

# Lloyd's

Lloyd's Casualty Week contains information from worldwide sources of Marine, Non-Marine and Aviation casualties together with other reports relevant to the shipping, transport and insurance communities

# CasualtyWeek

April 7 2006

## Lloyd's weathers worst of hurricanes

Overall losses at £103m seen as relatively low despite last year's record £3.3bn claims, writes James Brewer, Lloyd's List.

**L**LOYD'S has won praise from industry experts for keeping its overall loss to a relatively small £103m (\$180m) last year despite a record net £3.3bn of hurricane claims.

With another severe Atlantic storm season predicted, chairman Lord Levene and acting chief executive and finance director Luke Savage declined to be drawn into forecasting the 2006 outcome but said April renewals had brought evidence of a hardening market and underwriters had tightened catastrophe cover criteria, including Gulf of Mexico windstorm aggregates.

### First Loss

It was the first loss for the market in four years and a letdown after the £1.37bn profit of 2004 but a comfort that, according to Lime Street, the underwriting performance in terms of combined ratio was better than Bermudian competitors in 2005, and far superior to US reinsurers.

Andrew Hubbard, head of corporate assurance at accountancy firm Mazars, said Lloyd's could "take some pride in what is quite a small loss in what has been a disastrous year in the catastrophe sector and has done that without undue reliance on their reinsurers, which is encouraging". Total insurance industry catastrophe loss for 2005 is about \$83bn.

Encouragement came too from combined ratios — anything below 100% indicates profitable underwriting — for non-catastrophe classes. Marine was on the right side of the line at a 91% ratio but energy rocketed into negative territory at 147%.

### Catastrophe exposure

Catastrophe exposure was well above the £1.98bn blow from the World Trade Center attacks in 2001, which led to a £3.1bn market loss for that year, but business plan controls led by the franchise performance directorate are said to have allowed Lloyd's to weather 2005 much better.

Gross catastrophe claims were £8.8bn but recoveries from what Mr Savage said were high quality reinsurers will meet £5.5m of that.

Despite the overall loss, Lloyd's improved its solvency by 26% by borrowing £104m from syndicates against potential defaults and with the support of a £500m subordinated debt from the commercial market while reducing its Central Fund levy.

### Weight of liability

Lloyd's still has a weight of liability, which Mr Savage said he was unable immediately to quantify, from the 1997-2001 accounts, but some small progress

was made, with the number of "open years" reducing by two to 102 and £300m deterioration just exceeded by released reserves.

"It is to be hoped that this indicates syndicates have got to grips with reserving issues and not that they have simply raided the piggy bank or taken a lenient view, especially of the potential for casualty-liability classes," Mr Hubbard said.

Peter Allen, partner in Grant Thornton's financial markets group, saw the result as heartening, but warned: "The frequency and ferocity of weather catastrophes appears to be on the increase."

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Casualty**

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<b>BANKIMCHANDRA CHATTERJEE</b>	product tanker	IND	NV	26,474	45,134	1994	Lost steering and contacted the bank while transiting the Panama Canal Mar 22. Towed to tie up station. Proceeded and anchored at Balboa Mar 24. Awaiting temporary repairs.
<b>BEN-MY-CHREE</b>	passenger	IOM	LR	12,504	4,168	1998	Significant damage observed to port side bridge wing on arrival at NSL Bidston, Liverpool Mar 19 for refit.
<b>BREAKSEA</b>	product tanker	GBR	LR	992	1,674	1985	Reported engine breakdown in lat 52 02.5N, long 06 27.7W, Mar 26. Two tugs en route. Patrol vessel on scene. Under tow Mar 27. Docked Waterford Mar 27.
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	bulker	PAN	RS	40,182	75,720	1979	Sank after colliding with <i>Sinokor Seoul</i> 10.5 miles south-west of Melaka, in lat 01 57.6N, long 102 10.9E , Mar 24. All crew rescued.
<b>CONSTANCE N.</b>	bulker	LBR	NV	113,272	224,666	1983	Commenced hull repairs at Nacala Mar 27 following ingress of water to a ballast tank.
<b>EMPRESS OF THE NORTH</b>	passenger	USA	AB ABS	5,975	—	2003	Grounded in the Columbia River, in lat 45 34.3N, long 122 21.6W, Mar 24. No apparent damage. Refloated 27 Mar and returning to Portland under own power. Escorted by 3 tugs to Cascade General Shipyard, Seattle, Mar 27.
<b>GRYF</b>	ro-ro	BHS	NV	18,653	6,934	1990	In collision with passenger ro/ro <i>Villum Clausen</i> in dense fog in the harbour at Ystad Mar 28.
<b>HARVEST GAVINA</b>	trawler	ZAF	BV	525	291	1985	Had engine breakdown after piston went through engine block, 38 miles from Saldanha Bay, in lat 33 35.3S, long 17 31.5E, Mar 26. Towed to Saldanha Bay, arriving Mar 27.
<b>IVORY TIRUPATI</b>	refrig	LBR	LR	10,368	10,695	1989	Lost container overboard in lat 45 21.5N, long 08 00W, Mar 26. Subsequently lost two more containers. Escorted into Brest Mar 27 with 20-25 deg list to starboard
<b>LILLY</b>	general	PRK	—	1,746	2,791	1975	Listing one mile from Constantza, soon after sailing, Mar 24. Timber & tractors lost overboard, not insured. Brought back to Constantza by tugs, where arrived Mar 25. No damage to vessel. Sailed Mar 29.
<b>MARTHA E.</b>	barge	GUM	—	1,319	—	1944	Capsized Mar 6 while en route from the Philippines to Guam with cement. Owner to proceed with salvage.
<b>MIKAELA LANE DEVALL</b>	pusher	USA	—	144	—	2003	While pushing a barge, barge was damaged in collision with <i>Nordic Svenita</i> in the Houston Ship Channel, Mar 23.
<b>ORION</b>	tanker	MEX	—	1,223	1,039	1965	Sank in rough weather 200 miles off the port of Progreso Mar 24. Five of the eight crew rescued.
<b>SINOKOR SEOUL</b>	container	KOR	KR	27,076	25,868	1980	In collision with <i>California</i> 10.5 miles south-west of Melaka, in lat 01 57.6N, long 102 10.9E. <i>California</i> sank. Anchored with bow damage.
<b>STAR PRINCESS</b>	passenger	BMU	(RI)	108,977	10,852	2001	Had fire in passenger accommodation near Montego Bay Mar 23. Decks 9 to 12 affected, with damage to 100 cabins. Fire extinguished and proceeding into Montego Bay same day. Cruise cancelled. Arrived Freeport Mar 27 for repairs.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



## AL MANARA (St. Kitts-Nevis)

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A civil case has opened in the Supreme Court in which the owner of the stranded general cargo *Al Manara* is required to pay what it owes to the Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA) for various services. Seychelles Nation learned that a lawyer representing the port authority placed a notice on the ship's mast and in its wheelhouse 14 days ago, and that court proceedings commenced yesterday since the Iraqi owner had not responded to the lawyer's demand for settlement. The ship has since been arrested, and it is expected that in the event of the owner not settling progressively accumulating port charges and towing fees, the ship and its cargo of charcoal could be confiscated and sold. It would be expected that monies accruing from such a sale will be used to settle both the outstanding fees and also pay salaries for the sailors on board, who have been claiming they have not been paid for many months. "The Seychelles Ports Authority on Mar 10 filed an Admiralty Action against the vessel. The authority is claiming among other things towage and port dues. Given that the owner has neither acknowledged service of the writ nor made an appearance within the given time, Seychelles Ports Authority intends to file a motion for judgment by default," a spokesperson for the authority said yesterday, adding that if the authority is successful, the vessel will be sold and the Ports Authority will be able to recover the dues owed to it. Meanwhile, the chief executive officer of the SPA, Lt Col Andre Ciseau, yesterday confirmed that two of the people on board, who were at one time referred to as assailants who had allegedly attacked the ship off the coast of Somalia, left the country on Saturday for Somalia via Dubai. Lt Col Ciseau said that a person came to fetch them, and he was allowed to go with them "because the two had not committed any crimes in Seychelles."

## ALBO (Russia)

See "Lebanon" under "Port State Control."

## ALDRIN (Bahamas)

London, Mar 30 — General cargo *Aldrin* arrived Muuga Mar 24, from Haugesund, and sailed Mar 26 for Muuga.

## ALESSIA (Switzerland)

London, Mar 27 — According to LMIU AIS, general cargo *Alessia* was still at Brest as of 1103, UTC, today.

## AMUR 2525 (Russia)

Maassluis, Mar 28 — General cargo *Amur 2525* arrived Hamburg Mar 23 and sailed Mar 27 for St. Petersburg. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

## ANDREW J. BARBERI (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: New York city has agreed to pay nearly \$9 million to settle a lawsuit brought by a former waiter and avid hiker who lost his legs in a 2003 ferry crash, lawyers said today. The payout for Paul Esposito was by far the largest so far in the tragedy that killed 11 passengers and injured dozens of others. Ninety-nine of the 190 claims against the city have been settled for a total of \$3.6 million, city officials said. Esposito's attorney, Derek Sells, said the settlement was fair, given that his client's injuries "forever altered the way he can live his life." In a statement, one of the city's top attorneys, Lawrence Kahn, confirmed that the city agreed to pay \$8,986,852. Esposito was scheduled to receive monthly payments for the next 50 years to cover medical costs and living expenses. With interest, he could collect an estimated \$25.6 million during that period, Sells said. Esposito had sued for \$300 million in damages in 2003, alleging that the crew of the *Andrew J. Barberi* and city officials "basically left him to die" after the ferry drifted off course and slammed full-speed into a concrete pier on Staten Island on Oct. 15, 2003. As he lay immobilized and bleeding profusely, the crew and city employees did not assist him, he alleged.

## APL PANAMA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Mar 28 — An APL service status report, dated Mar 24, states: C.c. *APL Panama* remains at anchor outside the port of Ensenada. The vessel owners are working out arrangements to bring the ship into the harbour as soon as possible. We are vigorously pushing to start cargo operations quickly thereafter. We've received no reports of damage to cargo still on board the vessel, and it's our hope that the remaining cargo will be discharged within two or three days of the ship's berthing. You may have read in the media that the salvage company and the City of Ensenada are negotiating regarding the City's claim that salvors operations caused some street damage in Ensenada and must be repaired. APL and vessel owners are not involved in these negotiations. Vessel operations have not been delayed as a result of these negotiations between the salvors and the City. Cargo owners who have not yet posted salvage and General Average security should make arrangements to do so as soon as they can. Please bear in mind that salvors and owners will not permit the delivery or on-carriage of the cargo unless security has been posted. Failure to post security promptly may cause additional delays in cargo

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delivery. Once the cargo is ashore and salvors and the vessel owners have authorized release of the cargo, we will notify you that the cargo is available for pick-up. In the case of Manzanillo discharge cargo, APL will forward the containers to Manzanillo once authorized to do so by the salvage and General Average collection agent.

#### **AQUARIUS (U.K.)**

London, Mar 24 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 2251, UTC, Mar 23: Trawler *Aquarius* (92 gt, built 1974), with four persons on board, issued a Mayday call at 1320, UTC, reporting a fire in the engine-room in lat 58 20N, long 05 46W, due to a broken hydraulic pipe. Stornoway Lifeboat and rescue helicopter MU were tasked and stood by while fishing *Shikina* took *Aquarius* in tow for Lochinver. The vessels safely arrived Lochinver at 2235, UTC.

#### **ARCO AVON (U.K.)**

London, Mar 29 — Understand floating sheerleg *GPS Atlas* arrived Rochester Saturday (? Mar 25) in order to load some diving equipment and a decompression tank in order to salve a dredgepipe and pump lost by trailing suction dredger *Arco Avon* (3474 gt, built 1986) during dredging operations in the North Sea (Feb 26). (Note — *Arco Avon* sailed Harwich Feb 20, passed Dover Strait Feb 26, arrived Southampton Feb 27 and sailed Mar 25.)

#### **ATLANTIC BREEZE (Singapore)**

London, Mar 24 — The Singapore shipmanagement arm of Wallenius has pleaded guilty to an oily water separator offence and agreed \$6.5m in fines and community service payments. The chief engineer of vehicle *Atlantic Breeze* (41891 gt, built 1986) faces up to five years in prison when he is sentenced in July as part of the plea bargain. The Wallenius case adds to 30 criminal convictions enforced in the US between 1995 and 2005 on the intentional discharge of oil which have yielded Washington \$133m in fines. Christopher Christie, US Attorney for the district of New Jersey, said of Wallenius: "We have had several such prosecutions and promise more when we come across such wanton disregard for the ocean and environment." Sue Ellen Wooldridge, assistant attorney-general in the Department of Justice's environment and natural resources division, added: "We are confident (this) plea agreement will deter future violations. We will continue to prosecute maritime cases until we stem the tide of deliberate and illegal pollution." The *Atlantic Breeze* case stemmed from a whistle-blowing crew which led to a US Coast Guard port state control boarding and inspection in Port Newark, New Jersey, last November. With the assistance of "certain junior crew members" the authorities discovered a "magic pipe."

The investigation established the falsity of the vessel's oil record book and a violation of Marpol. The chief engineer was proved to have lied to the Coast Guard and "taken steps to obstruct the investigation." Oil sludge and oil-contaminated waste had been discharged from the vessel since 2002, federal authorities said, although the amount of pollution caused on the high seas was not quantified. In a statement, Wallenius "accepted full responsibility" for the crime, which entails four years probation, a \$5m fine and \$1.5m to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in New Jersey. However, Wallenius attorney Michael Chalos said the company was paying for illegal acts of its crew that directly contradicted company policy. He said the vessel had the "most sophisticated" Marinefloc treatment system on board and had set its own discharge standard at 10 parts per million against the legally allowed 15 ppm. The vessel also had a "white box," a contraption designed to prevent the circumvention of the oily water separator, Mr Chalos said. Nevertheless, the crew still succeeded in rigging it. "No company wants its crews to break the law but it is essentially powerless when its crews do not obey it," Mr Chalos said. Nevertheless, he said the tone of Washington's announcement was "wrong" and this approach would not solve the problem of violations. Wallenius had "stood up, volunteered and fully co-operated" with the investigation, and it already has a comprehensive compliance programme in place. These facts ought to have taken centre stage in the federal announcement, Mr Chalos said. However, Washington has shown no intention of bending the rules for professions of good intent. US Department of Justice senior trial attorney Richard Udell told a shipping conference in New York last month that the pressure on such cases would only be ratcheted up and shipping companies that fell foul of the law should be prepared for a "higher going rate" and swingeing individual prison terms. (Note — *Atlantic Breeze* arrived New York 8 and sailed Nov 19.)

London, Mar 27 — Vehicle *Atlantic Breeze*: Wallenius Shipmanagement Singapore (WSM) wishes to correct a statement made in error by the company's US Attorney in relation to a "white box" device on board the *Atlantic Breeze*, designed to prevent the circumvention of the oily water separator. At the time of the incident, the failsafe "white box" had been delivered to the vessel but had not been installed. There is no question, therefore, that crew members had succeeded or otherwise in circumventing the device aimed at ensuring legal discharge via the oily water separator. The "white box" device will shortly be fitted on all the company's managed fleet but meanwhile WSM wishes to apologise for the erroneous information provided.

#### **ATLANTIC HEMLOCK (Canada)**

London, Mar 23 — At 0350 hrs, Mar 1, tug *Atlantic Hemlock* (388 gt, built 1996) sustained damage when coming in contact with the flare of c.c. *OOCL Singapore* (66086 gt, built 1997) while approaching the vessel, at Halifax. (Note — *OOCL Singapore* arrived at Halifax Mar 1 and sailed Mar 2.)

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

Honolulu, Mar 29 — Fishing *Aukaka* (21 gt, built 1949) owned by David Nottage, Sr. struck a reef north of Mahukona Harbor on the Big Island of Hawaii, Mar 26. The vessel began taking on water and sinking, and the owner tried to return to Mahukona Harbor. Due to imminent sinking, it was grounded. The four people on board were taken to shore in a dinghy. The vessel is a total loss. The owner removed the fuel tanks, and hired a contractor to remove the remaining wreckage. The site will be monitored for any pollution. An investigation is ongoing as to the cause of the accident. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **AUTORACER (Sweden)**

Pasajes, Mar 23 — Vehicle *Autoracer* arrived Pasajes on Mar 22 and sailed Mar 23 for Flushing. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **AZOV MARINER (Malta)**

Malmo, Mar 27 — Product tanker *Azov Mariner*: Divers inspection found leakage in bowthruster-room and several small holes in double bottom tank No. 5 port side. After temporary repair vessel sail today for Tallinn for repair. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 30 — Product tanker *Azov Mariner* has now arrived at Bekker port, Tallinn.

Tallinn, Mar 30 — Product tanker *Azov Mariner* was drydocked today at Tallinn Shipyard to undergo damage repairs, which are expected to take eight days. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BALTIC TRADER (NIS)**

London, Mar 28 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1140, UTC: General cargo *Baltic Trader* (1739 gt, built 1975), Tallinn for Norway, had small leakage in engine-room off southern Sweden, in lat 55 21N, long 14 03E, at 0800, local time, Mar 26. Crew pumped out water and vessel continued voyage. (Note — According to LMIU AIS, *Baltic Trader* was 3.8 nautical miles from Molstrevag, Norway, in lat 59 28 52.5N, long 05 12 48.3E, at 2305, UTC, Mar 27, course 351 deg, speed 11.5 knots.)

#### **BANKIMCHANDRA CHATTERJEE (India)**

Balboa, Mar 26 — Product tanker *Bankimchandra Chatterjee* (26474 gt, built 1994) reported to have lost steering and touched the bank while in transit Mar 22. Some water ingress reported. Taken with tug assistance to tie up station. Completed transit at 0159, Mar 24 and anchored at Balboa at 0344, Mar 24. Presently at anchor and local contractors to commence

temporary repairs tonight. Incident did have some impact on the day's schedule cut caused no overall disruptions in traffic which is already congested due to heavy arrivals. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BAO CHENG (Cambodia)**

Taipei, Mar 27 — General cargo *Bao Cheng* completely discharged and departed Kaohsiung at 1825, local time, Mar 24 bound for Hong Kong. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BATUR V (Turkey)**

London, Mar 30 — Understand bulk *Batur V* (11176 gt, built 1995), from Qingdao, arrived Honolulu Mar 27 in order to re-secure cargo on board which is likely to take five days or more. Once completed the ship is to call at Houston.

London, Mar 30 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 1100, UTC: Bulk *Batur V*, which entered Honolulu to re-secure cargo, has been detained following Port State Control Inspection for SOLAS reasons. Vessel is still in port.

#### **BEN-MY-CHREE (Isle of Man)**

London, Mar 27 — Information received, dated Mar 22, states: Passenger ro/ro *Ben-My-Chree* (12504 gt, built 1998) has been observed to have sustained a significant amount of damage to its port side bridge wing after it arrived at NSL Bidston for its refit. It is not yet clear what caused the damage. (Note — Understand as a result of the *Ben-My-Chree* overhaul, *SuperSeaCat* will operate the vessel's schedule from Mar 20 to Apr 2. The vessel arrived Liverpool Mar 19.)

#### **BLACK POINT (Italy)**

London, Mar 28 — According to LMIU AIS, chemical/oil carrier *Black Point* was located 3.2 miles from Vlaardingen, in lat 51 53 16.8N, long 04 17 53.4E, at 1423, UTC, today, berthed.

#### **BREAKSEA (U.K.)**

London, Mar 26 — Following received from Coastguard Dublin MRCC, timed 1830, UTC: At 1449, UTC, today, product tanker *Breaksea* (992 gt, built 1985) reported engine problem, with possibility of seizure, in lat 52 02.5N, long 06 27.7W. At 1508, UTC, *Breaksea* reported engine broken down. Tug *Tramontane* proceeding and ETA 2200 hrs. Tug *Breedbank* proceeding, ETA between 0100 and 0300, UTC, tomorrow. Irish offshore patrol vessel *Aoife* is on scene and is putting a line on board, with the intention of holding the vessel. The present position of *Breaksea* is two and a half to three miles offshore.

London, Mar 27 — Following received from Coastguard Dublin MRCC, timed 0026, UTC: Product tanker *Breaksea*: A tug is on scene, understand tug *Tramontane*, currently in alongside casualty, will take *BreakSea* in tow.

London, Mar 27 — Following received from Coastguard Dublin MRCC, timed 1110, UTC: Product

tanker *Breaksea*, Cork for Dundalk with gasoil and kerosene on board, is now in tow and has reached the outer limits of Waterford harbour, where it is due to pick up a pilot shortly. We anticipate it berthing in the next few hours.

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated Mar 27, states: Product tanker *Breaksea* that got into difficulty off the coast of Wexford yesterday evening docked safely in Waterford this afternoon. The ship was towed to safety by naval vessel *Aoife* and two tugs, assisted by lifeboats from Rosslare and Kilmore Quay.

#### **BUMI JAYA (Indonesia)**

Chittagong, Mar 28 — General cargo *Bumi Jaya* remains in same position without any developments. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CALIFORNIA (Panama)**

Manila, Mar 24 — Bulk *California* (40182 gt, built 1979) sank after colliding with c.c. *Sinokor Seoul* (27076 gt, built 1980), 10.5 nautical miles southwest of Pulau Undan in Melaka, Malaysia, early today. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Mar 24 — Following received from Port Klang MRCC, timed 1820, UTC: Bulk *California* and c.c. *Sinokor Seoul* were involved in a collision incident at 0130 hrs, today, in lat 01 57.6N, long 102 10.9E. The *California* subsequently sank at approximately 1000 hrs. All crew were safely rescued by *Sinokor Seoul*, which remains anchored in the area, with bow damage.

Manila, Mar 24 — All 24 crewmen of the bulk *California*, including its Ukrainian master, were picked up by c.c. *Sinokor Seoul* after the collision which occurred at around 0130 hours, Bernama State News Agency reported. Two Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency vessels were dispatched to the location of the accident to mark the site where the vessel sank and to control possible oil leaks from the sunken vessel. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Mar 25 — The Malaysian Maritime Safety and Coordination Centre said, today, that no oil leak was found at the Malacca Straits site where bulk *California* sank. The Port Klang-based centre also warned ships passing through the Straits to steer clear of the area. *California* sank after colliding with c.c. *Sinokor Seoul*, 10.5 nautical miles south-west of Pulau Undan, early yesterday morning. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Mar 28 — Following navigation warning issued today: Sunken wreck (bulk *California*) with depth of 4.2 metres exists in lat 01 57.7N, long 102 10.7E. Light buoy established in lat 01 57.8N, long 102 10.7E.

#### **CARIBOU (Canada)**

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated Mar 25, states: It will be tomorrow the ferries plying the waters between North Sydney and Port aux Basques, N.L., are back on schedule

after the passenger ro/ro *Caribou* (27213 gt, built 1986) was taken out of service yesterday. A mechanical problem on board the vessel resulted in an odour in the vessel's drinking water system that an employee detected, Marine Atlantic spokeswoman Tara Laing said yesterday. "The problem with the water involves fixing and flushing the whole system and that takes time," she said. Once the problem is fixed, an independent outside agency will have to conduct an investigation before the boat is returned to service, Ms. Laing said. No one was sick as a result of drinking the water, she said.

#### **CAROL H (U.K.)**

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The crew of fishing *Carol H* (96 gt, built 1975) had to battle their way home in gale force winds yesterday as the vessel started to take on water. What should have been an uneventful trip back to West Cornwall after a nine-day fishing trip turned into a nightmare for those on board the vessel, based in Newlyn. At around 1730, Sunday (Mar 26) the trawler's skipper, Phil Mitchell, was carrying out routine checks when he noticed water coming in through the bottom of the vessel. He said: "It was pretty nerve-wracking. The conditions at the time were not very good. At first we were in gale force winds of between five and seven. As we were coming past Land's End it got up to about eight (gale) or nine (strong gale)." The trawler was on its way back from where the five-man crew had been fishing for hake 150 miles west-north-west of Newlyn. Mr Mitchell, 36, said: "The others were asleep so I woke them and we started looking for the leak. In that weather it is not an ideal situation. We didn't know how bad it was. You can't get a good idea at the time to assess the situation. We started the ship's pump going to get the water back out. Then we called for help." Falmouth Coastguard co-ordinated the assistance, and a spokesman said: "We got a call from the crew who were 30 miles off the Isles of Scilly at the time. We contacted RNAS Culdrose and a helicopter was sent out to them with a larger pump to help bail the water out. A lifeboat from St Agnes was also sent out." Mr Mitchell said: "It was good to see the lifeboat alongside. It put our minds at rest that someone was going to pick us up if we got into trouble. We could have been facing hours in a liferaft otherwise." The crew used a couple of wooden wedges to suppress the leak. They made a slow journey back to Newlyn, arriving around 1415, yesterday. The *Carol H* is at the docks waiting for repairs. Mr Mitchell said: "We are not due to return to sea until next Monday, so the work should be completed by then."

#### **CHANG SHIN (Panama)**

London, Mar 24 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0001, UTC: General cargo



*Chang Shin* (4737 gt, built 1998) was in collision with a Chinese coastal vessel in lat 22 08.6N, 113 53.8E, at 0830, local time, Mar 23. The Chinese vessel sustained a two-metre hole in its hull, resulting in the engine-room flooding. One member of the vessel's crew was injured and transferred to mainland China, and one crew member is missing. Both vessels are currently anchored near the site of the collision. *Chang Shin* is awaiting survey, and the Chinese vessel is awaiting lightering and salvage operations.

London, Mar 25 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0315, UTC: General cargo *Chang Shin* remains in the same position, awaiting salvage.

London, Mar 27 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0055, UTC: General cargo *Chang Shin* has been moved to a safe anchorage.

London, Mar 29 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0155, UTC: Understand general cargo *Chang Shin* remains in Hong Kong waters, under investigation.

London, Mar 30 — General cargo *Chang Shin* sailed Hong Kong 0231, Mar 29 for Kaohsiung and according to LMIU AIS was at Kaohsiung today.

#### **CHUN YEON (South Korea)**

Incheon, Mar 28 — General cargo *Chun Yeon* arrived Incheon Mar 16 from Shantou and sailed Mar 19 for Dalian. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **CLIPPER LIS (Bahamas)**

London, Mar 24 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1610, UTC: Bulk *Clipper Lis* (16041 gt, built 1996), offloading steel at Greensport West facility, Galena Park, Houston Ship Channel, had crane fall on vessel earlier today. Vessel's hull was not compromised but we are currently awaiting marine inspector's report. (Note — According to LMIU AIS, *Clipper Lis* was in lat 29 44 45.17N, long 95 11 26.11W, at 1622, UTC, today, stationary.)

Houston, Mar 27 — No 1 crane fell from its pedestal mount into No 1 hold of bulk *Clipper Lis* at about 1645, Mar 23. At the time of the incident, a load of steel pipe cargo was being lifted out of No 2 hold and was just about to be landed on the dock when the crane broke its mount and fell into No 1 hold, which was empty of cargo. The crane operator suffered bruises and cuts and some broken ribs. He was immediately moved to a hospital, where he remains in stable condition. Estimated fall about 75 feet. The vessel was immediately shut down by the Coast Guard and OSHA with discharge operations resuming at 0800, Mar 26. The stevedores are using shore gear until the vessel's owners can provide reassurance that the remaining cranes are safe to operate. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CONSTANCE N. (Liberia)**

London, Mar 28 — Following received from Maputo Maritime

Authority, dated today: Bulk *Constance N.* (113272 gt, built 1983) commenced hull repairs at Nacal yesterday. (Note — *Constance N.* sailed Tubarao Feb 16 for Oita. According to vessel's owners repairs were required following ingress of water in a ballast tank.)

#### **DA BAK SOL (North Korea)**

See "Germany" under "Port State Control".

#### **DALSAND (Netherlands)**

London, Mar 27 — C.c. *Dalsand* arrived Hamburg 1010, Mar 26.

Maassluis, Mar 28 — C.c. *Dalsand* sailed Hamburg 1745, Mar 27, for Bremerhaven. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **DEANNA (North Korea)**

Port Said, Mar 22 — General cargo *Deanna* arrived Damietta Mar 19 from Constantza and sailed Mar 21 for Spain. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **DREAM VI (Panama)**

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated today, states: An operation began in the Sea of Japan this morning to save the crew of pusher tug *Dream VI* (631 gt, built 1984). Fourteen sailors of unspecified nationality are on barge *Dream-5*, which was being towed to Nakhodka from Japan by *Dream VI*, before it sank. Russia's transport refrigerator *Balyuzek* and product tanker *Ustlimsk* are in the shipwreck zone. A force 7 storm with gales of up to 20 metres per second and five-metre high waves is hampering the rescue operation. Head of the Vladivostok-based rescue center Konstantin Sviridov said it was impossible to establish the nationality of the shipwrecked sailors during the communication sessions. They were speaking poor English, he said. *Dream VI* during previous visits to Nakhodka, was manned by a Chinese crew. Two Japanese coastguard vessels are on the way to render assistance. One vessel has a helicopter. A Russian Be-200 amphibious plane with rescuers of the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry is in Khabarovsk, ready to fly to the shipwreck area.

London, Mar 30 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0255, UTC: Barge *Dream-5*, 6019 gt, adrift in lat 41 37N, long 136 35E at 2000, UTC, Mar 29. Vessel is still drifting.

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Fourteen Japanese sailors, who were rescued from the sinking pusher tug *Dream VI* in the Japanese Sea near Primorye's coast, are waiting to be evacuated on a Japanese patrol boat today, news reports said. *Dream VI* sent out SOS signals yesterday afternoon, after being caught in a storm 130 kilometres from the Povorotny Cape in southern Primorye. The tug was travelling with a barge from Japan to the port of Nakhodka, Itar-Tass said. The Japanese crew was rescued from the sinking tug by the Russian

transport ship *Baluzek*, who was first to reach the disaster site. Two Japanese patrol boats are rushing to the site and should arrive to the barge around this evening, Vladivostok's Rescue Center said. The condition of the rescued sailors is reported as satisfactory, the Center reported. Currently, a heavy storm is raging in the Japanese Sea, with the wind speeds of 20 metres per second and wave heights of five meters.

#### **DREAM-5 (Panama)**

See *Dream VI*.

#### **EMPRESS OF THE NORTH (U.S.A.)**

London, Mar 24 — Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 2020, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Empress of the North* (5975 gt, built 2003), inbound for Portland(Ore), grounded in the Columbia River, in lat 45 34.3N, long 122 21.6W, at 1028 hrs, today. The vessel has 257 passengers on board. No injuries have been reported. Currently there is no pollution and the vessel does not appear to have been damaged. A Coast Guard team is due on scene in about 30 minutes. In about an hour and a half, a helicopter will fly over the scene, to establish whether there has been any leakage from the vessel. Reported tug *Rory B.* is proceeding.

London, Mar 25 — Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 0540, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Empress of the North* remains aground. All crew safely evacuated the vessel, no pollution. Salvage operations/preparation will continue during the night, local time.

