

Vancouver walkout threat over new security measures

Chamber of Shipping president plays down strike threat as stevedores warn of imminent action, writes Keith Wallis -Tuesday March 01 2005

TOUGHER security measures planned by Transport Canada could lead to a walk-out by stevedores in Vancouver, Canada's biggest port.

The warning was sounded by International Longshore and Warehouse Union president Tom Dufresne, who said: "We will not co-operate with this process."

The union has about 3,500 members working at the Port of Vancouver.

Transport Canada is planning to introduce a raft of new security initiatives at three main ports, Vancouver, Montreal and Halifax.

These include extensive criminal records, police and credit checks on dock workers and possibly their families.

Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia president Rick Bryant said: "If we get a stand-off between labour and the government we could find ourselves in a situation where people won't work. That's something we don't want."

A strike or similar industrial action would severely affect Vancouver. The port is already suffering from congestion, which

has delayed container rail shipments to the rest of Canada by at least 10 days.

These difficulties failed to dent Vancouver's leading position among Canadian ports after it saw total cargo volumes rise 11% last year to 73.9m tonnes, while container traffic climbed 8% to 1.66m teu.

But Mr Bryant said any further disruption would be bad for Canada's maritime sector as a whole.

Disruptions

"Over the past few years the marine industry has experienced a number of labour disruptions that have affected the entire transportation corridor and damaged the reputation of our Canadian gateways," he said.

In an attempt to defuse the situation, Mr Bryant said there was no imminent threat of labour unrest.

"There should be sufficient time in the process for Transport Canada to reach a reasonable position with the unions," he added.

Mr Dufresne believed background checks would be a waste of money. While he conceded that some union members could also belong to the Hell's Angels bike gang, it was up to the police to investigate criminal activity.

Mr Dufresne said the federal government was "using the terrorism scare to gather information" about alleged links between port unions and organised crime.

Rethink

He and British Columbia Maritime Employers Association president Frank Pasacreta have written to federal Transport Minister Jean Lapierre urging him to rethink the security regulations.

The Chamber of Shipping has also voiced its concerns over the new measures.

Under current plans Transport Canada aims to complete the drawing up of the security regulations later this year. About 18 months would be allotted to carry out the initial round of security background checks, linking actual implementation to the start of the 2007 cruiseship season.

Aside from cruiseships, the security initiative will also focus on container operations.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>BALTIYSKIY 21</i>	general	RUS	RS	1,948	2,121	1964	Touched ground north-east of Cephalonia in lat 37 52N, long 20 45E, Feb 20. Refloated and anchored off Zakynthos. Water ingressed through hole in hull. Hole sealed. Reported Feb 21 situation under control. Tug on scene.
<i>DURRESI</i>	general	ALB	—	108	—	—	In collision with general cargo <i>Ozcan Atasoy</i> at Bari Feb 23.
<i>GANT VISION</i>	bulker	MLT	NK	25,899	43,536	1992	Arrived Cadiz Feb 16 from Apapa/Lagos under tow of tug <i>Hua An</i> , due steering problems. Currently repairing at Izar Shipyard.
<i>GERRITA</i>	crude oil tanker	NIS	NV	60,866	112,046	1990	Had mechanical breakdown and drifting about 80 miles north-east of north Shetland Feb 19. Tug <i>Anglian Sovereign</i> connected and towing to Sullom Voe, where berthed Feb 21.
<i>GOLDEN MERCHANT II</i>	container	HKG	LR	19,872	25,214	1982	Had engine problems while departing from Quebec Feb 21. Tugs used to reberth.
<i>GREAT POLARIS</i>	bulker	KOR	LR	72,160	139,650	1983	Broke down and grounded at KMS 162, 2km from the entrance to the canal at Suez Feb 19. Tugs attempting to refloat. Canal polluted. Crew attempting to repair engine and rudder. Refloated Feb 21 and moved to Suez roads.
<i>HOHESAND</i>	container	GBR	GL	6,362	7,223	1996	Sustained engine breakdown while transiting Dardanelles Feb 19. Anchored off Karanlik Liman.
<i>ITA</i>	general	PAN	PR	1,124	1,943	1965	Reported Feb 22 grounded in bad weather at Ustica Island, near a marine reserve. Holed from fore to middle. Crew transferred ashore.
<i>I.V.Y</i>	fishing	CAN	—	144	—	—	Reported Feb 20 in lat 44 18.58N, long 59 23.58W, with storm related damage to electrical and propulsion systems. Subsequently taken in tow by <i>Sir William Alexander</i> .
<i>MERYEM</i>	general	TUR	—	746	1,612	1979	Grounded near Mehmetcik while transiting Dardanelles Feb 20.
<i>MSC DENISSE</i>	container	PAN	BV	28,176	23,058	1978	Reported Feb 21 in lat 11 13S, long 106 35E, with flooding in the engine-room and pumps not operating. No immediate danger. Awaiting tug. HMAS Arunta has stabilised flooding and now towing vessel away from Christmas Island.
<i>NORLAN</i>	fishing	GBR	—	309	—	1999	Reported Feb 19 taking water about 80 miles north-north-west of the Butt of Lewis, in lat 59 41N, long 05 40W. Assistance required. Pumps airlifted on board and proceeding to Kinlochbervie under escort. Arrived same day. Pumping completed.
<i>UNION PEARL</i>	general	BRB	GL	2,230	3,774	1990	Had engine failure, probably supercharger, and drifting in lat 49 59.9N, long 05 52.2W, Feb 23. To be towed to Falmouth by <i>Anglian Princess</i> . Arrived same day for repairs.
<i>ZHE HAI 308</i>	general	CHN	CS	4,830	7,736	1982	Sank in Beibu Gulf (Gulf of Tonking) Feb 19. Sixteen of the 23 crew rescued.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AMBAR

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

AMT 2 (Canada)

London, Feb 23 — It was reported that, at 1619, Feb 21, barge AMT 2 (506 gt), while under tow of tug Risco Reegen and in tandem with barge Western Carrier, struck Turret Rock, in lat 51 06N, long 127 30W, Nakwakto Rapids, Seymour Inlet, B.C. and was damaged above the waterline.

ARIADNI (Cyprus)

London, Feb 19 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 0815, UTC: Ro/ro/c.c. Ariadni was safely towed into Trapani.

Palermo, Feb 22 — Ro/ro/c.c. Ariadni is at the pier "Isolella", at Trapani. Repair details are awaited. — Lloyd's Agents.

ARION (Greece)

London, Feb 18 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1345, UTC: Passenger ro/ro Arion is still aground. Salvage operations are being delayed by bad weather.

London, Feb 19 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0820, UTC: Passenger ro/ro Arion is still aground, situation unchanged. The weather on scene is now good.

London, Feb 20 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0940, UTC: Passenger ro/ro Arion is still aground in the same position.

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1155, UTC: Passenger ro/ro Arion remains aground. Three of the five vehicles on board have been transferred to another vessel to try to facilitate refloating.

London, Feb 22 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0945, UTC: Passenger ro/ro Arion remains aground, with two trucks still on board. Salvors are on scene and some holes in the hull have to be repaired.

London, Feb 22 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Passenger ro/ro Arion remains aground in the same position. Twenty six trucks have been transferred from the vessel to ro/ro Evropi, including four trucks with dangerous cargo. Nine cars have been transferred and all above vehicles were discharged safely at Meston Port Chios. Two trucks which were carry parts of prefabricated homes remain onboard the vessel. These have not been moved yet due to stability and bad weather. The pumping out of the bunkers and oils from the vessel has been completed.

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1100, UTC: Passenger ro/ro Arion is still aground at Chios.

ASSIDUUS (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Feb 17 — General cargo Assiduous departed from Szczecin Feb 4, bound for Great Yarmouth. While at Szczecin, vessel was renamed Paper Moon.

AURELIA (Malta)

Yokohama, Feb 22 — Bulk Aurelia, Callao to Shimonoseki, sustained heavy breakage to hull due to rough weather and sank 60 nautical miles and 289 deg from Nishinoshima, Shimane prefecture, at 0620, Feb 2. Sixteen of the 22 crew were rescued by Japan Coast Guard, remaining crew were missing. Situation still under investigation by Japan Coast Guard. — Lloyd's Agents.

BALTIYSKIY 21 (Russia)

London, Feb 20 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0930, UTC: General cargo Baltiyskiy 21 (1948 gt, built 1964), 12 persons on board, touched ground while passing north-east of Cephalonia, in lat 37 52N, long 20 45E. Vessel subsequently refloated and anchored off Zakynthos in lat 38 02.5N, long 20 48.2E. Some water ingress occurred through a hole in the vessel's hull but the hole has now been closed. Vessel is reported as still not under command.

London, Feb 20 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the early hours of today general cargo Baltiyskiy 21, Ukraine for Spain with timber, grounded in shallow waters off Point Mounda, southern coast of Cephalonia. As a result of the grounding, vessel sustained a fracture and there was water ingress. Following the incident the vessel refloated under its own means and anchored in Katastari Bay, Zakynthos. Immediately the Coast Guard stations were placed on alert and one Coast Guard patrol boat and one salvage craft were dispatched. On board are 12 crew members — five Russians and seven Ukrainians. There was no pollution caused. The winds in the area are force 4-5 (moderate breeze-fresh breeze), south-south-west.

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1150, UTC: General cargo Baltiyskiy 21 is still anchored in the same position, situation under control and stable. Three pumps are on board and a tug is in the vicinity. Presently they are awaiting the arrival of class surveyor to inspect vessel and give permission to resume passage.

London, Feb 22 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0935, UTC: General cargo Baltiyskiy 21: Inspectors from vessel's classification society are on board at present. Some underwater repairs will be required to prevent future water ingress.

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1055, UTC: General cargo Baltiyskiy 21 is being inspected by class today, after which it is expected to resume voyage if everything is satisfactory.

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

**BARGE BREAKAWAYS,
OHIO RIVER, UNITED STATES**

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Two Athens County couples have sued American Electric Power and a Kentucky barge towing company because of an accident last month that shut down a 42-mile stretch of the Ohio River. The lawsuit was filed Tuesday (Feb 15) in US District Court in Huntington. In it, Patricia and John Davis and Frank and Jean Lavelle accuse the businesses of negligence. The couples live upstream from the Belleville Lock and Dam, which was struck by barges on Jan 6. The barges kept the dam's water control gates from closing. As a result, water levels on the Ohio and two of its tributaries, the Little Kanawha River and the Little Hocking River, dropped to their lowest levels in years. The lawsuit alleges that people living along the rivers lost trees and saw a number of structures damaged in the slips and erosion caused by the dropping river levels. Residents filed a similar lawsuit in Wood County Circuit Court last month. An AEP spokeswoman says the company plans to fight the lawsuit, saying the river conditions were extreme.

CAPE FLATTERY (Hong Kong)

London, Feb 19 — A press report, dated Feb 18, states: Divers were driven from the water by a strong south current at midday yesterday but began coral-cementing experiments in the afternoon at the site where bulk Cape Flattery went aground and damaged the reef of Barbers Point. A multi-agency team continued assessing the extent of reef damage but a crew yesterday afternoon started making the first repairs. They were led by Steve Kolinski, a coral reef ecologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's fisheries office. Divers working from a small boat planned to identify specific coral heads in fairly shallow water for reattachment. Many corals in the region were toppled or crushed by the grounded vessel, its anchors, or the heavy cables of the tugs. Fisheries biologist John Naughton said the group planned to use a wire brush to clean a space on the reef where a toppled coral head would be placed. Then a batch of concrete would be mixed on the boat and passed to the divers in a plastic container. They would take the concrete to the cleaned surface and form it in place. "You put a pancake (of concrete) down and set the coral head in it," he said. The fast-hardening concrete should eventually disappear as coral polyps grow over it and form a permanent bond to the reef. The transplanting of corals is a process that has been experimented with in Hawaii for at least three decades but the biggest such projects have been done in the Caribbean at sites where large vessels have gone aground. Hawaii researchers have consulted with coral reef recovery experts at the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary on the techniques. Marine researchers hope the repair

work will keep the coral heads upright and in place when the next big swell comes in from the south-west. Naughton said transplanting is fairly easy in the calm waters of lagoons and protected bays, but adhesives are needed in environments like Barbers Point.

Honolulu, Feb 22 — Bulk Cape Flattery sailed Barbers Point Feb 20 for China, for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

CAPE SYROS (Cyprus)

Cadiz, Feb 22 — General cargo Cape Syros sailed 2100, local time, Feb 19, with a final destination of Cuba or Brazil. — Lloyd's Agents.

CASSIOPE (Cambodia)

See Spetses.

CEC ASIA (Bahamas)

London, Feb 24 — Following received from the managers of general cargo CEC Asia, dated Copenhagen today: CEC Asia was refloated Feb 22. As vessel grounded on a sandy bottom vessel is believed to only have sustained minimal damage, if any. Bottom is still being inspected and it is hoped vessel will proceed on voyage today or tomorrow.

CELTIC CARRIER (U.K.)

Dover, Feb 21 — General cargo Celtic Carrier: Repairs on the vessel have been completed and it continued on its voyage to Bilbao at 0616 today. — Lloyd's Agents.

CEMSTAR (Sweden)

Trondheim, Feb 23 — The crew of cement Cemstar report that the vessel will be out of dock by midnight, today and leave the yard in Stavanger am, Feb 24, scheduled for Brevik. — Lloyd's Agents.

CIBELES (U.K.)

Belfast, Feb 24 — Fishing Cibeles is still in Killybegs. Repairs are scheduled to complete on Feb 27 and the estimated date of sailing is Mar 1. — Lloyd's Agents.

CLIPPER GLORY (Liberia)

London, Feb 17 — Bulk Clipper Glory sailed Hamburg 0805, Feb 1, bound Murmansk, arriving Feb 7. Vessel departed from Murmansk Feb 10, bound Santander.

**CRISTOFORO COLOMBO
(Belgium)**

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: According to the directorate of the Russian Federation' Emergency Situations Ministry for the Kholmsk district of the Sakhalin Region yesterday, the owner of hopper dredger Cristoforo Colombo, European Dredging Company, has admitted that it is impossible to refloat the dredger. "Representatives of a Japanese, a Korean and an American company are arriving in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk tomorrow to participate in the tender for disposing of the craft," the chief of the directorate, Colonel Mikhail Sitnikov, said. It is necessary to

remove Cristoforo Colombo as soon as possible as earth, poured around the craft, has been washed away and blocked all the "canalization and drainage effluents of the town". According to general director of ZAO Sakhalinremflot Anatoly Moiseyev on whose territory the vessel is in, their plant was already flooded with water two weeks ago, after which the effluents were cleaned. But the situation will dramatically deteriorate when spring comes, and the freshet and canalization waters will flood the Primorsky Boulevard.

DAGALIEN (U.K.)

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 18, states: Five passengers were stranded on Yell passenger ro/ro Dagalien (1850 gt, built 2004) for a time on Sunday (Feb 13). Returning from its first run of the day at 0726 hrs Dagalien was unable to berth at Ulsta because the weather was poor and one of its two engines had failed. The ferry sailed out to the middle of Yell Sound and waited for the Sullom Voe tug Tystie to help it into the terminal. When Dagalien berthed divers investigated the cause of the engine failure, and found a large rope tangled around one of the propellers. With the rope removed, the five passengers onboard were allowed to disembark - almost six hours after boarding. Dagalien was back in working order by noon.

DIEPPE (France)

Le Havre, Feb 22 — Passenger ro/ro Dieppe sailed Dieppe Feb 17 for Corunna. — Lloyd's Agents.

DIPLOMAT (Bermuda)

London, Feb 17 — Passenger ro/ro Diplomat was reported arriving Milford Haven 0743, Feb 15, and departing 1121, same day, bound Rosslare.

DURESSI (Albania)

Bari, Feb 24 — On the evening of Feb 23, a collision is reported to have taken place between general cargo Ozcan Atasoy (3964 gt, built 1976) and general cargo Duressi (108 gt) in the port of Bari. At the time of the collision Ozcan Atasoy was shifting, while Duressi was at berth. No injuries. Cause and extent of damages under ascertainment. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Feb 18 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1345, UTC: General cargo Elanta is still aground. Salvage operations are being delayed by bad weather. (See issue of Feb 18.)

London, Feb 19 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0825, UTC: General cargo Elanta is still aground, situation unchanged. The weather on scene is now good.

London, Feb 20 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0945, UTC: General cargo Elanta is still aground in the same position.

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1200, UTC: General cargo Elanta is still aground, cargo discharge will probably be required to facilitate refloating.

London, Feb 22 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0940, UTC: General cargo Elanta remains aground, awaiting some cargo removal.

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1105, UTC: General cargo Elanta is still aground at Chios.

ELIZABETH M. (U.S.A.)

Detroit, Feb 21 — Tug Elizabeth M., sank at Montgomery Dam, Ohio River, Jan 9 while pushing six coal barges: The United States Coast Guard announced Feb 17 that salvage operations were likely to begin today. — Lloyd's Agents.

ERICH WOGGE (Germany)

See Mayon.

ERIKA (Malta)

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: A Paris appeals court today gave the go-ahead for a trial over the sinking of non specific tanker Erika off the Brittany coast six years ago, an accident that left wide swathes of western French coastline blackened with oil. The court's investigatory panel rejected a request by state prosecutors to require a new examination of the single-hulled vessel, which split in two and sank on Dec 12, 1999. French oil company Total SA (TOT) is one of 18 defendants who face allegations of wrongdoing in the case, which could go to trial in 2006 if other legal hurdles are cleared. An early investigation found that cracks in the 25-year-old vessel's deck, caused by corrosion, were to blame for the capsizing and said its operator should have found the problem during safety checks. However, a later report conflicted with those findings and alleged that the cracks were located in the vessel's tanks, prompting prosecutors to call for more studies before the case went to trial. The vessel spilled 10,000 metric tons of gluey oil onto French beaches.

FAIRWEATHER (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated Feb 23, states: Passenger ro/ro Fairweather is in dry dock, having been out of service since Jan 23. The Murkowski administration stopped running the ship in Lynn Canal and to Sitka because of a labour dispute with two state unions. This has been a major disruption to the travel plans of Southeast Alaska residents, particularly those in Haines and Skagway. Fairweather is up on blocks at a Ketchikan shipyard, getting a variety of warranty work, repairs and annual maintenance and inspections required by the U.S. Coast Guard and international codes. That work is scheduled for completion by the weekend. But it is unknown when paying customers will next board the ship. "Fairweather will not go back

into service until we reach labour agreements," said John Torgerson, special assistant with the Department of Transportation. Actually, the unions in question, the Masters, Mates and Pilots and the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association, did settle with the state on contracts last year. But a union official says now the state is keeping Fairweather out of service in order to force retroactive concessions. "They have chosen to basically hold the public hostage and not operate Fairweather in Lynn Canal this winter," says Joe Geldhof, attorney for the Marine Engineers. Torgerson said there is no date that Fairweather must be back in service. And the state's new fast ferry, Chenega, which will be delivered this spring, also will be withheld from service pending a revised labour agreement, according to Torgerson. Torgerson said there is progress in the negotiations. Torgerson said the state is saving about \$120,000 a week through having Fairweather tied up. But Geldhof, the attorney for the Marine Engineers, said none of his union members have been laid off. He said some are working on the ship in dry dock and others have been reassigned to other ferries.

FRANCONIA (Panama)

Honolulu, Feb 17 — Vehicle Franconia completed repairs to its turbo-charger and departed yesterday for Mexico. — Lloyd's Agents.

GANT VISION (Malta)

Cadiz, Feb 23 — Bulk Gant Vision (25899 gt, built 1992), which arrived Cadiz Feb 16, from Apapa-Lagos for repairs, is still under repairs at IZAR Cadiz Shipyards. The vessel was escorted from Apapa-Lagos by tug Hua An following steering problems. — Lloyd's Agents.

GECO SAPPHIRE (Panama)

London, Feb 17 — As at Feb 1, research EDT Protea, ex Geco Sapphire, was still at Gdynia.

GERRITA (NIS)

London, Feb 19 — Following press release received from Maritime & Coastguard Agency, timed 1445, UTC, today: Shetland Coastguard are monitoring the progress of crude oil tanker Gerrita (60866 gt, built 1990) which has lost engine power due to mechanical breakdown and is drifting approximately 80 miles off the north end of Shetland. The Coastguard emergency towing vessel Anglian Sovereign is on its way to the vessel to secure a tow and is currently about 100 miles south of the tanker. Gerrita is currently in ballast and with 21 persons on board. The vessel is drifting approximately 1-1.5 knots in a south-easterly direction. Conditions on scene are north-westerly to northerly winds force 7-8 (near gale-gale) with moderate to heavy seas. The crew on board are in no immediate danger and Shetland Coastguard continue to monitor the situation carefully.

London, Feb 19 — Following received from Shetland Coastguard MRSC,

timed 2152, UTC: At 2120, UTC, tug connecting tow to crude oil tanker Gerrita. Understand destination Sullom Voe.

London, Feb 20 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 0616, UTC: Crude oil tanker Gerrita is proceeding under tow to Sullom Voe, ETA at pilot station 0900, UTC.

London, Feb 20 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1045, UTC: Crude oil tanker Gerrita is under pilotage at the moment, preparing for towage. It is anticipated vessel will arrive at Sullom Voe this afternoon.

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 0955, UTC: Crude oil tanker Gerrita, which had been taken in tow by anchor handling tug/supply Anglian Sovereign, was unable to enter Sullom Voe yesterday afternoon, due to high swells and the harbour tug lines breaking. Vessel was then towed to a position 25 miles off Shetland by Anglian Sovereign, where it currently remains. The intention is to land a pilot onboard by helicopter around 1100, UTC and then attempt to bring the vessel into Sullom Voe around noon.

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1334, UTC: A pilot was duly landed onto crude oil tanker Gerrita. The vessel, under tow of anchor handling tug/supply Anglian Sovereign at the bow and a harbour tug at the stern, is now proceeding to Sullom Voe at three knots. ETA in approximately three hours.

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1815, UTC: Crude oil tanker Gerrita is now berthing at Sullom Voe.

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: Perfect sea conditions allowed broken down crude oil tanker Gerrita to be berthed at Sullom Voe Terminal yesterday after spending two days without power at sea. Four tugs and the emergency towing tug/supply Anglian Sovereign finally succeeded in bringing Gerrita into Shetland's oil port after their first attempt failed due to the high swell. Gerrita lost all power when its propeller drive shaft became disengaged on Saturday afternoon (Feb 19), 80 miles north west of Shetland. The first attempt to berth it bow first on Sunday afternoon came to grief when three towing lines snapped, forcing Anglian Sovereign to tow it back out to sea until conditions improved. The five metre swell leveled off during the night leaving the harbour calm yesterday, allowing the contingent of tugs to tow the tanker in stern first. It was finally tied up yesterday evening.

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1350, UTC: Crude oil tanker Gerrita is still at Sullom Voe. Understand vessel is due to depart tomorrow evening, destination unknown.

GOLDEN MERCHANT II (Hong Kong)

London, Feb 22 — C.c. Golden Merchant II (19872 gt, built 1982) experienced engine problems while departing from section 103, Quebec at 0703, EST, Feb 21. The vessel had to use tugs in order to proceed back alongside. (Note — Golden Merchant II, Hamburg for Montreal, passed Dover Strait Feb 11.)

GREAT POLARIS (South Korea)

Alexandria, Feb 19 — Bulk Great Polaris (72160 gt, built 1983) ran aground at Km 162, Suez Canal, about 2 km from Suez, this morning. It was in the northbound convoy from Suez to Port Said. Reportedly it is being pulled by tugs to clear it from the grounding area and some pollution has occurred in the canal. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Great Polaris sailed Singapore Feb 1 for Suez.)

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated Feb 19, states: Bulk Great Polaris broke down in the Suez Canal today, blocking the passage of at least 40 vessels, a canal official said. The northbound vessel, carrying 74,000 tons of coal to Europe, was stranded at the southern entrance of the waterway. The official, in Suez, said some 32 vessels were stuck behind the Great Polaris, all heading for the Mediterranean. Eleven southbound vessels are also waiting to go through. The vessel's crew and another from the Suez Canal Authority were trying to fix malfunctions in the engine and rudder.

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Atlas Marine Services Co SAE, dated Feb 19: Suez Canal Authority succeeded in refloating bulk Great Polaris at 1530 today and shifted vessel to a safe place in Suez roads. The northbound convoy resumed at 1630 hrs.

London, Feb 22 — A report, dated Feb 21, states: Traffic in the Suez Canal has returned to normal following the grounding of bulk Great Polaris at the south entrance of the Canal at Suez Harbour on Feb 19.

HARDWAR (India)

London, Feb 17 — Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1525, UTC: Bulk Hardwar effected repairs and departed at 2100, UTC, yesterday bound Taranto.

HELENA II (Cambodia)

Yokohama, Feb 23 — General cargo Helena II is still aground. No oil spill or water ingress has been reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

HENRIETTE (NIS)

London, Feb 23 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: General cargo Henriette is still under repair at Karlsund Shipyard, ETC unknown.

HERMOD (DIS)

London, Feb 17 — General cargo Hermod was reported arriving at Randers on Feb 15 and departing the next day, bound for Goole.

London, Feb 22 — General cargo Hermod arrived Goole Feb 18.

HISPANIA SPIRIT (Canary Islands)

Freeport, Feb 20 — Lng Hispania Spirit departed Freeport at 1500, local time, today bound for Trinidad. The oil-spill clean-up appears to have been satisfactorily completed. — Lloyd's Agents.

HOHESAND (U.K.)

Istanbul, Feb 21 — C.c. Hohesand (6362 gt, built 1996), Gioia Tauro for Novorossiysk, sustained engine breakdown while transitting Dardanelles at 2337, local time, Feb 19. Vessel anchored off Karanlik Liman. — Lloyd's Agents.

I.V.Y (Canada)

London, Feb 22 — Fishing I.V.Y (144 gt, built 2000) with seven persons on board, was reported disabled with storm related damage to its electrical and propulsion systems in lat 44 18.58N, long 59 23.58W at 1033, UTC, Feb 20. The CCGS Sir William Alexander subsequently took the vessel under tow.

INTREPID B. (U.K.)

London, Feb 19 — Following received from Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC, timed 0855, UTC: Tug Intrepid B. remains in the same position. Fishguard Harbour-master checked the boom yesterday and found very little sheen inside it. Meanwhile, salvors are still assessing the situation and working out the best course of action.

London, Feb 20 — Following received from Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC, timed 1100, UTC: Tug Intrepid B.: Situation unchanged. The oil boom came apart yesterday but no oil escaped. It was not possible to re-rig the boom due to the bad weather but this may be carried out today.

London, Feb 22 — Following received from Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC, timed 1125, UTC: Tug Intrepid B.: Salvors Wijsmuller have advised that they are planning to raise the vessel on Feb 28.

IRAN JAHANARA (Iran)

Zeebrugge, Feb 21 — General cargo Iran Jahanara sailed Antwerp 2211, local time, Feb 20, for Dammam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ITA (Panama)

Palermo, Feb 22 — General cargo Ita (1124 gt, built 1965) grounded at Ustica Island. Local Coast Guard vessel is rescuing the crew. — Lloyd's Agents.

Palermo, Feb 23 — General cargo Ita, bound Greece, cargo marble, is aground at Ustica Island, Palermo, inside the marine reserve. The crew, eight Syrians and one Russian, have been transferred ashore and the local harbour-master office and police are investigating. The weather is bad. The vessel has a hole from the fore to the middle. The ship is aground just in front of the marine reserve. — Lloyd's Agents.

JOSEE H. (Canada)

London, Feb 22 — Tug/pilot ship Josee H. (66 gt, built 1961) sustained machinery failure during a pilot exchange in lat 46 21N, long 72 33W at 2030, EST, Dec 12. The pilot vessel pulled away from the commercial vessel without any adverse consequence. It was thereafter towed to port.

KCL BANSHEE (Marshall Islands)

Oslo, Feb 17 — The Danish salvage company Bergingselskapet Dansk Bjerging og Bugsering A/S was today awarded the contract to refloat cement KCL Banshee, which grounded at a lighthouse in Svitringen Rende, outside Aalborg, Feb 15. The remains of the lighthouse stand on a fundament of concrete that has penetrated parts of the vessel's bottom and are a hindrance to freeing the vessel. Dansk Bjerging og Bugsering AS will use a heavy-lift crane and try and increase the vessel's buoyancy and bring it afloat. The crane has been mobilised and is expected to arrive at the site Feb 19. The weather conditions and environmental safety will be considered while planning the operation. The vessel is expected to be refloated early next week. At present, the vessel is stable, and all the crew are still on board. — Torvald Klaveness Shipping AS.

