yards from her home in Erdington, Birmingham, nine years ago. Her solicitor, Richard Langton of Russell Jones and Walker, believes the payout, awarded at the High Court in Birmingham, is the largest ever given for a personal injury. Miss Evans, who was aged 13 at the time, suffered a serious brain injury and now relies on a wheelchair. She also has severe memory impairment and needs eight carers to look after her around the clock. The driver was convicted of careless driving and given a £75 fine, a spokesman from the Birmingham-based solicitors said. Miss Evans' father, Ivor Evans, said the money would help pay for the constant medical care she requires and give her some quality of life. Miss Evans needs constant physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, and psychotherapy, as well as a specially-adapted vehicle to help her get around.

## Railway Accidents



### KENDAL AREA, CUMBRIA, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Train services are set to resume on the line in Cumbria where an express crashed, killing one passenger and injuring a further 22. Engineers have repaired the section of the West Coast Main Line which was closed after the derailment last month, near the village of Grayrigg. The first train scheduled to run through the area since the accident will be the 0510 hrs, Manchester Piccadilly to Glasgow Central service tomorrow. More than 300 engineers and dozens of pieces of plant and machinery have been on site to get the railway reopened. Work included rebuilding the embankment over which the Pendolino carriages toppled, replacing track and replacing overhead power lines. Signalling in the area has also been renewed, with four local signalling control boxes rebuilt and almost 1,000 metres of new cabling installed. Thorough testing of the repaired signalling system was being carried out over the weekend (Mar 10-11). The carriages are now being forensically examined at a site in the Midlands by investigators from British Transport Police and the Rail Accident Investigation Branch. Network Rail, the firm which has responsibility for track maintenance, accepted an interim report from the RAIB which said faulty points were the immediate cause of the crash.

### KINGSTON, OTTAWA, CANADA

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A partial

derailment of a CN Rail freight train caused a small spillage of crude oil but no injuries, in Kingston, this morning. Kingston police spokesman Michael Menor said that three or four cars of the eastbound train derailed at about 0615 hrs, this morning, approximately 300 metres east of the Kingston Via Rail station. Kingston police did not release information about the cause of the derailment. The rail cars could be seen piled up, lying across the track with one of them sticking up at a 45 degree angle from the ground. Menor said one of the cars was leaking crude oil this morning, but described it as "just a small leak, nothing too serious, no risk of fire." He said the derailment also hit a natural gas line, but it was immediately repaired. Crews from the Ministry of Environment were on the scene to contain the spill this morning. CN was also bringing an extraction team from London to clear away the derailed cars.

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Most trains on the busy Toronto-Montreal-Ottawa corridor resumed service today after a CN freight train derailment yesterday near the station in Kingston brought normal travel throughout the system to a stop. Ticket sales have resumed for Via service between Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, but there will be delays of about two hours for passengers travelling along these routes. Only train 41, from Ottawa to Toronto, and train 651, from Kingston to Toronto, will be replaced by buses today. Yesterday's derailment caused delays for roughly 3,000 Via Rail passengers who had to be transported to their destinations by bus. About 20 CN freight trains and 20 scheduled Via Rail passenger trains were cancelled because of the derailment. A Via Rail spokeswoman said it was a major disruption to the system and passengers. The Kingston train station was closed, since the derailment occurred only 450 metres away. CN says 32 cars on the 142-car eastbound train went off the tracks, but that nobody was injured. Eighteen cars were empty, while 14 of them were loaded with a variety of products including molasses, plywood, wheat, plastic, sodium, oil and waste paper. The company said no dangerous commodities spilled out, but that a light industrial oil used in cutting steel and aluminium was released. The product was contained, vacuum trucks were to remove the oil and CN was working with local and provincial environment officials to assess the damage. Heather Hawthorne, a spokeswoman with Ontario's Environment Ministry, said there didn't seem to be any "significant" environmental damage caused by the derailment. The cause of yesterday's accident is under investigation by the Transportation Safety Board.

### MADERA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated Mar 10, states: Federal investigators late yesterday, blamed

last summer's Madera County train collision on operator error by the crew of one of the trains. The report on the collision on June 14 on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe line near Road 26 and Avenue 19, just north of Madera, also said a breakdown product of cocaine was found in the blood of the train's conductor. It said that the conductor's cocaine use "may have contributed to the cause of the accident." However, it went on to say that neither blood nor urine test results would permit a conclusion about whether the conductor was impaired. BNSF spokeswoman Lena Kent said the railroad would be unable to comment until it had reviewed the report, which the Federal Railroad Administration released after the close of business yesterday. The report placed blame for the accident solely on the crew of a train travelling south towards Fresno. It discredited crew accounts that a signal failed or that glare from the sunrise — the accident happened shortly before 0600 hrs — blinded the crew to a signal. It said that the signals were tested and no defects were found. A re-enactment of the accident showed that all signals were clearly visible. Astronomical records did not suggest that sunlight was a problem. "Despite claims to the contrary, there is no basis for accepting the claims of crew members that their signal went clear or their vision was hampered by the sunrise," the report concluded. The train, with seven locomotives and 55 cars, braked hard at the last minute and struck a northbound train with four locomotives and 30 cars. At impact, the southbound train was travelling at 22 mph, and the northbound train at 38 mph. They struck head-on. Five crew members on the two trains were injured, and 24 locomotives and cars derailed, resulting in more than \$5 million in damage.

### ONEIDA, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A detailed investigation into what caused yesterday's train derailment and explosion in Oneida could take up to 18 months, but authorities said they may have some answers by the end of the week. Twenty-eight cars of a 79-car CSX train derailed, sending a fireball into the sky. Two tanks containing pressurized propane initially caught fire. Soon after those fires burned out, two other tanks with liquefied petroleum gas and one with the solvent toluene began to burn. By last night, the remaining 23 cars were either upside down, on their sides or in a ditch, said Oneida Fire Chief Don Hudson. It was unclear as to whether the derailment or explosion came first. Fire officials had no choice but to let the fire burn itself out. At first, many homes and businesses were evacuated in a one-mile radius around the Madison County site. By late afternoon, only eight homes were affected in a half-mile radius as a state of emergency was declared. Robert Sullivan, a spokesman for CSX, said

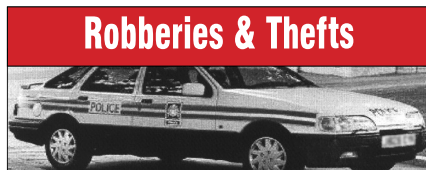
ferric chloride had leaked and his inspectors would be working “around the clock” last night and into today. “We have specialists en route to deal with the hazardous materials,” he said. A cause had not yet been determined, he said. The Federal Railroad Administration sent inspectors to the scene within an hour or two after the accident yesterday to assist with the investigation. Approximately 55 to 60 firefighters from at least five departments responded to the scene, but Hudson said most stood on the sidelines, watching the blaze.

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated Mar 13, states: Firefighters emptied three derailed CSX fuel tankers into a pit yesterday and set the fuel ablaze to help clear the scene so federal officials can begin their investigation into the cause of yesterday’s freight train derailment. The derailed tankers containing liquid propane were emptied because they were too unstable to move, said Oneida Fire Chief Don Hudson. The burn-off is likely to generate heavy smoke and flames for up to two days but local residents would not be in danger, said Hudson and CSX spokesman Robert Sullivan. Sullivan added that it might be necessary to empty more tankers but officials would not know that until they finished examining all of the toppled cars. Firefighters were on stand-by at the scene, while a private company was monitoring the air quality. If anything goes wrong, firefighters also have 700 gallons of foam on site to douse the fire. The 80-car freight train was travelling east from Buffalo to the Albany area yesterday morning, when 28 cars jumped the tracks. At least five 80,000-gallon tanker cars — two carrying liquid propane, two loaded with liquid petroleum and one containing the solvent toluene — caught fire or exploded in the wreck, forcing the evacuation of thousands of residents. The majority of residents were allowed back to their homes by yesterday evening, but a state of emergency remained in effect for a half-mile radius around the scene and eight homes remained under a mandatory evacuation order, said Madison County Fire Co-ordinator Joe DeFrancisco. Sullivan said CSX would provide compensation to those displaced by the accident. The fire also led to the closing of a 23-mile stretch of the nearby New York State Thruway for nearly five hours yesterday and the suspension of Amtrak passenger service between Syracuse and Albany. Amtrak service remained stalled today. No-one was injured in the accident or by the toxic smoke, authorities said. Robert Evans of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen told The Syracuse Post-Standard that he had spoken with the engineer and the conductor since the accident. Evans said the derailment occurred as the train was crossing over from one track to a parallel track. Uneven tracks were suspected to have caused the cars to become off-balance and tip, he told the newspaper. The toppled cars continued