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Crews were hoping to be able to free grounded passenger ro/ro *Empress of the North* this evening at high tide, after spending yesterday pumping fuel from its tanks to make it lighter and easier to refloat. US Coast Guard Petty Officer Mike Zolzer said approximately 20,000 gallons of diesel fuel was removed yesterday from the vessel, which is grounded on a sandbar on the Columbia River near Washougal. The 360-foot sternwheeler hit a sandbar about 350 yards from shore early Mar 24. There were no injuries and the estimated 260 occupants were taken off without incident. Coast Guard Ensign Nick Barrow said yesterday, that the fuel tanks were intact and that there was no pollution. He said equipment was standing by in case a leak of the ship's 35,000 gallons of fuel should occur. Barrow said the ship likely will be taken to a docking facility for a Coast Guard inspection before it can return to service. The *Queen of the West* arrived Mar 24 which transferred the passengers and crew to, and from shore. The 1,000-mile, weeklong cruise left Astoria Mar 19, and was to have ended today back in Astoria. The Multnomah County sheriff's office said it appeared that winds and currents forced the ship onto the

sandbar. It came to rest in about 7 feet of water with its bow some 14 feet outside the shipping channel.

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Empress of the North* refused to budge from her position on a Columbia River sandbar yesterday. Most of the ship's diesel fuel was drained and it was hoped that a rising afternoon tide would lift the vessel enough to manoeuvre it downstream. It took crews hours longer than they thought to drain more than 20,000 gallons of diesel, partly because of a mechanical problem. Still, the vessel stayed stuck, even when three tugs teamed up to pull and pivot the ship off its perch. After about an hour of tugging, the Coast Guard and work crews called it a night at 2200 hrs.

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Grounded passenger ro/ro *Empress of the North* was returning to Portland under its own power today after crews were able to refloat it. Coast Guard Ensign Nick Barrow said the tides and two tugs combined to get the vessel moving in the Columbia River shipping channel. "It was a very quick process, a matter of minutes," he said. The vessel hit a sandbar about 350 yards from shore Friday morning. There were no injuries and the estimated 260 occupants were taken off without incident. Crews pumped about 20,000 gallons of diesel fuel yesterday to make it lighter and easier to refloat. Barrow said the vessel was to arrive at a Swan Island docking facility at about 1930 hrs. The Coast Guard established a 100-yard safety zone around the vessel as it made afternoon journey. "They will be navigating pretty delicately on the way down," Barrow said.

London, Mar 27 — Following received from Coastguard Seattle, timed 2113, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Empress of the North* proceeded, escorted by three tugs, and was in Cascade General Shipyard at 1935, UTC.

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated Mar 29, states: Sternwheel passenger ro/ro *Empress of the North* that ran aground last week on the Columbia River has cancelled an upcoming trip. *Empress of the North* damaged the steel plates on its hull when it hit a sandbar near Washougal, Wash. and has to make repairs, its owner said today. After an inspection at Cascade General Shipyard, the company that operates the ship determined it will not be ready for a cruise scheduled for Apr 2. Customers can rebook or receive a refund for their trip. Dan McConnell, spokesman for American West Steamboat Co., said the ship will resume its schedule by Apr 9.

#### **ESER KAPTANOGLU (Turkey)**

London, Mar 30 — Bulk/c.c. *Eser Kaptanoglu* arrived Rostock 0850, Mar 28 from Raudeberg.

#### **F.LOGAN (U.S.A.)**

London, Mar 24 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1540, UTC:

Tug *F.Logan* (133 gt, built 1976) and a barge it was towing were damaged in a collision with general cargo *Texas GAL* (18220 gt, built 1983) at Mile 14, lower River Mississippi — Venice, La — late last night. The *F.Logan* sustained damage to navigation lights and back lights and alarm panel on wheelhouse. The *Texas GAL* sustained only superficial damage. The vessels are anchored pending investigations.

London, Mar 28 — According to LMIU AIS, general cargo *Texas GAL* was 0.8 nautical mile from Magnolia, La, in lat 29 34 23.58N, long 89 47 43.74W, at 1155, UTC, today, course 128.3 deg, speed 14.4 knots.

#### **FELIX-ANTOINE-SAVARD (Canada)**

London, Mar 28 — While approaching the Sorel berth in lat 40 02 56N, long 73 07 02W, at 2125, EST, Feb 28, passenger ro/ro *Felix-Antoine-Savard* (2489 gt, built 1997) was hindered by a large ice floe causing her to strike the wharf. Minor damage was reported.

#### **GENERAL GUISAN (Switzerland)**

London, Mar 27 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1545, UTC: Bulk *General Guisan* (39161 gt, built 1999), Mobile for Brazil, cargo coal, grounded in Mobile Bay at 1930, local time, Mar 25. Vessel was refloated with tug assistance about 1100, local time, Mar 26 and inspection did not show up any damage. Vessel will, however, undergo an underwater survey once it reaches its destination.

#### **GENMAR STAR (Liberia)**

London, Mar 29 — Bulk/oil *GenMar Star* arrived Corpus Christi Mar 25.

#### **GENOA (Bahamas)**

Istanbul, Mar 24 — Ref *Genoa* is waiting at anchorage off Buyukdere. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 27 — Ref *Genoa*, Buyukdere for Ilichevsk, passed Istanbul Mar 25.

Odessa, Mar 28 — Ref *Genoa* arrived Ilichevsk Mar 27. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GEORGINA P. (Panama)**

London, Mar 27 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the morning of Mar 25 fire broke out in the "smoking room" of general cargo *Georgina P.* (4041 gt, built 1984) while the vessel was being towed from Piraeus to Chalkis Shipyards. At the time of the incident they were at a position in the southern part of the Evia channel. The fire was extinguished immediately by the crew of the tug and caused only minor damage. The six crewmembers of *general cargo Georgina P.* did not sustain any injury. The port authority prohibited departure pending inspection by class. (Note — *Georgina P.* had arrived Piraeus Mar 7.)

London, Mar 27 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0910, UTC: General cargo *Georgina P.*, which was being towed to Chalkis

Shipyards by tug *Atlas*, registration No.10238, reason for tow not known, had a fire in accommodation Mar 25. vessel's stability was not affected. There were no injuries. No further information known.

Piraeus, Mar 27 — Fire broke out in the smoking room of general cargo *Georgina P.* on the morning of Mar 25, at the sea area of Fidonisi, Euboea Gulf. At the time, the vessel was being towed to Chalkis Shipyards. Fire was extinguished by the tug crew members and only minor material damages were reported. Her sailing was prohibited by Aliveri port authorities until class inspection. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GLOBULUS (Panama)**

London, Mar 28 — Wood-chip *Globulus* sailed Long Beach Mar 24 for Incheon.

#### **GRYF (Bahamas)**

See *Villum Clausen*.

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

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard rescued four people who were on board a commercial fishing boat that ran into trouble in Boston Harbor early today. Fishing *Guardian* (122 gt, built 1988) ran aground about 3.5 miles off Deer Island, near Grave's Light at about 0500 hrs. The 70-foot vessel hit some rocks near Graves Light and began to take on water, sending out a mayday distress call. The Coast Guard responded within 13 minutes, officials said, bringing pumps to try to pump the vessel out and prevent it from sinking. Then they will attempt to tow it to shore.

#### **HARVEST GAVINA (South Africa)**

London, Mar 27 — Following received from Australia MRCC, timed 0950, UTC: Trawler *Harvest Gavina* (525 gt, built 1985) had engine breakdown after piston went through engine block 38 miles from Saldanha Bay, in lat 33 35.3S, long 17 31.5E, at 1604, UTC, Mar 26. Vessel is being towed to Saldanha Bay.

London, Mar 29 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0945, UTC: Trawler *Harvest Gavina* was towed into Saldanha Bay at 2000, UTC, Mar 27. (See issue of Mar 28.)

#### **HAVET (Sweden)**

Gothenburg, Mar 27 — Fishing *Havet* sinking Jan 18: According to the final inspection report one crew member was found dead inside the cabin. The trawler was fishing shrimps west of Koster south-easterly wind when the master turned in and crew member had the watch at the bridge. The vessel ran aground and water entered the vessel. Only the master had his survival suit on and could hardly make it when vessel sunk, but the crewmember never got his suit on. Reasons said to be several but among the things noted, ship came off the intended course but not observed by the watchman since he



was watching TV and did not observe radar and ships GPS when the vessel grounded. The vessel found in 15 metres of water and the man found inside wheelhouse by divers the next day. — Westax Marine Services A.B.

#### HEBEI MERCY (Hong Kong)

London, Mar 28 — Bulk/oil *Hebei Mercy* sailed Tacoma Mar 24 for China and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 48 43.40N, long 125 45.18W at 1823, UTC, Mar 25.

#### HMS GOODWILL (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Mar 26 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1041, UTC: C.c. *HMS Goodwill* (3999 gt, built 1997) bound for Vigo carrying 3500 containers, stopped due to engine problems in lat 49 46.3N, long 00 32.9W at 0903, UTC. The duration of the engine repairs is 2 to 3 hours.

London, Mar 26 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1337, UTC: C.c. *HMS Goodwill* completed engine repairs in lat 49 46.9N, long 00 33.19W at 0957, UTC. The vessel is now underway to its next port of Vigo, ETA Mar 28.

#### HU HANG KE 63 (China)

See *Sen Hai 1*.

#### HYUNDAI FORTUNE (Panama)

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The Yemeni Ministry of Transport's Maritime Affairs Authority is urging ships to keep a sharp look-out for the c.c. *Hyundai Fortune*, which is still on fire off the coast. The vessel is dead in the water and is drifting in a south-westerly direction under the influence of prevailing currents. At 1100 hrs, today, the position of the vessel was reported as: lat 12 41N, long 46 47E.

Sydney, Mar 24 — The fire on board c.c. *Hyundai Fortune* is likely to lead to a record cargo insurance claim, London underwriters say. The vessel was on an Asia-Europe service with a large proportion of feedered cargo from many different ports on board when the fire broke out 120 miles east of Aden. There is speculation that the fire was started in a cargo of fireworks loaded in Hong Kong bound for Europe, and which were stowed in the area behind the accommodation block where the fire took hold. SvitserWijsmuller Salvage has controlled the blaze, with four firefighting tugs expected on scene today and another expected within several days. The salvors, who have signed a Lloyd's Open Form in expectation of saving the vessel, may seek refuge for the vessel in Aden. A Dutch frigate was fortunately only half an hour away from *Hyundai Fortune* when the fire started and was able to take its crew off. The rest of a NATO naval task group in the Arabian Sea then proceeded to stand by, with a British warship now enforcing a navigational warning zone around the burning vessel and a

number of floating containers. — "Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News."

London, Mar 24 — A SvitserWijsmuller report, dated Mar 23, states: Several resources from SvitserWijsmuller Salvage yesterday moved into and closer towards the site of c.c. *Hyundai Fortune*. Fire-fighting tug *Wadi Hassan* with an initial salvage team on board of seven salvage/fire-fighting experts and basic support equipment arrived on site yesterday afternoon. SvitserWijsmuller fire-fighting tug *Rakhyut*, ETA on site Mar 24, and SvitserWijsmuller oceangoing tug *SmitWijs Rotterdam*, ETA Mar 24, continued at full speed. Another tug will be mobilised from Hodeidah to Aden in order to possibly be transferred into a fire-fighting tug with mobile equipment being flown in. Further teams and salvage and fire-fighting equipment is being mobilised in as the need arises. During the past period close co-ordination and contact was maintained between the SvitserWijsmuller Salvage co-ordination centre and the frigates *De Zeven Provinciën* and later *HMS Lancaster*, which took up station off the casualty. During mobilisation of the *Wadi Hassan* with the salvage team on board, a rendezvous between the tug and *De Zeven Provinciën* was arranged for a briefing of the salvage team on the situation, while three essential crew from the casualty were taken over for specific assistance. The remaining crew of the casualty then was transferred off Yemen territorial waters by the Dutch Navy vessel for repatriation. The salvage team arrived in Yemen and departed Aden on the tug, still within 24 hours of the initial blast, arriving at the casualty, some 140 miles off Aden, within 24 hours of departure from Amsterdam Airport. Upon arrival on site and after an initial inspection the tug started fire-fighting activities. The work is concentrated at the moment on the first line of containers in front of the bridge, with the fire having progressed from the stern through the accommodation to the containers on the forepart. The aim at the moment is to stop the fire progressing before actually attacking the fire in the accommodation and the stern when further resources are on site.

Ymuiden, Mar 24 — C.c. *Hyundai Fortune*: At the front of the vessel the fire in the superstructure is now controlled and no flames have been visible in the last 24 hours. At the aft the fire is not dying down but it has decreased in intensity and the temperature is dropping in No 6 hold. Tugs *Rakhyut* and *SmitWijs Rotterdam* are due on scene about now, whereupon the *Rakhyut* will commence fire-fighting activities as soon as it is alongside, while the *SmitWijs Rotterdam* will connect a towline to the *Hyundai Fortune* to control its movements during the fire-fighting. — SvitserWijsmuller Salvage BV.

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Lloyd's underwriters are bracing themselves for the largest-ever cargo insurance claim after c.c. *Hyundai Fortune* carrying among other things a cargo of fireworks, caught fire in the busy shipping lanes off the coast of Aden in the Persian Gulf. The vessel, is reckoned to be carrying more than 5000 containers with up to half caught fire. Claims for the cargo alone could top \$100 million as Lloyd's experts say each container would have an insurance value of at least \$35,000, with many worth up to \$1 million. Replacement value of the vessel is \$80 million.

London, Mar 27 — A SvitserWijsmuller report, dated Mar 26, states: C.c. *Hyundai Fortune*: SvitserWijsmuller Salvage today, were able to start with further stabilisation activities following the control that was achieved over the situation and condition of the casualty in the past few days. During yesterday the fire fighting and salvage teams of SvitserWijsmuller Salvage were able to board the burning casualty twice while it was under tow, using breathing apparatus and other personal protection gear, for two separate inspection rounds through several compartments of the casualty. What is presumed to be fire fighting water was noticed to be present in some compartments. This morning the SvitserWijsmuller ocean going tug *SmitWijs Rotterdam*, which sofar controlled the casualty by towing her, was brought alongside to act as a working base. Salvage pumps from the tug were located in certain compartments to start the dewatering process in order to make a start with getting excessive stresses in the casualty under control. Tug *Ras Isa*, which today arrived on site with the 15 tons of salvage and fire fighting equipment that was flown in to Aden from The Netherlands, is in the process of transferring this equipment to the *SmitWijs Rotterdam*, which in turn is using her crane for transferring the fire fighting and salvage equipment onto the casualty in order for it to be engaged in operations. The planning is now to further execute stabilisation and control activities, which are to include a piece-by-piece attack on the still burning and smouldering containers on board of the casualty. These 'watertight tins' need to be attacked one by one to ensure that the fires inside them are extinguished. Fire fighting tugs remain in attendance.

London, Mar 28 — Insurance costs are mounting across the board as the full impact of the c.c. *Hyundai Fortune* blaze becomes clearer. Marine cargo experts at insurance broking group Aon estimated that cargo values could be at least \$300m - three times as much as the most pessimistic first estimates. At Lloyd's, meanwhile, specialists unofficially estimated that the *Hyundai Fortune* and other casualties of the past week could add 15-20 points to the market's marine



loss ratio, potentially plunging it into negative territory. Marine has suffered in recent years from having a narrow premium base, especially on the hull side. The insurance damage is spread far wider than Lloyd's. Appeals from clients to top law firm Clyde & Co for assistance and advice lent credence to talk that a massive loss is in prospect, whatever happens now to the ravaged ship. Philip Roose, an equity partner at Clyde, said that he and his colleagues had received instructions so far from marine insurers in South Korea, Japan, the UK and Europe relating to cargo valued at in excess of \$50m. Mike Pollard, another Clyde partner, has been asked to deal with salvage questions. In turn, Clyde has been in urgent talks with leading fire experts and cargo surveyors. Aon Marine put its record value estimate on the cargo because of the likelihood that it includes a significant number of high technology goods. A salvage contract has been signed, and the shipowner has declared general average, both of which will require contribution from cargo owners, even if their cargo is unaffected by the fire, said Aon. The broker said that salvage charges and general average costs are standard inclusions in a cargo policy and these costs should therefore be covered by insurance. Although many Far Eastern insurers are seen as having a significant exposure, London and European markets are providing reinsurance.

London, Mar 28 — A SvitzerWijmsmuller Salvage BV report, dated Mar 27, states: Work continued today on board *c.c. Hyundai Fortune* to stabilise the condition of the burning vessel. Surgical fire fighting, pumping and further control operations were expanded by the salvage and fire fighting team using the specially moved in salvage and fire fighting equipment. The success achieved so far and the resources available on site allowed the salvage master to release one of the fire fighting tugs.

London, Mar 29 — Explosions that ripped apart the *c.c. Hyundai Fortune* last week were so powerful that the original theory of fireworks catching alight is being discounted in some circles. Instead, experts are turning their attention to other explanations after studying new photographs of the containership that reveal in far more detail the full extent of the devastation. The rear section of the 5,551 teu vessel has been almost totally destroyed by the fire that has blazed for the past week. Damage to the hull, which is almost split in two, has raised suspicions "that it may not have been fireworks" which caused the accident, the TT Club's chief executive Paul Neagle told a press conference to announce the mutual insurer's latest results. The stern of the *Hyundai Fortune* has been burned out and the hull holed, raising questions about whether some external force was responsible. Fireworks or other hazardous cargoes would have been in containers above

deck, whereas the *Hyundai Fortune* appears to have been rocked by explosions below deck. While reluctant to speculate publicly, industry sources have started to consider in private whether the vessel could have been the target of a piracy or terrorist attack, or even hit a mine. The vessel was 60 miles off the Yemeni coast when the blaze broke out. Another possibility could have been a gas or fuel tank exploding, said one expert. The crew was evacuated with just one injury. The TT Club estimates that at least 500 containers on the vessel have been destroyed. The value of the boxes on the burning vessel is put at around \$8m-\$9m, and will contribute to the general average. Most were insured through the TT Club. Regardless of the eventual conclusions of inspectors investigating the disaster, the TT Club yesterday expressed concern about the problems of knowing exactly what is loaded in containers. With some lines now refusing to accept certain chemicals or other potentially unstable freight, the TT Club said there are suspicions that "fraud" is taking place with some shippers allegedly misdeclaring consignments and putting vessels and crews in danger.

Ymuiden, Mar 30 — *C.c. Hyundai Fortune*: Operations to stabilise vessel are still under way. Once the situation is stable we will be checking to ensure the fire is completely extinguished over all areas of the vessel. — SvitzerWijmsmuller BV.

#### IMANT SUDMALIS (Belize)

See "Canary Islands" under "Port State Control."

#### ISMAL PRINCE (Georgia)

Istanbul, Mar 23 — General cargo *Ismail Prince* (5120 gt, built 1979), Istanbul for Algiers, had engine breakdown while transitting Dardanelles at 0315, local time, today and anchored at Karanlik Liman. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — According to LMIU AIS, *Ismail Prince* was nine nautical miles from Canakkale, in lat 40 02 03.23N, long 26 19 16.46E, at 1524, UTC, today, speed reported at 0.3 knots.)

#### IVER EXCEL (Netherlands)

See "Bermuda" under "Weather & Navigation."

#### IVORY TIRUPATI (Liberia)

London, Mar 28 — Following received from Corsen MRCC, timed 0915, UTC: Ref *Ivory Tirupati* (10,368 gt, built 1989), Ashdod for Zeebrugge, cargo potatoes, lost container overboard in lat 45 21.5N, long 08 00W, at 2342, UTC, Mar 26. Vessel lost second container overboard in lat 45 21.1N, long 08 04W, at 0001, UTC, Mar 27. A third container was then lost in lat 47 12.7N, long 06 47W, at 0647, UTC, Mar 27. Vessel had 20-25 deg list to starboard and was escorted into Brest same day.

London, Mar 28 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Ref *Ivory Tirupati* arrived in

Brest on Mar 27 escorted by tug *Abeille Bourbon* with a serious list to starboard after the cargo shifted.

#### KAPITAN BOLSUNOVSKIY (Russia)

Busan, Mar 24 — Fish factory *Kapitan Bolsunovskiy* arrived Busan Mar 20 and is presently under repair in Gamcheon harbour, Busan, ETC early April. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### KIM JACOB (Liberia)

Lisbon, Mar 24 — Crude oil tanker *Kim Jacob*: Understand from our sub-agents in Setubal that the vessel has already started repairs which are expected to last about 30 days. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Mar 14.)

#### KOZA (Marshall Islands)

Piraeus, Mar 25 — General cargo *Koza* arrived Piraeus, in tow, on Mar 1 and sailed on Mar 16 for Ambarli. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### LILLY (North Korea)

Edinburgh, Mar 27 — General cargo *Lilly* (1746 gt, built 1975), laden with 410 metres of timber and 63 second-hand tractors sailed from berth 21, Constantza, for Damietta, at 1700, Mar 24. After less than two hours it sent a SOS messages to the port authorities as it started to list approximately one mile from Constantza north dyke. Tugs *Galati V*, *Galati VI* and salvage vessel *Safir* were called for assistance. By 1200, Mar 25 the ship was brought back into berth 23, Constantza South. It is now listing two degrees. Port authorities are now investigating the incident. No casualties have been reported. The timber has been thrown overboard by the crew, apparently the vessel had a five to six degree list on the starboard side, and about 30 tractors have fallen into the sea as a result of broken ties. The cargo was not insured. A rough evaluation of losses for the shipowners indicated about Euro 400,000. If the master is found guilty for the incident he will be fined with Ron 8,000 (US\$ 2,730). A significant part of the timber reached the shore and was immediately collected by the locals in nearby Eforie. — Danube Research.

Bucharest, Mar 29 — General cargo *Lilly* arrived in Constantza Port on Mar 18 to load about 2,000 tonnes, general cargoes, actually consisting of timber and used tractors bound for Damietta, part thereof being loaded on deck. The vessel left port during the evening of Mar 24 and while leaving Romanian waters, being at about 1 nautical mile off the northern breakwater of Constantza, the vessel listed, losing in the sea almost half the quantity of cargo on deck, including about 30 tractors. Unconfirmed reports are that this might have occurred due to deficient lashing. The vessel returned to berth 23 of Constantza the same night for investigations and reinstatement of lashing. It appears that the vessel sustained no damages following the incident. *Lilly* sailed from

Constantza, with the remaining cargo on board, bound for Damietta, this morning. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MAINE (Cambodia)**

London, Mar 28 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0845, UTC: General cargo *Maine* remains aground and is expected to remain aground for some time.

**MARIA A.ANGELICOUSI (Greece)**

Antwerp, Mar 24 — Bulk *Maria A.Angelicoussi* is discharging cargo at port of Bayuquan in North China. — DPS Teamhead Surveyors.

**MARIELLE BOLTEN (Liberia)**

London, Mar 25 — A SvitzerWijismuller Salvage BV report, dated Mar 24, states: Earlier today SvitzerWijismuller Salvage and Resolve Salvage successfully completed the operations to salvage the general cargo *Marielle Bolten*. This vessel ran aground in January on the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean and was refloated in February. Part of the cargo destined for the island was discharged and delivered to the owners: the Dominican Authorities. The vessel thereupon was towed by the salvors to the Bahamas and safely brought into Freeport, where she was completely discharged in an operation lasting until yesterday. This operation was executed under responsibility of the salvors considering the weakened condition of the vessel caused by the grounding. The vessel this morning was, under command of SvitzerWijismuller Salvage/Resolve Salvage personnel, towed into the drydock, where it was re-delivered back to the owners.

**MARIETJE BENITA (Netherlands)**

London, Mar 30 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Repairs to general cargo *Marietje Benita* at Peter's Yard in Wewelsfleth are due to take around another ten days.

**MARTHA E. (U.S.A.)**

London, Mar 24 — Following received from Coast Guard Guam, timed 2005, UTC: On Mar 6, barge *Martha E.* (1319 gt, built 1944), capsized whilst on route from the Philippines for Guam loaded with cement. The barge, which is 250 feet in length, was subsequently towed to Buru in Indonesia, where the owner intends to "proceed with salvage".

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

Ponta Delgada, Mar 24 — General cargo *Melek N.* (1510 gt, built 1983) is presently about 300 miles south-east of the Azores with rudder problems. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ponta Delgada, Mar 27 — Spanish tug *Conde de Gondomar* is proceeding from Vigo to the casualty area in order to tow general cargo *Melek N.* to Ponta Delgada. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ponta Delgada, Mar 28 — General cargo *Melek N.* is presently being towed by Spanish tug *Charuca Silveira* not *Conde de Gondomar* as previously reported. Towage ETA Ponta Delgada Mar 29/30. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Mar 28.)

**MIKAELA LANE DEVALL (U.S.A.)**

London, Mar 24 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1520, UTC: Barge being pushed by pusher tug *Mikaela Lane Devall* (144 gt, built 2003) was damaged in a collision with crude oil tanker *Nordic Svenita* (58269 gt, built 1997) in the Houston Ship Channel Mar 23. No damage reported to the tug or the tanker. (Note — According to LMIU AIS, *Mikaela Lane Devall* was in lat 29 44 30.13N, long 95 12 09.27W, at 1508, UTC, today. *Nordic Svenita* was in lat 29 40 55.8N, long 94 59 31.8W, at 1506, UTC, today.)

**MSC RAFAELA (Panama)**

Zeebrugge, Mar 30 — C.c. *MSC Rafaela* (42307 gt, built 1996), bound Antwerp, with eta Flushing roads, 0900, local time, reported engine trouble at 0848 hrs. Vessel returned to pilot station at 0932 hrs. At 1145, local time, vessel anchored off Wandelaar pilot station for repairs. At 1125, UTC, vessel was still in the same position and according to pilot repairs should take approximately six hours. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *MSC Rafaela* sailed Hamburg 0740, Mar 29.)

**NAPOCOR POWER BARGE NO.106 (Philippines)**

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

**NORD SPIRIT (Marshall Islands)**

London, Mar 25 — Following Japan Navigation Warning, dated Mar 22, states: Tug towing cargo vessel, bulk *Nord Spirit* (25967 gt, built 1997) in lat 40 31.7N, long 160 06.0E, at 2130, UTC, Mar 21, Nagoya ko, 35-00N, long 137 50E, ETA Mar 30. Speed about seven knots.

London, Mar 25 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0225, UTC: Bulk *Nord Spirit* in tow of a tug due to engine problems, last reported position, lat 38 44N, long 154 44E.

**NORDIC SVENITA (Bahamas)**

See *Mikaela Lane Devall*.

**NORTHERN LINN (U.S.A.)**

London, Mar 24 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1500, UTC: Fishing *Northern Linn* (134 gt, built 1985) was reportedly disabled and adrift in lat 40 02N, long 71 02W, at 2010, UTC, Mar 22. Vessel was taken in tow and arrived New Bedford about half an hour ago.

**OCEAN GEM (Belize)**

London, Mar 29 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard,

timed 0755, UTC: General cargo *Ocean Gem* (1492 gt, built 1988), in ballast, ran aground in lat 42 37.2N, long 141 35.1E, at 0425, local time, today. All crew have been rescued safely by helicopter. Vessel is still aground.

London, Mar 30 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0120, UTC: General cargo *Ocean Gem* is still aground in the same position.

**OLUK (Malta)**

London, Mar 30 — Following received from Malta RCC, timed 1120, UTC: Understand general cargo *Oluk* (3990 gt, built 1984) grounded Mar 22 and is now entering Pomalaa, Indonesia, with tugs in attendance. (Note — *Oluk* sailed Hong Kong Mar 5 for Pomalaa.)

**OOCL SINGAPORE (Hong Kong)**

See *Atlantic Hemlock*.

**ORIENT BRILLIANCE (Panama)**

Lima, Mar 28 — Bulk *Orient Brilliance* completed repairs and sailed Callao Mar 16 for China. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ORION (Mexico)**

Veracruz, Mar 28 — Local news reports that non specific tanker *Orion* (1223 gt, built 1965) sank off the port of Progreso, Mexico on Mar 24. Understand that this is one of the service craft that work around the oil fields that are in the Bay of Campeche. Apparently, the Mexican Navy rescued five of the eight crew that were on board. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Non specific tanker *Orion* sank in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of the southern state of Campeche, authorities confirmed yesterday. Local media reported that five crewmen had been rescued, but that three others were missing. The state-owned oil company, Pemex, confirmed the sinking but said the ship was not working for the company when it went down Sunday (Mar 24) while carrying fuel to the Caribbean resort of Cancun. The company said its personnel helped the Mexican Navy in the search for crew members from the boat, which was operated by Naval Mexicana SA de CV, a private firm. In a press statement, Pemex said the sinking was the result of rough weather over the weekend. The accident occurred about 200 miles from the Yucatan peninsula port of Progreso. It was unclear how much oil the ship was carrying, and whether any had leaked. (See issue of Mar 29.)

**PACIFIC SKY (U.K.)**

See "Alleged Damage To Cargo From Vessel At Adelaide, Australia" under "Miscellaneous".

**PAKRI CHALLENGE (Malta)**

London, Mar 30 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: A heating pipe on chem.tank *Pakri Challenge* (6742 gt, built 1993) broke



while the vessel was lying in the Kiel Canal approach of Brunsbuettel, during the night of Mar 30. The ship was just about to take a pilot for the canal passage to the Baltic, and the pilot boat *Capitain Jurs* was lying alongside. A fountain of oil and water escaped from the pipe and spread over the pilot boat which had to be taken out of service for cleaning afterwards. In the aftermath, also the bow thruster of *Pkari Challenge* failed, and the police came to investigate the situation and to decide whether the ship was allowed to enter the canal. After the completion of investigations the vessel could resume its passage towards Kiel-Holtenau. *Capitain Jurs* re-entered service after an hour. (Note — *Pakri Challenge* sailed Rotterdam 0525, Mar 29 for Tallinn.)

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

Gothenburg, Mar 27 — Asphalt tanker *Pandion*: Brostroms Shipping Line confirm approximately 30 tons steel replaced in bottom and about to be finished within next few days. Replacing approximately 500 sq.metres insulation material inside ship's hull, which sustained damage in the incident and to commence work for this object. Timewise hard to say and at present no idea, but sure to take some weeks. A total of 2,300 tons of "hard bitumen" is still on board in bottom This is to be heated for later discharge. After repairs and vessel properly insulated and cargo will be re-heated for proper possibilities of discharge. — Westax Marine Services A.B.

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

Vigo, Mar 30 — Chem.tank *Pointe du Cormoran* (3446 gt, built 1987), cargo ethanol, is reported approximately 70 miles north north-west of Corunna with main engine breakdown and in tow of tug *Ibaizabal Uno*. Vessel is likely to be towed to Corunna. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 30 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 0955, UTC: Chem.tank *Pointe du Cormoran* is being towed by tug *Ibaizabal Uno* to Corunna, where eta approximately 0600, UTC, tomorrow, following engine breakdown at approximately 2030, UTC, yesterday.

#### **PORS PIRON (France)**

London, Mar 27 — Following received from Coastguard Dublin MRCC, timed 0026, UTC: Fishing *Pors Piron* (268 gt, built 1976) was refloated at 1400 hrs and towed to safety after running aground in Dingle Harbour yesterday morning.