Gothenburg, Feb 17 — Cement KCL Banshee, with a crew of 12 persons, ran aground and damaged Light No 8 at Svitringen Rende, Denmark, on Feb 15. The light overturned in the incident and fell over and the vessel is now hard aground on the concrete foundation. The vessel sustained serious damage to its bottom and hull and has received pumps to keep it properly afloat. Some light oil was found but removed. Environmental support Gunnar Thorsson is looking closely at the situation, which is regarded as quite serious. A solution is being worked on to get the vessel afloat. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Feb 17 — Cement KCL Banshee: Updated situation as follows: Survey and control of the grounding revealed that the situation was critical. When surveyors and state Inspectors opened up the bottom tank, the concrete foundation was found to be partly inside the bottom of the vessel. A large crane and pontoon are being searched for in order to lift the vessel and bring it to a yard. Floating crane Samson is possibly available next week. Weather conditions on scene are poor with rough winds and snow. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Feb 18 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1130, UTC: Cement KCL Banshee is still aground. Fuel oil has been taken off the vessel and salvage operations are continuing. Salvors anticipate the vessel will be refloated by Feb 21/22.

London, Feb 19 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0840, UTC: Cement KCL Banshee remains aground. It is now hoped to refloat vessel tomorrow morning using a large crane.

London, Feb 20 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1505, UTC: The operation to refloat cement KCL Banshee with the aid of a crane is currently under way and it is hoped the work will be completed today. The vessel is then expected to proceed to Fredericia.

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0945, UTC: Cement KCL Banshee was refloated by floating crane Samson at 1829, UTC, yesterday and is now in tow for Fredericia, where ETA in 10 or 12 hours.

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 2225, UTC: Cement KCL Banshee, under tow of Danish tugs Katrine and Asterix, is due outside Fredericia at 0300, UTC, Feb 22, and is due to berth at 0500, UTC.

London, Feb 22 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 0935, UTC: Cement KCL Banshee docked at Fredericia at 0700, UTC, today.

KYOKUYO MARU (Japan)

See Sun Ace.

M21097Y (Hong Kong)

See Wasa Queen.

MAHARAJ (Bangladesh)

Dhaka, Feb 20 — At least 37 people have been killed and more than are 150 missing after Bangladesh ferry Maharaj capsized in a storm on a river near the capital Dhaka, police say. The ferry, carrying some 200 passengers, was sailing to the southern town of Chandpur from Dhaka when it got caught in a sudden tropical storm on the Buriganga river late yesterday. "So far rescuers have pulled out 37 bodies and efforts are on to salvage the sunken ferry," said an officer at Keraniganj police station on the outskirts of Dhaka. District commissioner Harunur Rashid said about 150 people were missing 12 hours after the ferry sank. Survivors said the ferry, packed with people heading home for a holiday to mark the Muslim religious occasion of Ashura, was on a scheduled voyage when it sank. — Reuters.

Dhaka, Feb 20 — At least 74 people have died and more than 120 are missing after a ferry Maharaj capsized in a storm on a river near Dhaka, police and officials said today. The vessel, which officials said was believed to have been carrying some 200 people, had been sailing to the southern town of Chandpur from Dhaka when it was caught in a tropical storm on the Buriganga River late yesterday. Only a few people were known to have survived. "We have found 74 bodies, and the search for more bodies is continuing," Saiful Haque Khan, a director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority supervising the rescue operation said today. Most of the passengers and crew were feared drowned. "But we will not know the number of casualties until the ferry is fully salvaged," an official on the scene said. He said the exact number of people on board was

unlikely to be determined as most Bangladeshi ferry companies do not keep passenger lists and often pack vessels beyond their capacity. Rescuers piled up bodies on the banks of the Buriganga. Police used batons to disperse hundreds of mourning relatives who thronged the water's edge, angry at the slow pace of the rescue. Survivors said the ferry had been packed with people heading home for a holiday to mark the Muslim ritual of Ashura. "We felt our ferry hit by another vessel in the dark. The ferry then listed on one side and began sinking," one survivor said. Officials said they could not confirm the report of a collision but were investigating. A police officer on the scene said authorities were urging villagers to come to the site to identify the dead and take bodies home. "We think most of the missing people might be trapped in the ferry, which is expected to be pulled out of water in a few hours," said a rescuer. Bangladesh Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain visited the scene and asked mourners to remain calm. He pledged a quick investigation and to punish those responsible. Bangladesh lacks salvage and safety equipment, and ferry disasters claim hundreds of lives each year. — Reuters.

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: The search for bodies from the disaster involving ferry Maharaj in Bangladesh was called off today as the confirmed death toll reached 117. A crowd of up to 5,000 people had gathered earlier today as divers searched for bodies in the capsized ferry in the Buriganga River on the outskirts of Dhaka. Navy Lieutenant Commander Mahbulul Rashid, who was in charge of the salvage operation, called off the search this afternoon. Eighty-two bodies were recovered yesterday with 35 more found today. "We have salvaged the vessel and searched it throughout. There are no more bodies trapped inside," Rashid said. "The total number of bodies found is 117," he added, as relatives called for the search to continue. The two-deck ferry capsized late Saturday (Feb 19) when it was hit by a pre-monsoon cyclone. Survivors have said they believed up to 500 people had been on board, although the official number of passengers was 167.

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers pulled out 24 more bodies from a river near Dhaka today, taking the confirmed deaths from ferry Maharaj to 142. "We have recovered 24 more bodies today from near the spot where the ferry capsized on the river Buriganga," Abdul Bari, a senior civil administration official of the Dhaka district, said. Many people were still missing and a search to find them will continue, Bari said. Officials said about 20 people survived. Nearly 40 people still missing were feared drowned, rescuers and officials said on Tuesday.

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: The death toll

from a ferry disaster near the Bangladesh capital Dhaka rose to 149 today. "We've found 30 bodies today and we will continue the search tomorrow and Thursday if we have to," said Dhaka district police superintendent Mohammed Bakhtiar Alam. Around 400 to 500 people were still at the scene yesterday looking for the bodies of relatives. Ferry Maharaj capsized late Saturday (Feb 19) when it was struck by a pre-monsoon cyclone on the river Buriganga.

MAURICE EWING (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated today, states: US National Science Foundation oceanographic research Maurice Ewing (1978 gt, built 1983) conducting controversial sound-wave research off Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula faces heavy fines for running aground on a coral reef, Mexican authorities announced yesterday. Maurice Ewing, which is using sound waves to search for traces of an asteroid that may have wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago, ran aground on rocks and coral about 30 miles off the Yucatan peninsula late Monday (Feb 14). "The fines will be based on the amount of damage done," said Mexico's Attorney General for Environmental Protection, Jose Luis Luege. "I can't say offhand what the fine will be, but it will be sizable." The ill-fated research project had already raised the hackles of environmental activists, who say the technology could harm whales, which use sound waves to communicate, as well as sea turtles and several varieties of fish in the Gulf of Mexico. The Monday accident, which authorities did not confirm until yesterday, only fueled activists' opposition to the Maurice Ewing. "They said they had state-of-the-art technology and highly trained personnel, but they couldn't even detect a sandbank or a coral reef" said Rosario Sosa, president of the Yucatan-based civilian Association for the Rights of Animals and their Habitat. The environmental protection agency called the accident "inexplicable," noting the reef was clearly marked on navigational charts for the area. Officials with Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, which is in charge of operating Maurice Ewing, had no immediate comment on the accident.

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated today, states: The Mexican government said the oceanographic research Maurice Ewing grounding on Monday (Feb 14) affected about 20 square metres of underwater rock formations and about 10 square metres of coral but activists like Rosario Sosa, president of the Yucatan-based civilian Association for the Rights of Animals and their Habitat, said the damage is significant. "It takes coral 100 years to grow one metre, so 10 metres, that's like 1,000 years lost," Sosa said. The ship was aground for only about three hours before freeing itself and continuing its journey. Mexico's

national Environment Department had already taken criticism for granting permits for Maurice Ewing to operate in Mexican waters. The agency granted the permits only after scientists agreed to take along independent specialists to monitor sea animals, work only during the day when it is easier to avoid marine animals and maintain a 3,800-metre safety radius around the ship. They are using the underwater seismic pulses to learn more about the Chicxulub Crater, a depression measuring about 200 kilometres in diameter and centred just outside the port of Progreso.

London, Feb 19 — A press report, dated Feb 18, states: Mexico announced today it had suspended permits for oceanographic research Maurice Ewing to conduct controversial sound-wave experiments in the Gulf after the vessel ran aground on a coral reef and damaged it. Mexico's Environment Department said the US National Science Foundation vessel will have to stop the research voyage until it pays for damage done to a reef about 30 miles off the Yucatan peninsula on Monday (Feb 14). "This is a precautionary measure to ensure the vessel pays the damages and fines," said Mexico's Attorney General for Environmental Protection, Jose Luis Luege. Luege did not say when, or if, the permits might be renewed. Earlier, he had said the vessel might be temporarily seized to ensure payment of the fine. The environmental protection agency called the accident "inexplicable," because the reef was clearly marked on navigational charts and the vessel is supposedly carrying state-of-the-art equipment. The vessel is using sound waves to explore the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico for traces of an asteroid that may have wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. The Mexican government said the accident affected about 20 square yards of underwater rock formations and about 10 square yards of coral.

MAYON (Netherlands)

London, Feb 22 — Two inland tankers were in collision at km 720.7, on the River Rhine, near Dusseldorf, on Feb 20. According to the German river police there had been a misunderstanding between the two passing vessels which caused the collision. Non specific tanker Mayon, loaded with 2,310 tons of diesel oil was going upstream and empty non specific tanker Erich Woge downstream when they collided. Erich Woge allegedly contacted Mayon amidships, between the starboard tanks three and four and its anchor caused a three metre long hole (tear) in the Dutch vessel. A small quantity of the cargo leaked from Mayon into the water, but by pumping the cargo from the stricken tanks into other tanks, the vessel developed a list which prevented further leaking. Two sailors from the German tanker were slightly wounded in the collision. This afternoon a tanker was proceeding to

Mayon to take the remaining cargo out of the damaged tanks. A police investigation will be made.

London, Feb 24 — Non specific tanker Mayon was in collision with non specific tanker Erich Woge at 1630, local time, Feb 20. Mayon had damage below the waterline. It created a list to get the damaged area above the waterline and to prevent the cargo of diesel oil from flowing into the River Rhine. An empty tanker came alongside to pump the cargo out of the damaged tanker. Erich Woge, which was in ballast, had damage and a leak in its forepeak. Both vessels have entered shipyards for repairs. According to the river police Mayon, bound upstream, wanted to go from the left bank of the river to the right bank and was in collision amidships with Erich Woge, which was proceeding downstream.

MELFI ITALIA II (Antigua & Barbuda)

See "Gibraltar" under "Port State Control."

MERYEM (Turkey)

Istanbul, Feb 21 — General cargo Meryem (746 gt, built 1979), Izmir for Yarimca, grounded while transiting Dardanelles near Mehmetcik, at 0100, local time, Feb 20. — Lloyd's Agents.

MISTRAL (Honduras)

London, Feb 19 — Product tanker Mistral anchored off Aliaga Jan 31, awaiting demolition.

MSC AL AMINE (Morocco)

Tunis, Feb 17 — General cargo MSC Al Amine is still aground at Korbous. The extent of damage cannot be evaluated at the present time as there is no possibility to board the vessel, being under close watch by local authorities. So far five tons of fuel have been removed from the sea and local authorities are still fighting the dispersion of fuel. No attempts have been carried out to refloat the vessel at the present time. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities in Tunisia are struggling to contain the damage from crude oil leaking into the Mediterranean from general cargo MSC Al Amine off the country's coast. A 1.5-km oil slick is already coating beaches near the town of Korbous, a popular tourist resort. The vessel ran aground in stormy seas some 50 km from the capital Tunis on Tuesday night (Feb 15). It was carrying some 200 tonnes of heavy oil and diesel when it hit rocks. Officials say the crew did not raise the alert in time to prevent the spill. Dutch anti-pollution teams and hundreds of local volunteers have joined the country's army in trying to break up the slick. Some 13 tons of crude oil leaked into the water from its ruptured tank yesterday. Officials say the clean-up operation could take several days.

London, Feb 18 — Mediterranean Shipping Co is waiting to hear back from salvors about the extent of damage to general cargo MSC Al

Amine, that has grounded off Tunisia amid confused reports of leaking fuel. While the Tunisian authorities are talking about an oil spill that has polluted local beaches, MSC has been told by divers that the tanks are intact and that no heavy fuel has escaped.

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated Feb 19, states: Emergency teams have cleared up 35 tonnes of leaked fuel oil after general cargo MSC Al Amine ran aground threatening Tunisian beaches with pollution, Tunisia's environment minister said. Emergency services with army back-up have put floating barriers in place to contain a slick, enabling teams to reduce its area from 1,500 square metres to 1,000 square metres between Wednesday and Thursday (Feb 16-17), emergency service staff said. The rate of leakage had also reduced.

Tunis, Feb 22 — General cargo MSC Al Amine is still aground and has sustained severe damage, details of which are as follows: the rudder is damaged; water has entered the engine-room (to a height of approximately six metres) and hold No.3 (to a height of approximately eight metres); hold No.2 has a fissure on the starboard side and the propeller is covered with water and is still difficult to "ascertain". The Dutch salvage company Smit Tak BV., will attempt to pump water out from the engine-room. Clean-up operations by the Ministry of Environment, in order to stop the dispersion of fuel, are still ongoing. — Lloyd's Agents.

MSC DENISSE (Panama)

London, Feb 23 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0002, UTC: C.c. MSC Denisse (28176 gt, built 1978) reported flooding in engine-room and pumps not operating in lat 11 13S, long 106 35E, at 2156, UTC, Feb 21. The vessel reports it is in no imminent danger and is awaiting a tug, which is due on scene later today. (Note — MSC Denisse sailed Singapore Feb 19 for Fremantle.)

London, Feb 23 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0950, UTC: The tug en route to assist c.c. MSC Denisse is still 24 hours away. The vessel's agent requested assistance from the Australian Navy to pump out water from the vessel and a navy vessel is proceeding from Christmas Island and should be on scene in approximately 30 minutes. On arrival it will attempt to patch MSC Denisse's leaking sea chest and pump out the water.

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: C.c. MSC Denisse has lost power and is drifting off Western Australia's north-west coast. The Australian Navy says the vessel is about 40 nautical miles south-east of Christmas Island. It says the engine-room is flooded. The vessel is running on emergency power, as the crew of MSC Denisse try to pump out water. Sailors from the Navy ship HMAS Arunta are trying to stabilise the vessel and have called for back up from another Navy vessel.

London, Feb 24 — An Australian Government Department of Defence press release, dated today, states: The Royal Australian Navy frigate, HMAS Arunta, is currently responding to an AUSSAR request for assistance to c.c. MSC Denisse. MSC Denisse is drifting at sea, around 40 nautical miles south east of Christmas Island with a flooded engine-room, without propulsion and only emergency power available. HMAS Arunta personnel are assisting the crew of MSC Denisse to pump water from flooded compartments in an effort to stabilise the vessel. Engineers are monitoring the ship's integrity and HMAS Arunta is ready to provide further assistance. HMAS Stuart is also operating off the coast of North Western Australia and is on its way to assist. HMAS Arunta was conducting patrol duties in the area for Operation Relex II, the Australian Defence Force operation which contributes to the whole of government program to detect, intercept and deter vessels carrying unauthorised arrivals from entering Australia through the North-West maritime approaches, when it was tasked to respond. HMAS Stuart is making its way to assist MSC Denisse and commence Operation Relex II duties.

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0950, UTC: C.c. MSC Denisse: Sistership c.c. MSC Sardinia has been on scene standing by for over 24 hours. Frigate Arunta is about to start towing the vessel further out to sea as the vessel has drifted closer to Christmas Island. The tug that is en route to assist is still some 24 hours away. The water in the engine-room has now been stabilised. Navy divers have been looking for the cause of the water ingress as the sea chests, originally thought to have been the cause of ingress are all OK.

MSC GRACE (Panama)

London, Feb 21 — General cargo MSC Grace (13258 gt, built 1991), Antwerp for Klaipeda, sustained minor damage after contacting gate of Brunsbüttel Locks, Kiel Canal, Feb 19. Vessel was able to continue its voyage.

London, Feb 23 — General cargo MSC Grace arrived Klaipeda Feb 22.

MSC NATALIA (Panama)

London Feb 22 — On Feb 21 c.c. MSC Natalia (40177 gt, built 1986), which was outward bound from Antwerp to sea, had engine trouble and anchored at Flushing Roads about 0800, local time. Repairs were made by the crew and it sailed about 1500, local time, under own power. All the time tug Multratug 9 was on stand-by but did not assist. (Note — MSC Natalia sailed Antwerp 0412, Feb 21 for Jeddah.)

MY LADY JANE (Canada)

London, Feb 22 — Fishing My Lady Jane (99 gt, built 1990) reported striking a reef then grounding, in Port Hardy Bay, B.C., at 0230, PST, Feb 20.

MYRA (Bahamas)

London, Feb 22 — At about 1230, local time, Feb 21, just after changing pilots on Flushing Roads, general cargo Myra (10322 gt, built 1979) had a blackout. Because the vessel could anchor in the Flushing anchorage, the tugs Multrasalvor, Multratug 9 and Multratug 10, were soon at the scene, but did not have to assist the immobilised vessel. The crew solved the engine problems and at about 1430, local time, Myra heaved anchor and proceeded again for Antwerp.

NAN SHA NO.38 (China)

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry Nan Sha No.38 was in collision with general cargo Zhong Hang 908 in Hong Kong waters this morning, injuring 97 people. The high-speed catamaran ferry was heading from Hong Kong to the Chinese city of Nansha, carrying 156 passengers and nine crew members, when it contacted the cargo vessel, the "South China Morning Post" reported. Marine police launches and fire service boats proceeded to the scene to rescue the injured. The catamaran was seriously damaged but was able to return to the Hong Kong-China Ferry terminal. Four passengers suffered serious bone fractures and head injuries and were rushed to hospitals. Another 93 were treated for lesser injuries; 77 had left the hospitals by afternoon.

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Mainland-bound catamaran ferry Nan Sha No.38 and general cargo Zhong Hang 908 collided near Tsing Yi yesterday, injuring 102 people, two seriously. Low visibility and speeding were blamed for the accident which happened at the junction of two shipping lanes, the Ma Wan Fairway and Kap Shui Mun Fairway, about 0810 hrs. "It might have been related to poor visibility, probably to speed and probably related to other vessels, but the investigation will establish the cause," acting director of marine Roger Tupper said. Visibility at Ma Wan dropped from 1.8 kilometres at 0700 hrs to only 370 metres an hour later. The mainland-registered Nan Sha 38 was carrying 156 passengers and nine crew, while the mainland cargo vessel Zhong Hang 908 had a crew of seven. The ferry returned to Tsim Sha Tsui and 102 passengers and crew were ferried to six hospitals. By 1800 hrs all but seven, including two in serious condition, had been discharged. "People sitting at the front rows suffered the worst hit because they were thrown from out of their seats," said a male passenger who escaped injury. The cargo vessel continued to Yau Ma Tei to unload its cargo and await further investigation.

NATALIE BOLTEN (Liberia)

Douala, Feb 21 — General cargo Natalie Bolten (10132 gt, built 2001) grounded on departure from Douala about Feb 17 and safely refloated at next high water. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 23 — General cargo Natalie Bolten arrived Abidjan Feb 19 from Douala.

NORLAN (U.K.)

London, Feb 19 — Following press release received from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, timed 1354, UTC: At 0931 hrs Stornoway Coastguard received a satellite INMARSAT telephone call from fishing Norlan (309 gt, built 1999), with four persons on board, reporting that they were taking on water 80 miles north of the Butt Of Lewis and required immediate assistance. Stornoway Coastguard immediately scrambled Coastguard Rescue Helicopter Mike Uniform with pumping equipment to the scene. Stornoway Coastguard issued a Mayday relay broadcast to shipping in the area with seven vessels responding, of which two were asked to attend; and now on scene. The Coastguard pump was transferred by the helicopter to the sinking vessel and a second pump is also being airlifted on board in order to keep up with the ingress of water and keep the vessel afloat. Norlan is currently heading south towards port, under her own power and under escort. Stornoway Coastguard continue to monitor the situation carefully. Weather on scene is northerly force 6-7 with moderate seas and reduced visibility from snow showers.

London, Feb 19 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1432, UTC: Fishing Norlan in lat 59 41N, long 05 40W, 73 nautical miles north-north-west of Butt of Lewis. At 0931, UTC, INMARSAT received from vessel reporting 4-5 foot of water in fish hold. Stornoway Coastguard tasked rescue helicopter to proceed to vessel with pump. Mayday broadcast. Norlan doing eight knots, course 171 degs. Rescue helicopter returned to base to pick up another pump. Norlan making way to Kinlochberrie.

London, Feb 19 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 2157, UTC: Fishing Norlan now alongside Kinlochberrie. Vessel still being pumped out and fire brigade on scene.

London, Feb 19 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 2237, UTC: Fishing Norlan arrived safely at Kinlochberrie at 1949, UTC. The vessel is still taking water and is being pumped out by Coastguard pumps until the source of the leak is identified.

London, Feb 20 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1055, UTC: Fishing Norlan is still being pumped out. There are 90 boxes of fish on board which will have to be removed before the nature of the leak can be established.

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1640, UTC: Fishing Norlan: The pumping operation was completed today and the pump is now off the vessel. The breach which led to the ingress of water has been located.

NOURA (North Korea)

Beirut, Feb 22 — General cargo Noura arrived Tripoli, Lebanon, Feb 18. — Lloyd's Agents.

NYK FREESIA (Liberia)

Singapore, Feb 21 — C.c. NYK Freesia arrived Singapore Feb 20. — Lloyd's Agents.

OZCAN ATASOY (Turkey)

See Duressi.

PAN AMBITION (South Korea)

Portland, Oreg, Feb 18 — The owners of bulk Pan Ambition have declared General Average. The vessel moved to Longview on Feb 14 in order to discharge the cargo of 35,210 tonnes of soda ash. Discharge commenced at 0824, local time, Feb 15 and continues to date. On completion of discharge, the vessel is expected to move to the Portland Ship Repair Yard in order to effect repairs to rudder and rudder stock. — Lloyd's Agents.

Portland, Oreg, Feb 22 — Bulk Pan Ambition is still discharging the cargo. Vessel is estimated to be finished discharging cargo at the end of the week. — Lloyd's Agents.

PASSAT (Isle of Man)

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Passat (5782 gt, built 1992), Korsakov for Busan, with 14 crew, is now drifting amidst an ice floe 32 miles from Sakhalin island's southern tip, reports the Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk maritime rescue-coordination centre. For some unknown reason, the ship, which was supposed to sail south-west, found itself in the Okhotsk Sea south-east of Korsakov. The vessel's master sent out a distress call that was picked up by product tanker Renda. The tanker, which boasts a reinforced hull for Arctic navigation, then rushed to the rescue. Renda would be expected to reach the drifting ship today (Feb 24), cutting away ice around its hull. After that, the tanker's crew will escort Passat toward ice-free waters, RIA Novosti's interlocutor said.

PATRICK JAMES (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 24 — A press release from Coast Guard Venice, La, dated Feb 23, states: Fishing Patrick James (69 gt, built 1978) capsized near the entrance of South Pass, La, yesterday. The five people who were on board the vessel before it sank were rescued by a good samaritan. A boatcrew from Coast Guard Station Venice transported the survivors to the station.

PRINCESS KARLINNA (U.S.A.)

See "Tropical Cyclone 'Olaf'" under "Weather & Navigation."

RED POINT (Italy)

Salvador, Feb 18 — Chemical/oil carrier Red Point grounded about 126 miles from Macapa in the Amazon River at 2230, local time, Jan 30. The vessel was refloated using three tugs at 2130, Feb 6. The vessel proceeded

to Fazendinha for Port Authorities inquiry, and on Feb 11 to Manaus, where it should transfer the cargo on Feb 20 into barges. Vessel will then proceed for repairs in dry dock in Rio de Janeiro. As far as we were informed the vessel hasn't sustained hull damages, only pipelines and cracks in bulkheads. The cargo was the full cargo allowed to sail in the Amazon River, being 20% of gasoline and 80% of gasoil. — Lloyd's Agents.

RIO GRANDE (Sweden)

London, Feb 24 — Asphalt tanker Rio Grande sailed Gothenburg Feb 15.

RISCO REEGEN

See AMT 2

SAATLY (Azerbaijan)

Baku, Feb 18 — Understand that general cargo Saatly has a hole her bottom and is currently repairing at Baku. So far there is no estimated date for completion. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAIL (Belize)

London, Feb 17 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1905, UTC: General cargo Sail remains in the same position, waiting for salvors to decide on course of action.

London, Feb 18 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1340, UTC: General cargo Sail is at an anchorage at Mytilene Island. Crew have been taken off vessel. Vessel has a six-degree list and flooding in No.1 and possibly No.2 bottom holds.

London, Feb 19 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0830, UTC: General cargo Sail is the same position, situation unchanged. The weather on scene is now good.

London, Feb 20 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0950, UTC: General cargo Sail is still at anchor, situation unchanged.

London, Feb 22 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0955, UTC: General cargo Sail is still anchored at Mytilene, transferring some of its cargo of grain to a barge.

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1115, UTC: General cargo Sail remains anchored off Mytilene.

SAMIRA (Netherlands)

London, Feb 18 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1150, UTC: General cargo Samira (1435 gt, built 2004) ran aground at the entrance to Randers port at 2000, local time, yesterday. Vessel refloated and is now under inspection at Randers.

London, Feb 19 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0845, UTC: General cargo Samira is still at Randers for inspections, etc.

London, Feb 23 — General cargo Samira arrived Lubeck 1212, Feb 20.

SAMOAN BOY (U.S.A.)

See "Tropical Cyclone 'Olaf'" under "Weather & Navigation."

SARAH JANE

Vigo, Feb 17 — Ref Sarah Jane is still undergoing repairs at Varaderos

Domaio in Vigo, expected date of completion unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA EAGLE S. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Feb 18 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1345, UTC: General cargo Sea Eagle S. is still aground. Salvage operations are being delayed by bad weather.

London, Feb 19 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0835, UTC: General cargo Sea Eagle S. is still aground, situation unchanged. The weather on scene is now good.

London, Feb 20 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0955, UTC: General cargo Sea Eagle S. is still aground in the same position.

London, Feb 21 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1205, UTC: General cargo Sea Eagle S. is still aground, situation unchanged.

London, Feb 22 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0950, UTC: General cargo Sea Eagle S. remains aground, situation unchanged.

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1110, UTC: General cargo Sea Eagle S. is still aground off Salamis.

SEA-LAND INTREPID (U.S.A.)

Yokohama, Feb 21 — C.c. Sea-Land Intrepid arrived and sailed Yokohama Feb 18, arrived Kobe same day and sailed Feb 19 for Busan. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEALTH (U.S.A.)

Seattle, Feb 22 — According to Washington Ferry Service, ro/ro Sealth completed repairs at Dakota Creek in early February and has since returned to service. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEHNEE

Manila, Feb 18 — General cargo Sehnee is presently discharging cargo at Batanes. As reported by the shipowners, the vessel sustained minor fire damage and is scheduled to be surveyed upon its return to Manila to assess the damage and the repairs to be effected if required. — Lloyd's Agents.

SIEMPRE CASINA (Spain)

London, Feb 22 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1015, UTC: Fishing Siempre Casina, 35 gt, length 20 metres, was found capsized off the north coast of Spain, in lat 43 52N, long 06 56.7W, at 0730, UTC, today after earlier sending a distress alert. A search is under way for the crew.

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1120, UTC: Fishing Siempre Casina: One crewman was rescued but the other eight have lost their lives and are still in the capsized vessel.

SILVA (Cambodia)

Esbjerg, Feb 22 — General cargo Silva is still in port at Esbjerg. — Lloyd's Agents.

SKEENA QUEEN (Canada)

London, Feb 22 — Ro/ro Skeena Queen (2652 gt, built 1997) reported a

leak and taking on water near the doppler log transducer at the Fulford Harbour terminal Feb 20.

SPETSES (Greece)

Istanbul, Feb 20 — On Feb 19, in dense fog, crude oil tanker Spetses (80637 gt, built 1996), Novorossiysk for Mohammedia, with 143,000 tonnes of oil, came into minor contact with general cargo Cassiope (2406 gt, built 1968), loaded with scrap, at the entrance of the Bosphorus Straits, from the Black Sea. Both vessels are presently anchored at Kilyos anchorage awaiting the necessary formalities. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Spetses sailed from Novorossiysk on Feb 17 bound for Mohammedia.)

