

April 14 2006

Undamaged Hyundai Fortune boxes to be delivered

Large number of containers thought to be intact despite devastating inferno, writes Janet Porter — Tuesday April 11 2006

UNDAMAGED containers on the Hyundai Fortune, which was partly destroyed by explosions and a huge blaze off the Yemen coast last month, could be delivered to customers within a few weeks.

Insurance claims for the lost freight are heading for the record books, with underwriters saying this is likely to be the biggest cargo loss ever. The ship was packed with high value consumer products when it caught fire.

Hyundai Merchant Marine's 5,551 teu containership is now under tow and should arrive in the Omani port of Salalah later this week.

There, a more detailed survey of the vessel will be undertaken and arrangements made for intact containers to be discharged and loaded onto other ships heading for Europe. A large number are thought to be in good shape, despite the devastation to the ship's aft section.

In a statement to Lloyd's List, CK Yoo, managing director for HMM (Europe), said the line's head office in Seoul was studying how quickly sound boxes could be put on to other vessel and shipped from Salalah to the relevant discharge ports. Subject to securing alternative transport in time, it is hoped that arrangements can be made to start getting cargo to Europe around the middle of May, Mr Yoo said.

AP Moller-Maersk's salvage company SvitzerWijsmuller is in charge of the rescue effort. The port of refuge chosen is also a major transshipment hub for sister company Maersk Line and every effort is being made to ensure day-to-day operations are not disrupted by the arrival of the charred hull and hundreds of burnt out containers, a spokesman said,

Photographs show that the stern of the ship has been virtually destroyed in the inferno that blazed for more than a week.

Insurance claims for the lost cargo are expected to total between \$100m and \$300m, making it the biggest such loss ever. If the ship is declared a total loss, that too could make it the largest containership casualty.

The Hyundai Fortune was deployed within the New World Alliance's Asia-Europe Express service and was also carrying cargo for Grand Alliance lines. That means that seven major container lines are directly affected by the accident — APL, MOL, NYK, Hapag-Lloyd, OOCL and MISC as well as HMM. Compensation settlements are expected to be highly complex and take years to resolve.

The ship was about to be phased out of the Asia-Europe Express and replaced by the Hyundai Shanghai, a 6,800 teu newbuilding that will now be slotted into service loop.

The cause of the blaze is still unclear, with several fire experts discounting the

original theory that fireworks were to blame. Nevertheless, HMM has placed a temporary embargo on fireworks on any of its ships while the accident is investigated.

* Firefighters extinguished a blaze in the engine room of the 3,780 teu 1988-built containership *MOL Initiative* on Sunday (Apr 9) about a week after the fire broke out, MOL said yesterday, writes Keith Wallis in Hong Kong .

The firm said it was taking the incident seriously and a full investigation is underway.

The fire started in the early morning on April 3 when the vessel was off Nemuro in Hokkaido, Japan.

The 26-person crew was evacuated by the Japanese coast guard on April 4 when smoke reached the accommodation block. No injuries were reported among the crew, who comprised three Ukrainians, seven Russians and 16 Filipinos, and there has been no oil pollution.

A rescue vessel towed the ship to an area off Hakodate, where full-scale firefighting efforts began on the evening of April 7.

Rescue vessels from Nippon Salvage are standing by the vessel, which was on a transpacific voyage between Tokyo and the Oakland on the US west coast. Aside from MOL boxes, the ship is carrying cargo from APL and Hyundai Merchant Marine.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>CARPE DIEM I</i>	general	PAN	—	4,014	6,235	1977	Reported adrift with engine breakdown south of Giglio Island since Apr 2. Tug attended & towed into Piombino, where arrived Apr 4.
<i>EDMY</i>	general	NIS		2,768	4,632	1980	In tow in Sound of Sleat in lat 57 07.1N, long 05 47.1W, Apr 4 as unable to restart engine. Proceeding to an anchorage at Isle Ornsay. Anchored & restarted engine. Carrying out full engine checks. Proceeded Norway Apr 4.
<i>FAGERVIK</i>	general	ATG	GL	2,050	3,254	1980	Had machinery blackout at Km 64, Kiel Canal, Apr 2 and grounded. Refloated by tugs and taken in tow. Towed into Rendsburg same day. Sailed Apr 4 & proceeded towards the Baltic.
<i>LYGRA</i>	ro-ro	NIS	NV	7,012	3,930	1979	Had engine problems near lat 57 51N, long 05 02E, Apr 4. Taken in tow Apr 5 for Egersund. Repairs commenced Egersund Apr 6.
<i>MOL INITIATIVE</i>	container	PAN	NK	50,030	59,488	1988	Had fire in engine-room off Hokkaido Apr 3 & reported Apr 4 adrift in lat 42 11.5N, long 143 50.9E. Fire brought under control, all 26 crew evacuated. Japan Coast Guard on scene. Taken in tow Apr 6.
<i>SANKO ROBUST</i>	bulker	LBR	NK	25,676	42,529	1995	Arrived Suez Mar 26 escorted by tugs with rudder problems. Entered canal in tow Apr 2 but grounded same day. Refloated & moored for diver inspection. Three holes. Towed to Km 101 for repairs. Sailed Apr 5 in tow for Cyprus for repairs.
<i>RUSSA TAIGN</i>	trawler	GBR	—	528	—	1998	Taking water in fish hold, pumps not coping, in lat 57 17.7N, long 13 53.4W, Mar 31. Anchored off Barra Head Apr 1. Arrived Scrabster Apr 2. Cargo discharged & repairs carried out.
<i>SAMHO FAMILY</i>	chem/oil carrier	KOR	(NK)	2,479	3,442	2004	In collision with mv <i>Jian Hua Shan No.2</i> in Shantou waters Mar 23. Reported Mar 31 discharging at Guangzhou and to drydock there afterwards to check damage below waterline.
<i>SARONIC BREEZE</i>	refrig	PAN	GL	6,964	6,712	1996	Had steering gear problems, resulting in port bow contacting western breakwater while manoeuvring to enter Gamcheon, Busan, Apr 1. Damage to port bow plating. Discharging as of Apr 3. To be repaired.
<i>SEE-STERN</i>	general	ATG	(LR)	1,552	1,863	2005	Grounded in lat 55 29N, long 10 32E, Apr 2. Two tugs connected. Refloated Apr 3 & escorted to Odense port, where delivered to owners.
<i>ST. LUC EXPRESS</i>	general	HND	—	347	478	—	Stranded in cove outside Canaveral Locks, Brevard County, Florida, in hurricane "Frances" in August 2004. Reported Mar 29 owners given 30 days to remove the vessel as it is a hazard.
<i>TIDAN</i>	general	SWE	LR	2,250	4,250	1990	Had engine breakdown in lat 57 43.7N, long 22 09.4E, Mar 29 and anchored. To be taken in tow Mar 31, bound Falkenberg, where arrived Apr 3. To commence repairs Apr 7, ETC end of April.

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Lloyd's
Marine Intelligence Unit



The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AFEA (Cyprus)

London, Apr 5 — Bulk *Afea*, Busan for Port Everglades, passed Panama Canal Mar 27.

AGIOS GEORGIOS (Greece)

London, Apr 1 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1110, UTC: At 1340 hrs, Mar 31, there was a collision off Keratsini, in lat 37 55.7N, long 23 34.14E, involving an 8.56 metre fishing *Agios Georgios* and general cargo *Alex-D.* (1163 gt, built 1985), laden with steel. The fishing vessel is lying in a semi-submerged condition. The *Alex-D.* which is undamaged, is anchored in the area. None of its crew were injured. The master of the fishing vessel was taken to hospital, but his injuries are not serious.

London, Apr 3 — General cargo *Alex-D.*, Skaramanga for Poti, passed Dardanelles Apr 2, and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 40 58.27N, long 28 56.30E at 0250, today.

London, Apr 3 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: General cargo *Alex-D.*, which was sailing North of Psytallia, and fishing *Agios Georgios*, were in collision during the afternoon of Mar 31. Following the collision the fishing boat sunk. The 59 year old skipper was collected by the crew of launch boat *Evdoxia* and taken to the port of Keratsini where paramedics took him to the hospital as a precaution. The port authority of Keratsini is investigating the incident.

AL MANARA (St. Kitts-Nevis)

Seychells, Apr 4 — According to Seychelles Port Authority, general cargo *Al Manara* is still at anchorage in Port Victoria. The owners or owner's representatives have not yet arrived in Seychelles. In the meantime, the Seychelles Port Authority has asked for a court seizure for the outstanding bills. The presumed cargo owner, one Somali national was recently in Seychelles to discuss the matter but no agreement has been reached. Two members of crew (Somali nationals) had left the ship and flown to Somali. There are still 18 crew members from different nationalities still on board. The Seychelles Port Authority is now looking after their welfare. The Seychelles Port Authority has taken the case to court to try and obtain the payment. The Court is now in recess. — Lloyd's Agents.

AL SALAM BOCCACCIO 98 (Panama)

London, Mar 31 — Egypt's tragic loss of the passenger ro/ro *Al Salam Boccaccio 98* could trigger claims totalling hundreds of millions of

dollars, according to a leading marine insurance broker, although others in the insurance market expect a more manageable outcome. A protection and indemnity claim may reach beyond \$200m, according to Mark Cracknell, of Benfield Corporate Risk, but the size of the demand will depend on whether the 1990 protocol to the Athens Convention, which increased the compensation per passenger to SDR175,000 (\$224,000), applies to Egypt. The protocol has been held up internationally because of insufficient ratifications, and if an interpretation that it has not been incorporated into Egyptian domestic law is confirmed, it will not be the relevant compensation regime. If that is the case, the P&I contribution could be much less than the upper figure speculated. Mr Cracknell pointed out in his company's publication, Corporate Risk, that under the pooling system of the International Group of P&I Clubs, insurer Steamship Mutual would pay the first \$6m of ferry liability claims. As the pool bears the next \$50m with each club contributing broadly according to its business volume, Steamship might have to provide a further sum. Beyond the pooling layer, group reinsurance would pick up claims. "The February 2006 renewal of the market reinsurance has just been concluded at what was reported to be an 11% cash increase," Mr Cracknell said. "This loss may not augur well for the 2007 renewal." Separately, the Egyptian government has offered \$5,000 to each family of the 1,000 victims.

London, Apr 5 — A press report, dated today, states: The Egyptian government laid more blame on Wednesday on the captain of the ferry which sank in the Red Sea in February with the loss of more than 1,000 lives. A cabinet statement said analysis of the recording of the conversation on the bridge of passenger ro/ro *Al Salam Boccaccio 98* showed the captain did not take any of the important safety measures. It said the captain did not send a distress signal, did not report his problems to either the port of departure or the port of arrival, did not try to return to port when fire broke out and did not order the crew or passengers to use rescue systems. A fire broke out on the car deck about one hour out of the Saudi port of Daba en route for Safaga on the Egyptian side of the Red Sea. But the ship continued to sail out to sea for several hours before it finally capsized and sank. Survivors said at the time that crew members told them not to worry about the fire and prevented them putting on life jackets. They also accused the captain, Sayed Omar, of abandoning the ship, but Omar is missing assumed drowned. Much of the public anger at the disaster has been directed at the Cairo-based shipping company, which is owned by Mamdouh Ismail, a member of the upper house of parliament. The cabinet statement said the investigation was not yet

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complete and copies of the contents of the voice recorder have gone to the public prosecutor and a committee of inquiry.

AL-DANA

Bahrain, Mar 31 — A local press report, dated today, states: At least 48 people died and another 27 were injured when a tourist dhow (*al-Dana*) sank off the coast of Muharraq last night. The vessel was overloaded and its Indian master had initially refused to put to sea, owner Isa Al Qobaisi said. Officials said most of the dead were Asians, but GCC nationals and Europeans were also understood to have died when the boat overturned around one km from the Shaikh Khalifa Causeway, which links Mina Salman and Muharraq. Rescue teams managed to pull at least 63 people alive from the water, including the only three Bahrainis who were onboard, they said. However, it is thought that around 130 people were on the vessel and the Coast Guard, Bahrain Royal Navy, Bahrain Royal Air Force and US Navy were still looking for more survivors this morning. The trip was organised by Nass, Murray and Roberts to celebrate the completion of the concrete structure of the Bahrain World Trade Centre towers. An investigation is also underway and Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa pledged full support to those affected by the tragedy. The Premier was at the site supervising rescue operations and later visited the hospital to meet the injured. "All relevant government bodies will provide immediate help and take all necessary steps to help those who have suffered from this trauma," he said. Mr Al Qobaisi said his company chartered the boat out to Island Tours for the evening. The boat had a capacity for 100 passengers, but there were around 130 on board, he said. When the master saw how many people were boarding and how much stock was being taken on board for the party, he did not want to put out, but organisers insisted, Mr Al Qobaisi added. The boat departed from the Marina Club. No children were onboard but there were several women - one of whom was pregnant. The Coast Guard was first alerted to the tragedy at around 2145 hrs when it received a call from the mobile phone of one of the passengers, Interior Ministry spokesman Colonel Tariq Al Hassan told a Press conference at 0100 today. A patrol arrived at the scene five minutes later. "The chartered boat left the Marina Club and headed south to the Dry Dock," said Coast Guard director Colonel Yousif Al Ghatam. "Suddenly it flipped. The cause is being investigated - there is nothing solid yet." "All of the people who died except one were below deck when it overturned. "The boat is 10-year-old and is used by tourists. Those onboard were of different nationalities." "An investigation committee has been formed by the Interior Minister to

look into the circumstances surrounding the sinking of the ship," said Interior Ministry public relations and information director Major Mohammed bin Daiyna at the Press conference, which took place at Coast Guard headquarters, Muharraq. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Cruise boat *Ial-Dana* carrying up to 150 people capsized last night off the coast of Bahrain, killing at least 57 people including some Britons. Interior Ministry spokesman Colonel Tarik al-Hassan told Al-Jazeera television that 67 people were rescued. Al-Hassan said not all the identities of the 57 dead were known as many of them did not carry identification papers. He said the exact number of passengers was not known because some left the boat before it sailed. The official Bahrain News Agency said the boat was on an evening cruise that was to last several hours. It overturned less than a mile off the coast, it added. Television footage showed the *al-Dana* capsized but not sunk, with rescue workers walking on its brown hull. US helicopters and divers joined the rescue and recovery operation launched by Bahrain's Coast Guard. There was no indication of what caused the boat to capsize in what appeared to be perfect weather conditions in the area. The boat's owners, according to Bahrain television, said overloading could have caused the boat to capsize. Al-Katem, the coastguard chief, said an investigation was underway. The passengers were thought to be a mix of Bahrainis, nationals of other Gulf Arab nations and Westerners. Health Minister Nada Haffadh told al-Arabiya television that survivors who arrived at hospitals included nationals of India, South Africa, Singapore and Britain. She later told Bahrain television that a total of 24 people were in hospital and that other survivors were released on arriving at the shore. Information Minister Mohammed Abdul-Ghafar, interviewed on al-Arabiya, said the passengers included 25 Britons, 20 Filipinos, 10 South Africans and 10 Egyptians. Sheikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, the Interior Minister, said most of the boat's passengers were employees of a Bahrain-based company. Al-Katem, the coastguard chief, said there were 150 guests at a dinner party onboard *al-Dana*. The guests, he said, ate their dinner while the boat was still docked and that up to 20 of them disembarked before it sailed. A US Navy spokesman in Bahrain said American helicopters and divers were heading to the site. "We're sending divers, small boats and a helicopter right now," Cmdr. Jeff Breslau said. A British Embassy official said he could not confirm the number of dead as details about passenger numbers were unconfirmed and identifying the victims was a problem. He said: "It was a party and quite a few of those on board were not carrying identification. There wasn't a

definitive list of souls on board and we're not in a position to say how many British nationals were involved but there are some who have died."

London, Mar 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Ten employees of construction group Murray & Roberts, four of them South Africans, were killed when a ferry (tourist dhow *al-Dana*) capsized and sank off the coast of Bahrain yesterday evening. The company was holding a function on the ferry to celebrate the completion of the Trade Centre structure in Bahrain when the accident occurred. So far, a total of 57 people have been confirmed dead in the tragedy. In addition to the M&R employees that died, a staff member of one of the workers also died in the tragedy. Of the 10 that died, four were South Africans citizens, three British, two Indian and one was a Pakistani. About 120 people, excluding crew, were estimated to be on the ferry at the time of the tragedy of which 25 were M&R employees. The rest were from the joint venture partner NASS as well as contractors and people associated with the construction of the World Trade Centre in the Middle Eastern country.

London, Apr 1 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 57 people, mostly foreigners, drowned when their dinner cruise boat *al-Dana* capsized off the coast of Bahrain, officials said today. Authorities detained the boat's captain, saying he was unqualified and that the traditional wooden dhow had been overloaded with passengers, who were on board for a corporate party in the Gulf. The twin-decked boat went down yesterday. By daylight, only the upturned hull was visible, with empty orange life-jackets bobbing alongside. Officials said the latest count showed that just two passengers were still missing and Bahrain television showed pictures of rescue workers using pickaxes to try to break through the bottom of the vessel. "The captain was only a sailor and not qualified to operate the ship. The prosecutor's office has detained him and his assistant," prosecutor Nawaf Hamza told a news conference. "Initially charges against him are linked to his responsibility (for the accident)," Hamza said, adding that the ship was carrying more passengers than its capacity. The boat's owner, quoted earlier by Al Arabiya television, said the top-heavy vessel capsized when passengers gathered on one side. The dead were identified as being 21 Indians, 13 Britons, five South Africans, five Filipinos, four Singaporeans, four Pakistanis, two Thais, a German, an Irish citizen and a South Korean, Interior Ministry spokesman Colonel Tareq al-Hassan told reporters. "With the current condition of the sea and water temperature we would expect the body of anyone drowned to float," Hassan said, adding that the search continued. Rescuers pulled 67 terrified survivors from the water as the rescue operation went through the

night, helped by the US Navy's 5th Fleet, which is based in the pro-Western Gulf Arab state. More than 30 people were taken to hospital, many shivering and wrapped in blankets. Aqeel Mirza said he was about 100m away on a nearby boat when he saw the ship capsize. "The sea was calm, there were no heavy winds or waves," he told Arabiya. "Suddenly, in that instant that we were watching it, the boat overturned very quickly. It just overturned on one side in seconds and two seconds later the lights went out and then we started hearing the screaming." Mirza added it took more than 25 minutes for rescue boats to arrive at the scene. "Most of those who died were inside the enclosed restaurant. Those who were on the top deck found it easier to survive because they jumped off the boat and waited for rescue," he said. Officials said 126 people were believed to have been on board when the boat capsized. Tourism sources said the vessel had a capacity of 100. The boat trip was for employees of companies involved in a major construction project in Bahrain and their families. South African construction firm Murray & Roberts, the leading firm in the project, said that excluding crew, around 120 people were on the dhow, employees of the firm, its partner Nass and subcontractors, and their families. US and Bahraini officials said there was no indication that the sinking was the result of an attack. "Up to this moment, it appears totally unlikely," Information Minister Mohammed Abdul-Ghaffar Abdullah said. Bahraini Health Ministry official Nabeel al-Ansari said that most of those hospitalised had already been discharged. "Initially 33 were brought by rescue teams; 31 were discharged and two have been admitted, both Indian," he said. "One Indian has a serious brain injury." A spokesman for the US Navy's 5th Fleet, Commander Jeff Breslau, said 16 Navy divers and a US ship assisted in rescue efforts. He said the boat sank in a harbour close to the shore.

London, Apr 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The captain of cruise boat *Al-Dana* that capsized off the coast of Bahrain has been detained and is being questioned over the accident in which 57 people drowned, most of them Indians and Britons, Bahrain's public prosecutor said today. The captain did not have a license to pilot the boat, the prosecutor, Nawaf Hamza, told reporters in Manama. He said the captain was ordered held seven days for questioning. Coast Guard helicopters and divers were still searching for two people missing since the small cruise boat carrying 126 people capsized Thursday (Mar 30) night. The vessel could carry a maximum of 150 people, said an official with the vessel's owner, Al Kobaisi Travel and Tours, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. Col. Tariq Al-Hassan, an

Interior Ministry spokesman, said today that the national Coast Guard and air force were combing beaches, while divers and helicopters were searching the waters for the two missing.

Dubai, Apr 2 — The Bahraini cruise boat *Al-Dana* that capsized off Bahrain's coast killing at least 57 people last week was not licensed to sail, an official said. Interior Ministry spokesman Colonel Tareq Al-Hassan told reporters late yesterday that the ship's owner had applied for a license but never completed the procedures. "The owner of the ship had applied for a license in December 2005. He was asked to meet the regulations, the conditions, and he was given a list of regulations that were required," Hassan said. "He went away to complete the regulations but never came back to be licensed. So the ship is not licensed to be a sailing ship but it is registered as a fishing boat," Hassan said. The boat trip was sponsored by companies involved in a major construction project in Bahrain including South African construction firm Murray & Roberts, its local partner Nass and subcontractors. — Reuters.

London, Apr 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from the Mar 30 sinking of cruise boat *Al-Dana* rose to 58 today when the body of a man was found washed offshore south of Bahrain, officials said. Search and rescue efforts had been scaled down, with some reports suggesting that it had been called off after the discovery of the body as the number of dead and rescued reached 126 people. This matched the figures the Bahraini government suggested to be on board the ill-fated vessel. Yesterday the number of survivors rose to 68 after a British woman was located at home after the disaster. Officials said that the woman who was unaccounted for was rescued by a passing boat and had returned home upon making it to shore.

London, Apr 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The owner of cruise boat *al-Dana* is to be interviewed by local prosecutors today. They will question the Bahraini man over why his converted dhow put to sea without being properly licensed. A total of 58 people died when it sank. "The owner has been requested to come today to be talked to as part of the investigation," a prosecution source said. He will not be arrested. The Indian master, who prosecutors say was not properly licensed to pilot the craft, has been arrested and is still in custody. The *al-Dana* was first registered in Qatar and arrived in Bahrain last December. According to Bahraini officials, its owner, who runs a family business, then registered it to be in Bahrain. It was surveyed and he was given a list of requirements the vessel had to meet before it could be given a safety certificate for carrying passengers. However, the process was not completed and the boat went to sea without having been given the all-clear, according to the Bahraini

interior ministry. It had only been operating pleasure cruises for less than a month. Bahrain has now suspended all tour boat operations and is requiring each boat to be re-inspected by the Coast Guard before they can resume tours.

London, Apr 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Bahrain said on Tuesday it had charged with manslaughter the captain of cruise boat *al-Dana* that capsized off its coast last week, killing 58 passengers, and detained its owner. Prosecutor Nawaf Hamza said the owner of the twin-decked boat, which officials say was not licensed to sail, was ordered detained for seven days for questioning. "The captain contacted the owner when he noticed there were too many passengers the owner told him to sail despite this," said Hamza, adding that the owner had admitted the vessel was not insured. Prosecutors said the captain and his assistant had been charged with manslaughter and other offences. Organisers of the dinner cruise told officials that the captain told them the vessel could carry 200 passengers.

ALESSIA (Switzerland)

Brest, Apr 3 — General cargo *Alessia* sailed Brest Apr 1 for Haifa. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Mar 28.)

ALEX-D. (Netherlands Antilles)

See *Agios Georgios*.

ALFASHIP (Bahamas)

Piraeus, Apr 3 — Crude oil tanker *Alfaship* sailed Piraeus Mar 31 for India. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Mar 6.)

ALGOISLE (Canada)

Troy, Michigan, Apr 3 — Bulk *Algoisle* (18127 gt, built 1963) was downbound on the St. Lawrence River and sustained a complete blackout at about 2030, Sunday (Apr 2). The vessel had to drop anchor just before the dangerous Cap-a-la-Roche section of the St. Lawrence between Three Rivers and Quebec City. It is unclear if the vessel sustained damage but it remained at anchor until the main engine lubrication system was working again and proceeded to Becancour under its own power to have its hull inspected by divers. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News.

London, Apr 3 — Downbound laker bulk *Algoisle* made contact with the bottom, near Buoy D-40, Cap la Roche, Quebec, in lat 46 33.29N, long 72 08.30W, after losing its propulsion due to main engine problems. The vessel was brought to Becancour, assisted by one tug, to perform an underwater hull survey. No damage was noted.

Montreal, Apr 4 — While bulk *Algoisle* was proceeding downriver on Apr 2, the engine room crew discovered that the cylinder lubricating-oil was causing a problem due to a valve at the tank. They requested the master to reduce speed and, instead of doing so slowly, he

immediately reduced the propeller pitch to zero which caused the main engine to race, and the overspeed controls shut it down. A diver's survey was carried out at Becancour however, due to virtually zero visibility, no damage was discovered. Understand another diver's survey will be carried out at Baie-Comeau later this week. However, all indications are that there is no bottom damage, and there is certainly no damage to the main engine or engine-room systems as a result of this incident. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALGONORTH (Canada)

Troy, Michigan, Apr 6 — Bulk *Algonorth* (18496 gt, built 1971) was east bound with a load of wheat for Comeau Bay. Vessel passed Sodus at 0530, yesterday, but went to anchor three miles north of Main Duck Island. Vessel reported its port engine was down and that the cylinder head had to be removed. As of 1700, yesterday, the vessel was still there with no news of how long repairs would take. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News.

ALLEGRO (Netherlands)

Duisburg, Apr 4 — General cargo *Allegro*: The place of accident is St. rzelberg, approximately in the middle between Dusseldorf and Cologne. The vessel is being located there underwater near the left hand Rhine bank directly in front of the discharging place of the aluminium facility. According to information on hand, an order for salvaging has already placed. However, salvaging and lifting operations of vessel and cargo have not started yet. Due to the high water level on the Rhine, the salvaging of cargo was stopped after a short time. At present, it is still unknown when cargo and vessel will be salvaged and how long these operations will last. Moreover, it has not been possible so far to make any statements whether the vessel can be still repaired and in how far the cargo is affected. — Lloyd's Agents.

AMBAR

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

ANNE-S. (Netherlands)

Esbjerg, Apr 3 — General cargo *Anne-S.* is still awaiting a new rudder to arrive. We have been informed that the rudder should arrive Apr 6 and she is expected to depart mid-April. — Lloyd's Agents.

APACHE (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 31 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: One eastbound lane of the Gandy Bridge, Tampa, may be closed for up to two weeks after tank barge *Apache* (3550 gt, built 1989) slammed into the bridge this afternoon. The accident happened around 1230 hrs and no one was injured. But the state Department of Transportation says there was significant damage to the bridge. In fact, officials say it appears

a section of the bridge's outer support beams will need to be replaced. A process that will take an estimated two weeks. During that process one of the eastbound lanes may need to be closed. But authorities are also going to look at temporarily re-striping the east bound lanes in an effort to keep traffic flowing. Officials are still not sure why the barge hit the bridge. It was apparently coming into port and was being guided by a tug when the accident happened. The *Apache*, which is owned by Targa, was apparently carrying about one million gallons of propane when it slammed into the bridge. It was also only a half mile from port when the accident occurred. A spokesperson for Targa says no one was on the barge at the time of impact. But there were six people onboard the tug, *Crosby*, which was guiding the barge. Targa says the barge was coming from Mississippi and that about one barge a week docks at its Tampa terminal. By mid afternoon the Coast Guard gave Targa the okay to begin unloading the propane from the barge, a process that can take up to 10 hours. The tug involved is owned by Crosby Towing which is based in Louisiana.

London, Mar 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Engineers have wasted no time beginning work on the damaged Gandy Bridge, moving repair equipment into place even as the morning rush hour was in full swing. This morning commuters found the eastbound span of the bridge still down to one lane, but traffic backups were not too bad. The sight of repair work had to be encouraging for drivers after yesterday afternoon's barge (tank barge *Apache*) accident closed that side of the span completely. A tug lost control of a fuel barge, allowing it to slam into the bridge not far from the Hillsborough side, just after noon yesterday. The impact knocked a 3-by-3-foot chunk of the bridge into the water and damaged a 48-foot support beam. "One of the beams was severely damaged, requiring its replacement. In addition to that, some of the riding surface will have to come out in order to be able to effect this repair," DOT bridge engineer Pepe Garcia explained. The new 48-foot beam is currently being cast and should be ready for installation in the next few days. The repair work is expected to take two weeks and cost around \$250,000. That cost will be passed along to either the barge or tug owner, depending on whom the Coast Guard determines was at fault.

Miami, Apr 4 — Tank barge *Apache* reportedly lost steering, resulting in the contact with the Gandy Street bridge. The barge is currently at Universal Service Docks in Harvey, Louisiana. repairs were effected in Florida, but a survey will be carried out at Harvey. Tug *Crosby* will be attended by a surveyor, but is reported to be back in service. The bridge is reported to be open but with limited traffic. — Lloyd's Agents.

APL PANAMA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated today, states: C.c. *APL Panama*, anchored four miles offshore since its refloating, will be brought into port to discharge its remaining 513 containers before being towed away for repairs, port director Carlos Manuel Jauregui said yesterday. The vessel's German owners "are looking for where it might be received," Jauregui said. With no dry dock available at shipyards on the U.S. West Coast, the vessel may be sent to China, Jauregui said. The vessel's propeller and hull suffered damage during the grounding. In the meantime, Ensenada is receiving close to \$150,000 from Titan Maritime LLC, the Florida-based salvage company that refloated the vessel, said Francisco Tarin Perisky, the city's finance secretary. The payments are compensation for city employees who guarded the beach, keeping away sightseers while salvors worked to float the vessel, and for damage to city streets. Heavy trucks used those streets to ferry containers to the port after cargo containers were taken off the ship and placed on the beach. The funds also will pay for guards to keep people off the beach during the next few months, as civil protection officials have deemed the area unsafe for swimmers, Tarin said. The salvage operations, which included the construction of a temporary rock-and-sand jetty and the dredging of a channel offshore, created new currents and sudden changes in depth that are dangerous, Jaime Nieto, Ensenada's top civil protection official, said. "We're going to put up barriers and guard it with lifeguards and police," Nieto said. The beach, known as Playa Hermosa or Playa Conalep, is one of the city's most popular swimming spots, and officials expect it will take about eight months to revert to its previous condition. The timing of the vessel's departure remained unclear yesterday, as she was still undergoing inspections, Jauregui said. "The vessel owners are working out arrangements to bring the ship into the harbour as soon as possible," said a statement from APL, the container transportation company that chartered her for its trans-Pacific route. Dutch towage company, Fairmount Marine, has dispatched the tug *Hua An* from Singapore. The tug specializes in heavy-lift transportation assignments, according to the company's web site. "It is expected that *APL Panama* will occupy *Hua An* for about three months," the statement read.