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

Manila, Mar 28 — General cargo *Premship X* is still blocking part of the busy Mactan Channel in central Philippines, the Philippine Coast Guard, Cebu District Command said. There is still no indication when Premiere Shipping Lines, owner of *Premship X*, will start refloating of the wreck. Negotiations between

Premiere Shipping and the insurer of *Premship X* are still on-going. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **PRIVATIM (Netherlands)**

London, Mar 27 — The wreck of general cargo *Privatim* which sank on Jan 25 near the entrance of Eemshaven, in the River Ems, will be raised on Mar 27. The company GPS Marine Services from Sliedrecht has started the salvage of the vessel, which will take over a week. At first they will remove her cargo of a 1000 tons of asphalt scrapings. They expect that they need three days for that job. Then they need another eight days to remove the vessel, which has broken in two parts. The location has been marked with buoys.

London, Mar 30 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The salvage of the wreck of general cargo *Privatim* started on Mar 27. The salvage is being carried out by GPS Marine Services from Sliedrecht and is expected to last about a week. First the cargo has to be removed, then the wreck, which has broken in two, will be removed.

London, Mar 30 — GPS Marine Services started the salvage of inland general cargo *Privatim* on Mar 27. The cargo of a 1,000 tons of asphalt scrapings has been removed from the sunken vessel. Also the car of the master, standing on the deck, which sank with the vessel, has been lifted out of the water. After the weekend the salvors will start with cutting the vessel in two, where after the two parts of the sunken vessel will be removed.

#### **PROTECTOR (Panama)**

London, Mar 25 — Bulk *Protector* left Maputo on Mar 10 and arrived Nacala Mar 14.

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

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated Mar 23, states: Two passengers are now believed to have died in the sinking of passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North*, despite early reports that all on board were rescued. BC Ferries president David Hahn said today that hope began fading when reports the middle-aged couple was seen among rescued passengers yesterday turned out to be false. "They're likely on the ship," he said. The vessel sank early yesterday morning about an hour after striking a rock near Gil Island. The vessel was four hours into its 15-hour trip through the Inside Passage to Port Hardy from Prince Rupert. Initial reports claimed all the passengers and crew had made it to Hartley Bay, a remote First Nations village not far from the wreck site. However, the numbers fluctuated from 99 to 102, partly because BC Ferries had no firm idea who was actually on board the vessel, Hahn admitted. There is no procedure to confirm who boarded the vessel after booking a ticket, he said. "There were at least three or four instances of, if you will, shifting of passengers on board the vessel," said Hahn. There was every

indication that Gerald Foisy and Shirley Rosette, both of 100 Mile House, BC, boarded the vessel. Foisy's brother, George Foisy, saw them off at the dock on Tuesday evening (Mar 21). Hahn said BC Ferries contacted the couple's relatives to find out if they had found their own way out of Hartley Bay, which has no road and is accessible only by water and air. The RCMP were still checking Hartley Bay but Hahn said there was no sign they were ever there. Hahn said the first priority, along with containing any potential environmental damage, will be to investigate the wreck for any sign of the missing couple. The vessel could be as far as 350 metres beneath the surface. There was still little indication of how the vessel ended up striking a rock in a well-charted channel it transits regularly. "There was any number of different radars, GPS, electronic charting systems, everything," said Hahn. "The ship was clearly off course when something occurred. There was more than enough electronic information there that should have triggered some sort of concern around the location of the vessel." Hahn said crew members were allowed to rest yesterday and formal interviews began today.

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Light oil and diesel fuel continued to bubble 400 metres up to the surface from the cracked hull of passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North* yesterday, spreading up to five kilometres out in thin, slick arcs that so far have stayed clear of the coastline. Clean-up workers scrambled to cordon off three sensitive beaches in an area known as habitat for shellfish, herring, salmon and rockfish but a violent storm prevented them from cordoning off the leak itself. That same storm's high winds kept the oil in the centre of Wright Sound. The ferry was carrying 220,000 litres of No. 2 diesel fuel, 20,000 litres of light oil and 220 litres of hydraulic oil. The 16 cars on board the ferry may also be leaking fuel. Long ribbons of fuel are arranged in windrows — about 30 centimetres across, with eight metres between them, covering about 10% of the five-kilometre radius from the crash site, north of Gil Island, Don Rodden of the Coast Guard said. BC Ferries contracted a clean-up company, Burrard Clean, to bring booms and skimming equipment from Prince Rupert, Mr Rodden said. A barge carrying that equipment was at sea at 0630 yesterday, he said, about six hours after the crash. The barge arrived at the site between 1700 and 1800 yesterday, he said.

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A manned submersible found passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North* and took the first pictures of the sunken ship yesterday. The ferry was found in 427 metres of water. Passengers Gerald Foisey and Shirley Rosette are still missing and their families do not hold much hope the couple will be found. A BC Ferries spokeswoman said yesterday the



vessel is intact. There was no sign of the missing couple. Weather permitting, the submersible was to return to the site today.

London, Mar 28 — A BC Ferries press release, timed 1900, Mar 26, states: BC Ferries and the Transportation Safety Board, accompanied by the Minister's representative from Transport Canada and the RCMP, have viewed the first video footage of passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North*. The vessel has been located intact in 1,400 feet of water. It is resting in silt on its keel. The silt covers the hull up to the rubbing strake and above in some areas. The mini sub spent about three hours surveying the vessel today. There was no sign of missing persons. The video tape is being processed this evening and, based on a review, a dive plan for tomorrow will be formulated to gather further information. There is also very little oil emanating from the vessel.

London, Mar 29 — A BC Ferries press release, dated Mar 28, states: A manned submersible has completed its underwater assessment of passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North* and has left the incident site. BC Ferries is reviewing the video footage from the submersible that shows *Queen of the North* intact in 1,400 feet of water. The vessel is resting on its keel in silt and mud that covers the hull up to the rubbing strake and above in some areas. There was no sign of the two missing passengers. The Transportation Safety Board (TSB), which is the lead agency in the investigation, has released some images from the underwater video. The TSB release is available at [www.tsb.gc.ca/en/common/whats\\_new.asp](http://www.tsb.gc.ca/en/common/whats_new.asp). BC Ferries is continuing to execute a comprehensive environmental action plan in cooperation with several federal and provincial agencies and First Nations in the area. Until *Queen of Prince Rupert* returns from refit in mid-April, a tug and barge will move essential supplies from Prince Rupert to the Queen Charlotte Islands. On the mid coast, *Nimkish* is operating on its regularly scheduled service between Bella Coola, Klemtu, Bella Bella and Shearwater, with stops available at Ocean Falls, if requested in advance.

London, Mar 29 — A Transportation Safety Board of Canada press release, dated Prince Rupert, Mar 28, states: The Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSB) has released video images of the wreckage of passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North* that sank off Gil Island, BC, Mar 22. Underwater images obtained from a submersible equipped with video cameras show that the vessel has been located in 1,400 feet of water on the ocean floor, resting upright in silt. Under the Canadian Transportation Accident Investigation and Safety Board Act, the TSB has the exclusive jurisdiction to investigate this occurrence in order to make findings as to its causes and contributing

factors. The field phase of the investigation is now almost over, and TSB investigators will soon proceed with the post field phase and analysis of the information gathered from various sources.

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated today, states: When passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North* ran into Gil Island last week, the people of Hartley Bay rushed to help, sending a flotilla of rescue boats out to pull in survivors. Now they are wondering why the rest of the world has been so slow in coming to help them. Chief Robert Hill said yesterday the oil-spill response seemed to take a long time to get going and when it did, crews did not seem to have all the resources they needed. "The response of this community was quick. How come they were so slow?" he asked, noting that diesel fuel had already fouled many beaches by the time cleanup crews arrived. "The horrific amount of fuel on our beaches is quite startling. You can go to a lot of beaches around here, wipe your hands on the rocks, and they just come back covered with fuel." Mr. Hill said he was upset too that officials were slow to come to Hartley Bay to address the concerns of residents. The people of Hartley Bay only received their first briefing on the cleanup effort yesterday, when government and industry representatives came for a meeting, one week after the accident. And while that meeting "filled in many of the information gaps," Mr. Hill said, it also left a feeling of unease among residents of the small, isolated native community which makes its living from the sea. He said both Premier Gordon Campbell and Environment Minister Barry Penner flew to the North Coast last week, following the accident, but neither stopped in at Hartley Bay, the town that could suffer the most from environmental damage. Hartley Bay is tucked in behind Promise Island, about a 20-minute boat ride across Wright Sound from where *Queen of the North* ripped out its bottom on the rocky shores of Gil Island. It continues to leak fuel slowly and a sheen of diesel has now spread far from the area, Mr. Hill said. "An effort is being made to contain the fuel, but we are told the best way to deal with it may be to let nature take its course," Mr. Hill said. Shortly after the accident, the government sent a cleanup team to the site. The effort involves BC Ferries, Burrard Clean Operations, Environment Canada, the B.C. Ministry of Environment, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and representatives from the Hartley Bay and Kitkatla Bands. Officials have said the leak is slow and that 50% of diesel fuel reaching the surface evaporates within 48 hours. "The remaining compounds break down into minute hydrocarbons, which can be dangerous to wildlife depending on amount of contact. However, the hydrocarbon is eventually degraded by sunlight and bacteria — breaking

the molecules down into harmless components. How long it takes depends on weather and local environmental conditions," the B.C. Ministry of Environment said in a recent release.

#### **RIO (Comoros)**

Bucharest, Mar 23 — General cargo *Rio* is still in Constantza port under repair, estimate date of completion unknown at present. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Mar 28 — General cargo *Rio* completed provisional repairs and sailed for Piraeus on Mar 24. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **RODANTHI (Greece)**

Piraeus, Mar 24 — Passenger ro/ro *Rodanthi* has returned to service. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ROYKA 1 (Kiribati)**

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Merchant vessel *Rokya 1* and *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) collided at 2309, local time, yesterday, approximately 30 miles south-east of the Iraqi coastline in the North Persian Gulf. Two US sailors received minor injuries as a result of the collision. Two crewmembers from the *Rokya 1* also received minor injuries and were treated on-scene by McCampbell's independent duty corpsman. *Royka 1* and *McCampbell*, an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, both received damage on the bow and are deemed seaworthy. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

#### **SANDETTIE (France)**

London, Mar 25 — Following received from Corsen MRCC, timed 0925, UTC: Fish factory *Sandettie* (2068 gt, built 1981) had to take anchorage near Scheveningen to undergo engine repairs yesterday at 1330, UTC. The vessel completed repairs today at 0325, UTC and continued on its voyage.

#### **SARUNA (Panama)**

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

#### **SEA KESTREL (Cayman Islands)**

London, Mar 29 — Understand that general cargo *Sea Kestrel* (1382 gt, built 1993), Belfast for London, is due to arrive at Newport this afternoon for emergency repairs. ETA London Apr 4.

#### **SEA TOI (U.S.A.)**

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Fishing *Sea Toi* (84 gt, built 1977) ran aground this morning near Seal Rock, injuring one person, the U.S. Coast Guard said. A crew member on the 62-foot vessel radioed the Coast Guard at 0210 hrs. The four people on board were able to make it to shore about 20 minutes later, the Coast Guard said. One of them needed treatment at Pacific Samaritan Hospital in Newport. The Coast Guard sent a lifeboat, a helicopter and a mobile

land unit to assist. The *Sea Toi* hired a salvage company from Portland to remove the vessel from the beach during high tide. The *Sea Toi* has roughly 1,800 gallons of fuel onboard, but no pollution has been reported. Plans are to pump the fuel from the vessel before starting salvage operations, the Coast Guard said. Investigators are looking into what caused the grounding.

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing *Sea Toi*, 65-foot, that ran aground on Sunday (Mar 26) will be towed from the beach this morning, after a private contractor drained 1,700 gallons of diesel fuel from her yesterday. The boat, from Astoria, ran aground a quarter-mile offshore just after 0200 Sunday, pushed by an incoming tide toward a bluff about three miles north of Yachats. The Coast Guard rescued skipper Jack Bird and his three-man crew, one of whom was hospitalized with injuries. Bird told reporters that he fell asleep and had trouble with the boat's mechanics. The accident is still under investigation by the Coast Guard. Yesterday, the Cowlitz Clean Sweep salvage company pumped the boat's fuel onto a tanker truck, and Bird hired a different company to tow the vessel back to sea, Coast Guard spokesman Mike Zolzer said. At today's high tide, at 0900 hrs, the tug *Howard Olsen* will attempt to return the boat to deeper waters.

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated Mar 29, states: Fishing *Sea Toi* ran aground shortly after 0200 Sunday about three miles north of Yachats. The owner/skipper of *Sea Toi*, Jack Bird of Grayland, Wash, later contracted with a Portland salvage company in hopes of refloating the vessel. The Coast Guard reported that *Sea Toi* was successfully towed off the beach at around 1100 yesterday and was taken to Newport, where it will go into dry dock for inspection. There was reportedly no fuel spilled during the grounding and subsequent salvage of the vessel. The cause of the grounding is still under investigation.

#### **SEN HAI 1 (China)**

London, Mar 24 — General cargo *Sen Hai 1* (7598 gt, built 1980) and ferry *Hu Hang Ke 63*, with almost 300 passengers on board, were in collision at a dock in Huangpu on Wednesday (Mar 22). The *Sen Hai 1* also struck the dock after the collision. There were no major injuries and no significant damage was reported to the *Sen Hai 1*.

#### **SENSATION (Bahamas)**

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

#### **SIGAS COMMANDER (Singapore)**

London, Mar 27 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1449: Lpg *Sigas Commander* (2458 gt, built 1996), Antwerp for Coryton, in ballast, lost starboard anchor in lat 51 25.4N, long

01 25 59E, at 1255 hrs. (Note — According LMIU AIS *Sigas Commander* was reported in lat 51 25 23.64N, long 01 25 14.88E, at 2237, UTC, Mar 27.)

#### **SINOKOR SEOUL (South Korea)**

See *California*.

#### **SOMERS ISLES (Netherlands)**

London, Mar 28 — General cargo *Somers Isles* arrived Bermuda Mar 23 and sailed Mar 24 for Fernandina.

#### **STAR PRINCESS (Bermuda)**

London, Mar 23 — Following received from the operators of passenger *Star Princess* (108977 gt, built 2001), dated today: *Star Princess*, en route from Grand Cayman to Montego Bay, had fire broke out in passenger accommodation, spreading to adjacent cabins, at 0310, local time, today. Passengers were immediately notified of the fire using the public address system and requested to report to their muster stations. We are currently completing a full passenger check to account for all passengers and crew. The fire is now out, however, there is still residual smoke throughout the affected area. The cause of the fire at this time is unknown. The vessel is carrying a total of 2,690 passengers and 1,123 crew members. A full damage assessment is being carried out at this point. Authorities were immediately contacted regarding the incident and we continue to work closely with all relevant parties. *Star Princess* sailed from Fort Lauderdale Mar 19 on a western Caribbean itinerary with calls at Cozumel, Grand Cayman, Montego Bay and Princess Cays.

London, Mar 23 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1430, UTC: The fire on passenger *Star Princess* affected decks 9 to 12 and under 100 cabins were affected. There was one death and seven serious injuries. Vessel is expected at Montego Bay around this time.

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire broke out early today on passenger *Star Princess* and one person died of a heart attack, according to cruise line officials. Two people suffered significant smoke inhalation and nine others had "minor complications from smoke inhalation," according to a statement from Princess Cruises, which is owned by Carnival Corp. The flames had been extinguished but smoke was lingering, Princess said, and the cause of the fire is not yet known. The Coast Guard said it is sending a fire protection engineer, an inspector and an investigating officer to Montego Bay to begin an investigation into the incident.

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire broke out on a cruise ship in the Caribbean early today, killing one person and injuring 11 others before the crew extinguished the flames, company officials said. Passenger *Star Princess*

was en route from Grand Cayman to Jamaica when the blaze started in a cabin and spread to others nearby, according to a statement from Princess Cruises, which is owned by Miami-based Carnival Corp. The fire-blackened *Star Princess* docked in Montego Bay just before noon. No smoke was seen coming from the vessel as rescue personnel boarded. All passengers remained on the vessel. The starboard side of the vessel, which faced dockside, showed no damage, but about 70 exterior cabins on the other side appeared to be charred. Carnival Corp. Chief Financial Officer Gerald Cahill confirmed the fatality and injuries during a conference call. He said at least two of the injured were suffering from smoke inhalation. The US Coast Guard dispatched investigators and fire engineers to help determine the fire's cause. Teams were expected to arrive this afternoon. The Jamaica Tourist Board was arranging for the passengers to stay in Montego Bay hotels, said Nadene Newsome, spokeswoman for the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management. "We haven't found out yet where the fire in the ship started or why it started," Newsome said. *Star Princess* sailed from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on Mar 19.

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire apparently started by a cigarette broke out on board passenger *Star Princess* early yesterday as it sailed through the Caribbean, leaving one passenger dead, 11 people injured and at least 100 rooms scorched. The *Star Princess*, carrying 2,690 passengers and 1,123 crew members, pulled into Montego Bay's port. About 85 exterior cabins were blackened from the fire, metal was twisted, evidence of the heat of the blaze. A smoldering cigarette is suspected as the cause of the blaze, said Horace Peterkin, president of the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association, who toured the vessel after it docked. A company statement said two passengers suffered "significant smoke inhalation injuries" and nine others had "minor complications." Benson said the company has reached no conclusions about the cause of the blaze. She said about 100 cabins were affected by the fire, though Peterkin put the number at around 150. Hours after the vessel arrived in Montego Bay before noon, passengers boarded buses that took them to hotels in the nearby resort towns of Negril and Ocho Rios. Other passengers remained on board. After the blaze was extinguished, passengers were allowed to retrieve belongings from their cabins, some blackened from smoke. The US Coast Guard dispatched investigators and fire engineers to help determine the fire's cause and whether the vessel was seaworthy, Coast Guard Petty Officer James Judge said in Miami. Teams were expected to arrive yesterday afternoon. The vessel was not seriously damaged and would sail



back to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., today, Peterkin said. There was no immediate confirmation from officials at the cruise line. The *Star Princess* sailed from Fort Lauderdale on Mar 19.

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The cruise vacation on passenger *Star Princess* was over today. "We believe the best course of action is to terminate the current cruise in Montego Bay," Princess Cruises said in a statement late yesterday. "All passengers currently on board will be flown home over the next two days, and will receive a full refund of their cruise and air fare." About 1,600 people were expected to fly out today and the rest tomorrow, said Paul Pennicook, Jamaica's director of tourism. A smoldering cigarette is thought to have started the blaze, said Horace Peterkin, president of the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association, who toured the ship after it docked. Karl Angell, communications director for the Jamaican police, identified the dead man as Richard Liffidge, 75, of Georgia. He collapsed on board ship and died, authorities said. The vessel's next scheduled sailing out of Fort Lauderdale on Mar 26, has been cancelled.

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated Mar 26, states: Passenger *Star Princess* has left Montego Bay bound for Grand Bahama and a repair facility where damage caused by Thursday's fire on board the vessel will be examined. All of the passengers on board the ship have been given other arrangements to return home, after Princess decided to send the ship to a repair facility instead of bring it back to Fort Lauderdale as originally planned. About 1,600 people were left Friday and the rest on Saturday, said Paul Pennicook, Jamaica's director of tourism. "We believe the best course of action is to terminate the current cruise in Montego Bay," Princess Cruises said in a statement.

London, Mar 27 — At 0955, UTC, today passenger *Star Princess* was bound Freeport, Bahamas.

London, Mar 28 — A Princess Cruises press release, timed 0600, PST, Mar 27, states: Following a preliminary assessment over the weekend of the damage to cabins on board passenger *Star Princess* Star Princess resulting from last week's fire, it has been determined that additional out of service time is required. We are therefore regretfully cancelling the ship's Apr 2 voyage, a Caribbean sailing scheduled to depart from Fort Lauderdale. Passengers booked on this sailing will receive a full refund of their cruise and air fare. We will also provide a future cruise credit equal to 25% of the cruise fare paid on this cruise. We are continuing to evaluate the situation. (Note — *Star Princess* is now at Freeport, Bahamas.)

London, Mar 28 — A serious fire on board passenger *Star Princess* is being investigated by the UK's Marine

Accident Investigation Branch. The Bermudan authorities invited the MAIB to conduct the investigation on their behalf under a long-standing arrangement between the UK and other Red Ensign countries. The MAIB are leading a team that includes the United States Coast Guard, the National Transportation Safety Board, and fire investigators from the FBI.

London, Mar 28 — Passenger *Star Princess* arrived in Grand Bahama shipyard in Freeport yesterday for initial repair work following a fire last week in which one passenger died and a number of others were injured. A spokesman for Princess said the decision whether to send the ship back to Italy for refurbishment at Fincantieri had not yet been taken. The extent of damage to the ship was still being assessed, the spokesman said.

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Carnival Corp. said today it expected second-quarter earnings to be reduced after a deadly fire last week damaged passenger *Star Princess* and forced the cancellation of several cruises. Carnival said the cancelled trips and the cost of repairs to the ship, expected to go back into service on May 15, would result cut earnings per share by about 4 cents to 5 cents for the second quarter as well as for the full year. The company said that in addition to previously announced Caribbean cruise cancellations for Mar 26 and Apr 2, it now expects to also cancel cruises for Apr 9, 16, 23 and 30.

London, Mar 29 — Cruise giant Carnival anticipates being hit with a \$34m bill for repairs and cancelled cruises following the fire on board passenger *Star Princess* last week. In a statement yesterday, Carnival said it expects \$0.04 to \$0.05 to be knocked off second quarter and 2006 full year earnings per share, amounting to between \$33m and \$34m on 838m shares issued. The company announced yesterday that the vessel will be taken out of service until May 15 in order to make repairs. *Star Princess* will sail from the Grand Bahama shipyard in Freeport this week to the Lloyd Werft yard in Bremerhaven, where the repair work will take place. In a statement yesterday, Princess Cruises said assessments of the damage to the vessel in the fire, which claimed the life of one passenger with a further 11 injured, were now complete. Princess has already cancelled two cruises and said yesterday: "Regretfully, it is necessary to cancel the Caribbean cruises which depart on Apr 9, 16 and 23, along with the Apr 30 transatlantic cruise. "We sincerely apologise to passengers booked on these sailings for any disappointment and inconvenience this may cause. Passengers booked on these cruises will receive a full refund of their cruise and non-refundable air charges. We will also provide passengers with a future cruise credit

equal to 25% of the cruise fare paid on these sailings." The cause of the fire is being investigated by Bermuda — the ship's flag state — assisted by a team from the UK's Marine Accident Investigation Branch. The US Coast Guard is undertaking a separate investigation. The vessel will resume service for the European season with a cruise from Copenhagen on May 15.

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

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Passenger *Steilacoom* (420 gt, built 1936), serving Washington state's Anderson Island, broke down this morning. The vessel is expected to be out of service until at least noon, so crews can repair a failed air compressor. Without the compressor, ferry workers cannot start the vessel's engines or shift gears. The breakdown comes only three days after the *Steilacoom* replaced the normal Anderson Island ferry *Christine Anderson* which went to dry dock for routine inspection and maintenance.

#### **SULLBERG (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Mar 27 — Following received from Etel MRCC, timed 1005, UTC: General cargo *Sullberg* (1999 gt, built 1994) had main engine valve failure Mar 22 and proceeded to Brest with tug, arriving 0835, UTC, Mar 23. (Note — According to LMIU AIS, *Sullberg* was in lat 48 14 45.3N, long 04 53 24.29W, at 1026, UTC, Mar 26, course 232.8 deg, speed 7.6 knots.)

London, Mar 28 — General cargo *Sullberg* sailed Brest Mar 26.

London, Mar 30 — Understand salvage services were rendered to general cargo *Sullberg*, in ballast, by Les Abeilles International Limited, under Lloyd's Open Form dated Mar 23.

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

Manila, Mar 27 — Ro/ro *Superferry 9* is still drydocked at Keppel Batangas Shipyard, Bauan, Batangas province. Repairs are on-going on its loose rudder, Aboitiz Transport System, Inc spokesperson John Rojo said today. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **TENERIFE (Belize)**

See "Canary Islands" under "Port State Control."

#### **TEXAS GAL (Liberia)**

See *F.Logan*.

#### **TIAN FENG**

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Salvage operators are set to tow abandoned tanker *Tian Feng* found drifting in Australian waters to the port of Weipa. The 80 metre tanker was believed to have been used to supply food and fuel to foreign fishing boats when it was found drifting 180km west of Weipa in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Customs officers boarded the vessel Saturday and found it unoccupied but were unable to identify its home port or registry. The tanker's engines were also found to be inoperable and a



broken tow rope was found hanging from the bow. Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) spokeswoman Tracey Jiggins said the vessel was about 40km offshore and 160km south-west of Weipa today. A tug had arrived at *Tian Feng* this morning, she said. "The salvage operators will have to make sure everything is stable before they set off on their journey," Ms Jiggins said. "Once it gets underway, it's at least a 12-hour journey back to Weipa so it won't be back there until some time tomorrow." It's believed the tanker had been drifting in Australian waters for several days until it was spotted on Friday by a Coastwatch surveillance aircraft. A Customs spokesman said the organisation had no further interest in the vessel but it was considered a navigational hazard.

London, Mar 27 — Following received from Australia MRCC, timed 0940, UTC: The only possible identification found on the tanker adrift off Queensland was a lifejacket with the name *Tian Feng* printed on it.

**TK BARCELONA (Malta)**

Novorossiysk, Mar 29 — General cargo *TK Barcelona* sailed Novorossiysk Mar 24. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Mar 8.)

London, Mar 30 — Following received from the managers of general cargo *TK Barcelona*, dated today: *TK Barcelona* was taken in tow from Novorossiysk Mar 24 and arrived Tuzla Mar 28. Vessel has entered dry dock in Tuzla for repairs.

**TOCCATA (Bahamas)**

London, Mar 24 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1555, UTC: Chem.tank *Toccata* (26914 gt, built 2003), outbound, bumped bottom in Mile 177.9, lower River Mississippi, at 1145, local time, Mar 23. Class inspection revealed no damage. (Note — According to LMIU AIS, *Toccata* was in lat 30 04 40.8N, long 90 54 19.19W, at 1557, UTC, Mar 24, 3.4 nautical miles from Burnside, stationary.)

**TORO (Greece)**

London, Mar 23 — At 0900 hrs, today, structural damages were observed onboard bulk *Toro* (16887 gt, built 1983) while alongside at Seven Islands.

London, Mar 30 — Bulk *Toro* arrived Gros Cacouna Mar 29 from Milos.

**VALUR (Iceland)**

London, Mar 29 — Information received, dated Kiel Mar 28, states: Fishing *Valur* (169 gt, built 1963) badly damaged by fire is now berthed at Vagur. (Note — *Valur* had a fire on board while moored in Sandgerdhi harbour, Iceland, at 2000, Feb 20, 2005, and was reported as unsalvage. According to Torshavn MRCC the vessel was being towed from Iceland to Denmark when the towline broke off the Faroes Oct 8.)

**VERTIGO (Jamaica)**

Poznan, Mar 23 — Agents of bulk *Vertigo* report that the vessel will be in Szczecin shipworks until the middle of May. — Lloyd's Agents.

**VILLUM CLAUSEN (DIS)**

London, Mar 28 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Early today passenger ro/ro *Villum Clausen* (6402 gt, built 2000) was in collision with ro/ro *Gryf* (18653 gt, built 1990), in dense fog in the harbour of Ystad. *Villum Clausen* was damaged at the starboard side.

**VISPATAURINI (India)**

Jeddah, Mar 21 — C.c. *Vispataurini*, now renamed *Safaga*, arrived Jeddah Mar 18 and sailed Mar 19. — Lloyd's Agents.

**VOLGONEFT 120 (Russia)**

Mariupol, Mar 29 — Product tanker *Volgoneft 120* is expected to complete repairs at Sevastopol on Apr 3 and sail to Rostov-Don. — Lloyd's Agents.



**ALBO (Russia)**

See "Lebanon" under "Port State Control".

**CANARY ISLANDS**

Tenerife, Mar 29 — Harbour-Master's Office inform that product tanker *Imant Sudmalis* and chem.tank *Tenerife* are still retained. They have informed us that *Tenerife* is at present changing its name and flag and has requested authorization to sail today. — Lloyd's Agents.

**GERMANY**

London, Mar 27 — Information received from Kiel, dated today: General cargo *Da Bak Sol* (6399 gt, built 1975), which was take a cargo of flour, was detained in Bremen on Mar 21 following an inspection by police which found proof of illegal oil pollution of the open sea several times, and there were multiple defects at the navigational equipment, the hull, the deck and the machine romm. There were offences against MARPOL, and the crew was not aware of this. (Note — *Da Bak Sol* arrived Bremen 2355, Mar 20.)

London, Mar 28 — General cargo *Da Bak Sol* sailed Bremen 1800, Mar 27, and arrived Bremerhaven 2240 same day.

London, Mar 28 — Information received from Kiel, dated today: General cargo *Da Bak Sol* left Bremen 1800 yesterday for a repairyard in Bremerhaven.

**LEBANON**

Beirut, Mar 30 — Chem.tank *Albo* (1530 gt, built 1968) arrested at

Beirut port for breaching the rules of the Israeli Boycott regulations. — Lloyd's Agents.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Mar 24 — Maritime charity the Mission to Seafarers has been assisting crew members on board a "dangerously unsafe" cargoship detained in Falmouth by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency following an engine failure. A ban on shore leave for the predominantly Romanian crew was lifted by immigration authorities after the mission expressed concern over their welfare. However, according to the mission, the owner of general cargo *Saruna* has now said crew members cannot leave the vessel because of engine trials this week. The vessel has been anchored off Falmouth since it arrived from Cherbourg for bunkers. Falmouth chaplain the Rev John Savage has expressed concern about the mental and physical welfare of the crew. "There was evidence of neglect on board," he said. "The vessel was filthy and conditions for the crew were barely passable. For example, I did not see one soft chair. Despite the mess on most vessels things are usually reasonable but on the *Saruna* the conditions would not have been allowed in one of Her Majesty's prisons." The mission has arranged for food, bedding and clothing to be distributed to the crew, which includes 18 Romanians, one Syrian and one Russian.

**UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Sensation* (70367 gt, built 1993) has been cited for safety violations, delaying its first departure since housing relief workers from hurricane "Katrina." Inspectors found violations to fire-control and flood-control systems on board the Carnival vessel, said Coast Guard Lt Patrick Eiland. Emergency repairs were made allowing the vessel to leave last night, about six hours late from Port Canaveral. Problems included fire screen doors not working, inoperable fire hoses and a malfunctioning watertight door, Eiland said. The violations were "serious enough to keep the vessel from leaving. It's not safe for the vessel to get under way with those conditions," said Petty Officer Bobby Nash, a Coast Guard spokesman. Passengers would receive a \$50-per-person shipboard credit and a 25% discount off a future three- to five-day Carnival cruise, Carnival officials said. The vessel will visit Freeport and Nassau, as originally scheduled, and will return to Port Canaveral on Monday (Mar 27). The four-day cruise to the Bahamas was the vessel's first voyage since spending six months in New Orleans housing police, firefighters and relief workers following "Katrina."