London, Feb 23 — Crude oil tanker Spetses, Novorossiysk for Mohammedia, passed Istanbul 1140, Feb 21.

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

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: The city of Rochester will learn tomorrow whether it has any competition to buy passenger ro/ro Spirit of Ontario I at next week's foreclosure auction. Even though many companies have inspected the vessel in advance of the sale, no one so far has produced the required \$2.25 million deposit to pre-qualify as an official bidder and participate in the auction. The deadline to make the payment with the US Marshals Service is tomorrow. Today is a federal holiday, leaving tomorrow as the last day for any serious bidders to step up. The auction will be next Monday (Feb 28). City officials, who want to buy the private vessel and resume the high-speed ferry service to Toronto as a publicly run operation, received a waiver from US Magistrate Judge Jonathan Feldman last week and don't have to put down a deposit. They hope that another serious bidder doesn't step forward, but they fully expect someone will because of strong interest in the shipping industry. Istanbul Fast Ferries Co. of Turkey and American Sealift LLC, a company controlled by J.F. Lehman & Co. of New York City, have expressed an interest in buying the vessel. Feldman has ordered that the vessel be sold at an auction to help repay creditors. Since the shutdown, Rochester officials announced plans to try to buy the vessel. The city will use a loan of as much as \$40 million from the Export Finance and Insurance Corp., an arm of the Australian government, to purchase the vessel and restart the service. "I am hopeful that we will get that boat," said Councilman Benjamin Douglas, president of the Rochester Ferry Co., the limited liability company created by the city to buy the vessel.

Troy, Michigan, Feb 23 — Rochester's plans to buy the idled high-speed passenger ro/ro Spirit of Ontario I took a big step closer to reality this week when no one else put down a deposit by Tuesday's (Feb 22) deadline that would signal an intent to buy the vessel. The city plans to step in and

buy the vessel at auction next Monday (Feb 28). The ferry ran between Rochester and Toronto for nearly three months last year before its private operator shut it down because of financial problems. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

SPIRIT OF TASMANIA III (Australia)

Melbourne, Feb 18 — Passenger ro/ro Spirit of Tasmania III: The fire did not interrupt the vessel's schedule and repairs have been carried out. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUN ACE (Cambodia)

Yokohama, Feb 22 — General cargo Sun Ace (496 gt, built 1990), Kure for Higashi-Harima, and chemical/oil carrier Kyokuyo Maru (697 gt, built 1987), Matsuyama for Kure, were in collision 860 metres and 178 deg from Ono lighthouse, Hiroshima, at 0740, local time, Feb 7. Sun Ace sustained holing and denting damage. Kyokuyo Maru sustained cracking and scratching damage. No personal injury or oil spill was observed. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUOMENLINNA II (Finland)

Helsinki, Feb 22 — Passenger Suomenlinna II returned to service at 1300, local time, today. The vessel has been out of order since mid December. The Finnish Maritime Administration has stated that the steering of the vessel requires more attention and the owners have educated the staff accordingly, as well as fixed the technical flaws to the steering. The route the vessel has returned to is the intended one, Helsinki city centre/Suomenlinna island. — Lloyd's Agents.

SVEAFJELL (Norway)

Trondheim, Feb 21 — General cargo Sveafjell is still at Kvernhusvik Shipyard. — Lloyd's Agents.

SWING (Netherlands)

Le Havre, Feb 18 — General cargo Swing has completed provisional repairs and will be departing from Le Havre at 1030, this morning. Vessel will proceed to Rotterdam, where it will enter a shipyard for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 22 — General cargo Swing arrived Rotterdam 0355, Feb 19, from Le Havre to carry out repairs.

TAI PAN I (Panama)

London, Feb 19 — General cargo Tai Pan I, which was towed into Cape Town Oct 24 for crankshaft repairs, has now completed same and returned to service. Vessel was subsequently reported arriving Bandar Abbas Feb 10 and sailing same day.

TAUTAI II

See "Tropical Cyclone 'Olaf'" under "Weather & Navigation."

TONE (Faroe Islands)

London, Feb 18 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1130, UTC: General cargo Tone (736 gt, built 1970)

ran aground off Grenaa in lat 56 24.9N, long 10 56.05E at 1615, UTC, yesterday. No pollution or injuries. Vessel is aground on sand and not understood to be damaged. Vessel remains aground. (Note — Tone sailed Grenaa Feb 17.)

London, Feb 19 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0850, UTC: General cargo Tone was refloated with tug assistance at 1527, UTC, yesterday and is now at Grenaa.

TOR SCANDIA (Sweden)

London, Feb 19 — Ro/ro/c.c. Tor Scandia, which contacted quay at Brevik Feb 2, has completed repairs in the interim period and is now in service. Vessel was last reported arriving Ghent Feb 17 from Gothenburg and sailing Feb 18 for Gothenburg.

TRIJATA (Singapore)

London, Feb 23 — A press release from P.T. Berlian Laju Tanker Tbk, owners of crude oil tanker Trijata, dated Feb 21 states: Trijata has successfully transferred its cargo to crude oil tanker Front Target on Feb 20. Vessel is now proceeding for repairs. The crew remains safe and well.

ULLA

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Spain will next month remove general cargo Ulla, loaded with waste from Spanish power stations that sank in September off the coast of southern Turkey, the Turkish environment minister said. The vessel has been rusting off the Turkish coast since February 2000 with a load of 2,200 tons of ash from coal-fired power stations in Spain, after Algeria — its original destination — refused to take the cargo. Discussions with Spain about the dilapidated vessel were nearly completed, the minister, Osman Pepe, told the news agency Anatolia. "The Ulla will be taken away from Turkey during the month of March," Pepe said. The vessel was carrying a cargo from the Spanish firm Larfarge Ashland SA, part of the French cement group LaFarge. Pepe also said LaFarge would pay for removing the vessel, which is expected to cost about 1.5 million dollars. Turkish officials have closed off the surrounding area and conducted regular tests for any leaks of the toxic cargo, enough to contaminate more than 300,000 tons of water.

UNION GEM (Isle of Man)

London, Feb 18 — General cargo Union Gem was reported arriving at Chatham on Feb 17.

UNION PEARL (Barbados)

London, Feb 23 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1021, UTC: General cargo Union Pearl (2230 gt, built 1990), Gydnia for Cork, cargo 3,298 tonnes coal, had engine failure, probably its supercharger and drifting in lat 49

59.9N, long 05 52.2W at 0932, UTC, today. Tug/supply Anglian Princess tasked.

London, Feb 23 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1055, UTC: General cargo Union Pearl: Tug/supply Anglian Princess is due on scene between 1300 and 1315 hrs. The intention is for Anglian Princess to tow Union Pearl to Falmouth where expected to arrive approximately 1900 hrs.

London, Feb 24 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 2340, UTC, Feb 23: General cargo Union Pearl arrived Falmouth at 2130, UTC, in tow of tug/supply Anglian Princess. The tow has been transferred to harbour tugs.

Falmouth, Feb 24 — General cargo Union Pearl arrived Falmouth with engine problems, in tow of Anglian Princess at 2345, Feb 23. Vessel handed over to two harbour tugs and berthed at Duchy Wharf at 0045, today to effect repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

VERITAS VIKING (Norway)

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated Feb 23, states: Veritas DGC Inc said today that seismographic research Veritas Viking, that lost power on Jan 18 as it was acquiring seismic data in the Gulf of Mexico, is back in service. Veritas Viking returned to acquiring multi-client seismic data this morning. No one was injured last month when smoke filled the engine-room of the vessel, which lost propulsion after emergency systems shut down the engines because of the smoke.

VICUNA (Chile)

Santos, Feb 24 — Following received from Sub-agents Paranagua: The salvage company is now cutting the poop deck of chemical/oil carrier Vicuna, then removing the other two pieces of the midship. The damaged Cattalini Pier has been inspected to verify extension of damages. — Lloyd's Agents.

VINCENZO FLORIO (Italy)

Palermo, Feb 22 — Ro/ro Vincenzo Florio is still at Palermo Shipyard and there is no plan for its release. — Lloyd's Agents.

WASA QUEEN (Panama)

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro Wasa Queen, rescued two men after a collision with a small boat (cargo M21097Y) off Cape Collinson, Chai Wan, at 0700 yesterday. One of the men was treated at a hospital and discharged.

WILLIAMSBURG (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 19 — A press report, dated Feb 18, states: A problem with one of the vessels in Virginia's Jamestown-Scotland ferry fleet has transportation officials warning of delays for the immediate future. Ferry Williamsburg (837 gt, built 1983) was removed from service yesterday after maintenance crews detected unusual

vibrations coming from the boat, said a spokeswoman for the Virginia Department of Transportation, which operates the free ferry service. Drivers should expect 30-minute delays until the problem is fixed. The spokeswoman said VDOT hoped to fix the problem in "a couple days at most." The ferry service will have to put ferry Virginia, the oldest in the fleet, into a primary position until the Williamsburg is fixed. The spokeswoman said VDOT would stick to its regular schedule but expects the half-hour delays because of the smaller size of the Virginia.

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated Feb 19, states: Transportation officials have identified the problem that took ferry Williamsburg out of the Jamestown-Scotland ferry service rotation Thursday (Feb 17). The ferry needed a clutch replaced and the Virginia Department of Transportation, which runs the ferries, expected to have it fixed by Monday at the latest, said spokeswoman Tiffany Elliott. The ferries continue to run on their regular schedule but drivers should expect delays of about 30 minutes until the Williamsburg is back in service.

YAIZA (Panama)

London, Feb 23 — Ref Yaiza arrived Abidjan Feb 18 from Tema.

ZHE HAI 308 (China)

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated Feb 20, states: The search for seven Chinese sailors missing after general cargo Zhe Hai 308 (4830 gt, built 1982) sank in the Beibu Gulf, also known as the Gulf of Tonking, early yesterday morning, is still continuing, rescuers said today. A source with the Nanhai Salvage Bureau of the Ministry of Communications said two salvage vessels and one helicopter had been dispatched to search for the missing sailors in the area around the accident site. Sixteen of the vessel's crew were rescued. The vessel, carrying 5,415.04 tons of rolled steel, was heading for Vietnam from Jintang Harbour, north China, when it suddenly went missing early yesterday morning. The second mate, who was among the rescued crew, said that the vessel began listing to one side at around 0400 yesterday, probably due to shifting cargo, and quickly sank at about 0500 hrs. He said 16 of the 23 abandoned the vessel into the only liferaft. The 16 sailors were found and rescued at 2325 yesterday.

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: Sixteen sailors rescued from sunken general cargo Zhe Hai 308 arrived at Haikou in China's southernmost island province of Hainan yesterday. Four were slightly injured. Rescue efforts continue for seven other sailors still missing. On arrival at Haikou port yesterday, the four injured sailors were sent to hospital for treatment. The other 12 are working with the maritime department on investigating

the accident. The vessel, carrying 5,415 tons of steel billets, was heading for Vietnam from Jintang Harbour, in North China's Hebei province, when it sank near the Beibu Gulf early on Saturday morning (Feb 19). The 23 crew members escaped in lifeboats. Sixteen were rescued late Saturday night by another vessel, after drifting for 17 hours, but the other seven sailors, including the master, remain missing. Three vessels and one helicopter have searched 9,400 square kilometres of sea area after the vessel sank but they have found no sign of the missing seven. An official of the Hainan Maritime Affairs Bureau has asked passing vessels to help rescue efforts by looking out for the missing sailors.

ZHONG HANG 908 (China)

See Nan Sha No.38.



GIBRALTAR

Gibraltar, Feb 23 — C.c. Melfi Italia II (9528 gt, built 2003) arrived in port at 0950, today and has been detained (preventative detention only) by port surveyors. Vessel has a defect on the rudder stock and securing arrangement. — Lloyd's Agents.



B&E TRES (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 22 — General cargo B&E Tres has been moved from the Philippine Naval base of Sangley Point in Cavite, to Pier 10, North Harbour Terminal, in Manila. The vessel was seized by the Philippine Navy on Feb 4, on suspicion that it was engaged in the smuggling of illegally cut lumber. The vessel was brought to Sangley Point naval base where it was held until custody was transferred to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Feb 9. DENR Forester Arnold Arboleda, the team leader handling the case, said that based on investigations, the documents of B&E Tres were in order. The vessel's cargo of 3,335 cubic metres of processed lawaan (a type of Philippine hardwood) has already been released to its consignee - Luzon Mahogany Timber Inc. He said that since B&E Tres did not break any laws, his office has recommended the release of the vessel as well. He did not say, however, when the vessel would be allowed to leave. The vessel, at the North Harbour terminal, is being guarded by Philippine Coast Guard and Philippine Ports Authority

personnel. B&E Tres is owned and operated by Cebu-based B&E Sea Transport Corp. The vessel was built in 1970 by Japanese shipbuilder Shenyamamoto Shipbuilding Co. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

BUNGA ANGERIK (Malaysia)

Maassluis, Feb 19 — Chem.tank Bunga Anggerik sailed Rotterdam Feb 18 for Suez. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

CHICH MAN 1 (Taiwan)

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: Taiwan fishing Chich Man 1 allegedly poaching in the South Atlantic has been arrested by the Argentine Coast Guard after intimidating fire. According to Argentine sources the 35-crew jigger was detected operating in the Isla Rasa area, 199 miles offshore Comodoro Rivadavia, and refused to stop engines when approached by a Coast Guard vessel. Primary reports indicate that Chich Man 1 was transporting 3,700 boxes of 12.5 kilos each of frozen squid, plus another 68 of fresh squid stored on deck. When the vessel instead of obeying orders tried to flee the Argentine Coast Guard vessel fired intimidating shots. It was then boarded by a party of Argentine sailors and is currently being escorted to Comodoro Rivadavia where the master will face charges of illegal fishing.

CONDOR (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 22 — Criminal charges have been filed against the shipowner and 18 officers and crew of Philippine-registered cargo vessel Condor for carrying illegally cut logs. The charges were filed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) which has custody of the vessel. Condor is detained at the Philippine Navy, Naval Forces Central Visayas Headquarters at Lapu-Lapu City in central Philippines. Condor was carrying 200,000 board feet of illegally cut lumber from Davao City to Cebu when it was intercepted by a Philippine Navy patrol boat on Jan 24. Custody of the vessel was later transferred from the Philippine Navy to the DENR. The DENR, however, has asked the Navy to continue holding the vessel for the duration of the trial. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ENDEAVOR II (Greece)

Karachi, Feb 22 — Sindh High Court has received a highest offer of USD 7.011 million from a foreign buyer Kanika Marine Ltd, for the purchase of crude oil tanker Endeavor II, which is under arrest at Karachi Port. The sale proceedings are expected to be deposited in a local court as a guarantee until the compensation case is resolved. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

JEWEL

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Piraeus, Feb 23 — Product tanker Jewel remains under arrest at Piraeus. Prospects for release unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

KAWKAB (Egypt)

London, Feb 21 — General cargo Farah-3, ex Kawkab, sailed Rijeka Feb 16.

LANGOSTA VERMELHA (Brazil)

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: A Uruguayan Navy patrol vessel used intimidating fire to arrest fishing Langosta Vermelha, one of two Brazilian fishing vessels caught poaching in Uruguayan waters last week. According to naval reports an air patrol detected the two Brazilian vessels operating 10 miles inside Uruguay's EEZ and 40 miles offshore. When the Brazilian vessels realised a Uruguayan naval patrol was heading for their position, they abandoned nets and other fishing gear and fled northeast towards neighbouring Brazilian waters. They further ignored orders to stop engines so the Uruguayan patrol fired two intimidating shots. However Langosta Vermelha, in spite of the shots, tried to ram the Uruguayan patrol which then threatened to open fire directly to the fishing vessel. They finally turned the engines off and a party from the Uruguayan Navy boarded the fishing vessel where they found several tons of fresh fish and evidence of illegal fishing. But the distraction allowed the second vessel, Costa Vermelha to escape arrest. Langosta Vermelha was escorted to La Paloma where the master and crew will be facing trial for illegal fishing.

OCEAN BOOMER (Panama)

Gibraltar, Feb 21 — Oceanographic research Ocean Boomer is still under arrest and the Admiralty Marshall has confirmed vessel is up for sale. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORESTES (Panama)

Bari, Feb 4 — Passenger ro/ro Orestes is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

SANTORINI SKY (Greece)

Piraeus, Feb 23 — Ro/ro Santorini Sky was not sold and a new auction is set for Mar 16. The vessel remains at Perama port, Piraeus. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUSHMITA 1 (Philippines)

See Veedol

SUSHMITA 2 (Philippines)

See Veedol

VEEDOL (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 24 — The Philippine Bureau of Customs has filed smuggling charges against the owners and crews of non specific tankers Veedol, Sushmita 1 and Sushmita 2 before a Cebu court in central Philippines. The Bureau of Customs has issued warrants of seizure and detention against the three local coastal tankers and their crews. The vessels and cargo are now under the custody of the Bureau of Customs at Ouano Wharf in Labogon, Mandaue City, Cebu province. The crew members are out on bail. The three

vessels were supposed to be transporting sludge, bunker oil and used oil from Caranasa Island in Leyte in central Philippines to Mandaue city. When the vessels arrived at Mandaue City on Feb 7, Bureau of Customs inspectors discovered their cargo to be crude oil. Officials suspect that the three tankers had offloaded crude oil from a foreign-registered tanker which was anchored off Mandaue City. The crude oil was then brought into Ouano Wharf without paying the corresponding duties and sold to local petroleum distributors. Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) records showed that Veedol is owned by Epitacio San Pablo of Tabaco, Albay in southern Luzon island. The Bureau of Customs said that Sushmita 1 and Sushmita 2 are owned by Jewelry Shipping Services. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

VINCENZO FLORIO (Italy)

See under "Marine."

VINDEMIA (Malta)

Limassol, Feb 24 — Product tanker Vindemia (2361 gt, built 1979) which arrived Limassol Feb 19 from Genoa, has been under detention since Feb 22 by the Dept of Merchant Shipping. — Lloyd's Agents.



CARROLLTON AREA, KENTUCKY RIVER, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The severity of the pipeline rupture that dumped crude oil into the Kentucky and Ohio rivers last month was underestimated by nearly 20,000 gallons. A comprehensive analysis now puts the estimate at more than 82,300 gallons. "It's fairly typical in this kind of accident for there to be an adjustment," said Jim Gipson, spokesman for Sunoco Logistics, majority owner of the pipeline's Tulsa, Okla.-based operator, Mid-Valley Pipeline Co. On Jan 26, a rupture in the underground pipeline near the bank of the Kentucky River sent oil spewing into the river for about ten minutes before operators noticed a drop in pressure and shut down the pipeline. It can carry up to 195,000 gallons a day from the Gulf Coast to refineries in Lima and Toledo, Ohio. The initial spill estimate was based on visual observation; the new estimate takes into account operational data that became available after the pipeline resumed normal operations Jan 30, Gipson said. The cleanup process wrapped up last week, when the last of the private contractors hired by Sunoco Logistics ended work on the Ohio River. They collected more than 61,740 gallons of oil. The remaining 20,000 gallons remain in

the Ohio River or were disposed of after being trapped on clean-up equipment, debris or shorelines, Gipson said. Some of it might also have evaporated, he said. The segment of pipeline that ruptured last month has been removed and sent to an independent laboratory for inspection under orders from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Pipeline Safety. Gipson still did not know the reason for the rupture. The company's district supervisor Mike Deahl was unavailable for comment. The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection cited the company earlier this month for violating state pollution laws. The five violations include pollution and degradation of surface waters and failure to report the spill immediately to state officials. The state can seek penalties of up to \$25,000 per day for each violation. Mid-Valley can present evidence of mitigating circumstances or contest the state's findings. Initially, officials with the Environmental Protection Agency feared the spill might contaminate Louisville's drinking water supply. However, the Louisville Water Company was able to treat the water as sheens of oil floated past the city's water supply intake on the Ohio. "It passed," said water company spokeswoman Barbara Crow. "Treatment stopped about a week ago." Officials say environmental impact has been minimal. Gipson said six geese and one beaver had been rehabilitated and released after encountering oil.



Pollution

KORBOUS, TUNISIA

See MSC Al Amine under "Marine."



Weather & Navigation

AFGHANISTAN

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A cold snap has claimed at least 267 lives in Afghanistan in the past month and thousands more people are thought to be stranded in remote areas. Public Health Minister Mohammad Amin Fatimie says many of the deaths are of children under the age of five, who are suffering from respiratory infections, pneumonia and whooping cough caused by the freezing conditions. "We can confirm some 105 people, mainly children, died of diseases throughout

the country in the past one month," Mr Fatimie said. At least 162 other people have died in avalanches, road accidents and collapsing mud-brick houses due to heavy snowfalls in the poverty-stricken rural areas. Mr Fatimie says that lives in 22 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, mainly in central, northern and north-eastern regions, are under threat from the coldest winter in Afghanistan for six years. Countryside areas are the worst hit and there are fears that more children and elderly people might have died in districts that remain cut off from aid.

AUSTRALIA

London, Feb 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency crews are cleaning up after wild storms buffeted eastern New South Wales. Sydney was the worst hit, with reports of hail stones the size of golf balls. The Ambulance Service says the severe weather caused 32 car accidents over two hours. A man was also struck by lightning at Bondi Beach. The State Emergency Service received more than 500 calls for assistance. Up to 62,000 homes have lost power. David Owen from the SES says there are delays on many roads north of Sydney due to fallen trees and powerlines "The State Emergency Service, the Rural Fire Service and the power services are working as quickly as possible to clear the trees and isolate the powerlines," he said. "We do ask people who are possibly still in their cars to be patient and not try to drive through areas where there are powerlines down."

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: The clean-up from the weekend's storms in New South Wales and north-west Victoria continues today. The New South Wales State Emergency Services says it received about 900 calls for help over the weekend. Most of those were on Saturday when heavy rain and strong winds caused flash flooding and brought down powerlines. The weather bureau says falls of about 50-mm were recorded in several suburbs in Sydney, including Avalon on the northern beaches, Homebush in the city's west, and Canterbury in the south-west. Rain has also fallen into the Warragamba catchment area. One of the worst storm-affected areas was the Hunter Valley, where big hail stones were reported to have fallen last night. SES Lower Hunter divisional controller Greg Perry says the worst hit area was Elderslie near Branxton, which bore the brunt of a hail storm. "According to one gentleman, a police officer, the hail was the size of golf balls graduating to cricket ball size," he said. "We had two crews go to Elderslie and whilst that was happening we had Lake Macquarie active - they had about 25 requests for assistance and we'll go back today to make sure that anybody who didn't report any damage, we can attend to their needs today." Meanwhile, horticulturists in north-west Victoria are counting the cost at more than \$1 million after a thunderstorm ripped

through the region late Saturday night. The storm crushed grapevine rows, flattened vegetable crops and destroyed sheds in a narrow path between Swan Hill and Mildura. Winegrape grower Brian Englefield says the 10 minutes of rain his property received has caused thousands of dollars damage.

INDIA AND PAKISTAN

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated Feb 20, states: Avalanches killed 16 people in Kashmir today and cut the Himalayan region off from the rest of India for a second day, stranding thousands of motorists on roads, officials said. A day earlier, two Hindu pilgrims died from exposure in the snowy, freezing weather. The storm cut road and telephone links with the Kashmir valley and shut the main airport in India's Jammu-Kashmir state. Power outages plunged large parts of the state into darkness. Landslides stranded 4,000 motorists and truckers on the main Jammu-Srinagar highway, the sole route to deliver goods into the Kashmir valley. Army soldiers recovered 10 bodies from houses buried by an avalanche in Loran village in south-west Kashmir, Jammu police said. Four men clearing a section of the 190-mile highway were killed when caught in an avalanche, said Manish Kumar, an official responsible for highways in the frontier areas. Two other people died when the roof of their house collapsed in Soura, a Srinagar suburb. Authorities yesterday halted a Hindu pilgrimage to a mountainous cave in Vaishnodevi in south-west Kashmir, after two pilgrims died from exposure. Most pilgrims making the journey on foot or on ponies were turned back, while others waited in Jammu for the weather to improve. Army soldiers rescued 37 villagers trapped in a village in Doda district, after their houses were submerged in snow and the village was cut off. State authorities declared an alert in Jammu-Kashmir yesterday, after the state was cut off from the rest of the country.

Srinagar, Feb 21 — Rescuers today dug out dozens of bodies buried by avalanches in Indian Kashmir, taking the death toll to 110 after the worst snows in two decades swept the Himalayan region. Most of the dead were villagers from southern Anantnag district, whose homes were slammed by walls of snow yesterday, police said. The bodies of four road workers killed by a separate avalanche on the main highway linking Kashmir with the outside world were found and two more workers are missing. "At least 200 people are missing in the avalanche-hit villages," Inspector General Javid Makhdomi told state-run Doordarshan TV. The state was snowed under for the fourth day, largely cut off from the rest of India with flights cancelled, roads blocked and power and phones disrupted. "The army has started moving into the village and will soon start rescue operations," army

spokesman Lieutenant Colonel V.K. Batra said of Sidhnag, in south Kashmir, where 10 people are dead and four missing. The army, which has a large presence in the heavily militarised state, said about 15 feet of snow had fallen on parts of the highway linking the Kashmir Valley with the winter capital, Jammu, in the south and troops were providing food and shelter to about 2,000 stranded travellers. — Reuters.

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Avalanches and slides triggered by heavy weekend snowfall in India's portion of Kashmir have killed at least 154 people and left 200 missing, an official said today. Much of the region remained cut off for a third straight day, blanketed under the heaviest snowfall in 15 years. At least 117 people were killed in avalanches that began yesterday night in a series of Kashmiri villages south of Srinagar, said police officer Imtiyaz Ahmed, who said the toll of the dead and missing remained incomplete. Elsewhere in the region, three separate landslides killed eight people, police said. "Because of heavy snow, we are unable to establish contact with most of the remote areas. The number of dead could increase as reports start to trickle in," said Khursheed Ganai, a senior administrator of Kashmir valley. At least 1,000 houses have been damaged in the region, which has received up to 15 feet of snow since Friday (Feb 18). Many road and air links to Jammu-Kashmir were severed, and Indian Air Force pilots were flying in fuel, milk and other necessities. Helicopters had dropped 440 pounds of rations in a tunnel along the Srinagar-Jammu highway, where more than 100 soldiers from the Indo-Tibetan Border Police have taken shelter, said an army spokesman, Col. D.K. Badola. Indian air force helicopters rescued 45 tourists who had been stranded for nearly a week in the Ladakh region, said Air Vice-Marshal S.K. Gehlaut.

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: Avalanches and extreme cold have killed at least 244 people in the divided Himalayan province of Kashmir, and about 150 others are missing on both sides, Indian and Pakistani officials said today. Heavy snow has gripped the region since last week, temperatures have dropped to -34 degrees and rescue workers are finding more bodies beneath the snow. Avalanches have closed roads throughout the region, cutting off Indian and Pakistani residents for the fifth straight day. Indians in one region were ordered to evacuate immediately. In Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, officials said at least 58 people had been killed by the freezing weather during the past two weeks, mostly by avalanches. In India-controlled Kashmir, at least 186 people have died since Friday (Feb 18) from the weather, and the Indian air force flew in food and fuel to the affected areas. India's top military commander in the

Kashmir valley ordered people living in the Pir Panjal mountains, south of Srinagar, where most avalanches have occurred, to immediately evacuate. The snow began falling in Indian Kashmir on Friday and the avalanches began Sunday night. Between Friday and Sunday, 41 people were killed. By yesterday, another 113 bodies were found. Another 32 were discovered today. In some areas, Indian army soldiers used explosives to trigger avalanches and pre-empt future slides, said Maj Gen Raj Mehta, India's top military commander in the Kashmir valley. About a dozen villages were buried by slides in the Pir Panjal mountain range. In Rang Munda, a village there, three people were killed today. At least 10 residents were missing from that village, Mehta said. In two nearby villages, rescue workers found 15 bodies as they began clearing away the snow today, said Aashiq Bukhari, senior superintendent of police. Police and soldiers found another 10 bodies today in the village of Ramsu, which was hit by an avalanche on Sunday night, said a police officer in Jammu, the state's other major city. At least 12 people were still missing in the village, which is about 60 miles south of Srinagar, the officer said. In Srinagar, restaurant workers found the bodies of four colleagues who were asphyxiated after leaving a coal fire burning in their room to keep warm as they slept. Soldiers rescued 58 people in several villages, and army helicopters dropped food packets and blankets for rescue workers to distribute to stranded residents, Mehta said. Weather officials expect the cold spell to continue for a few more days. "There will be snow or rain over the next few days but the worst is over," said G.K. Mohanty, director of the meteorological office in Srinagar. In Srinagar, the temperature dropped to -34 degrees today. The intense cold was aggravated by at least the fifth straight day of power outages in most parts of Srinagar city and the rest of the state. It will take up to 10 days to restore power to the Kashmir valley, said the state's chief engineer, Shaukat Wani.