sliding down the tracks, the metal frames scraping along the rail as one or more of the cars was ripped apart and a spark ignited the explosion, Evans said. He added that the engineer and the conductor knew of the derailment before the explosion and had plenty of time to activate brakes on the rear cars. A radio-controlled sensor on the freighter detected the derailment and shut off the engine’s fuel switch, he said. Evans estimated that the train was traveling at less than 30 mph at the time of the accident. Federal investigators have not said what caused the accident, or determined whether the derailment or explosion occurred first. Nor have they identified the crew or commented on their actions. A seven-member team from the National Transportation Safety Board arrived at the accident scene today to begin its investigation. NTSB spokesman Keith Holloway said it could be a year or more before the agency has a final answer. Authorities had recovered the black boxes from both locomotives, he said.

**RAYLAND AREA, OHIO, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated Mar 9, states: Clean-up crews were working around the clock today to carry out repairs after a train derailed in Jefferson County on Wednesday (Mar 7), spilling hundreds of tons of coal. Four FirstEnergy cars jumped the track near Rayland, spilling more than 200 tons of coal onto the ground. Crews from Hulcher Services were working to pick up the coal and repair the tracks and it was expected that the entire clean-up would be completed by tomorrow night.



**DIAMONDS FROM BANK, ANTWERP, BELGIUM**

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A man stole \$28 million worth of diamonds from an Antwerp bank where he had been a trusted customer for a year, using a stolen Argentine passport, officials said today. Prosecutors say the suspect broke into safety deposit boxes in an ABM Amro bank in the city’s diamond quarter last week. He made off with diamonds weighing 120,000 carats, police said. Police believe he may have carefully planned the robbery, becoming one of several trusted diamond traders with access to the vault. The suspect had been a regular customer at the bank for the past year, giving the name Carlos Hector Flomenbaum from Argentina. Authorities now believe that he was using a false identity because a passport in that name was stolen in Israel a few years ago. Police offered a

\$2 million reward for information on the man’s whereabouts. The bank discovered the theft on Mar 5.



**FLOODING IN COAL MINE, LIAONING PROVINCE, CHINA**

London, Mar 12 — At least 22 workers were killed when a mine flooded in north-east China’s Liaoning Province over the weekend. Emergency personnel recovered 22 bodies by 1600 hrs, yesterday and were searching for seven workers who were still missing at the Fushun Mining Group, a state-owned company in Fushun, a major industrial city east of provincial capital Shenyang. The 29 miners were working at the Laohutai Mine when it was submerged shortly before 2100 hrs, Saturday (Mar 10). “The flood was followed by a gas leak, and the work platform was blacked out after the gas density increased,” said mine manager Wang Liancheng. The gas density fell below the danger level yesterday afternoon, after the work teams restored the ventilation system, he said. Over 120 rescuers in ten groups embarked on a search-and-rescue mission that started at 2130 hrs, Saturday. Wang said there were still risks of further flooding, gas leaks and a ceiling collapse.

**OUTBREAK OF “BIRD FLU”**

Bangkok, Mar 9 — The deadly bird flu virus is spreading into southern provinces of impoverished, landlocked Laos after outbreaks near Vientiane, a government spokesman said today. Officials planned to cull up to 200,000 fowl to stamp out confirmed and suspected outbreaks in the southern provinces of Savannakhet and Champasak and stop the H5N1 virus in and around the capital, Yong Chanhthalansy told Reuters. “Although tests have not confirmed that they have died of H5N1, our policy now is just kill them all,” Yong said by telephone from Vientiane, referring to the suspected cases in Savannakhet. The campaign comes a day after Lao health officials confirmed the country’s first death from H5N1, a 15-year-old girl who died in a hospital in neighbouring Thailand on Wednesday (Mar 7). A 42-year-old Lao woman died of suspected bird flu last week, but tests have not yet confirmed the H5N1 virus, Yong said. The teenage girl had lived in a suburb of Vientiane where the virus was found in poultry in January, the country’s first outbreak in seven months. Yong said H5N1 hit villages a week ago in Champasak, which borders Thailand and Cambodia. Tests were also being conducted on chickens which died in Savannakhet, which is sandwiched between Vietnam and Thailand. Yong said the virus may be spreading due to illegal trade in fowl despite a ban on poultry imports. — Reuters.

## Fires & Explosions



### APARTMENT BUILDING, ASPEN, COLORADO, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated Mar 9, states: Damage is estimated at \$1 million after an early-morning apartment fire in Aspen. The blaze broke out a little before two a.m., forcing evacuation of the four-storey building. More than two dozen firefighters and officers battled the flames for about three hours before the fire was put out around five o'clock. One firefighter suffered minor injuries. The cause of the blaze is under investigation.

### APARTMENT COMPLEX, DALLAS, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 12 people were hurt, two with severe burns, in a massive overnight apartment fire near Love Field this morning. The fire damaged or destroyed as many as 100 units in the three-story Harvey's Racquet Club Apartments about a mile southeast of the Dallas airport, which is northwest of downtown. The American Red Cross said about 300 tenants were forced to seek emergency shelter. Fire spokesman Lt. Joel Lavender said no one called 911 until the fire was well under way. Most of those injured were hurt while jumping from upper floor balconies and windows. No conditions of the injured have been released. Witnesses said sparks from the massive fire carried up to two blocks. Firefighters planned to search the charred wreckage for unknown victims.

### BUSH, AUSTRALIA

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews battling a major blaze on King Island off Tasmania's north-west coast will be trying to control the fire's southern front today. The Tasmanian Fire Service says the fire is burning near Narracoopa on the east coast and into the Martha Lavinia Reserve to the north. Incident controller, Wayne Richards, says it has already burnt more than 11,000 hectares in 20 days. He says crews are hoping for rain, but are backburning in the meantime.

### FOREST, CHINA

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Six primary schoolboys playing with cigarette lighters started a fire that engulfed a forest reserve in southwest China and occupied 10,000 fire fighters for two days, say investigators. The fire spread over 233 hectares in Yunnan Province after it was started on Thursday morning (Mar 8), and fire fighters only succeeded in quelling it at 1700, yesterday. More than 10,000 people, including army personnel, forestry

police and local residents, joined the battle. Fire fighters are still mopping up smoldering pockets on Cangshan Mountain, part of the Cangshan and Erhai National Nature Reserve.

### HOTEL, FREMANTLE, AUSTRALIA

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated Mar 13, states: Police suspect arsonists are responsible for a fire that has all but destroyed Fremantle's historic National Hotel. Damage to the heritage-listed hotel has been estimated at A\$5 million (£2.03 million). The owners had spent A\$3 million (£1.29 million) and three years renovating the site and had planned to reopen it as a bar and cafe later this year. Police from the arson squad and fire investigation officers should be able to enter the building for a more detailed inspection tomorrow.

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated Mar 14, states: Arson Squad detectives have tonight charged two teenage boys in connection with a blaze that caused millions of dollars damage to a historic hotel in Fremantle. The blaze gutted the 100-year-old National Hotel. The fire broke out about 2130 hrs, on Sunday (Mar 11), causing extensive damage to the building, which was closed for renovations. Detectives have questioned two 13-year-old boys who had been seen in the area at the time of the fire. The boys have been charged with unlawful damage. It will be alleged they lit the fire in the top storeys of the hotel. Today a structural engineer assessed the fire damage and declared the building will not have to be demolished.