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## Seizures & Arrests



### CHINESE TRAWLERS SEIZED BY AUSTRALIA

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Australian authorities have seized two Chinese vessels laden with tonnes of reef fish off the Northern Territory. The *De Yuan Yu 001* and *De Yuan Yu 002* were being taken to Darwin, the federal government said today. The two 31-metre steel-hulled trawlers were intercepted yesterday by HMAS *Ipswich* north-west of Wessel Islands, inside the Australian Fishing Zone. Both vessels resisted their apprehension and opposed boarding, the government said in a statement. Fisheries officers found a total of seven tonnes of reef fish, and 27 Chinese crew on board the two vessels and will conduct further investigations to determine if illegal fishing charges would be laid. The vessels were due to arrive in Darwin on Saturday (Mar 25).

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated Mar 26, states: Two Chinese trawlers, *Da Yuan Yu 001* and *Da Yuan Yu 002*, seized in Australian waters have been taken to Darwin and may be destroyed if found guilty of illegal action, a Australian government official said on Sunday. The vessels, carrying 27 crew, were intercepted by an Australian naval vessel inside the Australian fishing zone northwest of the Wessels islands early on Thursday (Mar 23). A spokesman for Australia's Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation, Eric Abetz, said today that the vessels had been taken to Darwin. "What happens to them depends on the investigation. Normally they would be destroyed if found guilty," he said. Australian Fisheries Management Authority officers will investigate whether charges will be laid. Initial investigations by Australian Fisheries Management found about 4,000 kg of reef fish on board one and 3,000 kg on board the other, the Australian government has said. The seized Chinese vessels each weigh about 123 tonnes and are 31 metres in length. Thirteen crew were found on board one vessel and 14 on the other. All are People's Republic of China nationals, the Australian government has said. The Chinese embassy in Canberra has told Xinhua news service that the two vessels were on their way to a nearby refuelling vessel, and said they were in Australian waters because of current and wind factors.

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Fisheries authorities have discovered a total of 50 tonnes of fish on board two Chinese trawlers suspected of fishing illegally in Australia's northern waters. Initially the catch was

estimated at seven tonnes. Fisheries officers inspected the trawlers more closely in Darwin Harbour today. A spokesman for the federal Fisheries Minister says the boats' 27 Chinese crew members will be taken to Baxter detention centre tomorrow. No charges have been laid.

### CHUAN FA SHENG NO.128 (Taiwan)

Honolulu, Mar 27 — Fishing *Chuan Fa Sheng No.128* is still under arrest. U.S. Coast Guard seized the vessel and transported to the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas (CNMI) for fishing within the CNMI exclusive economic zone without a permit from the U.S. The government has filed a complaint of forfeiture against the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

### DA YUAN YU 001 (China)

See "Fishing Vessels Seized off the Wessel Islands, Northern Territory, Australia."

### DA YUAN YU 002 (China)

See "Fishing Vessels Seized off the Wessel Islands, Northern Territory, Australia."

### EUROCARRIER (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Mar 25 — Ro/ro *Eurocarrier* arrived Jeddah Mar 15 and sailed Mar 16 for Port Said.

### INDIAN FISHING VESSELS ARRESTED BY PAKISTAN

Karach, Mar 26 — Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (MSA), yesterday, apprehended five Indian fishing vessels, along with 27 crew members, for illegally fishing in Pakistani waters. MSA patrol vessel *Barkat* was on routine patrolling in the Eastern Maritime Region, where Indian fishing vessels were found busy in illegal fishing activities, about 67 Nautical miles from Karachi, said a statement issued by MSA. Later, the arrested fishermen were handed over to docks police for further legal action. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

### JOHN CHEEK (Falkland Islands)

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated Mar 26, states: Argentine authorities have delayed another two weeks a decision regarding fishing *John Cheek* currently retained in Comodoro Rivadavia for allegedly illegally fishing in Argentina's EEZ, reports a Spanish newspaper. Comodoro Rivadavia Coast Guard Commander Eduardo CoutiOo is quoted in Sunday's edition of "Opinion" from Corunna arguing that the time elapsed since having delivered to (Argentine) federal authorities the official report on *John Cheek* incident was "not abnormal", and in line with the foreseeable framework for such cases. *John Cheek* under Captain Jaime Cortizo from Galicia was arrested and escorted to Argentina Feb 20. Seven Spanish members of the 31 crew remain on board while

the rest have flown back to their countries of origin, Spain, Chile and Peru.

### RAND 1 (Russia)

St Petersburg, Mar 30 — Fish factory *Rand 1*: According to Kaliningrad port authorities, vessel is still under arrest at repair yard. No news on prospects of release. — Lloyd's Agents.

### SEACHEM ENA (Honduras)

Bari, Mar 24 — Chem.tank *Seachem Ena* sailed Monopoli Mar 16, in tow of tug *Arhagelos*, bound Piraeus. — Lloyd's Agents.

### UGO FOSCOLO (Greece)

London, Mar 24 — A report in today's issue of "Newsfront" states: After being seized several times, the latest by a private creditor in early March 2006 in pursuit of a Euro 25,000 claim in an action against the registered owners, passenger ro/ro *Ugo Foscolo* has been listed for hammering down on Apr 12. Lying at Zakynthos, the vessel is carrying start-up price of Euro 6m.

## Pipeline Accidents



### BRASS TERMINAL AREA, NIGERIA

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The operators of Brass Terminal (Agip) have declared a Force Majeure, effective from Mar 17, due to 'Ruptured 24" Swamp Area Delivery Line to Brass Terminal'. The line supplies the terminal with about 75,000 bbls of crude oil per day. According to reports, repair work is underway and is expected to be completed by about Mar 26.

### CHONGQING MUNICIPALITY, CHINA

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A gas leak in south-west China has triggered a huge explosion, forcing the evacuation of 11,500 people and polluting a river, according to state media. The accident in Chongqing municipality early on Saturday (Mar 25) morning occurred in Xiaoyang village. The operation was run by the Chuandong Drilling Company, which is owned The China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), Xinhua news agency said. A broken pipeline belonging to the Chuandong Drilling Company caused Saturday's blast, with local residents reporting a "big bang" and seeing the nearby Gaoqiao river "rolling and foaming," Xinhua news agency said. There were no initial reports of deaths, although efforts to plug the leak had so far failed and more evacuations were possible, according to Xinhua. Emergency measures were being implemented to shut down the



well, with about 500 cubic meters of high-density slurry and 300 tons of cement trucked to the site, Xinhua said. "We are studying the possible consequences of the capping and trying to figure out how big the evacuation should be," it quoted Chongqing vice mayor Zhou Mubing as saying. Officials had also warned local residents against drinking water from the local river, the China Daily said. Tests revealed the water contained methane, possibly one of the gases in the well, the paper said, without giving further details. A spokesman for the local government, He Zhengcai, confirmed the accident took place at the village in Gaoqiao town, Kaixian county, and that more than 10,000 people had been evacuated. He said the river had not been badly contaminated and that the air was not dangerously polluted.

Beijing, Mar 30 — A leak at a gas well in south-west China has prompted the emergency evacuation of 15,000 people in the same area where toxic gas killed 243 people more than two years ago, state media said today. The 3,400-metre well, in the municipality of Chongqing and owned by the China National Petroleum Corp., began leaking around 0700 Saturday (Mar 25) during final tests before bringing the well into production. Workers ignited the leaking gas to avoid a build-up of pressure and an explosion. "The number of residents compelled to evacuate their homes has jumped sharply ... and now stands at 15,000," Xinhua news agency said. "Local officials are trying to cope with the crisis but appear to be in dire need of supplies for those forced out of their homes." Gas field workers noticed that a section of a river just 1 km from the well started to bubble on Saturday morning, Xinhua said. "The local government has warned people on the lower reaches not to drink water from the river," it said. "Gas workers are monitoring the river." — Reuters.

**TOLEDO, OHIO, UNITED STATES**

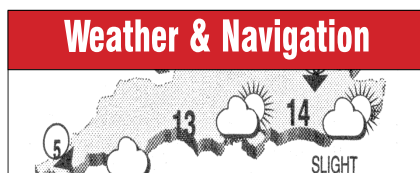
London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated Mar 25, states: A 50-year-old BP Inc. pipeline in West Toledo that split apart Thursday (Mar 23) has leaked almost twice as much gasoline as originally was thought. BP yesterday raised the estimated total for the gasoline release to 4,200 gallons. It initially estimated 2,200 gallons. Operators promptly shut off pressure after diagnosing the problem, but couldn't account for what was still in the line and in the process of seeping out until yesterday, said Greg DeBrock, incident commander and Midwest district manager for BP Pipelines North America Inc. The spill, from a six-inch-wide pipe, was discovered at 0400, Thursday along Laskey Road, between Bennett and Tractor roads. Although the spill is now under control, additional cleanup and assessment work likely will cause periodic lane closings along eastbound Laskey this weekend, officials said. The overall cleanup likely will

continue well into next week. Shantee Creek and Silver Creek, which flow into Lake Erie in Michigan, will be monitored for months, Mr. DeBrock said. John Gulch, U.S. EPA on-scene coordinator, said that contractors will probe sediment throughout the weekend in hopes of determining the depth and expanse of the soil contamination. Polluted soil will be removed by BP, he said. It won't be known until those tests are done whether any gasoline seeped deep enough to pollute groundwater. That which got into the creeks formed enough of a sheen to be secured by containment booms. It is in the process of being vacuumed out, Mr. Gulch said. Though officials have their game plan in place for fixing the pipe, getting it back into operation, and cleaning up the mess, they're still at a loss over how the rupture occurred.



**OGONILAND, NIGERIA**

London, Mar 26 — Even as efforts are still being made to effect the return of the major oil giant, Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), to Ogoniland in Rivers state, to resume oil exploitation activities, an oil spill from one of the company's oil wellheads has devastated another Ogoni community. The K-Dere community in Gokana local government area of Rivers state reported the crude oil spill from SPDC's Bomu Well-2, yesterday. In a press statement sent online by Don Boham, the Corporate External Affairs Manager of SPDC, on the company's behalf, the incident was confirmed, adding that the company had mobilised its men to site to curtail the spill. According to the statement, "a leak has occurred at Bomu Well-2, a dormant well in Ogoni land belonging to Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria limited. Crude oil was seen spewing out of the well-head late Friday, Mar 24. The vicinity of the spill is uninhabited. "We have mobilised our oil spill response and fire service teams to the site, and also taking steps to secure the well and contain the spill. The cause of the spill and quantity of crude involved are yet to be determined. "



**BERMUDA**

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Chemical/oil carrier *Iver Excel* (29289 gt, built

1997) has been anchored off Bermuda for six days due to high winds and seas which made it unable to unload its cargo at the Ferry Reach oil docks. It has been anchored off the North Shore since it arrived in Bermuda on Mar 22, Captain John Moore of Meyer Shipping said yesterday. "She berthed on Friday (Mar 24) and pumped off a portion of her cargo," Capt. Moore said. However, when strong winds hit again she was forced to leave the docks and head for deeper waters, he said. "In all likelihood she will go alongside (today)," he said. "Because of high wind and sea conditions on the North Shore she has been unable to dock at Esso." Capt. Moore said Exxon Mobil chartered her to deliver fuel to Bermuda.

**COLOMBIA**

London, Mar 27 — Floods in Colombia have killed 32 people and injured 30 others in five provinces, leaving hundreds of people homeless, the chief of the government's disaster prevention office said Friday (Mar 24). The floods, which have lasted several days, hit the provinces of Antioquia, Tolima, Risaralda, Caldas and Narino, Eduardo Jose Gonzalez told reporters. In Pereira, capital of the eastern province of Risaralda, three homes were washed away by floods, and the main road to Armenia, capital of Quindio province, was made impassable. Rescue services declared a state of alert on Thursday in Manizales, capital of Caldas Department. In Bogota, the Aqueduct Company started an operation to clean rivers to reduce the congestion caused by the heavy rain. The nation's Hydrology and Meteorology Agency said that heavy rain would continue in the Andean, Pacific, Eastern Llanos and Amazon regions.

**CYCLONE "LARRY"**

Sydney, Mar 24 — Queensland Sugar said today it was too early to tell the extent of the damage to its facilities at the port of Mourilyan, after cyclone "Larry" forced the closure of the port last weekend (Mar 18-19). The cyclone crossed the far north and north Queensland coast on Monday morning, and its 290-kph winds destroyed homes and crops in the Innisfail region. Mourilyan is 20 km south of Innisfail and is the only port still closed in the region. The Port Corporation of Queensland's spokesman, Garry Campbell, said some buildings used by Queensland Sugar had been damaged. Greg Beashel, Queensland Sugar's general manager of operations, said that his main concern was the impact of the cyclone on the people in the region. Mr Beashel said that not all of Queensland Sugar's buildings at the port were used for commercial purposes. "We're talking about people's houses and their possessions," he said. "It's not useful to speculate until we know what is happening." Mr Beashel said communication with and accessing the port had been difficult. There was still no power to the port,

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he said. Mr Campbell said that there did not appear to be any other major damage to the port's facilities. "They are doing the routine clean-up work, and there are some trees down," he said. A survey, due to be completed next week, would check if there were any sunken vessels or objects under water. Mr Campbell said the port might re-open next week, depending on the findings of the survey. Lucynda, the region's other major sugar port, had not recorded any damage. Meanwhile, Townsville harbour master John Preston said the ports of Townsville and Abbot Point were operating smoothly, having reported no damage from the cyclone. "The most we got was 40-50-knot squalls," Mr Preston said. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

London, Mar 26 — Cyclone "Larry", which struck north-east Australia on Mar 20, has reportedly caused widespread damage to the country's avocado industry. The category five cyclone struck the biggest growing field in north Queensland, destroying avocados that were mid-harvest, reports The Australian. The damage amounts to AUS \$15 million, with industry body Avocados Australia saying approximately 4,000 tonnes of the fruit was lost. "They were in the middle of their harvest period. What was left on the trees has been stripped," said chief executive of Avocados Australia, Antony Allen. "What we haven't been able to get our heads around yet is the infrastructure damage, including the trees," concludes Mr Allen. It is thought that between 15 and 20 per cent of the nation's entire stock was damaged during the storm, leading to forecasts of national production for the financial year to be reduced from 33,000 tonnes. (See issue of Mar 27.)

London, Mar 27 — The Queensland Premier says the economic cost of cyclone "Larry" in far north Queensland could be around \$1.5 billion. Peter Beattie's told reporters the financial cost of Larry will be enormous. "There's absolutely no doubt it's in excess of \$1 billion," he said. "It's very difficult to ascertain because work needs to be done, but I've seen reports of \$1.5 billion and I don't think they're inaccurate." The Premier also says he will use Parliament to "name and shame" any business people who try to profiteer from cyclone "Larry". There have been reports that some traders are selling much-needed generators for inflated prices. Mr Beattie says they will not get away with it. "If anyone is even thinking about it, don't do it, because I will expose them - or one of my ministers will - in the Parliament," he said.

Sydney, Mar 27 — The loss of agricultural freight after Cyclone "Larry" would do "terrible things" to freight rates in North Queensland, with some companies flagging a 70% increase, Queensland Trucking Association (QTA) executive director Peter Garske warned today. Mr Garske told Lloyd's List DCN that,

while he did not advocate such an increase, some truck companies had obviously felt they had no choice. "[The truck companies] are talking about these kind of increases in freight rates to cover their costs," Mr Garske said. No concrete figures were available yet, but members of the QTA were reporting that "a couple of hundred movements a day" would be affected, he said. The loss of up to 95% of Australia's bananas and 20% of its sugar, as reported last week, has left far north and north Queensland without a significant amount of freight that would normally head south. "Bananas simply won't be moving for 9 to 12 months until they get back to normal," he said. Mr Garske said freight heading north - particularly goods that would help rebuild the region - would now increase significantly. "Most of the trucks on the [northern] leg of the journey are carrying refrigerated products, dry products or building products," he said. Mr Garske said the volume of this freight would now increase, while freight heading south would be cut. If truck operators knew there would not be enough freight on the return journey, they would have to charge more to cover the costs, he said. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Prime Minister John Howard has announced another \$40 million for the cyclone relief effort in far-north Queensland. The money is in addition to the \$100 million of assistance the Prime Minister announced last week. The extra money has been paid to the Queensland State Government. It comes from Commonwealth Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements funds. Last week a joint state and federal package of emergency funding was released to help the devastated region. It included interest free loans, concessional loans and cash grants. Authorities in the disaster zone say cash donations are welcome but they have already received enough donations of food and clothing. Johnstone Shire Mayor Neil Clark says any more could stifle business recovery in the affected area. In the Queensland Parliament today, Energy Minister John Mickel praised the efforts of power workers who have battled difficult conditions to restore electricity supplies. "By 1800 last night work on the distribution network had reduced the number of Ergon Energy customers without power to 13,400," he said. "Rolling seven-day plans have been established by Ergon Energy for areas in both the Tablelands and Hinchinbrook zones that are still without power."

#### GERMANY

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A rare tornado wreaked havoc in the northern German city of Hamburg today, tearing the roofs off houses, overturning cars and killing two people, authorities said. The southern

district of Harburg was hardest hit by the violent storm, which knocked down three cranes at a construction site, killing two operators, a police spokeswoman said. Two others at the site also suffered injuries, she said. The whirlwind overturned several cars and trucks and one company building had its entire roof stripped off, local fire services said. Damage to power masts left parts of the city, including a hospital, without electricity. The tornado caused serious traffic hold-ups in the area as well as disruptions to rail services. Police said it was too early to estimate the cost of the damage.

#### HURRICANE "KATRINA"

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated Mar 22, states: Harrison County Coroner Gary Hargrove says two construction workers killed yesterday during a demolition project at a hurricane-ravaged coast casino had drowned. The workers were employed by Dominion Marine Group of Norfolk, Virginia. Hargrove identified the men as 49-year-old Tom Fitzgerald, of Newport News, Virginia, and 48-year-old Miguel Hidalgo-Soberano, of Cardenas Tabasco, Mexico. Hargrove says the deaths were accidents as a result of drowning. Hargrove says there was no other trauma to the bodies. Authorities say the men were pumping water out of a portion of the Grand Casino Gulfport that collapsed during hurricane "Katrina." Officials believe the two, working in water about six feet deep, became trapped in a tight space yesterday. The cause of death was not immediately clear. The workers were part of a marine team working with PRC Environmental. PRC Environmental, based in Houston, Texas, is dismantling the barge. When the hurricane slammed ashore on Aug 29, part of the casino was ripped off its moorings and heaved onto coastal US Highway 90. Crews began demolishing the battered barge about two weeks ago.

#### ITALY

London, Mar 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The recent heavy rains in Southern Italy have caused the Ofanto river and other torrents in Puglia to overflow their banks yesterday, with serious damages in 20 communities. Agricultural firms and infrastructure have been hit by floods and landslides and even the Italian agricultural organization Coldiretti cannot quantify the total damage yet. Many fields are still under the water and many roads remain impassable. Also greenhouses, warehouses and food stocks for livestock have been damaged by the floods.

#### ROMANIA

Bucharest, Mar 23 — Sulina channel was closed at 0600, local time, today, due to bad weather, winds force 6-7 (strong breeze-near gale), sea 5-6. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SERBIA**

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated Mar 26, states: Serbia was bracing for floods today, as rivers across the country swelled close to the point of overflowing, local media reported. Measures against flooding were expected to be proclaimed during the day in several areas. A dam at Vucje, in southern Serbia, was jeopardized by the excessive water and landslides, which have plagued the country over the past days. Melting snow, underground waters and rivers have caused more than 380 landslides in the country, destroying and damaging dozens of houses and forcing the evacuation of more than a thousand people, most in southern and central Serbia.

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Landslides and floods have swept large areas of central Serbia, wrecking about 1,000 houses and leaving thousands of villagers homeless. Heavy rains have caused earth and rock landslides, and flood waters from swollen rivers produced additional headache. Damages so far have been assessed at 15 million euros, said Velimir Ilic, Serbian minister for capital investments. "According to my assessment in counties across the country, about 200 houses were destroyed, about 500 were in a critical stage and 700 were seriously damaged. Repair and construction work for these houses is assessed at 15 million euros," Ilic said on Belgrade television. He said the government would provide most of the money needed to assist the homeless. Additional damage was rendered to thousands of hectares of farmland and electric power grids and overhead cables, roads and small bridges.

**TROPICAL CYCLONE "FLOYD"**

London, Mar 24 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Floyd" located near lat 15.9S, long 108.1E, at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 185 degrees at eight knots, position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, position based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 115 knots, gusts 140 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 40 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 130 nautical miles east semicircle, 110 nautical miles west semicircle. Forecast position for 0600, UTC, Mar 25, near lat 18.2S, long 108.8E. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots with gusts to 110 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 15 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 25 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 120 nautical miles south semicircle, 110 nautical miles north semicircle.

London, Mar 25 — Very intense tropical cyclone "Floyd" is forecast to strike Australia as a tropical storm at about 1200, GMT, Mar 27. Data supplied by the US Navy and Air Force Joint Typhoon Warning Center suggest that the point of landfall will

be near lat 23.6S, long 112.8E. "Floyd" is expected to bring 1-minute maximum sustained winds to the region of around 111 km/hr.

London, Mar 25 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Floyd" located near lat 18.1S, long 110.0E, at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 115 degrees at nine knots, position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, position based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots, gusts 110 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 40 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 120 nautical miles south semicircle, 80 nautical miles north semicircle. Forecast position for 1800, UTC, near lat 19/0S, long 111.0E. Maximum sustained winds 85 knots with gusts to 105 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 40 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 115 nautical miles south semicircle, 85 nautical miles north semicircle.

London, Mar 26 — Following received from the Meteorological office: Tropical Cyclone "Floyd" located near lat 20.2S, long 112.9E, at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 135 degrees at eight knots, position accurate to 60 nautical miles, position based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots, gusts 65 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 75 nautical miles south semicircle, 65 nautical miles north semicircle. Forecast position for 1800, UTC, near 21.2S, long 113.8E. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 55 nautical miles south semicircle, 50 nautical miles north semicircle.

**TROPICAL CYCLONE "GLENDA"**

London, Mar 27 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Glenda" centred near lat 15.3S, long 123.5E, at 0600, UTC. Movement past six hours 240 deg at eight knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 45 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 40 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 70 nautical miles south-west quadrant and 60 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Mar 28: Position lat 17S, long 121E. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots with gusts to 65 knots.

London, Mar 28 — Western Australia's latest cyclone has been upgraded to a category three system and is expected to intensify before it crosses the coast. Cyclone "Glenda", which has brought huge rainfall to parts of the Kimberley, in the north, is about 270 kilometres north of Broome and veering away from the coast at 13 kilometres per hour. Communities from Mitchell Plateau down to Broome have been placed on blue alert, in case the cyclone turns inland. But duty weather forecaster Graham Oakley says "Glend" is most

likely to develop further and cross the Pilbara coast later in the week. "It's highly likely to develop further, so we expect it to be a category five cyclone - when it crosses the coast".

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Wind gusts of more than 200km/h from tropical cyclone "Glenda" could hit areas of Western Australia's Pilbara coast, the Bureau of Meteorology has warned. In an updated cyclone warning issued today, the bureau said the category five storm was now 310km west-northwest of Broome and 380km north-northeast of Port Hedland and moving down the coast at 17km/h. Glenda was now expected to approach the coast later today and early tomorrow, the bureau said. Gales with gusts to 125km/h may develop along the Pilbara coast between Walla and Mardie as early as tonight but more likely early tomorrow. "Residents of the central and west Pilbara coast are warned of the risk of very destructive winds with wind gusts exceeding 200km/h developing during Thursday as this very dangerous cyclone nears the coast," the bureau said. As well as the cyclone warning for coastal areas between Pardoo and Mardie, the bureau has also extended its cyclone watch from Mardie to Coral Bay and the inland western Pilbara and adjacent Gascoyne region.

Sydney, Mar 29 — The port of Dampier expected flooding and wind-damage to its facilities when severe tropical cyclone "Glenda" hits early tomorrow morning, Dampier port master Vic Justice told Lloyd's List DCN this morning. The port closed just after midnight in preparation for the category five. Mr Justice said the port was expecting winds to pick up this afternoon, with gusts up to 160 and 170 knots predicted when "Glenda" hits around midnight tonight. "The cyclone is heading for landfall somewhere between Dampier and the North West Cape," he said. "It has been an orderly and well-managed process. "We've learned that if you don't prepare in the 36 hours before, you pay for it in infrastructure damage." The Bureau of Meteorology warned all coastal areas between De Grey, east of Port Headland, and Onslow to expect winds up to 250 km/h. Early this afternoon, the cyclone was about 185 miles north of Port Headland heading south-west. The port of Dampier had been shut down, with seven bulk vessels sent out to the north-west of the cyclone, some 300 miles away, to avoid the storm. The port handles oil and LNG from the North West Shelf. Mr Justice said it could sometimes take up to a week to repair the port after cyclones, but they would normally catch up on the port demand in the months ahead. The Port of Broome had not recorded any damage from the cyclone, while a spokesperson for Port Headland said the port was not expecting to be affected by the storm. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.



London, Mar 29 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone “Glenda” centred near lat 17.9S, long 117.9E, at 0600, UTC. Movement past six hours 240 deg at eight knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 120 knots with gusts to 145 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 55 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 60 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 65 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds: 110 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 125 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 135 nautical miles south-west quadrant and 120 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Mar 30: Position near lat 20.7S, long 115.8E. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots with gusts to 110 knots. “Tropical cyclone “Glenda” is located approximately 150 nautical miles north-northwest of Port Hedland. Maximum significant wave at 0600, UTC, today, is 32 feet.

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Western Australia’s State Emergency Services has begun evacuating people from low lying areas in Karratha in preparation for cyclone “Glenda,” which is approaching the coast. “Glenda” is within 300 km of Port Hedland and moving slowly south down the West Australian coast. The Weather Bureau is warning it will bring wind gusts of more than 200 kilometres an hour. Steve Cable from the SES in Karratha says the winds could cause the sea level to rise five metres above high tide, and flood houses in low lying areas. The SES has begun voluntary evacuations.

Sydney, Mar 30 — Cyclone “Glenda” would pass closer to the port of Dampier than first thought, harbour master Vic Justice told Lloyd’s List DCN this morning. Ports from the west of Port Headland to Coral Bay, have been closed as the category four moves towards the Western Australian coast. The Bureau of Meteorology has warned of “phenomenal seas and heavy swell” within 30 miles of the category four, with gusts expected up to 250km/h. Captain Justice said Dampier already had 60 knot winds in the harbour, and 3 to 4-metre seas in the channel. “It will get worse before it gets any better,” he said. “It was initially supposed to pass north of us, but now it’s moved to the south-south-westerly which will bring it closer to us. “This is the fifth we’ve had in 2006, so everyone has become very proficient at de-mobilising and then putting it back together again.” “Glenda” is expected to make landfall between Onslow and Karatha late tonight or early tomorrow morning. The port at Dampier closed early on Mar 29, with all vessels in port or heading toward the port sent out to sea to ride out the storm. — Lloyd’s List Daily Commercial News.

London, Mar 30 — Following received from the Meteorological

Office: Tropical cyclone “Glenda” centred near lat 20.42S, long 115.48E, at 0600, UTC. Maximum sustained winds 95 knots with gusts to 145 knots. Forecast for 1200, UTC: Position near lat 21.48S, long 115.24E. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots.

**TROPICAL CYCLONE “WATI”**

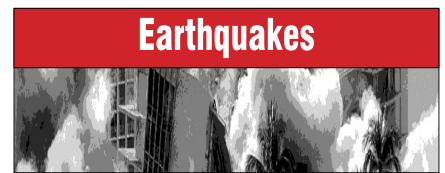
London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A severe weather warning has been issued for northern New South Wales. Severe tropical cyclone “Wati”, situated off central Queensland, is expected to move south-east, causing dangerous surf conditions along the north coast. The Bureau of Meteorology says big surf with waves exceeding five metres are likely to produce significant beach erosion between Tweed Heads to Wooli tonight, and extending south to Seal Rocks later tomorrow. People are being advised to stay away from beaches if possible.

London, Mar 24 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone “Wati” near lat 22.1S, long 159.9E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours: 130 degrees at 16 knots, position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, position based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts to 70 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds: 15 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 80 nautical miles northeast quadrant, semicircle, 115 nautical miles southeast quadrant, 90 nautical miles southwest quadrant, 65 nautical miles northwest quadrant. Forecast position for 0600, UTC, Mar 25, near lat 27.9S, long 164.3E, extratropical.

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated today, states: The effects of Cyclone “Wati” are being felt in Northland today, but MetService says the storm is weakening. Forecaster Bob Lake says “Wati” has been downgraded from a tropical cyclone, but the low-pressure system still holds rain and thunderstorms. Strong east to north-east winds will rise to gale force around the Northland, Auckland and Coromandel Coasts this afternoon. Mr Lake says the North Island is on the fringe of the storm as it swirls south towards the North Central Tasman.

**TROPICAL STORM “KAJIKI”**

Manila, Mar 29 — Barge *Napocor Power Barge No.106* remains anchored off Keppel Batangas Shipyard awaiting repairs, National Power Corp.(Napocor) said today. — Lloyd’s List Correspondent.



**FIJI REGION**

London, Mar 25 — A magnitude 6.0 quake reported in lat 17 15S, long 174.458E at 1746, UTC, Mar 24.

**IRAN**

London, Mar 25 — An earthquake measuring 6.0 hit Iran’s southern province of Hormuzgan today, but there were no reports of casualties or damage. The quake shook areas near the Gulf island of Qeshm off Iran’s south coast at 0728 UTC. — Reuters.

**JAPAN**

London, Mar 27 — An earthquake of magnitude 5.5 hit the southern Japanese island of Kyushu today, but no casualties or damage was immediately reported. The quake struck at 0250, GMT, and its epicentre was measured at 50 kilometres off the island under the seabed. No tsunami warning was issued, but the government warned the residents in the region of landslide and other earthquake-related disasters.

Tokyo, Mar 28 — A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.0 jolted the Tokyo area this evening, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage and no tsunami warning was issued. The quake, which struck at 1333, GMT, was felt most strongly north of the capital. The epicentre of the tremor was about 410 km below the seabed in the Pacific Ocean south of Japan’s main island of Honshu, the agency said. The quake originated about 430 km off the coast of Tokyo, Kyodo news service said. The quake’s deep focus meant the effect on the Japanese mainland was limited. — Reuters.



**AFGHANISTAN**

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A roadside bombing killed three villagers and wounded two when it blew up their car in southern Afghanistan, officials said. The attack occurred in Helmand province, one of Afghanistan’s most violent regions and its main opium poppy growing area, said deputy Gov. Amir Mohammed Khunzada. The road the civilians were driving down is one often patrolled by government militia and police, which were believed to have been the target, Khunzada said.

