

Apr 6 2007

Saadé warns Marseilles to resolve port unrest or CMA CGM will walk

Ten ships already forced elsewhere, says company boss, writes Andrew Spurrier
— Thursday 5 April 2007

CMA CGM chairman Jacques Saadé has warned that the group will take its business to other ports in the Mediterranean if Marseilles is unable to resolve its industrial relations problems.

Mr Saadé told French newspaper Le Monde that the group, which has its headquarter in Marseilles, had already been obliged to send 10 vessels to Genoa, Barcelona and Valencia during the week in which the recent strike at the port's oil terminals was extended to other cargo terminals.

He said it is essential that the French authorities, the port, unions and shippers work together to re-establish peaceful industrial relations before the port's new container extension, Fos 2XL, comes into service at the end of 2009.

He made no threat to divert the group's vessels away from Marseilles in the short term but, asked what would be the group's reaction if peace efforts failed, he said: "The CMA CGM group will be obliged to unload containers destined for Marseilles-Fos in other Mediterranean ports like Genoa or Barcelona and the Marseilles and Fos terminals will lose definitively all the containers in transit which we hope to develop."

Mr Saadé was also critical of the port's operational performance, indicating that container handling rates at Marseilles stood at 50 movements per hour, compared with 120 in Le Havre and 320 in Chinese ports.

He added that the port is already off the main international trade routes and is an essential point of passage only for containers destined for southern France.

Mr Saadé's comments coincided with expressions of outrage from employers' bodies in the Marseilles region and the French shippers' organisation, AUTF, at alleged French government pressure on Gaz de France to accept the strikers' demands for jobs at its new Fos LNG terminal.

AUTF delegation general Philippe Bonnevie said the government had forced the port authority and GdF to give in to the strikers.

He claimed that the five posts which had been offered to port personnel at the new

LNG terminal were "fictitious like numerous others in French ports."

Marc Reverchon, head of the Marseilles-Fos port employers' body, described last weekend's strike settlement agreement as an ignominious retreat and accused the government of taking a "short-term decision prejudicial to the port."

The government is believed to have exerted pressure on GdF to settle the dispute last week because of fears that it could lead to a petrol shortage in the final stages of the campaign for the French presidential elections, due to take place on April 22 and May 6.

Somali pirates hijack a second merchant ship

By David Osler - Wednesday 4 April 2007

SOMALI pirates have taken a merchant vessel captive, the second such seizure in the past five weeks.

The ship was boarded by 10 armed hijackers as it entered capital city Mogadishu on Monday.

The International Maritime Bureau was yesterday seeking confirmation of the identity of the ship, thought to be named Nimatullah.

No ransom demand has yet been lodged for the 14 seafarers on board.

The ship's charterer, Somali businessmen Hussein Ali Jillow, said: "The crew told us by telephone that they had been hijacked by Somali pirates. The crew did not say anything about their conditions."

This hijacking follows the capture in February of Rozen — on charter to the United Nations — with a crew of six Kenyans and six Sri Lankans on board.

The men are still being held off the coast of the semi-autonomous Puntland region, although there are reports from Kenya of negotiations over their future.

Meanwhile, reports from the crisis-torn African nation suggest that up to 47,000 people have fled Mogadishu over the last two weeks following fighting between the interim government backed by Ethiopian forces and Islamist rebels. Human rights groups believe at least 381 people — probably many more — have died as a result.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
AMER HIMALAYA	refrig general	CYP	LR	9,070	11,595	1990	Reported not under command/drifted in lat 51 05N, long 01 37E, Mar 23, with damaged cylinder head. Towed by <i>Anglian Princess</i> to Sheerness, where arrived Mar 24. ETC repairs Mar 29.
BEKA 1	general	KHM	—	1,757	1,814	1968	Blown aground while at anchor near Zatoka, near Belgorod-Dnestrovskiy, Mar 22. Later same day general cargo <i>Phoenix</i> grounded and collided with <i>Beka 1</i> . Salvage under way.
CEMVALE	bulk cement	CYP	GL	2,894	4,254	1992	Struck cement loading quay at Brunsbuttel Mar 22. Large hole in bow above waterline. Towed to South Quay at Brunsbuttel for repairs. Sailed Mar 26 for Dublin.
KAYE E. BARKER	bulker	USA	ABS	11,949	25,345	1952	Boiler backfired at Duluth Mar 22 causing outer casing to crack. Remains at Duluth effecting repairs.
PAC PALAWAN	container	SGP	ABS	5,593	7,055	2003	Reported Mar 27 lying at Chittagong outer anchorage awaiting repair to a damaged turbo-charger.
PALLAS	product tanker	SWE	—	469	400	1987	Ran aground off Gothenburg Mar 22. Refloated same day and taken into harbour, where divers will inspect its bottom for damage. Towed to floating dock for repairs. ETC Apr 8.
PHOENIX	general	COM	—	2,178	3,180	1972	Grounded near Zatoka, Belgorod-Dnestrovskiy Mar 23 and collided with general cargo <i>Beka 1</i> , which had earlier grounded, due strong winds.
REINA ROSA	ro-ro	PHL	NK	9,992	11,511	1995	Contacted the west wharf at Nagasaki port Mar 22. Sustained cracking damage to bulbous bow and water ingress to foretank.
SKARPOE	general	CYP	GL	3,183	4,508	2004	Grounded outside Hasle, Bornholm Island, Mar 27. Detained. Mate arrested or intoxication. Refloated Mar 28 and towed to Hasle.
TASMAN	general	HKG	LR	18,468	23,586	1995	Contacted with the quay at Noumea when berthing Mar 29. Bulbous bow badly dented, with ballast leaking through crack. To effect repairs same day.
TYCHO BRAHE	ro-ro	DIS	LR	10,845	2,500	1991	Assisted into Helsingborg Mar 25 after experiencing a short circuit and smoke in engine-room. Still out of service Mar 28, ETD Mar 30.
VOLGO-BALT 209	general	RUS	RS	2,473	2,893	1978	Grounded in the Elbe estuary Mar 24. Refloated by two tugs and towed to Cuxhaven with a 10 deg list. Two gashes in ballast water tanks. Towed to New Fish Harbour, still listing. Hull and both propellers damaged.
YONG XING	container	HKG	BV	10,835	14,092	1980	Developed an engine problem when departing Chittagong Mar 25. Towed to outer anchorage. Repairs expected to be completed Mar 28.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



A.MERT (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Mar 24 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *A.Mert* was located stationary 15.5 nautical miles off Laurium, in lat 37 29 30.56N, long 23 54 52.63E, at 1453, UTC, today.

London, Mar 29 — General cargo *A.Mert* arrived Piraeus Mar 27 from Turkey.