INDONESIA

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: At least seven people were killed and up to 100 others were missing after a landslide in a slum near the Indonesian city of Bandung, south-east of Jakarta, early today, police and local officials said. The landslide was triggered by heavy rain and buried the shacks of more than 40 families living in a dumpsite west of Bandung. The city is about 200km kilometres south-east of Jakarta. "So far, we have found seven people dead while five other people were rescued alive but injured," Second Sergeant Sudrajat from the Batujajar subdistrict police post said. A local official at the Batujajar subdistrict office who only identified himself as Edi said an estimated 90 to 100 people were missing.

Jakarta, Feb 21 — Thirteen people have been killed and 139 are missing under rubble and mud after heavy rain caused a landslide near a garbage dump on the outskirts of the Indonesian city of Bandung, police said today. "So far we have 139 missing, 13 have been found dead and 29 injured," West Java police commissioner Rachmat Sudanto said. "Those who are missing are buried, and we are trying to find them. We still cannot tell how many of them are dead," he said. Police said heavy rains appeared to have brought down piles of garbage up to seven metres high from the dump, about a kilometre away from houses, which in turn triggered the landslide early this morning. "The heavy rain brought piles of garbage and prompted the landslide," detective Caca Supriatna said. Thick piles of black garbage mixed with dirt were blocking the road to two affected villages. Scores of police and soldiers were trying to clear a path to the villages with bulldozers. Rescuers feared the effects of more rain. "If it rains again tonight, there can be another landslide and things can get worse," Sudanto said. South of Bandung, more than 10,000 were evacuated as floods neared their homes, local radio said. Batujajar district is at the outskirts of Bandung in West Java, 140 km south-east of Jakarta. — Reuters.

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: The death toll from a landslide in Indonesia's West Java Province rose to 46 today with about 140 others still missing, a local government official said. "The number of those who are missing keeps increasing," said Endin Hendradin, the local head of the Welfare and Development Agency. The landslide triggered by heavy rains occurred in the early hours of Monday (Feb 21) in a hilly area of the Batujajar district, about 25 kilometres west of Bandung, which was being used as a garbage dump.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Feb 23 — Sulina Channel was closed at 1100, today, due to bad weather, wind north north-east Beaufort 6-7 (strong breeze- near gale), sea 5-6 feet. — Lloyd's Agents.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "OLAF"

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated today, states: tropical cyclone "Olaf", packing winds of up to 190 mph, passed within 60 miles of American Samoa's main island of Tutuila yesterday and then blew directly over a nearby group of smaller islands. Telephone service to the Manua Islands of Ta'u, Ofu and Olosega was interrupted and officials were waiting for reports of damage after the storm crossed the area. "Hurricane 'Olaf' has made a direct hit on American Samoa's Manua Islands and most people have weathered the storm," Kevin Vang, coordinator of the Australian-Pacific Centre for Emergency and Disaster Information, said today in Sydney.

"There are reports of widespread damage to buildings and infrastructure and about 1,000 people are still sheltered in the main high school and churches." Tutuila was not hit as hard as initially expected; the island's emergency operations centre received reports of two landslides and a few downed power lines but no immediate reports of property damage. Emergency shelters that were opened Tuesday (Feb 15) were closed again yesterday. The National Weather Service, however, had warned that the Manua Islands, which are also part of American Samoa, could be devastated by winds up to 140 mph, with higher gusts. The Manua Islands are home to about 2,000 people. "Olaf" had wind gusts up to 190 mph, making it a Category 5 storm, the most intense. The weather service said the storm generated destructive waves of 30 to 40 feet on the shores of all islands. Tulafono had declared a state of emergency Tuesday but ordered government workers to return to their jobs yesterday. Schools remained closed but teachers were told to report to prepare for resumption of classes today. Meanwhile, New Zealand and US planes scouring the South Pacific near Samoa today found three missing fishing boats and three people floating in the sea after "Olaf" battered the area. Samoa was spared most of the massive cyclone's destructive power when it suddenly changed track overnight to pass north of the island group. "We've just found three people in the water, so we've dropped a liferaft and communications equipment to them," New Zealand Rescue Co-ordination Centre spokesman Steve Corbett told National Radio. He said the trio were safe in the liferaft and rescuers were working "to get them to shore as soon as possible." Search and rescue operations were continuing today. The cyclone passed 50 miles to the north of Samoa, officials said. Prior to its change of track, the storm was heading directly toward the small nation, prompting it to declare a state of emergency. The islands suffered some damage from winds, heavy rain and pounding seas, and 15 people had been treated for minor injuries, said Poloma Komiti, deputy chairman of the nation's National Disaster Management Committee. After Samoa, "Olaf" was expected to head toward the southern Cook Islands. (See issue of Feb 18.)

London, Feb 18 — A Coast Guard Honolulu press release, dated Feb 17, states: Two Coast Guard aircraft and a polar icebreaking cutter are assisting New Zealand emergency personnel and the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency with crisis response following cyclone "Olaf's" destructive path through the South Pacific this week. "Olaf", a category five storm, rocked communities and fishing vessels in Samoa and American Samoa with wind gusts from 135 to 165 miles per hour and 30 to 40-foot seas Tuesday and yesterday. At the request of the New Zealand Rescue

Coordination Centre, a Coast Guard C-130 aircraft from Barbers Point, Hawaii, is searching for 68-foot fishing Samoan Boy (79 gt, built 1979) in the vicinity of Manu'a, an island just east of Pago Pago. Samoan Boy has seven people on board and has not been heard from for nearly 36 hours. The Barbers Point C-130 is also assisting in the search for two people missing from the fishing Tautai II, which sank with six crewmembers on board. The other four crewmembers were recovered by another fishing vessel that was in the area. Yesterday, the Barbers Point C-130 located fishing Princess Karlinna (62 gt, built 1978) after the vessel reported it was being battered by the storm after its steering system had malfunctioned. The aircraft's crew dropped life vests and other supplies to the Princess Karlinna's crew and remained in the area until a rescue vessel arrived on scene. A second C-130 aircraft, based in Elizabeth City, N.C., is expected to arrive in Pago Pago tomorrow to deliver FEMA response personnel and equipment to the islands to conduct post-storm surveys. The aircraft will also be available for search and rescue response. Coast Guard cutter Polar Star has been diverted to assist in search and rescue missions related to "Olaf". Polar Star, which travels with two HH-65 Dolphin rescue helicopters and flight crews, was heading home after a six-month deployment to Antarctica and is estimated to arrive in Manu'a Sunday.

London, Feb 18 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Olaf" was located near lat 21.2S, long 162.9W. The movement over the past six hours: 140 degs at 20 knots. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the eye being fixed by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 115 knots, gusts 140 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 25 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 120 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 110 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Feb 19, the centre is predicted to be near lat 26.4S, long 161.0W, with maximum sustained winds of 90 knots and gusts to 110 knots.

London, Feb 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Efforts to rescue two Samoan men missing since cyclone "Olaf" struck the region this week have been suspended. The men were amongst a crew of six on board fishing Samoan Boy, which capsized in the storm's powerful winds and 15-metre swells. Rescue Co-ordination Centre spokesman Lindsay Sturt says a Royal New Zealand Air Force Orion carried out unsuccessful searches for three days, north-east of Western Samoa. He says it is unlikely the men have survived the extreme weather conditions. However, if any new information comes to hand the search will be reactivated. A team of New Zealand telecommunications

technicians is heading to the cyclone ravaged Cook Islands. The group will help to restore power lines and telecommunications services that were battered by cyclone "Olaf", the third big storm to strike the region in ten days. Australia and France have also offered to help with the clean-up. Foreign Affairs Minister Phil Goff says New Zealand is expected to provide further assistance within the next ten days.

London, Feb 19 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone "Olaf" located near lat 28S, long 160.6W, at 0600, UTC. Movement past six hours 175 deg at 17 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds 65 knots with gusts to 80 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 35 nautical miles north-east and south-east and 25 nautical miles north-west and south-west. Radius of 34-knot winds 90 nautical miles north-east and north-west and 100 nautical miles south-east and south-west. At 0600, UTC, Feb 20, the centre is predicted to be near lat 33.4S, long 162.1W, maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots.

London, Feb 20 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone "Olaf" located near lat 33.5S, long 160.7W, at 0600, UTC. Movement past six hours 165 deg at 16 knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds 25 knots with gusts to 35 knots. Dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over water.

Honolulu, Feb 20 — Hurricane "Olaf" passed within 60 miles of the Manu'a Islands, American Samoa. There were no reports of deaths or injuries, but many of the houses were seriously damaged. Winds reached 160 mph with gusts to 190, and 30-40-foot waves were reported on the islands of Ta'u, Ofu and Olosega. Four people were rescued from a Samoan fishing vessel and two are still missing. In addition, a vessel with seven people on board is still missing. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency supplies are being shipped to the Manu'a Islands of American Samoa that have been devastated in a direct hit from Cyclone "Olaf." US President George W Bush has declared an emergency in the area where homes were destroyed, roads wiped out and up to 90 per cent of some crops flattened. The US Coast Guard icebreaker Polar Star has delivered tarpaulins, tents, generators, chainsaws, lanterns, water, first aid kits, and blankets to the islands, Ben Sili, Commander of the Emergency Operations Centre says. He says electricity supplies have been restored and water was back on although it had to be boiled, leaving many villagers drinking from coconuts off the felled trees. Five families had to be

evacuated from their homes, other houses lost their roofs. Crop damage was extensive in Ofu and Olosega, where it was estimated that more than 90 per cent of bananas, and breadfruits have been flattened by "Olaf".

UNITED STATES

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated Feb 20, states: Powerful thunderstorms hammered already-saturated Southern California with soaking rain and hail yesterday, flooding roads and homes, knocking out power to thousands of customers and raising the threat of mudslides. La Conchita, the coastal hamlet where 10 people were killed by a huge landslide last month, was a ghost town after the US Geological Survey warned that none of the roughly 150 remaining homes could be considered safe. In a year of record rainfall, the latest storms had soaked downtown Los Angeles with about two inches of rain since Thursday (Feb 17). The area has seen nearly three times the average rainfall this season, and periodic showers are expected for several more days throughout the state. "All of California's going to get a shot of rain in the next couple of days, but most of it will be from Santa Barbara south," said National Weather Service meteorologist Steve Anderson. The storm knocked out power to thousands of customers in the area, according to Southern California Edison and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The Red Cross opened an emergency shelter in Long Beach, where residents had to evacuate seven homes because of flooding, spokeswoman Margaret Madonna said. Amtrak cancelled its Los Angeles-to-Santa Barbara commuter rail service from Friday night through this afternoon because of mudslides in Moorpark. Mudslides also threatened homes in Culver City, in Los Angeles County, and in the Orange County cities of Mission Viejo and Anaheim, authorities said. During the early morning, authorities shut down a two-mile stretch of Interstate 5 for several hours through the City of Commerce, south of downtown Los Angeles, after it was flooded by a foot of water. Similar flooding was reported along the 710 Freeway in Long Beach. The weekend storm was expected to dump up to two feet of snow at higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada.

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated Feb 20, states: Light showers kept Southern California wet today as residents braced for yet another blast of the stormy weather that has caused flash flooding and knocked out power to thousands of homes and businesses. A fierce storm was expected to sweep through the region beginning early tomorrow. Forecasters predicted it would drench much of the area with two to four inches of rain before it moves on Wednesday (Feb 23). Foothill areas could get as much as 10 inches of rain, with elevations above 7,000 feet bracing for as much as three feet of snow. Further north, an inch of rain

was predicted in the San Francisco Bay area, with up to 18 inches of snow forecast for the Sierra Nevada mountain range, National Weather Service officials said. The current storm created a 40-foot wide sinkhole in Los Angeles' Sun Valley section that was 30 feet deep today, said Fire Department spokesman Melissa Kelley. The sinkhole damaged sewer lines and would take several weeks to repair, she said. The latest series of storms arrived on Friday, causing two days of scattered flooding, mudslides that blocked Amtrak service, and generating two small tornadoes that briefly touched down in San Diego County and Riverside County. The twisters broke windows, knocked over trees and downed power lines, but no major injuries were reported. Mudslides damaged homes in Laguna Beach. The storms knocked out power to more than 166,000 customers in Los Angeles County's South Bay area, which includes towns such as Torrance, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach, officials said. "Crews worked through the night," restoring service to many of the affected homes and businesses, Southern California Edison spokesman Gil Alexander said today. About 3,500 customers still had no power today in West Los Angeles.

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Multi-million-dollar homes collapsed and mudslides trapped residents in their homes as heavy rains that have claimed three lives pelted Los Angeles for the fifth straight day. Scores of people were evacuated from their homes as severe flooding overtook suburbs of the city, including the chic district of Bel Air where three luxury homes slid down a hillside. The swimming pool of one of the homes dramatically gave way, live on local television, and tumbled down a slope shortly after their residents were evacuated. As hailstones hit central Los Angeles, portions of nearby cities Hunting Beach, Long Beach and Glendale were turned into lakes, leaving homes drenched and caked in layers of mud as a storm system struck southern California, wreaking havoc across the region. Three deaths have been blamed on the storms, which have dumped but more than 19.5 centimetres on downtown Los Angeles between Thursday night and yesterday morning.

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: Waterlogged Californians braced for even more rain today as they struggled to recover from storms that have left at least nine people dead, triggered mudslides and tornadoes, and washed away roads and runways. In Ventura County, officials closed the small Santa Paula airport today after more than 155 feet of runway collapsed into the rushing Santa Clara River. Chunks of concrete continued to crumble into the water throughout the day. "We've lost nearly the entire west third of the airport," said Rowena Mason, president of the Santa Paula Airport Association. "This is millions and millions of dollars worth of damage." Forecasters said

another strong system expected early tomorrow could bring severe winds and drop an additional inch or more of rain on Southern California. A flash flood watch was in effect across much of Southern California today. A tornado warning was also issued for coastal areas. A waterspout was briefly seen in Santa Monica Bay, the NWS reported. Authorities said dozens of homes were evacuated or red-tagged because they threatened to collapse from sliding hillsides. Mudslides forced Amtrak officials to suspend train service north of Los Angeles to Santa Barbara at least through Thursday (Feb 24). Up to three feet of snow had fallen across much of the southern Sierra. Northern California also was hit by severe thunderstorms and hail. Trees were uprooted and roofs and fences damaged by two small tornadoes near Sacramento. Rain in Northern California tapered off on today, with only isolated showers expected by tomorrow, said Bob Benjamin, NWS forecaster. The wild weather came from a series of storms that began battering the state on Thursday (Feb 17), dumping 8.15 inches of rain in downtown Los Angeles. Mayor James Hahn asked Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to urge President Bush to issue a federal disaster declaration for the city, which could open the way for federal assistance. The mayor said damage exceeded \$10 million. In Oceanside, six homes already condemned due to a weakening hillside continued to inch further toward collapse, threatening several homes on a street below.

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Still more rain soaked Southern California today, giving Los Angeles its wettest year in more than a century, after collapsing hillsides crushed homes, oozing mud blocked highways and a surging river carried away part of an airport. The deaths of nine people had been blamed on the series of storms that started last week, including one man who was killed by a falling eucalyptus tree and a teenage girl crushed by rocks that crashed into her bedroom. While more rain fell overnight, the region is due for a break as the wet weather moves eastward, the National Weather Service said. The average yearly rainfall in Los Angeles is about 380 millimetres, but the total since only last Thursday (Feb 17) reached 232 mm as of this morning. The city's amount in the nearly eight months since Jul 1, when California begins its yearly rainfall measurements, reached 873mm - more than the annual average for Seattle. That's also the city's third wettest year on record. A stretch of about three kilometres of the Pacific Coast Highway leading into Malibu remained closed today because of mudslides and a huge boulder that threatened to roll onto the highway. Dozens of other roads in the region also were closed. Storms have caused \$52.5-million in damage to Los Angeles County roads and facilities since the beginning of this year. The county has spent \$9-million on repairs,

including \$500,000 since the weekend, officials said. Authorities said dozens of homes were evacuated or red-tagged - marked as uninhabitable - because they threatened to collapse from sliding hillsides. Others already had collapsed or lost backyard patios and swimming pools. Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn has asked Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to urge U.S. President George W. Bush to issue a federal disaster declaration for the city.

Earthquakes



AUSTRALIA

London, Feb 23 — A report, dated Feb 22, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 2314, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located in lat 65 66S, long 133 10 E, south of Australia, depth 10 km.

INDIA

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale has been recorded near the Andaman Islands in the India Ocean. The Hong Kong Observatory says the earthquake was recorded early today. The quake occurred at 0117, local time. The epicentre of the earthquake was near the Andaman Islands.

INDONESIA

London, Feb 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful offshore earthquake has struck Indonesia's eastern Sulawesi region. The two-minute tremor had a magnitude of 6.5, according to the US Geological Survey. No injuries have been reported but officials said sea water levels had risen by up to four metres. Jakarta's El Shinta radio said people had fled their homes in the town of Bau Bau, south-east Sulawesi, in panic today, fearing another sea surge. However, officials told the station that there was no possibility of a tsunami from this tremor, centred about 70 km offshore to the west of Bau Bau. The US Geological Survey said the tremor just after 0800, local time, was 10 km beneath the seabed. However, a local meteorological official said the earthquake had been 37 km under the sea of Flores. There are no reports of casualties or damage at this stage.

London, Feb 19 — A press report, dated today, states: earthquake measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale rocked Indonesia's Sulawesi island today, causing the tide to rise and sparking fears of another tsunami. The undersea quake occurred at 0804 hrs, 1104, AEDT, with the epicentre 224 km south of Kendari, the capital of South-east Sulawesi province, Sutiono of the National Meteorology and

Geophysics Agency said. "There was a report of the quake causing the tide to rise between three and four metres but we haven't received information if there was any damage or casualties," Sutiono said. Elshinta radio said the walls of a government building were cracked by the quake.

IRAN

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 100 people have been killed and 5,000 injured in a strong earthquake in Iran's south-eastern Kerman province, according to the head of the local hospital. "A hundred bodies have been recovered from the rubble, there are 5,000 injured," the head of the Kerman university hospital, Ali Sharifi, told state radio. "But many villages have still not been reached by the rescue services and we think therefore that the toll could get a lot higher," he added. Television reports say the quake destroyed several villages. The US Geological Survey says the earthquake, which struck at 0555, local time, measured 6.4 on the Richter scale and was located 60 kilometres north-north-west of the city of Kerman. France's Strasbourg Observatory of Earth Sciences said the quake struck with a magnitude of 5.7 on the open-ended Richter scale.

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The powerful earthquake that hit central Iran caused an estimated \$80 million in damage, officials said today. Iranian Interior Minister Abdel Wahed Lari told the Iranian News Agency, IRNA, 50 villages were damaged in yesterday's quake "and the destruction varied between 20 and 100 percent." He said the death toll is expected to rise above 500 as rescue operations continued. The Iranian government has not appealed for any international aid or help.

Zarand, Feb 23 — Rescuers have pulled two women alive from the rubble of a mountain village in south-eastern Iran, along with dozens of corpses, as the death toll from yesterday's earthquake headed towards 550. Thousands of survivors of the magnitude 6.4 quake, many angry at the slow pace of relief efforts, faced another bleak night on freezing and rain-soaked slopes amid the mud and rubble that used to be their homes. Iran's government, which initially said it could cope without foreign assistance, changed tack and said it would take help from abroad. Iraj Sharifi, head of the medical university in the provincial capital Kerman, said 520 bodies had been identified so far. Interior Minister Abdolvahed Mousavi-Lari said the toll would probably reach 550. Other officials said it could be higher. "Fifty villages are badly damaged, four or five of which are 100% destroyed," he said during a tour of the area. Hampered by fog, snow and badly-damaged roads, soldiers and aid workers were making slow progress with rescue efforts. Unable to bring in

heavy machinery, rescuers used shovels and their bare hands to sift through the ruins. A few dozen angry villagers, some brandishing sticks and stones, had earlier confronted a convoy of official cars carrying the interior minister on his tour of the area. Despite earlier claims that it had no need of foreign assistance, Iran's government requested and received about \$180,000 worth of tents and blankets from Japan. — Reuters.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1133, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.9 event has been located in the New Britain region, Papua New Guinea, in lat 06 24S, long 150 55E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 39 km.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Countries hit by the Dec 26 tsumani should erect natural buffer zones along their coasts and rebuild in less exposed areas to protect against future calamities, a United Nations report says. The planting of trees, primarily mangroves, around denuded shorelines would lessen the impact of disasters like the Dec 26 tsunami which killed nearly 290,000 people around the Indian Ocean, according to the report. "Priority should be given to near-shore forest development as trees will help absorb the energy of future tsunamis, prevent coastal erosion due to rising sea levels and meet national objectives for reforestation and job creation," it said. The report, entitled "After The Tsunami - Rapid Environmental Assessment," was released at the annual meeting of UN Environment Program (UNEP) governors in Kenya. UNEP estimates that reconstruction and rehabilitation costs could top \$A12.6 billion and take as long as a decade to implement. As countries proceed, they must heed the long-term environmental lessons of the tsunami, particularly the consequences of ripping out mangrove swamps and the destruction of coral reefs that protect coastlines, it said. Indonesian Environment Minister Rachmand Witoelar told reporters that his country, where the tsunami killed more than 236,000 people, had learned a bitter lesson about the importance of mangroves. "In Indonesia, people who perished had built houses where mangrove were supposed to be," he said. "We will ensure that we return the mangrove in their natural habitat." In many parts of South-East Asia, mangroves have been systematically destroyed to make way for shrimp farms and beachfront development. In rebuilding destroyed housing and infrastructure, UNEP lamented a lack of best practice guidelines for construction to minimise damage from giant waves and said that such blueprints should be urgently drawn up. Meanwhile, it

suggested that countries enact strict building codes in coastal areas to keep construction away from sites known to be prone to high waves and flooding. The report noted that Sri Lanka, one of the hardest-hit countries, had already decided to establish a no-build zone up to 200 metres from the average high tide line. The report also suggests that the tourism industry, a vital source of revenue for many of the tsunami-affected countries' economies, should take the lead in locating hotels and resorts in less exposed areas. In addition to the immediate damage to lives and property caused by the tsunami, the report said the disaster had been compounded by the amount of debris and toxic substances it spread into marine eco-systems. The Maldives wants to move thousands of residents from low-lying islands as part of a massive rebuilding effort after the devastating Dec 26 tsunami. President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom says he wants foreign aid to get the job done. The Indian Ocean archipelago is made up of 1,192 tiny coral islands scattered some 850 kilometres. The tsunami killed 82 people and caused unprecedented destruction in the Maldives. President Gayoom says the country has already received \$US33 million in aid, mostly from Japan. He says that is only 10 per cent of the estimated \$US304 million needed for reconstruction.

Volcanic Activity



MOUNT ST. HELENS, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated Feb 23, states: Mount St. Helens has shown an upswing in volcanic activity over the past two days, US volcano scientists reported. Small collapses of hot rock from the south end of the lava dome — which is growing at a rate of about 15 feet per day — have sent several ash clouds upward and over the rim of the mile-wide crater, according to US Geological Survey scientists at Johnston Ridge Observatory, about five miles north-east of the volcano. At about 0300 yesterday, scientists said they detected a seismic signal and witnessed a bright glow inside the crater that persisted for about 15 minutes. The glow apparently resulted from the collapse of material at the top of the lava dome, which for that brief time exposed hot rock from deeper inside the mountain. The last major eruption at Mount St. Helens occurred in May, 1980, when the volcano lost nearly a quarter of a mile of its elevation. The latest activity, which began on Oct 11, is not expected to result in a comparable event, scientists said.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen stopped a car carrying two Afghan aid workers in the country's south before shooting them in the head, a senior official said today, a brutal slaying sure to set back the rebuilding of the war-stricken country. Health Minister Mohammed Amin Fatemi said that the sports-utility vehicle used by the two employees of medical relief group Ibn Sina had disappeared but said it was unclear whether militants or robbers carried out the attack. Fatemi said the two aid workers were forced from the vehicle in a desert area of Helmand's Sangin district, 220 miles southwest of Kabul, on their way to deliver medical supplies to several clinics in the province. "They were brutally murdered by the enemies of the Afghan nation," Fatemi said. The minister said the attack happened on Friday (Feb 18), though Helmand government spokesman Mohammed Wali thought it had occurred yesterday. Wali also said the identity of the attackers and the motive for the attack were unclear and that investigators had been dispatched to the area. Helmand is a former stronghold of the Taliban movement and has seen a steady string of attacks on aid workers as well as American and Afghan security forces partly blamed on followers of the ousted hardline militia.

ALBANIA

Bari, Feb 4 — Product tanker Ambar is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

COLOMBIA

Bogota, Feb 20 — Long dormant Marxist rebels killed six Colombian soldiers in two separate bomb attacks, detonating a mine field and a house packed with explosives, the army said today. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia activated mines which killed four members of an army patrol in a rural sector of the northwestern province of Antioquia yesterday night. Other members of the guerrilla army known as FARC blew up a house filled with explosives and killed two other troops at the other end of the country in Meta province today, the army said. The FARC have killed about 50 troops so far this month in a violent rebuttal of recent military claims they had been pushed into retreat by a defense build-up under President Alvaro Uribe. The rebels also blew up a gasoline pipeline in Tolima province, the authorities said. — Reuters.

INDIA

Guwahati, Feb 17 — Separatist guerrillas ambushed an Indian army

patrol in the restive northeastern state of Manipur, killing four soldiers, a military official said today. "This was the first major attack by militants on security forces since November," an army officer in Imphal, capital of Manipur, said. The ambush by insurgents, armed with automatic rifles, took place in Kumbhal village late yesterday. The army said it was not clear which militant group in the state was responsible for the latest attack. — Reuters.

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: At least one policeman was killed and 200 government workers were trapped after Islamic militants stormed the administrative headquarters of Indian Kashmir, police said. A police spokesman said "one or two militants" had sneaked into the fortified complex of government buildings in the Kashmir summer capital Srinagar on a suicide mission. The complex houses hundreds of government employees who oversee the civilian administration of the troubled Muslim-majority region.

INDONESIA

Banda Aceh, Feb 21 — Indonesia's military suffered a rare casualty when a soldier was killed in a clash with separatist rebels in restive Aceh province on the eve of another round of peace talks, the army said today. It said 20 Indonesian army (TNI) soldiers were ambushed by about 30 Free Aceh Movement (GAM) rebels yesterday while they were on their way to a bridge reconstruction site in Aceh Jaya regency on the west coast of the tsunami-wrecked province. The clash came a day before another round of peace talks in Helsinki aimed at ending three decades of violence and securing a lasting peace for the gas-rich province on the northern tip of Sumatra island. The military in Aceh said in a statement that seven other soldiers were wounded. The military statement gave no indication of rebel casualties from the Sunday clash. Its latest figures on GAM casualties say 131 were killed in January and February and 166 surrendered and 113 were arrested in the same period. — Reuters.

IRAQ

Jakarta, Feb 18 — Two Indonesian television journalists have been seized by Iraqi militants in the western city of Ramadi, a government spokesman in Jakarta said today. "We have received information ... from the owner of a car rented by two journalists from Metro TV that on Feb 15, their vehicle heading for Ramadi was halted by an armed group," foreign affairs spokesman Marty Natalegawa told reporters. "The car, driver and the two journalists have been taken to an unknown location. However, I will not use the word abduction yet," he told a news conference. Natalegawa said his office had been told by Metro TV, Indonesia's only 24-hour news broadcaster, that the journalists were in Iraq but had

not contacted their employer recently. "They said there were two staff assigned (in Iraq) whose whereabouts are now unknown," he said. Natalegawa did not give the names of the journalists. The journalists had rented a car from Amman, Natalegawa said. The car company reported a Jordanian driver had spoken to witnesses who saw the car being taken, he said. "The (witnesses) said they saw the vehicle entering Ramadi around 1300 hrs. It was stopped and taken away," he said. — Reuters.