BALTIC TRADER (NIS)

London, Apr 4 — General cargo *Baltic Trader* arrived Husnes Mar 28 from Muuga and sailed Mar 29 for Bergen.

BANKIMCHANDRA CHATTERJEE (India)

Balboa, Mar 30 — Product tanker *Bankimchandra Chatterjee* is

presently anchored at Balboa. Understand temporary repairs are in progress with completion on or about Apr 1. — Lloyd's Agents.

Balboa, Apr 4 — Product tanker *Bankimchandra Chatterjee* completed repairs and sailed 2312, Apr 3, for Los Angeles. — Lloyd's Agents.

BATUR V (Turkey)

Honolulu, Mar 30 — Understand bulk *Batur V* is being still being detained by the to US Coast Guard. It is reported that there is to be a meeting today to discuss the situation with all concerned parties. — Lloyd's Agents.

Honolulu, Mar 31 — Bulk *Batur V* is still detained. Understood that U.S. Coast Guard wants the deck stow to be redone. In addition, they want the hatches opened for inspection, but have been denied. Reported there is an owners representative meeting with the Coast Guard this morning. — Lloyd's Agents.

Honolulu, Apr 4 — Bulk *Batur V*: It is reported that the cargo below decks, consisting of heavy machinery and pipes also shifted and must be restowed. The estimated time for restow is 16 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

BEN-MY-CHREE (Isle of Man)

Liverpool, Apr 3 — Passenger ro/ro *Ben-My-Chree* sailed Apr 2 for Campbelltown. — Lloyd's Agents.

BLACK POINT (Italy)

London, Mar 31 — Chemical/oil carrier *Black Point* sailed from Rotterdam at 1805 hrs, Mar 30, bound for Murmansk.

BLUE NORTH (U.S.A.)

London, Apr 1 — A press report, dated Mar 31, states: A tug has secured a line to a 170-foot catcher-processor vessel that was adrift off the Aleutian Islands near Dutch Harbor with 11 people on board, the Coast Guard said this afternoon. Tug *James Dunlap*, out of Dutch Harbor, arrived on the scene at 1230 hrs and had the vessel in tow headed towards Dutch Harbor, said Coast Guard Lt. Heather Neely. The tug and vessel were expected in the town at about 2100 hrs, Neely said. Fish factory *Blue North* (609 gt, built 1945), home-ported in Seattle, was fishing at about 0430 hrs, when one of its nets caught in the propeller, disabling the boat. The Coast Guard was monitoring the situation with a fixed-wing plane and helicopter. The vessel was approximately six miles from Unalaska Island near Umnak Pass and drifting at about 2.5 knots before the tug caught up to it, according to the Coast Guard and a report from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. The vessel is carrying approximately 33,000 gallons of diesel fuel and 500 gallons of lube oil, the DEC said. In the early afternoon., seas were rolling at about six feet, and winds were blowing at about 15 knots.

BREAKSEA (U.K.)

Dublin, Apr 5 — Product tanker *Breaksea* escorted in Mar 27 and discharged cargo New Ross. Proceeded to anchor off Kilmore Quay, Waterford, where gas-freed. To be towed to Dublin Apr 7 to investigate repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

BRP-SA-58 (Bulgaria)

Belgrade, Apr 4 — Removal of the cargo of coal from barge *BRP-SA-58* commenced approximately 10 days ago and is expected to be completed by the end of this week. — Lloyd's Agents.

CALEDONIAN ISLES (U.K.)

See "Outbreak Of Virus On United Kingdom-Flagged Vessel " under "Miscellaneous".

CALIFORNIA (Panama)

Port Klang, Apr 4 — Bulk *California* is still lying sunk and salvage operations are being organised. C.c. *Sinokor Seoul* sailed Port Klang Terminal CT1, Northport on Apr 1. Repair work is being carried out at Port Klang Anchorage. — Lloyd's Agents.

CARIBBEAN LADY (Malta)

London, Apr 5 — Ref *Caribbean Lady* passed Panama Canal Mar 4 bound for the Pacific, and subsequently sailed Balboa Mar 30.

CAROL H (U.K.)

Falmouth, Apr 6 — Fishing *Carol H* arrived Newlyn Mar 27 and was placed straight onto the slipway. Repairs have been completed, and the vessel is now back in service. — Lloyd's Agents.

CARPE DIEM I (Panama)

Leghorn, Apr 5 — General cargo *Carpe Diem I* (4014 gt, built 1977), during voyage from Greek Island Milos to Savona with a cargo of about 5,700 tons of Bentonite, reported adrift with engine breakdown South of Giglio Island since Apr 2. It would appear that no communication of the vessel's dangerous condition was given to the local Port Authorities by the Master who awaited the eventual arrival at the scene of a motor-tug which apparently had been sent from Greece to render assistance. Local Port Authorities became aware of the vessel's condition only on Apr 4 and promptly sent motor launches to monitor the situation. An agreement was then reached by shipowners/master with the tug Company Neri of Leghorn and tug *Tito Neri Quinto* attended and towed the vessel safely at the port of Piombino where they arrived at 1900, local time, Apr 4. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Carpe Diem I* sailed Milos Mar 28 for Savona.)

CENGKEH (Indonesia)

London, Apr 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A cargo vessel on its way from Jakarta to Bengkulu to transport rice for the poor sank near Pisang Island in Lampung last

Saturday (Mar 25), but information on the incident was only received Thursday (Mar 30) due to the lack of communication equipment. Twelve members of the crew were reported missing as of yesterday afternoon after personnel from Lampung water police, the Navy, West Lampung military district and Krui military command were deployed Thursday evening on a search and rescue mission. Residents of Pesisir Utara district in West Lampung became aware of the incident after Krui village head received a letter from the Bengkulu-based shipping company PT Karya Citra Nusabaruna (KCN) on Thursday, informing them that a ship had sunk. General cargo *Cengkeh* had 21 people onboard - 14 crewmen, five owners of the goods and two employees - according to the letter. Chief of staff of the West Lampung military district Maj. Agus Panca Wardhana said he worked with representatives from various institutions, including the search and rescue team and local Navy personnel in the evacuation of survivors. Iskandar, a board member of PT KCN who survived the mishap, said that the boat sank after being hit by a storm near Pisang Island. Realising that the ship was sinking, passengers jumped into a lifeboat, he said. Iskandar acknowledged that information about the incident came very late because the lifeboat had to wait for a long time for the storm to subside. The lifeboat was not motorised so it relied on the winds to take it to the shore, he said. The condition of other survivors was very poor. They were rushed to Liwa General Hospital, but some were allowed to leave the hospital after treatment. Those who managed to survive were passengers who used life vests on the lifeboat, which was found stranded on Pisang Island. As soon as they were discovered by the SAR team, they were brought to the shipping company's command post in Merak, Banten.

CLIPPER LIS (Bahamas)

Houston, Apr 5 — Bulk *Clipper Lis* shifted berths from Greensport to City Dock 18, where the jib and pedestal mount were offloaded and sent to North American Marine for examination and evaluation as to the cause of the loss. The vessel shifted yesterday from the City Docks to anchorage, awaiting orders for the next cargo. It appears the vessel will travel without the No 1 crane until it has an opportunity to be off hire for repairs, as well as having the replacement jib available. — Lloyd's Agents.

CONSTANCE N. (Liberia)

Beira, Mar 30 — Bulk *Constance N.* commenced hull repairs Mar 27 and remain in process. — Lloyd's Agents.

Beira, Apr 4 — Bulk *Constance N.* left Nacala on Saturday (Apr 1) and proceeded to Japan. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

DA BAK SOL (North Korea)

See "Germany" under "Port State Control".

DAVIKEN (Bahamas)

London, Apr 1 — Bulk *Daviken* sailed from Southampton at 0212 hrs, Mar 30, bound for Ghent, where it arrived at 1520 hrs, Mar 31.

DONG WON NO.628 (South Korea)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

DREAM VI (Panama)

London, Mar 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Russian rescue vessel *Topaz* has made three attempts in the Sea of Japan to take in tow the barge with people in distress, but none of the attempts was successful. On board the barge are 14 crew from pusher tug *Dream VI* that sank on Mar 29. They failed to take the towing rope to fix it on the barge. *Topaz* one time went three metres from the large uncontrolled vessel, the length of which is more than 100 metres. Fortunately, it did not collide with it. Five-metre waves throw the barge from side to side. It is difficult to approach it without life risk. The head of the Vladivostok sea rescue coordination centre, Konstantin Sviridov, said that the Russian vessels *Topaz*, *Ust-Ilimsk* and *Balyuzek* and Japanese patrol vessel *Tsugaru* were near the barge with the 14 sailors onboard. A helicopter is on the Japanese vessel, but the rough sea and the strong wind prevent it from evacuating the people. On board the barge are two Chinese, one Korean, two Indonesians and nine citizens of Myanmar. They are crewmembers of the tug that towed the barge from Japan to Nakhodka to take cargo there. The tug sank. The cause of the incident is not known so far. The international crew got onto the barge and is waiting to be rescued. Late yesterday, *Ust-Ilimsk* managed to throw warm clothes, fresh water and food products on board the barge.

London, Mar 31 — A press report, dated today, states: The entire crew of pusher tug *Dream VI* that sank in the Sea of Japan has been rescued. Fourteen sailors have been taken on board Japanese helicopters.

London, Mar 31 — Pusher tug *Dream VI*: Following navigation warning issued today: Barge (*Dream-5*) adrift in lat 40 39.3N, long 137 31.1E, at 0650, UTC, today.

London, Mar 31 — A press report, dated today, states: All 14 sailors rescued from a barge in the Sea of Japan have arrived at Hakodate port. "All sailors picked off the barge *Dream-5* by a helicopter are safe and sound. They transferred to the barge after their pusher tug (*Dream VI*) had sunk," a spokesman for the Vladivostok rescue coordinating centre said. A tug belonging to the Topaz Far East rescue centre is trying to take the barge in tow, but "has not so far managed to do so because of rough seas," he said. The

tug's crewmembers are planning to tow the barge to Nakhodka, he said.

Vladivostok, Mar 31 — Pusher tug *Dream VI* has sunk in Japan sea, not far from Preobrazheniye on Mar 29 due to heavy weather. Barge *Dream-5* being towed by *Dream VI* was in distress also. According to RCC Vladivostok, crew, 14 persons, was picked up from *Dream-5* by helicopter at about 0730, UTC, today. No casualties among the crew. Rescue vessel *Topaz* is presently in vicinity of distressed barge, and will try to take it in tow when weather improves. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Apr 3.)

London, Apr 1 — A press report, dated Mar 31, states: All 14 sailors rescued from barge *Dream 5* in the Sea of Japan have arrived at Hakodate Port. "All sailors picked off *Dream 5* by a helicopter are safe and sound. They transferred to the barge after their pusher tug *Dream VI* had sunk," a spokesman for the Vladivostok rescue co-ordinating center told Interfax. A tug belonging to the Topaz Far East rescue center is trying to take the barge in tow, but "has not so far managed to do so because of rough seas," he said. The tug's crew are planning to tow the barge to Nakhodka, he said.

DREAM-5 (Panama)

See *Dream VI*.

EDMY (Norway (Int. Register))

London, Apr 4 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1106, UTC: General cargo *Edmy* (2768 gt, built 1980), Londonderry for Norway in ballast, was reported under tow by Mallaig RNLI Lifeboat in the Sound of Sleat, in lat 57 07.1N, long 05 47.1W, at 1055, UTC, as the vessel was unable to start its engine. The tow is proceeding to an anchorage at Isle Ornsay, Sound of Sleat, at a speed of two knots.

London, Apr 4 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1257, UTC: General cargo *Edmy* is now at anchor and has restarted the engine. The vessel is carrying out full engine checks and will resume passage to Norway on completion.

London, Apr 4 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1504, UTC: General cargo *Edmy* completed engine tests and continued on passage to Norway at 1448, UTC.

EILEEN (Gibraltar)

Gibraltar, Apr 4 — Product tanker *Eileen* is no longer in dry dock and is now fully operational. Vessel is on station at Gibraltar and works supplying bunkers in the bay of Gibraltar. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

Portland, OR, Apr 4 — Passenger ro/ro *Empress of the North* is currently under repair at Cascade General Shipyard, Portland, and is expected to complete repairs Apr 18. — Lloyd's Agents.

EQUINOCEA (Mozambique)

London, Apr 3 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0928, UTC: Reported at 1550, UTC, Apr 2, that fishing *Equinocea*, C9Q2196, capsized in 17 23S, long 38 24E. Twenty-three crew rescued; four missing. Local vessels searching for missing crew members.

EQUINOCIO (Portugal)

London, Apr 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Four fishermen were missing and feared dead today, one day after their fishing trawler sank off the coast of Mozambique, the ship's owner said. Two of the missing are Portuguese and the other two Mozambican, said Antonio Schwalbach who added that an undisclosed number of people had been rescued by other fishing vessels in the area at the time of the accident. The rescued crew members were taken to the central city of Beira in the former Portuguese colony, he said. Trawler *Equinocio* (259 gt, built 1983), a factory ship equipped to process fish at sea, sank off the central province of Zambezia on Sunday (Apr 2) afternoon while on an expedition to catch shrimp. It was not immediately clear what caused the accident.

EUGENIA (Honduras)

Mumbai, Apr 5 — General cargo *Eugenia* is still under detention at Mumbai Port. — Lloyd's Agents.

F.LOGAN (U.S.A.)

See *Texas GAL*.

FAGERVIK (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Apr 3 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Fagervik* (2050 gt, built 1980), heading towards the Baltic, had machinery blackout at KM 64 close to Saatsee-yard, Kiel Canal, at 2115, Apr 2 and ran aground in the South embankment afterwards. It came to rest rectangular to the traffic, so ships had to pass with care. At midnight tugs *Holtenau* and *Falkenstein* of SFK Kiel arrived and salvaged her. It was towed in eastern direction towards Kiel or Rendsburg.

London, Apr 3 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Fagervik* was towed into the Kreishafen (communal harbour) Rendsburg by the two SFK-tugs and berthed there for inspection at 2115, Apr 2.

London, Apr 5 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Fagervik* left the harbour of Rendsburg in the morning of Apr 4 and proceeded towards the Baltic.

FJORDBRIS (Norway)

London, Apr 4 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Ferry *Fjordbris* (236 gt, built 1991), from Stavanger, ran aground near Jorpelandsholmene outside Jorpeland while arriving Jorpeland at 1700, local time, Apr 3. There were no injuries to the 44 passengers but they

had to stay on board for 30 minutes before vessel *Rygeraa* picked them up. The vessel only sustained minor damage. (Note — According to LMIU AIS, *Fjordbris* was subsequently in lat 59 18 23.02N, long 05 19 53.55E, 1.1 nautical miles from Haavik, at 2108, UTC, Apr 3, speed 30.1 knots, course 357 deg.)

FREJ (Sweden)

See *Noren*.

GIOVANNA (Russia)

St Petersburg, Apr 6 — A fire started on chem.tank *Giovanna* (4060 gt, built 1978) due to explosion of diesel oil vapours, at Shipbuilding Yard 'Yantar' in Kaliningrad, at 1915, local time, Apr 5. According to officials two crew members were hospitalized with burns. At present time the fire is put out. According to preliminary information fuel leakage was found. Vessel arrived Kaliningrad May 13, 2003. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Apr 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire on the Russian chem.tank *Giovanna* at the Kaliningrad shipyard Yantar has been localised and extinguished, the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry's main department for the Kaliningrad region told Itar-Tass today. It took fire fighters almost seven hours to liquidate the powerful fire that started on yesterday evening. Fifteen fire engines, four fire fighting boats, two tugboats and other equipment were engaged in the operation. A total of 100 people participated in the extinguishing operation. Almost the whole vessel was in flames. It had 200 tonnes of fuel oil and 200 tonnes of diesel fuel in its tanks. Two members of the tanker's crew were hurt during the fire. They were hospitalised with medium severity burns, their lives are not endangered. Fire fighters continued work after the fire. In particular, they were pumping in water in order to level the tanker that gave a lurch. As a result of explosions that started the fire a hole was formed in the tanker and fuel is leaking from it. Oil booms have been set up in order to prevent further spread of the fuel. Special ships are cleaning up the spill. According to the regional Prosecutor's Office, a preliminary cause of the fire is an explosion of diesel fuel vapour due to a short circuit.

GOLIATH

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Falmouth, Mar 31 — Tug *Goliath*, towing barge *Atlas*, sailed Falmouth Mar 28, for Burntisland. — Lloyd's Agents.

GRASMERE MAERSK (U.K.)

Valletta, Apr 6 — C.c. *Grasmere Maersk* is currently under repair at Valletta. — Lloyd's Agents.

GUARDIAN (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated Mar 29, states: The Coast Guard plucked four unharmed

fishermen from 71-foot fishing vessel *Guardian*, that ran aground on rocks in Boston Harbour yesterday morning. The *Guardian* ran aground as it was returning from an 11-day fishing trip at about 0500. It took Coast Guard rescuers 13 minutes to travel six miles from Point Allerton in Hull to Graves Light where the boat, with about 17,000 pounds of catch, had run aground during low tide and lost power. The crew members had put on their survival gear by the time Coast Guard rescuers arrived. The gash compromised one of the vessel's four water-tight compartments and leaked hydraulic fuel.

London, Mar 31 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1440, UTC: Fishing *Guardian* was refloated and safely towed into Boston boatyard on Mar 28.

Boston, Mass, Apr 3 — Fishing *Guardian* went aground at, or near, Graves Light, lat 42 21.38.3 N, long 70 52. 08.6 W, at about 0500, local time, Mar 28. Coast Guard arrived on scene only 13 minutes after receipt of the Mayday call. The crew was removed from the vessel, with the exception of the master, and pumps were started. The ingress of water had caused the vessel's engine/power failure. The vessel was towed to the Boston Fish Pier, where the catch was off-loaded. The vessel was subsequently towed to Rose's Wharf, Gloucester, Mass, where it was eventually hauled. — Lloyd's Agents.

HARVEST GAVINA (South Africa)

Cape Town, Mar 31 — Trawler *Harvest Gavina* was towed into Saldanha Bay Mar 27 by the port authorities. Vessel was reportedly towed into the port by another vessel of the fleet. Repairs to the main engine are being conducted and are expected to be completed in approximately four to six weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

HELLAS

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Falmouth, Apr 3 — Tug *Hellas* (606 gt, built 1975), Nikolayev for Leirvik towing a hull, arrived Falmouth at 0800, Apr 2, to re-secure a broken towing connection. The tug and tow berthed at County Wharf, Falmouth Docks. — Lloyd's Agents.

HYUNDAI FORTUNE (Panama)

London, Mar 31 — Hundreds of shipping, cargo and insurance interests may have to wait three years or more before they are sure exactly how much the fire disaster on the c.c. *Hyundai Fortune* will cost them. Market sources say settlement of claims and costs will be hugely complex, with one of the first tasks to sort through an estimated 7,000 bills of lading to attempt to establish exactly what was loaded. Analysts expect that companies whose containers have escaped damage may have to contribute up to 15% of the General Average finding. Average adjusters will get down to work in detail after the boxes are discharged

at a suitable port, and seek invoice bills from cargo interests. They will secure general average guarantees, a downpayment as earnest of eventual outlay, from the cargo interests, as they begin to arrange to forward the boxes to the original or new destination, on which contributory values will be assessed. Experts will then work out the contributory value of the cargo as a whole. Investigations will centre critically on whether the vessel was considered seaworthy — an aspect over which cargo interests and their legal advisers have in recent times applied increasingly stringent criteria. Under the Hague-Visby Rules, which apply to most bills of lading, the shipowner has a responsibility to load, carry and care for cargo and to ensure the vessel is seaworthy. If it can be shown that, for instance, there was a failure to stow the cargo correctly, or it was stowed at the wrong temperatures, or if a boiler-room fire was caused by gas leaking from an exhaust pipe, the cargo side will insist it is not liable for general average. Compensation is calculated in relation to the value of the goods when they are, or should have been, discharged from the vessel. "The hull claim will be settled relatively promptly," said a London expert. "The General Average will flow from this and is likely to take a good two to three years." Meanwhile, it looks as though it will take time before underwriters' efforts to increase cargo rates more widely will bear fruit, although an early calculation of the huge cargo loss will allow them to underline the aggregation risks inherent in transporting massive quantities of goods on one ship. SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage is continuing "surgical" fire-fighting operations on the vessel. The Ymuiden-based company's general commercial manager Hendrik Land said the fire was under control and the salvage crews were picking containers one by one, extinguishing the fire in each one. Negotiations were going on with a few ports but the talks were "very delicate" so he could not say where the vessel will be towed into yet. The fire was certainly not worsening, he added.

London, Mar 31 — A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV report, dated Mar 30, states: During the past few days work continued on board c.c. *Hyundai Fortune* to stabilise the condition of the vessel. Hot spots, whether in our outside containers, are singled out one by one and attended to by the salvage and fire fighting team using the specially moved in salvage and fire fighting equipment. Water levels in 1 or 2 compartments in the vessel are further (being) brought under control by pumping operations and attending to/closing down water ingress points. Three tugs, amongst others the SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage tug *SmitWijs Rotterdam* are used as a working base, fire fighting standby/support base and, at times, for towing in order to maintain

position and keep the convoy away from more known piracy areas in the southern Gulf of Aden.

London, Apr 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Officials at Orient Overseas Container Line said they were confident after initial checks that its cargo was not linked to the massive explosion that crippled c.c. *Hyundai Fortune*. Insurers do not know the cause of the blast, but there has been speculation it was fireworks, chemicals, a terrorist attack or a mine. Salvagers now have most of the fire under control, according to reports, and are pumping water from the hold and the engine-room. An OOCL official said the company had 200 containers on board the vessel, two of which were filled with eucalyptus oil and registered as a low-grade danger. The containers were above deck towards the bow. Initial theories suggest the explosion started below deck towards the stern. OOCL was one of six international shipping firms with cargo on the ship, which had stopped in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore before heading through the Middle East to Europe. Other OOCL cargo included DVDs, electronics and textiles. Fire-fighting tugs are still battling blazes on the ship, which is considered too dangerous for salvage crews and investigators to board. Initial reports targeted seven containers full of fireworks, but shipping industry experts are warning it is too early to tell what sparked the explosion. Hyundai Merchant Marine has already banned further fireworks shipments following the blast. Initial estimates have put possible insurance claims at more than US\$300 million. That figure is expected to rise as more than 7,000 bills of lading are scrutinised.

Ymuiden, Apr 4 — Firefighting operations on board c.c. *Hyundai Fortune* are still in progress. — SwitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV.

London, Apr 5 — Independence Day parties in the US and other celebrations across North America and Europe could be without their traditional firework displays this summer because of safety fears following the c.c. *Hyundai Fortune* blaze. Hundreds of containers are due to be shipped from Asia in the next couple of months, but could instead be stranded on the quayside. Hyundai Merchant Marine, owner of the stricken containership that was almost split in two by explosions in the cargo hold a fortnight ago, has now put a total ban on firework shipments and other hazardous materials, according to importers. The Korean line would not comment on the reports, but one of the largest shippers of fireworks told Lloyd's List that HMM has imposed a moratorium, even though it shares the views of others that the blast and subsequent blaze on the 5,551 teu ship were probably caused by something else. Bengt Henriksen, president of California-headquartered Quality Logistics, said the embargo had

placed his company in a "dire situation" as it has more than 400 containers in the pipeline that are due to be shipped over the next few weeks ahead of the Jul 4 public holiday in the US. Neither he nor the Unaffiliated Shippers of America group that represents US firework importers believe correctly packed fireworks represent a risk. But there is a widely-held suspicion in industry circles that cargo is being mislabelled, a practice thought to be particularly prevalent in the Asia to Europe trades where cargo tends to be shipped on a cost, insurance and freight basis. That places responsibility for arranging shipment on the exporter, rather than the importer. In contrast, firework shipments to the US are on free on board terms, placing control into the hands of the American importer that must comply with an array of strict safety regulations. Wrongly-marked cargo may be loaded into the hold rather than on deck, a situation that may have accounted for the Hyundai Fortunedisaster. In an email to Lloyd's List, independent fireworks expert Charles Weeth, who investigated the *Hanjin Pennsylvania* fire, said modern fireworks formulae are very stable, "and only a series of packing, handling or other mistakes could possibly lead to their ignition onboard a ship." More likely, he said, given the hole on the port side of the ship above the water line near the engine compartment, is a fire and explosion below decks which then ignited the cargo, including the fireworks, above deck. The blaze on the *Hanjin Pennsylvania* in 2002 was thought to have been the result of fraudulent cargo declarations. *Hyundai Fortune* was heading from Asia to Europe when the fire broke out off the coast of Yemen. The crew escaped, but the hull is expected to be declared a total loss because of the devastation to the stern. Hundreds of containers have been destroyed. Several other lines had cargo on the HMM ship, including both its New World Alliance partners and members of the Grand Alliance. So far, other lines are not thought to have stopped loading fireworks. A spokesman for NYK, one of those with slots on *Hyundai Fortune*, said yesterday that it was still carrying fireworks "under strict conditions", mostly loaded in Japan. But consortium partner Hapag-Lloyd said it does not accept any fireworks manufactured, classified or originated in China or Hong Kong. Mr Henriksen, who was asked by HMM to put together a paper on the shipment of fireworks following the *Hyundai Fortune* disaster, is warning that there could be further such incidents unless rules are tightened up in the Asia to Europe trades. The paper concludes that fireworks shipments to US are highly regulated and importers in principle all abide by the rules as any violations have serious consequences. "Fireworks shipments to Europe are regulated but with rules differing by country. Importers have no

responsibility and misdeclarations are rampant and almost accepted as a general practice. "We did it before, so why not again" is a standard reaction of China forwarders," the paper states.

IKARIA (Philippines)

Buenos Aires, Mar 30 — Bulk *Ikaria* (67713 gt, built 1981), in ballast, grounded in lat 34 25.7014S, long 57 57.0104W, Km 69, Martin Garcia channel, 1800, Mar 28, during upriver navigation bound for the port of Rosario, General Lagos Terminal. At 2153, local time, Mar 29, she was refloated with assistance from tugs *Ona Temple* and *El Conquistador*. Anchored at La Plata Roads Mar 30. Argentine Coast Guard inspection performed which revealed no apparent damages. Resumed her navigation at 0445, local time, same day. ETA General Lagos 0200, Apr 1. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — According to LMIU AIS, *Ikaria* was reported in lat 34 11 6.58S, long 58 12 9.38W, at 1248, UTC, Mar 30.)

London, Apr 1 — Bulk *Ikaria* was reported arriving at Rosario on Mar 31.

INDAMEX CAUVERY (Germany)

Valletta, Apr 3 — Understand c.c. *Indamex Cauvery* (36603 gt, built 1998) arrived Malta today in order to discharge part of its containerised cargo as same sustained damages in transit due to rough weather. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Indamex Cauvery*, from Charleston, was reported in lat 35 49 3.73N, long 14 32 23.9E, at 1425, Apr 3, according to LMIU AIS.)

INGER (Netherlands)

Archangel, Apr 5 — Understand from ship's agent in Archangel that general cargo *Inger* (3225 gt, built 1996), following a casualty incident at 1300 hrs, Mar 19, in the approach channel, approximately 1 km from berth 3, the vessel will undergo repairs at Shiprepairing Yard "Krasnaya Kuznitsa" Apr 11-12. Cause of the casualty has not been ascertained. Extent of damage will be estimated after docking. — Lloyd's Agents.

St Petersburg, Apr 6 — Port Authority of Archangel inform general cargo *Inger* sustained propeller damage due to ice conditions. — Lloyd's Agents.

INZENIERIS NECIPORENKO (Malta)

Freeport, Apr 3 — Following completion of main engine repairs, ro/ro *Inzenieris Neciporenko* underwent sea trials off Freeport on Mar 30. All findings were reported to be favourable and the vessel did not re-enter harbour but sailed directly for the Dominican Republic, reportedly to resume trading. — Lloyd's Agents.

IRAN MADANI (Iran)

Lisbon, Apr 3 — Bulk *Iran Madani* was repaired during March and sailed

on Apr 1 to Mangalia. — Lloyd's Agents.

IVER EXCEL (Netherlands)

See "Bermuda" under "Weather & Navigation".

IVORY TIRUPATI (Liberia)

Brest, Mar 31 — Ref *Ivory Tirupati* arrived Brest Mar 27 by its own means under escort of tug *Abeille Bourbon* with a list of 22 degree list to starboard due to cargo shifting in its holds. The vessel was transferred alongside evening Mar 29 and discharging of the cargo on deck commenced early this morning which allowed the list to decrease to 15 degrees. It is not known when the operation will be completed. — Lloyd's Agents.

JIAN HUA SHAN NO.2

See *Samho Family*.

KAI HANG 78 (China)

See *Marina 1*.

KAMOE EXPRESS (Panama)

Freeport, Bahamas, Apr 5 — General cargo *Kamoe Express* remains aground at her original location, on the beach at Paradise Island. Most of the cargo, cement blocks, has been removed. Salvage effort is continuing at a methodical and unhurried pace. — Lloyd's Agents.

KARINA K. (Georgia)

Thessaloniki, Apr 3 — General cargo *Karina K.* sailed Thessaloniki Feb 23 for Izmir. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Karina K.* sustained a list of 12 deg while loading cargo at Thessaloniki May 20, 2005.)

LOMBIGO

See "Somalia" under "Piracy".

LYGRA (NIS)

London, Apr 4 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Lygra* (7012 gt, built 1979), Stavanger for Tyne, experienced engine problems near lat 57 51N, long 05 02, at 1400, local time, today. Vessel is reportedly proceeding at 1.1 knots.

London, Apr 4 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1440, UTC:Ro/ro *Lygra* is presently in lat 57 51.45N, long 05 01.83E. Problem is with auxilliary engine and crew are hoping to complete repairs in the near future.

London, Apr 5 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1640, UTC: Ro/ro *Lygra* was taken in tow for Egersund at 1253, local time, today. Vessel's current position is about 50 nautical miles from Egersund, in lat 57 40N, long 05 52E, speed 5.5 knots, ETA 0500, local time, Apr 6.