ACCORD (Philippines)

Manila, Mar 28 — General cargo *Accord* is still aground near the Curangon shoal in Malinao town, Albay. Officials from Matsya Shipping Corp, the vessel's owner, said that they were still awaiting instructions from the cargo insurer, state insurance agency Government Service and Insurance System (GSIS), on how to dispose of the rice remaining in the vessel's cargo holds. The vessel was carrying 58,000 bags of government-owned rice when it ran aground on Jan 17. Since then, close to 90% of the rice has been contaminated by seawater and oil. The rice has to be offloaded to lighten the vessel before refloating operations can be carried out. The rice, however, cannot be offloaded without the consent of the GSIS. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

AFRODITE S. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Antalya, Mar 22 — We are the owners of tug *Antak* which salvaged and towed general cargo *Afrodite S.* to Marmaris Bay, where it arrived 1235, Mar 17. The vessel is still at anchorage in Marmaris Bay (not as reported in issue of Mar 23) where salvors, Antmarin Inc, will conduct minor cargo shifting operations to correct its five degree listing to port side. There is no damage to its cargo of 4,032 tons of bulk cement. Furthermore some minor engine repairs will also take place in Marmaris. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Antalya, Mar 29 — After being abandoned by its crew general cargo *Afrodite S.* was salvaged by tug *Antak*, of salvor Antmarin Inc. and is still at anchorage in Marmaris Bay with a five degree list to port side due to cargo shifting. No damage reported on cargo which is to be trimmed for vessel stability purposes. There are minor engine deficiencies. The vessel being detained by salvors. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

AJAX (Poland)

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Rudder trouble on general cargo *Ajax* (14169 gt, built 1982), Porto Marghera to Ilichevsk, while entering Dardanelles, in front of Kumkale at around 1000, local time, today.

London, Mar 28 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Ajax*

was located four nautical miles off Beykoz, in lat 41 04 28.02N, long 29 03 10.98E, at 0835, UTC, today, course 20 deg, speed 11.2 knots.

London, Mar 29 — Survey of general cargo *Ajax* controls (rudder) was completed at 1525, Mar 27 and the vessel was permitted to proceed for at 1625, same day.

ALERT (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated Mar 28, states: A crew of about 20 antique ship aficionados and Coast Guards worked all night and then awaited a dry dock berth, today, as they tried to save the 80-year-old research *Alert* (198 gt, built 1927), which was heavily damaged after being set adrift. In an apparent act of vandalism, the vessel was released from its mooring early Monday (Mar 26), at the Thunderbird Hotel on Hayden Island (lat 47 45N, long 116 45W). Also set adrift was the LCI 713, a 1944-vintage troop landing vessel. The two vessels are being renovated by separate organizations. They drifted 100 yards downstream and hung up on a dolphin pier. A ship's engineer, living on the cutter, tied the vessels to the dolphin and they were towed to their mooring late Monday. At first that appeared to end the incident. Then water poured in near the rudder of *Alert* and three holes were spotted in the hull. After working all night, the holes were stopped up in the morning. The fuel is now being pumped off. The volunteers used wooden plugs, foam and anything they could stick in the holes. The leakage is still about five gallons a minute, but that is being handled by pumps. A crew remained on board, maintaining a 24-hour watch, while a dry dock is sought where the vessel can be repaired. *Alert* will need a tug to get to the dry dock. The damage is just forward of the propellers and if the vessel went under its own power it would blow out the patches. The patching is only temporary. *Alert* was to be used by Sea Cadets for voyages along the river.

ALEUT (Cambodia)

Portsmouth, UK, Mar 23 — Vessel *Aleut* and an oil skimmer vessel collided late yesterday while entering Taganrog port. The oil skimmer was damaged, and leaked about 400 litres of oil-polluted water and oil products. Another oil skimmer deployed booms to prevent the contaminated water from spreading. Most of the oil has been collected and clean-up work is continuing at the scene. There were no injuries. An investigation into the incident has been launched. The Emergencies Ministry's regional centre said there was no threat to the environment from the incident. — Correspondent.

ALEXIA M. (Cyprus)

London, Mar 29 — Bulker *Alexia M.* arrived Batumi Mar 26.

AMER HIMALAYA (Cyprus)

London, Mar 23 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed

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1315, UTC: Refrigerated general cargo *Amer Himalaya* (9070 gt, built 1990), Balboa for Sheerness with fruit, is currently reported not under command and drifting in lat 51 05.28N, long 01 37.78E, while investigating water in the cylinder head, possibly due to a cracked liner. Estimated duration of repairs three hours. Tug/supply *Anglian Princess* tasked and proceeding.

London, Mar 23 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1652, UTC: Tug/supply *Anglian Princess* has entered into tug contract to take refrigerated general cargo *Amer Himalaya* in tow for Sheerness.

London, Mar 24 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1055, UTC: Refrigerated general cargo *Amer Himalaya* berthed at Sheerness in tow of tug *Anglian Princess* this morning, after problems with cyclinder No.6.

Dover, Mar 27 — Refrigerated general cargo *Amer Himalaya*, Valparaiso for Sheerness and Rotterdam with a cargo of fruit, experienced main engine problems at about 1700, Mar 23, while passing Dover, inbound to Sheerness. The vessel's owners arranged for tug/supply *Anglian Princess* to tow the vessel to the Medway Buoy, after which two local Adsteam tugs assisted it to the berth in Sheerness, where it arrived alongside No 3 berth at 0700, Mar 24. The vessel's Sheerness cargo was discharged Mar 25-26, with the Rotterdam-bound cargo remaining on board. The vessel shifted to No 10 lay-by berth at 1400, Mar 25, to undertake repairs. Understand several piston crowns will have to be replaced and a new cylinder liner will arrive at Sheerness on Mar 28. Understand the earliest completion of repairs is envisaged to be pm, Mar 29. — Lloyd's Agents.

AMERICAN CONSTITUTION (Panama)

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated Mar 23, states: Several people are in the hospital today, after tug/supply *American Constitution* (951 gt, built 1974) caught fire in position lat 29 54.57.69N, long 93 53.19.54W, near the port of Port Arthur, shortly after 1100 hrs. *American Constitution* caught fire below the deck. Port Arthur fire officials said the crew was welding when the bunk quarters insulation caught fire. Officials said three people were transported to a local hospital for smoke inhalation and two were treated on the scene. The vessel was being worked on at R and R Marine and housed a dive team who work on rigs.

AMERICAN PRIDE (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 23 — Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1540, UTC: Ferry *American Pride* remains aground in the same position. Salvage operations should commence today.

London, Mar 26 — Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, PR, timed 1355, UTC: Ferry *American Pride* remains aground at St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands. Up until now, no

refloating operations have been carried out and owners and salvors are still working out a salvage plan. The starboard fuel tank has now been emptied following the leakage from the port tank, which has since been contained.