### OIL REFINERY, VOLGOGRAD, RUSSIA

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Firefighters have put out a fire at an oil refinery in the city of Volgograd in Russia, local rescuers said today. Rescuers said the fire was caused by a petrol spill from a vacuum-sealed dispensing unit. "The blaze covered an area of 500 square meters around the primary oil refining equipment," the source said. The fire was extinguished in two hours.

### PREMISES, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated Mar 10, states: An apartment building fire killed three men and a woman Saturday (Mar 10) on Chicago's North Side, and two other suspicious fires were reported nearby around the same time, authorities said. Investigators were looking into possible links between the fires, which took place within blocks of each other in the city's Wrigleyville neighbourhood, named for its proximity to Wrigley Field, said Fire Department spokesman Larry Langford. The deadly fire appears to have started in a front stairwell, where there were no obvious ignition sources, and the Police Department's Bomb and Arson Unit was investigating, Langford said. The unit routinely is sent to fatal fires, police spokeswoman Laura Kubiak said. A man who jumped from a third-

story window was listed in stable condition at a hospital, Langford said. The two other fires were minor and did not result in any injuries, Langford said. At least one, located "around the corner" from the fatal fire, likely started in an entry hall, Langford said. Authorities were looking into possible links between the fires, but answers about a cause or whether the fatal fire was deliberately set will take awhile as damage was "pretty severe," police spokeswoman Monique Bond said. Firefighters were on the scene within about two minutes after the fire was reported, just before 0700. The blaze was confined to the second and third floors and extinguished within a half-hour. Three victims were found in one apartment and one was found in a second apartment, Langford said. The victims' identities were withheld pending notification of relatives, the medical examiner's office said. Several firefighters suffered minor injuries, including smoke inhalation, Langford said. The three-storey brick building has more than a dozen units and stands about a block from Wrigley Field, home of the Chicago Cubs.

### WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

Los Angeles, Mar 11 — A fast moving brush fire sent flames leaping into backyards and forced some 700 Southern California residents out of their hillside homes on a sweltering Sunday of gusty winds after months of drought. Firefighters said two homes were destroyed and 1,000 acres were burned as the fire threatened the Anaheim Hills neighborhood in Orange County, about 35 miles south-east of Los Angeles. "This is very dangerous firefight. The terrain is quite rugged and the homes are at the top of the ridges. The fire picks up speed as it runs up the hill and as it runs through the canyons," Orange County battalion chief Ed Fleming said. Southern California was under a red flag fire warning over the weekend as hot winds drove temperatures up to around 32 degrees Celsius inland after one of driest winters on record. Less than 2.5 inches of rain have fallen in Los Angeles in the rain year than started in July 2006 compared to a normal annual total of about 11.5 inches. Fire and police officials went door to door or used megaphones to order residents out as the flames crept within half a mile of the hillside community. Emergency shelters were set up in schools and community centers for families, pets and horses. Helicopters and airplanes dropped fire retardant and water and some 1,000 firefighters fought the blaze on the ground. Orange County Fire Captain Steve Miller said the fire started early this morning and may have been sparked by an abandoned car. The flames spread quickly, pushed by hot winds from the desert gusting up to 35 mph. Humidity was less than 5% and weather forecasters said no rain was expected for at least five days. — Reuters.

London, Mar 12 — Encouraged by cooler temperatures and calmer winds, firefighters were battling a wind-

whipped blaze early today that earlier burned through thousands of acres of parched hillside in what is shaping up to be one of the driest years ever recorded in Southern California. Authorities were hoping to have the blaze fully contained by late today, a day after it had charred 2,036 acres. The 3-square mile fire was 30 percent contained late yesterday. "Things are looking good," Orange Fire Capt. Ian MacDonald said Sunday night. Stoked by hot dry winds and fueled by chaparral, the fire spread south and west quickly in an unincorporated part of Orange County and threatened multimillion-dollar homes here and in Anaheim Hills, about 35 miles southeast of Los Angeles. Residents of about 500 homes were evacuated for several hours, but most were able to return by last night. Two homes and another structure were damaged, while a fourth structure was destroyed, said Capt. Steve Miller of the Orange County Fire Authority.

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Cool morning weather today helped firefighters get ahead of a wind-driven wildfire that was threatening hillside houses south-east of Los Angeles. The three-square-mile blaze had damaged two homes but was 80% contained by mid-morning, up from just 30%, earlier in the day, fire officials reported. At daybreak today, the temperature was still in the upper 50s Fahrenheit, compared to yesterday's highs of near 100 degrees. Dry, windy weather remained a concern for the rest of the day, though, said Orange County Battalion Chief Ed Fleming. The National Weather Service forecast temperatures in the 80s and 90s. "It is going to cause some challenges for the firefighters, but they are going to work through the day and through the night to make sure it is contained by tomorrow," Fleming said. A red flag alert, indicating high fire danger, remained in effect in much of Southern California, where a prolonged drought has made the chaparral-covered hills highly combustible. The wildfire was reported yesterday morning, and hot, dry wind quickly spread it through an unincorporated part of Orange County, threatening multi-million-dollar homes in Anaheim Hills, about 35 miles south-east of Los Angeles. Residents of approximately 500 homes were evacuated, but most were able to return last night. Two homes and another structure were damaged, and a fourth structure was destroyed, said Capt Steve Miller of the Orange County Fire Authority. Authorities said the blaze may have been started by a vehicle fire. They were investigating if the car was stolen and set on fire to destroy evidence.

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated Mar 12, states: A stolen Honda Civic that was set ablaze sparked a wildfire, that threatened houses in the hills south-east of Los Angeles and forced hundreds to temporarily evacuate, officials said today. Anaheim investigators were reviewing security videotape from early yesterday taken at a toll road in an attempt to identify

whoever abandoned the car, city spokesman John Nicoletti said. A 1,044-acre blaze that began yesterday in rural Riverside County was declared controlled this evening.

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated Mar 13, states: Firefighters fully contained the potentially disastrous Windy Ridge fire today, on its third day, with only one home damaged. No flames were visible shortly before noon, when fire commanders declared the wildfire in the Anaheim Hills 100% contained and surrounded, said Capt. Stephen Miller of the Orange County Fire Authority. Charred chaparral was still smouldering in places and Miller said full control, meaning the chance of the fire jumping containment lines has been eliminated, was expected by 1800 hrs, tomorrow. About 400 firefighters remained in the hills near the border of Orange and Anaheim, where the ridges are lined with multimillion-dollar homes. The initial cost for fighting the fire was about \$1.5 million but the final tab is expected to at least twice that, fire officials said.



**CRASH, BAHIA STATE, BRAZIL**

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The crash of a single engine propeller aircraft in north-eastern Brazil resulted in the deaths of four people and the disappearance of \$2.6 million. The aircraft belonged to a money-transport company and crashed yesterday in Bahia state. The bodies of the pilot and three company employees were found in the wreckage, but there was no sign of the money, officials said. Police were searching the area for the cash although officers could not rule out the possibility that unknown people might have taken the money. The cause of the crash was not immediately known.

**CRASH, BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI**

London, Mar 13 — A Libyan cargo aircraft carrying humanitarian aid crash-landed in Bujumbura at about 1800 hrs, local time, yesterday, causing extensive damage, according to Burundi national radio. The wheels of the Russian-made cargo plane exploded during the landing sparking off a fire, which was put off by the Fire Brigade, the radio said. The runway was partly damaged and could remain closed for sometime, for repairs. The aircraft, which left Tripoli late Sunday (Mar 11) was delivering some 30 tonnes of humanitarian to Burundi, to assist those who had been affected by the recent floods.

**CRASH, CHACON AREA, MORA, NEW MEXICO, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated Mar 14, states: The pilot of a small aircraft died when the aircraft crashed in the remote Chacon area

north of Mora, state police said today. State police Lt. Rick Anglada said the man, the only person aboard, was from out of state and was believed to have taken off from Tucumcari yesterday, heading for Colorado. State police received a report about 2100 hrs, yesterday from Langley Air Force Base, Va., of an emergency locator beacon going off, but the base could only say it was generally 80 miles north-west of Albuquerque. State police notified search and rescue commanders and the Civil Air Patrol sent up aircraft with emergency locators. That effort narrowed the beacon's location to the Chacon area at about 2300 hrs, Anglada said. Ground crews worked through the night, but didn't find anything. A state police helicopter found the crash site about 0915 hrs, today and directed ground crews to it, Anglada said. The searchers found the pilot dead and the aircraft is a total loss, he said. There was no information on the type of aircraft. State police secured the scene until investigators could arrive from the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board.