London, Mar 29 — The US military says two foreign soldiers and at least 12 suspected militants have been killed in fighting in southern Afghanistan. One soldier killed in the attack in Helmand province was an American, the military said. It did not identify the nationality of the second soldier. Five other soldiers, including one American, were wounded in the attack this morning. Helmand province has been at the centre of a recent upsurge in fighting. The US military said the incident happened when the militants attacked a

military base in Helmand province. "Coalition forces employed a variety of combined arms to include close air support and are believed to have killed at least a dozen enemy insurgents. Battle damage assessment is continuing," a military statement said. The injured included four foreign and an Afghan soldier. "Coalition forces fought bravely and defeated a significant enemy element," said US military official Anthony J Tata. "We are deeply saddened by the loss of our soldiers and mourn their loss. Their efforts, however, will be long remembered as coalition forces continue to take the fight to the enemy in order to deny terrorist sanctuary in Afghanistan," he said.

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Taliban insurgents have attacked a military base in Afghanistan, killing a US and a Canadian soldier, while 32 of the attackers were also killed. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack on the base in the southern province of Helmand and said their spring offensive had begun. The US military says 12 Taliban were killed in the initial attack and US-led forces, backed by aircraft, later defeated a large Taliban force that was attempting to escape. US-led forces also captured two Taliban headquarters buildings and seized large caches of munitions, including bomb-making material, which they blew up. A Canadian military spokeswoman says a Canadian was killed and three were wounded, though not seriously, in the battle.

#### ALGERIA

London, Mar 26 — Algerian militants killed five civilians, including a mayor, stepping up attacks days after the start of an amnesty for rebels aimed at ending more than a decade of strife, residents and newspapers said overnight. Suspected members of al Qaeda-linked group the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC) shot dead mayor Brahim Jellab outside his house on Friday (Mar 24) night in Boumerdes province, 50 km east of the capital Algiers, residents said. GSPC is the only armed group operating in Boumerdes and the neighbouring province of Tizi Ouzou, Interior Minister Noureddine Zerhouni said last week. Government forces killed a bombmaker for GSPC during an operation on Thursday in Boumerdes, newspapers said. Mohamed Mayouz, 38, was shot dead in an ambush, part of an offensive on rebel strongholds. Advertisement: In a separate attack, two rebels armed with Kalashnikov rifles shot dead four farmers on Thursday near Blida, 50 km south of Algiers, El Watan and Liberte dailies said. Six government soldiers were injured on Friday in a separate attack when a home-made bomb exploded in Jijel province, 350 km east of Algiers, El Watan added.

#### BANGLADESH

Dhaka, Mar 30 — At least 50 people were injured in the Bangladeshi

capital today in clashes between police and opposition activists trying to march to the seat of the government, witnesses said. Police fired teargas to disperse thousands of stone-pelting members of the main opposition Awami League who had planned a sit-in around the government building in a long-running campaign against the government. The Awami League and its allies have been demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia ahead of elections due next January, saying her administration was corrupt and repressive. Awami League general secretary Abdul Jalil said that his party had planned a peaceful sit-in around the building in Dhaka and accused the police of attacking partymen without any provocation. A witness said police took away dozens of protesters after they pelted stones, set fire to roadside shops and damaged vehicles. A police officer said the opposition had tried to defy a ban on gatherings around the government building imposed at midnight last night. "The government is determined not to allow any chaos in the city," he said. Khaleda has rejected calls to resign and instead challenged the opposition to test its popularity in the coming elections. — Reuters.

#### BELARUS

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Riot police in the Belarussian capital, Minsk, have broken up a five-day demonstration against the re-election of President Alexander Lukashenko. More than 100 troops poured into the central square and loaded protesters onto waiting trucks. Small groups of demonstrators had gathered in the square since Mr Lukashenko secured a third term in office last Sunday (Mar 19). An eyewitness said about 150 demonstrators were in the square when it was cleared in less than 20 minutes. A reporter at the scene said some of the demonstrators were wrestled to the ground, while pictures showed helmeted police restraining protesters as they led them away.

#### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Bunia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mar 24 — Some 280 militiamen have withdrawn from the village of Katoto, in the north-eastern district of Ituri in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the face of advancing government troops, a senior military officer said today. The officer said the militiamen withdrew to the village of Loga, about 5 km south-west of Katoto, as a company of government infantrymen entered the village. The government troops were backed by a platoon of Pakistani troops from the United Nations and armoured cars. The militiamen, thought to be former demobilised militiamen from the community, had attacked Katoto on Wednesday (Mar 22) armed with AK-47 assault rifles and anti-tank rockets. Another

military officer said some young residents of Katoto had joined the militiamen in attacking the small army garrison at the village. Modibo Traoré, head of the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Ituri District, said Katoto was now under army control. One of the displaced, Christophe Mateso, said some of Katoto's residents had fled to Mboga and Mandro, respectively 6 km south-west and 10 km south of their village. Others, like Mateso, had fled to Bunia, the largest town in Ituri. The militiamen are thought to be members of the Mouvement révolutionnaire congolais, led in this sector by Ngujolo Chui, the former leader of the Lendu militia, known as the Front National Intégrationniste. Recently, militiamen have attacked several army positions in Ituri. Earlier today, they attacked Kasenyi Nyamavi, 55 km south of Bunia. On Monday, they ambushed government troops at Katoni and Kagaba, respectively 15 km and 55 km south of Bunia. On Mar 18, they also attacked the village of Kahwa, some 60 km south-east of Bunia, where they had killed nine UN Bangladeshi troops in 2005. — Reuters.

#### ECUADOR

Quito, Mar 24 — Ecuadorean troops firing tear-gas yesterday cleared Indian protesters from highways they had blocked as protests against a US free-trade deal waned and officials began talks with Washington over the pact. Thousands of Indian peasants have blockaded roads with piles of rubble and burning tires since last week to pressure the government to abandon trade talks. The protesters, many of whom are potato or corn farmers, fear that they will not be able to compete with US products. Three people were wounded in clashes between rock-hurling protesters and troops clearing roadblocks in the northern province of Imbabura. One soldier was pelted by rocks and two protesters were hit by riot gas canisters or shotgun pellets, witnesses said. Police in Quito fired tear-gas to force small pockets of Indian and high school student protesters to end a march through the city's colonial downtown yesterday but most key roads in Quito remained calm with businesses open as usual. The skirmishes come two days after President Alfredo Palacio declared a state of emergency in five provinces to quell protests that have become the latest headache for his weakened government before elections in October. — Reuters.

#### ETHIOPIA

Addis Ababa, Mar 27 — A series of blasts killed one person and injured several others in Addis Ababa today, the first fatality in a string of mysterious explosions in the Ethiopian capital. One person was killed and three others injured when the first blast ripped through a minibus in the southern part of the city. Over the next six hours in



different parts of Addis Ababa, explosions went off in a small cafe, a guard shack and at an abattoir. An employee in the cafe said the explosion there injured 10 people and ambulances could be seen leaving for the hospital. Police cordoned off the area around the cafe. The fourth explosion, in the busy Mercato trading district, tore the tin roof off a guard shack near some warehouses. A sidewalk vendor was seriously injured, witnesses said. A witness at the scene of the bus explosion said the rear of the 11-seat vehicle was torn apart by the blast. The bus owner said: "One person was killed in the explosion. Three others were injured slightly and they are in hospital for treatment." It was the first death in a wave of attacks that began in January with minor blasts targeting public buildings and hotels. — Reuters.

### FRANCE

Paris, Mar 23 — Rampaging French youths set fire to cars and looted shops in Paris today, marring protests against a youth jobs law that Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin, in a conciliatory move, agreed to discuss with unions. Aides said Villepin would meet senior trade union officials tomorrow to try to defuse a crisis that has triggered a national strike threat and drawn hundreds of thousands of protesters on to French streets. In Paris, riot police fired tear gas in clashes with youths, dubbed "casseurs" by the French, in the Invalides areas near the Foreign Ministry, Reuters witnesses said. Youths threw stones at police and set fire to the door of an apartment building in running battles at the end of a largely peaceful rally by thousands of students and workers against the CPE First Job Contract. "This time, there are lots of young criminals on the march who are there to steal and smash. This discredits the movement," said Charlie Herblin, a 22-year-old worker on the march. Dozens of young people, many wearing masks or hoods, overturned cars, smashed shop windows and robbed student demonstrators of clothes and mobile phones, witnesses said. Police said they had arrested 42 people. Clashes also erupted in the western city of Rennes, where about 300 to 400 youths battled with police. Tens of thousands of students marched in cities throughout France, including Tours, Orleans and Marseille, as part of rolling protests designed to maintain pressure on Villepin to axe a contract they say will create "Kleenex workers" whom employers can throw away at will. Unions have called a one-day national strike for Tuesday (Mar 28) to demand the withdrawal of the CPE, which allows employers to fire people aged under 26 at any stage during a two-year trial period, without stating a reason. In response to a written invitation for a meeting by Villepin, leaders of the five main labour confederations said they would meet the prime minister tomorrow, but they

reiterated their demand for the CPE to be withdrawn. President Jacques Chirac has increased pressure on his prime minister to renew contact with unions, said the *Le Parisien* newspaper, suggesting Villepin's job was now at stake. Villepin's popularity has slumped and analysts say the protests are damaging the prime minister's thinly veiled ambitions to run in the 2007 presidential election. Responding to prodding from Chirac, Villepin told union leaders in his letter he wanted a meeting "as quickly as possible" and would not restrict the agenda. Until now he has said he would only discuss how best to enforce the new law. In the letter, Villepin said he wanted to discuss "without preconceptions" ways to tackle the fears raised by the CPE. Villepin has championed the law as a key tool in the battle to cut youth unemployment of 23 percent. Ministers have offered to halve the trial period and require bosses to justify layoffs. Protests over the measure have disrupted three-quarters of the country's 84 universities and Education Minister Gilles de Robien said looming exams could be postponed until the autumn. Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy, Villepin's rival to contest the presidency under the conservatives' colors, yesterday broke ranks over the CPE contract, calling for a six-month trial period in an effort to ease the crisis. Sarkozy fears the protests that have spread across France could boost the Left and sink the conservatives' chances in both the presidential and parliamentary polls due next spring. — Reuters. (See issue of Mar 21.)

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated today, states: France's cabinet is meeting to consider the government's next move after a day of rioting yesterday against a youth employment law. Police used tear gas and water cannons to quell the crowds and arrested 500. The largely peaceful protests were attended by more than a million people across France, police said. Workers and students demonstrated in more than 100 other towns and cities for the government to scrap the controversial employment contracts. Protesters are bitterly opposed to the First Employment Contract (CPE), which allows employers to end job contracts for workers under 26 at any time during a two-year trial period without having to offer an explanation or give prior warning. Yesterday, Mr de Villepin told parliament he was open to talks on employment and possible changes to the contracts but he did not say he would withdraw them. The government says the law will encourage employers to hire young people but students fear it will erode job stability in a country where more than 20% of 18-to-25-year-olds are unemployed — more than twice the national average.

### INDIA

Raipur, India, Mar 24 — Maoist rebels slit the throats of four members

of an anti-Maoist group and shot dead two policemen in separate attacks in two Indian states, police said today, in rising violence by the leftist radicals. In the central Chhattisgarh state, Maoists rebels attacked tribal members of the Salwa Judum (March for Peace), a government-backed anti-rebel group. The killings took place overnight in the Bastar region of the state, more than 300 km south of Raipur, the state capital. In the neighbouring state of Orissa today, dozens of Maoist rebels stormed a police station and a bank, killing two policemen after a brief firefight and kidnapping two others, as well as a revenue official. The group also broke into the local jail in R. Udayagiri town, 250 km south of Bhubaneswar, the state capital, and released 40 prisoners, including three rebels. — Reuters.

London, Mar 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Thirteen civilians have been killed in a landmine blast carried out by suspected Maoists in the central Indian state of Chattisgarh, police say. Four others are said to be seriously injured in the blast which took place in the state's Kanker district. District police chief Pradeep Gupta said the rebels blew up a jeep carrying a group of traders late yesterday. The latest attack took place when the traders were returning from a weekly trade fair in a local village. Mr Gupta said, that the rebels may have mistaken the traders' vehicle for a police jeep. The Indian government believes that there may be 10,000 armed Maoist rebels in India. The Maoists have a strong presence in eight of 16 districts of Chattisgarh state.

### IRAQ

Baghdad, Mar 23 — At least 25 people, most of them policemen, were killed when a suicide car bomber blew himself up outside the headquarters of the Iraqi police's major crimes unit in Baghdad, the Interior Ministry said. The ministry said the car bomber had stopped at the first checkpoint and was having his vehicle checked for explosives when he detonated the bomb. Twenty-five people were killed, including at least 10 policemen, and 32 wounded, the ministry said. Earlier, another police official said the car bomber had driven at high speed into the checkpoint. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Mar 24 — A bomb planted outside a Sunni mosque in Iraq killed five people and wounded 12 others as worshippers were leaving midday prayers today, police said. Police said most of the wounded were in a serious condition. They said the bomb had been planted near the entrance of the Sa'ad bin Abiakkas mosque in Khalis, a town north-east of Baghdad. A number of Sunni mosques have been targeted in sectarian attacks since the Feb 22 bombing of a major Shi'ite mosque in Samarra unleashed a wave of violence that pushed Iraq towards the edge of civil war. — Reuters.

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Police found 30 more victims of the sectarian slaughter ravaging Iraq, most of them beheaded, dumped on a village road north of Baghdad on Sunday (Mar 26). At least 16 other Iraqis were killed in a US-backed raid in a Shiite neighbourhood of the capital. Accounts of the raid varied. Aides to the Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and Iraqi police both said it took place at a mosque, with police claiming 22 bystanders died and al-Sadr's aides saying 18 innocent men were killed. The Americans said Iraqi special forces backed by US troops killed 16 "insurgents" in a raid on a community meeting hall after gunmen opened fire on approaching troops. A total of at least 69 people were reported killed Sunday in one of the bloodiest days in weeks. Most of the dead appeared to be victims the shadowy Sunni-Shiite score-settling that has torn at the fabric of Iraq since Feb 22 when a Shiite shrine was blown apart in Samarra, north of Baghdad.

Mosul, Iraq, Mar 27 — Iraq's Defence Ministry said today that a blast in the northern city of Mosul was carried out by a suicide bomber who killed 40 people in an attack on army recruits. A ministry statement said 30 people were also wounded in the attack on a crowd of recruits who were attempting to join the Iraqi army. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Mar 29 — Gunmen wearing the military uniform worn by Iraqi police commandos killed at least eight people in a raid on an electronics store in western Baghdad today, police sources said. A hospital source put the death toll at nine, three women and six men, from the raid on the Al-Ibtikar Company in the relatively affluent Mansour neighbourhood. Police said six people were wounded by the assailants, who pulled up at the store in three civilian cars, leapt out, ran into the store and opened fire. There has been a spate of attacks and robberies by uniformed raiders on electronics stores and other businesses in the city this week. On Monday (Mar 27) and yesterday, a total of 35 people were abducted in four attacks, two of them on electronics dealers. The fate of those kidnapped is unknown. Also attacked yesterday was a currency exchange office, where police said raiders in police uniform got away with more than \$50,000 in US dollars and Iraqi dinars. — Reuters.

#### IVORY COAST

Abidjan, Mar 23 — U.N. peacekeepers have started returning to the west of war-divided Ivory Coast after abandoning their bases during anti-U.N. riots in January, the mission's military spokesman said today. Several hundred blue helmets fled four bases during the riots across the government-controlled south, after shooting dead five youths who broke into their base in the town of Guiglo and tried to steal weapons. U.N. military spokesman Colonel

Omar El Khadir said the redeployment to the nearby town of Toulepleu, near the Liberian border, had gone smoothly despite armed local militias having said they would oppose the peacekeepers' return. "Contacts (with Ivorian authorities) enabled the redeployment to take place smoothly. The population are generally in favour of it," he told reporters at a weekly news conference at the mission's Abidjan headquarters. He said troops from Bangladesh and Benin had returned to the base. Around 7,000 U.N. blue helmets and 4,000 French peacekeepers separate rebel troops, who have held the north of the country since a 2002-03 civil war, from government troops in the south. Leader of the powerful Guiglo-based FLGO militia, Maho Glofiei, who had previously opposed any return of the troops, told Reuters he would not protest against their return and would meet top U.N. peacekeeper General Abdoulaye Fall next week. "We won't commit to any action (against the peacekeepers)," he said. — Reuters.

#### NEPAL

Kathmandu, Mar 24 — About 150 protesters burned tyres and stopped traffic in the Nepali capital today, demanding the release of a top opposition leader who has been detained by police, witnesses said. Officials said Madhav Kumar Nepal, general secretary of the Communist Party of Nepal-UML, will be held in custody for three months under the Public Security Act. He was taken yesterday from his home, where he had been under house arrest for two months, to a police base at Kakani, about 30 km outside the capital. "Free our leader, down with autocracy," chanted Nepal's angry supporters, disrupting rush-hour traffic for an hour on a central street in the temple-studded city. Riot police stood guard but did not intervene. — Reuters.

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Communist rebels in Nepal have abducted four Polish trekkers on an expedition to the Mount Everest region, according to a colleague of the kidnapped men. The men had called using a satellite phone that belonged to the rebels to say they were being held captive, said Mukunda Pathik of Katmandu-based Nepal Esperanto Association. They made the phone call on Friday (Mar 24) and have not been heard from since, Pathik said. Two of the trekkers were working for the language organization, and they were joined by two friends in their expedition to the Everest area. They took an overland route usually avoided by tourists, who generally fly into the Everest area. The final route to the Everest base camp itself is heavily guarded by Nepal's military, which protects it as a major tourist attraction that draws much-needed foreign currency. The Maoist rebels have not claimed responsibility for the abduction, and it was not clear if they had made any demands.

Kathmandu, Mar 28 — Nepali army helicopters attacked a gathering of Maoist rebels to the east of the capital of the Himalayan kingdom killing at least five people, officials and media reports said. The operation took place yesterday near a school in Thokarpa village, 90 km east of Kathmandu, where the guerrillas had gathered, an army officer said. "We launched an air offensive after they fired on our helicopters," he said. "Ground forces have also been rushed to the area but details are awaited." Media reports said that at least five people had been killed and half a dozen houses destroyed in the attack. — Reuters.

#### NIGERIA

London, Mar 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Eni SpA said it might not be able to honour some export contracts after an attack on one of its Nigerian pipelines cut off supplies of crude oil. A company spokesman said that a bomb attack on the Tebidaba-Brass pipeline last Friday (Mar 17) had cut production in the southern Niger Delta by 75,000 barrels per day, 13,000 of them belonging to Eni's subsidiary Agip. He added that Eni hoped to repair the pipeline by the end-March but in the meantime had declared "force majeure", in order to avoid paying damages to clients expecting to load crude at the Brass export terminal.

London, Mar 28 — Three foreign oil workers, two Americans and a Briton, have been freed after being held hostage by separatist militants in Nigeria. The men, who are said to be in good health, were kidnapped last month. State government spokesman Abel Oshevire said that US oilmen Cody Oswald and Russell Spell and British security expert John Hudspith had been handed over to officials in Warri after being held captive in the swamps of the Niger Delta. "They're all here. They're all okay," the Delta State spokesman said by telephone from his government's local offices in Warri, an oil port 340 kilometres south-east of Lagos. Mr Oshevire said that no deal had been offered to the hostage-takers but that the expatriates had been released unharmed and had met Governor James Ibori after being brought to Warri by boat. An oil industry source confirmed the release and said that US and British diplomats had witnessed the safe arrival of the three former hostages. The men were among a group of nine foreign workers who were kidnapped on Feb 18 by heavily-armed militants fighting for control of the delta's oil resources. The other six men were released after just a week. The men, who work for the US engineering firm Willbros under contract to the Anglo-Dutch energy giant Shell, had been working on a pipelaying barge on a river opposite the large Forcados oil export terminal when they were captured. Militants from the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) - the latest in a series of armed ethnic Ijaw nationalist groups



from the delta swamps - fought a gunbattle with navy troop during the snatch.

London, Mar 30 — The 'Force Majeure' declared at Brass Terminal earlier this month has been lifted, following the repair of a ruptured delivery line. According to reports, the ruptured 24" Swamp Area delivery line has now been completely repaired and tested, and production flow was received at the Terminal, morning Mar 28.

#### PAKISTAN

Quetta, Pakistan, Mar 23 — A bomb blew up a telephone call office in Pakistan's troubled Baluchistan province today, killing the owner and wounding eight other people, police said. A police official said tribal militants seeking greater provincial autonomy had planted a time-bomb in a shop housing the call office in Kohlu town in the southeast of the province. The incident was the latest in a wave of rebel attacks in the south-western province bordering Afghanistan and Iran. — Reuters.

Miranshah, Pakistan, Mar 24 — Pakistani security forces killed up to 20 militants in the restive tribal area of North Waziristan during a clash today, the military said. The early morning fighting, which lasted around two hours, took place at a village about 45 km west of Miranshah, the main town in North Waziristan and the scene of fierce battles between security forces and militants in recent weeks. "They attacked a checkpoint with rocket fire and when we responded, the miscreants withdrew into the darkness," military spokesman Major-General Shaukat Sultan said. "We haven't found any dead bodies yet but according to local sources they left behind 15 to 20 dead," said Sultan, adding that troops had recovered rocket launchers, Kalashnikovs and other automatic weapons abandoned by the fleeing militants. Shaukat Sultan later told state television that one trooper had been killed and two wounded in the rocket attack. An intelligence official said the security forces had used helicopter gunships and artillery in their counter-attack. "We have no idea about the exact losses of the militants because it was totally dark but we used Cobra helicopters and artillery in the fighting," he said. — Reuters.

Peshawar, Pakistan, Mar 28 — At least 26 people have been killed in clashes between factions led by rival Muslim clerics in Pakistan's tribal region on the border with Afghanistan, intelligence officials said today. A Pakistani cleric incited tribesmen to attack Afghan families settled in the Khyber area, who were following a rival Afghan preacher, the officials said. The clashes took place around Fort Salop, some 15 km south-west of Peshawar, the main city in North West Frontier Province. Armed tribesmen attacked the house of a local supporter of the Afghan cleric, and shot dead at least 18 people before setting the house alight today,

witnesses and intelligence officials said. One of the attackers was also killed. "Dead bodies are still lying there and paramilitary troops have sealed off all roads leading to that place," Mohammed Nisar Afridi, vice president of a local trade union, said. The clashes had begun yesterday evening, when seven tribesmen were killed and 25 wounded before paramilitary troops opened fire to disperse a mob. The Pakistani tribesmen had also taken an unknown number of people hostage, an intelligence official said. "The attackers have taken hostage women and children," one intelligence officer said. — Reuters.

Miranshah, Mar 30 — A Pakistani tribal woman and a girl were killed and nine other people wounded, including two troopers, during a rocket attack by pro-Taliban fighters on a military base, officials said today. A firefright erupted late last night after militants fired rockets at the base in Mir Ali, some 24 km east of Miranshah, the headquarters of North Waziristan tribal agency — a region bordering Afghanistan. One of the rockets hit a house in nearby Hurmaz village, killing the woman and child, and wounding seven of their family, and the ensuing firing lasted for around an hour, according to security officials and residents. North Waziristan has been scene of fierce battles between security forces and militants in recent weeks. — Reuters.

#### PHILIPPINES

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A bomb exploded today in a grocery store on a southern Philippine island considered an al-Qaida stronghold, killing at least five people and wounding at least a dozen more, authorities said. One man was arrested, and police suspected the blast was the work of Abu Sayyaf, a notorious Islamic militant group on the U.S. list of terrorist organizations. The explosion occurred at midday on southern Jolo island, where American troops recently conducted joint counterterrorism exercises with Filipino forces. Dozens of U.S. soldiers — including ordnance experts and medical personnel — responded to the scene of the bombing and helped transport the wounded to hospitals. The bomb was believed hidden in a bag left at a ground-floor baggage counter of the two-story cooperative building in downtown Jolo on Jolo island, about 590 miles south-east of Manila, said provincial police Senior Superintendent Ahirun Ajirim. The store had just reopened after a lunch break and was not crowded at the time of the blast, chief provincial social worker Maydelyn Bahjin said. Hospitals recorded at least five people killed and 19 wounded, Bahjin said. But provincial government spokesman Sabri Asri said nine people were killed and more than a dozen were wounded.

Manila, Mar 29 — A crude bomb exploded today inside a bus in Digos

City in the southern Philippines, wounding 17 people, police said. Security officials were investigating whether the communist guerrilla group, the New People's Army (NPA), had planted the improvised explosive device, which went off around 1130, local time, after the bus stopped at a terminal. "We are investigating if the NPA is behind this since it's their anniversary," provincial police officer Reggiette Tecson said. The NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, vowed yesterday to step up attacks on government targets outside the capital as the rebels marked their 37th anniversary today. Passengers and some vendors at the terminal were injured in the bus attack, said Ninang Hadjaril, police superintendent of Davao del Sur province. He said another parked bus at the terminal was also damaged. — Reuters.

#### SOMALIA

Nairobi, Mar 23 — Thousands of people, especially women and children, were fleeing their homes in the Somali capital of Mogadiscio today as fighting between rival militias entered a second day, witnesses said. "Our estimate of the dead yesterday was around 50. Today, we can, so far confirm 20," said a doctor in one of the city's main hospitals. "Because of where the fighting is taking place, the vast majority of those who died are militia and not civilians." The final death toll could be much higher, "because a lot of people are being buried where they died," said the doctor. He said that over 100 others were wounded. Hundreds of families fled their homes in the city's northern outskirts after fierce fighting broke out yesterday. Some of those who stayed behind to protect their property from looters were reported to have begun leaving when the clashes continued for a second day. The conflict flared up when armed militia, reportedly loyal to Abukar Umar Adani, a wealthy businessman, attacked the positions of militiamen loyal to Bashir Raghe. "The fighting is going on. It started out slow in the morning but picked intensity later. It is as bad as it was yesterday," said a local resident. "Both sides received reinforcement around 1200 (local time) and that is when things picked up." He said that "people living in Waxara Cade and Suuqa Dayaha area (close to the centre of the fighting) are leaving in droves." The fighting began yesterday morning. It involved forces of the Alliance for Peace and the Fight Against International Terrorism, which comprises several Mogadiscio-based faction leaders on Raghe's side. Other members of the alliance include Muhammad Qanyare Afrah, Muse Sudi Yalahow, Omar Finnish and Abdirashid Shire Ilqeyte. — Reuters.

Mogadiscio, Mar 24 — Heavy fighting between rival Somali militia linked to Islamic courts and a new "anti-terror" alliance has killed about 70 people in the capital Mogadiscio this week, hospital sources and

residents said today. Hundreds of Somalis have fled the capital and businesses have closed during the latest flare-up between fighters loyal to the powerful courts and warlords linked to a recently-formed political group called the Mogadiscio Anti-Terrorism Coalition. "Today we've lost five people shot dead," a militia leader on the Islamist side said as a volley of shots could be heard in the background. "And on the other side, they've lost six who were burned in a technical," he added. Technicals — battle wagons made from adapted pickup trucks — are the favoured mobile weapon of Somali militias who mount machine-guns on the back. Some of those killed were civilians. Technicals crammed with fighters and guns roamed the streets of Mogadiscio and sand-dunes near the sea, as heavy gunfire rattled out. — Reuters.

Nairobi, Mar 27 — The Somali capital of Mogadiscio was calm today as a ceasefire that came into effect after four days of heavy militia fighting continued to hold but hundreds of families who fled their homes were yet to return, local sources said. Most of the displaced families had been living in the city's northern outskirts where the fighting was concentrated. "For the second day, the guns are silent in Mogadiscio. How long that will last is a different matter," a local resident said today. The ceasefire had reportedly been arranged by a mediation committee comprising businessmen and led by prominent Islamic scholar Shaykh Sharif Shaykh Muhyadiin. Those who were engaged in the mediation efforts said they had asked each side to send two emissaries to the talks. "We have not yet been able to get the two sides to talk face-to-face. We have sent two teams to shuttle between them for now," said Mahamud Gabeyre, a businessman who is involved in the mediation. "We are hopeful that by tomorrow they will sit together and talk face-to-face." Gabeyre said the first step in the mediation efforts was to get a permanent ceasefire and then "return things to the way they were before last month." The mediators had not set any deadlines for an agreement. "It may not be today or tomorrow but I am optimistic we will reach a positive result," he said. By today, public transport services had resumed in northern Mogadiscio and "people had started reopening their businesses," according to a resident. The road to El-Ma'an port, which had been closed for almost a week, had reopened, "and trucks laden with goods have been seen coming from the port." He added that the road and the area around Keysaney airstrip in north Mogadiscio were now "under the control of the Islamic courts." A hospital doctor said 140 people had been killed by the time the guns fell silent yesterday. "Around 122 died in battle or were civilian victims, while 22 died of their wounds in hospital," he said. Some 354 people who were wounded had been admitted to the city's hospitals. — Reuters.

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated Mar 26, states: Some 300 armed Islamic militiamen seized a key port and airstrip on the north-eastern outskirts of Somalia's capital yesterday adding to some of the heaviest of four days of bloodshed between the rival factions, which has killed at least 73 people. Militia commanders have said that the fighters who are loyal to a group of radical Islamic clerics attacked a rival militia force in control of the main road leading to El Maan port and the Issaley airstrip. Heavily armed fighters with rocket launchers, anti-aircraft guns, rocket-propelled grenades, assault rifles and trucks mounted with heavy weapons participated in yesterday's battle. At least 300 Islamic militiamen were involved in the assault, witnesses said. There were reports of deaths, but an exact toll was unknown because intense fighting was continuing. Meanwhile, a group of businessmen and warlords formed an armed alliance last month, to curb the Islamic fighters' growing power. Consequently, the two groups have battled for control of parts of the capital.

#### SPAIN

Madrid/San Sebastian, Mar 24 — A ceasefire declared by Basque separatists ETA came into force today as politicians in Spain and throughout Europe urged the group to hand over its weapons and renounce violence for good. The truce, announced unexpectedly on Wednesday (Mar 22), came into force at midnight (2300, UTC, Mar 23), ushering in hopes that after 38 years in which it has killed about 850 people, ETA might finally have abandoned its violent campaign for Basque independence. The group has described the ceasefire as "permanent", a word it has never used before in such circumstances. Spain and the European Union have welcomed the move but want more from a group that once defied dictator Francisco Franco but has since lost much of its impetus as Spain has embraced democracy and regional autonomy. Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero plans to meet opposition parties next week to discuss what might happen next. His left-wing government has declined to say when, or even if, it might start talking to ETA. "ETA must give clear signals of a definitive end to violence," said secretary of state for communications Fernando Moraleda, who acts as spokesman for Zapatero. — Reuters.