Mosul, Feb 18 — Two U.S. soldiers were killed in separate attacks in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, the U.S. military said today. A car bomb exploded next to a U.S. army patrol yesterday, killing one soldier and wounding three, the military said in a statement. In a second attack yesterday, a soldier was shot dead in an exchange of fire with guerrillas. The deaths brought to 1,116 the number of U.S. troops killed in action since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Feb 18 — Suicide bombers killed at least 15 people in attacks on Shi'ite mosques in Baghdad today as thousands of Shi'ites — Iraq's majority Muslim sect — commemorated Ashura, the main event in their religious calendar. In the first attack, a man wearing an explosives-packed vest merged into a crowd near a mosque in the Doura district of southwestern Baghdad and blew himself up, survivors said. The blast killed 14 people and wounded at least 42. Soon afterwards, an explosion shook a second Shi'ite mosque in western Baghdad, the U.S. military and police sources said. Police initially blamed that blast on a mortar strike but later said two suicide bombers approached crowds outside the mosque. They were spotted by police, who shot both, but one still blew himself up, killing one person and wounding eight. The attacks came as thousands of Shi'ites marched through the city for Ashura in a show of strength a day after a Shi'ite alliance was confirmed as the winner of last month's historic election, handing the community power for the first time. Iraq's Electoral Commission announced yesterday that the main Shi'ite coalition, the United Iraqi Alliance, had secured 140 seats in the assembly, just enough for a slim majority. A Kurdish alliance came second and will have 75 seats, while a list headed by interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, a secular Shi'ite, will have 40. A two-thirds majority is needed in the assembly to decide the top government posts, a margin the Shi'ite alliance could secure if it allies with the Kurdish coalition. Intense talks have been going on for the past two weeks to determine who will take the top positions, with the Kurds widely expected to secure the presidency and the Shi'ite alliance expected to clinch the prime minister's post. But it is not clear who from the United Iraqi Alliance will be the preferred choice. The front runner is

Ibrahim al-Jaafari, a religious Shi'ite and leader of the Dawa Party who spent more than 20 years in exile in London and Iran. Ahmad Chalabi, another former exile and Pentagon favorite who was instrumental in making the case to the United States to go to war against Saddam, is also pushing his candidacy. Jaafari said yesterday he expected a decision in a couple of days. Many officials expect the announcement of the president, two vice-presidents and prime minister to be made together, while it could take longer to decide the ministries. — Reuters.

London, Feb 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Amid increased security, Shi'ite Muslims in Iraq marked their holiest day of the year today, one day after a wave of bloody attacks killed 36 people in the deadliest violence to hit this insurgent-wracked nation since the Jan 30 national elections. As hundreds of thousands of people converged on holy Shi'ite sites in the south, a car bomb exploded outside an Iraqi National Guard base in Baqouba, 35 miles north-east of Baghdad, killing one Iraqi guardsman and wounding another, police Col Muthafar Shahab said. The suicide bomber also died in the blast, he said. Another car bomb exploded at an Iraqi army checkpoint in Latifiya, 20 miles south of the capital, killing two Iraqi soldiers, an army officer said. In southern Baghdad, gunmen holed up in a building opened fire on a funeral procession in which mourners were carrying coffins of some of the dead killed yesterday in a bombing at the capital's al-Khadimain mosque, witnesses said. Iraqi National Guard troops guarding the procession foiled the attack, however, returning fire and capturing one of the assailants, said Sgt Ali Hussein. No casualties were reported. There were no immediate claims of responsibility for yesterday's blasts — three of them suicide attacks — in Baghdad and Iskandariyah, south of the capital. However, Shi'ites blamed radical Sunni Muslim insurgents, who have staged car bombs, shootings and kidnappings to try to destabilise Iraq's reconstruction. Yesterday's attacks on Shi'ites began with two suicide bombings outside mosques in predominantly Shi'ite neighbourhoods of Baghdad. The first explosion at the al-Khadimain mosque killed 15, while the second, at al-Bayaa, took 10 lives, an official at Baghdad's al-Yarmouk Hospital said. The al-Khadimain bombing occurred just outside the entrance to the mosque as people were still inside praying. The al-Bayaa attack also took place outside the mosque, as prayers were about to end. Another explosion hit a Shi'ite religious procession, killing two and injuring five, according to Iraqi police Lt Waed Hussein. A fourth attack, involving a suicide bomber, struck an Iraqi police and National Guard checkpoint in a Sunni neighbourhood, killing at least one policeman. Later yesterday, a car bomb exploded outside a Shi'ite

mosque in Iskandariyah, 30 miles south of the capital, where hundreds of people had gathered, killing eight people and wounding 10, doctors said.

Ramadi, Iraq, Feb 20 — US Marines and Iraqi troops set up checkpoints and imposed an 2000 to 0600 hrs curfew on the rebellious city of Ramadi today, part of a nationwide effort to restore order after last month's election. It was not clear if the troops of the 1st Marine expeditionary force and Iraqi soldiers, launching Operation River Blitz, would carry out a larger offensive on Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, which has essentially been in guerrilla hands for most of the past year. It is less than three months since a major Marines' offensive against the former rebel stronghold of Falluja, just east of Ramadi, which the US military took back from insurgents after three weeks of furious fighting. Iraq is in the process of trying to form a government after the Jan 30 election, which handed power to the country's 60% Shi'ite majority for the first time after decades of Sunni Muslim dominance. "Operation River Blitz is designed to target insurgents and terrorists who have attempted to destabilize the Anbar province by terrorising the populace through wanton acts of violence and intimidation," the US military said in a statement. "We were asked by the Iraqi government to increase our security operations in the city to locate, isolate and defeat anti-Iraqi forces and terrorists," said Major General Richard Natonski, commander of the 1st Marines expeditionary force. The operation follows a series of suicide bombings and other attacks on Shi'ite Muslims, killing at least 50 people, while they were marking Ashura, the most important day in the Shi'ite religious calendar. The attacks are believed to have been the work of Sunni Muslim militants determined to foment sectarian division among Iraqis and drive the country toward civil war. Ramadi — a city of several hundred thousand people — Falluja and the whole of Iraq's vast western Anbar province, which stretches to the borders with Jordan and Syria, have been a hotbed of the insurgency over the past 18 months. Natonski described the militants in Ramadi as "intent on preventing a peaceful transition of power between the interim Iraqi government and the Iraqi transitional government," which is now being formed following the election. — Reuters.

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A car bomb killed two people and wounded 14 in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul today, and a US soldier was killed in a separate bomb attack north of Baghdad, officials said. The violence came a day after Iraq's dominant Shi'ite political party chose Ibrahim al-Jaafari, the head of a religious party who fought Saddam Hussein and took refuge in Iran for a decade, as its candidate for prime minister - making him the

overwhelming favorite for the post. Today's car bomb took place in western Mosul, said Essam Youssef of the city's Jamhuri hospital, where some of the casualties were brought. It was not immediately clear what the target of the bomb was. Witnesses said no US or Iraqi forces in the area where the explosion took place. In a statement, the US military said two people were killed and 14 wounded in the attack, which it blamed on insurgents who "continue to disregard the safety of their fellow citizens during their attacks." Also in Mosul, US soldiers shot dead a civilian in a pickup truck who approached their convoy too closely as he was trying to pass it, policeman Ahmed Rashid said. Weary of car bombs, most US military vehicles carry signs warning drivers to keep away. Elsewhere, a soldier from the US Task Force Liberty was killed today when assailants set off the bomb near Tuz, 105 miles north of Baghdad, the military said in a statement. Earlier today, the military said a US Marine was killed in a non-hostile vehicle accident during military operations in Anbar province west of Baghdad, the US command said today.

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A man wearing a police uniform drove a car bomb into a parking lot inside police headquarters in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit today, setting off a massive explosion that killed at least 15 police officers and wounded 22, police and witnesses said. Police Capt. Hakim Mohammed, part of a force protecting Tikrit's main hospital, where most of the casualties were brought, said 15 people died and 22 were wounded.

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Iraq is able to resume oil exports through the Turkish port of Ceyhan from its northern fields around Kirkuk but no date has yet been set, an oil source said. "Pumping from Kirkuk wells to reservoirs in the Baiji region began yesterday," an oil source said today, referring to the refinery town that is the hub of Iraq's pipeline network. "The operation is set to accumulate large amounts of crude before pumping them through the main oil pipeline, with a capacity of 400,000 barrels per day, to the Ceyhan terminal. "Actual pumping towards Turkey depends on a political decision," the source said. Oil ministry spokesman Assem Jihad said: "No decision has yet been taken on this matter," adding that the pipeline network in the north faced continued sabotage by insurgents. A pipeline linking Kirkuk with Baiji was attacked yesterday, soon after it had been repaired after previous sabotage, causing a fire near the Sunni Arab insurgent stronghold of Hawija. A gas pipeline linking Kirkuk with power stations in the region was also hit by insurgents yesterday, Jihad said.

ISRAEL

Jerusalem, Feb 17 — Israel ordered a halt today to the demolition of Palestinian militants' family homes, a tactic decried internationally as

collective punishment but which the Jewish state had long argued deterred attacks. Israeli security sources said the decision followed a review that found the policy's efficacy against a revolt raging in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip since September 2000 was off-set by the violent resentment it spread among Palestinians. The turnaround was part of a truce declared by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at a Feb 8 peace summit in Egypt, officials on both sides said. "This is the result of the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings and the outcome of the Palestinian-Israeli talks," Abbas aide Nabil Abu Rdainah said. Israeli human rights group B'Tselem said the army had bulldozed or dynamited 675 Palestinian dwellings since the outbreak of violence, leaving 4,239 people homeless. — Reuters.

Betunia, West Bank, Feb 21 — Israel freed 500 Palestinian prisoners today in the largest mass release for nearly a decade, a gesture meant to bolster a cease-fire deal with new Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. However, many Palestinians say Abbas will need even larger prisoner releases to get the armed groups to formalise the cease-fire he agreed with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at a Feb 8 summit in Egypt. Israel holds about 8,000 prisoners. About half the prisoners freed today were from Fatah, Abbas's faction. The rest were from Islamic factions that are still weighing whether to agree formally to the cease-fire. Abbas's dominant Fatah movement further strengthened his hand by approving a new cabinet with loyalists in key posts. Major-General Nasser Yousef, who played a big role in a crackdown on Islamic militants in the 1990s, was named as interior minister. Former security chief Mohammed Dahlan, another strongman, will also become a cabinet minister. As Fatah has a two-thirds majority in the Palestinian Legislative Council, the government list should be passed later today. Palestinians moved a step closer yesterday to taking full control of the occupied Gaza Strip after Sharon's cabinet gave vital approval for a withdrawal from settlements under a plan touted as a possible springboard to peace negotiations. Sharon gave the order for evacuations to start on Jul 20. But while Palestinians welcome the Gaza withdrawal, they were angry at the cabinet's simultaneous decision to endorse a route for a barrier looping deep into the West Bank to take in major settlement blocs. Israel says the barrier is a vital security bulwark against any infiltrating Palestinian militants. — Reuters.

KENYA

Longonot, Feb 23 — Hundreds of people blocked a main road north-west of Kenya's capital Nairobi today to protest against the government's failure to stop sporadic ethnic clashes over land and water, witnesses said. At least 15 people have been killed

since the clashes began last month, pitting rival Kikuyu and Maasai groups against each other in a landscape of volcanic peaks and craters in the country's giant Rift Valley. The violence was the latest in a series of clashes between members of various Kenyan communities over land in the past few months, an explosive issue that President Mwai Kibaki's government has promised to address. — Reuters.

NEPAL

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated today, states: The authorities in Nepal have cut off all telephone lines again on a day of planned pro-democracy protests. The same move was made when King Gyanendra staged a royal coup two weeks ago for what the authorities said were security reasons. Meanwhile, the United States has said it may suspend military aid if the king does not restore power to an elected government soon. The US, European Union and India have recalled their envoys from Kathmandu. Major aid donors such as India, the US and the EU say they are reviewing their assistance to Nepal. On Tuesday (Feb 15), Denmark became the first country to suspend its aid programme.

Kathmandu, Feb 21 — Maoist rebels attacked a convoy on a key highway west of Nepal's capital and killed a truck driver, an army officer said today. The driver was killed yesterday when the rebels hurled crude bombs and fired at the convoy at Charaundi, 80 km west of Kathmandu, to enforce a blockade of roads linking the hill-ringed city with the rest of the country. "They fired at the convoy from the jungle along the highway," the army officer said. At least seven other people were injured in the first deadly attack on a convoy since the Maoists called the blockade nine days ago. The guerrillas are protesting against King Gyanendra's Feb 1 move to dismiss the democratic government. Army spokesman Brigadier General Dipak Gurung said more troops had been rushed to the site of Sunday's attack and highway patrols had been boosted. "We have definitely increased security along the highways and helicopters are providing air patrols," Gurung said. He said more than 200 vehicles had entered the capital yesterday carrying essential goods and petroleum products under army escorts — much less than on a normal day. Traffic on the landlocked nation's highways has come to a near halt as the guerrillas have set up road blocks and barricades to cut off supplies in their latest attempt to bolster their campaign for a communist republic. Residents in Nepalgunj, a business centre, said dozens of tankers loaded with petroleum products from India had been stranded because drivers were too scared to enter Nepal. The blockade sent prices of vegetables soaring in Kathmandu, but there was no sign of panic buying. Officials said they had enough stocks of petroleum products and essential goods, mainly supplied by India, for a month. — Reuters.

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Communist rebels set off a dozen bombs west of Nepal's capital, hitting schools, government buildings and a power station, while fighting with government forces in the east killed 12 guerrillas, police said today. At least three civilians were wounded in the explosions yesterday, police said. India, meanwhile, confirmed today that it halted all military aid to Nepal after King Gyanendra grabbed power Feb. 1 and imposed a state of emergency. "In view of the current disturbed conditions in Nepal, it is a fact that no military supplies have been delivered since Feb. 1," Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna told reporters. India, a key supplier of arms and military equipment to Nepal, harshly criticised Gyanendra for dismissing the government and suspending civil liberties. The rebels, fighting for nine years to replace Nepal's constitutional monarchy with communist rule, responded to Gyanendra's takeover with a blockade of the country's highways. They have set off crude bombs, laid obstructions and forced the army to shift its focus to protecting commuters rather than fighting the rebels. The rebels lost 12 fighters in a shootout yesterday when they attacked an army patrol near Dakaha village east of the Nepalese capital, Katmandu, a police officer said today on condition of anonymity. Soldiers fought the rebels for more than three hours, seizing weapons and ammunition from them, he said. The army reported no casualties. Separately, the rebels detonated several bombs before dawn on Monday in the town of Nepalgunj, about 500 kilometres west of Katmandu, hitting several government buildings, police officials in the area said today.

NIGERIA

See under "Kidnappings".

PHILIPPINES

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Hundreds of civilians are continuing to flee their homes in the southern Philippines, after 10 days of clashes between troops and Muslim rebels. About 25,000 villagers have now left the area, said provincial spokesman Sabri Asri. Yesterday soldiers took over the rebels' main camp near Panamao town, which was the scene of some of the fiercest gun battles. "The enemy is being routed," said President Gloria Arroyo today. She added that the "dragnet is closing in" on the perpetrators of three bomb attacks which hit the Philippines on Monday (Feb 14), leaving 12 people dead. Local militants the Abu Sayyaf - one of two rebel groups thought to have been involved in the Jolo clashes - has said it carried out the bombings. Despite a current lull in the fighting, residents near Panamao are still leaving the area, said provincial spokesman Sabri Asri. Five main evacuation centres have been set up, although most of the

people who have left the area are staying with relatives and friends, said social welfare officer Maydelyn Malli Badjin. Fighting started between the army and rebels on Feb 6, and appears to have been triggered by the army's entry into rebel territory following an ambush.

RUSSIA

Moscow, Feb 20 — Russian troops today used heavy weaponry and gas to kill three rebels holed up in a house in the town of Nalchik, some 120 km from Chechnya, local media reported. The rebels were besieged in an apartment block for more than a day, before dozens of special forces troops with armoured vehicles subdued them, leaving their apartment in flames. Police said the raid was the culmination of a three-day operation to break militant Islamic groups who have intensified attacks on Russian forces in the region of Kabardino-Balkariya over the last year. "Today we ended a well-organised special operation to destroy several terrorist groups that have prepared terrorist acts on Russian territory," said Deputy Interior Minister Arkady Yedelev in televised comments. RIA Novosti news agency quoted him as saying the attacking troops had pumped in tear gas before the storm. The battle, the latest in a series of firefights outside Chechnya itself in recent months, started in the early morning when the rebels refused to surrender after being surrounded yesterday morning. It was not clear who the rebels were, but Yedelev said Russian troops had detained five men before attacking the house. Rebel Website www.chechenpress.co.uk reported that they did not belong to an Islamist group called 'Yarmuk' which was the target of a similar attack from Russian forces in Nalchik last month, but referred to them as Muslim fighters. "They all belonged to a reactionary branch of Islam ... and were in the general structure of bandit groups headed by (Aslan) Maskhadov and (Shamil) Basayev," said Yedelev, referring to the Chechen rebel leaders blamed by Russia for militant attacks throughout the country. Maskhadov and Basayev say they are currently observing a ceasefire, and rebel Web sites carried no reports linking them to the killed militants. — Reuters.

Grozny, Russia, Feb 22 — Nine Russian soldiers died and three were injured near Chechnya's capital when a rebel-fired grenade brought down a building in which they were sheltering, officials said today. "The rebels attacked our base in the old factory, when a grenade knocked the wall down," said one officer as he stood next to the ruins of the disused building on the edge of Grozny. Troops had moved into the factory yesterday to spend the night there when they came under fire. Two rebels were killed before rebel fire toppled a support wall in the building. — Reuters.

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A month-long

ceasefire by Chechen separatist leaders ends today. The rebels' truce and call for peace talks has been dismissed by the Moscow-backed authorities in Grozny. They say clashes between rebel forces and government-backed troops have continued inside the republic. Russian President Vladimir Putin's stance is unchanged and he wants the militant crackdown to intensify. Last month, Aslan Maskhadov said his ceasefire call was a gesture of goodwill, to end a long, and bloody war. The former Chechen president said he wanted to negotiate so announced he had ordered a halt to all rebel attacks, but pro-Moscow forces inside Chechnya say the killing has continued. On Monday night (Feb 21), they say nine Russian soldiers died in an ambush, close to the Chechen capital Grozny but, unusually, no rebel group has claimed responsibility. As the deadline for negotiations ran out, security was increased nonetheless. Chechen officials say they cannot rule out the possibility rebel forces are regrouping and preparing further major attacks, but far from looking to peace talks, Moscow is only hardening its stance. President Putin was talking tough again this week, ordering his interior minister to continue targeting suspected militants across the North Caucasus. Moscow keeps repeating its claims the region is returning to normal. In fact, the violence appears to be spreading even further.

SOMALIA

Kakuma, Kenya, Feb 23 — The new Somali government should use its own militias to bring stability at home, instead of relying on African Union troops whose presence could invite attacks, a U.S. ambassador said today. William Bellamy, the U.S. ambassador to Kenya whose portfolio includes peace efforts in Somalia, said the Somali government should be able to secure its restive country with militias controlled by powerful former warlords in its ranks. Formed last year in the relative safety of Kenya, only some elements of the new Somali government have returned to their anarchic homeland. The cabinet's stated goal of returning home by Feb 21 passed with the fledgling administration still in Nairobi. The government, at the urging of President Abdullahi Yusuf, has asked for a combined force of 7,500 peacekeeping troops from AU and Arab League states. The AU has approved the deployment of troops from Djibouti, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia, but there is no timetable and growing doubts that it will happen.

SRI LANKA

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people have been killed and 11 seriously injured in a bomb blast at a court house in southern Sri Lanka, as former US presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton tour the region. A bomb ripped through the court in the town of Embilipitiya in the district of

Ratnapura as a magistrate began hearing cases listed for the day, police said. The town is about 75km from where Mr Bush and Mr Clinton were inspecting damage caused to Sri Lanka's coastal regions by December's tsunami. The blast could be linked to an ongoing court case, police said. A hospital reported that at least 11 people taken for treatment were in a critical condition. Mr Clinton and Mr Bush left the south of the island in mid-morning and headed for the capital Colombo after inspecting US-funded tsunami relief operations, police said.

SUDAN

Khartoum, Feb 20 — The Sudanese government said talks to end violence in Darfur would resume at the end of February, but rebels said they had not been told of the date and would need more time to prepare themselves for any talks. The rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) said a return to talks depended on the government creating a "conducive atmosphere", and that the African Union, which is sponsoring the talks, had not given it a date. SLM spokesman Adam Ali Shogar said today the government must within two weeks withdraw from areas it has captured since a much-violated ceasefire was signed and respect a no-fly zone before the rebels would consider a return to talks. The government said later today it had begun withdrawing from some of the areas. "We have not received any notification from the African Union (AU) regarding the restarting of the talks," the SLM spokesman said. "If the government delivers on its pledges and creates a conducive atmosphere then we will return to talks," he said. A statement issued after talks of the Joint Ceasefire Commission in Chad's capital N'Djamena between the rebels and the government on Thursday (Feb 17) said the two sides had committed to restart peace talks in Nigeria's capital Abuja and a Sudanese official said the government was working to create a "conducive atmosphere". "The government has complied with the Joint Ceasefire Commission's resolution that the government withdraws from all areas taken after Sep 8 and we have moved out of two of the four areas named," Dr Altijani Salih Fidail State Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told reporters. SLM Chairman Abdel Wahid Mohammed Ahmed Nour said the AU must also force the government to implement agreements signed in November on security and humanitarian issues for peace talks to have any meaning. He said the SLM also needed at least 20 days to prepare for any talks. Majzoub al-Khalifa, the head of the government negotiating delegation, said late yesterday the AU had told the government the peace talks would resume at the end of February. The United Nations on Friday (Feb 18) warned of a new threat of famine in Darfur, where rebels took up arms two years ago. It said as many as four million people

may soon be in desperate need of life-saving assistance. Aid workers, relief helicopters and food trucks were under fire from government forces, rebels and militia, the United Nations added. The Sudanese government called on the international community to exert pressure on rebel groups to resume talks. "We have respected the ceasefire — primarily for the safety of our own civilians — and grounded our military aircraft in a show of good faith," Khalifa added in a statement yesterday. The SLA last week said it had spotted a government military plane in northern Darfur. — Reuters.

THAILAND

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Thailand is grappling with an alarming escalation of violence in the Muslim-majority south after an unprecedented car bomb killed six people last night, just hours after Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra left the region. The bomb also injured 44 people, up to five critically, when it detonated inside a pickup truck parked next to a busy hotel in Sungai Kolok, a town on the Malaysian border. "One of the injured died this morning at Sungai Kolok hospital," taking the toll to six, a police officer in the town said. The attack was the deadliest single bombing in a campaign of violence that has gripped the Muslim-dominated deep south for the past 13 months and claimed about 600 lives. A small bomb exploded in neighbouring Yala province today, slightly injuring two soldiers assigned to provide protection for teachers, police said. Narathiwat governor Pracha Taerat said the pickup was laden with about 100kg of explosives and was detonated outside the Marina Hotel in an area crowded with open-air beer bars. The area, a scene of devastation after the blast which left a small crater in the road and knocked out power, was cordoned off as forensic officers pored over the site Friday to collect evidence, police said. Four cars, five motorcycles and a number of nearby shops, restaurants and bars were destroyed by the bomb, while the Marina Hotel, where a wedding party had gathered on the third floor at the time of the explosion, suffered considerable damage.

TOGO

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: Togo's National Assembly has voted to reverse constitutional changes that allowed President Gnassingbe Eyadema's son to take power when his father died. The army's installation of Faure Gnassingbe caused an outcry and West African leaders imposed sanctions. However, the Togolese MPs stopped short of asking Mr Faure to step down and his future as president remains unclear. The MP introducing the bill said the measure would ensure national serenity in Togo and restore international confidence. Mr Faure originally said he would serve his father's full term until 2008. He later

promised to hold presidential elections within months, but this was rejected as insufficient by the regional grouping, Ecowas, when it met on Saturday (Feb 19). The group imposed sanctions, including a travel ban on Togolese leaders and an arms embargo. The African Union backed the Ecowas stance. The European Union urged Togo to restore constitutional order and the United States announced it would end all military assistance. "We are reviewing all aspects of our relationship," state department spokesman Richard Boucher said. Under the original constitution - which was amended to legitimise Mr Faure's installation - the parliamentary speaker should hold the presidency pending the election. He remains overseas. The authorities say Mr Faure was installed to prevent a dangerous power vacuum. Togolese Foreign Minister Kokou Tozoun told Reuters news agency: "Can we be without a president for 60 days?" He added: "We prefer to have sanctions and be in peace and stability rather than descending towards civil war." On Saturday, opponents and supporters of the new leader held rival demonstrations. Both passed off peacefully. A week earlier, at least three people were killed when police opened fire during a protest. The opposition wants Mr Faure to stand down immediately. One of the main opposition parties has accused France - the former colonial power - of failing to use its influence to resolve the crisis. — Reuters.

UGANDA

Kampala, Feb 22 — The Ugandan government's latest unilateral ceasefire with northern rebels expired today, but a senior official said the government would continue to talk peace with fighters from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Internal Affairs Minister Ruhakana Rugunda, the government's top official at recent landmark meetings with the rebels, was travelling to Gulu, the epicentre of the 18-year-old war, for a meeting "in connection" with the peace process. "We are pursuing three elements: military operations will continue, rebels who want to surrender are welcome to do so, and we will also continue negotiations," he told Reuters. The geographically limited truce zone, announced by President Yoweri Museveni earlier this month, was aimed at building trust following the first face-to-face talks for a decade that took place deep in the bush in December. Efforts to end the war through dialogue were complicated by last week's surrender of top LRA negotiator "Brigadier" Sam Kolo. He was the most visible member of the cult-like group, and his position has now been filled by LRA deputy commander Vincent Otti, who analysts see as more of a hardliner. Government officials and Western diplomats still say the tentative, current contacts are the best chance yet to end one of Africa's most bitter conflicts. On a regional level, the

process has been boosted by a separate peace deal in neighbouring southern Sudan, where the LRA has often retreated to mountainous hideouts. The rebels, who move on foot in small groups and are notorious for targeting civilians, are also thought to have been weakened by Ugandan military raids last year — many of them on their camps across the border in Sudan. The International Crisis Group (ICG), a Brussels-based think-tank, said the conflict “may finally be amenable to resolution, but the next few weeks will be decisive”. It said Museveni’s government must make a concerted effort to push the peace process forward by extending the latest unilateral ceasefire for a month, and the LRA must demonstrate its desire for a peaceful resolution by negotiating seriously and concluding a definitive ceasefire. “The peace process needs greater outside support, including a special U.S. envoy and pressure on Sudan to end all backing for the LRA,” the ICG said in a statement. “If the international community provides focused, meaningful support, peace is achievable in 2005.” — Reuters.

Kampala, Feb 23 — Ten people, including a pregnant woman and two children, were killed by rebels in remote northern Uganda on the day a partial government ceasefire ended, a member of parliament said today. Betty Amongi, an MP for Apac district, told Reuters there were two attacks late yesterday night — one on a camp for people displaced by the war, and another on a village nearby. “The LRA (Lord’s Resistance Army) rebels attacked them after infiltrating south from Pader district,” she said. Amongi said another two people were killed late yesterday in a nearby village. — Reuters.

Kidnappings



NIGERIA

Warri, Feb 18 — Nigerian ethnic militants have kidnapped a Korean oil industry worker in what appears to be an extortion attempt, police and diplomatic sources said today. The victim was a supervisor for Daewoo Nigeria Limited, a subsidiary of the South Korean building company Daewoo Engineering and Construction Co Ltd, the sources said. Company officials were not available for comment. “It was a kidnapping by a new group to show their existence,” a diplomatic source said, adding that the militants from the Ijaw ethnic group in Bayelsa state were demanding money and contracts. The source said efforts were being made to secure the worker’s release. A police source said the kidnapping took place yesterday near the village of Ndiana, on the border between Bayelsa and

Rivers states. A spokesman for the Korean embassy declined to comment. — Reuters.

Labour Disputes



FRANCE

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Air France ground staff at Paris’s Orly airport voted to resume their strike after the suspension of a worker after the accidental death of a flight attendant, which could mean further travel delays. The French flag carrier said it would be able to operate 70 percent of its scheduled flights tomorrow from Orly, located south of Paris, despite the work stoppage. Of about 140 flights scheduled for today, Air France said between 70 and 75 would leave as planned, with domestic flights the hardest-hit. Long-haul flights to north Africa and the Caribbean were given priority for departure. Air France’s ground staff went on strike Friday (Feb 18) to protest the suspension of a tarmac worker after a flight attendant fell accidentally to her death from the top of a mobile stairway on February 1 as passengers were disembarking. Hundreds of passengers were left stranded by the weekend work stoppage at Orly, which coincided with the start of winter vacations for Parisian schoolchildren. Unions have demanded that the tarmac worker be reinstated and that a March 3 hearing about his possible firing for gross misconduct be cancelled. But Air France chairman Jean-Cyril Spinetta said yesterday he could not stop the disciplinary action. Airport police were continuing to investigate the circumstances of the accident. Air France workers were to meet early tomorrow to decide whether to stay on the job.