London, Mar 28 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1440, UTC: Ferry *American Pride* is still aground. Due to bad weather salvage operations have been suspended for the next three days.

ANDRINA F. (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency will contact the owner of fishing (general) *Zeldenrust* that sparked a full-scale emergency after colliding with general cargo *Andrina F.* in the English Channel and then disappearing from the radar. Fearing the worst, the authorities launched a rescue mission before *Zeldenrust* was traced well away from the scene, apparently undamaged. *Andrina F.* diverted to Ramsgate with a two metre hole in its hull. The MCA will take witness statements and work with Belgian authorities to find out why *Zeldenrust* left British territorial waters without reporting the collision.

London, Mar 26 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Andrina F.* has now sailed Ramsgate and was located 12 miles off Terschelling at 1132, UTC, Mar 25.

Dover, Mar 26 — General cargo *Andrina F.* completed repairs and sailed Ramsgate Mar 24. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANGELA STAR (Panama)

Durban, Mar 29 — Bulklers *Angela Star* and *Theareston* are currently alongside at the DORMAC repair quay, Durban. It can be seen that the *Theareston* is effecting repairs to its upper hull bow plating, starboard side, however it is not known what damages each vessel sustained or how long repairs will take. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANTILLES II (Panama)

London, Mar 28 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1455, UTC: Bulker *Antilles II* (7265 gt, built 2001), cargo phosphates, lost power and was deliberately grounded in lat 27 37N, long 82 39W, at 0930, UTC, Mar 27, in order to avoid colliding with the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, Tampa Bay. The vessel remains aground. No damage or pollution reported.

London, Mar 28 — A United States Coast Guard press release, dated today, states: The US Coast Guard is investigating the grounding of bulker *Antilles II* about 400 yards east of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, in Tampa Bay, after the vessel reportedly lost main propulsion about 0500, Mar 27. Two 25-ft response boats and a 41-ft boat from Sector St.Petersburg responded to the incident and the Coast Guard Captain of the Port established a safety zone restricting vessel traffic in the main shipping channel of Tampa Bay. Vessel traffic from Port Manatee to the Egmont

Channel is closed to inbound and outbound traffic. Vessels travelling north of Port Manatee are not affected by the safety zone. Additionally a 100-yard safety zone is in place around *Antilles II*. No injuries, pollution or damage to the bridge were reported in conjunction with the incident. *Antilles II* is reported to have a cargo of 10,000 tonnes of phosphate, 78 tonnes of fuel and 20 litres of lubricating oil on board. The ocean bottom in the area where *Antilles II* grounded is reported to consist of limestone, oyster beds and mud. Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg Command Centre received a call at about 0500 hrs from a Co-operative Vessel Traffic System (CVTS) watchstander, reporting that *Antilles II* was aground south of the shipping channel. Coast Guard marine inspectors and investigators will investigate the incident to determine the causes of the grounding.

London, Mar 28 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1646, UTC: Bulker *Antilles II* is still aground. No hull breach is reported as the vessel grounded on soft bottom. Tugs are currently carrying out refloating operations.

London, Mar 28 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 2103, UTC: Bulker *Antilles II* was refloated at approximately 1800, UTC and is moored at Port Manatee.

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A harbour pilot, this morning, decided it was safer to run bulker *Antilles II* into the ground, rather than taking the risk that it could smash into the Sunshine Skyway bridge, according to an official who spoke to him. Harbour Pilot Tobias Rose was on board the vessel this morning, to help manoeuvre it out of Tampa Bay. The ship lost both propulsion and steering, said Allen Thompson, executive director of the Tampa Bay Pilots Association. That left the vessel drifting toward the mouth of Tampa Bay. It was prudent to put the vessel aground on a sandbar on the south side of the shipping channel rather than taking the risk of running into a hard object like a bridge support. The vessel was dislodged from the sandbar early this afternoon and is being towed to Port Manatee for an inspection. Crews from tugs and the U.S. Coast Guard capitalised on a high tide as they worked to free the vessel. Coast Guard officials are continuing to investigate the incident. Water traffic has been diverted from the shipping lane from Port Manatee to the Egmont Channel. No injuries, environmental damage or damage to the vessel have been reported.

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Antilles II*, that ran aground near the Sunshine Skyway Bridge early yesterday morning, was being assessed for damage at Port Manatee. "I would anticipate that they would do further inspections today and tomorrow," Port Manatee Executive Director David McDonald said yesterday afternoon. No one was injured and no environmental damage resulted from the ship running

aground, U.S. Coast Guard officials said. Tugs, taking advantage of high tide, managed to refloat *Antilles II* around noon and escorted it to Port Manatee for inspection. Shortly afterward, the shipping channel was reopened to traffic. Initial reports were that the master of the ship, which was heading to the gulf from the Port of Tampa, intentionally ran the ship aground to avoid hitting the bridge. "That's still under investigation," said Coast Guard spokeswoman Petty Officer Tasha Pully. "We're investigating exactly why he grounded it and what the circumstances were that were involved." Pully said an investigation into the incident could continue for several weeks. McDonald said ship traffic to and from Port Manatee was minimally impacted and schedules were expected to be back to normal by yesterday evening.

ANZHELA EXPLORER (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A boat crew from Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale, Fla, rescued three people from the 93-foot catamaran, yacht *Anzhela Explorer* (95 gt, built 1986), at around 0530 hrs, after the vessel began sinking half a mile off Hollywood Beach, Fla. The vessel's crew were unable to deploy the vessel's liferaft and were clinging to the bow of the vessel as the Coast Guard assets arrived on scene. The three people were transferred off the boat safely. The vessel sank in 23 feet of water. The Coast Guard has issued a Broadcast Notice to Mariners reporting the submerged vessel's location. There are currently 4,000 gallons of diesel fuel contained with the *Anzhela Explorer* and minimal sheening has been observed by Coast Guard inspectors. The Coast Guard is monitoring the owner's salvage and pollution efforts. The vessel's owners have hired SeaTow as their salvage contractor and have scheduled salvage efforts for tomorrow, when appropriate salvage equipment will become available. Commercial salvage divers examined the vessel area and have not found any indication of further contamination. The cause of the sinking is not known at this time.

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated Mar 27, states: A salvage company plans to use a "big balloon" to refloat catamaran yacht *Anzhela Explorer*, that sunk off Golden Beach earlier this week. The 93-foot vessel sank yesterday morning about a mile offshore when the exhaust pipes broke off and water started flooding in through the opening. Three men on board were rescued by the Coast Guard. A video taken this morning, one full day after the sinking, shows the vessel completely submerged in the water. Sea Tow, which has been contracted to salvage the vessel, plans to inflate a rubber bladder inside the sunken vessel Thursday (Mar 29) in hopes of raising it to the surface. The \$2.2 million vessel reportedly belongs to Connally Yacht Service, a charter service based out of Puerto Rico.