#### SRI LANKA

London, Mar 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A strike gripped Sri Lanka's restive northeast yesterday as Tamil Tiger rebels and the Colombo government traded allegations of reneging on their latest pledges to uphold a troubled truce. Shops and offices shut in the district of Trincomalee in response to the one-day strike called by a Tamil Tiger

rebel front organisation, local residents and officials said. They said the Pongu Thamil organisation which ordered the strike to protest alleged truce violations by security forces is a front of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Tension has been rising in the troubled region, with the guerrillas accusing the military of building new bunkers in violation of their four-year-old truce. The group said the strike is to protest what it claimed are ongoing truce violations by government forces, including the building of bunkers and harassment of civilians by troops. The defence ministry, meanwhile, said Tiger guerrillas fired small arms at a military camp in the area late Thursday, but there were no casualties.

London, Mar 25 — Suspected Tamil Tiger rebels blew up their own trawler and sank an approaching Sri Lankan navy attack boat today, leaving eight sailors missing at sea off the island's west coast, the military said. Eleven navy sailors escaped the blast but search teams were still scouring for 8 crew members, military spokesman Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe said. The incident is the worst since the government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) held a first round of crunch peace talks in Geneva in February, and comes just weeks ahead of a second round seen vital to avoid a slide back to civil war. Rebels were sailing a trawler believed contained a large arms shipment, and blew themselves up as a navy *Dvora* approached, Samarasinghe said. There was a massive explosion and the *Dvora* was damaged in the blast and sank. Six suspected rebels on the trawler died instantly. The Tigers denied any involvement in the incident, which comes after a similar incident in mid-February off the northeast coast, in which the Navy said four suspected rebels and one sailor were killed after another trawler was blown up. A string of suspected rebel attacks in December and January that killed dozens of armed forces personnel drove the island to the brink of war before both sides agreed to the first high level talks since 2003. Violence has since tailed off sharply, although some diplomats fear a rising war of words between the foes could spill over into renewed hostilities that could in turn rekindle a civil war that has killed more than 64,000 people. — Reuters.

#### TURKEY

Diyarbakir, Turkey, Mar 30 — Three people were killed and about 250 wounded during two days of street battles between Turkish police and Kurdish protesters in the south-eastern city of Diyarbakir, its governor said. Governor Efsan Ala said yesterday that the wounded included 120 protesters and 130 policemen. Ala said 1,500 people had taken part in the protests. He added some 200 people had been detained over the violence, the worst seen in mainly Kurdish Diyarbakir, a city of



nearly a million people, in 30 years. Many public buildings and vehicles have been damaged by the protesters. The fighting erupted on Tuesday (Mar 28) after funeral ceremonies for 14 guerrillas of the banned Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), killed by security forces in a military operation last weekend. — Reuters.

## Kidnappings



### NIGERIA

See under "Political & Civil Unrest".

## Labour Disputes



### FRANCE

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated Mar 23, states: A major strike by French gas and power workers today has affected French energy supply networks, unions said, but disruptions were limited thanks to mild weather. Thousands of power and gas workers hit the streets of Paris in the afternoon to protest the planned EUR70 billion government-backed merger between the state-owned gas company Gaz de France (1020848.FR) and Franco-Belgian utility Suez (SZE), which is seen by the unions as another step toward the privatization of the whole French energy sector. Through the day, power company Electricite de France (1024251.FR)'s workers cut 8,000 megawatts or about 15% of EdF's installed generation capacity, Maurice Marion, the CGT union's spokesman at EdF, told Dow Jones Newswires. "Stripping out people on vacations or on leave, we estimate that around 60% of EdF working employees went on strike today," Marion said. An EdF spokeswoman said 18.5% of the company's employees were on strike at 1200, GMT, and at most there was a 7,000-MW decrease in power supply. Gaz de France's workers lowered the pressure on GdF's gas network by between 10% and 20%, Marion said. Eric Buttanizzi, CGT's spokesman at GdF, said gas supplies to France from Norway and the Netherlands were reduced by 20%. Gas supplies from storage sites were reduced by between 10% and 100% in the Paris region, while gas flows coming from liquefied-natural-gas terminals in Brittany and the south of France suffered minimal disruption, Buttanizzi added. A spokeswoman for GdF said that all GdF customers were supplied with gas normally during the day, and 22.5% of GdF employees were on strike at midday.

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Delays and cancellations on flights to and from France are expected tomorrow as a general strike gets under way. Ryanair said this evening that it has been forced to cancel the majority of its flights into and out of French tomorrow because of a strike by government and trade union workers. The strike will affect all flights out of Dublin and Shannon to France. It also affects all Ryanair flights from France to Ireland. Passengers seeking information have been advised to check the Ryanair website for details on rebooking and refunds. An Aer Lingus spokesperson said the airline planned to operate a full schedule of flights but warned that that delays were anticipated. Passengers are advised to check with the airline tomorrow morning.

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated today, states: French public transport workers and teachers staged a one-day national strike and tens of thousands took to the streets today to try to force Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin to abandon a new youth job law. The Eiffel Tower was closed to visitors until the evening, commuters faced delays on trains and Paris underground rail services and airports were hit by stoppages in protest against the CPE First Job Contract. In Marseilles some 250,000 people took to the streets. In Grenoble 60,000 rallied and 40,000 protested in Pau, unions said. Opinion polls show almost two-thirds of French people oppose the CPE. Unions said 135 rallies were planned across France, with a large rally expected in Paris in the afternoon. Many trains were still running, including the Eurostar link to Brussels and London, but some commuters were frustrated. Villepin has invited unions and students to meet him for talks tomorrow but it is not clear whether they will attend.

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated today, states: French unions today called for a fresh one-day strike, stepping up pressure on Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin the day after millions marched to demand he abandon a contentious youth job contract. Villepin again refused to withdraw the measure but said he was open to improving it and urged his critics to await a court ruling expected Thursday (Apr 6). The Constitutional Council will either support the law, say it violates the constitution or express reservations about it. Unions urged President Jacques Chirac in a letter to use his constitutional powers to send back to parliament for revision an equal opportunities law that could then be gutted of the CPE first job contract measures. "The prime minister's rigidity only reinforces the union's determination to take further action," the UNSA union said in a statement announcing an Apr 4 national strike. Unions say 3 million people took part in yesterday's marches, three times the police estimate, upping the ante

on Villepin and fuelling speculation about his future. Almost 800 people were arrested yesterday in sporadic violence, notably in Paris, where police used tear gas and water cannons to quell unrest.

### GERMANY

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Factory workers across Germany temporarily walked off their jobs early today, in a series of warning strikes to put pressure on employers over demands for higher wages. Some 3,000 Ford Motor Co workers stopped production in the company's southwestern Saarlouis factory for two hours, while about 350 Opel workers temporarily shut work down in the central city of Eisenach in the action engineered by the IG Metall union. Hundreds of Daimler Chrysler workers in the southern Rastatt factory rallied for about a half hour before resuming their work. "We are not interested in conflict, we are interested in a solution," said IG Metall chief Juergen Peters. Yesterday, more than 1,000 BMW workers stopped work for an hour in the first of this round of warning strikes, long a common tactic in German pay negotiations that are aimed at demonstrating union resolve but without seriously curtailing production. IG Metall is seeking a 5 per cent pay raise and better training for some 3.4 million manufacturing workers across Germany, adding that such an increase is justified by improvements in productivity and strong corporate profits. But the Gesamtmetall employers federation has argued that wages can be increased by only 1.2 per cent, plus an unspecified one-off payment. They say a larger increase could damage the competitiveness of German industry and undermine the country's hesitant economic recovery. IG Metall announced it would begin the warning strikes this week after a third round of wage talks ended Monday without an agreement. The talks are to resume next week.

### GREECE

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Greek bank workers staged a nation-wide strike today in protest at government plans to overhaul the sector's pension funds. The strike is the latest round in a wider confrontation between unions and Greece's conservative government, which has vowed to scale back job protection laws and reform a pension system threatened by the country's aging population. Today's protest affected banks which remain or were formerly under state control, where unions retain a strong influence. Workers at many private banks ignored the strike by the bank workers' union, OTOE, whose leaders headed a protest rally to parliament. Lawmakers today debated an amendment to merge the banks' pension funds as part of those reforms. The amendment only affects the state-run Emporiki Bank but is

widely seen as a forerunner for similar reforms at other banks. Parliament is expected to pass the amendment late tomorrow. Employees at the state-run Emporiki Bank have been on strike since yesterday. The government is planning to sell up to 25% of its total direct and indirect 39.5% stake in Emporiki by the end of the first half this year. The Finance Ministry named Citigroup as adviser for the privatization.

#### INDIA

Kochi, Mar 28 — The container traffic outside the wharf in Kochi Port is disrupted due to container trailer workers indefinite strike from midnight, Mar 26. The container vessel's operation at Kochi Port is partially affected. Port/Government authorities are currently engaged in negotiations with the Workers' Union. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated today, states: The deadlock over the container movement in and out of the Rajiv Gandhi Container Terminal, RGCT, at Kochi port continued today. This was due to an indefinite strike called by the container trailer crew belonging to various trade unions of the port and partially affected the working of RGCT. Leaders of various trade unions, including CITU and Cochin Thuramugha Thozhilali Union, CTTU, told Business Standard that the container trailer traffic had been stalled since Monday (Mar 27). Sources said that the indefinite strike would continue unless there was a settlement of the demands put forth by the crew. The unions called for the strike demanding increase in the salaries of drivers and cleaners of the trailer trucks and the timely disbursement of salary and other allowances. According to the union leaders, a driver gets Rs 2000 as salary and 10% of the total charges for each trip as allowance while a cleaner gets Rs 1000 plus 5% percent "bata." But they alleged that the owners of trailers were not paying salaries forcing the crew to work with only "bata." They demanded a clear-cut turn system for the movement of containers out of the port as most of the trailers are not getting even a single trip in a week. Around 2000 workers of 800 plus trailers are now on indefinite strike and so far no initiative has been taken to settle the issue. Sources at the India Gateway Terminals Limited (IGTL), the Indian arm of Dubai Port International, which runs RGCT said that if the strike continued for a couple of days more the working of the terminal would come to a standstill.

#### ITALY

Savona, Mar 29 — There will be no tug service available in Savona and Vado Ligure ports due to trade union assembly from 1430, local time, to 1630, Mar 30. The emergency service will be guaranteed by tug *Anna Noli*. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### JAPAN

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Four pilot unions at All Nippon Airways Co. subsidiaries staged a 24-hour strike yesterday, causing 115 domestic flights to be cancelled and stranding 7,600 passengers, an ANA official said. Passengers stranded Thursday morning (Mar 23) at Chubu airport by a 24-hour strike by pilots at three All Nippon Airways subsidiaries get help from ANA staff. The strike, which began at midnight Wednesday, disrupted 13 percent of the group's services, and affected Air Nippon, Air Next and Air Central flights. The ANA group's first walkout in eight years did not affect any international flights, ANA spokesman Masato Ogawa said. Pilots at rival Japan Airlines Corp., which also had threatened a 24-hour strike, reached an agreement early Thursday on wages and labor conditions, JAL said. The ANA unions have demanded an average 9.6 percent pay increase, ANA spokeswoman Mariko Matsuoka said. The unions said in a statement they were also dissatisfied with their working conditions, including staff training and promotions. The carrier had refused to give any raises, citing higher fuel costs and competition. Thursday morning, people took their anger out on ANA airport staff. ANA officials said all flights would be back on schedule today. The unions are the All Nippon Crew's Association, with 407 pilots; Air Nippon Network Pilot Union, with 43 pilots; Air Next Crew's Association, including 14 pilots; and Air Central Pilots' Union, comprising 37 pilots.

#### MEXICO

London, Mar 25 — An estimated 1,000 workers at Grupo Mexico's La Caridad copper mine went on strike yesterday over contract negotiations, the National Mining and Metal Workers Union said. The union said the strike at the mine started at noon, local time after the original Mar 5 deadline for a settlement had been put back several times. La Caridad, in the northwestern state of Sonora, produces about 150,000 metric tons of copper concentrate a year and 250,000 tons of different refined copper products. The strike wasn't affecting the smelter and refinery at the mining complex.

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A strike at the La Caridad copper mine in northern Mexico, owned by Grupo Mexico SA, entered its fourth day today with no sign of progress toward a settlement. Grupo Mexico spokesman Juan Rebolledo said that the work stoppage didn't have a legal basis because the company had been granted an extension for the contract talks on Mar 5. A union spokeswoman said today, however, that La Caridad miners remained on strike and won't resume talks unless the negotiating committee is chosen by union boss Napoleon Gomez Urrutia. The strike at La

Caridad helped to push copper futures to record highs in New York today.

Mexico City, Mar 29 — Mining giant Southern Copper Corp. said today it expects a decision on the legality of the ongoing stoppage at its La Caridad mine this week and warned output would be hit if the strike dragged on. Chief Financial Officer Eduardo Gonzalez said in an interview at the Reuters Latin America Investment Summit the strike would hurt production from La Caridad's smelter complex if it stretched to 10 days. The strike started when a split over worker loyalty to a union boss brought down contract negotiations. It began six days ago, meaning output would be affected from Monday. Juan Rebolledo, vice-president of international relations at Southern Copper (SCC) parent Grupo Mexico (GMEXICO:MX: Quote, Profile, Research), said the company had asked local authorities to declare the strike illegal. "We have been told that we will have an answer in the next few days ... this week," Rebolledo also said at the summit. — Reuters.

#### SOUTH AFRICA

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated today, states: About 90,000 security guards in South Africa are on strike, unions say. Unions are demanding higher wages and better working conditions including the right to use the toilet without being charged with deserting a position. Negotiators say the planned two-day strike has come after months of fruitless talks with employers. Fewer than half are said to pay the minimum wage in the security industry which has prospered in recent years because of South Africa's crime wave. Reports indicate a variable turn-out in different parts of the country. Some companies in Cape Town and Pretoria reported up to 80% absenteeism rates, while companies in Johannesburg were less affected. At least 10,000 striking guards marched in the streets of Pretoria to deliver a petition to the Private Security Regulatory Authority. Unions have already delivered memorandums to government. "We are concerned about the impact the strike is going to have on the economy but unfortunately it has come to a point that we cannot find a settlement with employers," Jackson Simon of the South African Transport and Allied Workers' Union - one of several unions observing the strike - told Reuters news agency. "We are hoping police will put contingency plans in place so that criminals don't take advantage of the strike." Only a minority of security companies were paying less than the 1,500 rand (\$250) minimum wage, industry spokesman Steve Friswel said. "The major companies, and we represent about 80% of them, do. It's the other 20% who have been underpaid," he said.

Johannesburg, Mar 24 — South African police used rubber bullets to disperse about 5,000 striking security



guards in central Johannesburg today after a section of the crowd turned violent, a witness said. The guards were still awaiting the outcome of talks between 13 unions representing them and five employer organisations which was scheduled to start at 0800, UTC, today. "Everything was fine until about 1,000 or so went on a rampage marching against traffic and banging on cars with sticks and stones, then police started firing and arrested about six," a videojournalist at the scene said. The gathering was part of a two-day strike by about 90,000 guards following months of failed wage talks with employers. Another march by about 10,000 guards in the capital, Pretoria, on Thursday (Mar 23) also ended violently. Several people were injured and at least one vehicle was set alight in battles between dispersing marchers and police, local media reported. Unions led by South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (Satawu) are demanding an 11% increase and an additional 4% for the lowest paid worker and paid maternity leave. — Reuters.

London, Mar 26 — The two-day strike by private company security guards, which began Mar 23, had little apparent effect on the security status of South African ports. According to a National Ports Authority spokesperson there was 100 percent attendance at the port of Durban with all entry gates properly manned. A check with the other ports revealed a similar situation, with no comparison to what was happening elsewhere in the country as 90,000 or the country's 280,000 registered security workers reportedly downed tools over a wage dispute. The port spokesperson explained that port security staff are all employees of the National Ports Authority and are not affected by the call to go out on strike. Private terminals and warehouses also appeared to have few if any problems, and where there were any other staff were simply delegated to man the doors or gates.

#### **SOUTH KOREA**

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of South Korean unionised trailer truck drivers started a general strike today to press for higher wages and better working conditions. They gathered at Chosun University, about 330 km south-west of Seoul, after blocking four main roads leading to a Samsung Electronics factory with their trucks. The union is also demanding the reinstatement of 51 truckers who were laid off earlier this month by Kukdong Container, Samsung's subcontractor. The unionised truckers and their employers failed to find common ground in negotiations. Earlier in the day, police arrested two unionists who were staging a protest on a 50-meter-high power transmission tower near the Samsung factory for about four hours. Samsung

officials called in police and locksmiths to clear the roads where about 300 trucks were parked in a zigzag formation to block traffic to and from the factory. Police said they will revoke the licenses of 514 truckers and arrest all union leaders unless they withdraw the strike.

#### **UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Mar 28 — The Torpoint Ferry will be out of action for 14 hours. More than 100,000 public sector workers in Devon and Cornwall are expected to strike today. The action is expected to cause disruption, including closing schools, leisure centres and universities, as well as hitting refuse collections. Unions are angry at government plans to change pensions. Other services not running will include the Torpoint Ferry, which is expected to cause major hold-ups for commuters in Plymouth and south east Cornwall. All councils The unions are angry at government plans to scrap a rule that allows some to retire on a full pension at 60. But deputy prime minister John Prescott's office says the current rule discriminates against women and breaks European laws. The walk-out will hit both county councils and district authorities. In Devon, at least 16 schools across the county will be closed. Others will be sending home pupils before lunch-time. The last time the Torpoint Ferry, which sails between Devon and Cornwall across the River Tamar, was completely out of action was two years ago during another public sector strike. It will cease operating between 0600 and 2200 BST, today.

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated today, states: More than a million council workers will today launch the biggest bout of industrial action since the 1926 General Strike, forcing the closure of schools, sports centres and libraries and disrupting refuse collections and burials. The one-day strike has been called by the country's biggest trade unions in a row over pensions and will be followed by a series of walkouts in the coming weeks. The unions are protesting at plans to scrap a so-called rule of 85, which allows council staff to retire at 60 if their age and length of service adds up to 85 years. Union officials warned last night that the industrial action would hit services in all local councils as well as housing associations, the Probation Service, the Meat Hygiene Service, primary and secondary schools and nurseries, refuse collection, street sweeping, home care, occupational therapy and other social services and traffic wardens. Transport services, including the Metro in Newcastle, the Mersey ferries, Leeds-Bradford airport and the Thames Barrier would also be disrupted. Thousands of probation and family court staff will join the walkout, disrupting courts and leading to the cancellation of offender programmes.

## Awards & Settlements



#### **BID-RIGGING SCHEME, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of companies and governments nationwide that bought insurance through a broker expecting the lowest rates will share in the proceeds from a \$153 million settlement of a bid-rigging scheme involving Zurich American Insurance Co. The victims, which include small, mom-and-pop retailers, school districts, governments and large corporations, will receive \$88 million, said New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, who led the investigation and announced the settlement. Zurich American, a subsidiary of Switzerland's Zurich Financial Services, also agreed to pay penalties and costs of the investigation to the three states in the settlement: \$39 million to New York, and \$13 million each to Connecticut and Illinois.

#### **BREACH OF CONTRACT, ZIMBABWE**

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated Mar 22, states: Mzi Khumalo, owner of Zimbabwe's largest gold producer Metallon Gold Zimbabwe, should pay US\$7.4 million in damages to businessman Lloyd Hove for breach of contract, the High Court ruled yesterday. Hove had sued the South African mining tycoon for reneging on an agreement to partner Hove's company, Stanmarker, in the purchase of Independence Gold. Stanmarker would have been entitled to 40% of the company. Khumalo bought IndepGold from Lonmin for US\$15.5 million in 2002, but passed up Stanmarker on the empowerment stake, later agreeing a new US\$9 million arrangement with now estranged partners Manyame. High Court judge Yunus Omerjee said Khumalo had acted in bad faith, setting Stanmarker's damages in US dollars. Gold was priced in US dollars, IndepGold was owned by a UK-based firm and Stanmarker's dividends would have been in dollars, Omerjee said. "The rate of interest thus applicable cannot be that prevailing in Zimbabwe but that applicable in the country where the currency is the home currency," said Omerjee. The interest is payable from Oct 28, 2002, the date of the breach. Khumalo's lawyer Cedric Pukrin had argued that the agreement between Stanmarker and Metallon on Jun 24, 2003 had only been "an agreement to agree" and not a legally binding partnership. But Hove's lawyer Chris Anderson successfully argued that it was a binding agreement. Hove had claimed US\$12 million, representing 40% of

the US\$30 million that both parties had agreed on Jun 17, 2002, as the real value of the shares in Cableair, the company through which Lonmin owned IndepGold. The two later agreed a valuation of US\$18.5 million.

#### **CLASS-ACTION SETTLEMENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 27 — Hagens Berman, now Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro, was sued by three former clients that claimed the firm violated its duty of loyalty to them when it opted to pursue a group of ill-advised class-actions that caused a \$39 million settlement offer to them to be withdrawn. The clients were three small water bottling companies one of which is a non-profit company co-owned by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. The clients claimed that Hagens Berman had been working on a possible settlement with Switzerland-based Nestle Waters North America, which owns Poland Springs Water Co. That case involved allegations that Poland Springs was using well-water, not spring water, and that the water might be contaminated. The companies wished to avoid any negative impact on the region's bottled water industry by negotiating a settlement with Nestle to correct the problems without the need for public disclosure. Consumers were represented in the matter by an environmental advocate that was working with the bottlers. As a result of negotiations Nestle was reportedly willing to settle the matter for \$39 million and an agreement to review its water quality. The clients, and the environmental advocate, allegedly told Hagens Berman not to jeopardize the settlement. What happened next, according to the clients and their current attorney, was that Hagens Berman decided to pursue a number of ill-advised class-actions that caused Nestle to withdraw its settlement offer thereby causing the clients "a significant financial loss." The complaint and the proof at trial followed the theory that Hagens Berman lost its moral compass and, motivated by greed, abandoned its "original" clients for a course of action that, if successful, would have netted the law firm million of dollars in legal fees. The jury agreed and returned a \$10.8 million verdict against Hagens Berman. They will return next week to take up the issue of punitive damages. According to Jan Schlichtmann, the attorney who brought the clients to Hagens Berman in 2002 and who negotiated the settlement: "For their own reasons, they decided to sabotage that settlement, figuring they could do better. It was a power play by them. It was totally contrary to their obligations as an attorney, and to cover their betrayal of their clients, they started to trash their clients and me." Schlichtmann added that the verdict is a reminder that "lawyers are there to serve their clients' interests, and clients are not there to serve their lawyers' interest."

#### **FERRY ACCIDENT, NEW YORK CITY, UNITED STATES**

See "Andrew J. Barberi" under "Marine."

#### **FRAUDULENT TACTICS, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated today, states: New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer yesterday announced a \$14 million multi-state settlement with GlaxoSmithKline over accusations that the drug maker used fraudulent tactics to delay cheap generic versions of its anti-depressant Paxil. The settlement recovers claims related to state Medicaid purchases of Paxil, known chemically as paroxetine hydrochloride, which were excluded from a separate class-action settlement. The \$14 million will be distributed among the 49 states involved in the settlement, Spitzer said. West Virginia reached a separate deal with Glaxo. Spitzer said New York will receive about \$1.4 million in settlement proceeds. The case involved claims that GlaxoSmithKline used fraudulent litigation to delay generic competition. In 2004, Spitzer settled another case with Glaxo over Paxil. That lawsuit had charged Glaxo with withholding negative information regarding possible increased risk of suicidal thoughts among patients taking the popular antidepressant. Under that settlement, Glaxo agreed to publicly disclose information from its clinical trials.

#### **MEDICAL PRACTICE, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Morgantown jury has awarded a 17-million-dollar verdict to the victim of malpractice. In the lawsuit claim, Monongalia General Hospital is accused of being negligent in caring for nine year-old Marissa Pochran during labour. Allegedly they failed to perform a timely C-section, which caused the girl's brain to be deprived of oxygen... leaving her with severe brain damage. Mon General is refusing to comment about the lawsuit.

#### **NATURAL GAS EXPLOSION, INDIANA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated Mar 25, states: A jury awarded more than \$2 million to a couple whose home exploded following a natural gas buildup. The Porter Circuit Court jury found Northern Indiana Public Service Co. was at fault for the blast that destroyed the Valparaiso home of Joan and Paul Ketchmark in November 2000. The jury on Friday awarded the Ketchmarks more than \$700,000 in compensatory damages and ordered the utility to pay \$1.5 million in punitive damages to the couple, a circuit court representative said. Jurors deliberated for nine hours beginning Thursday after four days of hearing evidence. A NIPSCO crew had

been working in the area of the Ketchmarks' home just days before it exploded. The company later said its crew had damaged an underground plastic service line, which resulted in natural gas migrating through the soil and into the couple's home. Investigators determined the gas was probably ignited when the furnace turned on. The Ketchmarks were out to dinner at the time of the explosion. The Ketchmarks sued NIPSCO in August 2001 after failing to reach a cash settlement with the company. They said the insurance settlement would not cover the entire cost of building their new home. NIPSCO attorney Paul Rake had argued that Paul Ketchmark dismantled the gas meter and replaced a section of pipe, noting that a loose joint was discovered after the blast. But attorney Richard Davis, who represented the Ketchmarks, said his client had not touched the joint and that it could have been loosened by the heat of the explosion.

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

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated today, states: AGA Medical Corp. said yesterday it has agreed to pay \$30 million in cash to settle a patent dispute with NMT Medical Inc. In the lawsuit, originally filed in 1999, Boston-based NMT Medical alleged that AGA Medical's Amplatzer line of devices infringed one of its patents. The Amplatzer devices are used to repair structural heart defects. Under the agreement, Golden Valley-based AGA Medical will receive a non-exclusive, world-wide license for technology in the patent. In a statement, AGA Medical CEO Franck Gougeon said the deal is fair for both companies. "While we were confident of our position, the settlement means we avoid costly and inherently unpredictable patent litigation, while allowing our management team to focus on expanding our well-established leadership position in the interventional repair of structural heart defects," Gougeon said.

#### **SEXUAL ASSAULT, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated Mar 28, states: A girl who contracted HIV when she was sexually assaulted by a city-approved caregiver will get up to \$5.35 million in damages. The city and several agencies placed the girl, then 8, with a convicted bank robber who had previously been charged with sexually assaulting a stepson. The man, John Lyles, was the father of the victim's half-sister. In civil settlements, the girl, now 16, will get \$3.5 million from the city; \$1 million from Tabor Children's Services, a private foster-care and adoption agency; and \$850,000 from the Defender Association of Philadelphia, the girl's legal advocate. The girl and her older half-sister were removed from Lyles' house seven months after the August 1999 placement, after Lyles' live-in



girlfriend pressed rape charges against him. Those charges were dropped, as were the earlier charges involving the stepson, when the victims declined to testify. The girl later came forward with rape charges. In 2003, Lyles was convicted of assaulting her, but was acquitted of the more serious rape charge. He is now in prison. The girl, who is not identified in court papers, lives with an adoptive mother in Philadelphia and endures a grueling drug regimen to prevent the onset of AIDS, said her lawyer, Thomas F. Johnson.

**VIOLATION OF CLIENT LOYALTY, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated Mar 22, states: A jury ordered a Seattle law firm to pay \$10.8 million for dropping one set of clients for a more lucrative class-action case. Jurors will return to federal court next week to settle the issue of punitive damages. The jury unanimously found today that lawyers from Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP violated their duty of loyalty to three small water bottlers that in 2003 were close to settling a claim with Nestle Waters North America, the owner of Poland Spring Water Co. Maine companies Glenwood Farms Inc. and Carrabassett Spring Water, along with Tear of the Clouds LLC in New York, said Hagens Berman was assisting them in their case against Poland Spring over its labeling, but defected at the last minute and filed class-action claims in five states, causing Nestle Waters to withdraw its offer. Glenwood Farms and Carrabassett Spring were each awarded \$3.9 million by the jury. Tear of the Clouds, which is co-owned by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and sells bottled water to raise money to protect public water sources, was awarded \$3 million. The award in U.S. District Court is thought to be one of the largest ever granted in a Maine court and could get larger. Judge George Singal told jurors to return next Thursday (Mar 30) for a two-day trial on punitive damages. The 2.5-week trial focused on legal ethics and raised questions on whether lawyers can create theoretical classes of consumers and make legal decisions on their behalf — such as whether to settle a case and for how much — without consulting anyone. William Robitzek, the lawyer who represented Glenwood Farms and Carrabassett Spring, told jurors that greed drove Hagens Berman to abandon his clients and violate legal ethics. The small water bottlers hired Jan Schlichtmann, the lawyer portrayed by John Travolta in the 1999 film “A Civil Action,” in 2002 to take on Nestle over Poland Spring’s labels. They contended the “natural spring water” labels were misleading because the water is pumped from wells, not springs. Schlichtmann brought in Hagens Berman to assist because of the complexity of the case. Robitzek said the plaintiffs hoped to avoid a lawsuit and negotiate a deal

that would get Poland Spring to correct the situation without a public disclosure that would damage the entire Maine bottled water industry. But instead, he said, Hagens Berman pulled out and filed class-action suits. The breakup of the deal cost the companies millions of dollars, they said. Ultimately, another class-action lawsuit brought on behalf of consumers was the first to be certified and that led to a \$12.1 million settlement that was accepted by an Illinois judge. Most consumers received coupons for Poland Spring water. The lead lawyer, who was not associated with Hagens Berman, was awarded \$810,000 in fees.



**Railway Accidents**

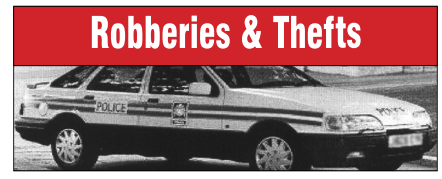
**NORSEMAN, WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated today, states: An investigation is under way into the cause of a train derailment at a railway crossing in Norseman, in south-east Western Australia. The train, laden with iron ore, was on its way from Koolyanobbing to Esperance. The Australian Railroad Group (ARG) says 11 wagons have derailed, tearing up metres of track in the process. ARG says maintenance crews are on their way to the site to repair the track and wagons. No injuries have been reported. The crossing has been cleared to allow road traffic to proceed.

**WOODLEY PARK NATIONAL ZOO METRO STATION, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated Mar 23, states: The operator of an out-of-service Metro train that rolled backwards down a steep grade for nearly a mile and slammed into another train at a Washington, DC, station apparently dozed off and failed to apply his brakes, the National Transportation Safety Board reported today. In a report issued after a four-hour hearing, the board attributed the cause of the Nov 3, 2004, crash to the operator’s “failure to apply the brakes,” which it said was “likely due to a lack of alertness.” NTSB experts had earlier told the board that the operator was apparently experiencing fatigue from working overtime and a lack of adequate sleep. Reading the NTSB staff conclusions at the end of the hearing, acting Chairman Mark V. Rosenker said a contributing factor was a lack of “rollback protection” when certain Metro trains are being operated manually, as was the case in the 2004 crash. The feature works on all Metro cars when they are running automatically. The NTSB urged the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, which operates

Metro, to equip all existing and future rail cars with rollback protection in the manual mode as soon as possible. The board also said train operators should be given enough time off between shifts to get at least eight hours of uninterrupted sleep. The 2004 crash at the Woodley Park station on the Red Line, the busiest in the Metro system, injured 20 people, caused \$3.5 million worth of damage and disrupted Metro service for days. Metro train 703, which was empty, rolled backwards 2,246 feet down a 3.7-degree grade, reaching a speed of 36 mph, and struck train 105, which was stopped at Woodley Park station with 70 passengers on board. The impact caused the rear car of the empty six-car train to climb over the front car of the passenger train, coming to rest on its roof. NTSB staffers investigated the crash for more than a year before issuing their report. Much of today’s hearing dealt with the details of such factors as rollback protection for Metro trains, braking and other operating procedures, as well as the condition of the train operator. Even without rollback protection, the train could have been stopped if the operator had applied the brakes in any one of three different ways, NTSB mechanical expert Dave Watson said. He said that in simulations performed on the train afterward, all of the methods worked, including the “dead man’s feature” of simply letting go of the master controller handle.