Kristiansand, Apr 6 — Understand from the superintendent of ro/ro *Lygra* that repairs have commenced at Egersund, ETC not yet known. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAERSK HOLYHEAD (Venezuela)

Curacao, Apr 5 — Lpg *Maersk Holyhead* is still under repair at Curacao, ETC May 15. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAHINABANK (Isle of Man)

London, Mar 30 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1736, UTC: Ro/ro/c.c. *Mahinabank* (18663 gt, built 1983), bound King Georges Dock Hull, cargo containers and general cargo, anchored in lat 53 38N, long 00 24E at 1730, UTC, with defective steering gear. Originally a tug was tasked to assist vessel with weighing anchor from original anchorage but was not required. Vessel still trying to ascertain cause of steering gear failure. Vessel last inspected in Hamburg Mar 29, no defects. (Note — *Mahinabank* sailed Hamburg at 1625, Mar 29 for Hull.)

MARIELLE BOLTEN (Liberia)

Freeport, Apr 3 — General cargo *Marielle Bolten* completed cargo discharge operations Mar 24 and has been moved to Grand Bahama Shipyard, to drydock for inspection/repairs. Understand that only "essential" repairs are being undertaken at this time and that the vessel will be refloated shortly to enable a final decision to be made on continued repairs. In the interim, the vessel's Houston-bound cargo of steel and aluminium products is being loaded on board tgeneral cargo *Sigrun Bolten*. Understand that another vessel will be arriving shortly to load the New Orleans cargo consignment. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARINA 1 (Panama)

Antwerp, Mar 31 — Bulk *Marina 1* (11749 gt, built 1977), outbound Shanghai, and coastal c.c. *Kai Hang 78*, 3985 gt, built 1976, Zhenhai, Ningbo for Shanghai, were in collision Mar 22. At present, *Kai Hang 78* is drydocked in a local ship yard for repair, while *Marina 1* was to repair in a shipyard of Changxing Island next to Shanghai. — DPS Teamhead Surveyors.

Shanghai, Apr 4 — . C.c. *Kai Hang 78*: It was reported that three holds were impacted and broken, the forepeak tank at port side and No's 1 & 2 cargo holds. After discharging the cargo, the vessel arrived at Jiang Nan Ship Yard near Nan Pu Bridge for repair work. Bulk *Marina 1*: It was reported that the vessel has been repairing at the ship yard at Chang Xing Island, Shanghai. Understand that the damage might be at the bulb bow or bow of the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARTHA VERITY (Panama)

See "Gelasa Strait, Indonesia" under "Piracy."

MELEK N. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Mar 30 — Following received from Ponta Delgada MRCC, timed 1430, UTC: General cargo

Melek N. is still being towed towards Ponta Delgada and is now expected to arrive 0700, UTC, Mar 31.

Ponta delgada, Mar 30 — General cargo *Melek N.* is presently being towed to Ponta Delgada, ETA Mar 31. Intention is to berth the vessel alongside the quay inner port on arrival in order to commence the discharge of her cargo of Nigerian Solvent Extracted Palmkernel Expellers in bulk. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 31 — Following received from Ponta Delgada MRCC, timed 0945, UTC: General cargo *Melek N.* anchored in Ponta Delgada harbour at 0840, UTC, today.

Ponta Delgada, Mar 31 — General cargo *Melek N.*, in tow of tug *Charuca Silveira*, arrived Ponta Delgada outer roads 0700, local time, today. Tow disconnected at 0730, local time, and passed on to local harbour tugs for berthing manoeuvres. Vessel has been safely berthed alongside the quay inner port of Ponta Delgada at 0850hrs, where she is now under the cargo discharge operations. Reported that a surveyor from the shipowners insurers is arriving Ponta Delgada to inspect the casualty. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ponta Delgada, Apr 6 — General cargo *Melek N.* completed cargo discharge Apr 5 and is currently berthed alongside the quay at the inner port. A diver's inspection found that the vessel had no rudder and possibly lost it at sea. The vessel is awaiting the installation of another rudder but it is not presently known when the repairs are expected to commence. — Lloyd's Agents.

MOL INITIATIVE (Panama)

London, Apr 4 — Following broadcast warning issued today: Container vessel adrift off south coast of Hokkaido, in lat 42 11.5N, long 143 50.9E, at 0600, UTC, Apr 4.

London, Apr 4 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0830, UTC: Vessel adrift is c.c. *MOL Initiative* (50030 gt, built 1988), which has cargo on board. Position at 0700, UTC, is lat 42 11N, long 143 49.3E. (Note — *MOL Initiative* sailed Oakland Mar 25 for Tokyo.)

London, Apr 4 — C.c. *MOL Initiative*, Oakland for Tokyo, 26 crew on board, had fire in engine-room off Hokkaido at 0523, local time, Apr 3. The fire was brought under control by pumping carbon dioxide into the engine-room but the crew was evacuated by helicopter at 1640, local time, Apr 4 after smoke reached the crew quarters and because the engine-room's external temperature had increased. Japanese Coast Guard are on scene.

London, Apr 5 — All 26 seafarers on board the MOL-operated c.c. *MOL Initiative* escaped without injury after a fire broke out in the engine-room off Hokkaido, Japan, on Monday. No oil spill or leakage has been reported. The fire was discovered around 0523 hrs on Monday as the ship sailed from Oakland, California, to Tokyo. The fire was brought under control by

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pumping CO2 into the engine-room. However, at 1130 hrs the engine-room's external wall temperature increased and smoke reached the crew quarters. MOL asked the First Regional Japan Coast Guard to evacuate the crew. At 1640 hrs yesterday everyone on board was evacuated by helicopter to the patrol vessel which was dispatched to the scene. A coastguard vessel is observing the containership and relief boats are on their way to the site. The emergency task force, headed by the MOL president Akimitsu Ashida, has been established. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. In the latest announcement from MOL, deputy general manager Hidenori Oonuki said that smoke was still rising out of the engine-room but that a fire-fighting vessel was due on the scene later in the evening. The vessel is carrying 3,300 teu. A number of the containers are being carried for APL and Hyundai Merchant Marine. *MOL Initiative* is registered in Panama.

London, Apr 6 — Following navigation warning issued today: C.c. *MOL Initiative* is under tow off south coast of Hokkaido. Length of tow about 530 metres in an area between lat 41 32N and 41 38N, and long 140 33E and 140 39E.

MSC PATRICIA (Panama)

London, Mar 30 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 2120, UTC: General cargo *MSC Patricia* (13651 gt, built 1990), Antwerp for Aarhus, 27 crew, grounded near Sletterhage, in lat 56 05.4N, long 10 31.85E, at 1452, UTC, today. Understand vessel ran aground at 13 knots. No oil leakage. Vessel is aground by the bow, aft still afloat. No injuries to crew. (Note — *MSC Patricia* sailed Antwerp 0657, Mar 28, for Aarhus.)

London, Mar 31 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 0800, UTC: General cargo *MSC Patricia*, loaded with containers, is still aground. A tug that was on scene has now left the area. The vessel plans to try and refloat itself, however, Danish maritime authorities will not grant permission for this to be attempted until they have boarded the vessel, which will be shortly, to assess the situation.

Aarhus, Mar 31 — General cargo *MSC Patricia*, which grounded while bound Aarhus with a cargo of containers, will probably have to lighten some of its containers prior to berthing. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 31 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1355, UTC: General cargo *MSC Patricia* is still aground. Danish Maritime Authorities will not all the vessel to try and refloat using own means. It is believed some of the containers on board the vessel will have to be lightened, however, it is not known at the moment when this will begin.

Copenhagen, Apr 1 — General cargo *MSC Patricia* was refloated yesterday and escorted to Aarhus, in order to

discharge its cargo. The Danish Maritime Authorities are now examining the vessel, alongside at Aarhus. — Correspondent.

Aarhus, Apr 5 — General cargo *MSC Patricia* left Aarhus at 1300, local time, Apr 2, reportedly for Hamburg. We are not aware of any repairs undertaken at Aarhus. — Lloyd's Agents.

MSC RAFAELA (Panama)

Zeebrugge, Mar 30 — C.c. *MSC Rafaela* raised anchor at 1719, local time, today and departed, ETA Flushing Roads 2020 hrs. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Zeebrugge, Mar 31 — C.c. *MSC Rafaela* arrived Antwerp 2245, local time, Mar 30, from Felixstowe. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Apr 2 — C.c. *MSC Rafaela* sailed from Antwerp at 1443 hrs, Apr 1, bound for Le Havre.

NICOBAR (India)

London, Apr 3 — A press report, dated Apr 2, states: Passenger *Nicobar* (14195 gt, built 1991), carrying around 1,000 passengers, caught fire at Sandheads, around 230 km from Calcutta, on its way back from Port Blair to the city. All passengers are safe, an official said, but they are help up near Sagar Island. The fire broke out this morning in the engine of the *Nicobar*, which belongs to the Shipping Corporation of India, according to A.K Chanda, the chairman of Calcutta Port Trust. "The fire was extinguished soon after and all passengers and crew members are safe. The fire damaged the generator that is used to start the engine. So the vessel could not be started and is stranded near Sagar Island," he said. Another generator, which supplies power to the rest of the vessel is functioning. "So the power supply to the vessel is not affected. The fire has damaged some wires," Chanda added. Shipping corporation sources said the engine-room of the *Nicobar* caught fire around 1000. After the fire was extinguished, the vessel was towed near Sagar Island, where it lay anchored. Efforts are being made to steer the vessel to Haldia or Calcutta as soon as possible, depending upon the tide, the sources said. Coast Guard commandant G. Singh said tonight that a hovercraft and a rescue vessel have reached the spot. "There is no cause for worry. The ship has been kept under surveillance," Singh added. Mechanics of the shipping corporation, who were ferried to the *Nicobar* by coast guard vessels, have started repairing the vessel. "If the vessel cannot be repaired by Monday morning (Apr 3), it will be towed to Haldia," the port trust chairman said. A tug has been sent to the spot while another has been kept ready. According to officials, the vessel, even if repaired, cannot move out before 1100, tomorrow, when high tide is expected to start. "If it is not repaired by 1100, the tug will tow it to Haldia," Chanda said.

London, Apr 4 — A press report, dated Apr 3, states: Relatives of the passengers on board passenger *Nicobar* had to wait outside the Kidderpore dock this evening as the vessel's engine stopped functioning near the lock gate and could not reach Kolkata. The vessel was stranded till 1000, today near the Sandheads after fire damaged one of its generator yesterday. Shipping Corporation of India officials said that the vessel started its journey for Kolkata at around 1000, today. The KoPT deployed two tugs to draw the vessel to the port. The regional general manager of the SCI, Mr SG Thawani, said that 1,026 passengers were on board and fire broke out in one of its generators at around 1000, yesterday near Sagar Islands. "The flames were extinguished within 30 minutes and no one was injured. The repair work started last evening by the engineers of the vessel and finally, the vessel set sail for Kolkata at around 1000, today," he said. He said that the Andaman administration was the owner of the vessel and the SCI operated it on behalf of the Andaman administration. Relatives of the passengers on board were visibly anxious as the vessel did not arrive Kolkata on scheduled time. Shipping Corporation of India sources said no harm was caused to any of the passengers nor was there any major damage to the vessel.

Kolkata, Apr 5 — Passenger *Nicobar* arrived Haldia and anchored with no harm to the passengers and crew members. The vessel is now at Kolkata to effect interim repairs and will then proceed to Visakhapatnam for further repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

NINA 1 (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Liepaja, Mar 31 — According to Ship's Agents, general cargo *Nina 1* is still laying afloat at the berth No. 21 at Tosmare Shipyard, Liepaja. The drydocking of the vessel was completed one week ago. The repairs are expected to be completed after one week at least. Then the vessel will be presented to the class. At the moment there are minimum crew is on board only. The master is not on board yet. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

NORD SPIRIT (Marshall Islands)

Yokohama, Apr 3 — Bulk *Nord Spirit* arrived Nagoya Apr 1 from Vancouver. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Mar 28.)

NOREN (Sweden)

Gothenburg, Apr 4 — Icebreaker *Frej* (7470 gt, built 1975) was leading a convoy of two vessels out of Ronnskaersverken, Skelleftea, when the vessel became caught in the icewalls and stopped suddenly just outside Holmsund early on Apr 2. The first vessel in the convoy, general cargo *Noren* (4483 gt, built 1985), was unable to stop and contacted the stern of *Frej*. *Noren* sustained damage to the fore-castle and bow, and was assisted into Umea by *Frej*, where it

was inspected by divers. The vessel sailed Holmsund at 1600, Apr 3, heading south for a repair yard, possibly at Landskrona. *Frej* did not sustain any damage and is back in service. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Apr 5 — General cargo *Noren* is due at Landskrona yard tomorrow morning (Apr 6), for repairs. Estimate maximum of 20 tons of steel will be needed, this to be calculated more precisely when vessel due. Estimate maximum of 18 days for repairs. — Westax Marine Services AB.

OCEAN GEM (Belize)

London, Mar 31 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 1015, UTC: General cargo *Ocean Gem* remains aground.

OOCL FRANCE (Liberia)

Maassluis, Apr 1 — At approximately 1000 hrs, today, when entering the Amerikahaven Ceres container terminal in Amsterdam, c.c. *OOCL France* (66289 gt, built 2001) hit the quay and as a result sustained an approximate eight metre crack above the waterline. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Maassluis, Apr 4 — C.c. *OOCL France* is presently alongside her original berth. Preparations are being made; hull damage starboard side open over 5 meters, scratch about 10 meters. She will sail tomorrow and follow her scheduled trip. She will go into dock in Singapore. — Lloyd's Sub-Agents.

Maassluis, Apr 5 — C.c. *OOCL France* expected to leave tonight but possible that the surveyors may decide she has to stay for a couple of days longer because of repairs. — Lloyd's Sub-Agents.

Maassluis, Apr 5 — C.c. *OOCL France* sailed Amsterdam at 2235, today, for Hamburg. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ORION (Mexico)

London, Mar 31 — A press report, dated Mar 30, states: Tanker *Orion*, carrying 950 tons of heavy fuel oil, has sunk in the Gulf of Mexico, but there was no initial spill, according to Mexico's Federal Environmental Protection Bureau. The bureau, also known as Profepa, said in a statement that the *Orion*, which belongs to Empresa Naval Mexicana, went down approximately 190 miles off Progreso on the Yucatan Peninsula. The vessel reported having problems on Sunday (Mar 26). Five members of its crew were rescued, but three others are still missing. Profepa chief Ignacio Loyola has ordered that measures be taken so that in addition to "the priority task of finding the three missing sailors, a close watch be kept on the area to detect any fuel leak that could harm the environment." "It's almost impossible to get the load out due to the depth at which the vessel sank," Profepa said. Empresa Naval Mexicana said the tanker was hermetically sealed and there was no

possibility of a leak due to the cold temperatures at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico, which should solidify the fuel in the vessel's tanks. The company said authorities were currently investigating the cause of the shipwreck.

PANDION (Sweden)

Gothenburg, Apr 4 — Asphalt tanker *Pandion* left dry dock at 2300, Apr 3, and is alongside the quay at the yard, carrying out repairs and improving the insulation of the tank. The vessel has begun to raise the temperature in the tank but it is not yet sufficient to discharge the remaining cargo. — Westax Marine Services AB.

POINTE DU CORMORAN (Malta)

Vigo, Mar 30 — Chem.tank *Pointe du Cormoran*, in tow of tug *Ibaizabal Uno*, is bound Corunna, where ETA am, Mar 31. Intention is to discharge cargo of ethanol at Corunna, to be confirmed how and when. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 31 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1000, UTC: Chem.tank *Pointe du Cormoran*, in tow of tug *Ibaizabal Uno*, entered Corunna bay about 0900, UTC.

PRIVATIM (Netherlands)

Maassluis, Apr 5 — GPS Marine Services will start this week with lifting general cargo *Privatim*. The cargo already has been unloaded. — Lloyd's Sub-Agents.

QUEEN OF THE NORTH (Canada)

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A week before ro/ro *Queen of the North* sank, BC Ferries' safety director told a nautical group he was concerned about training because of the complexity of new equipment aboard ships. According to the minutes of a meeting with the Nautical Institute on Mar 14, Capt Darin Bowland gave a brief speech, saying he "knew of a number of issues of concern to mariners that do not appear to be dealt with by a professional body or association." Among them, he cited "the example of the immense complexity of today's bridge equipment and concerns some officers have that training standards have by no means kept up with the rapid change that is occurring." One week later, on Mar 22, the *Queen of the North* foundered and sank in about 400 metres of water. Although 99 passengers and crew made it to shore, two passengers, Gerald Foisy and Shirley Rosette, a couple from 108 Mile House, are missing and presumed dead. On Tuesday (Mar 28), B.C. Ferries confirmed Bowland had resigned as director of safety, health and environment, a job held had for only six weeks. Ferries has said Bowland resigned for personal reasons. The Nautical Institute is the professional body for mariners who work in commercial, naval and government shipping. A former B.C. Ferries captain who sailed for 30 years in the northern waters where

the *Queen of the North* sank has said he believes human error caused the vessel to crash. A television report, citing unnamed sources who were aboard at the time, has also said human error was at fault, saying there was a failure to slow the vessel down after an alarm went off warning the vessel was off course. The Transportation Safety Board is in the midst of an investigation as to how and why the ferry sank.

London, Apr 1 — A press report, dated Mar 31, states: There is some slow progress for the communities on British Columbia's north coast waiting anxiously for a ferry to replace the passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North*. Passenger ro/ro *Queen of Prince Rupert*, an older, slower, and smaller ferry, came out of dry dock this evening to head to the Vancouver docks owned by the ferry corporation. The vessel will undergo another two weeks of final touches on its retrofit that started in the Esquimalt dry dock — and if all goes according to plan, it will be back in service on April 15. The ferry service is much needed by the people on the north coast of Vancouver Island and the mainland who are somewhat isolated without the ferry service, which was lost when the *Queen of the North* sank. Meanwhile, a number of investigations by a number of agencies are on-going into the sinking of the *Queen of the North*, and, bit by bit, the public is being given access into what investigators are looking at. An audiotape recording of the mayday call made from the coast guard station is one of the latest pieces of information to be released. The broadcast was made by the Coast Guard station in Prince Rupert, and was relayed to mariners and communities in the surrounding area. "This station received a report from the ferry, *Queen of the North*, reporting aground, and listing badly, taking on water, just south of Sainty Point in Granville Channel." In other developments, the RCMP and officials with B.C. Ferries insist that there is no criminal investigation into the sinking. The statement comes after media reports that such an investigation was underway. The RCMP issued a release today saying they don't have all the information they need to start a criminal investigation. In an earlier report, Prince Rupert RCMP Sgt. Ken Burton said the probe would include potential criminal liability on the part of BC Ferries under Bill C-45 — which holds organisations criminally liable for their actions. "That's one of the perspectives" he told The Vancouver Province newspaper yesterday. "We are exploring all the circumstances surrounding this unfortunate event." B.C. Ferries CEO David Hahn said the report was reckless. "It's really unfortunate to go out there and say there's a criminal investigation coming down and its already in place and the RCMP has to waste a lot of their time and we have to waste some

of our time clarifying," Hahn said at a news conference. A television report earlier this week quoted sources as saying the Queen of the North was on auto-pilot when it veered off course.

RED FALCON (U.K.)

London, Mar 31 — Passenger ro/ro *Red Falcon* was reported arriving at Southampton at 1501 hrs, Mar 30 and sailing later the same day, at 1642 hrs, bound for Cowes, Isle of Wight.

RIO (Comoros)

London, Mar 31 — General cargo *Rio* arrived at Piraeus on Mar 28.

RUSSA TAIGN (U.K.)

London, Mar 31 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1427, UTC: Trawler *Russa Taign* (528 gt, built 1998), six persons on board, reported taking water in fish hold, pumps not coping, in lat 57 17.7N, long 13 53.4W. Rescue helicopter taking pump out to casualty and helicopter also available to airlift non-essential personnel. Weather: Wind easterly, force 6-7 (strong breeze-near gale).

London, Mar 31 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1514, UTC: Trawler *Russa Taign*, taking water in lat 57 17.7N, long 13 53.4W, RAF Nimrod R51 and CG rescue H/C MU now on scene. Winchman being lowered with rescue pump and situation being assessed.

London, Apr 1 — Following received from Stornoway MRSC, timed 2313, UTC, Mar 31: Trawler *Russa Taign*: Helicopter G-BIMU returned to Stornoway. Ingress of water apparently ceased. Vessel proceeding at five knots towards Barra Head, escorted by fishing *Aalskere*. ETA 0800, UTC.

London, Apr 1 — Following received from Stornoway MRSC, timed 1247, UTC: At 1005, UTC, trawler *Russa Taign* was some 86 miles from Barra Head and giving an ETA at Barra Head of 2220, UTC.

London, Apr 2 — Following received from Stornoway MRSC, timed 0929, UTC: Trawler *Russa Taign*, escorted by fishing *Aalskere*, anchored off Barra Head last night. After some remedial/clean-up work was completed the vessels proceeded, in the direction of Ullapool. Understood *Aalskere* will put into Ullapool and *Russa Taign* will then proceed, unescorted, to Kirkwall.

London, Apr 2 — Following received from Stornoway MRSC, timed 1648, UTC: Trawler *Russa Taign* now in communication with Aberdeen MRCC and proceeding Scrabster, ETA 2100, UTC. Fishing *Aalskere* proceeded Ullapool.

Glasgow, Apr 4 — Trawler *Russa Taign* arrived at Scrabster at 2120 hrs, Apr 2. The water was pumped out and the source of the ingress is believed to have been a broken seawater valve. The vessel's cargo has been discharged and repairs are now being carried out. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAMHO FAMILY (South Korea)

Antwerp, Mar 31 — Chemical/oil carrier *Samho Family* (2479 gt, built 2004), Korea for Guangzhou, cargo toluene, and general cargo *Jian Hua Shan No.2* were in collision in Shantou waters Mar 23. *Jian Hua Shan No.2* sank soon after the collision, but no crewmen were reportedly killed. *Samho Family* is presently completing cargo discharge at Guangzhou and will drydock at the same port to inspect damage under the waterline. — DPS Teamhead Surveyors. (Note — *Samho Family* sailed Ulsan Mar 19 for Guangzhou.)

SANKO ROBUST (Liberia)

Port Said, Apr 3 — Bulk *Sanko Robust* (25676 gt, built 1995), cargo steel, which arrived Suez on Mar 26 escorted by tugs, vessel was sustaining rudder problems. Arrangements were made by S.C.A. to enter the Canal towed by S.C.A tugs on Apr 2. Vessel entered Canal with the northbound convoy on Apr 2 and at Km 116, vessel went aground. S.C.A tugs refloated vessel and moored it at km 112 to enable diver team to inspect the rudder. The divers' team reported that the vessel sustained three holes: A hole in the forepeak. A hole in number 1 ballast tank starboard side. A hole in the centre tank number 1 starboard side, and sea water increased causing trimming to the vessel by head of about 5 metres. Vessel was towed again to km 101 to effect the necessary repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Said, Apr 6 — Bulk *Sanko Robust* was towed by S.C.A. tugs at 2100, Apr 4, from km 101 and resumed its passage in Canal again. Vessel cleared Canal from Port Said at 1645, Apr 5, and anchored at Pilot station at 1900. Vessel was towed again by tug *Baracoda* at 2200, bound for Cyprus, to effect the necessary repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

SARONIC BREEZE (Panama)

Busan, Apr 3 — At about 1740 hrs on Apr 1, while ref *Saronic Breeze* (6964 gt, built 1996), laden with 4,882.614 tonnes of frozen cargo (Pollack roe, Pollack surimi) was manoeuvring to enter, Gamcheon, Busan, with the assistance of a pilot, the port bow of the vessel came into contact with the western breakwater due reportedly to steering gear trouble. As a result of this *Saronic Breeze* sustained damage to her port bow plating and the breakwater was reportedly damaged over 50 metres. *Saronic Breeze* is at present under cargo operation at Pier No. 3, Gamcheon harbour, Busan, discharging cargo and her repairs schedule has not yet been decided. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

SARUNA (Panama)

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

SCOTIA PRINCE (Bahamas)

See "Italy" under "Port State Control."

SEA TOI (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 31 — A press report, dated Mar 30, states: Fishing *Sea Toi* is safely moored at a dry dock in Toledo, four days after the vessel was beached in Yachats. A tug from Portland's Fred Devine Diving and Salvage Company pulled the crab boat from the shore at high tide on Tuesday (Mar 28), Coast Guard Lt. Michael Block said.

SEE-STERM (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Apr 4 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *See-Stern* (1552 gt, built 2005), with 1,650 tons of steel plates, grounded in the Danish Odense Fjord during the afternoon of Apr 2. The SvitzerWijsmuller tug *Fenja* arrived at 1730. The grounding location was so shallow that the *Fenja* could only approach the casualty up to 400 metre distance. Additionally the SvitzerWijsmuller small tug *Urd* was mobilised to assist in connecting up. At about midnight the two tugs approached the casualty with a towage connection having been established at about 0100. Because of the conditions, a special floating rope connection was established. With the *Fenja* having manoeuvred in position and with the *Urd* standing by to provide further control over the casualty the refloating operation started at about 0250, with the tide getting to a daily high at 0400. The casualty was successfully refloated at 0308, Apr 3. The tugs then escorted the vessel to its destination in Odense Fjord, where it was delivered back to its owners safely. (Note — *See-Stern* sailed Rotterdam Mar 31, passed Brunsbützel Apr 1 for Odense, and according to LMIU AIS was anchored in lat 55 28.22N, long 10 32.13E at 0851, today.)

London, Apr 4 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0800, UTC: General cargo *See-Stern*: The grounding position was lat 55 29N, long 10 32E. Vessel is now in port at Odense.

Copenhagen, Apr 5 — A divers' survey carried out yesterday on general cargo *See-Stern* revealed that damage to the vessel is very limited. The vessel was released at noon today and will proceed to Kaliningrad today. — Lloyd's Agents.

SENSATION (Bahamas)

London, Mar 31 — Carnival Cruise Line cancelled a port call by passenger *Sensation* (70367 gt, built 1993) in Grand Turk in favour of a call in Freeport following a "minor propulsion problem" aboard the vessel. (Note — *Sensation* arrived and sailed Half Moon Cay Mar 29.)

SIGAS COMMANDER (Singapore)

London, Mar 31 — Lpg *Sigas Commander* arrived and sailed Coryton Mar 29 and subsequently arrived Antwerp Mar 30.

SIMA PRIDE (Singapore)

London, Mar 31 — C.c. *Sima Pride* arrived Hong Kong Mar 29 and sailed same day for Kaohsiung.

SINOKOR SEOUL (South Korea)

See *California*.

SPRUCEGLEN (Canada)

London, Mar 30 — Bulk *Spruceglen* (22388 gt, built 1983) sustained a blackout near Buoys No.1 and 2, just above the Blue Water Bridge, Lake Huron, in lat 43 00.05N, long 82 27.37W, at 1437, Mar 28. The vessel went to anchor. The vessel recovered electrical power a short time later and got underway.

ST.LUC EXPRESS (Honduras)

London, Mar 31 — A press report, dated Mar 29, states: The owner of general cargo *St.Luc Express* (347 gt) abandoned in Brevard County now has 30 days to move the vessel. *St.Luc Express* has been sitting in a cove outside the Canaveral Locks since Hurricane "Frances" in 2004. Florida Fish and Wildlife agents worry the longer the boat stays there, the more it becomes a danger to the environment and to local boaters. The US Coast Guard already took care of one of the worst hazards. They spent \$38,000 pumping the fuel out of the freighter. However, the freighter's owner may have to spend more than that to move his property. Captain Billy Chandler with Tow Boat US said it may cost tens of thousands of dollars to move *St. Luc Express*, given its current condition and the shallow water in the cove. "With the depth of the water out there, there is no way that thing is moving. What we need is some water," Captain Chandler said. The water surrounding the vessel is about six feet deep. Florida Fish and Wildlife agents said they had a difficult time contacting the owner but he eventually turned up in Miami. They said the owner could face criminal charges if he fails to move the boat in time. If the vessel is not moved, state and county agencies may use it for scrap metal or recycle it as a coral reef.

STADT RENDSBURG (Cyprus)

London, Mar 31 — A press report, dated today, states: C.c. *Stadt Rendsburg* (9528 gt, built 2004) struck a pontoon at the Toolsie Persaud Ltd (TPL) wharf, Demerara River, on Wednesday (Mar 29), setting off a chain of events that led to some US\$150,000 in damage and in which a crew member miraculously escaped death. According to information received from TPL Hardware Division Manager, Mohan Harnanan, around 1600 Wednesday *Stadt Rendsburg* was turning around in the Demerara River when it hit the pontoon *Lady Pearl*. The pontoon slammed into the wharf, located near Princes and Water streets, causing substantial damage. The pontoon was loaded with some 96 lengths of 30-40-foot timber including Purple Heart and was tied to tug *Captain Danny*, moored alongside the TPL wharf. The impact caused the pontoon's cargo to shift, tilting it and sending the starboard side of the vessel into the Demerara River discharging its cargo as it went. The

weight and movement of the pontoon took the tug with it, sinking that vessel as well. The tug and pontoon belong to the Willems Timber and Trading Company Ltd. The tug was being piloted by Captain Louie Pereira with engineer Ricardo Pereira and sailor Troy Thomas, while the pontoon crew included Michael Adams and Gregory Atkins. According to the crew, Atkins sustained minor injuries and was treated at the Georgetown Public Hospital and released. They related that it only took about five minutes for everything to go under. Harnanan said his company would be seeking compensation, which its lawyers were addressing. He noted that the company's business generated from the wharf would now be greatly hampered. *Stadt Rendsburg* is connected to local shipping company C&V Caribbean Shipping Ltd.

Georgetown, Guyana, Apr 2 — C.c. *Stadt Rendsburg* has been detained in Georgetown since Mar 30, due to a writ of arrest served on the vessel in relation to contact with a tug, a barge, and the quay while under the command of a river pilot. — Lloyd's Agents.

STAR PRINCESS (Bermuda)

London, Apr 2 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: Passenger *Star Princess* departed from Freeport, on Apr 2, bound for Bremerhaven.