According to the company's website, the vessel's three decks can accommodate up to 30 overnight passengers.

APL CORONADO (Antigua & Barbuda)

Balboa, Mar 23 — General cargo *APL Coronado* appears to have been renamed *Doris* and according to Panama Canal records, sailed from Balboa at 0925, Mar 19. — Lloyd's Agents.

ASIA STAR (Panama)

Yokohama, Mar 26 — Passenger ro/ro *Asia Star* (3646 gt, built 1991) had to anchor in Tokyo Bay when a safety device, perceiving the falling oil pressure of lube oil for the main engine, cut in on Mar 16. The device was restored and the vessel resumed its voyage for Inchon. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Asia Star* sailed Tokyo Mar 16 for Inchon.)

ATLAS AMELIA (Liberia)

Liverpool, Mar 23 — Bulker *Atlas Amelia* (25190 gt, built 1997) struck the quay at Liverpool Mar 22. The extent of damage is not presently known. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, *Atlas Amelia* was still in port at Liverpool at 1105, UTC, Mar 23.)

Liverpool, Mar 28 — Bulker *Atlas Amelia* sailed Mar 27 after effecting temporary repairs. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Mar 26.)

BALTIYSKIY 102 (Russia)

Portsmouth, UK, Mar 26 — General cargo *Baltiyskiy 102* (1926 gt, built 1978), cargo wood, ran aground 70 km west of Tallinn, with the reference to the chief of St. Petersburg the Sea Rescue Coordination Centre of Leonid Belov. The grounding was a result of navigation error. — Correspondent.

London, Mar 27 — Following received from Tallinn MRCC, dated today: General cargo *Baltiyskiy 102*, with a cargo of forest products, grounded in lat 59 20 45N, long 23 31 27E, at 0108, Mar 25. There was no water ingress and oil leakage was reported. Vessel was refloated by tug *Tasuja* today after offloading some of the cargo. After reloading cargo, the vessel is to proceed to Paldiski harbour for inspection.

BEKA 1 (Cambodia)

Odessa, Mar 27 — At 1700, local time, Mar 23, in the vicinity of the small village of Zatoka (near Belgorod-Dnestrovskiy), Black Sea, general cargo *Beka 1* (1757 gt, built 1968), in ballast condition, was shifted aground while lying at anchor, due to heavy wind. At 1755, local time, at the same place, general cargo *Phoenix* (2178 gt, built 1972) grounded and collided with *Beka 1*. As a result of the collision *Phoenix* sustained damages in the area of the engine-room. No injuries to crews reported. There is no danger of oil pollution. Salvage operations are in progress. — Lloyd's Agents.

BELOYARSK (Russia)

Vladivostok, Mar 23 — Product tanker *Beloyarsk* effected repairs, was

presented to the Register and Port State Control on Mar 21 and found to be in satisfactory condition. The vessel is presently completing cargo operations. — Lloyd's Agents.

BRITISH KESTREL (Isle of Man)

London, Mar 23 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 2105, UTC: Crude oil tanker *British Kestrel*, MRGL4, (63462 gt, built 2006) Tallinn for United States, cargo 78,868 tonnes of fuel oil, is at anchor in deep water anchorage, in lat 50 26.7N, long 03 23.1W, with part of steering system defective. Vessel has engine power if required. Owners are sending a technician to the vessel to assist in the repairs. He is expected to arrive tomorrow or Sunday (Mar 25). (Note — *British Kestrel* sailed Muuga Mar 19 for Pascagoula.)

London, Mar 24 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 0915, UTC: Crude oil tanker *British Kestrel*: Emergency Towing Vessel proceeding. Owners are sending a technician to the vessel to assist in the repairs. He is expected to arrive today or tomorrow.

London, Mar 24 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1730, UTC: Crude oil tanker *British Kestrel* is still anchored in the same position. Emergency Towing Vessel, tug *Blizzard*, is proceeding to stand by. It is presently around 15 miles away.

London, Mar 25 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1740, UTC: Crude oil tanker *British Kestrel* is presently anchored in lat 50 26.7N, long 03 23.1W, with tug *Blizzard* on scene. Parts are now on board and repairs are under way, with expected duration of some eight to 10 hours.

London, Mar 26 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1410, UTC: Crude oil tanker *British Kestrel* is still anchored in the same position. Steering gear repairs were reportedly completed at 0235, UTC, today and a shore technician is expected this evening to assess the situation. The vessel is expected to resume voyage tomorrow.

London, Mar 27 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 0427, UTC: Repairs to crude oil tanker *British Kestrel* completed and the vessel is now resuming passage to Pascagoula.

London, Mar 27 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS crude oil tanker *British Kestrel* was in lat 49 52 13.8N, long 04 5 47.4W, 28 nautical miles from Salcombe, speed 16.5 knots, course 244 degs, at 0805, UTC, today.

BROVIG BREEZE (NIS)

London, Mar 26 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, product tanker *Brovig Breeze* was located 37.9 nautical miles from Kragero, Norway, in lat 58 19 22.5N, long 09 44 16.14E, at 1216, UTC, today, course 045 deg, speed 11 knots.

BROVIG OCEAN (Norway)

Montreal, Mar 23 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Brovig Ocean*

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(8500 gt, built 2006) arrived in Montreal, in ballast and loaded approximately 11,000 tonnes of benzene, for discharge in Baltimore. Within a few hours of departing Montreal (0745 hrs, Mar 22) vibrations were noted and the vessel could not get full power. Propeller damage was suspected and the vessel diverted to Three Rivers, where a diver's inspection found that blades Nos.4 & 5 were bent. The vessel has a five blade propeller. A propeller technician is on board now, to ascertain what can be done as a temporary repair. All aspects are being investigated. — Lloyd's Agents.

Montreal, Mar 27 — The two damaged propeller blades of combined chemical and oil tank *Brovig Ocean* were straightened under water and the vessel sailed from Three Rivers on Mar 26 for its scheduled destination of Houston. — Lloyd's Agents.

CABO PILAR (Panama)

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated May 27, states: Product tanker *Cabo Pilar* (38900 gt, built 2005), Madre de Deus for Bahamas, loaded with 64,000 tons of oil, managed by Petrobras, which ran aground on Mar 25, is still aground on a sand bar seven kms from Salvador. A high tide will be necessary to refloat the vessel and that should happen tomorrow. According to the Port Authority, the grounding caused no damage to the vessel and there is no risk of any oil spill, but the Captain of the Port has opened an administrative inquiry to investigate the causes of the accident. (Note — Understand that *Cabo Pilar* was refloated at 1250, local time, yesterday and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was bound for Freeport, Bahamas, in lat 12 59 58S, long 38 33 41W, at 1917, UTC, Mar 28. Speed 2.9 knots, course 342 degrees.)