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A four-day strike by ground staff at Orly airport, in Paris, which caused severe disruption to flights over the weekend was called off today, unions said. The stoppage was launched on Friday (Feb 18) in protest against the suspension of a worker accused of failing to observe safety procedures in an incident that caused the death of a flight attendant. Management at Air France mobilised non-striking workers and had promised a return to normal today. The dispute began after the flight attendant accidentally fell to her death from the top of a mobile stairway as passengers were disembarking on Feb 1. The disciplined worker is believed to have moved the stairway too early. But strikers said the accident was caused indirectly by a policy of cost-cutting and quick turnarounds, and accused management of seeking a scapegoat. “This doesn’t mean our campaign is over. We are going to prepare other actions,” said Anne Giovanelli of the Sud union.

INDIA

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated today, states: The Madras High Court has restrained the workers of Chennai Container Terminal (CCTL) from going on strike or indulging in “go-slow” until further orders. The workers had begun a “go-slow” strike demanding reinstatement of four of their colleagues, suspended for indiscipline. They had also given notice for a strike from February 27 to press for their demand. CCTL is also permitted by the court to bring in contractors/outside operators to keep the terminal at full operational capability. CCTL sources said workers would be inducted from outside and normalcy would be restored within two days. CCTL suspended four more employees, pending enquiry, who were threatening workers who are not willing to support the stir. According to CCTL, four non-management staff, pending enquiry, were suspended for disrupting a management meeting. These employees instigated their co-workers to “go slow” in operations. Due to this, the rate of vessel operations dropped to less than half, to 8 moves per hour, causing great hardship to exporters. In the wage settlement signed by the non-management staff in August 2004, the employees had given an undertaking not to indulge in strike or go slow. “Their present actions are in violation of the agreement and the “go-slow” is deemed as an illegal strike,” CCTL officials said.

ITALIAN AIRLINE PERSONNEL

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Alitalia flight attendants went on a one-day strike today, forcing Italy’s flagship carrier to cancel 90 flights. The walkout was staged by one of several labour confederations representing the airline’s staff. The workers are in contract renewal negotiations. Alitalia said flight attendants would also continue their “sandwich strike” — refusing to serve in-flight snacks and beverages — until Feb 26. Today’s strike forced Alitalia to cancel 28 domestic flights, 50 European flights and 12 intercontinental flights. Earlier this month, a strike by workers belonging to the labour union Sult forced Alitalia to scrap 140 flights. An Alitalia spokeswoman said on condition of anonymity that negotiations were “going forward” with the group representing the flight attendants, as well as other unions. Italy’s La Repubblica daily said today that labour unrest could spread this week to several groups representing Alitalia workers.

SRI LANKA

Karachi, Feb 22 — United Alliance of Railway Trade Unions of Sri Lanka has called off the strike after getting a favourable solution for their demands from the Sri Lanka government yesterday. Earlier, rail services in the country were paralyzed due to a strike called by a trade union comprising of ten railway trade unions. The co-

convenor of the United Alliance of Railway Trade Unions, Sampath Rajitha told the local media that they decided to suspend their trade union action after getting government assurance. According to Transport Ministry sources Minister Perera has strongly protested against the trade union action launched by a section of railway workers on the date they were scheduled to resume train services from Matarara to Colombo after the restoration of the railway track, which was destroyed in the tsunami. According to Sampath Rajitha the Minister has agreed to repeal the circular cancelling three increments due for the railway workers at this discussion. The Ministry has also informed the trade unions that they would take appropriate action to add the Rs.2, 500 increased from the budget to their basic salary from April this year. A committee headed by Transport Deputy Minister Lasantha Alagiyawanna has been appointed to look into the other demands of the trade unions. The strike, which commenced from midnight Sunday (Feb 20) left thousands of commuters, especially school children and office workers travelling to Colombo from the out stations, stranded at bus stands and railway stations yesterday. Engine drivers, assistant drivers, railway shuntmen, point's men and technical assistants joined the strike on eight demands from Sunday midnight. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

UNITED STATES

See Fairweather under "Marine."



AIRCRAFT CRASH, TENNESSEE, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The families of two people killed when their employer's aircraft crashed near Medon in 2001 will receive more than \$9 million in a lawsuit settlement, their attorneys said yesterday. The aircraft, owned by Malden, Mo.-based Falcon Communications, crashed after reporting engine trouble and trying to make an emergency landing at McKellar-Sipes Regional Airport on June 3, 2001. All five people aboard were killed. They were the company's chief financial officer, Lisa Goessling, 38; her husband, David Goessling, 40, who was a consultant; Falcon engineer William Jones, 41; Falcon President and CEO Brian Provance, 44; and pilot Alan England, 47. Lisa Goessling's children will get almost \$5.35 million, and Jones' family will get almost \$3.9 million in the settlements, according to a press release from the law firm of Monsees, Miller, Mayer, Presley and Amick in Kansas City, Mo. A Jackson County, Mo., judge approved the final

stages of the settlements this month. The defendants' identities are not being released because some of the settlements are confidential, said Kirk Presley, one of the attorneys representing the plaintiffs. "The defendants can be collectively referred to as maintenance, inspection, repair and engine overhaul providers," Presley said in a phone interview. The aircraft, a six-passenger 1981 Piper Cheyenne IIXL, crashed because of a broken part called the propeller pitch control assembly bracket, Presley said. The bracket connects a cable to the propeller governor, which determines the propeller speed, he said. "The part had a fatigue crack that showed progression from both top and bottom," Presley added. "The final 10 percent of the metal finally gave way, and the pilot lost control of the propeller." The National Transportation Safety Board determined the part likely failed in flight, the press release said. "There really was no dispute that the bracket failed; the question was who was responsible," Presley said. The New Piper Corp., successor to the original Piper Aircraft Corp. that manufactured the aircraft and later filed bankruptcy, issued a maintenance alert after the crash, the press release said. The warning was distributed to all Cheyenne owners and those in the aircraft service and repair industry. It advised them to closely monitor the bracket and inspect it for signs of wear. "Our research revealed that this was the first, and hopefully given the maintenance alert, the last crash that was triggered by this type of failure," said Dexter, Mo., attorney C.H. Parsons Jr., who also represented the plaintiffs. The case was complicated because the families of Falcon employees could not sue the company or its pilot, Presley said. The law allows the families to collect workers' compensation benefits but not to file a civil suit, he said. They also couldn't sue Piper because of a federal law prohibiting suits against an airplane manufacturer or parts supplier if the part in question failed more than 18 years after its first sale date, he said. But Presley and Parsons are pursuing a separate civil suit on behalf of the family of David Goessling, the only victim who wasn't a Falcon employee. That suit is against Falcon and its pilot and is set for trial this summer.

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated Feb 19, states: A judge has ordered the Highline Water District to pay about \$4.2 million in damages to the owners of three fashionable homes on Three Tree Point in Burien that were inundated by mud after a water main ruptured. The district serves a population of about 65,000 residents, including areas of Kent, Des Moines, SeaTac, Tukwila, Burien, Normandy Park and Federal Way. Each of the five plaintiffs in the case were awarded \$500,000 for emotional

stress, anxiety and disruptions of their lives for months after their homes and yards were heavily damaged in December, 2001. King County Superior Court Judge James D. Cayce, after a nonjury trial, also directed the water district to compensate the homeowners for extensive repairs to restore their homes, yards, landscaping and outbuildings, as well as replace loss of personal property. The damage awards also covers the property owners' costs for the removal of tons of sand, dirt and debris that washed down a steep hillside after the water main failed. The homeowners also had to have a retaining wall built to protect their property. Matt Everett, general manager of the water district, said yesterday he could not comment on the case. "We're still in litigation and it is expected to be appealed," Everett said. Another hearing is set for Feb 24, when the judge will be asked to decide who pays the attorney fees. However, Brian Snure, the water district's attorney, did say the \$4.2 million in awards, if upheld on appeals, would not be passed along to district customers on their water bills. "All of this is covered by liability insurance," Snure said. The lawsuit sought compensation for damage to three homes on Three Tree Point in the 2400 block of Southwest 172nd Street. According to filings in King County Superior Court, the three homes are owned by Dr David W. Larson, a Burien dentist, Dr Holly L. Moore and Dr John Michael Moore, and Terrill G. Cain and Eleanor Fisk-Cain. According to the court rulings, Larson received about \$1 million; Cain and Fisk-Cain received a total of about \$1.62 million; and the Moores received a total of about \$1.55 million. The damage to the homes occurred when a six-inch water main on the hillside failed on Dec 16, 2001. A. Richard Maloney, the attorney for the homeowners, wrote in court filings that the homeowners called 911 immediately when they saw water flowing down the hillside. However, it was nearly two hours before water district crews were able to shut off the flow of water, which Maloney said dramatically increased the damage. "By the time the water was shut off, tens of thousands of gallons of water and many tons of earth flowed over, in and through Dr. Larson's property, surround and invading his real home and property," Maloney wrote. Larson's yard was covered with sand, rocks and dirt up to eight feet deep in some places. The three homes were immediately "red-tagged" by Burien city officials because the homes were no longer safe for occupancy. The water district denied earlier claims for damages and denied liability for the damages. The district's former manager said the landslide was an act of God that had broken the line and caused the damage. Maloney wrote in the case filings. The homeowners contend the district was negligent in continuing to use a water main installed in 1977 when they should

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have known it was prone to failure because of the possibility of landslides. In 1991, another water main on the same hillside about four blocks west of the three homes home failed, and in 1996 there were two landslides nearby.

LIBEL, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated Feb 19, states: A judge who said he was misquoted in a series of articles as telling lawyers that a 14-year-old rape victim should “get over it” has won a \$2.1 million libel case against the Boston Herald. Jurors deliberated for more than 20 hours over five days before finding yesterday that the newspaper and reporter David Wedge libeled Judge Ernest B. Murphy. Another reporter, Jules Crittenden, was cleared. The quote was included in a February, 2002, series of Herald articles that said Murphy had been criticised by prosecutors for lenient sentences, including eight years’ probation for a 17-year-old convicted of two rapes and an armed robbery. Murphy was bombarded with hate mail, death threats and calls for his removal from the bench. He sued the Herald and its writers, claiming his comments about the 14-year-old, made in a closed-door meeting with lawyers, were misquoted and taken out of context. “I’m feeling obviously very elated and very gratified about what’s happened so far,” Murphy said as he left court after the verdict was read. Later, Murphy said he hoped the verdict would be a warning to journalists around the country that innocent people get hurt if they don’t do their jobs properly. The Herald continued to stand by its reporting, saying it would appeal and that it would not change how it covers the news. The jury awarded damages on 22 of 61 statements Murphy claimed were libelous, including \$1.375 million for 11 separate occasions in which the “Tell her to get over it” quote was reported in some form in the paper, or repeated on a TV appearance by Wedge.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital and a doctor must pay almost \$5.3 million in damages to a woman who suffered injuries while giving birth in August 2001, a jury ruled yesterday. The woman, Sheri Boekhout, wept as the jury returned its verdict after deliberating about two days following a two-week trial in the 60th District Court. Her attorneys said during closing arguments that a vacuum extractor used to remove the baby from the womb caused severe lacerations, and one on the doctor’s inexperience in repairing the damage caused improper healing. Boekhout later developed a vaginal fistula, a type of abscess between two bodily organs or cavities. Multiple surgeries were needed to repair the injury.

NON-PAYMENT OF LAND FEE, CZECH REPUBLIC

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: Tesco has lost a seven-year legal battle in the Czech Republic that could wipe out its annual profits there and cost up to £50 million. In addition, the court battle against a local businessman has slowed Tesco’s expansion in the country. The company was ordered to pay £10 million this month, but is now being pursued for damages that could see that figure increase fivefold. Tesco started trading in the Czech Republic in 1996 after buying 13 stores from American firm K-Mart. The following year, developer Jiri Malik sold 40 hectares on the outskirts of Prague to Tesco for a planned superstore. However, the company withheld a quarter of the payment — about £2 million — because planning consent was refused. Malik said Tesco management squeezed him out of negotiations with the local authority and bungled the talks. In 1999, Tesco abandoned the scheme, but retained ownership of the empty land. Malik claimed he was crippled financially. Worse, he was liable for tax on the deal even though he had not received any money. Creditors secured court orders stopping him trading and preventing the sale of his assets. Malik said court authorities threatened to seize the flat that he shared with his wife, son, and daughter. “It caused enormous strain. I trusted Tesco and thought everything would work out correctly. I didn’t know it was the start of a seven-year battle with Tesco trying to destroy me.” In 1999, a judge ordered the supermarket chain to pay Malik the outstanding money. “It simply delayed paying,” claimed Malik, who fought much of the battle himself using law gleaned from books. “It thought that with its massive resources, it could just wait until I was under so much pressure that I would just collapse and give up the fight. But I decided that I was not going to let Tesco destroy me and my family.” A Tesco spokesman said: “The arbitration is now over”, and refused to comment further.

ROAD ACCIDENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A promising footballer who was left tetraplegic after a car crash spoke last night of his joy after being awarded £5million in damages. Alex Campbell, 21, said the award was a “massive relief” and meant that he and his family, which suffered another blow when his mother was diagnosed with lung cancer, could now face the future more positively. Mr Campbell was a passenger in his friend’s Peugeot car when it aquaplaned on the A120 near Elmstead Market three years ago. The pair had been returning from playing in a football match for their club, Frinton and Walton FC, when the car hit surface water and rolled over several times, crushing the roof on the

passenger side. Mr Campbell, who was 18 at the time of the crash, broke two bones in his neck and was told by doctors he would never walk again. Confined lifelong to a wheelchair and dependent on a team of carers, the former midfielder has been pursuing damages against his friend, Timothy Watson-Mitchell, whose insurers CIS have now agreed to pay a lump sum of £5m in an out-of-court settlement. The money will be paid into a trust to which Mr Campbell, of Thorpe Road, Kirby Cross, has no direct access, partly to ensure it lasts for the rest of his life and meets all his needs.



BALTIMORE, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A freight train derailment has shut down a key Baltimore rail tunnel. There are apparently no injuries. Last night, three cars in the middle of a 114-car freight bound from Philadelphia to South Carolina jumped the tracks. The cars were empty and stayed upright. C-S-X says the tunnel will be blocked for about a day.

BUNDEBERG AREA, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated Feb 19, states: Twenty passengers who were injured when the City of Townsville tilt train careered off the rails near Bundaberg last year are suing Queensland Rail for personal damages. Queensland Rail yesterday confirmed it had received 20 notices of claim for personal injury payouts. If the claims go to court, it is likely they will be combined into a class action against the State Government-owned corporation. Queensland Rail is assessing and processing the claims in accordance with the Act under which it operates. A preliminary report into the accident released on Wednesday (Feb 16) revealed the train was travelling at almost twice the speed limit for a corner when it crashed just before midnight on Nov 15. The accident injured more than 120 passengers and damaged the multimillion-dollar train. Nigel Munt, a partner at Trilby Misso Lawyers which has initiated the personal injury lawsuits, said the firm “continued to receive inquiries from passengers involved in the crash and assessments as to those claims are being undertaken”. “The claimants are seeking compensation for injuries which have resulted in pain and suffering, past and future loss of wages, payment of medical expenses, and care,” Mr Munt said. He said the amount of compensation would depend on the severity of injuries. “Those unlucky to have received permanent or severe injury can expect significant compensation,” he said. “We are

confident that most claims will settle out of court, as the question of liability would appear to be clear-cut. The final report of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau should clarify the circumstances of the accident and confirm our views on liability." Transport Minister Paul Lucas said passengers on the train had every right to take legal action. "When accidents happen, legal action is taken," Mr Lucas said. "They're totally within their rights." Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Employees state secretary Greg Smith said it was a matter for passengers if they believed they had grounds to lodge personal injury claims. "I suppose at the end of the day it will be up to the courts to determine the merits of the claim," he said. Mr Smith said the two train drivers, who have refused to give statements to police about the accident, would possibly be called to appear at a civil trial. Wednesday's report into the accident said the co-driver of the train, who reads out speed boards for the driver, had been making coffee at the time of the derailment. A Vigilance Control System on board the tilt train is also supposed to periodically test for driver alertness. The train was travelling at 112 kph when it jumped a bend meant to be taken at 60 kph. The Transport Safety Bureau interviewed the driver in January after he recovered from head injuries.

ELKO, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: State environmental officials are investigating damage to Big Creek caused by the clean-up after a Norfolk Southern train derailment in Houston County last November. Environmental Protection Division officials said a clean-up contractor compacted wrecked cars into the creek bed as a bridge to the accident scene. The National Transportation Safety Board has not determined the cause of the Nov 22 derailment, which turned 30 rail cars on their sides in an isolated area of Elko. The EPD is negotiating a consent order with the train company over the way the cargo, automobiles, was removed after spilling out of rail cars, said Kevin Chambers, EPD communications director. Norfolk Southern spokeswoman Susan Terpay said a contractor was hired to remove the vehicles, but she declined to name the company. Chambers said automobiles were dragged across the creek, destroying the stream buffer and scattering auto parts. Some of this debris was mashed into the ground and covered with soil, he said. The vehicles were filled with gasoline, antifreeze and other typical auto fluids. Chambers said the company removed most of the fluids that got into the creek using booms. However, the recovery crew apparently compacted cars into the creek bed to use as a bridge to the train tracks on the opposite bank, he said. "They drove over the tops of the autos, further damaging the creek and

risking further fluid spills," Chambers said. "The wreckage did not go into Big Creek until they put it there." Terpay said Norfolk Southern cannot discuss what happened during the clean-up because of ongoing negotiations with the EPD and concerns about potential litigation. At least one family who owns property next to the accident area said it is considering a lawsuit against Norfolk Southern for damage to the property during the recovery operation. The vehicles removed from the accident area were transported across the property of Charles and Kate Kezar, who own 800-900 acres and live there, said their attorney Ed Sell. "That was a pristine area, and what damaged the property was not the wreck itself but when Norfolk Southern removed 350 cars onto the property, crushed them on the property, then loaded them on trucks and took them away," Sell said. The cars were crushed in a six-acre soybean field the Kezars lease to a farmer, Sell said. He did not know how much crop damage had resulted. Sell said some of the wrecked cars were left in the field for two or three weeks. Although the automobiles have been removed, Terpay said some of the rail cars still remain at the derailment site.

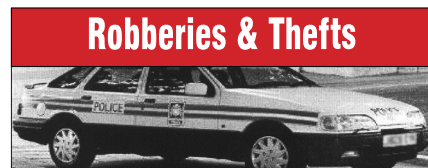
GULFPORT, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Traffic on Canal Road south of Interstate 10 in Gulfport, Texas, was rerouted most of yesterday after a dump truck collided with a train, injuring the truck driver and causing some train cars to derail. Authorities closed the busy two-lane road near the 28th Street separation shortly after the accident at 0745 hrs while environmental crews cleaned up fuel spilled from the truck and workers with the railroad moved the cars blocking the crossing. The railroad will replace the damaged tracks. The crossing reopened about 1700 hrs. David D. Corlat of Pass Christian, driving the truck owned by W.C. Fore Trucking, was taken to the hospital for minor injuries. No one on the Kansas City Southern train was hurt. Although the engine and three cars derailed, none of them overturned. However, the dump truck landed in a ditch. The railroad crossing signal, its lights still flashing, lay under the damaged truck. Earl Etheridge with the state Department of Environmental Quality said Corlat told investigators his vision was impaired as he approached the tracks because the sun was in his eyes. Corlat was heading south with a load of sand. The bells were ringing and the lights on the railroad crossing signal were flashing, Etheridge said. "By the time he had seen that light, it was too late," said the owner of the company. "They've got to move the flashing lights back where a person has a chance to move their vehicle." He said the light post sits too close to the tracks, which has no crossing gates. He added that the train,

traveling west to DuPont DeLisle, passes on those tracks only a few times a week. Harrison County Sheriff's Department and Gulfport Fire Department are investigating the incident.

NHAMATANDA DISTRICT, MOZAMBIQUE

London, Feb 22 — A report from LaSalle, PQ, states: A press report, dated Feb 18, states: A goods train belonging to the Beira Railway Company (CCFB), consisting of an engine and 15 wagons, derailed in the district of Nhamatanda, in the central Mozambican province of Sofala in the early hours of Wednesday (Feb 16). No casualties were reported, and CCFB has started an investigation to determine the cause of the accident. The train was travelling from the port of Beira to Machipanda, on the border with Zimbabwe. The chief of railway maintenance services, Arodlesh Kumar, said: "It happened at kilometre 62. The engine driver did not notice immediately that two of the 15 wagons were being dragged along off the rails for about 6.5 kilometres. Fortunately, nobody was injured". He added that "the goods were not stolen, because the accident occurred in a sparsely populated area and, and also the train had security staff, ready to respond to an attempt to steal the cargo". As a result of the accident, the Beira-Zimbabwe line remained unusable throughout most of Thursday. "We are working to repair the line, as quickly as possible. Workers repairing the line said that this was the third derailment in less than two months. "Derailments here happen all the time. Only with a complete repair of this stretch of the line will we be free of this situation", said one of the workers.



CASH, BANK, BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

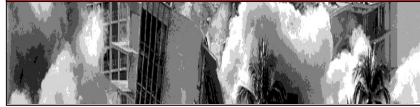
London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated Feb 20, states: Some of the money stolen in December during a Northern Ireland bank heist worth \$50 million was found in the restrooms of a Belfast country club run by police. Northern Ireland authorities said yesterday. Police said currency worth \$95,000 was abandoned on Friday (Feb 18) in five packages and discovered after an anonymous tipster called the police-complaints authority. In a statement, the Police Service of Northern Ireland said they suspected that whoever planted the money in the New Forge country club did so "in an effort to distract the police from investigating the Northern Bank robbery." A detective in Belfast said the money was unlikely to produce any leads in

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the hunt for the alleged IRA gang responsible for the Dec 20 heist, the biggest cash heist in history. In the neighbouring Republic of Ireland, more than 100 detectives spent a third day scouring piles of cash, financial records and computers seized in raids nationwide against suspected IRA money launderers. The swoops netted about \$4.75 million in cash, most of which was found in the County Cork home of private banker Ted Cunningham. He walked free from a Cork police station yesterday after two days' interrogation, but police said they were preparing a file of evidence against him to send to state prosecutors, a process that could take weeks. A Republic of Ireland detective involved in the raids said that police were close to confirming that at least one consignment of cash seized Wednesday night came from the raid on the Northern Bank. Most of the cash worth \$115,000 that was found in a house in the Douglas suburb of Cork City consisted of newly printed British bank notes bearing the Northern Bank's own design. They appeared to bear serial numbers matching those of stolen notes, he said. Such a confirmation would be the first public breakthrough for police since a well-organised gang took the families of two key Northern Bank employees hostage and forced them to clear out the bank's central vault. Since then, money-laundering authorities across Europe have been keeping an eye out for any large transactions involving British currency, particularly any bearing Northern Bank designs. About two-thirds of the money stolen was new Northern Bank notes. The Irish detective said investigators feared that some of the Northern Bank cash already may have been laundered in Bulgaria and Libya. So far, just one person has been charged. Don Bullman, 30, a chef, was arraigned on Friday on a charge of IRA membership after police allegedly caught him handing over currency worth more than \$100,000.

infected computers world-wide. Like the earlier e-mail worm, this latest version includes a 'Trojan Horse' that is activated as soon as an infected e-mail is opened. This new version also identifies and takes advantage of security holes opened by the previous MyDoom virus. The subject in the 'From' address in the virus-infected e-mail also changes, so it can look like someone you know passed the e-mail along, even though that computer may or may not be infected.

Miscellaneous



COLLAPSE OF RAMP, CALAIS, FRANCE

London, Feb 19 — A press report, dated Feb 18, states: Families returning from France after school half-term holidays could be in for long delays with the lack of ferry berths in Calais still causing disruption. Two berths at the port were closed 10 days ago after a cable snapped, leaving just two for P&O and SeaFrance services to and from Dover to use. P&O said it expected 50,000 passengers, many of them families with children, to try to return to Britain this weekend. SeaFrance said over 160 coaches and 1,000 cars were expected tomorrow. "Saturday is going to be extremely heavy with returning vacationers and Sunday will be very heavy with freight vehicles," SeaFrance spokeswoman Muriel Mironneau warned. P&O said only four out of six vessels are able to dock at Calais and warned travellers to expect continued disruption over the weekend. The company said it was preparing a multi-million pound compensation claim for the "unprecedented" problems. "We will concentrate on the operational matters at the moment — getting people away and getting sorted out — but the point will come where it is bound to be a compensation issue," said spokesman Brian Reece. Kent Police lifted Operation Stack on the M20 just before 2100, UTC, today, allowing lorries to move into Dover. During most of the day they had been parked on the motorway between junctions 11 and 12 coastbound. On the other side of the Channel, hundreds of trucks were backed up for more than three miles leading into Calais for much of the week.

London, Feb 20 — A press report, dated Feb 19, states: A ferry operator has said cross-Channel sailings have returned to normal after delays during the past week because of problems at Calais. P&O is running all six vessels between Dover and the French port. Two berths at Calais were closed after a cable snapped, leaving just two available for P&O and SeaFrance to use. Yesterday P&O said all berths were open and delays in France were "short." Families returning after half

term had been warned of disruption. P&O was expecting 50,000 passengers, many of them families with children, to try to return to Britain this weekend. The company has said it is preparing a multi-million pound compensation claim for the "unprecedented" problems. SeaFrance said over 160 coaches and 1,000 cars would be arriving in Kent. A week of disruption has led to hold-ups on the M20, with Operation Stack — where lorries travelling to Dover have to park on the coastbound motorway — implemented several times.

FLOODING OF ELLINGTON COLLIERY, NORTHUMBERLAND, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Pumps keeping millions of gallons of floodwater at bay at a Northumberland coalmine have been switched off. The decision by owners UK Coal spells the end of a union campaign to save Ellington Colliery - the north-east of England's last deep mine. Almost 350 workers will lose their jobs at the mine, which has been in operation for 90 years. UK Coal confirmed pumps which began trying to rid the mine of floodwater in January, were turned off yesterday. The company says it has pumped out more than 41 million gallons of water from the stricken pit since Jan 12. The National Union of Mineworkers accepted the move spelled the end of their campaign to save the pit. But chairman Ian Lavery insisted there were reserves still to be tapped. But a spokesman for UK Coal said safety concerns, coupled with the expense of recovering the remaining coal, meant the pit was not economically viable. Wansbeck MP Denis Murphy has tabled a commons motion accusing UK Coal of engineering the closure of the pit. His motion calls on UK Coal to continue pumping and to drain the face to establish once and for all the source of the water. Mr Murphy has already called for an inquiry into how UK Coal has used £100m given to it in public subsidies over recent years. A task force has been set up to look into how to deal with the closure and resulting job losses.

INFESTATION OF LOCUSTS, NORTH AND WEST AFRICA

Conakry, Feb 17 — Swarms of locusts have descended on western Guinea, threatening rice crops in the country, where price rises for the staple food triggered riots last year, officials said today. "We are observing swarms of locusts moving from the Fouta plateau towards the coastal zones, creating a major risk for rice production," the agriculture ministry said in a statement. The western zones of Guinea produce 32 percent of the 640,000 tonnes of rice produced annually. In recent months the price of rice has more than trebled in the West African nation, home to thousands of refugees from conflicts in neighbouring Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast. Last year, higher rice prices sparked riots in several towns

Computer Systems



MYDOOM

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: A variant of the MyDoom virus has been causing some problems in Japan and Europe and is spreading quickly. According to the computer virus protection company McAfee, reports of problems associated with the virus are doubling every hour. "Don't click on unexpected attachments. If someone's not specifically sending something that you're expecting - then don't open it. Just delete it," says McAfee A.V.E.R.T. team member Lysa Myers. Another variant of the MyDoom virus made big headlines this time last year when it

and people also hijacked rice trucks and looted them. Locusts "munched" their way across the semi-desert Sahel region south of the Sahara last year, in the most serious infestation in 15 years. They caused the worst damage in Mauritania, Niger and Mali. Experts had warned that the locusts could return to the Sahel this year, possibly in even greater numbers. Guinea's agriculture ministry said locusts arriving from neighbouring Guinea-Bissau reached the northwestern town of Boke two weeks ago. Some of the swarms were five kms wide and took two hours to fly past. "It is true that the problem is serious. The locusts currently in Guinea are consuming between 2,000 and 3,000 tonnes of vegetation per day," said Ari Toubo Ibrahim of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation in Guinea. "There is a training problem locally and a problem of materials to fight the locusts. The products which came from Senegal are not adapted to Guinea," he said. The agriculture ministry said several eastern and northern regions were also invaded by the crop-devouring locusts. In Guinea-Bissau, locusts invaded the capital Bissau last week, attacking mango and cashew trees as well as vegetable gardens and pushing prices up in local markets. People burnt tyres in the streets to try to battle the swarms. Authorities said last week, that the locusts had already destroyed 6,000 hectares of vegetation in Guinea-Bissau, one of the world's poorest nations. — Reuters.