**CRASH, HEADCORN AERODROME, KENT, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people were seriously injured and seven more treated at the scene when a De Havilland Turbo Beaver light aircraft crashed in Kent yesterday. Firefighters attended Headcorn Aerodrome at 1604, UTC, yesterday after reports that the aircraft had hit a static display plane. The plane was carrying eight parachutists when it reportedly crashed during an aborted take-off. Kent Ambulance Service said the pilot suffered severe head injuries and his co-pilot suffered chest injuries. One female passenger was later transferred to hospital after suffering a severe asthma attack, rescuers said. The pilot, a man in his 20s, was cut free from the cockpit by rescue teams before being flown by air ambulance to Royal London Hospital for emergency treatment, while his co-pilot and the female passenger were taken by ambulance to Maidstone General Hospital. Headcorn Parachute Club manager Jane Buckle said: "The pilot decided to abort take-off but he didn't stop in time and he crashed." She confirmed that the aircraft was carrying eight members of the club when it crashed at the end of the runway. It hit a static display aircraft which forms part of an aircraft museum at the site. She added that the pilot was a full-time pilot employed by the club. A spokesman for Kent Police said: "Police are preserving the scene to allow the Air Accident Investigation Branch to conduct their inquiries." Headcorn Aerodrome is situated about 20 minutes by road from Ashford and has two runways.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, ISLAMABAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Mar 14 — The Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) have



reported that a charter cargo aircraft with three crew on board made an emergency landing at Islamabad International Airport at 0700 hrs, this morning. As a result, the airport remained temporarily shut pending an inspection by the PCAA. The charter flight, which was from Muscat to Islamabad, had a technical problem with the function of the nose wheel. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated Mar 14, states: Islamabad Airport was closed down after a South African aircraft coming from Muscat made an emergency landing today. The aircraft had a crew of three, none of which were injured. The accident took place around 0700 hrs, when the special cargo aircraft (G-159 type) made a belly landing on Runway No.30 after its front landing gear failed to open. Ground emergency crews gathered around the aircraft and it was towed away to the Pakistan Air Force base. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) took all necessary measures for the emergency landing after the pilot informed the control tower that the aircraft's front landing gear had malfunctioned. Due to the emergency landing, the airport was closed at 0703 hrs, and cleared around 0830 hrs, a spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority said. One PIA flight (PK-366) coming to Islamabad from Karachi was diverted to Lahore.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, KOCHI AIRPORT, JAPAN**

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A Bombardier DHC-8-400 with 60 people on board landed safely at Kochi Airport in southern Japan, after its nose landing gear failed to descend. Live television footage showed the All Nippon Airways aircraft landing on its rear wheels and progressing down the runway before the nose touched down and some sparks flew. Fire trucks then sprayed the plane with foam, before passengers disembarked through the cabin door. A Japanese Transport Ministry official said there were no injuries. The airline said the cause of the nose gear malfunction was unknown and the company would cooperate with authorities to determine the reason.

London, Mar 13 — A press report, dated today, states: All Nippon Airways grounded its entire fleet of Bombardier aircraft today after the front landing gear on one failed to descend, forcing the aircraft to make an emergency landing at Kochi Airport with 60 people on board. No-one was injured when the Bombardier DHC-8-400 landed on its rear wheels and then carefully touched its nose to the runway. Sparks shot from the bottom of the fuselage as the aircraft skidded to a halt, but the pilot kept it on the tarmac. The mishap was the latest in a string of problems with ANA's fleet of Canadian-made Bombardier aircraft, which forced Japan's second-largest airline to issue a formal apology last year. ANA said today it was grounding its fleet of 13 Bombardiers for inspection and they

would not resume service until their safety had been confirmed. The cause of the failure is not yet known, ANA spokesman Daisuke Kato said. The Transportation Ministry planned to launch an investigation, ministry spokesman Tetsu Shimizu said. In 2004, the right wheel of a Bombardier broke off while landing at Kochi Airport, also with no injuries. In February, 2006, another Bombardier aircraft operated by ANA experienced landing gear problems. That pilot aborted an initial landing attempt after all three sets of wheels failed to deploy. The landing gear was later deployed manually. Later that month, two ANA-operated Bombardier aircraft made emergency landings at Osaka Airport shortly after taking off. One had problems with its heating system, while a warning lamp in the other signalled something was wrong with one of its doors. ANA's president apologised for the problems with Bombardier aircraft at the airline's annual shareholder meeting in June, 2006. At the time, it had 11 Bombardiers in its fleet and had placed orders for 14 more. Executive Vice President Shin Nagase apologised again today for "causing great concern." Bombardier is in discussions with the airline about its safety concerns, said Masaki Okahata, a spokesman for Sojitsu Corp., a trading company that acts as the manufacturer's representative in Japan. "There has been trouble, but no accidents," Okahata said. "Instead of laying blame, the airlines are talking with the manufacturer about the matter." Nation-wide, there have been 77 reported incidents of irregularities with Bombardier aircraft since 2003, he said. The problems range from faulty lighting to bigger issues such as failed landing gear.

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated Mar 15, states: Investigators said today that a bolt locking the front landing-gear doors on an All Nippon Airways passenger aircraft, that made a nose landing yesterday at Kochi airport in western Japan, had come off, obstructing the gear's deployment during a landing operation. A part supporting the bolt became lodged in the surrounding area after the bolt came off, preventing the doors from opening to deploy the front gear, either by the normal hydraulics or a manually operated backup, the investigators from the Aircraft and Railway Accidents Investigation Commission said.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A Northwest Airlines jet was forced to make an emergency landing at Logan International Airport today after an engine cut-out. Officials said the passenger aircraft, with 104 people on board, was on en route from Manchester, New Hampshire, to Detroit, Michigan, when it was

diverted to Boston. There was no indication as to what may have caused the engine to malfunction.

#### **INCIDENT, LAS VEGAS AIRPORT, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Almost 150 people were caught up in a terrifying incident when the tyres blew on a jet travelling at 126 mph, seconds before take-off. The pilot of the Air Canada jet managed to abort the take-off from Las Vegas and stopped the aircraft without injury to any of the 140 passengers or six crew. After being put up in a hotel, the passengers continued their journey to Calgary on another aircraft. The disabled Airbus A320 was stuck on the runway at McCarran International Airport for more than 17 hours with its engines damaged by debris from shredded tyres.

#### **N13341**

London, Mar 14 — Cessna 150L, N13341, porpoised, struck propeller and left wing at Sand Springs, Oklahoma at 2310 hrs, Mar 10. Damage is substantial.

#### **N1903X**

London, Mar 14 — Cessna 182H, N1903X, owned by Aivcon Inc, reported engine failure, forced landed on a road three miles from Deer Valley Airport, Phoenix, Az at 0315, hrs Mar 13. Damage is substantial.

#### **N209**

London, Mar 9 — Camair 480, N209, operated by Salvation Aviation, departed Radnor, Ohio, with two persons on board, and crashed at 1616, UTC, Mar 8, at East Liberty, Ohio. The aircraft was destroyed and the pilot was killed.

#### **N332HA**

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft crashed on a city street Friday evening (Mar 9) in suburban Chicago, killing two people who were on the aircraft, authorities said. There were no initial reports of any injuries on the ground, said Elizabeth Isham Cory, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration. It did not appear that the aircraft hit any people, cars or buildings. The crash left much of the twin-engine Beechcraft Baron's wreckage on four-lane Calumet Avenue. The crash site is within a mile of the Lansing Municipal Airport in Lansing, Ill.