CAPE HATTERAS (Cyprus)

London, Mar 23 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, container carrier *Cape Hatteras* was in port at Setubal at 1017, UTC, Mar 23.

CEMVALE (Cyprus)

London, Mar 23 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Bulk cement carrier *Cemvale* (2894 gt, built 1992), loaded with cement, struck the cement loading quay at Brunsbittel yesterday afternoon, while berthing. The vessel sustained a large hole in the bow, above the waterline. Tug *Bugsier II* towed the vessel to the South Quay at Brunsbittel, where repairs will be carried out.

London, Mar 28 — Bulk cement carrier *Cemvale* sailed Brunsbittel Mar 26 for Dublin.

CHAMBON SIROCCO (France)

See *Ulrike G.*

CHEMSTAR EAGLE (Panama)

Leghorn, Mar 28 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Chemstar Eagle* is still in port. Temporary repairs have already been effected. However, the vessel has now been arrested by the

Court until relevant guarantee for the expenses related to the pollution is given by owners to the local authorities. Ship Agents have advised that such guarantee is expected to be obtained very soon, thus enabling the vessel to leave port. Further shipowners' instructions concerning vessel's next destination are still awaited. The cleaning-up operations, which are still being carried out by local specialised companies, proved to be quite successful. In fact, the seaside promenade and terrace have already been thoroughly scrubbed and washed and all traces of the bunker oil, spilled from the vessel on the Leghorn coast, are being removed. — Lloyd's Agents.

CITY OF MERSIN (Panama)

London, Mar 24 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1140, UTC: General cargo *City of Mersin* is still aground.

London, Mar 27 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0930, UTC: General cargo *City of Mersin* remains aground. Last information indicated that a technician was awaited.

London, Mar 29 — Following received from Piraeus MRCC, timed 0935, UTC: After part cargo of general cargo *City of Mersin* was transhipped to general cargo *Kapitan Muhsin*, the vessel was refloated early yesterday morning. *City of Mersin* is currently at anchor.

CLIPPER TROJAN (Bahamas)

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Three companies that own and operate chemical tanker *Clipper Trojan* (9553 gt, built 1996) were indicted today in connection with an attempt by crew members to cover up the illegal dumping of oily waste in international waters, the US Justice Department announced. The 11-count indictment named Clipper Wonsild Tankers Holding A/S and Clipper Marine Services A/S, both of which are Danish companies, that operate and manage *Clipper Trojan*, and Trojan Shipping Co. Ltd., a Bahamas company that is the vessel's registered owner, as defendants. All three companies are part of The Clipper Group A/S, a global shipping consortium based in Denmark. According to the indictment, the vessel's crew members dumped oil sludge directly overboard on two occasions in May and June of 2006 and regularly dumped oil-contaminated bilge water overboard between March and June of 2006. Furthermore, crew members attempted to prevent the US Coast Guard from learning of the illegal discharges during an inspection of the vessel at Port Newark on Jun 15, 2006. According to the indictment, the vessel's chief engineer failed to record discharges in the vessel's oil record book and included false entries in the book that were intended to mislead the Coast Guard. The chief engineer presented the false oil record book to the Coast Guard during the Coast Guard's inspection. According to the indictment, the chief engineer made several false statements to Coast Guard inspectors and encouraged other crew members to lie to the Coast Guard

as well. The indictment alleges that the crew members acted as agents for the three corporate defendants in attempting to cover up the illegal discharges of oily waste. It also alleges that the three companies failed to provide sufficient training to the crew and failed to diligently enforce company policies concerning the handling of oily waste. The indictment further alleges that the companies caused some crew members to execute affidavits falsely stating that the crew members had received briefings on the MARPOL Protocol, an international treaty regulating the handling and disposal of oil waste at sea and US laws concerning oil pollution. On Feb 2, 2007, Fernando Magnaye, of Quezon City, Philippines, who was the vessel's chief engineer, pleaded guilty to charges of presenting a false document to the Coast Guard and attempting to obstruct a Coast Guard inspection. During his plea hearing before US District Judge Mary L. Cooper, in Trenton, Magnaye admitted that he knew about illegal discharges of oil sludge and contaminated bilge waste but nonetheless failed to record those discharges in the vessel's Oil Record Book. Magnaye also admitted that he presented the false oil record book to the Coast Guard and falsely claimed to Coast Guard inspectors that the book was accurate. Mangaye further admitted that he asked the vessel's fourth engineer to fabricate a pipe that would ensure that the Coast Guard would take a false reading of the contents of the vessel's bilge sludge oil tank, in which oily waste was stored. The indictment charges each of the companies with one count of conspiracy, one count of violation of the MARPOL Protocol, one count of making and using materially false writings and documents, seven counts of obstruction of justice, and one count of concealment of a tangible object to obstruct an investigation. If convicted, the companies face statutory maximum fines of \$500,000 on each count or, alternatively, twice the amount of any gain to the corporations that inured as a result of the criminal conduct. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant US Attorney Bradley A. Harsch of the US Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey and H. Claire Whitney, Senior Counsel for the US Department of Justice Environmental Crimes Section. The investigation was conducted by US Coast Guard Investigative Service.

COTE D'IVOIRIAN STAR (Panama)

London, Mar 27 — Refrigerated general cargo *Cote d'Ivoirian Star* sailed Agadir Mar 19 and subsequently arrived Abidjan Mar 24.

DOKKEN (Panama)

London, Mar 29 — Following navigation warning issued Mar 23: Combined chemical and oil tank *Dokken* (7498 gt, built 1982) lost anchor in lat 29 47.91S, long 31 05.93E. Danger to navigation. Vessels to give a wide berth until further notice. (Note — *Dokken* arrived Durban Mar 20, and sailed Mar 22.)

DOLPHIN 111 (Vanuatu)

London, Mar 22 — A Coast Guard Corpus Christi press release, dated Mar 21, states: Coast Guard personnel continue to monitor drill platform *Dolphin 111* that is aground approximately one mile offshore and six miles south of the Port Aransas, Texas jetties. Workers are preparing for an underwater inspection of the rig. Divers will ensure the rig is not in need of any repairs prior to refloating it. The divers are expected to complete their inspection this evening or tomorrow morning. It was previously reported that the generators provided power for de-watering pumps. The generators that did not have fuel were for the ballast pumps that provide levelling capabilities. The rig crew had attempted to level the platform but were not successful.

London, Mar 22 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 2150, UTC: Drill platform *Dolphin 111* is still in the same position. Owners representatives are assessing the situation and drawing up a salvage plan. Divers have not been able to dive today because of the bad weather.

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated Mar 22, states: A salvage team from Houston is proceeding to the Port Aransas jetties to try and refloat drill platform *Dolphin 111*. The Coast Guard tried to stabilise the rig today, but it apparently has taken on more water than originally thought. The salvage team will try to plug up some of the vents that are letting the sea water in. Once that has been completed, they will try to drain and move the rig, but that may not happen until this weekend.