STEENBANK (Netherlands)

London, Apr 3 — General cargo *Steenbank* (2999 gt, built 2005) ran aground on "the embankment" of the Kiel-Canal near Oldenbuettel, at approximately 2100 hrs, Mar 31. The vessel came free some time after the grounding, under its own power, and was able to proceed towards the Baltic. The passage of "large ships" was delayed due to the incident. (Note — *Steenbank* departed Oulu on Mar 27 and was reported passing through the Kiel Canal at 0345 hrs, Apr 1, destination Delfzijl.)

STEILACOOM (U.S.A.)

Seattle, Mar 31 — Passenger *Steilacoom* experienced an air compressor failure Mar 29. The vessel resumed its normal run the following day. The ferry *Christine Anderson* that normally serves is currently in drydock at Todd for routine maintenance and is scheduled to be out of service for two weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

STENA DANICA (Sweden)

Göteborg, Apr 2 — Passenger ro/ro *Stena Danica* (28727 gt, built 1982) was contacted by a tanker while at berth at Frederikshavn during the night of Mar 31-Apr 1, causing minor damage to hull above waterline, which repaired same day. It should have departed at 0345 hrs and passengers rebooked to next vessel. No injuries and no outlet reported. — Westax Marine Services AB. (Note — According to LMIU AIS *Stena Danica* was in lat 57 25 14.76N, long 10 35 11.24E at 1757, UTC, Apr 2.)

SUPPORTER

Kristiansand, Mar 31 — Standby safety vessel *Supporter* sailed Stavanger Mar 30 for Hirtshals. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUPPORTER (Faroe Islands)

London, Apr 4 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Standby safety vessel *Supporter* has now returned to service.

TASMAN SPIRIT (Malta)

London, Apr 4 — Coastal residents exposed to the crude oil tanker *Tasman Spirit* oil spill off Karachi nearly three years ago are still suffering eye, skin, gastrointestinal and respiratory problems, a study published yesterday reveals. Researchers from Karachi's Aga Khan University, the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency and the University of Alabama in the US began the study shortly after the August 2003 spill. They surveyed 400 people in three groups, coastal-dwellers, those living 2km inland and 20km inland, with the first group displaying the most health problems. Khalid Mushtaq, an area physician, confirmed that patients often complained of respiratory infections and asthma. "In the last one year or so, the number of patients of asthma to my clinic increased by some 15%-20%," he said. Zafar Fatmi, who participated in the research, said there was also a long-term risk of lung cancer. Pakistan last week called for early finalisation of compensation for oil spill caused after *Tasman Spirit* beached off the Karachi coast, according to local news reports.

TEXAS GAL (Liberia)

London, Apr 5 — General cargo *Texas GAL* sailed Chalmette Mar 28, and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 12 45.49N, long 59 37.21W at 1358, Apr 4, 20 nautical miles from Bridgetown.

TIAN FENG

Brisbane, Apr 4 — Non specific tanker *Tian Feng* is now at anchor in Weipa harbour with a tug on guard to keep sightseers at bay. The vessel has no identification on board and is apparently untraceable on any data base. There is some Chinese writing that they are still trying to translate in an attempt to maybe identify where she came from but they are not hopeful. The vessel had apparently been stripped in preparation for scrapping. The authorities feel that the vessel broke away and was just let drift. They intend to clean her to appropriate standards as there are still some pollutants on board and then dispose of her by sinking some time in the near future. — Lloyd's Agents.

TIDAN (Sweden)

London, Mar 31 — Following received from Riga MRCC, timed 0515, UTC: General cargo *Tidan* (2250 gt, built 1990) had engine breakdown in lat 57 43.7N, long 22 09.4E at 1140,

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

UTC, Mar 29, and is at anchor. Swedish tug will tow the vessel to Sweden.

London, Mar 31 — Following received from the managers of general cargo *Tidan*, dated today: *Tidan*, on voyage from Riga to the port of Grums, which is situated near Karlstad, is expected to be taken in tow this evening for Falkenberg.

London, Apr 3 — Following received from the managers of general cargo *Tidan*, dated today: *Tidan* is presently under tow to Falkenburg and is due to arrive later today.

Gothenburg, Apr 4 — Falkenberg shipyard report that general cargo *Tidan* arrived in port yesterday. Repairs are planned to commence Apr 7 and ETC in around three weeks time; end of April. — Lloyd's Agents.

TROY (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Apr 6 — General cargo *Troy*, now renamed *Irmak*, sailed Tuzla Mar 26.

VITA (Antigua & Barbuda)

St. Petersburg, Apr 3 — General cargo *Vita* arrived St. Petersburg Mar 28, from Gothenburg. — Lloyd's Agents.

WERN (Germany)

London, Apr 3 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Wern* (built 1951), 1,180 tons, bound Austria with 750 tons of iron products, sank on the river Danav close to Serbian harbour Smedervo. The crew of three was rescued. The ship was on the way to Austria with iron products.

Edinburgh, Apr 3 — General cargo *Wern* sank near Smederevo, Serbia and Montenegro, at 0945, Apr 2, according to local press reports. The vessel was loaded with 750 tonnes of sheet metal at the US Steel plant port in Smederevo. She is not blocking the fairway. The incident is now under investigation by the Serbian authorities. — Danube Research.

trieste, Apr 3 — Understand from Lloyd's Agents Belgrade that general cargo *Wern* broke in two and sank alongside at Smederevo port at about 0930, Apr 2, while loading "US Steel" steel plates. The vessel sank with 750 tonnes of plates already on board. The expected full load of 1,050 tonnes was destined for Austria. The depth of the water in the area was about six metres, and the vessel's bow is partially above the surface. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Apr 5 — Serb port authorities have started preparations to recover a German trading ship that sank in the River Danube on Sunday. The 79 metre-long general cargo *Wern* sank near the town of Smederevo in water six metres deep as workers from the company Kovin-Trade loaded 750 tons of metal on to it for transport to Austria.

WESERSTERN (Isle of Man)

Helsinki, Apr 3 — Chemical/oil carrier *Weserstern* (6441 gt, built 1992), carrying 7500 tons of industrial

grade petrol for use in the petrochemical industry, grounded off Porvoo yesterday morning. The refloating operation was carried out without any problems. According to the Finnish Maritime Administration the 15 crew members were not in danger. The vessel is discharging in Kilpilahti dock. Finnish Maritime Administration announced early in the morning that the vessel's bottom will be re-inspected after the discharging is complete. The vessel has a double hull and since no cargo or fuel leaks have been reported booms were not set around the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Weserstern* arrived Paldiski Mar 30.)

London, Apr 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Chemical/oil carrier *Weserstern*, carrying over 7,500 tonnes of naphtha, was approaching the harbour at Neste Oil's Kilpilahti (Skoldvik) refinery near Porvoo in Southern Finland on Sunday morning (Apr 2) when it became stuck on the rocks ten metres offshore, just 200 metres from the refinery jetty. The *Weserstern* sustained slight damage and took on a small amount of water, but thanks to the vessel's double hull, there was no oil spill into the sea. Moreover, no one involved was reported to have sustained any injuries, nor was there any danger of an explosion. Towards evening, the tanker was towed off the rocks by tugs and transferred to the dock to be unloaded. While Neste Oil's tugboat together with a vessel from the Coast Guard were performing surveillance at the scene, divers tried to locate potential damage to the vessel. No definite cause for the incident could be established on Sunday. Both a technical fault and human error were seen as possible. However, breath tests carried out on the crew proved that at least alcohol played no role in the incident. Maritime Inspector Ilkka Salminen from the Finnish Maritime Administration reports that divers are to examine the hull of the tanker again today. The vessel was carrying its cargo for Borealis, a leading supplier of polyethylene and polypropylene, whose raw materials are transported through the Neste harbour.

Helsinki, Apr 3 — According to surveyor on the scene, some water did leak into the ballast water tank of chemical/oil carrier *Weserstern*. Water was pumped out. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Apr 6 — Chemical/oil carrier *Weserstern* sailed Skoldvik Apr 3 and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 54 27.18N, long 18 42.3E, 7 nautical miles from Gdansk, at 0728, today.

ZIEMIA SUWALSKA (Liberia)

London, Apr 3 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: bulk *Ziemia Suwalska* (16696 gt, built 1984), bound Rouen, had to anchor with machine problems between buoy 44 and 46 close to the Perkpolder on the river Schelde Mar 31. The vessel received tug assistance

by four tugs, the *Schlede 10* and *Union 8* of URS and *Multratug 6* and *Bravo*. The vessel was towed close to Everingen. (Note — *Ziemia Suwalska* sailed Antwerp 1322, Mar 31, and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 49 27.18N, long 00 33.3E at 0014, Apr 2, 1.3 nautical miles from Port Jerome.)

London, Apr 5 — Bulk *Ziemia Suwalska* arrived Rouen Apr 1 from Le Havre.



GELASA STRAIT, INDONESIA

London, Apr 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Japanese coast guard officials are questioning the master of bulk *Martha Verity* (79855 gt, built 1995) whose vessel was attacked by pirates off the coast of Indonesia. Six pirates armed with swords attacked the Panamanian-registered vessel in the Gelasa Strait, about 230 miles north of Jakarta, on Mar 21, the Mainichi Shimbun reported today. After tying up the vessel's 59-year-old Japanese master and crew members, the pirates stole the equivalent of about \$4,000 in currency from a safe in the master's cabin as well as a radio transceiver. No one was injured in the incident. After the attack, the vessel sailed to Tobata port in the southern Japanese city of Kitakyushu. Japanese coast guard officials said they will ask Indonesia's law enforcement agency to investigate the incident. (Note — *Martha Verity* sailed Sepetiba Terminal Feb 20, arrived and sailed Singapore Mar 22, and subsequently arrived Tobata Apr 2.)

SOMALIA

London, Apr 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Somali pirates seized an oil tanker soon after it had offloaded its cargo of fuel at a southern Somalia port, an official and witness said yesterday. The pirates so far have made no demands since hijacking the United Arab Emirates-registered non specific tanker *Lombigo* on Tuesday (Mar 28) near Adale, about 150km north of the capital, Mogadishu, said Ali Beere Adow, an official of El Ade port. *Lombigo*, which carries a Panamanian flag and had a crew of 32 Filipinos, had offloaded its cargo at El Ade port, Adow said. "About 20 armed pirates on two speedboats attacked the tanker and then scaled it. After 10 minutes I could see the tanker commandeered to the high seas," said Jimale Kaahin, a fisherman who said he witnessed the hijacking.

London, Apr 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Efforts aimed to release non specific tanker *Lombigo*, which was hijacked by Somali pirates near the coast of Harardhere in Mudug region in central Somalia, are under way. Somali Coast Businessmen

and elders left Mogadishu for the release of the vessel hoping that the vessel would soon be freed. The pirates who kidnapped the ship with 32 crew members, mainly Filipinos, demanded a ransom, though they didn't mention the amount of money they need. Harardhere coast has become a major base for Somali pirates who hunt ships and boats on Somali waters.

London, Apr 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing *Dong Won No.628* (361 gt, built 1979) was hijacked by a group of unidentified gunmen in the international waters off the coast of Somalia on Tuesday (Apr 4), confirmed South Korean Foreign Ministry today. The fishing boat is owned by Dongwon Fisheries, a Busan-based company. Twenty-five crewmen, including eight South Koreans, were aboard the vessel when it was captured by the gunmen who are believed to be pirates. Indonesian, Vietnamese and Chinese crew members were also said on the vessel at the time. The vessel left South Korea in November last year and was scheduled to return at the end of this year. The South Korean Foreign Ministry and embassy in Kenya both set up task forces to deal with the hijacking. Meanwhile, Dongwon's office in Busan said it had a phone conversation with the captain and was told that all of the crew members were safe, reported South Korean Yonhap News Agency. The fishing boat is reportedly anchored off a Somali port. News reports from Washington said US and Dutch warships in the region tried to intervene but withdrew after the South Korean crewmen were threatened with guns and the vessel entered Somali territorial waters. The USS *Roosevelt* and Dutch vessel HNLMS *Zeven Provinciën* were responding to a radio distress call by the South Korean vessel, which reported it was fired upon some 100 kilometres off the coast of Somalia, the US Navy's 5th Fleet was quoted as saying. (Note — *Dong Won No.628* sailed Busan Nov 17.)

London, Apr 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Militants who captured fishing *Dong Won No.628* off the coast of Somalia, denied, today, they were pirates and said they were defending their waters from illegal fishing. *Dong Won No.628* was seized yesterday afternoon, by eight armed men, who approached in two speedboats, firing guns, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said. All 25 crew members, eight South Koreans, nine Indonesians, five Vietnamese and three Chinese, were being held captive, the ministry said. A militia spokesman said fighters from his clan had captured the vessel fishing illegally in Somalia's territorial waters. "We are not pirates, but we are patriots who stood up to defend our sea resources from those taking advantage of their country's lack of central government and coastal guards," he said. South Korea disputed this, saying the pirates seized the vessel in international

waters and later took it to Somalia's waters. Somalia has had no coast guard or navy since 1991. The militants forced all the crew members to surrender and then locked them in a room inside the vessel, and said they have been targeting foreign fishing vessels in Somalian waters for two weeks. The militants will first investigate how long the South Korean vessel had been involved in illegal fishing before deciding whether to demand compensation. Two other South Korean fishing vessels in the area called for help during Tuesday's assault. Nearby U.S. and Dutch naval ships tried to intervene but gave up when the seized vessel entered Somali territorial waters, the South's Foreign Ministry said. Cmdr. Jeff Breslau, spokesman for the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet in Bahrain, said U.S. and Dutch vessels tried to intercept the vessel as it headed toward Somalian waters, firing warning shots in its direction. However, he said they called off the operation when some of the South Korean crew were seen on deck with guns pointed at them.

London, Apr 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Eight South Korean crew of a fishing vessel that was seized by pirates off the coast of Somalia on Tuesday were confirmed safe but the motive of kidnapping was not immediately known on Wednesday. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ban Ki-moon said at a press briefing in Seoul that Dongwon Fisheries, a South Korean company that owns fishing *Dong Won No.628*, was contacting the kidnappers through "agents." Two armed pirate boats forced the vessel to slip into a small port town in north-eastern Somalia, the ministry said. "We are trying to identify the armed group that is holding the South Korean vessel," Ban said. "We've not yet been informed of any of their demands either." The armed group argued via a telephone conversation with a Somali government official that they are not pirates but supervisors controlling illegal fishing in the economic water zone, the foreign ministry in Seoul said. But ransom was suggested by a ministry official as the kidnappers' motive for the kidnapping. "This case is different from previous ones such as Kim Sun-il in Iraq and Yong Tae-young in Palestine," the official said on condition of anonymity. "Former cases were committed by armed forces for political purposes. But this one seems to have financial reasons at its backdrop." The official said the ministry estimates the kidnappers are under "substantial" influence of a provisional government in Somalia that is torn by civil war. "Seoul is closely co-operating with the de facto government," he said. The 361-ton tuna vessel of Dongwon Fisheries was carrying 25 crewmen, all of whom were abducted. The crew includes nine fishermen from Indonesia, five from Vietnam and three from China. Pirates were holding the ship off the Somali port of Obbia, the official said.

"At first they were threatened with guns, but the tense mood has been somewhat mitigated now," he said. The waters near Somalia are considered one of the most dangerous areas in the world. Last year alone, heavily armed Somali gangs attacked 35 vessels passing through or fishing in that area. But there were no reported casualties from those assaults as all of the crew were set free after giving ransom, the official said. In a way to speed up the release process, the ministry in Seoul formed a task force headed by Vice Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan. Ban said that he sent a message to Foreign Minister Abdullahi Sheikh Ismail of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, asking for his help for the safe return of the South Koreans. The ministry also asked for the cooperation of Somalia's neighboring countries such as Kenya, Djibouti and Ethiopia for the safe return of those abducted. Before being captured by eight armed assailants who approached in two speed boats firing guns, the South Korean vessel radioed a distress call. Nearby U.S. and Dutch naval ships tried to intervene, but gave up when the ship entered Somali territorial waters.

Port State Control



CYPRUS

Limassol, Mar 31 — Passenger *Olympia* is still detained by the Cyprus Port Authority. — Lloyd's Agents.

GERMANY

London, Apr 2 — After some days at the "Motorenwerke" in Bremerhaven, general cargo *Da Bak Sol* was towed to the so-called "Alte Banane" (Old Banana) in Bremerhaven on Mar 31.

ITALY

Genoa, Apr 4 — Passenger ro/ro *Scotia Prince* (12087 gt, built 1972) seized by Genoa Port Authorities, Port State Control Office, on Mar 30 in view of missing documentation and poor condition of security means. Vessel released and sailed Mar 31 bound for Tangier after temporary compliance with some recommendation. — Lloyd's Agents.

SCOTIA PRINCE (Bahamas)

See "Scotia Prince (Bahamas)" under "Port State Control".

UNITED KINGDOM

Falmouth, Mar 30 — General cargo *Saruna* remains on Crossroads Buoy, Falmouth, and is still under detention. — Lloyd's Agents.

Falmouth, Apr 6 — General cargo *Saruna* was released from detention and sailed at 1200, Apr 5, for Constantza. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

Seizures & Arrests



AGIOS CONSTANTINOS (Cambodia)

Tenerife, Apr 5 — General cargo *Agios Constantinos* is still under arrest, with no date set for its release. — Lloyd's Agents.

ATLANTIC MERCADO (Antigua & Barbuda)

Durban, Mar 31 — General cargo *Atlantic Mercado* is still at the repair company and has completed repairs and passed necessary tests. It has undergone a name change to *Anastacia* and is preparing to sail next Tuesday (Apr 4). — Lloyd's Agents.

CIMARRON (Mexico)

London, Apr 1 — Following received from MRCC Fort de France, timed 1250, UTC: A 406 Mhz distress signal was received from ro/ro *Cimarron* (4925 gt, built 1979), V2SX. Contact was made with the vessels last known managers, who advised that the vessel had been sold and is presently detained in La Paz, Baja California, Mexico. MRCC Bremen report that the vessel left the Antigua & Barbuda register on August 16, 2003.

DONG YIH NO.668 (Taiwan)

Karachi, Mar 31 — A local press report, dated Karachi, today, states: The Maritime Security Agency (MSA) apprehended and seized Taiwanese fishing *Dong Yih No.668*, with 36 crew members, for illegally fishing in Pakistani waters Mar 28. The MSA vessel was on patrol in the Western Maritime Region when it found the trawler illegally fishing 16 kilometres inside Pakistans exclusive economic zone. The fishermen have been handed over to the Docks Police for legal action. — Lloyd's Agents.

FARLEY MOWAT (Canada)

Cape Town, Apr 5 — Research *Farley Mowat* is still detained at Cape Town. — Lloyd's Agents.

FEDRA (Italy)

Koper, Mar 31 — Vessel *Fedra* sailed Izola Mar 23 for Ploce. — Lloyd's Agents.

GLAROS (Panama)

La Spezia, Apr 6 — General cargo *Glaros* is still moored under arrest at Calata Paita berth No. 7. We are not aware of any prospect for its release. — Lloyd's Agents.

GUANG FU QUAN (China)

London, Apr 1 — Bulk *Guang Fu Quan* (10302 gt, built 1976), BBGG, which arrived at Hong Kong at 2306, Mar 31, is today reported at South West Lamma Anchorage, Hong Kong, under detention.

London, Apr 2 — Bulk *Guang Fu Quan* sailed from Hong Kong at 1908 hrs, Apr 1.

KAPITAN KUDLAY (Cyprus)

London, Apr 3 — Bulk/c.c. *Kapitan Kudlay* (14009 gt, built 1983) was arrested at Newport Apr 1 by the Admiralty Marshal on behalf of Del Monte Fresh Produce (UK) Limited, in respect of breach of charter party. The vessel was released Apr 3.

MEDIA V (Cyprus)

Durres, Mar 30 — Passenger ro/ro *Media V* (5440 gt, built 1964) is still in Durres port, where arrived January 2005. The vessel was arrested by local civil court decisions due to some unpaid credits of two Albanian companies. The position remains the same and the vessel is under arrest. We have some information that even the crew remained on board is claiming for their unpaid salary. Therefore release of vessel is not anticipated in the near future. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORESTES (Panama)

Bari, Apr 3 — Passenger ro/ro *Orestes* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORIANA (U.K.)

London, Mar 31 — Passenger *Oriana* (69153 gt, built 1995) was arrested in Durban over an outstanding debt incurred by Cunard's passenger *Queen Elizabeth 2*. A spokeswoman for parent Carnival said "We can confirm a debt was paid by the captain of *Oriana* on behalf of another Carnival UK Ship". According to South African based company Electro Marine, *Queen Elizabeth 2* debt dated back to April 2004 and related to repairs to the vessel. The company said it had repeatedly requested payment, which was not forthcoming, and had warned Cunard that under South African law it was possible to attach an associated vessel. The sum involved is understood to have been less than \$10,000.

Durban, Apr 4 — Passenger *Oriana* sailed Durban Mar 30 for Port Elizabeth and sailed Port Elizabeth Mar 31 for Cape Town. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORIENT STRIDE (Sri Lanka)

Durban, Apr 4 — C.c. *Orient Stride* (16100 gt, built 1982) is currently under arrest at Durban. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Orient Stride* arrived Durban Mar 24.)

PLAVA (Albania)

Bari, Apr 3 — General cargo *Plava* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

RUSTAVI (Georgia)

St. Petersburg, Apr 3 — Fish carrier *Rustavi*, which arrived Murmansk Feb 10, from Fraserburgh, is under arrest due to some remarks made in the course of inspection by Port State Control. According to vessel's agent, ship's owners are going to change flag of the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

SANDRIEN (Bolivia)

Amsterdam, Apr 1 — Chem.tank *Sandrien* is still at Amsterdam Shipdock, under embargo. — KVSA Rapportage.

TAIWAN FISHING VESSEL SEIZED BY PAKISTAN

Karachi, Mar 30 — Pakistan's Maritime Security Agency, MSA, said this afternoon that its ship *Vehdat* apprehended Taiwani long tuna liner *Dong Yih 688* along with 36 crew members, 22 Philippines, 5 Chinese, 6 Indonesians and 3 Taiwanese, on Mar 28. The trawler was found fishing illegally in Pakistani waters. The ship was on routine patrol in the Western Maritime Region when she found the trawler fishing illegally about 16 km inside Pakistan's EEZ. The trawler has Irani licence and registered in Seychelles. The apprehended fishermen have been handed over to docks police for further legal action, according to press release of MSA. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

THAI FISHING VESSEL SEIZED BY INDONESIA

London, Apr 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A Thai fishing vessel sailing under an Indonesian flag was seized and its 12 crew members detained by police in Aceh on Friday (Mar 31) night on suspicion of illegally fishing in provincial waters. An officer from the Aceh Water Police, First Brig. Sugianto, said the ship and its crew, most from Thailand and Myanmar, were taken to Lampulo. The ship was stopped by a patrol boat which became suspicious because the vessel does not resemble Acehnese fishing boats but was flying an Indonesian flag. The vessel reportedly had complete documents, but police said they would investigate further to determine what it was doing in Indonesian waters.

Pipeline Accidents



BOURGAS, BULGARIA

London, Mar 31 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Lukoil-Neftochim refinery near Bulgaria's seaside has been fined nearly BGN 130 000 for pollution of the soil. Damage of a pipeline has allowed diesel fuel to spill over 350 square metres. Part of those was in an agricultural field. Lukoil-Neftochim, which is the largest oil refinery in Bulgaria and the whole of the Balkans, has drawn up a plan for recovery of the polluted soil.

CHONGQING MUNICIPALITY, CHINA

London, Mar 31 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The number of residents compelled to evacuate their homes has jumped sharply near

a leaking gas well at south-west China's Chongqing municipality, and now stands at 15,000. 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 at Kaixian County. With only 790 quilts in stock, the county government has launched activities to help raise funds and materials for the evacuees. So far 8,100 articles of clothing and 16,000 yuan (about 1,973 USdollars) have been raised, according to Du Lianjian, chief of Civil Affairs Bureau of Kaixian County. In an interview with Xinhua, Du said that 9,010 residents who live within a one-km radius of the leaking well were evacuated from their homes and are being housed in 12 specially built centers. Five thousand other residents have found alternate accommodation mainly with relatives. Luojia No. 2 Gas Well, owned by the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), began leaking around Mar 25 during final tests which were being conducted to bring the just-finished well into production.

URAN, INDIA

London, Apr 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven persons were injured, five of them seriously, when fire broke out at an Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) set up, at Uran, near Navi Mumbai, this evening, when a shutdown job was in progress. The injured persons were contract labourers, who were pressed into the job, at unit C-2 of ONGC at Uran, some 80 kms from Mumbai, police said. According to Navi Mumbai police sources, fire broke out at one of the ONGC oil pipelines during the shutdown job. The injured have been admitted to Mahatma Gandhi Memorial hospital, near Uran. The fire was contained by fire engines sent from Uran Fire Station as well as by the local fire fighting set up of the ONGC, police sources added.



MSC ELENA (Panama)

London, Apr 6 — The chief engineer of a Panamanian registered container ship who oversaw the illegal dumping of tons of oily sludge into the ocean was sentenced in federal court on Wednesday to two months in prison. Mani Singh, 58, of India was also sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Patti B. Saris to pay \$3,500 in fines. Singh was the chief engineer on c.c. *MSC Elena*, operated by MSC Ship Management Ltd. of Hong Kong, which made regular trips between European ports and U.S. ports, including Boston, federal prosecutors said. The ship discharged about 40 tons of oil sludge during a five-month period in 2004 by using a specially fitted steel pipe, dubbed the "magic

pipe" by crew, to bypass required pollution prevention equipment, federal prosecutors said. The Coast Guard, during a routine inspection in Boston Harbour last May, discovered the bypass pipe. Singh pleaded guilty in December to making false statements to the Coast Guard; denying knowledge about the existence and use of the bypass equipment; obstructing justice by directing subordinates to lie; concealing evidence; and concealing the discharges in a falsified log. The company that owns *MSC Elena* pleaded guilty and agreed to pay a \$10.5 million fine, the largest paid in a case involving deliberate pollution from a single vessel, and the largest criminal fine paid by a defendant in an environmental case in Massachusetts, according to the U.S. attorney's office.

OGONILAND, NIGERIA

London, Apr 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A minority rights group fighting environmental pollution in Nigeria's delta region, today, reported an oil spill from a damaged pipeline owned by Anglo-Dutch oil giant Shell. Community unrest forced Shell to quit oil production in Ogoniland in 1993 but the area is still dotted with crude oil supply pipelines belonging to the company. "The oil spill occurred on Sunday, and since then about 10 000 barrels of crude must have been spilled into the environment," Ledum Mitee, president of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (Mosop), said. "Crude oil is flowing into the swamps, polluting streams and rivers and endangering the lives of the people," he said. He said the latest spill, which had been reported to Shell, had affected two Ogoni communities, Dio and Dere, and might spread to other areas if it was not soon contained. Shell could not immediately confirm if the spill was fresh or one previously reported to the company last month.

WAIKIKI, HONOLULU, HAWAII. UNITED STATES

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated today, states: The Waikiki sewer main that ruptured Friday (Mar 24) was repaired yesterday afternoon, but not before sending more than 20 million gallons of raw sewage into the Ala Wai Canal, closing popular beaches and disrupting countless vacations. City officials said workers were able to shut off the flow of diverted sewage just after 1300. But in Waikiki, tourists, surfers and other ocean users were still dealing with a disgusting mess after a switch in ocean currents. The mess of waste water, which had been heading out to sea, instead flowed back to some of the state's most popular beaches yesterday. Normally packed Waikiki beaches were mostly empty. Rainy weather kept many tourists away, and those on the beach were greeted by city signs that warned against

swimming, boating and fishing, saying, "Sewage contaminated water. Exposure to water may cause illness." City and state officials agreed yesterday that the spill was the worst in Oahu history. The beach warning signs went up yesterday after results from water testing Monday (Mar 27) showed that the current had changed, bringing some of the effluent back toward shore. Since Friday it had been heading out to the open ocean, so the city had posted only the banks of the Ala Wai Canal and areas surrounding the Ala Wai Boat Harbor. Using a bacterial measurement called colony-forming units, or CFUs, Hawaii has a stricter standard of cleanliness for swimming-water quality than the US Environmental Protection Agency, said Watson Okubo, head of the state DOH's water monitoring division. Hawaii's threshold is 7 colony-forming units (CFUs) for the "indicator" enterococcus bacteria per water sample, compared with the EPA's standard of 35 CFUs, used on the mainland. Bacteria counts in samples taken Tuesday in Waikiki were far above either standard, ranging from 60,000 CFUs at the Kaiolu Street spill site to more than 150,000 units at the Ala Moana Boulevard bridge into Ala Wai Harbor. On the beach in front of the Hale Koa and Hilton Hawaiian Village hotels, the level was 100 CFUs in Tuesday samples. But preliminary results from samples taken yesterday showed a spike in contamination at those beaches to 1,700 CFUs, Okubo said. Ala Moana Beach Park had levels from 54 to 300 CFUs in Tuesday samples. Enterococcus bacteria do not cause illness, but have been determined by the US Environmental Protection Agency to indicate a likelihood that some people swimming in waters with that level of bacterial contamination will get a gastrointestinal illness, Okubo said.

London, Apr 1 — A press report, dated Mar 31, states: About 48 million gallons of raw sewage has gushed into the ocean since a major sewer line ruptured last week, and it could take a month before bacteria levels at several Waikiki beaches return to normal, city officials say. More than 100 warning signs to stay out of the water were posted yesterday and more were planned to be raised on a 1.5-mile stretch covering 18 beaches from Waikiki to central Honolulu. City crews also put up signs in Japanese in front of hotels after some visitors from Japan were seen swimming in contaminated water. The city was printing an additional 1,000 Japanese signs, said Ken Shimizu, deputy director of the Department of Environmental Services. Crews sampled water on boats at 10 surf sites to track the sewage path. Water samples released yesterday afternoon showed that heavy rain and a shift in the ocean current helped dilute bacteria colonies, but numbers remained way above acceptable levels. State Health Department spokesman Kurt Tsue

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said it could be a month before the signs can be taken down. The 42-inch main, installed in 1964, cracked early Friday (Mar 24) following a month of non-stop rain. City crews worked 24 hours a day as the sewer was diverted into the nearby Ala Wai Canal. Repairs were completed Wednesday (Mar 29) afternoon. Officials previously had not disclosed how much wastewater had been pumped into the canal, giving only a broad estimate of "millions of gallons." Yesterday, Mayor Mufi Hannemann said 48 million gallons of sewage made its way into the canal. City officials say they were forced to divert the wastewater into a canal that often holds canoe races. "The city had no other choice," Hannemann said. "Had we not done that ... the negative impact from having homes, businesses, restaurants and hotels, with wastewater backed into those areas, would have been catastrophic."