London, Mar 11 — A press report, dated Mar 10, states: Two people died when their twin-engined aircraft crashed Friday night (Mar 9) in rain and fog just east of Lansing Municipal Airport, in Munster, Ind. The aircraft had taken off moments earlier from an Illinois airport and was headed back there, the craft's owner said. The crash occurred about 1930. The twin-engine Beechcraft Baron was registered to SL Air International based in the Chicago suburb of Hinsdale. Owner Steve Leaven said the aircraft had taken off from the Lansing airport and was

returning when it crashed. He declined to say whether the plane was coming back because of mechanical problems. Leaven said they were not employees of SL Air International.

London, Mar 12 — Beechcraft Baron 58 N332HA crashed near Munster, Indiana, at 0150 hrs, Mar 10, while on a flight from Lansing, Illinois. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

#### **N354NT**

London, Mar 9 — Aerospatiale (Eurocopter) AS350BA, N354NT, operated by Jan Leasing LLC, with seven persons on board, pilot reported hydraulic failure and helicopter crashed at 0102, UTC, Mar 8, at Princeville Airport, Kauai, Hawaii. The helicopter was destroyed, the pilot and three passengers died and three passengers were seriously injured.

Honolulu, Mar 10 — A Heli USA Airways, A-Star helicopter (N354NT) crashed adjacent to the Princeville Airport, Island of Kauai, Hawaii, at approximately 1502, local time, Mar 8. The pilot and three passengers were killed and three other passengers were injured critically. Just prior to the crash the pilot reported he was having problems with the helicopter's hydraulic systems. FAA and NTSB are investigating. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A pilot and three passengers were killed when a tour helicopter crashed on the scenic Hawaiian island of Kauai, a press report states. Three other passengers in the helicopter survived the crash and are in critical condition. Minutes before the crash, on the outskirts of the Princeville airfield, the pilot had reported problems with the helicopter's hydraulic system, the report said. It was the fifth fatal tour helicopter crash on Kauai in less than four years, raising questions about the safety of the popular tourist activity.

#### **N911VC**

London, Mar 12 — McDonnell Douglas 369FF N911VC, operated by Inter Island Helicopters, crashed near Hanea, Kauai, Hawaii, at 2320 hrs, Mar 11, while on a local flight from Port Allen, HI. The aircraft was destroyed. One of the five persons on board was killed and three were seriously injured.

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The pilot of an Inter-Island Airways tour helicopter (N911VC) that crashed yesterday afternoon has been treated and released from Wilcox Memorial Hospital, but his three surviving passengers remain in critical condition, the Kauai Fire Department said this morning. A man and woman who were on board the McDonnell Douglas 369FF helicopter that crashed in Ha'ena on Kauai's North Shore shortly after 1300 hrs, yesterday, were flown to The Queen's Medical Centre on Oahu yesterday evening. Another woman who survived the crash remains at Wilcox Hospital and is scheduled for surgery today, the fire department said.

One of the passengers died in the crash. Pilot Donald Torres, 30, was about mid-way through his scheduled 50 to 55-minute tour with four passengers on board when he heard a "loud bang", before crashing on Kauai's North Shore yesterday afternoon, the Federal Aviation Administration said. It appears that the pilot tried to land the helicopter in the only vacant space for miles, a field at the YMCA's Camp Naue in Ha'ena. The area around the crash site is surrounded by residential homes and foliage from the beach to Kuhio Highway.

Honolulu, Mar 12 — One passenger died and three others are in critical condition when an Inter-Island Helicopters' McDonnell Douglas 369FF (N911VC) crashed near Ha'ena, Kauai, Hawaii yesterday. The pilot, Donald Torres, said he heard a loud bang about 1300 hrs and then lost control, but managed to land in a field at a YMCA camp. FAA and National Transportation Safety Board officials are investigating. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **N9381W**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft crashed in Tooele County, killing three people, the sheriff's office said today. The dead included passengers Jehrid Miller, 37, and his wife, Angela Miller, 35, of Sandy and pilot Eric Henderson, 39, county spokesman Wade Mathews said. The Piper Cherokee crashed about two miles north of Interstate 80, near Clive, in Utah's west desert, Mathews said. It was not known how the aircraft went down. The aircraft departed a small airport in Tooele County near the Utah-Nevada border and was supposed to arrive in Salt Lake City about 2100, MST, Mar 7. The flight between the Wendover Airport and Salt Lake City takes about 60 minutes. It was reported overdue at 0135 hrs today and the Utah Civil Air Patrol was called to help find it. Authorities believe the Miller's had chartered the flight for a same-day trip to Wendover and back, Mathews said. The single-engine aircraft was discovered about 0715 hrs, approximately 75 miles west of Salt Lake City. It is registered to Cherokee Flyers Inc. of Murray, a Salt Lake City suburb, according to federal records. Crash investigators say the aircraft was found crushed and lying on its top, with the wings separated from the aircraft. It is believed the wings came off the aircraft while it was still in flight. The Federal Aviation Administration will investigate.

London, Mar 9 — Piper PA28-235 (Cherokee), N9381W, operated by Cherokee Flyers Inc, while on a flight from Wendover, Utah, to Salt Lake City, Utah, with three persons on board, crashed, at 0230, UTC, Mar 8, two miles north of mile marker No.61 on Interstate 80, near Wendover, Utah. The aircraft was destroyed and all three persons on board died.

#### **PK-GZC**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: It is probable that

the deadly fireball that engulfed an Indonesian jet, killing Australian and other passengers, was sparked when the plane's front wheels snapped off on landing, investigators are saying. The man leading Indonesia's investigation into the tragedy said today the Garuda flight's two pilots had survived the inferno and their testimony would be crucial to the investigation. The plane's digital flight recorder and cockpit voice recorder - now on their way to Australia for analysis - are also expected to yield essential information to piece together the cause of yesterday's disaster. At least 21 people perished in the accident. Chief investigator Professor Marjono, of Indonesia's National Transport Safety Committee (KNKT), said the plane overshot the runway by 250m and jumped a road before coming to rest in a paddy field east of Yogyakarta's Adi Sucipto Airport. "We can see ... the nose landing gear was broken, was snapped," Marjono said. "The broken (nose) wheel was found on the runway." As the plane hurtled, out of control along the runway, its engines also snapped off. "The wings, even the fuselage was snapped off the right wing," he said. "The wings are also the tanks for the petrol, if the wings snapped the fuel will spill everywhere and then comes the fire. This explains why the fire was biggest on the right hand side of the plane. Our next step is to find why the nose landing gear snapped." Investigators are trying to establish whether there was a "weak point" in the plane's landing gear, or if the landing was too rough. Reports soon after the crash suggested the plane was going too fast as it tried to land. Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) Deputy Director Information and Investigations Alan Stray said a preliminary analysis of the plane's two recorders was expected within days. Investigators spent today combing through the debris, spread over a wide area outside the airport. Personal effects that might help identify the dead have also been collected, with information to be passed on to identification experts working at the morgue, where at least 21 bodies lie in bags.

Yogyakarta, Indonesia, Mar 9 — The main front left exit of an Indonesian plane that crashed this week failed to open after landing, preventing some of the passengers from escaping, a leading crash investigator said today. Most survivors were from the coach class who exited from the back left door, while some passengers, including those from the front seats, used the left overwing exits, said Frans Wenas, a senior investigator at the National Transport Safety Commission. "Our findings showed the plane had been damaged after hitting a dyke," Wenas told Reuters, referring to an embankment by the runway. "The hinges of the front door were broken. Probably, smoke entered from the front right side. Everything became dark after smoke went in, so they tried to find exits that could be seen." Many of the plane's business class passengers

were among those trapped inside when fire engulfed the jet, according to information from airliner Garuda Indonesia. Investigators have sent the plane's black box to Australia to analyse the flight data. Indonesian police say early signs suggested human error. The pilot and co-pilot survived without major injuries but have not been questioned yet because they are still in shock. — Reuters.

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated Mar 9, states: The black boxes from the Garuda aircraft (PK-GZC that crashed in Yogyakarta two days ago have arrived at the Australian Transport Safety Bureau's (ATSB) head offices in Canberra. The boxes, a cockpit voice recorder and the flight data recorder, will help investigators piece together the events leading up to the crash that killed more than 20 people. Once the recorders are inspected, investigators will be able to determine if any flight data can be retrieved. The pilots of the Garuda flight have blamed a sudden strong wind gust for the crash at Yogyakarta airport. But Indonesia's national police spokesman has cited human error as the best initial assessment. Hospital officials in Indonesia say all 21 of the people who died in the crash have been positively identified. A forensics specialist at Sardjito Hospital says the victims' identities were confirmed using dental records.