London, Mar 23 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1550, UTC: Drill platform *Dolphin 111* remains aground. A salvage plan is being drawn up. (See issue of Mar 26.)

London, Mar 26 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1400, UTC: Drill platform *Dolphin 111* remains aground south of Port Aransas. An improvement in the weather is awaited to enable a diver survey to be carried out in order to obtain approval of the salvage plan. Salvage equipment is due on scene today.

London, Mar 28 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1430, UTC: Drill platform *Dolphin 111* remains aground. An improvement in the weather is awaited to allow salvage operations to commence.

DONG WON NO.212 (South Korea)

Tahiti, Mar 22 — Fishing (general) *Dong Won No.212* towed to Tahiti following engine problems: Following information received from Papeete MRCC: On Mar 17 call received from Tahiti Fishing, local agent of *Dong Won No.212*, asking assistance for vessel. This call was confirmed by radio call with the vessel's captain. Position was given and engine problem was reported. At 1710, Mar 17, French Navy tug RPC *Maroa* left Papeete and headed 300 Nq/North/Tahiti. At 0745, Mar 19, French Navy tug RPC *Maroa*

towed *Dong Won No.212* back to Tahiti. At 2045, Mar 21, convoy arrived at Papeete harbour. The manager of Tahiti Fishing and a technician report: "Parts for broken engine have been ordered in Korea and they are on the way to Tahiti. It seems that the boat will be able to leave Tahiti on Mar 31." — Lloyd's Agents.

DORUK A. (Turkey)

London, Mar 29 — General cargo *Doruk A.* (4294 gt, built 1984), in ballast, 20 crew members, reports engine failure in lat 38 33N, long 25 46E.

EGON (Indonesia)

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated today, states: As many as 283 passengers on board roll on roll off *Egon* (4851 gt, built 1991) were evacuated at Central Java's sea port of Tanjung Mas after state shipping company PT Pelni received a bomb threat today. MetroTV television reported that the vessel was ready to leave Tanjung Mas for Kumai when it received the bomb threat. Members of the anti-bomb squad were observed sweeping the vessel soon after everyone on board was evacuated.

Jakarta, Mar 29 — Roll On Roll Off *Egon* received a bomb threat, Mar 26, at Tanjung Emas, Semarang, Central Java. The vessel is now back in service after 24 hours intensive checking in which nothing has been found. The vessel sailed to Kumai, South Kalimantan, at about 1300, local time, Mar 27. — Lloyd's Agents.

EKARMA-2 (Russia)

London, Mar 29 — Fishing (general) *Ekarma-2* (745 gt, built 1994) had a net entangled in its propeller in the Sea of Okhotsk Mar 27. Salvage tug *Predanny* is towing trawler to refuge "in" nearby ice to clear the propeller. The vessel was in lat 54.02.5N, long 150.00.8E by 0600, Moscow time, Mar 28. Weather: Wind NW 15 m/sec, ice floes.

EMERALD SEA

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing (general) *Emerald Sea* (86 gt, built 1980), trawling for sardines off Newport Beach, ran aground early yesterday. The vessel, which cast off from San Pedro, apparently hit a sandbar near 36th Street about 0100 hrs, jolting the five-member crew. There were no injuries and no apparent damage to the steel-hulled vessel, which was stuck about a half-mile north of Newport Pier. Officials said a tug would attempt to pull the trawler off the sandbar at high tide early this morning. It's unclear why the *Emerald Sea* ran aground, though authorities said preliminary reports pointed to operator error.

London, Mar 24 — Following received from Coast Guard San Francisco, timed 1035, UTC: *Emerald Sea*, VIN 626289, refloated at 0143, local time, today. Vessel has a small crack in its keel and pumps have been placed on board. Vessel has moored to effect repairs. No pollution.

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A private tug crew pulled the grounded fishing (general) *Emerald Sea* into deep water shortly before high tide this morning. The sardine vessel was pulled off a sandbar shortly after midnight, according to a Newport Beach Harbour Patrol spokesman. *Emerald Sea* was examined by a US Coast Guard inspector, who determined that no damage to the hull was sustained in the accident, according to the Newport Beach Fire Department.

ENGLISH STAR (Bahamas)

Guayaquil, Mar 22 — During loading operations at Guayaquil port yesterday refrigerated general cargo *English Star* (10291 gt, built 1985) had a fire in at least one of its holds. A survey was conducted yesterday. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *English Star* was still moored at Guayaquil at 1804, UTC, today.)

Guayaquil, Mar 26 — Refrigerated general cargo *English Star* had a fire in hold No 3 at approximately 1006, Mar 21. Approximately 9,269 boxes of fresh green bananas were stored in the hold and were completely destroyed due to the heavy smoke the and sea water poured into the hold, which soaked the boxes. The most probable cause of the fire into the room of reefer was a short circuit in the electric cables of fan No 1 and/or in the electrical cables that feed the fans. There were no injuries, and no pollution was observed during or after the fire. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 28 — Refrigerated general cargo *English Star* sailed Guayaquil Mar 24.

ESTONIA (Estonia)

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated Mar 22, states: Passenger ro/ro *Estonia* that sank Sep 28, 1994, in the Baltic Sea might have been carrying weapons, says a report drafted by a special commission of the Estonian government. The authorities published the document today. It says weaponry that Estonian officials knew nothing about might have been loaded into the vessel's holds. However, the report rejects claims *Estonia* had sunk after an explosion on board. "The ship wrecked due to construction flaws, a storm on high seas and excessive speed," it said. An official version of the tragic wreckage that claimed 852 lives was challenged by the Russian research and analysis group Feniks. Its experts claimed the ferry's crew might have been transporting some illegal cargoes like weaponry, drugs or precious metals. Apprehensions of exposure of the cargo might have prompted someone to get rid of it by throwing it overboard and this was exactly what led to a disaster on the stormy night, Feniks experts surmised. Another story published in the Estonian media suggested that *Estonia* had twice carried some Russian defence equipment to Swedish secret services in September 1994. (Note — *Estonia* had engine breakdown in stormy weather and subsequently capsized and sank about 20 miles south-south-east of

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Uto pilot station, in lat 59 23N, long 21 42E, 28 September 1994, after the bow door was torn off when a locking device failed. 989 persons on board, 137 survivors.

EVERLYN MAERSK (DIS)

Copenhagen, Mar 28 — Port of Odense confirm that container carrier *Evelyn Maersk* experienced engine problems during sea trials which commenced on Mar 17. The vessel was thereafter riding at anchor for two or three days until the problem was solved. A bearing in the fuel supply had burned out. Understand that sea trials are still being performed. — Lloyd's Agents.