OUTBREAK OF PLAGUE, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Geneva, Feb 18 — An outbreak of plague in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo has killed 61 diamond miners and infected hundreds more, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said today. Many of the 7,000 miners working in Zobia, north of the city of Kisangani, have fled since the outbreak began two months ago, and could have spread the highly contagious disease, the United Nations agency said. "The epidemiological data is still incomplete but we are sure there are at least 61 deaths. The main problem is that due to panic, maybe two-thirds of the population, ran away from the mine," Eric Bertherat, head of the WHO team, told reporters. "There is a risk that some patients in incubation run away and maybe arrive in Kisangani. So it is very important to inform health care workers to alert them of the risk of admission of highly-contagious patients," he said. Kisangani is Congo's third biggest city and a major trading centre on the Congo River. Plague, which is spread between rodents by fleas, can also be transmitted to people through infected rodent flea bites. It has a case-fatality rate of 50 percent to 60 percent among humans if not treated with antibiotics, WHO says. A 10-member WHO emergency team was leaving at the weekend with supplies of antibiotics to

try to stem the outbreak and ensure that health workers in the region isolate suspect cases. — Reuters.

OUTBREAK OF RABIES, GERMANY

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people have died in Germany after receiving organs from a donor infected with rabies. The donor was a 26-year-old woman who is thought to have spent time in India. The latest victim was a 70-year-old man who had a kidney transplant, a clinic at Hannoversch Muenden in northern Germany said. A woman who received a lung from the donor died at the weekend, while a third patient who received a pancreas and a kidney is seriously ill. However, three other recipients of organs from the donor have so far shown no signs of the disease. The donor herself died of a heart attack in December. The donor's lungs, cornea, kidneys, pancreas and liver were removed after her death and used for patients in several German regions. The German Organ Transplant Foundation said the woman had shown no clear symptoms for rabies, and her organs had been thoroughly tested for bacteria, viruses and tumours before the transplants.

Fires & Explosions



AMMUNITION DUMP, JUBA, SUDAN

Khartoum, Feb 23 — An explosion at an ammunition dump in a military training centre in the south Sudanese town of Juba killed 24 people today as artillery shells rained down on large parts of the town. An army statement said the blast was caused by a warehouse fire and said it did not believe "hostile action" was involved. Juba stayed in government hands throughout southern Sudan's two decades of civil war, with a large garrison to protect it from rebels. "The extreme rise in temperature led to the explosion of an ammunition dump in the city of Juba at 1230 hrs (0930, UTC) which led to the death of 24 people," a police statement released by the Interior Ministry said. The statement said five people were injured, but aid workers in Juba and another Sudanese official said the number of injured was 30 or more. "There are bodies that have been burnt to nothing. There's unexploded ordnance everywhere and almost half of the city has been blown up," said one aid worker. The police statement said explosions lasted for an hour and a half, burning an area known as the customs market in the west of the town and damaging several neighbourhoods and official offices. However, it said the situation was under control. General Abbas Abdel-Rahman al-Khalifa, Sudanese armed

forces spokesman, said in a statement that a fire had started in one of the live ammunition warehouses, leading to the blasts. "We consider it unlikely that this is the result of any hostile action," Khalifa said. One aid workers quoted witnesses as saying they had seen between 15 and 20 bodies. Another aid worker in Juba said there were between 30 and 70 wounded so far. Aid workers said mobile phone lines were down in the town because a mobile phone antenna had been damaged, making communication with residents in Juba difficult. A Sudanese official said the government council for co-ordination of the southern states was meeting in Khartoum to discuss relief efforts. The Sudan Radio Service said houses in the area were burnt to ashes and some shells fell in the offices of a charity organisation. Sources said army officers were speculating that the ammunition dump ignited accidentally because of a recent spell of hot weather and because of poor storage methods. — Reuters.

BAKERY, CARLISLE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated Feb 20, states: More than 70 firefighters spent all night dousing down a fire which broke out at a Carlisle bakery. Residents living near Rathbones bakery on the Durranhill Industrial estate in Carlisle were warned to stay indoors because of thick smoke. More than 14 fire crews were called out yesterday to tackle the blaze and it took them all night to control it. Fire Brigade Watch manager, Cliff Harding, said the cause of the fire is as yet unknown. Around 200 people work at the bakery and investigators are assessing the damage.

CLOTHES RECYCLING CENTRE, HAVERHILL, SUFFOLK, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 19 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 50 firefighters are tackling a large blaze at a recycling centre for used clothes in West Suffolk. Fire crews were called to the blaze at Homefield Industrial Estate in Haverhill early this morning. The centre housed several tonnes of used clothes, which are now thought to be fire-damaged. Assistant divisional fire officer Alistair Moseley said the blaze had now been contained but there were fears the building could collapse. It is not yet known how the blaze started, he added.

COAL MINE, SUNJIWAN, LIAONING PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll in China's worst reported mine disaster in decades rose today to 213, the government said. Rescuers are continuing to search for two missing miners still trapped underground, five days after the blast. China has kept a tight lid on the disaster, barring reporters from the mine site and the hospital where 29 injured were being

treated for carbon monoxide poisoning, burns and fractures. Beijing announced yesterday that the head of the country's work safety administration would head an investigation into the disaster. Workers said they felt a sudden, strong tremor - "like an earthquake" - shake the mine 10 minutes before the blast. Moments later, gas detectors lost their signals and one of the mine's main pits filled with smoke.

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The vice-governor of China's Liaoning province has been suspended in connection with last week's mine disaster, in which 214 miners died. Liu Guoqiang has been suspended until an investigation into the disaster is completed, state media reported. The accident, in China's north-eastern city of Fuxin, was the most deadly reported mining disaster since the Communist Party took power in 1949. Liu Guoqiang was in overall control of industrial safety in Fuxin when a gas blast 242 metres underground ripped through the Sunjiawan colliery, a statement said. The heads of the colliery and the regional Fuxin Mining Group will also face disciplinary action, China's Xinhua news agency reported without giving further details. Mr Liu's suspension was announced after Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao chaired a special State Council meeting called in the wake of the last week's blast. In addition to the suspensions, a specialist unit to deal with safety issues in the country's coal mines is to be established. It will work under the auspices of the State Administration for Work Safety, which will be upgraded by the government.

DEPARTMENT STORE, PUNJAB PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Feb 19 — A huge fire broke out in a privately-owned departmental store, H.Karim Buksh, in the Liberty market in Punjab Province, Pakistan, yesterday. As a consequence, a security guard was killed and goods worth million of rupees burnt. The fire broke out in the store's head office situated on the fifth floor of the Amber Shopping Centre adjacent to the store around 0530 hrs. The flames rapidly engulfed the store, spreading through from its fifth to its third floor. The cause of the fire is said to be a short-circuit. The flames suffocated security guard Zafar Iqbal, 45. Another employee, Zeeshan, 22, fell unconscious while trying to put out the flames. It took firefighters seven hours to extinguish the fire. Around 13 fire brigade units and more than 100 firefighters were deployed to put out the flames. Punjab Governor Khalid Maqbool, District Nazim Amir Mahmood and District Police Officer (DCO) Tariq Saleem Dogar also visited the scene. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

FACTORY, LONDONDERRY, NORTHERN IRELAND

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 80

firefighters have dealt with a large fire at a factory in County Londonderry. The blaze broke out at the Sperrin Metal's manufacturing facility in Draperstown at 2100, GMT, yesterday. It is understood one person collapsed and died at the scene but the death is not thought to have been caused by the fire. No one else was injured. Fire officer Ian Doyle said the man was one of 13 workers who left the plant safely when it was evacuated. Early indications were that the fire was started accidentally and that about 40% of the factory had been extensively damaged.

FORESTS, INDONESIA

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Haze from forest and ground fires that blanketed parts of Indonesia's Sumatra today reduced visibility in one of the island's cities to about 300 metres, a report said. Pollution index readings classified as unhealthy the air quality in Pekanbaru, the capital of Riau province, Khairul Zainal, head of the local environment office, was quoted as saying by the state Antara news agency. Riau governor Rusli Zainal said he was considering closing schools temporarily to prevent students from being exposed to the hazardous smoke. "We are still waiting for a recommendation from the provincial health office," he said. Such fires are often blamed on farmers and other landowners setting fire to scrubland and forest to clear them for cultivation, but the cause of today's fires was not immediately clear. Zainal said his office and the local government yesterday managed to put out fires that had razed 10,000 hectares of peat areas. Satellite images showed nearly 200 hotspots, each representing a fire, in one area, Zainal said. Flights from and to Pekanbaru airport were not disrupted even though visibility was as low as 300 metres early today, airport official Sabar Tarigan said. Officials handed out 2,000 masks to motorcycle users on Tuesday to protect people from the thick, choking fumes.

MARSHALLING YARD, CHENNAI, INDIA

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated Feb 23, states: Several tonnes of coal were burnt when a major fire engulfed the marshalling yard at the Chennai Port Trust late last night, fire and police sources said. The fire broke out in one corner of the yard and soon spread to heaps of coal stored in the vicinity, the sources said. There were no casualties, the sources said, adding that the cause of the fire was being investigated. The sources said ten fire tenders and an equal number of water lorries put out the fire after nearly seven hours.

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated Feb 23, states: A fire, which broke out in the marshalling yard of Chennai Port Trust raged for more than 12 hours since 2100 yesterday and destroyed a few thousand tonnes of coal, according to Port Trust

officials. "The fire broke out around 2100 last night and we have just received a message from port that the fire has been put out completely," sources in the Fire Service control room told News Today around 1230 today. The raging fire was brought to control by 10 fire tenders and water lorries after battling against the flames for several hours. Police said that there were no casualties, adding that the cause of the fire was not known. Unconfined reports indicate that the blaze started from a corner of the yard and soon spread to the coal loads stocked in the yard. A PTI report quoting Chennai Port Trust chairman K Suresh said around 40,000 tonnes of "poor quality and self-combustible coal" was stored in the yard of which between 5,000 and 10,000 tonnes were destroyed. The coal, meant for Karnataka Power Corporation had come from Paradip in Orissa, he said.

MILL, SHELF, HALIFAX, YORKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters were spending a second day at the scene of a blaze which gutted a mill building in Shelf near Halifax. At its height 112 firefighters tackled the fire at Clough Mills in Halifax Road. It started at car cleaning materials firm Decosol yesterday. The building contained 30,000 aerosol cans and 60,000 litres of ethanol. A number of homes had to be evacuated. Fire officer Martin Speed said it was "the fastest spreading fire" he had seen. Two walls of the three-storey building collapsed, puncturing a tank containing methylated spirit. Mr Speed said: "There were concerns throughout the incident about a number of tanks containing flammable liquid. Most of the mill has been destroyed by the fire "These had to be constantly cooled and one did split when a second wall collapsed. "There were also more than 30,000 aerosol canisters inside the mill as well as litres of ethanol which is piped through the building to make the aerosol gases." Nearby homes had to be evacuated and staff at a nearby car dealership had to quickly move around 60 cars which were in danger of being engulfed by flames. The remains of the mill will have to be demolished once investigations into what caused the blaze have been completed.

PREMISES, LAHORE, PAKISTAN

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A huge fire erupted in a commercial district of the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore, killing one person and gutting at least 400 shops, police said. "The fire, apparently triggered by an electric short circuit, set ablaze several makeshift stalls and later engulfed the main Bhindara plaza," senior police officer Tariq Zafar said. "The fire has destroyed some 400 shops," he said. The fire, in the city's popular commercial neighbourhood of Ichhra, has been brought under control and salvage work was under way.

PREMISES, READING, BERKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: Welding work has been blamed for a major fire that swept through shops and flats in a town centre last week. Inquiries revealed molten metal dripped onto timber in the roof of the building, which was being converted into apartments, in Reading, Berkshire. It took 100 firefighters several hours to bring the blaze, which broke out on Friday night (Feb 11), under control. Part of Oxford Road will stay shut until the end of the week while the site is made safe. A group of workmen had been in the building but escaped without injury.

PUBLIC HOUSE, TONBRIDGE, KENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: A fire at a 16th Century building in Kent was brought under control by more than 40 firefighters today. The blaze broke out at about 1030, UTC, at the Hilden Manor Inn in Tonbridge. Fire teams said it was thought the fire started in an electrical cupboard and spread to the ground and first floors, after which part of the roof collapsed. A spokesman said the pub was closed at the time of the fire and no-one was hurt.

TIMBER MILL, NORTH-EAST VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews are fighting a blaze at a timber mill in north-east Victoria. The fire engulfed more than half of a mill at the Benalla timber factory after workers were evacuated, Country Fire Authority region 23 operations manager Garry Cook said. Fire crews were called shortly after 1900, AEDT, and took almost two hours to control the blaze because of a lack of water supply, Mr Cook said. The cause of the fire had not been determined and crews were still at the scene, Mr Cook said.

WILDFIRE, CHILE

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Chilean authorities are chasing a Czech tourist who accidentally started a devastating fire in a national park for damages. The fire started Feb 17 after the tourist's stove overturned and spread fast, destroying more than 5,000 hectares of the Torres del Paine National Park and causing damage estimated at 100 million dollars. The fire has not yet been extinguished and 250 firefighters remain on scene.

WILDFIRE, TORRES DEL PAINE, CHILE

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The Chilean authorities are struggling to control a large fire in one of the most famous parks in the southern Patagonia region. Hundreds of firefighters, troops and forest rangers are trying to put out the blaze in the Torres del Paine, which has been fanned by

strong winds. It has destroyed more than 14,000 acres of the park since it began last week. The park is famous for its tower-like granite peaks, glaciers and wildlife. A Czech tourist started the fire - the worst there in two decades - by dropping a gas cooker when he was camping illegally and there is outrage that the 31-year-old man has been allowed to leave the country after paying a relatively small fine. Under Chilean law, he could only be fined a maximum of \$213 as he did not start the fire deliberately. This law applied even though he broke the rules of the park by using a gas burner outside an official camping area.

WILDFIRES, AUSTRALIA

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Tasmanian fire crews have contained a bushfire near Smithton in the state's north-west. About 150 hectares have been burnt since the blaze began early Sunday afternoon (Feb 20). Crews have gone home for the night and will patrol the fire later today with a forestry dozer. No homes are threatened.

WILDFIRES, MALAYSIA,

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire is sweeping through a massive forest reserve near Kuala Selangor and thick smoke is threatening to reach the KL International Airport, Putrajaya and many parts of Selangor and southern Perak. Firemen have been battling the bush fire at the Raja Muda Musa forest reserve over the past week and some 80sq km of the 44,488sq km virgin forest has been damaged. Firefighters were rushed into the area on Feb 15, when pockets of bushes surrounding the forest caught fire. Although they managed to put out the initial fire, the hot weather and strong winds caused the blaze to start again and it spread to a bigger area. Some 160 fire fighters from 20 fire stations and voluntary groups have been battling the fire daily from 0800 hrs to 1800 hrs.

**ACCIDENT AT ERANATOLI AIRPORT, INDONESIA**

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A Twin Otter aircraft skidded off a runway and hit a fence at Eranatoli airport while landing in Indonesia's easternmost Papua province today, leaving several on board slightly injured, police said. The turboprop Twin Otter was carrying 17 passengers and crew, police said. "The plane rammed the fence and one of its wings was broken," Private Januari told AFP, adding that several people on board were slightly injured. The aircraft,

belonging to the local government, was flying from Timika in the central highlands.

ACCIDENT, BEN-GURION AIRPORT, ISRAEL

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A serious accident was narrowly averted earlier this month when the wheel of an El Al Boeing 747-200 aircraft exploded on take-off, with its fragments causing a giant hole in the body of the aircraft. Aviation officials are investigating the incident, which took place at Ben-Gurion Airport shortly after take-off on Feb 2. A short while later, the pilot radioed that he had heard something bumping into the aircraft and that the fire-warning light had gone on and then off. Civil Aviation officials found bits of rubber on the runway. El Al decided to return the aircraft immediately to the airport and a state of emergency was declared, with rescue workers on alert alongside the runway. The aircraft landed safely even though its fuel tanks were still full. A check revealed, however, that a 1.5 metre hole had been torn in the undercarriage.

AIRCRAFT DELAYED DUE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS, TENERIFE AIRPORT

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated Feb 23, states: A group of holidaymakers landed at Nottingham East Midlands Airport late today after a 21-hour delay. A Britannia Airways flight was due to land at Nottingham East Midlands from Tenerife at 0040, GMT, today, but did not arrive until 2120, GMT. The airline, part of Thomson Holiday Group, said there was a technical problem with the aircraft. None of the engineers at the Tenerife airport could fix it so one had to be flown out from the UK. The airline has apologised after passengers had to wait almost a full day to get home. A statement released today by Britannia Airways said all the passengers were taken to a hotel, given food and a two-minute phone call. The company has apologised for the inconvenience caused by such a massive delay.

C-GZRG

London, Feb 23 — At 0915, CDT, on Feb 22, Cessna 172RG, C-GZRG took off from the Saskatoon airport. During the initial climb the engine (a Lycoming 0-360) began to run rough. The pilot applied carburettor heat and the engine then lost all power. The aircraft was landed within city limits on a snowmobile trail in the CN rail yard. The landing gear did not have time enough to fully extend. The pilot and one passenger were not injured and the aircraft sustained substantial damage. The pilot advised that there was a large oil slick on the side of the aircraft's cowling.

COLLISION IN MID-AIR, SOUTHERN GERMANY

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated Feb 20, states: Families of

victims who died in a mid-air collision in Swiss-controlled airspace over Germany in 2002 have filed a civil suit against Skyguide in Spain. The claim also demands that Bashkirian Airlines, which operated one of the two aircraft involved in the crash that killed 71 people, pay out damages to the families. The suit was expected and Skyguide, the Swiss air traffic control agency, was informed on Jan 27 according to spokeswoman Rosemarie Rotzetter. The claim is being made in the name of 27 families represented by American law firm Podhurt. Skyguide did not reveal how much the claimants were demanding, although it is believed to be significantly higher than earlier settlements. Some victims' families reached a settlement with Skyguide last June and will receive a six-figure dollar sum, thought to be around \$150,000. The air traffic control agency signed an agreement with the flight crew's families in November, 2003. The suit was filed in Barcelona, as Spain was the final destination of one of the aircraft, a Bashkirian Tupolev passenger jet. The other aircraft, a DHL cargo aircraft, was travelling from Italy to Belgium. The two aircraft collided in Skyguide-controlled airspace over southern Germany on Jul 1, 2002, near the town of Überlingen. The crash killed all those on board, including many children. A report from Germany's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau published last year partially blamed Swiss air traffic control, but it also said that the crash was caused primarily by human error. The report found that the controller gave the aircraft instructions to avoid a collision only 43 seconds before impact. It added that the crew of the Bashkirian Airlines passenger aircraft obeyed the controller's instruction to descend, but failed to listen to their on-board collision warning system, which advised them to climb. Skyguide came in for criticism for having only one controller in charge of air traffic surveillance at the time of the crash. The company has since admitted its responsibility for the chain of the events that led to the accident. Investigations in Switzerland and Germany are still under way.

CRASH, EASTERN TOWNSHIPS, QUEBEC, CANADA

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 22, states: Six American tourists were injured when their small aircraft crash-landed east of Montreal last night. According to reports, the runway lights were out as the aircraft made its final approach at Bromont Airport in the Eastern Townships. The aircraft touched down left of the runway and spun around twice before crashing to a stop. All on board were taken to a local hospital in the Eastern Townships. Five of the injuries were considered minor, while one person was seriously hurt. The aircraft, which belonged to Sky Aviation of Chicago, had been en route

from Montreal. Transport Canada is investigating the accident.

CRASH, FRINSTED, KENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: Fuel flooding into an engine has been pinpointed in an official report as the likely cause of a light aircraft crash which injured the pilot and co-pilot. The Piper Seneca was undergoing a flight to renew its Certificate of Airworthiness when the accident happened at Frinsted, Kent last July. The plane's owner, David Flashman of Forest Drive, Keston was co-pilot with the 66-year-old tester at the helm. The twin-engined plane had just taken off from Biggin Hill when it crashed. The Air Accidents Investigation Branch said thorough tests had been carried out on the ground. One engine was shut down to test for a single-engined climb and the aircraft behaved as expected, but problems began when the shut-down engine was restarted and the other engine was closed down for a similar test. About 45 seconds into the climb the second engine lost power and attempts to re-start the other were unsuccessful. The aircraft crash-landed into a cornfield and slid along the ground for 80ft before hitting a fence. The report says that all the correct procedures had been carried out before the incident and during attempts to regain power.

CRASH, LUBANG ISLAND, PHILIPPINES

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: Two people were killed when a twin-seater aircraft crashed off Lubang Island in the central Philippines today, Xinhua news agency reported. The accident occurred as the aircraft neared the vicinity of the island. One of the dead was identified as the pilot.

CRASH, MOUNT ST. HELENA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated Feb 18, states: Two people died when a twin-engine aircraft slammed into the side of Mount St. Helena, the Napa County Sheriff's Department reported. The wreckage, on the south face of the mountain, was spotted yesterday by a California Highway Patrol helicopter, said Napa County Sheriff's Captain Gene Lyerla. A paramedic was lowered to the remote crash site to confirm the victims, a man and a woman, were dead. Teams planned to recover the bodies on Friday. Lyerla said he didn't know if the aircraft was the same as the one reported missing earlier this week in the San Francisco Bay area.

CRASH, PUEBLO, COLORADO, UNITED STATES

See N500AT.

CRASH, WOBEGON, STAR MOUNTAINS, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Two New Zealand

pilots have died in a plane crash in western Papua New Guinea. The two men were flying a De Havilland DHC-6 (Twin Otter) aircraft with 11 people on board when it crashed near Wobegon in Star Mountains. The pilots were working for the Mission Aviation Fellowship. Mr Velvin, a spokesman for the fellowship, said the ten passengers and one other crew member on board the aircraft were not seriously hurt. They were all Papua New Guinea nationals, he said. TVNZ reported that the aircraft crashed as it approached an airstrip in bad weather. The crashed aircraft was based in the western area of Papua New Guinea.

EMERGENCY LANDING, COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Feb 20 — A BEA-103 single engined cargo aircraft of the privately-owned airline Best Aviation Limited, bound for Jessore carrying shrimp fries, made an emergency landing at Cox's Bazar Airport in Bangladesh Feb 19. It was reported that the aircraft lost its nose-wheel shortly after take-off from Cox's Bazar Airport. The pilot noticed the fault when it was crossing the Shah Amanat International Airport about 1305 hrs. However, the air traffic control reportedly did not allow the cargo aircraft for emergency landing at the Shah Amanat International Airport as the airport was awaiting a number of domestic and international flights within an hour. Subsequently, the aircraft flew back to Cox's Bazar Airport and landed outside the runway. The nose of the aircraft sustained major damage. Four crew of the aircraft survived unhurt. Civil Aviation officials and the firefighters rescued the damaged aircraft. It has been temporarily grounded due to technical fault. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

EMERGENCY LANDING, EASTERN IOWA AIRPORT, CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft has made a safe landing in Cedar Rapids after the pilot reported a cracked windshield. The Northwest Airlink flight operated by Pinnacle Airlines landed at The Eastern Iowa Airport about 1915, last night. The aircraft, with 45 people on board, was flying from Detroit to Wichita, Kansas. Pinnacle spokesman Phil Reed says diverting the aircraft to the nearest airport is standard operating procedure. Once the aircraft landed, the passengers were put on other flights or were driven to Wichita.

EMERGENCY LANDING, HAGERSTOWN AIRPORT, MARYLAND, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: Airport officials in Hagerstown say no one was hurt when a small aircraft carrying five people made an emergency landing Saturday (Feb 19). The aircraft was heading from Baltimore to Allentown, Pennsylvania, when the pilot realised the main landing gear on the

starboard side had not deployed. He diverted to Hagerstown because of that airport's wider runway. He was able to keep the twin-engine Cessna upright for a long stretch on the runway before the aircraft tipped onto its right wing and slid to a stop. After it stopped, firefighters sprayed foam on the aircraft as a precaution.

EMERGENCY LANDING, INDIRA GANDHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NEW DELHI, INDIA

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: An Il-96 aircraft of Russian carrier Aeroflot made an emergency landing at the international airport at New Delhi today after its pressurisation control system developed snags, officials said. "The Bangkok-Moscow Aeroflot flight was flying over India when the pilot noticed leaks in the pressurisation system. He then descended to 10,000 feet to maintain aircraft pressure," Indira Gandhi International Airport acting director Mandeep Lal said. After the automatic aircraft pressurisation system failed, the pilot again reduced altitude and maintained pressure using the manual mode. "We made all arrangements as soon as the pilot requested permission for an emergency landing. The flight landed safely at 1845," Lal said. The aircraft was carrying 108 passengers and crew. "All of them are safe," he said. The passengers would be flown to Moscow by another Aeroflot aircraft. Engineers began conducting ground pressurisation checks to locate the leaks.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A jumbo jet pilot was forced to make an emergency landing after one of the plane's four engines failed and it started running low on fuel, it emerged today. British Airways flight 268 was met by four fire engines and 30 firefighters on Manchester Airport's runway 2 after the captain made a mayday call to the control tower yesterday afternoon, a BA spokeswoman said. The 747 plane, which had 351 passengers on board, had been travelling from Los Angeles to London Heathrow. The pilot noticed something was wrong just an hour after take-off, when there was a power surge through engine number two on the port side of the aircraft. He switched off the broken device and continued to fly over the US, calculating that the plane could make it safely to its UK destination. But while the aircraft was travelling over the Atlantic Ocean the pilot experienced some unexpected headwind, which depleted its fuel reserves further. The captain decided not to risk wasting more fuel by flying to Heathrow and made a mayday call asking to land at Manchester. It landed at around 1600 hrs, yesterday and the passengers were later transferred to Heathrow on alternative flights. A spokeswoman for BA confirmed that the pilot had made

a "diversion landing" but stressed that he was following normal procedure. She said: "He was getting low on fuel so he took the standard precaution and he declared Mayday because it gave him a priority landing at Manchester. A spokeswoman for Manchester Airport confirmed that staff had been put on a "full emergency alert".

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A jumbo jet carrying 351 passengers was forced to make an emergency landing after one of its engines failed during a transatlantic flight. The British Airways flight 268 from Los Angeles was diverted to Manchester from Heathrow because the pilot feared he did not have enough fuel. A power surge meant a port-side engine was shut down, but the aircraft carried on using its three remaining engines. The 747 landed without problems yesterday afternoon and no-one was hurt. British Airways said the pilot had noticed problems with the engine one hour after take off. The aircraft had enough fuel to reach Heathrow but, because of a strong headwind across the Atlantic Ocean, there was not enough to keep flying if it was forced to queue before landing.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MANSTON AIRPORT, KENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft has landed safely at Manston airport after reporting problems with its landing gear. Emergency teams were on standby at the airport yesterday while engineers checked the cargo aircraft's equipment. Officers said contingency plans were put in place to ensure public safety. A spokesman said that the aircraft landed just before 1400, GMT. The airport said the aircraft was flying from Gatwick to Manston on a positional flight when the problem emerged. As the aircraft circled Manston, the airport confirmed the situation was being treated as an emergency and police said it was not a terrorist incident. A spokesman for the airport said the aircraft was an EU Jet Fokker 100 which had to circle the airport to burn off fuel.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SHANNON AIRPORT, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A Delta Airlines flight from Paris to New York has made an emergency landing at Shannon Airport. The Boeing 767 with 191 passengers and crew on board touched down safely after the pilot earlier reported a problem with one of the jets engines. The jet will now be inspected by engineers before it will be allowed to complete its journey.

EMERGENCY LANDING, STURGIS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT, SOUTH DAKOTA, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: There was a crash

landing yesterday at the Sturgis Municipal Airport in Michigan. The pilot of the twin-engine aircraft reported problems with his landing gear. His front landing gear collapsed as he tried to land on the runway. However, he was able to land without injury. The aircraft sustained some damage to the nose and propeller. The aircraft was en route to Sturgis from Bowling Green, Kentucky.