Canberra, Mar 12 — The cockpit voice recorder from an Indonesian airliner that crashed last week in Java has been sent to the United States after Australian experts failed to retrieve vital information, an investigator said today. A team of Australian investigators worked on the two flight data recorders through the weekend, but said they were unable to retrieve cockpit voice recordings. Other flight information, however, was successfully decoded. "We have tried every method we can to download the cockpit voice recorder without success and that includes in consultation with the component manufacturer Honeywell in the U.S.," Australian Transport Safety Bureau Deputy Director Joe Hattley told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio. Mardjono Siswosumarno, Indonesia's chief investigator for the Yogyakarta crash, has dismissed reports a strong downdraft hit the plane as it prepared to land. "There was no downdraft according to the meteorology office. The pilot and the co-pilot have not said anything about any downdraft," he said. The pilots escaped without major injuries, but investigators have not yet gleaned much information from them due to their traumatised state. Australia's Hattley said information from the flight data recorder, including data such as the speed of the plane, its vertical acceleration, flap settings and wind speed, had been sent to Indonesia. The bureau's executive director, Kym Bills, said it was up to Indonesian investigators to assess the data decoded so far. "It's more of a matter of checking it against the physical evidence and the other evidence that

they've gathered on the accident site and in relation to the whole investigation," Bills said. Mardjono said his team would finish interpreting the flight data this week. — Reuters.

London, Mar 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Relatives of two passengers killed in the crash of Garuda Indonesia Airways Boeing 737-497 PK-GZC last week, have expressed interest in joining a class action against the manufacturers of the aircraft and its components. Relatives of passengers injured or killed in three major air crashes involving local airlines — Mandala Air, Adam Air and, last week, Garuda Indonesia — are "lining up" to sue the makers of the aircraft and their components, "The Jakarta Post" reported today. "We have filed a law suit in a U.S. court on the behalf of the families of the 75 victims of the Mandala Air accident in Medan, and 11 victims of the recent Adam Air accident," Indonesian advocate David Abraham said. Mr Abraham said his law firm had received verbal confirmations from the relatives of two passengers who died in last week's Garuda crash in Yogyakarta and from one surviving passenger, that they wanted to sue the aircraft and component manufacturers.

#### S2-ADE

London, Mar 12 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 14 people have been injured after an aircraft skidded off the runway after aborting a take-off at Dubai International Airport. The airport was closed after the incident involving Biman Air flight BG006 at around 0600 today. The aircraft was carrying 236 passengers. Civil Defence sources said that two of the aircraft's engines were on fire as the aircraft was about to take off and one of the wheel axles then broke. Rescue crews were reportedly on the scene within one minute. Fourteen people were treated for minor injuries and one for moderate injuries as a result of the accident. The runway has been closed and the authorities are working to clear the debris. The airport is expected to stay closed until at least 1400 today and passengers are being advised to call their airline reservation offices for more information about rescheduled flights. Incoming flights have been diverted to other airports in the UAE.

London, Mar 13 — Airbus A.310-325, operated by Biman Bangladesh Airlines, S2-ADE, Biman flight BG006, aborted the take-off at Dubai at 0630, Mar 12. The airplane came to rest at the end of runway 12L with the a collapsed nose gear.

#### ZS-MSN

Lilongwe, Mar 8 — Two Australian mining executives were killed along with their local pilot today when their small aircraft crashed on landing at the airport at Malawi's capital, police said. "We now know that all the three people on board have died after the plane crashed at Kamuzu International Airport," police spokesman Willi Mwaluka told Reuters. The plane was

flying into Lilongwe from the northern Malawi town of Karonga, where Australian uranium miner Paladin Resources has a mining project. "The plane was flying into Lilongwe where the two had some business meetings," Mwaluka said, adding that police could not disclose the identities of those killed in the crash, or the cause of the accident. — Reuters.

London, Mar 14 — Piper PA-34-200T, ZS-MSN, a charter flight, operated by Executive Air Charter, on flight from Lilongwe International Airport, Malawi, to Karonga, Malawi, crashed in a farm field near Lilongwe at approximately 0405, UTC, Mar 9. The pilot and passenger were fatally injured. The aircraft was destroyed.

## Space Vehicles



#### ATLANTIS

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated Mar 9, states: NASA, United Space Alliance and Lockheed Martin engineers have completed an exhaustive overview of the main areas of damage sustained to Atlantis' External Tank (ET-124) and are now beginning to carry out repairs. A series of presentations acquired by this site downgrades areas of concern that do not meet "Post Build Acceptance Criteria" to around 1000 items. Those 1000 items are classified as crushed foam, caused by the freak hail storm late in February. While some sanding and preparation work has already started on the top of the ET, the full process, from complete inspection, to repairs, to qualification and then rollout back to Pad 39A, is still believed to be a six week/45 day process, which would delay STS-117 from launching before May 11. However, the most recent presentations do "sign off" on some previous concerns, which in turn may reduce the timeline for repairs and possibly increase the chances of a late April launch target.

## Product Recalls



#### CHRYSLER MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: After dozens of reports of fires in Dodge Durango and Jeep Liberty sport utility vehicles, DaimlerChrysler AG's Chrysler Group recalled nearly 500,000 vehicles today. Chrysler said it had received 66 reports of fires in Dodge Durango SUVs from the 2004-2006 model years, because of electrical overloads in the driver's side instrument panel below the dashboard. The automaker said it was recalling

328,424 Durangos. The automaker was also recalling 149,605 Jeep Liberty SUVs from the 2006-2007 model years, to fix the heating-ventilation-air conditioning blower motor. Chrysler had received a dozen reports of fires from Liberty owners. In a third move, Chrysler said it was recalling nearly 11,000 Dodge Avenger passenger cars from the 2008 model year, to fix problems with the front driver and passenger side door latches. There were no crashes or injuries reported in connection to the recalls, Chrysler said. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration had opened defect investigations involving the Durango and Liberty. In the Durango, Chrysler spokesman Max Gates said an integrated circuit in the instrument panel could get overloaded and lead to overheating and affect the interior lighting. Owners will be notified about the Durango recall in April. The vehicles will be inspected and those SUVs with instrument panels that fail the review will receive replacement parts.

**MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN**

London, Mar 12 — Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus is recalling over 100,000 buses and trucks sold in Japan, owing to defective engine components and alarms, according to a report citing Japan's Transport Ministry.

**TOY SETS, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 14 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Mar 13, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Toys 'R Us Inc., of Wayne, N.J., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 128,700 Elite Operations Toy Sets. These toys contain high levels of lead in the paint, which is toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health effects. Also, the toys have sharp points, posing a laceration hazard. No

incidents/injuries have been reported. This recall involves three styles of Elite Operations brand toy sets. The military-style play sets contain light and sound vehicles, action figures and accessories. Models included in this recall are: Super Rigs Transport Vehicle (Item No.087286), Command Patrol Centre (Item No.920625) and Troop Carrier (Item No. 773967). The item numbers are located on the back of the packaging above the barcode. Toy sets sold prior to January 2006 are not included in this recall. Manufactured in China, the sets were sold at Toys 'R Us stores nationwide and toysrus.com from January 2006 through to early February 2007 for between \$15 and \$30.