Copenhagen, Mar 28 — Container Carrier *Evelyn Maersk* arrived at Aarhus at 0630, local time, Mar 26 and is due to leave on Apr 7. — Lloyd's Agents.

EXCELSIOR

London, Mar 27 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: Operations to raise 14 sunken containers from general cargo *Excelsior* re-commenced today. Three sheerlegs were ordered to the site from the lower Rhine and South Germany, for this purpose. The remaining two containers with dangerous goods are to be raised first. The one which was salvaged yesterday has been placed and secured on the Rhine shore. The river is closed to shipping over a length of 20 kms, between Colgne-Zundorf and Cologne-Niehl. More than 200 vessels are now waiting for passage.

London, Mar 28 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Eight of the containers lost from general cargo *Excelsior* have so far been salvaged from the bottom of the Rhine. Strong currents are making the work difficult and dangerous. The intention is to open the Rhine, at least partially, on Mar 30. Prosecutors in Duisburg have not yet decided whether to continue the investigations of the vessel in situ, or whether to tow it into a yard. A total of 32 containers fell into the river, one more than originally thought. Salvage work is concentrating on one container with dangerous goods which is lying close to the shore, along with the containers which sank directly in the shipping lane. A container holding 68 barrels of dangerous goods which had already been salvaged by the Fire Brigade has been emptied. None of the barrels was damaged. Fifty-two firefighters, 39 Technical Support workers and six members of the Bayer Fire Brigade were on the scene from Mar 27-28.

London, Mar 29 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: Salvage work to recover containers lost by general cargo *Excelsior* continues today. Sixteen of the 32 containers lost have been recovered to date, including the three which contained dangerous goods. When the third container with dangerous goods was raised most of the acid carried in barrels had been lost and it was in danger of breaking in two. The acid in the second container, successfully salvaged yesterday, was

safely unloaded and transported to a special firm, by lorry. The first of the three was recovered from close to the South bridge in Cologne without problems. Three containers are presumed to be directly beneath *Excelsior*. Four vessels are searching for actual container positions this morning. The sunken containers change positions, due to the current. A fourth salvage vessel from Mannheim is to support the recovery works from today. Also today, the remaining cargo on board *Excelsior* is to be secured and the ship will proceed to Niehl, where the remaining containers are to be unloaded. Meanwhile 500 vessels are delayed, waiting for passage.

EXCELSIOR (Germany)

Portsmouth, UK, Mar 25 — Earlier today, general cargo *Excelsior* (2,878 gt, built 1986), lost 30 large containers on the River Rhine at Cologne. The river police warned shipping of the danger of possible floating containers in the area, but some have already sunk. Shipping has been stopped at Cologne. — Correspondent.

London, Mar 26 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: At 1430 hrs, Mar 25, the German inland general cargo *Excelsior*, homeport Neckarsteinach, Stuttgart to Rotterdam, with 103 containers, lost about 31 containers in the Rhine, close to Cologne. The ship had sustained water ingress in the forepart and had unsuccessfully tried to turn around. The master had intended to anchor, but the vessel stuck fast on the right bank and developed such a list that the containers on deck fell into the water. The cargo was drifting downstream, so the river was closed between km's 675 and 678. Up to 1930 hrs, some 30 ships travelling downstream and 20 in the opposite direction were affected by the river closing. The ship remained listing and in danger of capsizing. Several rescue teams are on scene. Some of the 40-ft-boxes sank. Twenty-five have been traced and secured. They will be salvaged tomorrow.

London, Mar 26 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: Three of the containers lost from general cargo *Excelsior* contained dangerous goods. Two of them have been found, the third is still missing. Police forces, supported by helicopters, have currently found 17 containers, which have been salvaged. Fourteen are presumed to be sunk. The will have to be traced with sonar and then raised with a sheerleg. It is now anticipated that the River Rhine may be closed until Mar 28, at least.

London, Mar 26 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The containers lost from general cargo *Excelsior* at Cologne on Mar 25 are spread over a length of 20 km, reaching the city of Cologne. The cause of the loss is still unclear. The vessel carried 2,630 tons cargo in 103 containers. The last six containers were traced this afternoon, among them one containing a substance for mordanting. The salvage work first concentrated on the three containers loaded with dangerous goods. One, which carried 22 tons of

fuel addition, was first righted and then pumped out by firefighters. A small quantity of the contents leaked into the Rhine. The other two containers will be raised next. Two contracted salvage companies will commence the salvage of the other 28 containers on Mar 27. Fourteen containers have sunk in the traffic lane, and 17 others close to the shore. Three specially equipped salvage vessels are expected to arrive early Mar 27. Meanwhile, 100 vessels are waiting for passage up-and-downstream and have, as a precaution, partially berthed some distance from Cologne. The river closure could last up to Mar 29, although it will hopefully be at least partially reopened before then.

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated Mar 26, states: A 12-mile stretch of the Rhine river was closed to shipping on Monday (Mar 26) as authorities in Cologne tried to locate several large metal containers that fell off general cargo *Excelsior* over the weekend. The vessel, lost 31 containers on Sunday afternoon. Several fell off when the vessel listed; the rest spilled when the master swung the vessel round in an attempt to recover the lost cargo. Twenty-five of the containers had already been recovered on Monday but police were still searching for the other six, which had likely sunk and could pose a threat to other shipping. The stretch of the river around Cologne was expected to remain shut down through Wednesday, police said. Some 100 vessels were already backed up awaiting its reopening. None of the containers was believed to contain anything that could cause significant environmental damage.

London, Mar 28 — Information received from Kiel, dated today: The salvage of the 31 containers which were lost by general cargo *Excelsior* on the Rhine proceeded on Mar 27. In the midday hours the sheerleg *Grizzly* and the diver support vessel *Carl Straat*, homeport Duisburg, arrived as well as a crane which started work at Porz-Ensen where several containers ran aground or sank. Seventeen containers were secured by fire brigade, 14 have sunk in the traffic lane. All positions are known, but the current may move the containers. At Zuendorf a "diver's bell" was tried, which allows fixing the ropes while working directly on the sunken container. The salvage of the first container here lasted longer than expected as the 20 tons of corn inside now had a weight of 60 tons after water ingress. *Grizzly* raised the container at 1730 hrs and placed it onto a pontoon. More difficulties were faced in Ensen. One of the slightly damaged containers with chemicals collapsed in the middle when being raised by the crane *Kraanvogel*. It could only be taken to the shore and not on to a vessel as planned. A Rhine ferry should take the container in the evening hours into the harbour of Niehl. Therefore the second container with dangerous goods can only be salvaged on Mar 28. On the whole six containers were salvaged up to the morning of Mar 28.