**Robberies & Thefts**

**CASH FROM AIRCRAFT, JOHANNESBURG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A group of armed men stole foreign currency from an SA Airways aircraft at Johannesburg International Airport this morning, police said. “Two men armed with AK-47 rifles went to an SAA aircraft, held up guards and police and took bags containing foreign currency around 1030 hrs,” Senior Superintendent Vishnu Naidoo said. At the same time a group of up to six men were holding up guards at one of the gates. All of the men fled, no shots were fired and nobody was injured. Naidoo said it was not yet known how the men managed to gain access to the airport. The amount of money stolen - from the United Kingdom and destined for neighbouring countries - had not been established.

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen robbed an aircraft at the Johannesburg International Airport, police said yesterday, and one South African daily said they made off with about

\$16.5m in cash. The Sunday Times said the money taken in Saturday's heist was destined for Tanzania and another African country. The South African Airways aircraft had arrived from London's Heathrow airport. Police said they did not yet know the exact amount, adding the money stolen was both in rands and dollars and that they would issue more information later yesterday. Two men gained access to the airport's restricted area and held up police and guards who were carrying the money from the aircraft, Superintendent Vish Naidoo said. "We think between six and eight robbers and possibly ten were involved in the incident," Naidoo said, adding they were armed with automatic rifles. "We are still investigating how they gained access to the area."

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated today, states: South African police have arrested five people in connection with a heist involving gunmen seizing bundles of cash that were being offloaded from an aircraft at Johannesburg's main airport. Police said four men and one woman, including three employees of management firm Airports Company South Africa, had been arrested following Saturday's (Mar 25) robbery, which local media said involved cash worth at least \$US16.5 million. "The detectives recovered an undisclosed amount of money, two rifles, a pistol, a bolt cutter, magazines and ammunition," a police statement said. It said two of those arrested were foreigners who were caught at South Africa's main border crossing into Zimbabwe.

## Miscellaneous



### ALLEGED DAMAGE TO CARGO FROM VESSEL AT ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated Mar 25, states: Almost 1000 new cars have been deemed unfit for sale after being coated with acidic fallout which allegedly came from passenger *Pacific Sky* (46087 gt, built 1984) docked at Port Adelaide last month. At least seven car makers are investigating how car paintwork was damaged while the imported vehicles were on the wharf. Initial estimates suggest compensation costs could run as high as \$10 million. Mitsubishi Motors was among the hardest hit, with at least 530 vehicles - including Lancans and other imported vehicles but no Adelaide-produced 380s - damaged by a mysterious acidic substance. The vehicles were spattered with the substance, which is now creating black marks on the paintwork. The fact P&O's *Pacific Sky* was docked at Port Adelaide near

vehicle holding bays on Feb 11 was being investigated. Mitsubishi Motors Australia spokesman Kevin Taylor said "We're not suing P&O." "We have some suspicions on what it probably might be, but at this stage we're not certain." Mr Taylor said the affected cars had been taken to Mitsubishi's Tonsley plant to be inspected. One of the vehicles had been stripped down and repainted in order to assess how they might be repaired. Another had been sent to a Melbourne laboratory in a bid to determine the cause of the damage and a possible link to the cruise ship. "We won't be able to sell the cars as new cars," Mr Taylor said. He said an insurance company was acting for a number of the affected car makers which included Ford, Toyota, Suzuki and Holden. It is believed the acidic fallout may have been the result of a boiler explosion on board the ship, or a product of the chimney stack cleaning process. P&O Cruises yesterday denied any knowledge of how the damage to cars could be linked to its vessel. P&O Cruises vice-president of corporate affairs John Richardson confirmed the cruise ship had been at Outer Harbor on Feb 11 but said other (freighter) ships might have been there too. The cruise firm's Sydney office had checked with the *Pacific Sky*, in Asia and could find nothing that would have caused the reported damage at the time. Mr Richardson said P&O Cruises had not known anything about the reported damage to cars until contacted by The Advertiser yesterday. It is understood that only Toyota delivered some of the cars before the problem was detected.

### FLOODING IN COAL MINE, SHANXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Mar 30 — The death toll rose to 26 at the flooded Fanjiashan Coal Mine in north China's Shanxi Province, with two more still missing yesterday. An official in charge of the rescue and search operation said there was little possibility for the missing miners to return alive, but the rescue efforts would continue. Fifty-eight miners were working underground, only 30 managed to escape. The families of the dead will each get 200,000 yuan in compensation, a local government official said.

### MERCURY (Bahamas)

See "Outbreak Of Virus On Bahamas Flag Vessel" under "Miscellaneous".

### OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

Tirana, Mar 23 — Albania found its second case of H5N1 bird flu in poultry near the capital but there was no evidence the virus had made people ill despite some farmers eaten infected birds, officials said today. The Agriculture Ministry said tests at a British laboratory at Weybridge confirmed H5N1 in four dead chickens in the Peze Helmes area, some 10 km west of the capital Tirana. Ministry

spokesman Rexhep Shahu said teams were working to cull some 600 chickens and disinfect the coops in the area. "Tests have found no sign of the virus in people," he said. Albania confirmed its first case of H5N1 three weeks ago in a chicken in the southern Sarande region, near the Greek border. — Reuters.

Phnom Penh, Mar 24 — Bird flu has killed a young girl in Cambodia, the first human victim of the virus in the south-east Asian nation in almost a year, while Jordan today became the latest Middle East country hit by an outbreak. Mon Puthy, aged three, who lived in a village in Kampong Speu province about 40 miles west of Phnom Penh, had been in contact with sick and dying chickens, officials said. She died on Tuesday (Mar 21). "She has been confirmed positive with H5N1," local World Health Organisation spokeswoman Megge Miller said. Her death took Cambodia's human death toll from bird flu to five since the virus first landed in the region in late 2003. The country's last victim was a 20-year-old woman who died in a Vietnamese hospital in April 2005. The WHO said the girl was the 104th person killed by bird flu since the virus re-emerged in late 2003. The WHO's Miller said seven other people in the village who had either been in contact with the girl or sick poultry were showing some signs of fever, although there was no cause for panic. "They have a fever but no cough," Miller said. "We are keeping an eye on them. None requires hospitalisation at the moment. It looks like another one of those isolated incidents. There aren't any alarm bells at the moment," she said. Jordan became the latest country in the Middle East to confirm cases of the H5N1 but said no humans had been infected and the outbreak was under control. Jordanian Health Minister Said Darwazeh said at least three dead turkeys at a domestic farm in Ajloun had tested positive for the disease. Twenty people were given the Tamiflu antiviral drug and the area has been cordoned off to prevent the disease from spreading further, he told a news conference in Amman. — Reuters.

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A 29-year-old woman has become the 11th person to die from the virulent H5N1 strain of bird flu in China, state media have reported. The woman, identified only by her surname Li and described as a migrant to Shanghai, died in the city on Tuesday (Mar 21), the Xinhua news agency said. It is the first known case in Shanghai, which has opened 160 monitoring stations at health clinics. It is not known how the woman contracted the disease. The city government has not said where she was from, or how long she had lived in Shanghai.

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu has been found in



dead birds on a private farm in northern Jordan. Laboratory test results conducted overnight yesterday showed that birds had died of the virus in the Ajloun district of northern Jordan. Yesterday, Health Minister Saeed Darwazeh issued a seven-day deadline for "people raising domestic fowl to get rid of them, after which the competent authorities will have them killed". He said that the Jordanian authorities had raised their state of preparedness to a "maximum level". Officials are concentrating on inspection operations of chicken farms in the Jordan Valley.

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated today, states: An Egyptian woman has died from bird flu, in the second fatal case in the country, a health official said. Fatima Mohamed Yussef, 30, from Khanka village in the Qaliubiya governorate, died at Cairo's Abbasiya hospital, where she was taken when she first became ill, Abdel Rahman Shahin, head of the Government's anti-bird flu committee, said. She was one of four confirmed human cases of the H5N1 bird flu in Egypt, which is on a major route for migratory birds at the crossroads between Asia and Africa. Earlier yesterday the spokesman for the committee had said the country may have a fifth case, with an 18-year-old woman hospitalised with bird flu symptoms. Ms Yussef had continued to raise and slaughter chickens, despite a Government ban after the virus was discovered in Egypt in mid-February. She ranks as the second suspected bird flu death in Egypt after a man died just over a week ago from the virus.

#### **OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON BAHAMAS FLAG VESSEL**

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: More than a hundred passengers and crew members aboard Celebrity Cruise passenger *Mercury* (76522 gt, built 1997) got sick with a stomach virus, the third outbreak of its kind reported on cruise ships in recent weeks, officials said today. The vessel returned to San Diego today after sailing to several Mexican beach towns for a 10-day voyage that began Mar 17. During the trip, 107 of 1,976 passengers and 24 of 841 crew members suffered a stomach illness, said Michael J. Sheehan, director of corporate communications for Royal Caribbean Cruises. Authorities believe the passengers' illness was caused by norovirus - a contagious stomach virus that usually lasts between 24 to 48 hours and causes nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain. In serious cases, the virus may cause dehydration. Sheehan said the virus was brought on board by a guest who had been exposed to it elsewhere. Most of the sick passengers recovered with the help of over-the-counter medication aboard the vessel, he said.

## Fires & Explosions



#### **APARTMENT BUILDING, HAIFA, ISRAEL**

Jerusalem, Mar 30 — An explosion, apparently caused by a gas canister, ripped through an apartment building in the northern Israeli city of Haifa today, injuring seven people, Israeli radio stations reported. One person was seriously hurt from the blast, which damaged several apartments in an eight-storey complex, they said. The explosion, which echoed through a residential neighbourhood in Haifa early in the morning, initially raised suspicions it may have been an attack by Palestinian militants. It later appeared to be an accident, Israeli media reported, adding that police were investigating. — Reuters.

#### **FACTORY, CRESSONA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated Mar 26, states: A Textile Waste Company in Cressona is in ruins after a fire this morning. Investigators think it could be the work of an arsonist. The fire started around 0230 today at the Cressona Textile Waste Company. More than 12 hours later, the fire was still smoldering. Investigators think it could be smoldering well into next week. The fire chief believes the fire started on a loading dock. The factory was the size of a football field. It is now completely destroyed. The business made cleaning rags and thousands of them helped to fuel the fire. A neighbour saw a suspicious person run away from the building right after the fire started.

#### **FOREST, CHINA**

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated Mar 26, states: A forest fire has been brought under control in outskirts Huairou District a suburb of Beijing yesterday. No one was hurt by the fire. The local forest fire control department is investigating the cause, the damage and the affected areas. The fire began Friday (Mar 25) afternoon at a mountain in Huairou District which borders Fengning County in Hebei Province. About 2,000 fire fighters and helicopters were used to fight the fire. Vice Mayor Niu Yucheng came to the site to help direct the fire fighting.

#### **GOLD MINE, BUFFELSFONTEIN, SOUTH AFRICA**

Johannesburg, Mar 23 — South Africa's Simmer and Jack Mines Ltd said today 10 miners were trapped underground at its Buffelsfontein gold mine after a fire and it was doing everything possible to reach the men. The mining group said early indications were that the fire was caused by an electrical problem. Chief

Executive Officer Gordon Miller said production at the affected No 7 shaft had stopped but the rest of the mine was operating and that rescue teams were searching for the 10 workers. The firm said 136 miners were underground at the time at the mine near the town of Stilfontein, 155 km south-west of Johannesburg. Nine other miners had been treated for breathing smoke. "Rescuing the miners is our first priority. Establishing exactly what happened is next on our list," Deon van der Mescht, Simmer's chief operating officer said in a statement. — Reuters.

Johannesburg, Mar 23 — Ten South African gold miners trapped 2 km underground in a burning mine shaft have been found alive, a union official said today. "The trapped people were found alive. The rescue team is busy bringing them up to the surface," trade union Solidarity spokesman Chris Pienaar told Reuters. "It's not clear as yet if there are any injuries." The miners at Simmer and Jack Mines' Buffelsfontein gold mine were trapped underground after a fire, suspected to have been caused by an electrical problem. They were trapped for more than 20 hours. Earlier, Chief Executive Officer Gordon Miller said production at the affected Number 7 shaft had stopped but the rest of the mine was operating. The firm said 136 miners were underground at the time of the fire at the mine near the town of Stilfontein, 155 km southwest of Johannesburg. The fire started late yesterday. Nine other miners had been treated for smoke inhalation. "The fire is a tremendous setback for the mine, which was liquidated on March 22 in 2005... The new owners generally maintain a very good safety record," Solidarity in a statement. — Reuters.

#### **HOTEL, QUEBEC, CANADA**

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire has destroyed one of the top luxury country hotels in the province of Quebec, officials said today. The Auberge Hatley was being renovated when a fire started yesterday. The wooden building was quickly burned to the ground. The 25-room hotel, also known as the Hatley Inn, was located in North Hatley, a village 80 miles east of Montreal in Quebec's Eastern Townships region. "It seems that during the reconstruction, a spark or a flame was ignited, and because the entire building was made of wood, it was razed to the ground in less than six hours. Everything was destroyed," said Alain Larouche, director-general of the Eastern Townships tourist commission. The hotel was known for its fine dining and had a wine cellar of around 12,000 bottles. Each room was filled with period antiques.

#### **PREMISES, BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An early-morning blaze severely damaged at a

historic silk mill in Bethlehem, endangering plans to turn the building into student apartments. Developers had been planning to turn the brick building into off-campus housing for students at nearby colleges, including Moravian College, Lehigh University and Muhlenberg College. The building was in the midst of 15 million dollars in renovations. The blaze tore through the second floor before firefighters could get to the scene yesterday. The building had been used for years as a warehouse. But after about a year of work by a developer Lou Pektor, the building was about three-quarters complete.

**PREMISES, JABUL SARAJ, AFGHANISTAN**

Kabul, Mar 24 — An explosion at a store of confiscated weapons at an Afghan military base killed two people and injured 40, police said today. The accidental blast yesterday evening damaged houses near the base in the town of Jabul Saraj, north of the capital Kabul, said Abdul Rahman Sayedkhail, police chief of Parwan province. The cause of the blast was being investigated but Sayedkhail ruled out sabotage. "It was the carelessness of the soldiers that caused the explosion," he said. The two people who were killed and 22 of the injured were civilians, he said. The rest of the injured were soldiers. The base was used to store weapons confiscated under a government drive to disarm factional fighters. — Reuters.

**PREMISES, ZAMBOANGA, PHILIPPINES**

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Overnight fire leveled to the ground an entire village in Zamboanga City, nearly 110 kilometres south of Manila, leaving up to 2,000 families homeless, according to reports of the Philippine News Agency (PNA) today. Caused by an unattended candle, the fire raged through the Camino Nuevo Village in the heart of the city, shortly after 1730 yesterday, the PNA quoted City Fire Marshal Chief Inspector Janice Espero as saying. No one was reported injured or killed in the fire that lasted without control for several hours overnight. Initial estimates place the number of houses destroyed at no less than 1,500 homes, although independent estimates say the figure could reach 2,000, Espero said. The official also said that the damage was extensive as the fire area was said to measure some ten hectares. Prompted by strong winds, the fire could be the biggest that ever hit the city in recent years, veteran fire fighters said. Only a few homes constructed apart from the main community survived the blaze. Espero said that all fire trucks in the city responded to the fire alarm minutes after the blaze started.

Manila, Mar 24 — A huge blaze destroyed about 1,500 shacks in a slum in the southern Philippine island of Mindanao overnight but there were no reports of any deaths or

injuries, city and fire officials said today. Nearly 5,000 people were left homeless after the seven-hour fire, sparked at about 1830 hrs by an unattended candle, ripped through the shanty town's narrow streets in the port of Zamboanga City. "It was an inferno," Zamboanga City mayor Celso Lobregat said, saying blocked streets and low water pressure failed to contain the flames from spreading quickly to houses made of light materials. The slum's residents were evacuated and temporarily sheltered in state-run school buildings and public halls as the mayor appealed for food, clothes and relief materials for victims of the city's worst calamity. Officials said the fire had destroyed property worth about \$1 million, including some nearby businesses. — Reuters.

**REFINERY, MARTINEZ AREA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire that broke out inside a furnace at the Tesoro refinery in Martinez shortly before 1600, today is under control and should be extinguished shortly, said Contra Costa Health Services spokesman Randy Sawyer. A "diesel-like material" inside the furnace was burning, according to Paul Andrews, a hazardous materials specialist with the county. Authorities were depressurizing the furnace to put out the fire, Andrews said. The health services department is not concerned about any off-site impact as a result of the fire, Sawyer said. No one has been injured in connection with the incident, Andrews said.

**REFINERY, VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Firefighters have brought under control the fire at a large refinery on the outskirts of Vienna early today and no one was injured, Austrian television reported. The fire broke out about 30 minutes after midnight at the refinery operated by OMV, Central Europe's largest oil and gas company and the television said.

**SAWMILL, QUEBEC, CANADA**

Vancouver, Mar 28 — Fire has destroyed Shermag Inc.'s sawmill in Notre Dame de Montauban, Quebec, where it had been planning to consolidate its milling operations, the furniture maker said today. There were no injuries at the facility, which had been shut down and was not scheduled to resume operations until Apr 3. The fire should have no short-term impact on Shermag's furniture operations, the company said. The mill employed 59 people and the company said it was now evaluating its options. — Reuters.

**SCHOOL, DERBY, DERBYSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators are trying to determine the exact cause of a fire at a Derby school which

damaged 23 classrooms. The fire in the main block at the 1,000-pupil Sinfin Community School destroyed most of the building. Fire crews believe the fire may have broke out in a drama room at the school yesterday afternoon. Headteacher, Steve Monks, said early indications are that it was started by an electrical fault. The school will stay closed until the end of the week. More than 70 firefighters were called out to the site yesterday and found half of the main school block alight. No-one was hurt but it is thought most of the school will have to be rebuilt, costing millions of pounds. The fire spread across 23 classrooms, kitchens, two computer rooms and a big lecture theatre. GCSE English coursework was damaged in the fire and temporary classrooms will be brought in to accommodate pupils in the run up to exams.

**SCHOOL, MULHOUSE, FRANCE**

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A large explosion rocked a chemistry school in eastern France today, killing one person and slightly injuring another, authorities said. The blast on the ground floor of the Superior National School of Chemistry in Mulhouse, near France's border with Germany, was followed by a fire, rescue services said. The death was confirmed by the local government for the Haut-Rhin region, where Mulhouse is located. The surrounding area was evacuated. Teachers were doing a head count of students to determine whether there were any other casualties, France-Info radio reported from the scene.

**STABLES, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Two dozen horses perished in a stable fire early Friday at one of New Jersey's largest horse farms. The blaze broke out after midnight at Perretti Farms, claiming 12 mares and 12 foals. The cause of the blaze was under investigation, with state police and the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office arson squad on the scene. Perretti Farms, which bills itself as the state's largest horse farm, specializes in the breeding and racing of standardbred horses on 900 acres. The fire came 10 days after at least three horses died in a Hunterdon County barn fire at the Black River Farm in East Amwell Township.

**TEXTILE MILL, DHAKA, BANGLADESH**

Karachi, Mar 24 — A huge fire broke out in a privately owned textile mill-Jamuna Spinning Mill near the Shafipur Ansar Academy in Gazipur in northern Dhaka city of Bangladesh. The fire broke out at around 2300, Mar 23. The flames engulfed the entire mill within a short time and raw materials including cotton, products like yarn were damaged. As a result, fire fighters from Gazipur and other areas including Dhaka,

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



Tongi, Kurmitola, Tejgaon, Savar and Mirpur reached the site and controlled the fire for over six hours. The fire literally damaged the entire mill and destroyed the building structure, equipment and other valuable inputs and products worth around one million of taka. It killed seven people, including the manager of the mill, six workers and injured quite a large number of workers. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**WAREHOUSE, MOSCOW, RUSSIA**

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated Mar 26, states: Area engulfed by fire in a liquor warehouse reached 5,000 square meters by 2200, Moscow time, sources at Moscow City Firefighting Service said. By the time of reporting, firefighters were still unable to check the spread of the blaze. The roof of the building, a part of which has two stories and another part, four stories, collapsed on an area of 1,000 sq.m. The outer walls of the building began falling, too. The warehouse is located on the territory of a machine-building plant and firefighting sources say it is overstocked with liquors.



**ACCIDENT, BANKSTOWN AIRPORT, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**

London, Mar 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft has crash-landed at a Sydney airport, injuring two people. Police say the single engine Cessna 210 carrying a pilot and two passengers had “a heavy landing” at Bankstown Airport about 1430, AEDT. “The plane had just taken off and appeared to have experienced an engine problem and loss of power,” a police spokeswoman said. “It then basically landed back onto the runway and slid off the end of the runway into grass, where it tipped onto its nose.” The New South Wales ambulance service says two men suffered minor injuries and were taken to Bankstown and Liverpool hospitals for treatment. A third person was treated at the scene.

**AIRCRAFT GROUNDED AT HOKKAIDO, JAPAN**

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Japan Airlines was reprimanded again by the transport ministry Wednesday (Mar 22), this time for flying a passenger aircraft for 10 days in February without conducting required inspections. The aircraft in question, one of the McDonnell Douglas MD-87s on its fleet, had 41 flights in the period before it was inspected Monday at an airport in Hokkaido where it was found to have no abnormalities, JAL officials said. According to JAL, the company planned on Feb 26 to conduct inspections on the MD-87, but

the person in charge of scheduling forgot to hand over a written instruction to servicing staff. The transport ministry ordered Japan Airlines yesterday to ground for further inspection of the aircraft, after the ministry found JAL's earlier inspection on the aircraft did not conform to official norms, ministry officials said. It was just one day after it was reprimanded by the ministry for flying without checks on the main landing gear. JAL said the plane had 41 flights for 10 days without being subject to required checks that should have been conducted no later than Mar 10.

**AIRCRAFT GROUNDED, MAG OSMANI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SYLHET, BANGLADESH**

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Bangladesh national airlines-Biman Bangladesh Airlines said its Airbus grounded for technical reason at MAG Osmani International Airport, Sylhet, Tuesday (Mar 28) night, returned to the Dhaka International Airport yesterday evening. It is said that some 168 passengers had remained stranded in Sylhet for several hours. They were flown to the capital at midnight by another airbus sent from Dhaka at about 2330, Tuesday. The BG-114 flight scheduled to leave Sylhet at 1845 hrs, could not take off despite repeated attempts. Later, engineers who were dispatched to Sylhet the same night repaired the aircraft that took off at 1845 yesterday. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO NEWCASTLE AIRPORT, AUSTRALIA**

London, Mar 29 — Passengers aboard a commercial jet had a scare this morning when smoke was detected on the aircraft shortly after it took off from Newcastle airport. The jet, carrying 18 passengers, was forced to return to the airport at Williamtown just after 0800, AEDT. The airport's aviation services manager, Graham Giddy, says the smoke was confined to the cockpit and the aircraft is now being examined.

**AIRLINES BANNED FROM EUROPEAN UNION AIRSPACE**

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Citing safety concerns, the European Union banned 92 airlines Wednesday (Mar 22) from its airspace. Most of the airlines are from Africa, where aircrafts are six times likelier to crash than elsewhere. In announcing the ban on virtually all aircraft overseen by civil aviation authorities in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Equatorial Guinea, Swaziland and Congo from landing at European airports, EU Transport Commissioner Jacques Barrot labeled many of the planes “flying coffins.”

**CRASH, CHANTHABURI, THAILAND**

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated today states: A rain-making

aircraft crashed after an engine exploded yesterday, killing the pilot and all three passengers. The TC-6 twin-propeller aircraft was on a cloud-seeding operation over Chanthaburi's Tha Mai district when the engine problem occurred. It crashed in a durian plantation near Khao Wua village in tambon Noen Soong. The wreckage was engulfed in flames and it took firefighters 15 minutes to put out the blaze. The victims were identified as Capt Wichian Worachat, the pilot, M-Sgt Thaweesak Chuaychu, a technician, Yai Silpaya, an agricultural worker and Panya Sriwimol, a volunteer. The aircraft belongs to a Chanthaburi-based station of the Royal Rain-Making Project. The rain-making station, the first of its kind in the country, does cloud-seeding over the eastern region of Thailand.

**CRASH, CUENCA, ECUADOR**

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated Mar 25, states: An aircraft carrying 14 people crashed today in the southern Ecuadorean city of Cuenca, and some survivors were taken to a hospital. “The aircraft crashed against a tyre factory in an industrial park near the airport at 1140 hrs,” Red Cross spokesman Galo Verdugo said. He said an unspecified number of injured were taken to area hospitals and “the number of fatalities is not confirmed.” A reporter, speaking from the crash site, said there apparently were survivors in the wreckage of the aircraft, which was stuck in a factory wall. Other witnesses told local radio stations that workers were having lunch in another area of the factory when the aircraft hit, and so none were injured. The aircraft was carrying 12 passengers and two crew members from Cuenca to Macas in Ecuador's south-eastern jungle.

**CRASH, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated Mar 24, states: Officials say a six-seat aircraft crashed near an industrial and office park about a mile from an airport runway today, killing three people aboard the aircraft. Among those who died was James DeVoe, the founder of the Carmel, Indiana-based JD Byrider auto dealership chain. Brevard County Sheriff's Office says the twin-engine Cessna left Jacksonville earlier this morning and was approaching the Melbourne International Airport when it crashed into a parking lot behind the building. Witnesses have told police the aircraft's engines apparently shut down. Officials say no one on the ground were injured. Police say an air traffic controller had radioed the pilot, saying he was approaching the airport too fast. DeVoe's son-in-law, Steele Gudal, was also killed in the crash.

**CRASH, KIMRY, RUSSIA**

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The pilot of a

light aircraft has been killed and his passenger injured after the aircraft crashed in central Russia, the emergency services said today. The incident happened in the Tver Region. "A Yak-18T aircraft crashed on landing at Borki airport in the town of Kimry," a spokesman said. "The pilot was killed and a student on board the aircraft was hurt."

#### **CRASH, LAS CRUCES AIRPORT, NEW MEXICO, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated Mar 25, states: No one was injured in an aircraft crash yesterday at the Las Cruces International Airport. Las Cruces Martin Ditmore, 73, was attempting to land a 1978 Bellanca Super Viking at the airport, but for some reason the nose hit the runway before the wheel touched down, said New Mexico State Police Lt. Dominic Pargas. The aircraft sustained damage, but Ditmore walked away without injury, Pargas said. Police were investigating why the crash happened. Pargas said there was no mechanical malfunction or other problem with the landing gear.

#### **CRASH, MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA**

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Six people died when a small aircraft crashed today into a soccer field in Medellin, Colombia, authorities said. The Cessna single-prop was carrying a pilot and four passengers when it crashed on a university campus two minutes after takeoff, killing all aboard and a boy, who was on the soccer field. Seven other children at the crash site suffered light burns, said Martin Gonzalez, a spokesman for Colombia's civil aviation regulator. Authorities said a man identified as retired air force pilot Jose Sierra, who was at the aircraft's helm, was found alive but died at a local hospital. Two of the passengers were military personnel, they said. The aircraft was en route from Medellin to the nearby town of Ituango.

#### **CRASH, MELBOURNE, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 23 — A small aircraft crashed about a mile from an airport runway today, killing three people and igniting several small brush fires, officials said. The twin-engine aircraft had left Jacksonville earlier in the morning and was making an approach at the Melbourne Airport when it crashed, according to the Brevard County Sheriff's Office. The cause of the crash and the identities of the passengers weren't immediately known.

#### **CRASH, MEXICO CITY, MEXICO**

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Former Argentina star Jorge Valdano and seven others were injured in a helicopter crash today in Mexico City, although none were hurt gravely. The private helicopter went down in the Lomas de Chapultepec district, damaging a parked car and causing

all eight aboard to be hospitalized, according to the federal Public Safety Department. Doctors told local radio stations that none of the injuries were considered life-threatening. Carlos Lijtszain - the doctor who treated Valdano at the ABC Hospital, where all on board were taken - said Valdano had some fractured ribs. Formato 21 radio reported that the helicopter left a landing pad atop the Four Seasons Hotel along Mexico City's central Paseo de la Reforma boulevard and was headed to Toluca, 35 miles west of the capital. Firefighters were called to the crash scene to control fuel pouring from the aircraft, which broke into pieces before settling on its left side, Formato 21 said.

#### **CRASH, MORUNDAH, NARRANDERA AREA, AUSTRALIA**

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A pilot has died in a crop duster crash in southern New South Wales. Police said the light aircraft went down in an open paddock in Morundah, 55 km south-west of the Riverina town of Narrandera, about 0900, AEDT, today. It is believed the male pilot, who is yet to be formally identified, was the only person on board the aircraft. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau is travelling from Canberra to investigate the crash. NSW Fire Brigades spokesman Gordon Boath said it was initially feared the pesticide from the crashed crop duster could pose a safety risk. But hazardous material crews had declared the area safe, he said. A fire brigade rescue unit helped remove the pilot's body from the aircraft.

#### **CRASH, TARI AREA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A Swiss missionary pilot has been killed and three passengers injured in a light aircraft crash in Papua New Guinea's Southern Highlands. The Missionary Aviation Fellowship Cessna 206 aircraft went down near the town of Tari early yesterday afternoon. MAF general manager Mike Jelfiffe said it was not known at this stage what caused the crash but officials from MAF Australia would come up to head an internal investigation. The pilot had reported entering the circuit area around Tari airfield and operations appeared normal but the aircraft did not make it to the airstrip, he said. The three PNG national passengers, two of them seriously injured, were taken by helicopter to a hospital in the Western Province capital Mt Hagen. They were expected to survive, Jelfiffe said. The airline has suspended flights of its 10 single-engined aircraft and four Twin Otters apart from flying in investigators.

#### **CRASH, TAWONGA SOUTH, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA**

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Police and emergency services are trying to reach a helicopter, which crashed and burst

into flames in north-east Victoria. It came down in a paddock at Tawonga South, just north of the Mount Beauty airstrip about 1100, AEDT. Emergency services have been driven back by the flames. Tanya Wayland from Rural Ambulance says all available resources in the Mount Beauty area have been sent to the crash site. "We've got a crew there at the moment," she said. "They can't get to the helicopter because of a fire and we've also got two other crews dispatched and some of our paramedics on the way. "There's also a helicopter heading to the scene and I believe a second one on stand by."