**BANGLADESH**

Karachi, Mar 12 — Container congestion is easing and vessels' turn around time has reduced at Chittagong port following a number of steps was taken by the port authorities. The turnaround time of a vessel has been reduced to seven to eight days from 14-16 days. According to local media, the arrest of a number of powerful CBA and stevedoring leaders including Nurullah Bahar, Abdul Ahad, Mohammad Ibrahim and Raihan Sharif, left the port free from opposition by the dock workers and helped the task force implement its plan. A three-shift workday has been introduced for dockworkers ensuring round the clock operations at the port in place of an earlier two-shift workday. A decision was also taken to handover cargo handling activities at different jetties in general yards to private companies. Other important steps taken by the task force include shifting

handling activities of nine bulk items outside the port area, allowing delivery of Full Container Load (FCL), doing away with the monopoly in stevedoring system from hook point, reducing the size of the labour groups, setting up a sector wise off-dock inland container depot (ICD), cancellation of unreasonable fees and charges by shipping agents and reducing the number of signatures required from customs and port authorities for clearing papers. The handling charge of bulk cargo from mother vessels to land by lighterage vessels has also been reduced to Tk 127-160 per ton instead of previous rate of Tk 400-500. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**GERMANY**

London, Mar 12 — The Kiel Canal authorities have announced major inspection work to be conducted on both large lock chambers on the Holtenau side. As a result, delays are possible during following periods: Mar 27 - Apr 3: Cleaning work will be carried out on both chambers during the daytime (excluding weekend). Apr 10 - May 16: The large lock chamber north-side will be out of operation due to inspection. May 18 - Jun 24: The large lock chamber south-side will be out of operation due to inspection. Throughout the period, the small lock chambers and one additional large chamber will be available.

London, Mar 15 — Due to repair works in the Kiel Canal, the large south side lock chamber at Brunsbittel will be out of service, as follows: Mar 20 (daytime working hours) and Mar 21 - Apr 5. Minor delays are possible during this period.

**ITALY**

Genoa, Mar 12 — Current berthing delays: Genoa: No vessels waiting to berth. La Spezia: No vessels waiting to berth. Savona: One vessel waiting for normal berth. No vessels waiting for special berths. Average delay in berthing 12 hrs. — 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>Azerbaijan</b>		
Apscheron	19-03-2007	Oil products: Two vessels discharging at berth (1 fuel oil, 1 gasoil); 1 vessel due 20/3 to discharge crude oil.
Baku	19-03-2007	Oil products: Azertrans terminal: Nobel Avenue: One vessel discharging crude oil; Sangachal District: port open; no vessels.
<b>Bulgaria</b>		
Bourgas	19-03-2007	Nine vessels in port of which 3 loading (1 coils, 1 scrap, 1 container), 6 discharging (2 steel billets, 1 kaolin, 1 cigarettes, 1 DRI, 1 sugar); no vessels in roads; 9 vessels due of which 6 to load (2 coils, 1 copper anodes, 1 sulphur, 1 copper concentrate, 1 containers), 3 to discharge (1 coke, 1 metal, 1 equipment).
Varna	19-03-2007	Varna East, Varna West, Balchik: Twenty-four vessels in port operating of which 11 loading (1 hardboard, 1 bulk clinker, 1 scrap, 1 urea, 3 containers, 4 soda), 8 discharging (1 iron/coils, 1 cocoa, 1 phosphate, 2 bulk coal, 1 petroleum coke, 1 bulk slag, 1 container), 5 discharging/loading (3 containers, 2 equipment); no vessels waiting in roads.
<b>Cyprus</b>		
Larnaca	20-03-2007	Three conventional vessels discharging at berth; 2 conventional vessels due 21/3; no delays expected.
Limassol	20-03-2007	Four container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 4 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 5 containers vessels, 1 conventional vessel due 21/3; no delays expected.
<b>Egypt</b>		
Adabiya	19-03-2007	Five vessels at berth (loading/discharging), all general cargo.
Alexandria	19-03-2007	Thirty-five vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 31 general cargo, 1 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 2 container vessels, 1 tourist vessel; 8 vessels at inner anchorage.
Damietta	19-03-2007	Thirty-four vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 24 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 6 container vessels; 1 vessel at inner anchorage, 14 at outer anchorage.
Dekheila	19-03-2007	Twelve vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 1 general cargo, 10 bulk carriers, 1 container vessel; 9 vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	19-03-2007	Six vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 4 general cargo, 2 container vessels.
Suez	19-03-2007	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 4 passenger vessels; 3 tugs, 1 vessel dry-docked
Suez Canal	19-03-2007	Twenty-five vessels transiting Northbound, 29 Southbound.
<b>Estonia</b>		
Tallinn	19-03-2007	No labour problems. City port: No vessels at berth, none at anchorage; no vessels due, with no delays expected; Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 1 vessel loading fertiliser at berth; 1 vessel due, with 8 days delay expected; Muuga: no vessels at berth, none at anchorage; no vessels due, with no delays expected.
<b>Georgia</b>		
Batumi	19-03-2007	Oil products: Two vessels loading at berth (1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil), 1 other vessel; 4 vessels due by 24/3, all to load (1 jet fuel, 3 crude oil).
Poti	19-03-2007	Oil products: Two vessels in roads, both to load (1 gasoil, 1 gasoline); 4 vessels due by 27/3, all to load (3 gasoil, 1 other).
<b>India</b>		
Kolkata	19-03-2007	3 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels discharging Containers, 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel working at midstream loading Container, 2 vessels working at midstream discharging Puls; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 4 vessels under repair; 1 vessel under dry docked; 1 vessel under arrest; 6 vessels due ( Containers-5, Logs).
Haldia	19-03-2007	14 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading ( Iron Ore-4, Steel), 8 vessels discharging ( Coking Coal-3, Crude-2, Moke, POL, A. Coal), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge), 1 vessel waiting berth at anchorage to load; 3 vessels due ( Crude, A Coal, Containers).

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## Port Conditions

Paradip	19-03-2007	5 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading ( Iron Ore, Thermal Coal), 3 vessels discharging (Project Cargo, Coking Coal-2); 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting berth at anchorage to load; 25 vessels due.
Visakhapatnam	19-03-2007	13 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels loading ( Iron Ore-2, Soya Bean meal, Thermal Coal-2, Product Tankers), 7 vessels discharging (Coking Coal, Urea, Alumina, Wheat, Product Tanker-3); 8 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage ( 5 to discharge, 3 to load); 1 vessel under arrest; 41 vessels due ( Iron Ore-13, Steel Cargo-2, Soya, Granite, Food Grains, Crude Trap & Product Tankers-6, Phosphoric Acid, Rock Phosphate, Coking Coal-4, Containers-2, Timber, LAM Coke, Steel Pipes, General Cargo, Styrene, Crude & Product Tanker-3, Peas ).
Chennai	19-03-2007	17 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Granite Block, Iron Ore), 9 vessels discharging (Lubricant Oil, Steel Coil/Project/ Steel Plate, Thermal Coal-2, MOP, Steam Coal-2), LSHS/Furnace Oil, Coking Oil), 6 vessels loading and discharging ( Containers-3, Project/Granite Blocks, General Cargo, Steel Pipes); 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge); 7 vessels due ( Iron Ore, Steam Coal, SFO, Coking Coil, Containers, Steel Pipes, Edible Oil).
Tuticorin	19-03-2007	11 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Granite-2, Sugar), 7 vessels discharging (Raw Cashew, Co., Con., Rock Phosphate, Peas, Thermal Coal-2, Naptha), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge, 3 vessels not ready to work at anchorage ( 2 to load, 1 to discharge), 1 vessel awaiting order at anchorage to load. 1 vessels under arrest.
Cochin	19-03-2007	4 vessels operating at berth discharging (Iron Scrap, High Speed Diesel/ Motor Spirit, Palm Oil, Sulphur); 35 vessels due ( Crude-2, Chemicals-1, Phosphoric Acid, Domestic Passenger-6, International Cruise-7, Containers-15, POL-2, Break Bulk).
New Mangalore	19-03-2007	4 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Iron Ore Fines, 3 vessels discharging (POL Crude, Coal-2); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load; 9 vessels due (LPG, POL Product-3, Iron Ore Fines-2, POL Crude, Container, Fertiliser).
Mormugao	19-03-2007	4 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Iron Ore, 3 vessels discharging ( Motor Spirit , Coal, MOP); 7 vessels working at midstream loading Iron Ore; 2 vessel under dry docked; 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage ( 1 to load, 1 to discharge), 1 vessel waiting berth at anchorage to load; 7 vessels due (Soft Coking Coal, Met Coke, Container, Iron Ore-4).
Mumbai	19-03-2007	17 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels loading ( Project Cargo/Vehicles-2, Bagged Sugar-3, POL), 9 vessels discharging ( Rock Phosphate, Steel Cargo/Machinery-5, POL), 2 vessels loading and discharging (Containers/Steel Pipes); 3 vessels awaiting order at anchorage to discharge, 2 vessels working at anchorage to load; 12 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 7 vessels under arrest; 1 vessel under laid up ( Berths not required for cargo operations); 41 vessels due (Containers-3, Oil, General Cargo-37).
J.N.P.T.	19-03-2007	8 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels discharging (Naptha, Cement ), 6 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load and discharge; 1 vessel due Containers.
Kandla	19-03-2007	15 vessels operating at berth of which 8 vessels loading (Agriculture Product-3, Rice-2, Project Cargo, Zinc, Chemical), 5 vessels discharging ( Timber Logs, Steel Plates, Steel Coils, Furnace Oil, Chemical), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 4 vessels not ready to work at anchorage ( 2 to load, 1 to discharge, 1 to load & discharge).
Ennore	19-03-2007	2 vessels working at berth to discharge Coal, 1 vessel working at inner anchorage to load Iron Ore, 3 vessels due (MV Good Season (Coal), MV Gem of Ennore (Coal), MV Tamil Anna (Coal)).
<b>Israel</b>		
Ashdod	20-03-2007	No labour problems; Two vessels loading general cargo at berth, 13 discharging at berth (7 general cargo, 6 bulk cargo), 6 loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 1 tanker); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge general cargo, 13 waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (2 bulk cargo, 11 containers); 20 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	20-03-2007	No labour problems; One vessel discharging general cargo at berth; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge containers.
Haifa	20-03-2007	No labour problems; Three vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 2 bulk cargo), 9 loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 5 tankers); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge general cargo, 6 waiting at anchorage Sto load/discharge (2 bulk cargo, 2 containers, 2 tankers); 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 17 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
<b>Kazakhstan</b>		
Aktau	19-03-2007	Oil products: Three crude oil vessels at berth; 5 vessels in roads, all to load; 6 vessels due by 20/3, all to load.