Weather & Navigation



BERMUDA

London, Apr 1 — Chemical/oil carrier *Iver Excel* sailed from Bermuda on Mar 29, bound for Baton Rouge.

BULGARIA

London, Mar 31 — The Black Sea port of Varna was closed yesterday. The closure was prompted by the stormy western wind ravaging the bay with a speed of 17 miles per second. A day earlier the port was closed for heavy fog causing also delays in air flights to the local airport.

CENTRAL EUROPE

London, Mar 31 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Emergency crews are working with soldiers to reinforce river banks in the southern Czech Republic as flood waters rise, forcing thousands from their homes. The worst hit area in the Czech Republic was near the town of Znojmo, 200km south east of Prague, where 10,000 people were evacuated from low lying areas along the Dyje River near the border with Austria. Residents in the German states of Bavaria and Saxony were also bracing for flood waters as weather forecasters predicted rain for much of the region through the weekend. "The situation looks threatening," said Regional Governor Stanislav Juranek who called a state of emergency for his south Moravia region which includes Znojmo. The Czech cabinet has called an emergency meeting later today to discuss the situation and Prime Minister Jiri Paroubek said he would cut short a trip to Egypt to return home to assess the situation. About a thousand people were evacuated overnight from the eastern German town of Bad Schandau, close

to the river Elbe in Saxony. Other communities were readying to leave their homes. A spokeswoman for the local government in the state's Saxon Switzerland region said authorities were planning to evacuate hundreds of residents from streets close to the river. Experts said they expected the Elbe river to rise to around 7m at points in the Saxon capital of Dresden. Tomorrow, authorities expect the river to rise to around 7.5m, the highest level since floods in 2002 killed 17 people and wreaked billions of dollars of damage to property. Then, the river reached a highpoint of 9.4m, compared with its normal depth of around 2m. Authorities in Prague reinforced retaining walls along the banks of the Vltava River to protect the historic centre.

Prague, Apr 5 — The Czech government agreed today to boost this year's state budget by five billion crowns (\$213.8 million) to pay for damage caused by flooding in large parts of the central European country. Rivers burst their banks due to heavy rain and a bout of warm weather which melted recent, deep snowfalls. Thousands were forced from their homes in some towns and villages and at least six people died. Finance Minister Bohuslav Sobotka said two billion would come from dividends at state-controlled power firm CEZ and three billion from dividends and equity cut at fully state-owned firm Osinek. "I expect general meetings (of the firms) to take part within one month ... and the money will be released after the decisions at these meetings," he said after a cabinet meeting. He said he wanted the parliament to approve the spending in a speeded-up procedure by the end of April. Until then flood relief will be covered from a budget reserve. — Reuters.

London, Apr 6 — A press report, dated Apr 5, states: Troops and firefighters joined the struggle to shore up dams in several northeast Austrian towns today, as floodwaters rose across the region. Hundreds of homes have been flooded across Lower Austria province, north-east of Vienna, and more than 1,000 people have been evacuated amid fears that the water will burst through dam walls. The threat of flooding eased, however, in the neighbouring Czech Republic and Hungary, after days of rising water levels. The flooding was caused by quickly melting snow and heavy rains across much of the region. However, with more rain in the forecast for most of Austria, authorities were pessimistic about a rapid retreat of the water. Austrian authorities evacuated the village of Zwerndorf late today, a national television station reported. "Because of the high water levels these past few days, the dams have softened and are weak and so for security reasons, we have decided to evacuate the village of Zwerndorf because we can't say for sure that the dam will hold," regional official Karl Gruber told state broadcaster ORF. Cracks appeared

overnight in a dam in the town of Stillfried-Grub, about 25 miles north-east of Vienna, after floodwaters burst through another dam a day earlier, Gruber told the Austria Press Agency. Some 500 troops and 750 firefighters worked today to patch the breach. Crews were also working to contain flooding in Duernkrut, a village where another dam over the swollen March River partially gave way Monday (Apr 3), forcing evacuations. Authorities today blew up part of a street to help drain the road, according to ORF. More workers struggled to stabilise dams in Mannersdorf, Droesing and Sierndorf. Two men who ventured into the swollen March River in a rowing boat were missing, Austrian radio reported. Authorities on alert since yesterday have found the boat, but no signs of the men. Water levels were falling in rivers across the Czech Republic today. The northern town of Hrensko, flooded by the Elbe River, remained sealed off by police guarding against looting. In Hungary, the Danube was slowly receding but officials warned it was still too soon to relax, and some 6,500 volunteers, soldiers and flood experts were carrying out work in critical areas along the river bed. In Budapest, where the Danube reached an all-time high of 28.2 feet late yesterday, its level had dropped slightly to 28.1 feet early today. In and around the German city of Dresden, water levels were a few inches lower today, and the Elbe did not rise to levels reached during major flooding four years ago.

CYCLONE "LARRY"

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Estimates are firming of the insurance industry impact from cyclone "Larry" in far north Queensland. It is now being described as a "moderate insurance event". Cyclone "Larry" made landfall ten days ago. The lodgement of insurance claims was slow at first and access for assessors difficult in many areas. But ratings agency Standard & Poors now estimates the insured losses at between \$300 million and \$400 million. It says that will reduce the profits of insurers and reinsurers slightly, but will have little impact on the financial strength of the industry. "Larry's" total cost is also put at \$1.5 billion, but much of the sugar and banana crops were uninsured.

Sydney, Mar 31 — Queensland Sugar had been "very fortunate" not to sustain more damage to its facility at the port of Mourilyan than it did during last week's cyclone, its general manager bulk sugar terminals, David Quemard, told Lloyd's List DCN yesterday. But Mr Quemard said one building that housed an employee and his family had been damaged severely. The family had been moved to another house and was coping well. Mr Quemard said other asset damage had been minor and the facility would be fully operational once power was restored. Queensland Sugar's clean-up, particularly minor repairs and replacements, would continue for the

next few days, he said. Inaccessibility by road and communication problems had earlier limited Queensland Sugar's assessment of the impact on their facilities and personnel. The port itself could be re-opened this afternoon, depending on the results of a harbour survey. Mourilyan harbour master Alan Boath said bad weather had delayed the survey, which was originally due to be completed earlier this week. That survey should finish this afternoon, with the port to reopen provided the results showed no obstacles on the harbour floor, Captain Boath said. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

GERMANY

London, Mar 31 — High water levels and flooding are still stopping shipping between east and west Europe on the River Danube in south Germany, German river police said today. The key point of Passau in Bavaria is still closed to shipping because of high water and was not expected to reopen for navigation today. The blockage stops the main inland shipping route between Western Europe, Austria and Eastern Europe. Main cargoes include grains, petroleum products, coal and chemicals. Water levels have risen as the recent heavy snowfall in south Germany melted while rainfall has also been heavy. Rhine water levels were also high at some points but shipping was continuing normally.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Mar 31 — Sulina channel was closed at 1000, local time, Mar 29, due to bad weather, wind southeast force 6-7, sea 5-6, and was reopened at 0600, local time, Mar 30. — Lloyd's Agents.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "GLENDA"

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Residents in the Western Australian coastal town of Onslow are feeling the full brunt of cyclone "Glenda" as it crosses the state's Pilbara coast. The Weather Bureau's Grant Elliot says Onslow has received 140 mm of rain in two hours. The town is experiencing destructive winds of up to 160 km per hour. Western Power's Evette Smeathers says Onslow has lost electricity and the utility can not fix the problem yet because it is too dangerous. Glenda first hit the mainland near Mardi Station and has continued heading south. A cyclone red alert was earlier lifted for Karratha and surrounding towns.

London, Mar 30 — At 1800, WST, today, severe tropical cyclone "Glenda" was estimated to be 30 kilometres northeast of Onslow, 135 kilometres east northeast of Exmouth and moving south-southwest at 25 kilometres-per-hour. In its Tropical Cyclone Advice No.51, issued at 1805, WST, today (Mar 30), the Australian Bureau of Meteorology reported that the very dangerous Category 4 Tropical Cyclone was in the process of crossing the coast near Onslow.

Destructive winds with gusts to 130 kilometres-per-hour were reported on the coast between Dampier and Exmouth. Very destructive gusts to 250 kilometres-per-hour are expected near the cyclone centre, and have been occurring on the coast in the vicinity of Onslow. Very destructive winds will extend southward though the western Pilbara overnight and Friday (Mar 31) as the system moves further south and gradually weakens. Tides are likely to rise significantly above the normal high tide mark with very dangerous flooding and damaging waves. Widespread heavy rain and flooding are likely in the western Pilbara and western Gascoyne over the next few days. Location of centre at 1800, WST, within 30 kilometres of lat 21.4S, long. 115.3 E. Recent movement: south-southwest at 25 kilometres-per-hour. Central Pressure: 930 hPa. Maximum wind gusts: 250 kilometres-per-hour. Severity Category: Four.

London, Apr 1 — A press report, dated Mar 31, states: Residents on Australia's north-west coast have begun cleaning up after a powerful cyclone battered the area. There were no reports of injuries or major damage as a result of Cyclone "Glenda", and officials expressed relief that the area escaped so lightly. There were fears the cyclone could have endangered lives as it made landfall with winds of up to 250 km/h, but officials warn there could still be widespread flooding, as much of the area is already sodden with rain. Officials said the cyclone, which was rated Category Four when it hit the coastal region of Pilbara, had missed major population centres. The majority of the damage was reported in the town of Onslow, where a power generator was broken, and there was a minor fire in an evacuation centre. The cyclone has now been downgraded to a Category Two, and Australia's Bureau of Meteorology says it will weaken further as it moves inland. Global mining giant Rio Tinto halted its huge iron ore shipping operation in the region ahead of "Glenda"'s arrival and closed port operations. Oil firms also moved their floating rigs out of the path of the cyclone.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "HUBERT"

London, Apr 6 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: The centre of tropical cyclone 21S "Hubert" was located near lat 18.5S, long 115.6E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 210 deg at seven knots, position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, position based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 055 knots, gusts 70 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds: 20 nautical miles northeast quadrant, 25 nautical miles southeast quadrant, 25 nautical miles southwest quadrant, 15 nautical miles northwest quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds: 90 nautical miles northeast quadrant, 120 nautical miles southeast quadrant, 130 nautical miles southwest quadrant, 75 nautical miles

northwest quadrant. Forecast position for 0600, UTC, Apr 7, near lat 20.8S, long 114.7E with maximum sustained winds of 60 knots and gusts to 75 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds: 15 nautical miles northeast quadrant, 20 nautical miles southeast quadrant, 20 nautical miles southwest quadrant, 15 nautical miles northwest quadrant. Radius of 34 knot winds: 85 nautical miles northeast quadrant, 100 nautical miles southeast quadrant, over water, 100 nautical miles southwest quadrant, over water, 75 nautical miles northwest quadrant. Tropical cyclone "Hubert", located approximately 240 nautical miles north-northeast of Learmonth, Australia, has tracked south-southwestward at seven knots over the past six hours. Maximum significant wave height at 0600, UTC, today, was 20 feet.

UNITED STATES

London, Mar 30 — Sabine Pilots reopened the Sabine Neches Channel to inbound traffic at 0800 this Mar 30, following its closure due to dense fog at 0100, local time.

London, Apr 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Fierce storms packing high winds and twisters tore through the Midwest and South on Sunday (Apr 2), killing 14 people, including 11 in northwestern Tennessee. Eight people were killed west and north of the Dyer County town of Newbern, according to Tennessee Emergency Management spokesman Kurt Pickering. "Numerous homes" were destroyed amid widespread property damage when a tornado swept through the area on Sunday night, he said. Three other people died in nearby Gibson County, Pickering said. The high winds and twisters rumbled through Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky and Illinois, as well as Tennessee. There were three other deaths. Straight-line winds, not a twister, toppled a mobile home in Essex, Missouri, killing 42-year-old man, Stoddard County Sheriff Carl Hefner said. In Fairview Heights, Illinois, a man was killed when high winds flattened a clothing store, police said. That city is near St. Louis, Missouri. A man was killed when a tree fell on him during a heavy storm near Ballwin in St. Louis County, Missouri, a county police said. In Carutherville, Missouri, heavy damage to homes and businesses has been reported, but no deaths. Several people have been rescued after being trapped in their homes but others were still trapped early today, according to a dispatcher with the Pemiscot County Sheriff's Department. The town's power was out and officials expected it would not be restored for several days, he said. Tornadoes left heavy damage along a path that began in northeast Arkansas and continued into southeast Missouri and northwest Tennessee. Emergency officials sealed off Marmaduke, Arkansas, on Sunday evening as they worked to cope with tornado damage that the National

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Weather Service described as heavy. In the southwest Kentucky city of Hopkinsville, "numerous homes" were destroyed, power lines were down and gas lines had erupted, the National Weather Service said. A tornado touched down in Lewisburg, Kentucky, overturning cars and damaging buildings and homes, the weather service said. Tornadoes in at least seven counties across central Illinois Sunday evening caused heavy damage in some communities, but no serious injuries or deaths have been reported, according to emergency officials and the National Weather Service. A long front of severe weather stretched "pretty much from north to south" in Illinois, although the most powerful cell appeared to follow an eastward path along Interstate 72, according to Illinois Emergency Management spokeswoman Patti Thompson. The town of Taylorville in Christian County, Illinois, received significant damage to dozens of homes and businesses. The National Weather Service also reported tornado touchdowns in the Illinois counties of Champaign, McLean, Macon, Piatt, Sangamon and Kankakee. Initial damage reports in those counties were limited to utility poles and trees down, in addition to roof damage.

London, Apr 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Thunderstorms, packing tornadoes and hail as big as softballs ripped through eight states, killing at least 27 people, injuring scores and destroying hundreds of homes in the South and Midwest. Tennessee was hit hardest, with tornadoes striking five western counties, yesterday, and killing 23 people. Most of the deaths were along a 40-kilometre path stretching from Newbern, about 130 km north-east of Memphis, to Bradford, officials said. The Highway Patrol sent teams with search dogs to the area Monday to check what remained of the homes and businesses for anyone who might be trapped in the rubble. Betty Sisk, her son and daughter, took cover in a closet until a twister blew their house apart and threw them into the yard. Nothing remained of Sisk's wood-frame home, today, but the concrete steps. A nearby house was destroyed and Sisk said she had been told the elderly couple who lived there were dead. Another neighbour's home was blown about nine metres off its foundation. Severe thunderstorms, many producing tornadoes, also struck parts of Iowa, Kentucky, Arkansas, Missouri, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana. Strong wind was blamed for at least three deaths in Missouri. A clothing store collapsed in southern Illinois, killing one man. The weather service's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla., said it had preliminary reports of 63 tornadoes. Among the dead in Tennessee was a baby, one of 15 people killed in Dyer County. Eight died in Gibson county and four others were hospitalized in critical condition today. Tennessee officials estimated 1,200 buildings

were damaged in Gibson County alone. Newbern alderman Robert Hart said witnesses described the tornado that hit his town as being "almost a mile wide." About six tornadoes struck Arkansas and one destroyed nearly half of the town of Marmaduke, according to a fire department official. "Almost every single structure in Marmaduke has minor to moderate damage but almost 50% of it is totally destroyed," Franks said. Hail 10 centimetres in diameter slammed through the roof of one mobile home in Arkansas, weather service meteorologist Newton Skiles said. About 50 km from Newbern, a tornado caused extensive damage to the southeast Missouri city of Caruthersville. Kentucky county declared a state of emergency early today as rescue workers struggled to get to rural areas, where roads were blocked by power lines and trees. There were no immediate reports of tornadoes in Ohio, but the state was ripped by high wind.

London, Apr 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Floodwaters receded and the Red River crested, but many property owners were still struggling with swelling tributaries and overland flooding that covered roads. Melting snow and heavy rain pushed the Red River above its banks this spring, leaving farm land under water and causing anxiety along the river that serves as the state line between Minnesota and North Dakota. The river began cresting in Fargo at just over 37 feet Tuesday (Apr 4), two feet shy of the 1997 flood, the city's worst in a century. It was projected to crest Thursday at 48 feet in Grand Forks, 20 feet above flood stage but well below the top of a new levee there. At least two houses in Fargo and one house in nearby Moorhead were lost to flooding this week, officials said. Water from the Sheyenne River was 3 to 4 inches deep on some parts of Interstate 29 between Fargo and Harwood, but the highway remained open. National Weather Service officials said the high water was expected to continue into next week, when the Red River was projected to drop below 30 feet, considered major flood stage in Fargo, by Tuesday. Cass County emergency manager Dave Rogness estimated flood damage to roads and bridges in the county could total more than \$1 million. In Minnesota, the Red and Wild Rice rivers crept toward flood crests near Hendrum. The Wild Rice River reached 32.38 feet at noon yesterday and was expected to crest at 32.6 feet this morning.

YEMEN

London, Apr 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Floods caused by torrential rains in Yemen have killed at least 14 people and injured over 20 others over the last two days, government officials said on Tuesday. The fatalities include three young brothers who were killed when floods swept a huge rock over their house in Dhamar governorate, about 100 km

south of the capital Sanaa, the officials said. Floods destroyed dozens of houses, agricultural land and livestock in other provinces in Yemen, which is witnessing seasonal heavy rains.



Earthquakes

GREECE

Athens, Apr 5 — A moderate earthquake measuring 5.7 shook western Greece early today, but no damage or injuries were reported, Greek authorities said. The epicentre of the quake was in the sea south of the Ionian island of Zakynthos and was felt along Greece's western coastline. Authorities said crews would begin inspection on Zakynthos to verify there was no serious damage.

INDONESIA

London, Apr 1 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale struck off the eastern Indonesian island of Talaud early on Saturday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, an Indonesian official said. The quake's epicentre was in the sea 42 km (26 miles) west of Talaud and at a depth of 33 km, staff official Lukito of the Jakarta earthquake centre said. Talaud is between Sulawesi, one of Indonesia's major islands, and Mindanao in the Philippines, and lies around 2,250 km north-east of Jakarta. "We have confirmed the situation with the police officer at Talaud and he said there were no reports of damage and casualties," Lukito said. An official at the earthquake office in Sulawesi's Manado, the nearest major city, also said there were no reports of victims or damage so far.

IRAN

London, Mar 31 — A strong earthquake followed by several aftershocks jolted western Iran early today, killing at least 17 and injuring hundreds, state media reported. The quake had a preliminary magnitude of 5.0 and was centred near Boroujerd and Doroud, two industrial cities in western Iran, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The quake was followed by two weaker aftershocks, but a third tremor had a magnitude of 6.0, and hit Doroud and surrounding villages at shortly before 0500, local time, today, IRNA reported.

Tehran, Mar 31 — A strong earthquake hit a remote part of western Iran today, killing about 50 people and devastating villages, a senior provincial official said. About 800 people were also injured, according to Mohammad Reza Mohseni-Sani, governor of Lorestan Province, which contains the quake-

hit Doroud and Boroujerd area, state radio reported. It said local hospitals were at full stretch. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad ordered emergency relief to be sent to the quake zone, the official IRNA news agency reported. Iranian television showed brick houses flattened, with bent iron girders poking out, and mud buildings reduced to mounds of dust. An earthmover lifted broken masonry from one building, while residents scabbled through rubble with their bare hands. Ali Barani, head of the disaster control committee in the Lorestan governor's office, said by telephone earlier that some 330 villages in the area were damaged by between 30 and 100% from the quake of magnitude 6.0. He said tremors last night might have helped keep the death toll down because many villagers had left their homes and taken to the streets well before the main jolt struck. Many residents fled their homes and set up tents outside for the night after feeling the initial shocks measuring 4.7 and 5.1 on the Richter scale, IRNA reported. The governor of the city of Doroud, Nasrollah Rashno, said telephone lines, electricity and gas supplies had been cut in some areas by the initial quakes, IRNA said. In Geneva, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, using information from the Iranian Red Crescent, said 50 people had been killed and 850 injured. Some 330 villages had been destroyed between 30 and 70%, while an unknown number of other villages had been totally destroyed, Federation spokeswoman Marie-Francoise Borel said. "Rescue teams have been mobilised," she added. — Reuters.

London, Apr 1 — A press report, dated today, states: UN experts were rushing to western Iran to assess damage caused by the powerful earthquake that killed at least 70 people and may have left thousands homeless. Another 1,265 people were injured in the quake that struck the province of Lorestan with a force of 6.0 on the Richter scale before dawn yesterday, Lorestan provincial governor Mohammad Reza Mohseni Sani was quoted as saying on state television. The Brujerd area was hit hardest. The earthquake left at least 45 people dead there and another 1,025 people injured. "The successive aftershocks are still keeping the people in the streets. The search and rescue is going on, and people are waiting to receive their tents, blankets, and food," an AFP photographer in Brujerd area said. Interior Minister Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi told state news agency IRNA that he did not expect any major rise in the number of the casualties. The tremor struck at 0447, local time, following two others measuring 4.7 and 5.1, Iranian television quoted the National Seismological Institute as saying. According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Iranian Red

Crescent has sent 100 rescue teams, or a total of around 300 people, to the affected areas.

TAIWAN

Taipei, Apr 1 — A strong earthquake rocked Taiwan today, shaking office buildings but causing only minor damage, officials said. The epicentre of the 6.4 magnitude quake, which struck after 1800 hrs (1000, UTC) was east of Taitung on the eastern coast, at a depth of 10 km, the Central Weather Bureau said in a statement. Television footage showed a collapsed wall outside a military base in the southern county of Kaohsiung, but nobody was hurt. Some telephone lines were cut off in the eastern part of the island. — Reuters.



AFGHANISTAN

Asadabad, Apr 1 — A blast hit a U.S. military convoy in Afghanistan today but there were no immediate reports of casualties, Afghan provincial officials said. The explosion happened in the Peche valley of eastern Kunar province, near the border with Pakistan and the scene of repeated clashes between insurgents and U.S. and Afghan government troops. A helicopter was seen landing in the area soon after the blast, leading to speculation it may have been evacuating casualties, said one official, who declined to be identified. A U.S. military spokesman said he had no report on the blast, which was in the same area where four U.S. soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb last month. In a separate incident, a suicide car-bomber blew himself up near a convoy of Canadian and Afghan government troops in the southern province of Kandahar, but none of the troops was hurt, said Afghan commander General Rahmatullah Raufi. It was the third suicide blast in Kandahar in three days. — Reuters.

London, Apr 1 — A press report, dated today, states A key provincial lawmaker has been shot dead in north-east Afghanistan. Sayed Sadiq was killed by unidentified gunmen at his home in Takhar province. He became speaker of the provincial assembly after elections in October. Mr Sadiq, a supporter of President Hamid Karzai and a strong critic of the drugs trade, is the first lawmaker killed since parliament's inauguration. Takhar has seen little Taleban activity but there has been rivalry between a number of former mujahideen commanders. Ghulam Hazrat, provincial director of security, said Mr Sadiq was shot in Khoja Ghar district, 60km north of provincial capital Dashte Qala. He died on his way to Dashte Qala for treatment. Mr Sadiq was an influential local figure,

a former commander of the militia run by renegade warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and twice a district governor. Mr Sadiq was also an outspoken opponent of the drugs trade.

London, Apr 3 — A press report, dated Apr 2, states: A Taliban insurgent shot dead four Afghan policemen as they slept after pretending to be a traveller looking for a place to spend the night, police said today. The police let the man stay at their checkpoint and fed him dinner but at night he grabbed a policeman's rifle and shot the four dead, said Amanullah, a police official in the southern province of Helmand. The attack happened on Friday night (Mar 31). Helmand is a hotbed of insurgency and Afghanistan's main opium-growing area. Violence has flared across the Afghan south in recent days since the Taliban said they had launched a spring offensive in their campaign to oust US and other foreign troops and overthrow the Western-backed Government. Taliban torched four fuel trucks in Helmand on Saturday as they were returning from delivering supplies to a foreign military base, police said. The drivers were not harmed. About 3,300 British troops will soon be based in Helmand as part of a plan for NATO members to take over responsibility for the dangerous south and east from US forces.

ALBANIA

Bari, Apr 3 — Product tanker *Ambar* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

CHAD

N'djamena, Mar 31 — The commander of Chad's army has died of injuries suffered during clashes with rebels and Sudanese militia in the east of the country, government military sources said today. The death of General Abakar Yousouf Mahamat Itno, who is a nephew of President Idriss Deby, is a severe blow to Deby's government at a time when it is trying to carry out a military offensive against rebel positions in the east. The sources accused Janjaweed Arab militia, who are fighting with Sudanese government backing in Sudan's Darfur region, and fighters of the Chadian rebel group RDL of carrying out an attack in the eastern Chadian region of Moudeina. "General Abakar Yousouf Mahamat Itno has died of his injuries," one of the sources said. "Caught without communications, the general was surprised by the rebels who seriously wounded him," the source added. It was not immediately clear when he died. Deby, who will run for re-election in a May 3 poll, has repeatedly accused Sudan of backing rebel efforts to topple him, a charge denied by Khartoum. — Reuters.

INDIA

Srinigar, India, Mar 31 — A roadside explosion set off by Muslim militants wounded six policemen in Indian

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Kashmir's main city of Srinagar today, police said. The blast occurred a day after a top militant leader based in Pakistan reportedly said he was ready for truce if India recognised Kashmir as a "disputed" territory. Police said the bomb went off as a police vehicle was passing. "Initial reports suggest the bomb was detonated through a remote-control device," N. Bhardwaja, a senior official of the Central Reserve Police Force, said. A man from the Hizbul Mujahideen, Kashmir's frontline rebel group, claimed responsibility for the attack in a call to a local news agency in Srinagar. — Reuters.

INDONESIA

Jakarta, Apr 5 — An explosion rocked a police compound in the western Indonesian city of Medan today, injuring several people, local media reported. The cause of the blast was not immediately known and police had sealed off the area, Jakarta-based Radio Elshinta reported. — Reuters.

IRAQ

London, Apr 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A US journalist released after being held hostage in Iraq for three months has distanced herself from comments published straight after her release. Jill Carroll said she was forced to make a "propaganda video" on her last night in captivity. Speaking at a US base in Germany, Ms Carroll also said she did not speak freely in an Iraqi TV interview, which she was told would never be broadcast. She called her captors "criminals, at best" saying she was often threatened. In a statement read to the media by the editor of the Christian Science Monitor, the US newspaper she reported for before her capture, Ms Carroll said she no longer stood by remarks she made on her release. "During my last night in captivity, my captors forced me to participate in a propaganda video. They told me I would be released if I co-operated. I was living in a threatening environment, under their control, and wanted to go home alive. So I agreed." Ms Carroll was kidnapped and her translator was killed in west Baghdad on January 7. She was freed on March 30 and was dropped off at the offices of the Iraqi Islamic Party. In her statement yesterday she accused the group of breaking an agreement not to broadcast an interview recorded after her release. "The party had promised me the interview would never be aired on television, and broke their word," she said. "At any rate, fearing retribution from my captors, I did not speak freely. Out of fear I said I wasn't threatened. In fact, I was threatened many times." In the interview, Ms Carroll, 28, had said her captors treated her "very well" and did not hit her. In Germany, however, the freelance reporter was much more direct. "The people who kidnapped me and murdered Alan Enwiya are criminals, at best," the statement read.

London, Apr 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Fourteen people were reported killed in Iraq yesterday, including members of two families who were gunned down in Baghdad and Basra. In the southern city of Basra, six members of the al-Saadun family were murdered in broad daylight in the middle of the city's main market place. The dead included a retired naval officer, a police commando, an employee of the interior ministry, two electric company workers and a four-year-old child. In Baghdad's southern neighbourhood of al-Dura which has been plagued with sectarian violence, gunmen burst into a Shiite home late at night on Sunday (Apr 2) and killed four people, including three women, police said. In Baghdad's sprawling Shiite district Sadr City, a car bomb went off on Monday near a passing police patrol, killing a civilian and wounding five others. Another car bomb in the middle-class Shiite neighbourhood of Karrada wounded five civilians on Monday. Police in the northern city of Kirkuk reported that Sunni prayer leader Sheikh Omar Abdel Razeq Mohammed was shot dead as he left his mosque following prayers. North-east of the capital, in Baquba, a university student was shot in the middle of the downtown market. Police speculated that the motive might either have been because the student belonged to a Sunni political party or had a brother working as a translator for coalition forces. Outside Baquba, on the main highway, a man was killed when a roadside bomb went off, while a man and a woman riding in a taxi were shot at by gunmen. Three US marines and a sailor were killed in action on Sunday in Iraq's western Anbar province, a military statement said. The attack came after a US helicopter was shot down south of Baghdad on Saturday. The two pilots were killed. An Iraqi militant group issued a videotape on Monday showing what it claimed to be the wreckage of the helicopter, the Al-Jazeera news channel says. The footage carried the emblem of the insurgent group, the Al-Rashideen Army's Al-Rahman brigade, and showed debris strewn in a field while a helicopter hovered overhead. The Doha-based channel says the authenticity of the tape could not be verified.

Najaf, Apr 6 — A car bomb exploded near a sacred Shi'ite shrine in the southern Iraqi city of Najaf today, killing at least five people, police said. A witness said he saw 10 bodies and body parts on the ground a few hundred metres from the Imam Ali shrine, which is sacred to Shi'ites around the world. — Reuters.

ISRAEL

Ramallah, Mar 30 — A Palestinian suicide bomber killed at least three Israelis near a settlement in the West Bank today in an attack that a new Hamas-led government called a "natural response to Israeli crimes." The first such bombing in two months

came a day after Hamas took office and two days after Israeli leader Ehud Olmert's party won elections with a platform of imposing a border in the occupied West Bank if peacemaking remains frozen. Rescue workers said the bomber was disguised as a religious Jew and was hitchhiking. He talked his way into a car near the entrance to the settlement, then blew himself up. Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, part of the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah movement, claimed the bombing and said it was in response to Israeli attacks. — Reuters.