#### **CRASH, YAKUTIA REGION, RUSSIA**

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A helicopter crashed in Russia's northern Siberian region today, killing five people and injuring seven, an official said. The Mi-8 was carrying five crew and seven passengers when it went down around 1640 hrs as it was travelling to the village of Russkoye Ustiye in the vast Siberian region of Yakutia, federal emergency official Yulia Stadnikova said. The victims who died were three crew members and one passenger, Stadnikova said. The injured were hospitalized. The helicopter is owned by the company "Polar Aviation," authorities said. Investigators were traveling to the site to determine the cause of the crash.

#### **D-ELCI**

London, Mar 28 — Piper PA-28-180, D-ELCI, owned and operated by Flugschule Nickolaus GmbH, of Donaueschingen, was destroyed when it struck trees during a forced landing, following a complete loss of engine power near Bonndorf, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany, at 1257, UTC, Mar 19. The pilot, the sole person on board, was fatally injured.

#### **EK-46741**

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A cargo aircraft crashed west of Teheran today, injuring those on board, a police officer told state television. There were no reports of deaths. The official IRNA news agency said the aircraft was Bulgarian whereas the police spokesman, said it was Armenian. The manager of Payam airport in Karaj, an industrial satellite city west of Teheran, told state media the Antonov cargo aircraft took off from there at 1730 hrs but immediately requested an emergency landing. But Alipour said the aircraft had requested an emergency landing while overflying Iran en route to Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. Bulgaria's transport ministry said it could not confirm the aircraft was Bulgarian after checks with local airlines. The aircraft crashed at Savoj Bolagh, outside Karaj. Reza Jafarzadeh, head of public relations at Iran's Civil Aviation Authority, told IRNA a bird could have been sucked into the engine, causing the crash.



London, Mar 30 — The Antonov 12 cargo aircraft, EK-46741, 12 persons on board, departed from Payam Airport on a flight to Sharjah. Shortly after takeoff the crew reported that three of their four engines had failed. An attempt was made to return to Payam, but an emergency landing had to be carried out some 5 km from the airport AT 1648, Mar 28. The aircraft broke up and caught fire. According to news reports the airplane was operated by Phoenix Avia. Aircraft was written off in the crash.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, DOMODEDOVO AIRPORT, MOSCOW, RUSSIA**

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An Ilyushin-62 aircraft belonging to a Libyan airline made an emergency landing at a Moscow airport tonight, injuring two crew members onboard. "The plane missed the runway by 400 metres while landing at Domodedovo airport" at 2135 hrs and broke into three pieces, but no fire ensued, Emergency Situations Ministry spokesman Viktor Beltsov was quoted as saying. There were six crew members and no passengers onboard. Doctors are treating the two injured crew members, Beltsov said. The incident is being investigated, he added. The aircraft was making a technical flight from Tripoli, capital of Libya, to Moscow.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, JOHN LENNON AIRPORT, LIVERPOOL, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft has been forced to make an emergency landing at Liverpool John Lennon Airport after smoke was reported in the cockpit. Flight 3W424 from the Isle of Man, which had about 55 passengers and crew on board, landed safely. The ATP aircraft ran into difficulty on Saturday (Mar 25) night after the pilot reported smoke in the cabin. Fire engines and ambulances were put on standby but were not needed. An airport spokesman said there were no injuries. The Emerald Airways aircraft was being operated on behalf of EuroManx. Airport spokesman Robin Tudor said emergency crews were put on local standby as a precautionary measure after the first call from the pilot and then the incident was upgraded to a full emergency five minutes later. "Thankfully it wasn't serious, the aircraft landed safely and there were no injuries," he added.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, SPRINGFIELD-BRANSON NATIONAL AIRPORT, MISSOURI, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A passenger jet bound for Chicago made an emergency landing at the Springfield-Branson National Airport yesterday. Authorities said that the pilots of the United Airlines flight reported the aircraft's windshield suddenly

developed a large crack. The aircraft landed safely at around 1700 hrs. All 69 people on board were evacuated and placed on other flights to their destinations.

#### **HC-BXD**

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A Cessna 208B Grand Caravan, operated by ATESA (Aerotaxis Ecuatorianos SA) carrying 14 people crashed into a tyre factory near an airport in southern Ecuador today. At least six people survived. Rescuers were trying to free others trapped in the wreckage, which was embedded in a wall. Red Cross spokesman Galo Verdugo said the plane hit the factory in an industrial park in Cuenca. He said six people were taken to area hospitals with multiple injuries, and "they are in stable condition." The others were trapped inside the fuselage, he added, declining to say whether there were any fatalities. Interior Minister Felipe Vega, who was in Cuenca, said firefighters told him the pilot and co-pilot were still trapped. The plane was carrying 12 passengers and two crew members from Cuenca to Macas in Ecuador's southeastern jungle. The aircraft, built in 1977 is a "write-off".

#### **INCIDENT ON FLIGHT FROM NEWARK TO CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 29 — Pieces of an engine covering from a Federal Express jet flying from Newark to California fell early on New Jersey yesterday, authorities said. No one was injured and the aircraft was able to land at its destination safely. Federal Express flight 1020, a DC-10 model aircraft, departed Newark Liberty International Airport at 0159 hrs, said Arlene Murray, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration. Just after 0200 hrs, four pieces of an engine cover tore off and dropped to the ground, she said. The biggest piece — about 8-feet by 5-feet fell on a street in this residential community, Murray said. The other pieces were 5-by-3 feet and a narrower, 3-foot-long piece, the fourth has yet to be examined by the federal agency, she said. Murray said the fourth piece was smaller than the others. The aircraft landed safely in Oakland, Calif., she said. The FAA and the company are investigating, federal and company officials said.

#### **PK-LMW**

London, Mar 28 — MD-82, PK-LMW, registered to and operated by Lion Mentari Air as flight number IW8987, departed the prepared surface of runway 10 during landing rollout at Juanda Airport, Surabaya, Indonesia, at 1625, local time, Mar 4. The aircraft was on a scheduled flight from Ngurah Rai Airport, Bali, Indonesia. The aircraft's nose gear and electronic and equipment bay was damaged and the six crew members and 138 passengers were uninjured.

#### **RWANDAN AIRCRAFT IMPOUNDED IN BELGIUM**

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Rwandan Civil Aviation Authority revealed yesterday that the impounded cargo airliner, the Silverback, in Belgium for alleged non-compliance of flight standards seven months ago caused the company a loss of US\$7 million. The General Manager of Silverback Cargo Freighters Innocent Mupenzi said that the company had incurred both financial and other unquantifiable damages. "The loss that we incurred is both in revenue and public relations. We suffered a total revenue loss amounting to over US\$7 million. The negative publicity after the grounding of our aircraft for a period of not less than six months is another unprecedented shortfall on us," Mupenzi said. "It had always travelled to Europe and many other African countries without any trouble, until last year when we started flights to Belgium," he said, adding that the reasons for grounding the aircraft were not genuine. The Belgium Civil Aviation Authority released the Silverback last week but blacklisted it, barring the aircraft from using the European airspace. However, Mupenzi said the ban was temporary and added that talks between the Rwanda Civil Aviation Authority and its Belgian counterparts are underway to lift the ban. "We are engaged in talks to reverse the decision and I hope that within a few months the cargo flights to Europe will resume," he said. "That the Belgian CAA has released the aircraft means the problems are over. We are yet to see the report on the blacklist but it is unfortunate because faults were not severe to warrant such a thing," an official said. Nearly a month ago, Rwandan government impounded SN Brussels Airline which was followed by accusations from Belgian government that the decision was politically motivated. The airline usually offers regular services between Brussels and Kigali every Tuesday and Saturday. The return flight arrives on Wednesday and Sunday mornings.

#### **SU-ZCF**

London, Mar 26 — The Egyptian head of an investigation into the crash of a Boeing 737 into the Red Sea off Egypt in 2004 has delivered an inconclusive report on the disaster but a French investigator blames the crew. The Flash Airlines aircraft crashed shortly after taking off from Sharm el-Sheikh airport in Egypt on January 3, 2004, killing all 148 people on board. Most of the passengers were French tourists. The report says the crew had been distracted by "an event", which may have caused the captain to become spatially disorientated. The captain had asked: "See what the plane did?" The report says it is not clear whether the captain had remained spatially disorientated. It says the cause could have been a fault in spoilers on the plane's wings, its aileron or the

autopilot system. But French investigator Paul-Louis Arslanian says human error had played a bigger part in the crash than any technical failure. He says the cause of the crash was the crew's failure to act quickly. Shaker Qilada, the Egyptian head of the investigation, says there is no direct evidence that the crew were to blame, and the report recommends a review of the plane's autopilot system. It says flight data recorders show the autopilot had engaged shortly after take-off, but nearly a minute later and 10 seconds before the crash the first officer said, "No autopilot commander". "After the time when the first officer announced: 'no autopilot commander,' the crew behaviour suggests that recovery attempts were consistent with expected crew reaction," a summary of the report said. "The gravity of the upset condition ... made this attempt insufficient to achieve a successful recovery. "Based on data collected from different operators using this autopilot and the number of reports of unexpected autopilot behaviour, some of which are unexplained, reassessment of this autopilot system is recommended," the report said. The report also says the operator's failure to record the aircraft's faults precisely may also have contributed to the crash. The release of the report was delayed from last June because the investigators needed more time to complete their work.

## Space Vehicles



### FALCON 1

London, Mar 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The new Falcon 1 rocket has been lost on its maiden flight. The US vehicle, developed by the Space Exploration Technologies Corp, was destroyed soon after take-off from the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean. The vision of Elon Musk, co-founder of the electronic payment system PayPal, the Falcon was designed to cut the cost of current satellite launches. An onboard camera appeared to show the rocket rolling out of control shortly before the video signal was lost. SpaceX (Space Exploration Technologies Corp) spokeswoman Gwynn Shotwell told reporters on a conference call that there was about a minute of powered flight. "We do know that the vehicle did not succeed after that," she said. "Clearly this is a setback but we're in this for the long haul." And Elon Musk added: "We had a successful lift-off and Falcon made it well clear of the launch pad, but unfortunately the vehicle was lost later in the first-stage burn. More information will be posted once we have had time to analyse the problem." The vehicle left its launch pad on the Kwajalein Atoll at just

after 2230, GMT. It was the fourth attempt at a flight, a number of technical issues had prompted SpaceX to delay the inaugural mission. The rocket was attempting to carry a 19.5kg satellite to a low-Earth orbit of 450km. The satellite, FalconSat-2, was built by US Air Force Academy cadets to investigate the phenomenon known as "space weather". The Falcon 1 is the first in a line of vehicles the SpaceX company hopes will shake up rocket services. It is a two-stage rocket powered by liquid oxygen and kerosene. The first stage is designed to parachute into the ocean to be recovered and used again. With the relatively low price of \$6.7m per flight, the Falcon 1 is making a serious attempt to undercut other players in what is an overcrowded launcher market.

London, Mar 27 — A fuel leak and subsequent fire led to the destruction of Space Exploration Technologies' (SpaceX) first Falcon 1 rocket seconds after liftoff, the private launch services firm said Saturday (Mar 25). A preliminary SpaceX analysis into the failed Falcon 1 launch - which lifted off at 1730, EST Mar 24 - found that the fuel leak and flames led to an engine shut down just after the rocket launched skyward from the equatorial set Kwajalein Atoll on the central Pacific Ocean. The incident marred the debut of SpaceX's Falcon 1, a low-cost rocket intended to allow more affordable access to space for satellite payloads. "A fuel leak of currently unknown origin caused a fire around the top of the main engine," SpaceX chief Elon Musk said in a written update. "On high-resolution imagery, the fire is clearly visible within seconds after liftoff." Musk said the fire began about 25 seconds after liftoff and cut into the Falcon 1 rocket's first stage helium pneumatic system used to pressurize the booster's fuel tanks. Once that pressure dropped, the Falcon 1 rocket's Merlin engine shut down about 29 seconds after liftoff, he added. A formal launch incident inquiry led by a U.S. government team in partnership with SpaceX will also be conducted, the El Segundo, California-based launch firm said.

## Product Recalls



### BATTERY CHARGERS FOR PLAYSTATION PORTABLES, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: About 231,000 Pelican Power Brick Battery Chargers, distributed by Electro Source LLC, are being recalled because the charger's circuit board can overheat and cause its plastic cover to melt, posing a fire and burn hazard. Electro Source LLC has received 143 reports of the recalled

battery charger overheating, including one report of fire damage. No injuries have been reported. The recalled Pelican Power Brick is an external recharging battery pack that sells as a separate accessory to be used with the Sony PSP (PlayStation Portable). The Pelican Power Brick consists of two lithium-ion battery cells connected via a circuit board and mounted in a small plastic housing. The battery cells are charged when plugged into an electrical outlet using the PSP AC adaptor. Once charged, it is used to recharge the PSP. The model number for the battery charger, PL-6018, can be found on the back of the unit. The battery charger was sold alone and as part of several kits containing other accessories by Electro Source LLC. Sony neither manufactured nor distributed the Pelican Power Brick. The recalled battery chargers were sold at electronics and discount department stores nationwide, catalogs, and various Web sites from April 2005 through March for about \$20 when sold alone, and for between \$40 and \$50 when sold as part of certain kits packaged by Electro Source LLC.

### MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, CHINA

London, Mar 25 — A press report, dated Mar 23, states: Mitsubishi Motors, Japan's fourth-largest automaker, said it will recall 1,372 Space Wagon models in China due to a defect in the shape of their engine compartment. In a statement on its website, the company said it has filed the recall application with China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (GAQSIQ) and expects to start the recall from Apr 18. The recall involves Space Wagon models produced and exported to China between April 13, 1998 and May 25, 2001. It added that the company has discontinued this model and it will repair the engine free of charge.

## Port Conditions



### PANAMA CANAL

London, Mar 24 — Continuing heavy arrivals have prevented a significant reduction of the backlog of vessels waiting to transit the Panama Canal, despite the fact that the it is operating at full capacity. Non-booked vessels currently face a wait of about two-three days. Arrival projection figures signal a possible slight improvement for the next three days, but this could change.

### SYRIA

Lattakia, Mar 26 — The waiting period for Lattakia port is currently 24 hours and for Tartous it is three days. — Lloyd's Agents.



**Port Conditions**

**Port Delays**

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbots Point	29-Mar-06	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 7 vessels due by 22/4.
Brisbane	27-Mar-06	Mar 27: Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 4 vessels due by 4/4; up to 3 days delay Mar 29: Grain: 1 vessel due 1/4 to load wheat; no delays expected. expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Dalrymple Bay	29-Mar-06	Coal: DBCT berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; DBCT berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 6 waiting; DBCT berth 3: 4 vessels waiting; 1 vessel due 28/3; 2 vessels waiting, not scheduled; 20 vessels due by 18/4.
Dampier	28-Mar-06	Mar 27: Iron ore: Parker Point A berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 7 vessels due by 15/4; Parker Point berth 2: 1 vessel waiting; 1 vessel due 28/3; Parker Point berth 3: 1 vessel waiting; 1 vessel due 27/3; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 5 vessels due by 5/4. Mar 28: Port closed since midnight on 28/3 due to cyclone Glenda.
Esperance	29-Mar-06	Iron ore: 4 vessels due by 13/4; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Geraldton	29-Mar-06	Iron ore: 1 vessel due 27/3.
Gladstone	29-Mar-06	Grain: 1 vessel berthed to load wheat.
Hay Point	29-Mar-06	Coal: Berth 1: loading operations due to resume by mid-April; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 9 waiting; 3 vessels due by 17/3; 3 vessels due by 7/4, not yet scheduled for berthing.
Newcastle	27-Mar-06	Mar 27: Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 11 waiting; 41 vessels due by 28/4; 4-15 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 11 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 5 vessels waiting; 19 vessels due by 21/4; 5-10 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 4 vessels off port awaiting coal. Mar 29: Two vessels due by 16/4, both to load wheat; up to 8 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Hedland	27-Mar-06	Mar 27: Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 6 vessels due by 5/4; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 6 vessels due by 2/4; 2 other vessels due by 8/4, no e.t.a. received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 1 vessel due 29/3; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 4 vessels due by 4/4; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel due 3/4. Mar 28: Port closed since 23.00 hrs. 28/3 due to cyclone Glenda.
Port Kembla	29-Mar-06	Mar 27: Coal: 15 vessels due by 17/5; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Mar 29: Grain: 1 vessel due 3/4 to load wheat.
Port Walcott	28-Mar-06	Mar 27: Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 9 waiting; 14 vessels due by 19/4. Mar 28: Port closed from 12.00 hrs. 28/3 due to cyclone Glenda.
Whyalla	29-Mar-06	Iron ore: 4 vessels due by 21/4; no delays expected.
<b>Azerbaijan</b>		
Apsheron	27-Mar-06	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 3 vessels berthed, of which 1 empty, 1 completed discharging gasoil, 1 discharging gasoil; 2 vessels anchored in roads of which 1 to discharge crude oil, 1 to discharge gasoil; 1 vessel due 28/3 to discharge gasoil.
Baku	27-Mar-06	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; Azerneftiyag terminal: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: no vessels; Sangachal district: no vessels.
<b>Bulgaria</b>		
Bourgas	27-Mar-06	Seven vessels in port of which 5 loading (2 coils, 1 steel sheets, 1 gasoil, 1 wheat), 2 discharging (1 billets, 1 zinc concentrate); 6 vessels in roads of which 5 to load (1 fuel, 2 oil, 1 empty, 1 bunkering), 1 to discharge salt; 18 vessels due of which 7 to load (1 lead, 2 containers, 1 trucks, 1 copper anodes, 2 coils), 11 to discharge (2 containers, 1 trucks, 1 billets, 1 fuel, 3 coal, 2 equipment, 1 zinc concentrate).
Varna	27-Mar-06	Varna East, Varna West, Balchik: Thirty-three vessels in port operating of which 17 loading (2 scrap, 1 container, 3 bulk wheat, 1 chamote/kaolin, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 1 bulk coal, 5 soda, 1 chamote/soda, 1 TSP, 1 kaolin), 11 discharging (7 bulk coal, 2 containers, 1 raw phosphate, 1 bulk copper concentrate), 5 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads. coal, 1 equipment, 1 container), 3 discharging/loading (1 equipment/misc. cargo, 2 containers); no vessels waiting in roads.
<b>Chile</b>		
Antofagasta	27-Mar-06	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 19 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Arica	27-Mar-06	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 20 vessels due this week.
Iquique	27-Mar-06	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 21 vessels due this week.
Puerto Montt	27-Mar-06	Two vessels at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 8 vessels due this week.
Punta Arenas	27-Mar-06	Four vessels at terminal, 3 berths vacant; 12 vessels due this week.
San Antonio	27-Mar-06	Seven vessels berthed, 2 berths vacant; 21 vessels due this week.

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

## Port Conditions

San Vicente	27-Mar-06	Two vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 21 vessels due during the week; Steel pier: 1 vessel at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 1 vessel due this week; Coronel pier: 3 vessels at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 3 vessels due this week; Oil terminal: 1 tanker at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 1 tanker due this week.
Valparaiso	27-Mar-06	Five vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 3 vessels anchored; 21 vessels due this week.
<b>Cyprus</b>		
Larnaca	28-Mar-06	Two conventional vessels discharging at berth; 2 conventional vessels due 29/3; no delays expected.
Limassol	28-Mar-06	Five container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 3 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 7 container vessels, 1 conventional vessel due 29/3; no delays expected.
<b>Egypt</b>		
Adabiya	27-Mar-06	Six vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 5 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier.
Alexandria	27-Mar-06	Thirty-five vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 25 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 4 tankers, 2 container vessels; 28 vessels at inner anchorage, 12 at outer anchorage; 16 vessels dry-docked.
Damietta	27-Mar-06	Twenty-two vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 14 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 5 container vessels; no vessels at inner anchorage, 4 at outer anchorage.
Dekhelia	27-Mar-06	Ten vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 2 tankers, 8 bulk carriers; no vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	27-Mar-06	Six vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 1 general cargo, 4 container vessels, 1 passenger vessel.
Suez	27-Mar-06	Six vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 1 general cargo, 4 container vessels, 1 passenger vessel.
Suez Canal	27-Mar-06	Twenty-three vessels transiting Northbound, 27 Southbound.
<b>Estonia</b>		
Tallinn	27-Mar-06	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 1 coal vessel loading at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 1 vessel due, with 6 days berthing delay expected.
<b>India</b>		
Kolkata	27-Mar-06	8 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading Containers, 6 vessels discharging (Edible Oil, Containers-2, Machinery-2, Pet Coke), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 3 vessels under repair; 1 vessel under dry docked; 3 Containers vessel due.
Haldia	27-Mar-06	11 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Iron Ore-2, POL), 8 vessels discharging (Crude-2, Coking Coal, Rock Phosphate, Palmolive, Met Coke, Net Coke, Soda); 4 vessels awaiting berth (1 to discharge, 3 to load); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 2 to load); 9 vessels due (LAMN, Phosphoric Acid, Crude-2, Thermal Coal, Containers, Iron ore, Lime, Coke).
Paradip	27-Mar-06	9 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Iron ore-2, Chrome Concentrate-2); 5 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, Met Coke, Lime Stone, MOP); 1 vessel awaiting berth to load; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load.
Visakhapatnam	27-Mar-06	7 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (Feld Spar, BF Slag), 5 vessels discharging (Stream Coal-2, Coking Coal, Crude, Timber); 6 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (3 to discharge, 3 to load); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 for bunkering, 1 for repairs); 32 vessels due (Iron Ore-8, Steel Cargo, Fly Ash, Granite Blocks-2, B.F.Slag, Wheat, Soya-2, Trap/Crude Tankers, Moltan Sulphur, Rock Phosphate, Coking Coal-2, Containers-3, Alumina, General & Project Cargo, Caustic Soda, POL Crude Tankers-5).
Chennai	27-Mar-06	8 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Granite Blocks, Iron Ore, IOL), 3 vessels discharging (Project Cargo, Crude Oil, HSD), 2 vessels loading and discharging (Containers, Project Cargo); 1 vessel not ready for work to load; 5 vessel due (Furnace Oil-2, S.Coal, Project, Iron Ore).
Tuticorin	27-Mar-06	9 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (General Cargo-2, Sugar-2, C.S.Lye), 4 vessels discharging (Coke, Rock Phosphate, Timber Logs, D.Oil); 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load, 1 to load and discharge).
Kochi	27-Mar-06	6 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading General Cargo; 3 vessels discharging (Copra Oil Cake, Wheat, Bauxite/Crude), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers.
New Mangalore	27-Mar-06	7 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Iron ore Fines-4, POL Product), 2 vessels discharging (Bentonite, Cement); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load); 16 vessels due (Iron Ore Fines-6, POL Product-2, Iron Ore(P), Timber, Granite Stone-3, POL Crude, Ammonia, Urea).
Mormugao	27-Mar-06	3 vessels operating at berth and loading (Iron Ore-2, Alumina); 7 vessels working at midstream and loading Iron ore; 1 vessel awaiting berth and discharge; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load; 4 vessels under repair/dry docked; 5 vessels due (Containers, Iron Ore-6).
Mumbai	27-Mar-06	15 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Steel Cargo/HR Coils-2, Bagged Sugar, Vehicles), 8 vessels discharging (Bagged Pulses/Logs-2, Calcium Car Chips, Steel Plates/Pipes, Base Oil, Sulphur, POL-2), 3 vessels loading and discharging (Project Cargo, Steel/General Cargo/Vehicle, Steel/General Cargo/Project cargo); 4 vessels awaiting berth to discharge; 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load and discharging; 6 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 5 vessels under arrest; 1 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 35 vessels due (Container-4, Oil-2, Other Dry Bulk, Fertiliser (RM), General Cargo-27).



**Port Conditions**

Kandla	27-Mar-06	15 vessels operating at berth of which 8 discharging (POL, Timber Logs, Steel Product/Packages, MOP, Copper Concentrate-2, CRC Coils, General Cargo), 7 vessels loading (Castor Oil-2, Agriculture Product-3, C.Pipes, Zinc Concentrate); 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load); 1 vessel under repairs; 1 vessel under maintenance; 1 vessel at Crew Change.
Ennore	27-Mar-06	1 vessel operating at berth and discharging Thermal Coal; 1 Thermal Coal vessel due (MV Tamil Anna).
<b>Israel</b>		
Ashdod	27-Mar-06	No labour problems. Three vessels loading at berth (1 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 13 vessels discharging at berth (8 general cargo, 5 bulkers), 6 vessels loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 1 passenger vessel); 2 bulkers waiting at anchorage to load, 14 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (7 general cargo, 7 bulkers), 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 18 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	27-Mar-06	No labour problems. No vessels berthed, none anchored; 2 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	27-Mar-06	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel loading at berth, 5 vessels discharging at berth (4 general cargo, 1 bulker), 11 vessels loading/discharging at berth (6 containers, 2 car carriers, 1 tanker, 2 passenger vessels); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (4 containers, 2 passenger vessels); 4 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 15 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
<b>Kazakhstan</b>		
Aktau	27-Mar-06	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, all completed loading crude oil; 14 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargoes; 3 vessels due by 28/3, all to load unknown car goes.
<b>Mozambique</b>		
Maputo	28-Mar-06	Six vessels in port operating, of which 1 loading mineral coal, 4 discharging (1 bagged rice, 1 bulk maize, 1 rails, 1 diesel/petrol), 1 loading/discharging petcoke; 1 vessels due to berth 28/3 to discharge petcoke; 24 vessels due by 20/4 of which 6 to load (1 general cargo, 3 ferro chrome, 1 diesel/petrol, 1 aluminium), 11 to discharge (1 transformers, 1 general cargo, 3 bulk aluminium, 1 ferro chrome, 1 frozen fish, 1 bagged rice, 1 clinker, 2 pitch), 5 to discharge/load containers, 2
<b>Poland</b>		
Gdansk	27-Mar-06	Five vessels loading at berth (2 grain, 2 general cargo, 1 bulker), 4 discharging at berth (3 coal, 1 grain); 10 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 21 vessels due.
Gdynia	27-Mar-06	Six vessels loading at berth (4 coal, 1 bulker, 1 general cargo), 1 grain vessel discharging at berth; 16 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 54 vessels due.
<b>Russia</b>		
Novorossiysk	27-Mar-06	Eighteen vessels in port operating of which 13 loading (1 cement, 2 bulk urea, 2 slabs, 1 pig iron, 2 steel billets, 1 copper, 1 steel sheets, 1 aluminium 1 vegetable oil, 1 wheat), 4 discharging (2 bulk sugar, 1 vegetables, 1 vegetable oil), 1 discharging/loading containers; 10 vessels in roads of which 7 to load (1 bulk urea, 1 steel sheets/steel billets, 2 vegetable oil, 1 wheat, 1 bulk cement, 1 coils), 4 to discharge (3 bulk sugar, 1 coils); 72 vessels due of which 70 to load, 2 to discharge (1 vegetable oil, 1 bananas); Oil terminal: 3 tankers loading at berth (2 crude, 1 fuel oil); 6 tanker in roads, all to load crude; 5 tankers due, all to load (4 crude oil, 1 diesel oil).
<b>Slovenia</b>		
Koper	27-Mar-06	Port working normally. Six vessels berthed of which 1 discharging general cargo, 2 discharging bulk cargo, 1 loading bulk cargo, 1 discharging/loading containers, 1 car carrier discharging vehicles; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage of which 1 to discharge bulk cargo, 1 to load bulk cargo; 22 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 4 to discharge/load containers, 1 car carrier to discharge/load vehicles, 2 tankers to discharge liquid cargo, 4 vessels to discharge bulk cargo, 4 to load bulk cargo, 7 to load sawn timber/general cargo.
<b>Spain</b>		
Bilbao	27-Mar-06	Twenty-seven vessels operating (8 tankers, 19 other vessels), of which 4 loading, 16 discharging, 7 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	27-Mar-06	Forty-four vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (2 steel coils, 2 bulk fertiliser, 2 cement), 34 discharging (28 steel products, 3 machinery, 1 vehicles, 1 gas, 1 anhydrous ammonia), 4 loading/discharging (2 fruit, 2 general cargo); no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

## Port Conditions

### Sri Lanka

Colombo	27-Mar-06	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 (9 containers/feeders, 1 steel cargo, 3 bagged soya bean meal, 1 bagged fertiliser, 1 Ro/Ro, 1 bulk cement, 1 bulk fertiliser); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 5 vessels dry-docked; 7 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected. vessels with unknown cargo.
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### Pakistan

Karachi	27-Mar-06	Two rice vessels loading at berth, 2 discharging at berth (1 chemicals, 1 urea), 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 2 vessels under repairs dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 8 vessels due (4 containers, 1 general cargo, 1 crude oil, 2 ethanol), with no delays expected.
Port Qasim	27-Mar-06	One fertiliser vessel discharging at berth, 2 container vessels loading/discharging at QICT berth; 2 rice vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 1 palm oil vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge.

### Turkmenistan

Aladja	27-Mar-06	Oil products: 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil.
Okarem	27-Mar-06	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed loading crude oil; 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	27-Mar-06	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, discharging crude oil; 1 vessel in roads to load gasoline.

### Ukraine

Ilichevsk	27-Mar-06	Seven vessels in port operating of which 5 loading (2 steel products, 1 sunflower oil, 1 iron ore, 1 barley), 2 discharging/loading containers; 5 vessels in roads, of which 3 to load (1 steel products, 1 sunflower oil, 1 ethanol), 2 to discharge (1 gypsum, 1 project); 16 vessels due of which 8 to load (6 steel products, 1 sunflower oil, 1 sulphur), 8 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	27-Mar-06	Twelve vessels in port operating of which 11 loading (5 steel, 2 coal, 1 sunflower beans/husk, 1 wheat, 1 sulphur, 1 fire-clay), 1 discharging/loading containers; 10 vessels in roads of which 8 to load (4 steel, 2 coal, 2 fire-clay), 2 to discharge (1 pipes/equipment, 1 heavy lifts/containers); 66 vessels due of which 63 to load (36 steel, 13 coal, 1 sulphur, 1 coke, 1 fire-clay/containers, 1 ammonium saltpetre, 4 fire-clay, 2 bran, 1 baggage, 1 equipment, 2 wheat), 3 to discharge (2 equipment, 1 containers/equipment).
Odessa	27-Mar-06	Twenty vessels in port operating of which 10 loading (7 metal, 1 pig iron, 1 timber, 1 sunflower seeds), 8 discharging (1 passenger vessel, 1 meat, 1 citrus, 1 sugar, 1 vegetables, 1 general cargo, 1 baggage, 1 sand), 2 discharging/loading containers; 7 vessels in roads of which 4 to load (3 metal, 1 citrus), 3 to discharge/load containers; 58 vessels due of which 33 to load (23 metal, 2 pig iron, 2 ore, 2 wheat, 2 car technics, 1 barley, 1 equipment), 7 to discharge (3 citrus, 1 vegetables, 3 sugar), 18 to load/discharge containers.

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