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## Port Conditions

### Pakistan

Karachi	19-03-2007	Three vessels loading at berth (1 MOL, 1 rice, 1 cement), 4 discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 2 general cargo, 1 barge), 4 loading/discharging containers at berth; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 containers, 2 cement), 3 waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 general cargo, 1 crude oil); 1 container vessel due, with no delays expected.
Port Qasim	19-03-2007	Two vessels loading wheat at berth, 2 discharging at berth (1 palm oil, 1 iron ore); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load containers, 6 waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 1 palm oil, 1 coal, 1 heating oil, 1 acetic acid); QICT berth: no vessels.

### Poland

Gdansk	19-03-2007	Thirteen vessels in port operating of which 10 loading at berth (1 coal, 3 bulk cargo, 2 general cargo, 1 grain, 3 tankers), 3 discharging at berth (1 bulk cargo, 1 tanker, 1 grain); 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 22 vessels due.
Gdynia	19-03-2007	Seven vessels in port operating of which 1 loading general cargo at berth, 6 discharging at berth (3 grain, 2 general cargo, 1 bulk cargo); 12 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 45 vessels due.

### Russia

Novorossiysk	19-03-2007	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.
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### Slovenia

Koper	19-03-2007	Port working normally; Thirteen vessels at berth of which 5 loading (4 sawn timber/general cargo, 1 bulk cargo), 5 discharging (2 general cargo, 3 bulk cargo), 3 vessels discharging/loading containers; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge bulk cargo; 22 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 7 to load ( 1 general cargo/vehicles, 1 bulk cargo, 5 general cargo/sawn timber), 5 to discharge (2 tankers, 3 bulk cargo), 10 to discharge/load (7 containers, 3 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles).
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### Spain

Bilbao	19-03-2007	Twenty-one vessels in port operating (4 tankers, 17 others), of which 1 loading, 10 discharging, 10 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	19-03-2007	Nineteen vessels in port operating of which 2 loading bulk fertiliser, 16 discharging (11 steel products, 2 gas, 1 fruit, 1 general cargo, 1 logs), 1 discharging/loading vehicles; Outside commercial wharf: no vessels; no delays expected.

### Sri Lanka

Colombo	19-03-2007	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 berthing at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion; conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 & 2 are facing delays in navigation after commissioning of SAGT 1 & 2 berths (former QEQ 1 & 2); conventional cargo vessels at PVQ 2 (inner berth) are facing berthing and unberthing delays after commissioning of new north pier (formerly known as "oil pier"). Eight container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 18 vessels discharging at berth (13 container/feeders, 1 bagged soybean meal, 1 steel billets, 3 bulk cement); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (3 container/feeders, 1 bulk cement); 4 vessels dry-docked; 6 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays for general cargo/bagged cargo/containers/feeders expected.
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### Turkmenistan

Aladja	19-03-2007	Oil products: One vessel in roads to load crude oil..
Turkmenbashi	19-03-2007	Oil products: Port open; Two vessels loading at berth (1 kerosene, 1 gasoil); 2 vessels in roads, both to load (1 kerosene, 1 other).

### Ukraine

Ilichevsk	19-03-2007	Eight vessels in port operating of which 4 loading (1 steel products, 1 SF oil, 1 cake, 1 seeds), 2 discharging (1 building materials, 1 citrus), 2 discharging/loading containers; 6 vessels in roads of which 1 to load sunflower oil, 5 to discharge/load containers; 15 vessels due of which 8 to load (4 steel products, 2 grain, 1 sunflower oil, 1 pellets), 1 to discharge ore, 6 to discharge/load containers.
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**Port Conditions**

Mariupol	19-03-2007	Eleven vessels in port operating, all loading (6 steel, 1 fire-clay, 1 coal, 2 sulphur, 1 slag); 6 vessels in roads of which 5 to load steel, 1 to discharge/load steel plates/slabs; 59 vessels due of which 56 to load (45 steel, 4 coal, 1 bran, 1 sulphur, 3 fire-clay, 1 coke, 1 fire-clay/containers), 1 to discharge equipment, 2 to discharge/load containers/fire-clay.
Odessa	19-03-2007	Eighteen vessels in port operating of which 7 loading (4 metal, 1 pellets, 1 barley, 2 timber), 9 discharging (2 passenger vessels, 2 baggage, 3 general cargo, 1 citrus, 1 bananas), 2 discharging/loading containers; 8 vessels in roads of which 4 to load metal, 3 to discharge (1 citrus, 2 sugar), 1 to load/discharge containers; 74 vessels due of which 38 to load (30 metal, 3 pig iron, 1 oil, 1 barley, 1 ferroalloy, 1 corn, 1 ore), 7 to discharge (2 citrus, 1 general cargo, 2 bananas, 1 fertiliser, 1 sugar), 29 to load/discharge containers.

**United States**

Galveston, TX	20-03-2007	ADM-Farmland terminal: 2-3 days delay expected.
Houston, TX	20-03-2007	Cargill terminal: Berth 1 and 2: 2-3 days delay expected.
Kalama, WA	20-03-2007	Kalama export terminal: 6 days delay expected; United Harvest terminal: no delays expected.
New Orleans, LA	20-03-2007	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1-2 days delay expected. Cargill-Westwego: 3 days delay expected. ADM/Ama: 3-4 days delay expected. Bunge/Destrehan: 3 days delay expected. ADM/ Destrehan: 3-4 days delay expected. ADM/Reserve: 3-4 days delay expected. Cargill/Reserve: 8 days delay expected. ADM/Paulina: 3-4 days delay expected. Zen-Noh/Convent: 1-2 days delay expected. Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays expected. Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: no delays expected; Mile 158.0 Myrtle Grove Midstream terminal: 4 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: no delays expected.
Portland, Oreg	20-03-2007	Columbia Grain terminal: 4 days delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD, O Dock terminals: 2 days delay expected.
Seattle, WA	20-03-2007	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Tacoma, WA	20-03-2007	Temco terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Vancouver, WA	20-03-2007	United Harvest terminal: 1 day's delay expected.

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