Gaza, Mar 31 — A car explosion outside a mosque in Gaza today killed a top commander of the Popular Resistance Committees, a group often responsible for rocket attacks against Israel, Palestinian security sources said. The PRC immediately accused Israel of assassinating the commander, whom it identified as Khalil al-Quqa. The Israeli army had no immediate comment. Israel has launched several recent airstrikes in Gaza targeting militants. Witnesses said the car was near a mosque in Gaza when it exploded. One boy was wounded by flying debris. The PRC, an umbrella group of militants in Gaza, has refused to recognise a March 2005 truce and frequently fires rockets into Israel. Quqa is one of two top commanders of the PRC. — Reuters.

Gaza, Apr 4 — Israeli aircraft struck the Gaza Strip today, including a Palestinian security compound not far from the office of President Mahmoud Abbas, who was not there at the time, witnesses said. The Israeli army said it had targeted a site used by militants to fire rockets into Israel. Palestinian witnesses said two missiles struck a training base used by Palestinian security forces in Gaza City. One policeman was lightly wounded, medics said. Another missile hit the northern Gaza Strip, an area often used for rocket launching. The missile that hit the security compound struck a presidential landing zone for helicopters, witnesses said. "There was an air strike against rocket launchers in northern Gaza, in open areas," an Israeli army spokeswoman said. The airstrikes followed the launching of at least 12 rockets into Israel today by Palestinian militant factions. Palestinian security sources said the airstrike was the first targeting a Palestinian security compound in two years. — Reuters.

KYRGYZSTAN

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Mar 31 — Hundreds of men marched through Kyrgyzstan's capital Bishkek today in a chaotic protest sparked by the authorities' stand-off with an influential businessman seeking a seat in parliament. The protest broke out after election authorities refused to register Ryspek Akmatbayev, who has risen to prominence since last year's coup which ousted long-serving leader Askar Akayev, as a candidate

for a parliamentary by-election on Apr 9. The Central Election Commission annulled his registration yesterday on grounds that he had not lived in Kyrgyzstan for the last five consecutive years as required by law. The 1,500-strong crowd, waving red banners, whistling and shouting "Hurrah, Ryspek!", arrived in Bishkek early today from Akmatbayev's constituency town in eastern Kyrgyzstan and marched towards a key government building in the centre. Police cordoned off streets in central Bishkek and 200 troops were sent to guard the White House, the main seat of government. Others in the crowd demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Felix Kulov and President Kurmanbek Bakiyev, who came to power after Akayev's ouster, and said more protesters from the regions were on the way to Bishkek. In contrast to peaceful demonstrations in Ukraine and Georgia, protests against a flawed election turned violent in Kyrgyzstan last March and led to Akayev fleeing to Russia before a mob ransacked his offices. Ryspek Akmatbayev — whose brother, parliamentarian Tynychbek Akmatbayev, was shot dead last year during prison riots — was tried for murder and acquitted earlier this year. An influential businessman, Akmatbayev has accused the authorities of having criminal links and blamed top government officials for killing his brother. Since Akayev's overthrow, the impoverished Central Asian country has been unsettled by political instability, a wave of organised crime and high-profile assassinations. — Reuters.

NEPAL

Kathmandu, Mar 31 — At least 11 schoolchildren and a teacher were wounded today when suspected Maoist rebels set off an explosion at a school in west Nepal, the army said. The incident took place in Dailekh district, 550 km west of the capital Kathmandu, while children were appearing for a school-leaving examination, an army officer said. "The injured are undergoing treatment in a local hospital," he said, adding the nature of the injuries was not known. Dailekh is a stronghold of the Maoists who want to overthrow the Hindu monarchy and set up a single-party communist republic. — Reuters.

Kathmandu, Apr 3 — Nepal's Maoist rebels announced an indefinite ceasefire in the capital and surrounding valley today in response to a call by political parties, days before their nationwide strike, local media reported. The ceasefire in the hill-ringed Kathmandu valley was aimed at "creating an easy atmosphere for the people to participate in the peaceful protest movement" against the king, Himalkhabar.com, an online news service, quoted Maoist chief Prachanda as saying. Nepal's seven main political parties have called a four-day nationwide general strike

from Thursday (Apr 6), to be followed by a series of protests and a big rally in Kathmandu on Apr 8, in a bid to pressure King Gyanendra to restore democracy. The government has vowed to halt the protests, saying Maoist rebels could infiltrate rallies and create unrest. The political parties feared that the government could use this as a reason to crack down on their demonstrations and had appealed to the guerrillas to announce a truce. Prachanda's announcement came hours after Nepali police fired tear gas shells to break up protests by students in the capital against the king, who seized power last year. About three dozen students burned tyres on Kathmandu's roads and threw rocks at police in front of a college campus near the royal palace as they demonstrated against the king's rule, witnesses said. — Reuters.

Kathmandu, Apr 4 — Nepal's royalist government today indefinitely banned protests in Kathmandu, two days ahead of a general strike and a series of protests against King Gyanendra's seizure of power. The ban would come into force from tomorrow in Kathmandu and the neighbouring temple-town of Lalitpur, a government statement said. Nepal's main political parties have planned a four-day nationwide general strike from Thursday (Apr 6) and a series of big protests in Kathmandu against King Gyanendra who seized power last year. The ban was necessary to maintain law and order as Maoist rebels could infiltrate the demonstrations and incite violence, it said. The government decision came a day after the rebels announced an indefinite ceasefire in Kathmandu and its surrounding valley to help make the protests successful. However, the government said it did not trust the rebels, who have been fighting to topple the monarchy and establish communist rule in the Himalayan kingdom. "It is necessary to immediately control them because they could result in the loss of life and property," the government statement said. — Reuters.

London, Apr 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Nepal's royalist government detained dozens of activists and politicians in Kathmandu today in a crackdown ahead of a general strike and protests planned against King Gyanendra's seizure of power last year. Nepal's seven main political parties have joined with Maoist insurgents to call for a four-day nation-wide strike from tomorrow and a day of protest on Apr 8, the day multi-party democracy was established 16 years ago in the nation. The government of King Gyanendra has banned rallies in Kathmandu, the center of the campaign, and vowed to crush any protests, saying that it had evidence Maoist rebels would use the occasion to infiltrate the capital. Witnesses said about two dozen lawyers, journalists and doctors were detained when they defied the ban and staged a

small protest this morning. Police also raided the homes of several political leaders and activists in a pre-dawn crackdown and detained many of them, party officials said. The campaign has also gained weight as it comes after the political parties and Maoist rebels ironed out their differences and reaffirmed their commitment to a loose alliance struck last November that seeks to end the king's absolute rule. Political parties have vowed to defy the ban, and have urged schools, businesses and factories to close, and public transport and private cars to stay off the streets. Many trade union and professional groups said they would join the strike, while schools and businesses are likely to close, either in support of the strike or for fear of attacks by activists.

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Kathmandu, Apr 6 — A fierce attack on a town by Maoist guerrillas left 15 people dead in Nepal, hours before a general strike over the king's grip on power shut down the Himalayan nation today, authorities said. The leftist rebels, who have been fighting for the last decade to topple the monarchy, struck Malangwa, a town 350 km south-east of Kathmandu, late yesterday. They fired at soldiers guarding government offices and security posts and attacked a jail, freeing more than 100 inmates before fleeing. Five policemen and two guerrillas were killed in the fighting, local authorities said. Some policemen and senior bureaucrats were missing after the fighting, Subedi and local journalist Rajesh Mishra said. A Russian-built Mil Mi-17 army helicopter sent to the area with troops crashed near Malangwa, killing eight of the 10 soldiers on board, an army officer said. The other two men were missing. The cause of the crash was not known but one security source said a bomb may have accidentally exploded on board. "I saw the helicopter broken into three pieces in a field. Many government buildings

are on fire or are smouldering. Unexploded bombs are strewn around," Mishra said. News of the raid came as a four-day nation-wide strike called by opponents of King Gyanendra shut the Hindu kingdom down. Nepal's seven main political parties, which called the strike, have vowed to defy a government ban on protests to launch what they expect to be a decisive campaign for democracy. Although the guerrillas, who are fighting to establish a communist state, are supporting the political groups as part of a pact against the king, they are not participating in the protests and the rallies are expected to be largely peaceful. Roads across the country were deserted as the strike began. Businesses and schools were shut despite the government's call on people not to heed the strike call. In Kathmandu, the centre of the campaign, hundreds of riot police and soldiers, some of them in armoured vehicles, patrolled deserted streets, while activists burnt tyres on roads to enforce the closure. Police said at least four cars were smashed by protesters for defying the strike. Pro-democracy protests have become routine since King Gyanendra sacked the government and took power in February, 2005, saying politicians had failed to quell the insurgency and hold national elections. — Reuters.

London, Apr 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Normal life has been totally paralysed across Nepal as pro-democracy parties kicked off a four-day general strike against the King. Schools, colleges, markets and virtually all essential services have shut down as the army and police started their campaign of cracking down on protesters. Under the new anti terror laws, anyone found empathising with the seven main political parties and their new allies, the Maoist rebels, will be arrested. Maoists have called for a ceasefire ahead of the protests to challenge the government's assertion that these rallies may turn violent. The authorities have other plans. A night curfew has been imposed and 300 activists from the judiciary, the medical fraternity and journalists have been taken away for choosing to participate in the strike. In early morning raids, the police detained many political leaders. As the country shuts down the government has warned people not to come to Kathmandu.

PAKISTAN

Quetta, Pakistan, Mar 31 — Tribal militants blew up electricity pylons in the Pakistani province of Baluchistan today, blacking out large tracts of the region, before setting off a landmine that killed a power company official, police said. The official was on his way to the site of the explosions, some 80 km east of provincial capital, Quetta, when the landmine went off. Three people were wounded. The attack came a day after Baluchistan's provincial assembly set up a panel of peacebrokers to negotiate with tribal

chiefs leading the revolt against the Pakistan military in the resource-rich province. About 80% of Baluchistan, including Quetta, was without electricity as a result of the sabotage, according to Quetta Electric Supply Company chief Nooruddin Mengal. "It will take 60 to 70 hours to restore full supplies," Mengal said. A simmering conflict in Baluchistan, home to Pakistan's largest gas fields, flared anew in December after tribesmen mounted a rocket attack on a Baluch town during a visit by President Pervez Musharraf. After that the army stepped up operations, using helicopter gunships to quell the challenge to central government rule. Critics of Musharraf say hundreds of people may have died, further alienating ethnic Baluchs, although analysts believe casualties are probably exaggerated. Fighting for greater autonomy and more control over the mineral riches, tribal militants regularly blow up gas pipelines, railway lines and electricity transmission lines, and launch rocket attacks on government buildings and army bases. To win back support in the poorest of Pakistan's four provinces, Musharraf has announced plans for major infrastructure projects in Baluchistan, — Reuters.

London, Apr 3 — A press report, dated Apr 2, states: A series of bomb and landmine blasts on Sunday killed at least five people and wounded several more in tribal rebel areas of Pakistan's south-western province of Baluchistan, government officials said. Ethnic Baluch tribesmen fighting for more autonomy and greater benefits from mineral resources, including Pakistan's largest gas fields, were suspected of being behind two bombings, in Kohlu and Bolan districts, some 400 km and 250 km east of the provincial capital Quetta. The blasts took place in a government dairy farm in Kohlu, and a field camp of the Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL). A fire which erupted between militants and security forces after the explosion at the PPL camp killed two soldiers and wounded eight. "The fighting is still on," a security official said. Two people were killed and 10 wounded in the blast at the government farm. Naeem Lehri, district co-ordination officer, said he suspected tribal rebels were responsible. Elsewhere, a trolley driver was killed in Naseerabad, some 200 km south-east of Quetta, when his vehicle hit a landmine. The rebels regularly blow up gas pipelines, railway lines and electricity transmission lines, and attack army bases and government buildings and facilities. Large parts of Baluchistan were still without power on Sunday after the militants blew up four electricity pylons on Friday. A simmering revolt flared in December when rebel tribesmen fired rockets at a Baluch town during a visit by President Pervez Musharraf. Critics of Musharraf say hundreds of people have been killed during an army

campaign using helicopter gunships to quell the tribes, but analysts say the numbers are probably exaggerated. A protest on Sunday against the army campaign drew a crowd of around 7,000 opposition party activists, who marched on the outskirts of Quetta chanting anti-Musharraf slogans. Musharraf has announced plans for major infrastructure projects in Baluchistan to win back support in the poorest of Pakistan's four provinces.

THAILAND

London, Apr 3 — A press report, dated Apr 2, states: Two bombs detonated by mobile phones exploded in Thailand's rebellious Muslim far south on Sunday after voting ended in the country's general election, wounding four security personnel, police said. The first bomb exploded at the entrance of a school used as a polling station in the largely Malay-speaking district of Joh Airong, wounding two soldiers carrying ballot boxes to a car, police said. About two km away, a second bomb exploded at another polling station and wounded two policemen, they said. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who called the poll three years early, is very unpopular in the three southernmost provinces bordering Malaysia where more than 1,100 people have been killed in a two-year separatist insurgency.

TURKEY

Diyarbakir, Mar 31 — An eight-year-old child died overnight of injuries suffered during clashes between Kurdish protesters and police in Turkey's troubled south-east, security forces said today, bringing the death toll to four. "The child died in hospital," said an official in Diyarbakir, the largest city of the mainly Kurdish region which has been hit by violent protests since Tuesday (Mar 28). Another boy and a man were shot dead during clashes on Wednesday. A second man was crushed under a police armoured car, witnesses said. An investigation into those deaths has begun. The state Anatolian news agency said police had arrested 48 people so far after detaining more than 200. At least 250 people have been wounded in the clashes. There were no reports of fresh demonstrations today. CNN Turk television said on its website that small protests erupted overnight in a district of Istanbul. Istanbul is home to a large Kurdish population. Yesterday, thousands of protesters sympathetic to Kurdish guerrillas lobbed stones and Molotov cocktails at police in Diyarbakir for the third successive day. Shops and offices remained shut. — Reuters.

London, Apr 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Three people died after a group of men stopped a crowded Istanbul bus and tossed flaming petrol bombs at it. Police said the bus driver attempted to escape and ran over the three people standing nearby. They said at least

two of those killed were elderly women and another woman was injured and in serious condition. The deaths come on the sixth day of riots between Kurdish demonstrators and security forces that have spread from the south-east to Istanbul, which is the country's largest city and has a large Kurdish population. Images after the attack in the Bagcilar district of Istanbul showed the bus with its windows knocked out and its outside completely charred. Private NTV television said men had gathered around after the attack and shouted slogans for the PKK, the outlawed Kurdish separatist group that is considered a terrorist organisation by the United States and the European Union. Tension has been high in Turkey recently, and if the Istanbul bus attack is proven to have been carried out by pro-Kurdish demonstrators, it would bring to 12 the total number of people killed in related violent incidents in the past week.

Istanbul, Apr 4 — Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan called today for national unity to halt Kurdish protests which have left 16 people dead. The latest victim was a 17-year-old youth hurt in clashes in the main south-eastern city of Diyarbakir, whose family found his body in a city morgue after a three-day search. The violence was triggered by the funerals last Tuesday (Mar 28) of 14 rebels from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) who were killed in clashes with security forces. The mainly Kurdish south-east, the focus of the protests, was relatively quiet today. Erdogan condemned the protesters and the PKK, which he sees as behind the protests, in a speech to his party members in parliament in Ankara. — Reuters.

Istanbul, Apr 5 — A bomb ripped through the offices of Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) on the outskirts of Istanbul today, injuring two people, a local party official said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast but it happened against the background of more than a week of street clashes between police and Kurdish protesters in which 16 people have died. The bomb blew out the building's windows in the Esenyurt suburb on the European side of Istanbul, television pictures showed. "A bomb which was put in front of the door exploded. The building was rendered unusable. Two of our friends were injured," AKP district chairman Fethi Kaya said. There has been an upsurge in guerrilla violence in the mainly Kurdish south-east. Security officials said 10 people had been killed in clashes with rebels from the PKK in recent days. Troops pursued a large group of PKK guerrillas in Gabar mountain near the Iraqi border last night as part of an anti-rebel operation launched last week. Four soldiers were killed in the firefight in Sirtak Province and two more soldiers died when they stepped on a mine. During the same operation, four

PKK militants were killed in a clash on Cudi mountain. In a separate incident last night, rebels attacked a police station with shoulder-fired rockets in south-eastern Bingol Province, killing one policeman and injuring seven. Police defused a grenade attached to 1.5 kg of plastic explosives at the scene, a police statement said. In street clashes since last Tuesday, thousands of Kurds have hurled stones and petrol bombs at police who have responded by throwing tear gas canisters and firing bullets above the heads of protesters. Most victims died from gunshot wounds. Some 720 people have been detained in connection with the street violence, of whom 418 have so far been remanded in custody awaiting trial. More than 300 people have been injured. — Reuters.



Labour Disputes

FRANCE

St. Malo, Apr 1 — Due to a strike in France, we expect some perturbations for the lock in St. Malo from 2057 hrs, Apr 3 to 0157 hrs, Apr 4, from 0921 hrs, Apr 4 to 1421 hrs, Apr 4 and from 2133 hrs, Apr 4 to 0233 hrs, Apr 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Apr 3 — French port authorities have given notice of another 24 hours strike from 0600, local time, Apr 4. This could cause delays at public terminals, with no loading or discharging during the strike period. The strike has been called as part of a series of protests against the new contract for the employment of young people, which was approved by the French Government last week.

London, Apr 4 — Towage company staff at Montoir, Donges and St. Nazaire have voted to continue strike action until 0900 hours tomorrow.

GERMANY

London, Apr 2 — A press report, dated today, states: DaimlerChrysler AG workers at the company's Woerth commercial vehicle production facility in Germany staged a warning strike yesterday in an effort to gain a 5% wage increase from management, works council head Gerd Rheude said. Rheude said the strike prevented the production of 200 trucks. The warning strike was part of wider industrial action sponsored by the IG Metall union. The union is seeking the 5% wage increase for about 410,000 workers active in a range of industries in the German states of Rhineland Palatinate and Saarland. The union plans further industrial action tomorrow.

INDIA

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated today, states: The indefinite

strike by container trailer crew at the Kochi port continued today as there was no initiative to settle the issue. The movement of containers in and out of the Rajiv Gandhi Container Terminal (RGCT) is likely to be paralysed if the strike continues, though the berthing of ships and loading and unloading of containers were going on without any interruption. However, export cargo movement was slowed down on account of the strike since there was diversion of containers to other ports like Tuticorin, a senior official of the India Gateway Terminals Limited (IGTL) said. Interestingly, port authorities and the leadership of trade unions do not seem to be keen on initiating talks to resolve the issue. Sources said that the port had nothing to do with the issue as it was not directly linked to it.

London, Apr 3 — A press report, dated Apr 2, states: The strike by container lorry workers, which has paralysed the movement of cargo to and from Kochi Port, entered the second week today as the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh stuck to its stand not to withdraw the stir till the lorry owners sign a revised wage agreement. "We will intensify the stir. The office of the Cochin Port will be picketed tomorrow. We will not withdraw from the strike till our demands are met," BMS leaders told UNI here this evening. However, they said that BMS Ernakulam District president M M Ramesh and Secretary T S Satyan will take part tomorrow in the conciliatory talks initiated by the district labour officer on Saturday to resolve the impasse. The strike, which hampered year-end cargo traffic through Kochi Port, has caused considerable hardship to the exim trade with exporters being forced to divert their consignments to other ports, such as Chennai and Tuticorin, to meet their deadlines. While five unions, including CITU, had pulled out of the strike on the condition that an agreement be reached by Apr 15, the BMS has refused to withdraw the agitation till an agreement was signed.

Kochi, Apr 5 — The strike has been called off and container traffic was restored Apr 4. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Apr 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The nation-wide strike in State Bank of India (SBI) continued for the third day in Kerala yesterday, causing inconvenience to the customers. No transaction took place in any of the branches of the bank in the State, said the co-ordination committee of State Banks' Staff Union and SBI Officers' Association, which had called the strike. Clearinghouse operations of the SBI too were hit in the State. In a statement, the committee said the administrative offices and the regional business offices of the bank did not function yesterday. The strike is to persuade the bank management to revise the staff pension and family pension. According to the committee, the pension fund with the bank had

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sufficient amount to provide pension at 50% of the last drawn salary to the retired employees. The fund had a corpus of Rs.8,800 crores as on Mar 31, 2005 and Rs.660 crores had accrued to it during the financial year 2004-05 by way of interest. Staff pension and family pension disbursements had come to only Rs.390 crores that year, the committee added.

ITALY

London, Apr 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Italian Railway company Trenitalia has advised commuters to check with the stations as some of the trains were cancelled due to a strike today by railway workers. The company said the strike began at 1000 hrs and would last for about seven hours. Unions launched the strike to demand more safety measures after a series of accidents occurred in recent months.

NORWAY

London, Apr 5 — A press report, dated Apr 4, states: Negotiators for construction workers and the building industry in Norway came to terms early this morning, ending a strike that began over the weekend (Apr 1/2). The settlement means workers could start returning to job sites all over the country, and that construction was resuming on stalled building projects such as a new Opera House in Oslo. The union representing the workers (Fellesforbundet) and employers' organization BNL agreed on the draft of a new contract. Both sides said they were satisfied after hashing out their differences in an all-night bargaining session. Key sticking points had involved pay hikes for those in the carpentry trade and ways of preventing so-called "social dumping" in Norway. That largely involves workers from eastern European nations who now can freely travel to Norway for work, but who often are exploited by employment agencies that force them to accept hourly wages far below Norway's minimum wage. The new minimum wage for skilled workers in Norway will be NOK 132.25 (USD 20) per hour, and NOK 123 per hour for unskilled labour. National mediator Geir Engebretsen had intervened in the labour conflict yesterday, and summoned both sides back to the bargaining table.

SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES CABIN ATTENDANTS

London, Apr 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Virtually all domestic flights by Scandinavian airlines unit SAS Braathens were grounded today when 1,070 cabin attendants went on strike over a new contract. SAS Braathens was formed with the merger of the Norwegian unit of Scandinavian Airlines System and the SAS-owned Norwegian airline Braathens in 2004. However, many employees in the same jobs, such as the cabin crew, remain in two

separate labor unions. The strike was ordered by the Norwegian Cabin Association, representing former SAS staff. State led-mediation for 800 cabin crew organized in the former Braathens union continued into this morning. Mediation for the striking staff collapsed over wages and working hour demands, and benefits, said union deputy leader Elisabeth Goffeng. Wage talks were complicated by the airline having to negotiate with two different unions, and trying to get both to accept the same contract.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Apr 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The South African Transport and Allied Workers' Union (Satawu) says its nation-wide strike by security guards will continue as from today. This is despite an agreement reached between employers and other unions. Satawu, which represents the bulk of the striking workers, did not sign the agreement. Randall Howard, the Satawu spokesperson, says the union was sidelined in the wage negotiations, held under the auspices of the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA). According to the agreement between the employers and the 14 other unions, there would be a 26% increase in benefits over a three year period, with an average increase of 8% a year. Howard says Satawu is not interested in the settlement and are sticking to their original demand of an 11% salary increase.

THAILAND

London, Apr 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Thai workers hired by the Kaohsiung Rapid Transit Corp. returned to work yesterday after going on strike the previous day complaining about poor quality food, increased medical insurance costs and various other problems. The return to work of the 600 striking laborers living in a dormitory in Kangshan, Kaohsiung County, followed a mediation session with KRTC officials, who also agreed to treat the Thai workers' absence from work as a day off instead of docking their pay. But the officials also warned them that if they went on strike again or failed to report to work for three consecutive days, they would be fired and repatriated according to the terms of their contracts.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Council workers are to stage a fresh series of strikes in their bitter row over pensions. Union leaders decided that more than a million local authority employees will stage a series of regional walkouts between Apr 25 and 27 after failure to break the deadlock. More than 1.4 million local authority employees were involved in industrial action on Tuesday, crippling council services and causing travel chaos in parts of the country. Unison said its members will take fresh strike action in protest

at a move by the Government to press ahead with the scrapping of a rule which allows council workers to retire at 60 on a full pension. Talks between union officials, Government ministers and local authority leaders failed to break the deadlock and council services across the UK now face major disruption next month.



ASBESTOS SETTLEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 1 — A press report, dated today, states: ABB Ltd., the world's largest manufacturer of power networks, won the backing of claimants for a \$1.43 billion asbestos settlement, ending a liability that drove the company to the brink of bankruptcy in 2002. A U.S. District Court on Feb 28 approved the asbestos fund for ABB's Combustion Engineering unit, and a 30-day deadline to appeal passed without opposition from claimants, the Zurich, Switzerland-based company said in a statement today. ABB's trust fund follows similar moves to clear asbestos legacies by McDermott International Inc. and Halliburton Co. The Swiss company has already paid out \$900 million to resolve court actions since 1990, and the final resolution of most remaining claims may allow it to regain an investment-grade credit rating. The latest proposal was renegotiated to include larger payments after an earlier settlement was thrown out on appeal. This time, it won backing from claimants who say their health was impaired by exposure to asbestos from boilers made by Combustion Engineering until the 1960s. The unit was bought by ABB in 1990. A heat-resistant material used in insulation, auto parts and construction products since the early 1900s, asbestos can cause respiratory illness and has been linked to a rare and lethal form of cancer that can surface years after exposure. A settlement plan concerning ABB's Lummus Global unit is still pending, having been approved by 96% of respondents in a pre-filing solicitation. ABB plans to sell Lummus, a provider of equipment and services to the energy industry. Standard and Poor's said on Nov 7 that a resolution of ABB's asbestos liabilities would aid a higher credit rating. Moody's Investors Service followed suit on Jan 10.

CLASS-ACTION SETTLEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Birmingham's Liberty National Life Insurance said yesterday a federal judge has approved a \$6 million settlement of a class-action lawsuit that contended the company charged black

policyholders higher premiums for burial insurance. The class consisted of about 2,000 people who said their family members paid more for industrial life insurance, or burial policies, than white customers in similar circumstances, according to a Securities and Exchange Commission filing by parent company Torchmark Corp. The lawsuit said agents would market small value policies with premium payments of less than \$1, collected on a weekly or monthly basis. Black policyholders paid 36% more in premiums than a white person in similar circumstances, a plaintiffs' attorney has said. The settlement resolves nearly "all class action issues in race-distinct pricing litigation at Liberty National," the company said in the filing. Torchmark spokeswoman Joyce Lane said the company is "very pleased" that the issues are settled. The lawsuit was first filed in 1999 by some DeKalb County residents. Judge U.W. Clemon also ordered the company to pay \$3.35 million in attorney fees. Birmingham law firm Whatley Drake represented the class along with Huntsville law firm Watson Jimmerman Givham Martin & McKinney. Efforts to reach plaintiffs attorney Joe Whatley were unsuccessful.

DEFAMATION, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 2 — A press report, dated Apr 1, states: A former private guardian has won a nearly \$6.5 million verdict in a defamation suit. Linda Erickson had claimed that a group of parents and grandparents launched a "conspiracy to destroy" her publicly by characterising her as unfit in their attempt to reform the guardian system. The Justice Seekers and the Domestic Court Reform movement were working to reform the guardian ad litem system in the late 1990s, saying that private guardians took sides in custody disputes. (South Carolina) Court papers indicate that the group made disparaging comments about Erickson's private life and professional and financial fitness while she was involved in a divorce case that some group members were connected with. Guardians ad litem are assigned to represent children in family court cases. Erickson, who no longer works as a guardian, received nearly \$500,000 in actual damages and \$6 million in punitive damages.

FAILURE TO COMPLETE CONTRACT

London, Apr 2 — A press report, dated Apr 1, states: SembCorp Industries has agreed to pay \$424.8 million to Swiss group Allseas to settle more than a 10-year old dispute over the conversion of a vessel into a pipelay vessel. Allseas had commissioned SembCorp's subsidiary Sembawang Corp Ltd. to convert bulk carrier *Solitaire* into a pipe lay vessel in 1993, but it terminated the \$142.34 million contract two years later, alleging that SembCorp had failed to complete the work on time. Both

parties then took each other to court and the case has been under arbitration in London since 1995.

PRICE-FIXING OF MEDICINES, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Apr 5 — A press report, dated Apr 4, states: Healthcare giant Norton has become the third company to agree a multi-million pound settlement with the NHS to end a claim for alleged price fixing. Under the terms of its agreement, US-based Norton does not accept any liability but will pay the NHS a total of £13.5m compensation. The case, which dates back to 2003, refers to the supply of generic drugs. Two firms have already agreed to pay compensation for their alleged role, UK firm Generics and India's Ranbaxy. Generics announced a £12m settlement last summer, and Ranbaxy has agreed to pay £4.5m in compensation. Like Norton, they have not accepted any liability. "These recoveries are one of the largest ever made in a case involving the public sector and certainly the largest yet in a case of this kind involving the NHS," said Jim Gee, director of NHS counter fraud services. Norton is the third of the defendant companies to have recognised the strength of the claim made by the NHS and to have decided to act in the public interest. A spokesman for NHS counter fraud services said the companies still facing civil suits were Regent-GM Laboratories, Goldshield Group, Kent Pharmaceuticals and DDSA Pharmaceuticals.

WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 31 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A federal jury awarded \$14.5 million in damages to a man who spent 14 years in prison for a rape conviction before DNA evidence exonerated him. Arvin McGee Jr., 44, was freed in 2002 after his conviction in the 1987 rape and kidnapping was overturned. He sued the city of Tulsa the following year, claiming his constitutional rights had been violated. "It's justice," McGee said yesterday after the jury announced its verdict. His lawsuit didn't name an amount. Deputy City Attorney Larry V. Simmons said the jury's decision was "understandable in light of the fact that he was convicted of a crime he didn't commit." But he said the city would likely appeal. He could not say it might pay the \$14.5 million if the appeal failed. McGee's lawsuit claimed a Tulsa police officer involved in the case acted with "deliberate indifference" toward McGee's constitutional rights in connection with a five-man photo lineup from which the victim identified McGee as her attacker. DNA testing later linked another man to the crime, but by that time, the seven-year statute of limitations that existed at the time of the crime had expired.

Railway Accidents



BANGOR, MAINE, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A train came off the tracks in Bangor yesterday morning. The accident happened at 1130 when several cars derailed by the intersection of State Street and Hogan Road. No one was hurt in the accident. One car still lays on its side. The others are in the river. One boxcar is completely submerged. Police have roped off the scene but say the accident's environmental impact is minimal. The cars were carrying wood pulp from Old Town to Bangor for Guilford Rail. Railroad police say it will take at least three days to pull the boxcars out of the river.