EMERGENCY LANDING, TWEED AIRPORT, NEW HAVEN, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A US Airways jet had to make an emergency landing at Tweed Airport yesterday evening. Twenty-six people were on board the aircraft. All made it off safely. The pilot of the aircraft called officials in New Haven, extremely concerned because one of the engines of the jet had died. New Haven firefighters and emergency personnel were standing by on the scene just in case the worst were to happen. After the aircraft safely landed at Tweed, all passengers got off safely and went to the terminal for further instructions.

EX-037

London, Feb 22 — After over two weeks of efforts, the Afghan government has retrieved 46 bodies from the snow-covered crash site of a jetliner that crashed near Kabul with 104 people on board early this month, an Afghan official said today. "So far 46 bodies have been recovered and the search operation is still going on," Zahir Azimi, spokesman of Afghan Defence Ministry told journalists at a news conference this evening. Of these recovered, the identity of eight passengers including two women and three children has been determined and their remains will soon be handed over to their families, he noted. A three-member Italian forensic team is assisting Afghan authorities to verify the identities of others through DNA tests. Harsh winter and persistent heavy snowfall over the past three weeks has hampered the rescue and search operation in the crash area, where the wreckage was located on an icy mountain 9,992 feet above sea level.

F-GBJH

London, Feb 23 — Cessna 182Q (Skylane), F-GBJH, registered to and operated by a private owner, on a flight from Perpignan Rivesaltes, crashed in a residential area in the village of Villac, in the Dordogne Region, France, at approximately 0850, UTC, Feb 10. The pilot and passenger were killed.

INCIDENT AT DETROIT METROPOLITAN AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Northwest Airlines Boeing 757 bound for Orlando got stuck in the mud in Detroit Metropolitan Airport today. Airport and airline officials say the main

landing gear of Flight 420 got stuck leaving the gate after tug vehicles pushed the aircraft too far back and off the concrete. The 224 passengers were forced to get off the aircraft and were bused back to the terminal. Northwest spokesman Thomas Becher says the airline is trying to make other flight arrangements for them. Crews are working to dislodge the aircraft. Becher says the aircraft had to be unloaded before tug-vehicles could pull it out. He says the aircraft is not blocking any of the airport's other traffic patterns.

INCIDENT AT MELBOURNE AIRPORT, AUSTRALIA

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: An investigation will be held into all aspects of yesterday's terminal shut down at Melbourne Airport. The south terminal, used by Virgin Blue and Regional Express, was shut down for eight hours, causing Virgin to cancel 62 flights. The terminal was closed after more than 50 people were treated for nausea, shortness of breath and dizziness. The fire brigade was unable to find the source of the suspected chemical leak, but says something was in the terminal. Melbourne airport spokesman Geoffrey Conaghan says all avenues will be explored to get to the bottom of the incident. "There will be a report from all of the agencies involved and a debrief in the next couple of days on what the cause was, the way it was handled and what the next step will be, if there is a next step," he said.

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Virgin Blue says its operations at Melbourne Airport are now back to normal after two days of disruption due to a suspected gas leak on Monday (Feb 21). Virgin's terminal was shut down when an unidentified substance left more than 50 people ill. It threw Virgin's timetable into chaos yesterday as the airline struggled to deal with the backlog of delayed passengers. Virgin spokeswoman Amanda Bolger says flights are now taking off on schedule but it has been a costly exercise. "Things are pretty much back to normal across our entire network today - certainly nothing like the chaos of the last two days," Ms Bolger said. "There were two cancellations early this morning but that's out of 300 flights across our whole network today, so things are pretty much back on track. "We're talking about 14,000 people have been effected over the last couple of days. "We haven't sat down and done the maths yet but we're probably looking around \$2 million." The man reviewing the emergency response to the suspected gas leak at Melbourne Airport says he expects the Federal Government to support his recommendations. Mr Esplin says he expects all agencies to adopt his recommendations, even though it is a State Government inquiry. "Well I'm sure the Commonwealth Government will cooperate with this," he said. "Airports are a critical part of our

communities all throughout Australia and if there are improvements to the system that can be made I'm sure the Commonwealth Government will support those improvements."

N322DA

London, Feb 18 — Robinson R22 Beta, operated by Robinson Helicopter Co Ltd., during flight instruction, skid contacted the ground and rolled over, at Owasso, Oklahoma, at 1615, local time, Feb 16. The aircraft was destroyed.

N4009M

London, Feb 23 — Ayres Turbo-Thrush S2R-T34, N4009M, crashed near Firebaugh, California, at 1611, Feb 18, while on a flight from Firebaugh. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The one person on board was killed.

N4912K

London, Feb 18 — Cessna 210N, N4912K, operated by Avtrans Leasing LLC, departed airport when the engine quit and made an emergency landing on a golf course at Lander, Wyoming, at 1420, Feb 17. The aircraft was destroyed.

N500AT

London, Feb 17 — Cessna Citation V, N500AT, crashed near Pueblo, Colorado, at 1613, Feb 16. The aircraft was destroyed. The eight persons on board were killed.

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: Moments before the crash of a corporate Cessna Citation V (N500AT) that killed all eight people on board, the control tower had warned the crew that the aircraft was too low, a federal safety official said. The aircraft, owned by electronics retailer Circuit City, was at 300 feet at the time, but should have been at least 900 feet above the ground as it approached Pueblo Airport, said chief crash investigator Frank Hilldrup of the National Transportation Safety Board. The aircraft was stopping to refuel when it crashed on Wednesday (Feb 16) during a flight from Virginia to California.

N5734M

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A medical helicopter crashed on take-off yesterday, killing a man who was being airlifted from a highway accident. The helicopter pilot, a nurse and a paramedic were injured. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman John Clabes said the medical crew was responding to a traffic accident about three miles north of Cherokee City, near the Arkansas-Oklahoma line. The helicopter, operated by Air Evac Lifeteam of Claremore, Okla., had just lifted off with the 71-year-old patient aboard, and reached an altitude of about 400 feet, when the chopper began to spin and fell back to the ground, crashing into a pasture, according to witnesses. The patient, who was from Texas, was pronounced dead at the scene. The pilot and a

paramedic were in serious condition. The condition of a flight nurse was not immediately available. Air Evac is a private air ambulance company serving rural areas in parts of nine states, according to the company's Web site. The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate.

London, Feb 23 — Bell 206L-1 LongRanger II, N5734M, crashed near Cherokee City, Arkansas, at 1945, Feb 21, while on a flight from Claremore, Oklahoma. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. One of the four persons on board was killed and the other three were seriously injured.

N739NK

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A New York man died when his rented single-engine Cessna (N739NK) crashed in heavy fog, officials said. David B. Gearhart, 50, of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., died when his plane crashed in an estuary yesterday. Investigators said Gearhart had taken off from Ocala and it was unclear if he was trying to land at Cedar Key's airstrip or lost control while flying through the area. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating. A Cedar Key police officer said it appeared the plane had approached the island from the south, nearly grazing a string of power lines. The plane then looped back over a group of houses before it descended sharply into the mud and shallow water, the officer said.

London, Feb 24 — Cessna 172N (Skyhawk), N739NK, crashed near Cedar Key, Florida, at 1926, Feb 22. The one person on board was killed.

N8269D

London, Feb 18 — Beech 95 Travel Air, N8269D, operated by Bald Rock Inc., crashed under unknown circumstances while en-route from Oroville, California, to San Rafael, California, at 0001, Feb 15. Wreckage located on south-east side of Mount Helena, Yountville, California. The two persons on board were fatally injured. The aircraft was destroyed.

P-2032

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: An Indonesian police transport plane crashed into the sea today while trying to land in the eastern province of Papua, killing 15 people and injuring three, a police spokesman said. The CASA 212 Aviocar was carrying 14 passengers and four crew members when it went down while approaching the airfield, police spokesman Brig. Gen. Soenarko Danuarwanto said. Four officers including the pilot were killed. The other 11 fatalities were civilian passengers, he said. Papua police chief Brig. Gen. Sumantiawan, who toured the scene after the accident, said the three injured were all in critical condition. They were evacuated to a hospital in the provincial capital Jayapura. He said the plane plunged into the waves about 100 metres offshore, some 500 metres from the

start of the runway. "About 10 minutes before it was due to land, the pilot reported engine failure and said he would try an emergency landing," Sumantiawan said. He quoted witnesses as saying they saw the left propeller wasn't functioning during the plane's final approach to the airport, located some 250 kilometres northeast of Jayapura. The aircraft was en route from the town of Sentani, near Jayapura. The Spanish-built Aviocar is a light, twin-turboprop transport plane widely used by developing countries in a variety of roles including fisheries patrol and maritime rescue. Aviocar's CASA 212 was assembled in Indonesia under licence in the 1980s.

London, Feb 23 — The Nurtanio 212 Aviocar, P-2032, operated by Kepolisian Negara Republik Indonesia (Polri), 18 persons on board, crashed into the sea 100 metres offshore, approximately 400 metres from Sarmi Airport at 0715, Feb 22. Engine trouble reportedly preceded the accident. Aircraft written off as a result of the crash, 15 fatalities.

TAM-73

London, Feb 23 — Convair CV-580, TAM-73, with 50 persons on board, crash-landed on muddy terrain just after takeoff from Trinidad Airport following engine problems at 2026, Feb 22. Twenty-eight people were injured.

Product Recalls



BUILT-IN DISHWASHERS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Feb 18 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of about 74,300 General Electric Built-in Dishwashers in voluntary co-operation with GE Consumer & Industrial of Louisville, Ky. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. These dishwashers have a connector that can short-circuit and overheat during normal use, posing a fire hazard to consumers. GE received 29 reports of connectors overheating, including one report of a fire that spread outside the dishwasher and caused minor property damage. No injuries have been reported. The following models are included in this recall and were sold after January 20, 2004: GE dishwasher models GSD5500G, GSD5560G, GSD5800G, GSD5900G, GSD5960G, EDW3000G, and EDW3060G, with serial numbers with the first letter A through T and the second letter G, or the serial letters VF. The serial number is important as not all dishwashers with these model numbers are included in this recall. The model and serial number are located inside the door wall of the dishwasher. Sold at appliance retail

outlets and builder distributors nation-wide from January 2004 through February 2005 for between \$300 and \$400. Manufactured in USA. Consumers should immediately stop using the dishwasher and contact GE to arrange for their dishwashers to be repaired free of charge. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

DISHWASHERS, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: In co-operation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), General Electric (GE) Appliances, of Louisville, Ky., is voluntarily recalling about 3.1 million GE and Hotpoint brand dishwashers, manufactured between April 1983 and January 1989. The dishwashers have a slide switch that allows consumers to choose between heat drying and energy saver functions. Over time, the slide switch can melt and ignite, presenting a fire hazard. GE and CPSC have reports of 50 fires, seven of which spread beyond the dishwashers. In three cases, the structure of the house or apartment was damaged. No injuries have been reported. The GE and Hotpoint dishwashers that are being recalled are model GSD500D, GSD500G, GSD540, HDA467, HDA477 or HDA487 with a serial number that has a second letter of A, M, R, S, T, V or Z (for example, BM12345). The model and serial numbers are located on a rectangular label that is on either the right or left front edge of the inner tub. The GE or Hotpoint brand name is on the front of the dishwasher.

DISHWASHERS, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: General Electric has announced the recall of more than 74,000 built-in dishwashers. The dishwashers have an electrical connection that can overheat, possibly starting a fire, during normal use. G.E. has received 29 reports of dishwashers overheating and one report of a fire. The following models are included in the recall and were sold after January 20, 2004. GE dishwasher models GSD5500G, GSD5560G, GSD5800G, GSD5900G, GSD5960G, EDW3000G, and EDW3060G, with serial numbers with the first letter A through T and the second letter G, or the serial letters VF. The serial number is important as not all dishwashers with these model numbers are included in this recall.

FOOD PRODUCTS, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Britain's food industry faces an estimated bill of around £100 million for the recall of almost 400 products linked to a food scare, according to analysts and food experts. The products, including pies, pizzas and sandwiches, were taken off the shelves of Britain's food retailers at the weekend after it emerged that they contained a cancer-causing dye known as Sudan 1 which was in a batch of chilli powder used to

manufacture Worcester sauce. "It's going to cost a fair bit because the sauce is used as a flavouring in lots of products, so its spread may have been extensive," Lawrence Hutter, a consultant in consumer business and consumer packaged goods at business services firm Deloitte told Bloomberg. The Food Standards Agency ordered the recall of 398 products after the dye, which is banned in food in the European Union, was traced back to Britain's Premier Foods group, which makes foods such as Typhoo, Cadbury Drinking Chocolate, Branston Pickle and Hartley's jam and is headed by Robert Schofield. Bloomberg said that Mr Schofield was not immediately available for comment but the firm has said that it was insured for such events. Mr Hutter said he thought Premier Foods would probably have to foot the bill for recalling the products, despite receiving written assurance from its supplier that the chilli powder did not contain Sudan 1. He also believed that the company which supplied the chilli would be too small to afford to pay for the recall. The Food Standards Agency notified Britain's supermarkets on Feb 15, though the public was not told until three days later because the range of affected products the FSA required them to disclose was extensive, according to spokesman Robert Westhead.

London, Feb 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Shops and food companies must identify all products containing the banned food dye Sudan 1 by this morning, the Food Standards Agency has said. More than 400 products have been recalled so far after they were found to contain the dye, which has been linked to an increased risk of cancer. The FSA said firms which did not meet the deadline could face prosecution. It also said local authorities would check potentially affected food was removed from schools and hospitals. There's a good chance of getting most of the affected products out of the way. The FSA expects to have been told of all products contaminated by the Sudan 1 dye by the end of this morning, and firms must have started removing them, the agency said. The decision on whether to prosecute those who did not meet it would be up to local authorities, the FSA said. The Institute of Environmental Health said there could not be any guarantees that all affected foods would be taken off shelves by today. But the institute's Jenny Morris said: "There are so many people working on this, there is so much publicity around it, that I think there's a good chance of getting most of the affected products out of the way." The recall of products is the biggest in British history, involving soups, sauces, crisps and ready meals, and is estimated to be costing £100m. Two catering companies have said they provided products which were listed in the recall to schools and hospitals, but immediately ordered their recall. An FSA spokesman said local authorities were ensuring the

foods, containing a Worcester sauce made by Premier Foods, were removed from sale. "The risk is very small. Local authorities are routinely asked to inform and check that food businesses - including the catering departments of schools and hospitals - are withdrawing affected products. This is a standard request." The recall was sparked on Friday when a consignment of the firm's Crosse and Blackwell Worcester sauce was found to have been made with chilli powder containing Sudan 1. The dye has been shown to cause cancer in laboratory animals - but the risk to consumers is extremely small. Premier Foods said it was "taking the matter very seriously" and was doing all it could to resolve the problem. Today it recalled two products - Branston Hot and Spicy Sweet Pickle and Branston Rich and Fruity Sauce - both of which are only supplied to the retail industry. Further lists of products were still being added to the recall list on Tuesday. The latest list names 428 products.

FORD MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 23 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: Ford Motor Co.'s gamble on a tricky casting method backfired, triggering a pricey and embarrassing recall of its GT sports car. On Dec 16, Ford pulled the GT off the market and asked its 111 owners not to drive the car. A crack appeared in an aluminum suspension control arm during routine inspection of a test GT. Though no accidents have been reported, a broken control arm could cause a catastrophic crash in a car capable of speeds faster than 200 mph. A control arm connects the chassis to the wheel assembly and controls the wheel's camber. Ford is scrambling to replace eight original control arms per car. Limited GT production using the new control arms began the week of Feb 7. Ford aims to get existing GTs repaired and back on the road by the first week of March. "The problem is we're changing from castings to forgings," Ford Division President Steve Lyons says. "It's not like the supplier just makes new parts. We're actually changing the way they're made."

HIP HAMMOCK CHILD CARRIERS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Feb 22 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of about 32,000 Playtex Hip Hammocks in voluntary co-operation with Playtex Products Inc., of Westport, Conn. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The shoulder strap support can detach from the hammock, posing a fall hazard to the baby. The company has received two reports of the shoulder strap detaching from the infant carrier. No injuries have been reported. The recalled infant carriers were sold under the name "Playtex Hip Hammock," which is sewn into the front of the carrier. The model number

is sewn into the inside panel below the instructions for use. The model numbers are: 05300 ø Basic Black Hip Hammock, 05301 ø Deluxe Black Hip Hammock and 05302 ø Deluxe Navy Blue Hip Hammock. Sold at juvenile product stores, discount stores nationwide, catalog and internet sites from June 2004 through February 2005 for about \$40 (Basic model) and \$60 (Deluxe model). Manufactured in China. Consumers should stop using the carrier immediately and contact Playtex Products Inc., for instructions on returning the carrier for a replacement. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

MICROSOFT XBOX POWER CABLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Microsoft has said it will replace more than 14 million power cables for its Xbox consoles due to safety concerns. The company said the move was a "preventative step" after reports of fire hazard problems with the cables. It affects Xboxes made before Oct 23, 2003 for all regions but mainland Europe and consoles in that region made before Jan 13 2004. Microsoft said it had received 30 reports of minor injury or property damage due to faulty cables. The firm said fewer than one in 10,000 consoles had experienced component failures. The recall affects almost three quarters of all Xboxes sold around the world since its launch in 2001. In a statement, it added: "In almost all instances, any damage caused by these failures was contained within the console itself or limited to the tip of the power cord at the back of the console." But in seven cases, customers reported sustaining a minor burn to their hand. In 23 cases, customers reported smoke damage, or minor damage to a carpet or entertainment centre. "This is a preventative step we're choosing to take despite the rarity of these incidents," said Robbie Bach, senior vice president, Microsoft home and entertainment division. "We regret the inconvenience, but believe offering consumers a free replacement cord is the responsible thing to do." Microsoft said customers would get replacement cords within two to four weeks from the time of order. It advised users to turn off their Xboxes when not in use.

RENAULT MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Feb 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Renault Japon Co., the Japan unit of French automaker Renault S.A., said today it will recall 1,955 vehicles in three models due to problems with compressor brackets. Subject to the recall are the Lutecia and two types of Scenic models, all manufactured between May 2000 and April 2002, the automaker said in a report filed with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. Renault said a compressor bracket is positioned incorrectly in the engine. As a result,

the power-steering pumps could come loose and fracture, it said.

WOMEN'S BOOT, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Feb 18 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 135,000 Merona Women's Sidezip øENAø Style Boots in voluntary co-operation with Target Corp., of Minneapolis, Minn. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The heel on the boot can detach from the sole while in use, causing the consumer to fall. Target has received 19 complaints of the heels breaking off, including one report of a sprained ankle. The Merona Women's sidezip boot comes in black or brown with a three-inch heel in sizes 5 1/2 through 11. The style numbers included in this recall are 096-10-1180 through 1190 for the black boots and 096-10-1200 through 1210 for the brown boots. These numbers appear on the interior zipper liner along with the words, "All Man Made Materials," "Made in China," "Merona" and "ENA." Sold at Target stores nation-wide and through Target's Web site from July 2004 through January 2005 for about \$25. Manufactured in China. Consumers should stop wearing the boots immediately and return them to the nearest Target store for a full refund. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Port Conditions



AUSTRALIA

London, Feb 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Maritime safety authorities are growing increasingly worried about the potential dangers posed by the armada of empty coal ships anchored off the coast near Mackay. The queue of ships, which have numbered up to 44 in recent days, has been a source of heated political argument between the Queensland and Commonwealth governments over infrastructure spending and port bottlenecks. The waiting ships are the most telling symptom of the difficulties being experienced by Dalrymple Bay coal terminal as it struggles to cope with demand. Maritime Safety Queensland has now expressed concern about the safety issues posed by having so many vessels gathered in the one area. General manager Captain John Watkinson said yesterday maritime officers had contacted companies using the Dalrymple Bay and nearby Hay Point terminals to discuss introducing a more orderly system for loading the ships at anchor. "Maritime Safety Queensland is monitoring the number of ships anchored off Hay Point primarily because of the logistical challenge that would ensue should the port have to be closed for any reason

and ships ordered to exit port limits," he said. Capt Watkinson said the potential dangers had been highlighted last month when Cyclone Kerry approached Mackay and all berths in the area were shut down. The authority had consulted port users and the terminal operators at Hay Point on how best to manage the movement of ships within the port, particularly if the vessels needed to be moved away for safety reasons. In Federal Parliament yesterday the Government continued to target the Queensland Government over ports, accusing it of accepting massive revenue in mining royalties but failing to reinvest any money into export infrastructure. "The Queensland Government has forecast that it will

receive around \$800 million in royalties in 2004-05 from our resources exports," Trade Minister Mark Vaile told Parliament yesterday. "Yet they will not invest any money back into the much-needed infrastructure to accommodate the growth in the export of resources out of that state." Mr Vaile said the Queensland Government would not fund a 70km rail link worth about \$100 million to Abbott Point, which would immediately alleviate a coal-handling bottleneck at Dalrymple Bay. He said the State Government should get on with investing in infrastructure.

INDIA

See under "Labour Disputes."

PANAMA CANAL

London, Feb 22 — A press report, dated Feb 21, states: Due to work on locomotive tracks at Gatun Locks and heavy arrivals, delays are being experienced in the Panama Canal. Currently, Panamax traffic is facing delays of two-three days, while regular vessels under 91 feet with no cargo restrictions are experiencing delays of one-two days. Work on the tracks is expected to be completed on Feb 27.

SYRIA

Lattakia, Feb 5 — Waiting time is presently 24 hours at Lattakia and 48 hours at Tartous. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbott Point	21-23 Feb-2005	Coal: 8 vessels due by 10/3; up to 1 day's berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion.
Brisbane	21-23 Feb-2005	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 2 vessels due by 5/3; no delays expected. Grain: 1 vessel due 8/3 to load wheat; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	21-23 Feb-2005	Coal: 42 vessels anchored; 46 vessels due by 6/4. Up to 30 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; waiting time vary greatly due to different stem supply issues.
Dampier	21-23 Feb-2005	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 anchored; 5 vessels due by 6/3; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 8 vessels due by 4/3; a maintenance shutdown is underway; up to 9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shippers will always consider a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels awaiting HW; shippers are experiencing cargo shortages of some grades and stockpile problems; some vessels will berth out of turn and berthing line-up may change at short notice.
Gladstone	21-23 Feb-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 3 vessels berthed, 8 anchored; 34 vessels due by 31/3; up to 12 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; shiploader 2 will be shut down for maintenance for 4 days from 14-18/3. Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed, 2 anchored; 7 vessels due by 21/3; up to 3 days delay expected due to cargo availability and berth congestion.
Hay Point	21-23 Feb-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed, 6 anchored; 6 vessels due by 26/2. Up to 5 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability; Berth No. 2 will be shut down from 2-14/3.
Newcastle	21-23 Feb-2005	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels berthed, 14 anchored; 25 vessels due by 6/3; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels berthed, 6 anchored; 15 vessels due by 5/3; 3 unallocated vessels due by 10/3; 3-7 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal, coal product problems with some shippers and cargo receipt. Grain: Seven vessels due by 11/3, 6 to load wheat, 1 barley; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Adelaide	21-23 Feb-2005	Grain: No. 27 berth: 5 vessels due by 10/3, 3 to load barley, 1 wheat, 1 faba beans; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Hedland	21-23 Feb-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 6 vessels due by 28/2; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 7 vessels due by 28/2; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 1 vessels due 23/2; no delays expected; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 6 vessels due by 25/2; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion, maintenance shut downs and cargo availability.
Port Kembla	21-23 Feb-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed, 2 anchored; 16 vessels due by 8/4; CB-1: 2 vessels due by 9/3; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Grain: 1 vessel due 7/3 to load wheat; no delays expected.
Port Walcott	21-23 Feb-2005	Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 19 vessels due by 10/3; up to 8 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Planned maintenance underway at Berth No. 2 until 28/2. Shippers line-up is subject to change at short notice; cargo grade shortages and stockpile problems may result in ships berthing out of turn. Shippers advise that stores, air freight and crew baggage can no longer be delivered to vessels or taken off at berth. With immediate effect, all stores, airfreight and bags must be delivered/removed by launch.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	21- Feb-2005	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (1 scrap, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 4 coils, 1 containers, 1 empty), 3 discharging (2 billets, 1 containers); 2 vessels waiting in roads, both to load, of which 1 maize, 1 empty; 1 vessel to take on bunkers; 11 vessels due, of which 4 to load (1 trucks, 1 copper anodes, 1 coils, 1 bars), 7 to discharge (1 trucks, 2 coal, 2 iron ore, 1 kaolin, 1 pig-iron).

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Port Conditions

Varna	21- Feb-2005	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 14-20 February: Thirty-four vessels in port operating of which 20 loading (1 bulk maize, 1 scrap, 2 bulk wheat, 1 packed hardboard, 1 cement, 5 soda, 1 sunflower seeds, 1 bulk barley, 1 vegetable oil, 1 technical salt, 1 kaolin/other, 1 kaolin, 1 metal constructions/containers, 1 TSP, 1 TSP/NP compound fertiliser), 6 discharging (1 bulk coal, 1 bricks, 1 copper concentrate, 1 gypsum, 1 metal in packs, 1 petcoke), 8 discharging/loading (7 containers, 1 feldspar/silica sand/kaolin/other); no vessels waiting in roads.
Chile		
Antofagasta	21- Feb-2005	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 12 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Valparaiso	21- Feb-2005	Three vessels berthed, 5 berths vacant; 3 vessels anchored; 12 vessels due this week.
Colombia		
Buenaventura	22- Feb-2005	Shore cranes operational. Eight vessels berthed (1 containers, 3 general cargo, 4 bulkers), no vessels anchored; 31 vessels due (24 containers, 1 general cargo, 3 bulkers, 1 tanker, 2 PCC), with 1 day's delay expected for general cargo vessels, 3 days for bulkers.
Egypt		
Alexandria	21- Feb-2005	Thirty-five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 29 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 containers, 1 passenger vessel; 13 vessels dry-docked; 19 vessels at inner anchorage, 6 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	21- Feb-2005	Fourteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 9 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier, 4 containers; 1 vessel at outer anchorage.
Suez Canal	21- Feb-2005	Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 24 Southbound.
Israel		
Ashdod	22- Feb-2005	No labour problems. Four general cargo vessels loading at berth, 9 vessels discharging at berth (5 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 5 vessels loading/discharging at berth (3 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker); 2 bulkers waiting at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 19 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	22- Feb-2005	No labour problems. Five vessels discharging at berth (4 general cargo, 1 bulk), 6 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 car carrier, 3 tankers); 1 bulk carrier waiting at anchorage to discharge, 4 tankers waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 4 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 24 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Pakistan		
Karachi	21- Feb-2005	Three rice vessels loading at berth, 5 vessels discharging at berth (1 HSD, 1 steel coils, 1 urea, 2 general cargo), 1 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 3 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (3 containers, 1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil); no vessels bunkering; none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 4 vessels due (2 containers, 2 chemicals), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	21- Feb-2005	Four vessels discharging at berth (1 wheat, 1 canola seeds, 1 paraxylene, 1 iron ore), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at QICT berth; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 LPG, 1 wheat, 1 iron ore).
Russia		
Novorossiysk	21- Feb-2005	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, all loading crude oil; 9 vessels in roads, all to load crude oil; 8 vessels due by 27/2, of which 5 crude oil, 1 gasoil, 2 fuel oil.
Tuapse	21- Feb-2005	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, both loading, of which 1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 1 vessel in roads, to load crude oil; 6 vessels due by 26/2, of which 1 fuel oil, 4 gasoil, 1 crude oil.
Spain		
Bilbao	22- Feb-2005	Nineteen vessels in port of which 7 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 1 containers, 1 semolina, 2 asphalt), 12 vessels under repair; no delays.
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	21- Feb-2005	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Five container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 17 vessels discharging at berth (13 containers/feeders, 1 bagged maize, 1 bulk palm oil, 1 bulk cement, 1 general cargo); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 4 vessels dry-docked; 8 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.

Port Conditions

Ukraine

Illichevsk	21- Feb-2005	Fifteen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (1 oil, 11 steel products), 1 discharging iron ore, 2 discharging/loading containers; 3 vessels in roads of which 1 to load steel products, 2 to discharge/load containers; 17 vessels due, of which 15 to load (1 ferro alloy, 13 steel products, 1 wheat), 2 to discharge
Odessa	21- Feb-2005	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, all loading, of which 1 crude oil, 1 LPG, 1 fuel oil; 5 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 gasoil, 2 crude oil, 1 fuel oil, 1 LPG; 4 vessels due by 22/2, all to load, of which 2 fuel oil, 1 gasoil, 1 LPG.

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