TOKYO, JAPAN

London, Apr 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A Keio Line train derailed after it crashed with a passenger car at a railway crossing in Tokyo's Setagaya-ku late yesterday night, leaving the driver of the car dead, police said. The first and second cars of the eight-car train derailed at the crossing between Daitabashi and Meidaimae stations at about 2130. The woman driver of the car was freed from the wreckage about two hours later and was confirmed dead. Most train passengers escaped with no injuries, but four were taken to hospital after complaining of pains in the neck or other parts of their bodies. Police and local residents said that the car entered the crossing as the gate was going down.

Miscellaneous



COLLAPSE OF CONSTRUCTION PLATFORM, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A 10-ton construction platform collapsed and crashed 13 stories onto a busy downtown Boston street yesterday, killing three people and crushing cars stalled in midday traffic. Witnesses described hearing a rumble, then the crash of scaffolding that kicked up a cloud of metal, dust and boards on Boylston Street, which runs along the south side of Boston Common. The platform, a lift system, and scaffolding were set up atop a new building next to a 14-storey dormitory being constructed by Emerson College. They had been used to install

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a stone facade on the building and were being dismantled when the accident occurred, said acting Fire Commissioner Kevin MacCurtain. Investigators would not immediately say whether any of the dead were construction workers. Two people who ended up in the street and one in a car were killed, fire Lt. David M. Pfeil said. Two other people were injured.

COLLAPSE OF CRANE IN SHIPYARD, SINGAPORE

Singapore, Apr 4 — Three workers at a Singapore shipyard were killed on Tuesday when part of a crane collapsed, SembCorp Marine Limited said. A Singaporean, a Chinese and an Indian national died after the boom of the crane collapsed at site belonging to PPL Shipyard, SembCorp Marine said in a statement. A fourth worker, a Bangladeshi national, was injured but is in stable condition, it said. The cause of the accident is being investigated, the firm said. PPL Shipyard is a subsidiary of SembCorp Marine, the world's second-biggest offshore oil-rig builder. SembCorp Marine is a subsidiary of conglomerate SembCorp Industries. — Reuters.

LEAKING GAS WELL, CHONGQING AREA, CHINA

Shanghai, Apr 1 — Engineers have capped a leaking gas well in southwest China that forced evacuation of more than 10,000 residents, the Xinhua news agency reported. The 3,400-metre-deep well, owned by China National Petroleum Corp., began leaking on March 25, and was finally capped early yesterday, the official agency said. The leakage at the well in Chongqing municipality began during final tests before it was to have gone into production. Two earlier attempts to cap it failed on March 27 and 29. Xinhua said more than 10,000 people who lived within one km of the well had had to leave home but should now be able to return. — Reuters.

OCEAN HEART (Panama)

Chittagong, Apr 4 — Local agent of bulk *Ocean Heart* (13661 gt, built 1976), Sigma Shipping Lines, Chittagong, reported that vessel arrived at Chittagong outer anchorage at 1420, Feb 13. Vessel carried 20,500 tonnes salt, after part cargo discharged at Chittagong outer anchorage, vessel has escaped with remaining 58 tonnes of salt. Sigma Shipping Lines has not been able to communicate with the vessel since night of Apr 2. Matter is being investigated. — Lloyd's Agents.

Chittagong, Apr 5 — Sigma Shipping Lines, Chittagong, local agents of bulk *Ocean Heart*, report that subject vessel is not traceable or missing from Chittagong outer anchorage since night of Apr 2. Reportedly they have been sending messages to the vessel and owners but no reply has been received. Sigma Shipping Lines further informed us that they are trying to trace the missing vessel. Contacted Chittagong Port Harbour-

Master who stated that vessel local agent has verbally informed the Chittagong port regarding the above incident. Last port Kandala. Vessel arrived Chittagong port 1420, Feb 13, with 20,500 tonnes salt in bulk on account of two consignees as under: Consignee (1) Sikdar Salt Industries Ltd., Dhaka, 10,500 tonnes and (2) Creative Chemical Industries Ltd., Dhaka, 10,000 tonnes. Allegement by the consignee: 1,400 tonnes cargo remaining on board with partly water-affected & melted condition, claim value in BDTk.70 lac. As per agent draft survey report cargo remaining on board 58 tonnes. — Lloyd's Agents.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

Jakarta, Apr 1 — An Indonesian man has tested positive for the bird flu virus, one day after the government confirmed the country's 23rd human death from the disease, a health official said today. "A 23-year-old man was positive (for the disease) according to a local test. He is at Jamil Hospital in Padang, West Sumatra," I Nyoman Kandun, Director General of Disease Control at Indonesia's Health Ministry, told Reuters. "He is alive and so far is in stable condition," Kandun added, saying blood samples will be sent to a World Health Organisation-affiliated lab in Hong Kong for further tests. Indonesia has had 12 WHO-lab confirmed bird flu human deaths so far in 2006, the highest of any country. Yesterday, the health ministry said that tests had confirmed that a one-year-old baby girl who died this month was Indonesia's latest bird flu victim. In Indonesia, the highly pathogenic strain of bird flu has affected birds in about two-thirds of the country's provinces. — Reuters.

London, Apr 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Burkina Faso has detected the dangerous H5N1 strain of bird flu in poultry on the outskirts of its capital Ouagadougou, making the West African country the fifth nation on the continent to report the disease. Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and Egypt have already confirmed the virus in Africa, a continent which a top U.N. official said on Tuesday needed more funding to cope with a disease which has killed more than 100 people worldwide. Burkina Faso's Livestock Minister Tiemoko Konate said late on Monday that the bird flu strain had been confirmed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in samples taken from poultry at a motel on the eastern outskirts of Ouagadougou. "Further to deaths noted in February among poultry and wild birds, 65 specimens from various regions of the country were sent to reference laboratories of the World Organisation for Animal Health and the Food and Agriculture Organisation," Konate said. The results, communicated to the former French colony's government on Monday, confirmed the highly pathogenic H5N1 bird flu strain only at the Ouagadougou motel and camp site — a month after most of the birds

there died, the owner said. "I got up at around 5 a.m. on March 2 to turn off the lights in the camp site, and I was surprised not to hear the usual bird calls. I went to look and I found all my birds dead or in their death throes," the owner Ferdinand Isaac Ouedraogo said. Ouedraogo lost ornamental and kitchen birds including four ostriches, 140 guinea fowl, 48 chickens, 16 geese and more than 100 chicks, which he said had been imported from Ghana. On Tuesday only 10 or so chickens and a few pigeons and parrots survived. They will be culled with all other birds within 3 km of the camp site from Wednesday, said Godefroy Poda, director of the national livestock laboratory. "The situation is under control," said Konate, adding all nearby poultry would also be vaccinated to control the virus.

Phnom Penh, Apr 5 — Bird flu has killed a 12-year-old boy in Cambodia, the impoverished South-east Asian nation's sixth victim, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said today. The boy, from the south-eastern province of Prey Veng, abutting Vietnam, died last night, said Michael O'Leary, the WHO representative in Phnom Penh. He said a laboratory in the capital confirmed the boy was infected with the H5N1 avian flu virus. Six Cambodians have died of bird flu since the H5N1 virus first emerged in Southeast Asia in late 2003. The 12-year-old's death is the second this year. — Reuters.

London, Apr 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Preliminary tests have confirmed the H5 avian flu virus in a sample from a swan found dead in Fife, health officials have revealed. The exact virus strain is not known, but tests were continuing and further results were expected on Thursday. The Scottish Executive said restrictions had been put in place around Cellardyke, east of Anstruther. If the disease is confirmed as the deadly H5N1 strain there may be further restrictions set up. The dead bird was found near the coast in an emaciated state. Samples were being sent for analysis at the EU's bird flu laboratory in Weybridge, Surrey. An executive spokesman said: "In accordance with a recent EU decision the Scottish Executive is putting in place a protection zone of a minimum of three kilometres radius and a surveillance zone of 10 kilometres. "Keepers of birds in the protection zone are being instructed to isolate their birds from wild birds, by taking them indoors where ever possible." Measures to restrict the movement of poultry, eggs and poultry products from these zones will be brought into effect immediately. Bird keepers outside the protection zone should redouble their efforts to prepare for bringing their birds indoors if that becomes necessary. Officials stressed that there was no reason for public health concern. It is understood that the government's national emergency committee Cobra will meet on Thursday.

Representatives from Defra, the Scottish Executive, the Department of Health, the Cabinet Office and 10 Downing Street are expected to attend. The H5N1 virus does not at present pose a large-scale threat to humans, as it cannot pass easily from one person to another. However, experts fear the virus could mutate to gain this ability, and in its new form trigger a flu pandemic, potentially putting millions of human lives at risk. According to the National Farmers Union Scotland, the Scottish poultry industry produces 127,000 tonnes of meat and 740 million eggs. However, there are thought to be no poultry farms in the immediate area of flu case. The H5N1 strain was found in swans in Poland last month. Chief Veterinary Officer for Scotland Charles Milne said: "Whilst disease has yet to be confirmed, this is an important development. "Bird keepers outside the protection zone should redouble their efforts to prepare for bringing their birds indoors if that becomes necessary. "They must also review their biosecurity measures to ensure that all possible precautions have been taken." Liberal Democrat leader Sir Menzies Campbell, in whose Fife North East constituency the bird was found, said he would follow the situation "very closely". He said: "I have spoken directly to the (agriculture) minister, Ben Bradshaw, who has told me there cannot be final confirmation until tomorrow. "I have his assurance that all necessary steps will be taken and that there is no health risk to humans." First Minister Jack McConnell said he had spoken to other ministerial offices and was being kept informed of the situation. Over the last few weeks we've seen swans and other birds dying in Western Europe Mr McConnell was notified whilst on an engagement in Washington as part of his involvement in Tartan Week. BBC Scotland rural affairs correspondent Ken Rundle said that whilst the poultry industry would be on high alert, there would be relief that the virus had been found in a wild bird and not on a poultry farm. BBC medical correspondent Fergus Walsh added that concerns over the case should not get out of proportion. He said it could mean a potential crisis for the poultry industry, but not for humans. Denmark recorded its first case of the potentially deadly H5N1 avian flu virus last month. The strain has already been found in Europe in Switzerland, Poland, Serbia-Montenegro and Albania. France recorded its first case in February. Dr David Nabarro, the UN bird flu co-ordinator, told News 24: "Over the last few weeks we've seen swans and other birds dying in Western Europe and being found to have this virus, H5N1, on board. "So, it's quite to be expected you have a case appearing in Scotland."

OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON UNITED KINGDOM-FLAGGED VESSEL

London, Apr 5 — Passenger ro/ro *Caledonian Isles* has been taken out

of service after an outbreak of winter vomiting, operators have said. Crew members on the *Caledonian Isles*, which sails from Ardrossan to Brodick on Arran, were struck down with a bug, thought to be the Norovirus infection. As a precaution, and to allow specialists to clean the ferry, operator Caledonian MacBrayne decided it would not make any trips for at least 48 hours. (Note — According to LMIU AIS, *Caledonian Isles* was reported in lat 55 38 25.2N, long 04 49 26.4W, Ardrossan port, at 1513, Apr 5.)

Fires & Explosions



APARTMENT BUILDING, BARANGAYSAN MARTIN DE PORES, PHILIPPINES

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated Mar 31, states: Some eight million pesos worth of property went up in smoke after a fire gutted a two-storey apartment in ParaOaque City before dawn yesterday. Arson investigators said the three-hour blaze was caused by a burning van parked in one of the garages of the two-storey apartment on Hernandez Compound, Narra Street in the village of San Martin de Porres. A short circuit could have triggered the fire that started at 0330, investigators said. No one was reported hurt in the incident.

COLLEGE, ST ANNES, LANCASHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Apr 1 — A press report, dated Mar 31, states: A Lancashire college building which was badly damaged by a fire 16 months ago is being officially reopened today. About 150 students were forced to flee from the Ansdell campus of Blackpool and the Fylde College, in St Annes, when fire broke out on the top floor on November 9, 2004. The building has now undergone a £1.5m refurbishment.

FACTORY, NAKHON LUANG DISTRICT, THAILAND

London, Apr 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A shoe factory producing the world famous Ecco brand footwear was hit by a fire early yesterday. The fire destroyed one of the factory buildings and 400,000 pairs of the high-quality shoes, causing the Denmark-based company a loss of more than a billion baht. The fire brigade took four hours to extinguish the blaze, which broke out around 0530 yesterday. Around 30 workers were working in the factory when the fire broke out, but there were no reports of injuries. However, the fire completely destroyed one of the company's five factories in Nakhon Luang district. Damage was estimated at nearly 1,200 million baht. Chamnan Suksabai, a worker,

told the police he could smell something burning from the shoe storage section when he was walking out of the factory. The fire quickly spread to other areas and finally brought down the whole building. "We've interrogated 10 witnesses, most of them factory staff and security guards, but they gave unclear accounts of the accident," said Ayutthaya police chief Pol-Maj Gen Warawut Pukprayul. The company has temporarily shut down all its plants to facilitate the investigation.

FACTORY, QUEANBEYAN, AUSTRALIA

London, Apr 3 — A press report, dated today, states: New South Wales and ACT fire crews are fighting a large factory blaze in Queanbeyan. Fire crews were alerted to a fire in a car wrecker's building in Yass Road, Queanbeyan, shortly before 0900, AEST, today, NSW Fire Brigades said. Firefighters equipped with air cylinders entered the building and began fighting the fire until it escalated and forced them out of the building. Fifteen firefighters from NSW and ACT are currently using thermal imaging technology to monitor the fire, which as yet is contained to the front section of the building. It is expected to burn for several hours. NSW Fire Brigades spokesman Gordon Boath said there were no reports of injury or evacuations. It is not known how the fire started.

FOREST, CHINA

London, Apr 2 — A press report, dated today, states: As of this evening, more than 4,000 people have been mobilized to quench the forest fire in the city of Anning, southwest China's Yunnan Province. According to the source with the local government, the fire occurred at 1630 Wednesday (Mar 29) in Longshan Forest, near the province capital of Kunming. The fire was under control on Thursday but strong wind on Thursday afternoon relit the fire, making it ravage 6000 mu (400 hectares) of the forest. The 10-km fire belt injured three firemen and affected the normal life of 51 households, who have already been relocated by the local government. A working team from the State Forestry Administration arrived at Anning today to organize the fire fighting work.

London, Apr 4 — A press report, dated today, states: About 4,000 fire fighters today entered their sixth day fighting a forest fire in Anning, southwest China's Yunnan Province. The blaze has destroyed 7,000 Mu, 467 hectares, of forest, according to the provincial forestry department. The fire has made its way through three isolation belts and fire fighters are building a fourth. The fire has been aggravated by a prolonged drought and windy weather, said officials. Locals living at a nearby village have been evacuated from the path of the fire. The blaze started on Mar 29 in Anning, about 28 km from Kunming,

capital of Yunnan. "Preliminary investigations show it was an arson," said Wang Dexiang, deputy-director of Yunnan Provincial Forestry Department. Further investigations are underway.

London, Apr 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A forest fire raging for more than a week has forced 800 people to evacuate a south-western Chinese village. Beijing has ordered a high alert in areas of the country plagued by drought, state media says. Three villagers were injured by the fire that broke out in a town just 28 km from Kunming, the capital of Yunnan province, the China Daily said. "About 6,000 people have been mobilised to fight the fire, which has been fed by a prolonged drought and windy weather," it said. The Yunnan fire follows three blazes in the northern province of Shanxi in late March which were eventually put out. China's State Council, or cabinet, issued an urgent notice on Tuesday (Apr 4) ordering provinces in the north, north-east and south-west to be on high alert and prepare for fires, Xinhua news agency said. Firefighters were cutting a 50-metre-wide fire break over 53 km to prevent the Yunnan blaze from spreading, the China Daily said. It said police had detained a young woman as a suspected arsonist.

London, Apr 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire fighters have put out a major forest fire, which has been burning for seven days just 20 km from Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province, the city's fire-control headquarters said today. Thanks to efforts of over 6,000 fire fighters, the fire has been brought under control while the front blaze has been put out by this morning. The fire scorched some 666.67 hectares of forest in Kunming's suburb area. No casualties have been reported. The fire fighters are cutting more firebreaks to prevent the fire from spreading again.

GRASS FIRE, COLORADO, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A 1,300-acre grass fire, near Broomfield, Colorado, spread quickly amid wind gusts up to 50 mph, yesterday, prompting officials to evacuate the Walnut Creek subdivision said a spokeswoman for the Westminster Fire Department. She did not know how many people or homes were affected. She said firefighters put compressed-air foam on some of the homes to protect them. The fire was burning near the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant, in unincorporated Boulder and Jefferson counties. One heavy-air tanker was requested to help fight the flames. The cause of the fire was not immediately known.

PREMISES, LATROBE, TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Mar 30 — A press report, dated Mar 31, states: Sparks from a grinder or welder are believed to have started a \$2 million fire at a Latrobe

cool store on Wednesday (Mar 29). Fire investigators yesterday completed their probe of the wreckage at Cherry Hill Farm. Acting fire investigator Claudio Casteller said the cause of the fire was believed to be accidental. "We weren't able to determine whether sparks from a grinder or welder caused the fire, but it was what we call hot work practices," Mr Casteller said. "The fire was discovered about 0300, but it would have been smouldering for a considerable time before that. The damage bill, originally estimated at \$1.5 million, had been raised to about \$2 million. Up to 10 of the 12 cool stores at Cherry Hill Farm were destroyed. Among the losses was \$50,000 worth of oriental lily bulbs, owned by Forthside farmer Mike Badcock.

PREMISES, NHANA SHEVA, INDIA

London, Apr 3 — A press report, dated Apr 2, states: A major fire broke out at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Nhava Sheva, early this morning. Firemen from the Indian Navy, ONGC, MSEB, Uran, Navi Mumbai, Thane and Mumbai had to be called in to help extinguish the inferno on the third floor of the Port Users Building. It took 17 tenders nine hours to put out the blaze. Though no lives were lost, the entire floor, the three-storey structure houses the offices of about 75 shipping companies, was gutted. The blaze destroyed all 25 companies' including Yang Ming, Balaji Shipping (UK), Emerald Marine Services, Gold Star Line Ltd, IAL and Master Marine, shipping records, along with their computers and other office equipment. Fortunately, the building is located quite a distance from the port and container freight stations. "The fire was reported at about 0330 hrs, but we suspect it started earlier," said JNPT Chief Manager (Operations) R T Revankar. "The fire was finally brought under control at 1030 hrs and completely extinguished two hours later." Revankar added that none of the offices had sprinklers. Though the source of the fire has not been determined, officials said it was probably caused by a short circuit. JNPT has only three fire tenders and 60 firemen. Not surprisingly, 17 fire tenders from between 5 km and 50 km away had to be called into service. The lack of a water source nearby also seriously hampered the firemen's efforts. Infact, it was only when water was brought in in nine tankers soon after daybreak that the flames were quelled.

PREMISES, NHAVA SHEVA, INDIA

Mumbai, Apr 3 — A major fire broke out at the port user's building of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), which handles over 50 per cent of the country's container traffic, at Nhava Sheva in Navi Mumbai today, police said. However, no one was injured, they said adding that fire brigade personnel rescued 12 people from the

building. The fire broke out at about 0420 on the third floor of the building where shippers keep documents including records of customs clearance, JNPT sources said. At least seven fire tenders were rushed to the spot to extinguish the fire, police said adding that the operations were on when reports came in. Fire fighting teams from the navy and coast guard also assisted them in controlling the blaze, sources said. However, the cause of the fire was yet to be ascertained. — Lloyd's Agents.

TENNIS COMPLEX, CHISWICK, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Apr 1 — A press report, dated Mar 31, states: A huge fire has destroyed an exclusive tennis club used by British stars Tim Henman and Andrew Murray. Firefighters were called to the Riverside Club in Chiswick, west London, during the night and spent three hours putting out the fire. No-one is thought to have been injured but the building has been destroyed, firefighters said. Twelve fire engines and 60 firefighters were at the health and racquets club from 0245, BST, but most of the building has been destroyed. It is not yet known how the fire started, but investigators are at the scene. In a statement Esporta, which owns the club, said the fire had "gutted large sections" of the club. "Most of the club's buildings - including indoor tennis courts, pool areas, changing areas, reception and cafe areas - have been gutted and the entire complex is closed to members and staff," it added.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 1 — A press report, dated Mar 31, states: Fire authorities in Reno County say a lightning strike is likely the cause of yesterday's massive fires. About 4,000 acres burned outside of Hutchinson and destroyed 20 buildings including three homes. No one was injured but it took 250 firefighters to put the blaze out. Fire crews continue to monitor hot spots to make sure it doesn't flare up again.

London, Apr 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A lightning strike near 17th Avenue and Obee Road on Thursday (Mar 30) likely started a grass fire that burned 5,400 acres east of Hutchinson, the city's fire chief said yesterday. "There was a lightning strike prior to this fire. It looks like it was within a matter of a few feet of where we think this fire started," Chief Kim Forbes said. Crews have been in the burned areas east of the municipal airport around the clock since the fire started Thursday afternoon. The fire was contained, but not extinguished, by yesterday afternoon, Forbes said. Yesterday saw some flare-ups, but nothing got out of hand, Forbes said. According to the Kansas Department of Emergency Management, the fires caused no injuries but destroyed five houses and 20 outbuildings. Forbes said those figures might change, along with

others, early next week once officials get a chance to get on the ground and total up buildings and individual items damaged by the blaze. That investigation will firm up the total acres burned and provide a cost estimate for the damage.

London, Apr 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Property damage estimates from the wildfire in Hutchinson, on Mar 30, have topped \$1.1 million, and officials said that amount might continue to climb. Total structural damages were estimated at just under \$624,000, on more than \$1.042 million in property, while total content lost was estimated at \$513,000. Fire Chief Kim Forbes said there were 650 homes in the four-mile-long path that the fire raged through, with an average of three or four outbuildings per property. In all, four homes and at least two home-based businesses were destroyed. The homes included one valued at \$160,000, with the added loss of an estimated \$100,000 in contents, and an \$82,500 home, which included about \$45,000 in lost contents. The houses also included two vacant properties for which no value was listed. The businesses included a \$300,000 loss at 5510 East 17th, where a mechanics shop and a couple of other outbuildings were destroyed. A cabinetry shop, worth an estimated \$98,000 in building and contents, was lost. Another five homes suffered damage, ranging from about \$1,000 to \$15,000, according to statistics compiled by the fire department. Other destroyed buildings included eight garages, seven sheds and six outbuildings, Forbes said, while six vehicles or trailers also were burned up. Two of the garages and their contents were valued at \$70,000 and \$90,000, respectively. "The loss amount will definitely go up because a lot of fencing was damaged - either burned up or cut to get access and the ornamental trees planted around properties," Assistant Fire Chief Mike Patterson said. There were 82 firefighting units that responded to the blazes from 17 different departments, Forbes said. Most visiting fire units were released by 2100, Mar 30, though Hutchinson fire units remained in the area from 1500 hrs that afternoon until 1530, Apr 2. Forbes said Doplar radar showed a lightning strike about 15 feet from where investigators believed the fire started, about an hour before it flared up. It's suspected a fence post or tree was struck and smoldered for a while before finally flaring up.



5A-DKR

London, Mar 31 — The Ilyushin 62M, 5A-DKR, six persons on board had a landing mishap and came to

rest 400 m from the runway at Moskva-Domododovo Airport at 2051, Mar 29. The aircraft broke in three.

AAH215

London, Mar 30 — Aloha Airlines Boeing 737, AAH215T, on landing went off the runway and into the overrun, at Lihue, Hawaii, at 0305, Local time, Mar 26. No injuries or damage reported.

C-GFXO

London, Apr 4 — Mooney M-20F C-GFXO departed Steinbach airport, Manitoba, for a pleasure flight with the pilot and one passenger on board Apr 1. During final approach for Runway 14, the pilot did not extend the landing gear and the aircraft landed on its belly on the centre of the runway at 1430, CDT. The pilot and passenger evacuated the aircraft without injury; the aircraft sustained substantial damage. The runway was closed for approximately one hour until the aircraft was removed. The pilot advised that the landing gear warning horn did not activate during the flight.

CRASH, BANKSTOWN AIRPORT, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

London, Apr 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A man has died in a light plane crash at Sydney's Bankstown Airport, authorities say. The pilot died on impact when the aircraft crashed at the southwestern Sydney airport at 1441, AEST, a NSW Ambulance spokeswoman said. She said the aircraft disintegrated as it hit the ground. A caller to Macquarie Radio said the aircraft crashed as it was taking off from the western side of the airport. "It took off, it sort of banked right and then went down behind the bus terminal at Bankstown Airport," the witness said. He said he was standing about 200m from the crash site but did not see any smoke coming from the aircraft. Emergency services are at the scene. A Bankstown Airport spokeswoman said it would conduct a full investigation into the crash.

CRASH, COOPERS PLAIN, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

London, Mar 31 — A press report, dated today, states: A pilot is dead and five people are being treated for burns after a light aircraft crash at Coopers Plains on Brisbane's southside. The aircraft crashed inside the grounds of the John Tonge Forensic Centre around 1100, AEST, today. It plummeted into a creek just metres from busy Kessels Road. Police believe the pilot was the sole occupant of the aircraft. Mark Zimmerman from the Queensland Ambulance Service says five witnesses tried to save the man. The aircraft is still partially submerged in the creek. The Air Safety Transport Bureau is investigating the accident.

London, Apr 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators say it is still too soon to tell what caused yesterday's light aircraft crash, which

killed the pilot on Brisbane's southside. The single-engine aircraft came down near Kessels Road at Coopers Plains on a flight from Townsville. Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) spokesman Michael Watson says it is too soon to speculate on the possible reason. ATSB spokesman Mike Cavenagh says inquiries will take some time.

CRASH, DOVER, DELAWARE, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A Lockheed C-5 (Galaxy) cargo aircraft carrying 17 people crashed just short of a runway at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware early today after developing problems during take-off, military officials said. Everyone on board the aircraft survived, though several people were injured, said Tech Sgt Melissa Phillips, a spokeswoman for the base. BayHealth in Dover said the hospital had about 10 people from the aircraft, including some who appeared able to walk. The aircraft went down at about 0630 hrs and broke into three pieces, with the cockpit separated from the fuselage and left lying at a right angle to the main part of the aircraft. The broken-off tail assembly was several hundred yards away and a wing was shattered, but there was no evidence of smoke or flames. According to initial reports, the aircraft had just taken off and had some indications of a problem, said Col Ellen Haddock, spokeswoman at the Pentagon's Joint Chiefs of Staff. It turned back to land and fell short of the runway, she said. It was not immediately clear if the aircraft was carrying cargo when it went down. Maj Ange Keskey of the Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois confirmed 17 people were on board and said the crash was being investigated.

CRASH, MELBOURNE, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

See N23JB.

CRASH, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

London, Apr 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Four people, one seriously hurt, survived a helicopter crash today on the outskirts of Sydney. The Bell Jet Ranger came down in a paddock in St Albans, near Wisemans Ferry, shortly after 1000, local time. It is believed that the helicopter was being used by Integral Energy to conduct an inspection of power lines in the area. "It's hit a wire and crashed into a paddock. It's crashed onto its right hand side," NRMA CareFlight spokesman, Ian Badham, said. "People in the nearby house raised the alarm and went to the aid of the injured. "When our NRMA CareFlight helicopter arrived, the people from the house were assisting the injured." Mr Badham said a man in his 50's suffered severe head injuries including a cracked skull and was airlifted to Westmead Hospital. Two other passengers, a man and a woman, suffered minor

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

injuries and were also taken to Westmead Hospital. The pilot suffered a minor neck injury, Mr Badham said. Police are investigating the cause of the accident. Integral Energy has also launched its own investigation. "Integral Energy has suspended further inspection flights until the cause of the accident is determined," a spokesman said. "Integral Energy is sending representatives to monitor the situation of our injured employee and the pilot at the hospital."

CRASH, WASHINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people were killed after an aircraft crash in Washington County, Mississippi, authorities said. The two-seater Piper aircraft, owned by Longwood Flying Service based in Hollandale, crashed yesterday evening into a rice field about a mile west of Stone Airport Road, Sheriff Milton Gaston said. Gaston said his deputies received a 911 emergency call at about 1910 and they arrived at the scene within 14 minutes. Riverside volunteer firefighters along with the county's emergency management officials rushed to the crash site as well. Inside the aircraft's wreckage were the bodies of two men, Gaston said. The victims, whose names were not released, were transported to the state examiner's office where an autopsy would be conducted, he said. Federal Aviation Administration investigators who were expected to arrive today to begin an investigation into the crash.

CRASH, WILSON AIRPORT, NAIROBI, KENYA

London, Apr 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Sixteen people escaped death narrowly when an aircraft crash-landed at Wilson Airport, Nairobi, yesterday and caught fire. The aircraft, which had taken off from the airport at 0920 hrs for Nanyuki with 14 passengers, was only airborne for 10 minutes before the mishap. One of the two pilots of the chartered aircraft said she detected a technical problem in one of the engines, which automatically switched off before the landing. She then alerted the control tower to seek permission for an emergency landing. They managed to empty the fuel tanks before landing and had a rough time controlling the aircraft on the runway after one of its tyres burst. The aircraft, owned by Aero Kenya, veered off and taxied on grass for about 70 metres but stalled after a tyre got stuck in a hole.

EC-JCT

London, Mar 31 — Mooney M-20K, EC-JCT, was destroyed when it crashed and caught fire near Aerodrome de El Berriel, San Bartolome de Tirajana, Grand Canaria, Canary Islands, 1805, UTC, Mar 22. The private pilot, who owned and operated the aircraft, was killed.

EMERGENCY LANDING, EASTERN RUSSIA

London, Apr 5 — A press report, dated Yekaterinburg today, states: A Yak-42 carrying 98 passengers made an emergency landing in eastern European Russia, emergency services said today. Andrei Koldomin, the head of regional Emergency Situation Ministry, said no one had been hurt, adding that authorities were investigating the accident. The aircraft, on regular flight from Izhevsk to Moscow, had to make emergency landing after takeoff about 1,000 miles east of Moscow, after the landing gear failed to retract fully.

EMERGENCY LANDING, NEWARK LIBERTY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 31 — An American Airlines flight leaving New York's La Guardia Airport made an emergency landing in Newark, New Jersey yesterday. The flight, bound for Chicago, experienced engine trouble shortly after taking off. The aircraft touched down safely at Newark Liberty International Airport just past noon. No one aboard was injured. The pilot made the landing with power from just one engine after the second one was shut down following an apparent malfunction, aviation and airline officials said. Fire trucks awaited the jet on the runway, but the landing itself was normal. The McDonnell Douglas MD-80 operating as Flight 321, took off around noon and was in the air for only a few minutes when an indicator light warned of a problem with an oil filter, said American Airlines spokesman Tim Wagner. Arrangements were being made to either repair the aircraft or find a replacement jet to continue the flight, which was carrying about 140 passengers and crew.

London, Apr 1 — A press report, dated Mar 30, states: An aircraft leaving La Guardia Airport made an emergency landing in Newark today. Federal Aviation Administration officials say American Airlines Flight 321 took off shortly before noon, bound for Chicago. The airline says the pilot reported a problem with the aircraft's right engine and shut it down. An indicator light warned of a problem with an oil filter. The pilot changed course for Newark Liberty Airport, and landed safely. The airline says the aircraft will be grounded until a new engine is installed. None of the 136 passengers on board was hurt.

EMERGENCY LANDING, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 2 — A press report, dated Apr 1, states: A Southwest Airlines flight made an emergency landing today at the Oakland International Airport. According to a Southwest Airlines spokeswoman, 55 passengers and five crewmembers were aboard flight 1041 to Burbank

when the airplane's "indicator light" went on. The aircraft, which departed at 1145 hrs, according to the airline's Web site, turned around and made an emergency landing. The spokeswoman said the landing was "uneventful and nothing was found." All of the passengers were safely taken off the aircraft and put on another flight that was headed to Burbank.

EMERGENCY LANDING, OSAKA, JAPAN

London, Apr 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft, operated by IBEX Airlines Co., which operates regional domestic flights, made an emergency landing at Osaka airport this morning after one of its two engines stopped, airport officials said. None of the 34 passengers and/or crew on IBEX Flight 3074, en route to Osaka from Fukushima, were hurt in the incident. The captain reported that the engine had failed due to "a lightning" over Mie Prefecture, the officials said.

FDX1020

London, Mar 30 — Federal Express, FDX1020, a Boeing McDonnell Douglas DC10, while inflight, a section of the engine cowling fell off into a backyard, aircraft landed without incident at Oakland, California. at 0880, Mar 28. No injuries.

FLIGHTS DELAYED DUE TO POWER FAILURE, SYDNEY AIRPORT, AUSTRALIA

London, Mar 31 — A major power outage at Sydney Airport this morning delayed international flights for more than 90 minutes as security and baggage handling facilities were rendered inoperable. An initial investigation found some circuit breakers in the International terminal had been tripped, shutting off almost all the power from 0930 hrs. "We were unable to process baggage and that lead to inevitable delays," a Sydney Airport spokesman said. "We had some power but not enough to operate the terminal as a whole." As passengers were forced to wait and planes sat on the tarmac, technicians worked on progressively restoring the power. By 1100 hrs most of the power was up again with services then expected to return to normal. The cause of the blackout is still being investigated.

INCIDENT AT ACCRA AIRPORT, GHANA

London, Apr 5 — A press report, dated today, states: South African Airways is investigating the circumstances on board an international flight after technical difficulties kept them in Ghana for about 11 hours. Flight SA208 from Washington to Johannesburg was approaching the apron at Accra Airport on Saturday (Apr 1) for people to board, when, according to a Johannesburg passenger, the aircraft stopped dead on the runway and

experienced a blackout. "The captain announced they were experiencing an electrical problem. After sitting there for a while, the dim lights went out completely and we were left in total darkness and without any air conditioning," said the passenger. After disembarking they waited in a room at the airport for some time. Then a SAA guard told them there was "a very, very big problem with the aircraft." The passenger said he had also told them Accra Airport could not handle the problem and they would contact engineers in Johannesburg for help. Passengers were later told overnight accommodation would be arranged, but after 11 hours at the airport they were told they could board the aircraft. "Many passengers at first refused to get back on but were told they would have to wait a week for the next flight if they refused to board immediately," said the passenger. According to SAA spokesperson Jacqui O'Sullivan, the aircraft had experienced problems because its auxiliary power unit that operated while it was on the ground had not been working and its batteries had needed recharging. She said passengers had at no time been in danger.

N208WE

London, Mar 30 — Cessna 208B, N208WE, owned by the Cessna Aircraft Co., crashed under unknown circumstances into a mountainous area, at 0055, local time, Mar 29. Wreckage located 25 miles west of Palm Springs, Yucaipa, California. Unknown number of persons on board, three assumed fatal on board.

N37JB

London, Mar 30 — Cessna 340A, N23JB, crashed on approach to Melbourne Airport, Florida, at 1557, local time, Mar 23. The three persons on board were killed, the aircraft was destroyed.

N6770B

London, Mar 30 — Piper PA-18A 150, N 6770B, crashed under unknown circumstances at Dillingham, Alaska, at 0400, local time, Mar 22. The aircraft was destroyed.

N9533V

London, Mar 30 — Mooney M10, N9533V, crashed under unknown circumstances, was the subject of an alert notice, the wreckage was located 27 miles east south-east of Salinas, California, at 0001, Mar 25. The one person on board was fatally injured, the aircraft was destroyed.

N977DL

London, Mar 30 — A Delta Airlines Boeing McDonnell Douglas MD88, N977DL, was struck when a jetway hit its side and punctured a hole in the skin at Charlotte, North Carolina, at 2200, local time, Mar 27. No injuries reported.

PART LOST FROM AIRCRAFT OVER OTWELL, ARKANSAS, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 5 — A press report, dated Apr 4, states: A large part of an engine from a McDonnell Douglas MD-10 cargo aircraft operated by FedEx fell into a farmer's field near Otwell, Arkansas, officials said. A five-or-six-foot portion of the engine's rear section fell from the aircraft today and partially buried itself in the soil, officials said. It landed near Otwell, about 70 miles north-west of Tennessee's Memphis International Airport. The engine section came from an aircraft that had left Memphis Airport on its way to Seattle, according to company officials and emergency personnel at the scene. They said the flight was about 50 miles into the journey when pilots notified air traffic controllers of an in-flight emergency, and then told the Memphis tower that the No. 3 engine on Flight 597 was lost. Sandra Munoz, a spokeswoman for Memphis-based FedEx, said that the aircraft returned safely to Memphis airport at about 1630 hrs and that no injuries were reported.

PT-FSE

London, Apr 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A plane carrying 19 people has crashed on a mountainous region outside Rio de Janeiro, killing all aboard, civil defense officials said today. The small LET 410 double-propeller plane belonging to the local Team airline went missing yesterday night about 20 minutes after leaving the city of Macae, 110 miles east of Rio de Janeiro, said Roni Alberto de Azevedo, a spokesman with the Rio de Janeiro State Civil Defense Department. Rescue workers found the plane's wreckage in Saquarema, some 60 miles east of Rio, nearly 10 hours after it disappeared from radar screens. The aircraft carrying 17 passengers and two crew members was due to land yesterday evening in Rio after a short domestic flight. There were no survivors, airline director David Farias said. Employees from Brazil's state-owned energy company Petrobras were among the victims, Farias said, adding that none were high-ranking officials. The crash took place in a remote area and rescue workers were having difficulties reaching the wreckage to retrieve the victims' bodies. Relatives were taken to a local hotel to wait for more information from the airline, which operates short domestic flights in the states of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. Team flight 6865 left Macae at 1719 hrs, yesterday and was expected to have landed at 1802 hrs at Rio de Janeiro's Santos Dumont international airport. Local media said rural workers in the mountainous region between Macae and Rio de Janeiro reported hearing an explosion after a plane flew very low overhead. There were no reports of severe weather where the Czech-made plane disappeared.

London, Apr 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency workers have recovered the black box and the bodies of the 19 people who died when their plane crashed and exploded on impact in a mountainous region outside Rio de Janeiro. The LET 410 double-propeller plane owned by local TEAM airline, which was carrying 17 passengers and two crew, exploded after crashing last night in a remote area near Saquarema, about 100 km east of Rio. The cause of the crash was not immediately known. Four employees from Brazil's state-owned energy company, Petrobras, were among the victims, airline director David Faria said, adding none were high-ranking officials. There were no reports of severe weather where the Czech-made aircraft disappeared. Authorities said, however, that it could have been raining lightly and foggy at the time of the crash. The aircraft disappeared from radar screens about 20 minutes after leaving the city of Macae, 180 km east of Rio de Janeiro, said Roni Alberto de Azevedo, a spokesman with the Rio de Janeiro State Civil Defence Department. It was due to land in Rio after a flight of less than an hour. Local media said rural workers in the mountainous region between Macae and Rio de Janeiro reported hearing an explosion after a plane flew very low overhead. "I heard a weird noise, and then a very loud noise, like a bomb exploding," Jose Carlos da Costa, who lives near the crash site, said. Officials from Brazil's federal aviation authority, or DAC, said the plane's black box with flight data and cockpit voice recorders had been found. Rescue teams found the wreckage nearly 10 hours after the plane crashed. Authorities said workers had to walk through dense forest to get to the scene. Officials set up a base in a small town near the crash site to co-ordinate the recovery efforts. "All 19 bodies have been found, but the plane exploded on impact and several of the victims have been badly burned," said Carlos Alberto de Carvalho, secretary of Rio's Civil Defence Department. "We will probably need to conduct DNA exams to identify them." The victims' relatives were taken to a hotel in Rio de Janeiro to wait for information from TEAM airline, which operates short domestic flights in the states of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. Some relatives were waiting on a coroners' office in Rio de Janeiro, where the bodies were expected to arrive late this afternoon. Another TEAM director, Mauro Almeida, said it was the airline's first accident since it began operating in 2001. He said the pilot, Brazilian Michael Peter Hutten, had about 30 years of experience and was a former air force pilot. "He was flying this same route for five years," Hutten's wife, Soraya, said that TV. TEAM flight 6865 left Macae at 1719, local time and was expected to have landed at 1802pm at Rio de Janeiro's Santos Dumont international airport. Faria said the aircraft, which can

carry 19 passengers and two crew members, was at least five years old and had recently gone through a two-month routine maintenance. It also had been inspected by DAC before being allowed to fly, he said.

Product Recalls



CHILDREN'S MAGNETIC BUILDING SETS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Mar 31 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Rose Art Industries Inc., of Livingston, N.J., today announced a voluntary recall of about 3.8 million All Magnetix Magnetic Building Sets. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Tiny magnets inside the plastic building pieces and rods can fall out. Magnets found by young children can be swallowed or aspirated. If more than one magnet is swallowed, the magnets can attract to each other and cause intestinal perforation or blockage, which can be fatal. This product is unsuitable for young children. CPSC is aware of 34 incidents involving small magnets, including one death and four serious injuries. A 20-month-old boy died after he swallowed magnets that twisted his small intestine and created a blockage. Three children ages ranging from 3 to 8 had intestinal perforations that required surgery and hospitalization in intensive care. A 5-year-old child aspirated two magnets that were surgically removed from his lung. All Magnetix magnetic building sets including the X-treme Combo, Micro, and Extreme sets. The sets contain 20 to 200 plastic building pieces and 20 to 100 1/2-inch diameter steel balls. The building pieces are red, yellow, blue and green, and are shaped in 1 1/2-inch squares, 1-inch triangles and cylinder rods. Some plastic building pieces have "Magnetix" imprinted on them. Sold at Wal-Mart, Target, Toys R Us, Fred Meyer, Design Science Toys Ltd., A.C. Moore, and other toy and arts and crafts stores nationwide. The Magnetix magnetic building sets were sold from September 2003 through March 2006 for between \$20 and \$60, depending on the size of the

set. The replacement program does not include sets at retail. Manufactured in China. Consumers should stop using the magnetic sets and return the sets to Rose Art for a free replacement product suitable for young children under the age of 6. Consumers should be sure to keep all small magnet parts out of the hands of children who mouth objects, especially children under the age of three. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

CRASH, DOVER, DELAWARE, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A US Air Force cargo plane with 17 persons on board crashed Monday in the eastern state of Delaware while trying to make an emergency landing, news reports said. No deaths were reported. The C-5 broke into three pieces in a grassy area after coming down just short of a runway at Dover Air Force Base at Dover, Delaware, around 0630, local time. According to Fox News television, there were reports of injuries, but there were no deaths. The cockpit and tail separated from the fuselage in the crash, with the cockpit coming to rest nearly at a right angle to the main body of the plane. The C-5 was being operated by a unit of the Air National Guard, Cable News Network (CNN) said.

ESPRESSO COFFEE MACHINES, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Mar 30 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Eugster/Frismag AG, of Switzerland, today announced a voluntary recall of about 6,600 Jura Impressa Automatic Coffee Center Espresso Machines. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The electrical connectors in the espresso machine can erode, posing a fire hazard. The Automatic Coffee Centers have E50, E55, E70 or E75 printed in large type on the front panel and model number 12941, 13035, 13085 or 13088 printed on the bottom of the machine. These machines grind, compact ground coffee, pressure brew, stop automatically, and discard the used coffee grounds. They can also dispense hot water for tea and hot steam to froth and steam milk. Sold at Coffee distributors and some independent specialty stores nationwide from July 1999 through October 2004 for between \$750 and \$900.

Manufactured in Switzerland. Consumers should stop using the recalled espresso machines immediately, and contact Jura-Cappresso to arrange for a free wire replacement. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Port Conditions



ITALY

Genoa, Apr 3 — Port situation Apr 3: Genoa: No vessels awaiting berths. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. Savona: Three vessels waiting for special berths. No vessels waiting for normal berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

PANAMA CANAL

Balboa, Mar 31 — The Panama Canal continues to operate at full capacity with all available resources on line, but arrivals remain extremely high, and the backlog of ships is still well above normal. Non-booked vessels are waiting four to five days. At this point we do not see conditions improving significantly before mid April when some of the seasonal traffic is expected to start decreasing. — Lloyd's Agents.

Balboa, Mar 31 — Starting Apr 1 for a trial period of 60 days, the Panama Canal will offer an additional booking slot through an electronic auction process. The enclosed advisory explains in detail how the system will work. Some important aspects to take into account are: 1. Only one booking slot is being offered through the Auction system. 2. The starting price for the auction is expected to be in region of US\$ 30,000 /US\$ 35,000. 3. The winning "bid" could very well considerably exceed the base price depending on Canal situation and commercial considerations of the bidders. 4. With delays presently running about four days, and no significant improvement expected in the short-time, we do expect some customers to make use of this option. —Lloyd's Agents.

SYRIA

Lattakia, Apr 1 — As at today, the waiting period for Lattakia port is currently 24 hours and for Tartous it is three days. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

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
Australia		
Abbots Point	04-Apr-2006	Coal: One vessel loading at berth; 11 vessels due by 2/5.
Brisbane	05-Apr-2006	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth; Two vessels due by 10/4; no delays expected. Grain: One vessel due 20/4 to load wheat.
Dalrymple Bay	05-Apr-2006	Coal: Three vessels loading at berth; 9 vessels arrived; 21 vessels due by 18/4.
Dampier	05-Apr-2006	Iron ore: Parker Point A berth: Four vessels arrived; 5 vessels due by 20/4; Parker Point B berth: 3 vessels arrived; 5 vessels due by 18/4; Parker Point C berth: 1 vessel loading at berth; 1 vessel arrived; East Intercourse Island; One vessel loading at berth; 6 vessels arrived; 11 vessels due by 10/4.
.Esperance	03-Apr-2006	Iron ore: Three vessels due by 6/4; no delays expected.
	05-Apr-2006	Grain: Six vessels due by 26/4; up to 7 days delay expected.
Geraldton	03-Apr-2006	Iron ore: One vessel loading.
	05-Apr-2006	Grain: One vessel arrived; 4 vessels due by 15/4; up to 3 days delay expected.
Gladstone	05-Apr-2006	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Two vessels loading at berth; 15 vessels arrived; 36 vessels due by 16/5; Barney Point: 1 vessel loading at berth; 2 vessels arrived; 11 vessels due by 15/5.
Hay Point	05-Apr-2006	Coal: One vessel loading at berth; 6 vessels arrived; 5 vessels due by 8/4.
Newcastle	03-Apr-2006	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: Three vessels loading at berth; 17 vessels arrived; 34 vessels due by 3/5; 3-17 days delay expected; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels loading at berth; 8 vessels arrived; 20 vessels due by 4/5; 6-11 days delay expected.
	05-Apr-2006	Grain: Three vessels due by 28/4, all to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected.
Port Hedland	05-Apr-2006	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: One vessel loading at berth; 5 vessels arrived; 4 vessels due by 11/4; "B" berth: 1 vessel loading at berth; 6 vessels arrived; 3 vessels due by 10/4; 7 other vessels due by 19/4 at A or B berth 2/4; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island "C" berth): 2 vessels due by 12/4; (Finucane Island "D" berth): 1 vessel loading at berth, 3 vessels arrived; 5 vessels due by 31/3. Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel loading at berth; 7 vessels due by 8/4.
Port Kembla	03-Apr-2006	Coal: One vessel loading at berth; 11 vessels due by 24/4; up to 6 days delay expected.
	05-Apr-2006	Grain: One vessel due 5/4 to load wheat.
Port Walcott	05-Apr-2006	Iron ore: Sixteen vessels arrived; 8 vessels due by 19/4. Mar 28: Port closed from 12.00 hrs. 28/3 due to cyclone Glenda.
Whyalla	05-Apr-2006	Iron ore: One vessel at berth; 3 vessels due by 21/4; no delays expected.
Azerbaijan		
Apsheron	03-Apr-2006	Oil products: One vessel discharging crude oil at berth; 2 vessels due by 4/4, both to discharge (1 kerosene, 1 gasoil).
Baku	03-Apr-2006	Oil products: Bay of Baku: No information; Azerneftiyag terminal: no information; Azertrans terminal: Nobel Avenue: port open; no vessels; Sangachal District: port open; no vessels.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	03-Apr-2006	Twelve vessels in port of which 5 loading (1 copper anodes, 1 empty, 3 coils), 7 discharging (2 billets, 2 zinc concentrate, 1 lead concentrate, 1 lead/zinc concentrate, 1 equipment); 2 vessels in roads, both to load (1 barite concentrate, 1 bunkering); 10 vessels due of which 7 to load (1 wheat, 1 coils, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 container, 1 profiles, 1 equipment), 3 to discharge (1 container, 1 equipment, 1 coal).
Chile		
Antofagasta	04-Apr-2006	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 20 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers, general cargo.
Arica	04-Apr-2006	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 21 vessels due this week.
Iquique	04-Apr-2006	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 19 vessels due this week.
Puerto Montt	04-Apr-2006	Two vessels at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 9 vessels due this week.
Punta Arenas	04-Apr-2006	Five vessels at terminal, 2 berths vacant; 13 vessels due this week.
San Antonio	04-Apr-2006	Five vessels at terminal, 2 berths vacant; 13 vessels due this week.
San Vicente	04-Apr-2006	Two vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 20 vessels due during the week; Steel pier: 1 vessel at terminal, 1 berth vacant; no vessels 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; no tankers due this week.
Valparaiso	04-Apr-2006	Six vessels berthed, 2 berths vacant; 4 vessels at anchorage: 22 vessels due this week.
Cyprus		
Larnaca	04-Apr-2006	Two conventional vessels discharging at berth; 2 conventional vessels due 5/4; no delays expected.
Limassol	04-Apr-2006	Five container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 4 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 7 vessels due 5/4 of which 6 containers, 1 conventional vessel; no delays expected.

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Port Conditions

Egypt

Adabiya	04-Apr-2006	Six vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 6 general cargo.
Alexandria	04-Apr-2006	Forty-five vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 40 general cargo, 4 tankers, 1 container vessels; 32 vessels at inner anchorage, 12 at outer anchorage; 14 vessels dry-docked.
Damietta	04-Apr-2006	Nineteen vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 10 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 5 container vessels; no vessels at inner anchorage, 4 at outer anchorage.
Dekhelia	04-Apr-2006	Seven vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 5 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier, 1 container vessel; no vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	04-Apr-2006	Six vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 2 general cargo, 3 container vessels, 1 car carrier.
Suez	04-Apr-2006	Six vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 2 general cargo, 1 reefer, 3 passenger vessels; 4 tug boats; 1 vessel dry-docked.
Suez Canal	04-Apr-2006	Thirty vessels transiting Northbound, 29 Southbound.

Estonia

Tallinn	03-Apr-2006	No labour problems. City port: No vessels at berth, none at anchorage; no vessels due, with no delays expected; Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 1 vessel loading coal at berth, 2 vessels discharging at berth (1 soya flour, 1 cacao beans); 3 vessels due, with 7 days delay expected; Muuga: no vessels at berth, none at anchorage; no vessels due, with no delays expected.
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India

Kolkata	03-Apr-2006	4 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading General Cargo, 3 vessels discharging (Containers-2, General Cargo); 2 vessels under repair; 1 vessel under dry docked; 1 vessel waiting to sail; 2 vessel due (Containers, Passenger).
Haldia	03-Apr-2006	14 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Iron Ore-2, Steel-2), 9 vessels discharging (POL-2, Net Coke, Coking Coal-2, Crude, Pet Coke, Met Coke, Soil), 1 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels awaiting berth to discharge; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load); 4 vessels due (POL-2, Iron ore, Coke).
Paradip	03-Apr-2006	10 vessels operating at berth of which 6 loading (Thermal Coal-2, Chrome Concentrate-2, Iron ore, Fe. Chrome), 4 vessels discharging (Coking Coal, R.P.Coke-2, Sulphuric Acid).
Visakhapatnam	03-Apr-2006	11 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading (Iron ore, G.G.B.F.Slag, S.K.Oil), 8 vessels discharging (L.P.Gas, Coking Coal, Rock Phosphate, Alumina, Petroleum Coke, Caustic Soda, General Cargo/DBM, Bentonite); 9 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (6 to discharge, 3 to load); 29 vessels due (Iron ore-6, Steel Cargo, Thermal Coal, Granite Blocks, Food Grains, Crude Tankers, Liquid Ammonia, Phosphoric Acid, Coking Coal-4, General Cargo & Project Cargo-2, Container-3, Gypsum, Steam Coal-2, Caustic Soda, Crude & Products Tankers-3).
Chennai	03-Apr-2006	11 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Granite Blocks-3, Iron Ore), 5 vessels discharging (Project Cargo, Crude Oil, Logs, Thermal Coal, S.Coal), 2 vessels loading and discharging Container; 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 3 vessels due (Logs, Wood Pulp/S.Pipe, Containers).
Tuticorin	03-Apr-2006	2 vessels operating at berth and discharging (VCM, Timber Logs); 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (3 to load, 1 to load and discharge).
Kochi	03-Apr-2006	5 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels discharging (Rock Phosphate, Logs, Ethylene Dichloride, Wheat); 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel "MV Amrta" detained by MMD.
New Mangalore	03-Apr-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 5 loading (Iron Ore Fines-4, Granite Stones), 2 vessels discharging (Containers, Crude Palm Oil); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage (3 to discharge, 1 to load); 12 vessels due (Granite Stone-4, Iron Ore Fines, Ammonia, POL Product-2, Crude Palm Oil, Timber, POL Crude, LPG).
Mormugao	03-Apr-2006	1 vessel operating at berth and discharging HSD; 5 vessels working at mid stream to load Iron ore; 3 vessels awaiting berth to discharge; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 4 vessels under repairs and dry docked; 5 vessels due (Lime Stone, Iron ore-4).
Mumbai	03-Apr-2006	13 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (Project Cargo, Bagged Sugar), 6 vessels discharging (Car Chips, Soda Ash/Salt, Steel Plates/Pipes, Steel Cargo, POL-2), 5 vessels loading and discharging (Containers, Steel/General Cargo, Project Cargo, Containers/Wood Pulp, Fly Ash); 2 vessels awaiting berth to discharge; 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 7 vessels under repairs; 7 vessels under arrest, 1 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 24 vessels due (Containers-7, Fertilizer (RM)-3, General Cargo-14).
J.N.P.T.	03-Apr-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel discharging Cement, 6 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 8 vessels awaiting berth to load and discharge; 8 Container vessels due.
Kandla	03-Apr-2006	15 vessels operating at berth of which 10 discharging (Other Liquid-2, Vegetable Oil, POL-2, Timber Logs-4, Scrap), 4 vessels loading (C.Pipes, Agriculture Product-2, Rice and General Cargo); 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel under maintainance.
Ennore	03-Apr-2006	1 vessel operating at berth and discharging Thermal Coal; 3 Thermal coal vessels due (MV Rani Padmini, MV Tamil Anna, MV Hebei Hope).

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Port Conditions

Israel		
Ashdod	04-Apr-2006	No labour problems; Four vessels loading general cargo at berth, 8 discharging at berth (7 bulk cargo, 1 car carrier), 3 loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 passenger vessel); 10 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (5 general cargo, 5 bulk cargo), 1 vessel awaiting orders; 17 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	04-Apr-2006	No labour problems; One vessel discharging general cargo at berth, 2 vessels loading/discharging at berth (1 car carrier, 1 container); no vessels due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	04-Apr-2006	No labour problems; Two vessels discharging general cargo at berth, 10 loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 3 tankers, 2 passenger vessels); 7 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (5 containers, 2 tankers); 6 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 22 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	03-Apr-2006	Oil products: One crude oil vessel at berth; 5 vessels in roads, all to load; 3 vessels due by 4/4, all to load.
Pakistan		
Karachi	04-Apr-2006	One vessel loading ethanol at berth, 2 discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 1 sugar), 2 loading/discharging containers at berth; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load containers, 1 waiting at anchorage to discharge containers; 6 vessels due (4 containers, 2 general cargo), with no delays expected.
Port Qasim	04-Apr-2006	One vessel loading rice at berth, 2 discharging at berth (1 peas, 1 palm oil); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load rice, 2 waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 palm oil, 1 HSD oil); QICT berth: 1 container vessel loading/discharging.
Poland		
Gdansk	03-Apr-2006	One vessel loading rice at berth, 2 discharging at berth (1 peas, 1 palm oil); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load rice, 2 waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 palm oil, 1 HSD oil); QICT berth: 1 container vessel loading/discharging.
Gdynia	03-Apr-2006	Six vessels loading at berth (1 coal, 3 bulkers, 2 general cargo), 4 discharging at berth (2 general cargo, 2 bulkers); 12 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 38 vessels due.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	03-Apr-2006	Eighteen vessels in port operating of which 15 loading (1 bulk cement, 1 WRIC, 1 scrap, 1 pipes, 1 steel billets, 1 tin plates/coils, 2 coils, 1 copper, 1 bulk NPK, 1 bulk urea, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 aluminium, 1 vegetable oil, 1 D/O), 3 discharging (2 bulk sugar, 1 vegetable oil); 5 vessels in roads of which 4 to load (3 steel billets, 1 bulk cement), 1 to discharge bulk sugar; 73 vessels due of which 70 to load, 2 to discharge (1 bulk sugar, 1 bananas), 1 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 2 tankers loading at berth (1 crude, 1 fuel oil); 2 tanker in roads, both to load crude; 7 tankers due, all to load (6 crude oil, 1 diesel oil).
Slovenia		
Koper	03-Apr-2006	Port working normally; Twelve vessels berthed of which 5 loading (1 bulk cargo, 4 general cargo/sawn timber), 3 vessels discharging bulk cargo, 1 tanker discharging liquid cargo, 2 car carriers discharging/loading vehicles, 1 vessel discharging loading containers; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage of which 1 to load sawn timber/general cargo, 3 to discharge/load containers; 15 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 6 to load sawn timber/general cargo, 1 car carrier to discharge vehicles, 3 vessels to discharge bulk cargo, 2 vessels to discharge/load containers, 3 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles.
Spain		
Bilbao	03-Apr-2006	Thirty-two vessels in port operating (5 tankers, 27 others), of which 8 loading, 13 discharging, 11 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	03-Apr-2006	Thirty-six vessels in port operating of which 6 loading (1 steel coils, 2 bulk fertiliser, 2 cement, 1 container), 25 discharging (21 steel products, 1 vehicles, 2 gas, 1 logs), 5 discharging/loading (2 general cargo, 3 fruit); Outside commercial wharf: no vessels; no delays expected.
Turkmenistan		
Aladja	03-Apr-2006	Oil products: One vessel loading crude oil at berth.
Turkmenbashi	03-Apr-2006	Oil products: One vessel loading gasoil at berth; 1 vessel roads to load gasoil.
Ukraine		
Ilichevsk	03-Apr-2006	Six vessels in port operating, all loading (3 steel products, 1 sunflower oil, 1 sulphur, 1 wheat); 2 vessels in roads, both to load (1 sulphur, 1 ethanol); 22 vessels due of which 13 to load (12 steel products, 1 sunflower oil), 9 to discharge/load containers.

Port Conditions

Mariupol	03-Apr-2006	Fourteen vessels in port operating of which 12 loading (6 steel, 1 fire-clay, 1 sulphur, 1 wheat, 1 baggage, 1 fire-clay/containers, 1 ammonium saltpetre), 1 discharging equipment, 1 discharging/loading equipment/steel; 10 vessels in roads of which 8 to load (6 steel, 2 fire-clay), 1 to discharge equipment /containers, 1 to discharge/load containers/fire-clay; 65 vessels due of which 61 to load (31 steel, 19 coal, 1 steel fire-clay, 2 wheat, 3 sulphur, 1 coke, 2 ammonium saltpetre, 1 pitch, 1 fire-clay), 3 to discharge equipment, 1 to discharge/load containers/fire-clay.
Odessa	03-Apr-2006	Twenty-one vessels in port operating of which 12 loading (8 metal, 2 pig iron, 1 scrap, 1 barley), 6 discharging (2 passenger vessels, 1 meat, 1 citrus, 1 baggage, 1 sand), 3 discharging/loading (2 containers, 1 containers/metal/citrus); 12 vessels in roads of which 5 to load metal, 7 to discharge/load (6 containers, 1 pitch/vegetables); 67 vessels due of which 36 to load (27 metal, 2 pig iron, 2 coal, 3 ore, 1 timber, 1 wheat), 7 to discharge (1 citrus, 1 building material, 2 sugar, 2 bananas, 1 oil), 24 to load/discharge containers

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