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated today, states: The Rhine will probably reopen to traffic tomorrow as rescuers clear the river of containers that fell off general cargo *Excelsior* near Cologne at the weekend. "It's looking more and more like we will open as hoped tomorrow," Markus Lehmacher, a spokesman for Cologne's Water and Shipping Agency, said today. "We don't completely rule out opening it today if we can be sure the shipping channel is completely safe." Ships may be allowed to resume passage even if some containers remain in the water, Lehmacher said. Some 16 containers that slid into the water were recovered by yesterday, he said. Another nine have not yet been retrieved. BASF AG, the world's largest chemical maker, said it may redirect raw-material shipment en route to Rotterdam and Hamburg to truck and rail transport, spokeswoman Saskia Ziegelmaier said yesterday. She said the company, based in Ludwigshafen on the banks of the Rhine, had experienced "limited effects" from the blockage.

EXODUS EXPLORER (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing *Exodus Explorer*, loaded with 35,000 pounds of cod, has sunk at Adak Island and the U.S. Coast Guard is investigating. The vessel sank in six fathoms of water Sunday (Mar 18) after running aground on Gannet Rocks in Kuluk Bay, at about 0200 hrs, while heading into nearby Adak harbour, according to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. Aside from fish, the vessel was also carrying 2,500 to 3,000 gallons of diesel. A boom was placed around the vessel to contain a spill. The vessel is about 100 yards off the beach, capsized, with the stern sticking out of the water. The owner, B&N Fisheries Co. of Seattle, and Capt. Dan Carney have prepared a salvage plan, the DEC reported today.

EXPLORER (Antigua & Barbuda)

Bilbao, Mar 22 — Understand from ship's agents at Requejada that general cargo *Explorer* loaded a shipment of sodium carbonate at Requejada and when leaving the port Mar 16, grounded on a sand bank. The vessel was refloated on Mar 18 with the high tide and the assistance of tugs. *Explorer* was inspected by class (Germanischer Lloyd) with the aid of divers and no damage was noted to the hull. The vessel sailed from Santander on Mar 21 bound for Casablanca. — Lloyd's Agents.

FAGERVIK (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Mar 26 — General cargo *Fagervik*, Antwerp for Tallinn, passed Brunsbuttel 0030, Mar 24.

FEDERAL PATROLLER (Cyprus)

Montreal, Mar 22 — Part containerised general cargo *Federal Patroller*: Temporary repairs to the propeller blades were carried out at Seven Islands on or about Mar 19. Owner's intention regarding permanent repairs is not known. —

Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Federal Patroller* arrived Seven Islands Mar 10.)

FINJA (Germany)

London, Mar 28 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0825, UTC: Combined chemical and oil tank *Finja* (1102 gt, built 2000), cargo 1,000 tonnes of biodiesel, has just anchored off the Netherlands coast, in lat 53 20.1N, long 04 33.7E, with main engine problems. Vessel is attempting to effect own repairs. (Note — *Finja* sailed Hamburg Mar 27 for Rotterdam.)

London, Mar 28 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1505, UTC: Combined chemical and oil tank *Finja* has not been able to effect repairs and tug *Hunter* is now alongside, preparing to put a towline on board. *Finja* is to be towed to Dordrecht.

London, Mar 27 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1746, UTC: Combined chemical and oil tank *Finja* is currently under tow to Dordrecht.

GATUN (Panama)

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated Mar 22, states: The Coast Guard and the Drug Enforcement Administration announced a record seizure of 42,845 pounds of cocaine on board general cargo *Gatun* (3241 gt, built 1970) on Sunday (Mar 18) off the coast of Panama. A Coast Guard C-130 spotted *Gatun* approximately 20 miles south-west of Isla de Coiba, Panama, on Saturday. It received consent to board the vessel through a maritime agreement between the United States and Panama. A search team discovered the cocaine hidden in two containers on board the ship. Fourteen Panamanian and Mexican crew members were arrested and were transferred to the United States and Panama for prosecution. DEA Administrator Karen Tandy said: "This weekend Mexican drug traffickers were awaiting the arrival of 19 tonnes of cocaine that is now in the hands of U.S. law enforcement instead of the hands of drug traffickers and abusers." The cocaine has an estimated value of \$300-million."

Balboa, Mar 28 — General cargo *Gatun* was detained by the United States Coast Guard and is presently at Balboa anchorage. Press reports indicate that 19.5 tons of cocaine were seized on board. The vessel is said to be under the custody of the Panamanian government at this time. — Lloyd's Agents.

GOLDEN SKY (Cyprus)

Riga, Mar 28 — Part cargo from bulker *Golden Sky* was discharged into barges, vessel was subsequently refloated and moved to anchorage. Owners and underwriters will decide in the next few days whether to scrap vessel due to heavy damage to hull. Ingress of water continues to holds 2 and 3 and into engine-room. — Lloyd's Agents.

GORGONA (Barbados)

Istanbul, Mar 28 — Chemical tanker *Gorgona* (4996 gt, built 1976) has

dropped anchor near the Buyukdere Bay pilot station due to engine trouble. — TurkishStraits.com.

HAGONOY (Philippines)

Manila, Mar 23 — Non specific tanker *Hagonoy* left Herma Shipyard, Mariveles, this evening for the Petron Refinery anchorage at Limay. The vessel, which underwent repairs to its storage tank and bridge damaged by an onboard explosion, passed a recent safety and structural inspection by Petron Corp surveyors, paving the way for the resumption of its chartering contract with Petron Corp. The vessel will be taking on a cargo of white petroleum products from the refinery. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

HARPOON (Philippines)

Manila, Mar 25 — The Philippine Coast Guard in a preliminary report said that fire broke out early yesterday morning on general cargo *Harpoon* (4028 gt, built 1983) while it was drydocked at the Balamban town shipyard of Tsuneshi Heavy Industries (Cebu) Inc in Cebu Province, central Philippines. There were no fatalities. The vessel was undergoing repairs when the fire occurred, Coast Guard officials said. The cause of the fire is still to be determined. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: The head of the Philippine Coast Guard led a team, yesterday, that will assess the oil spill caused by general cargo *Harpoon*, a senior official said. The vessel caught fire while undergoing repairs in a shipyard in Cebu. Fishermen in Toledo City have been complaining that an oil slick has started to damage their fishing nets said Coast Guard spokesman Armand Balilo. The vessel caught fire at 2200, Mar 24. The fire was extinguished by 0300, Mar 25. Fishermen in Sto Nino village noticed the oil spill at 0600, Mar 25. "The ship might have leaked as a result of the fire, which started in vessel's engine room," said fire officer Ben Diotay. The spill spread out over a 150-metre radius, and has affected 11 coastal villages, said Haile Baron, village chief of Sto Nino village. The oil spill has reached a beach near the city cemetery and a private resort in Matabang village in Toledo City, said Baron, adding that marine life and livelihood in these areas will be totally endangered if nothing is done about the oil spill. "Dead fish have begun floating in our seas," said Toledo City Mayor Arlene Zambo, adding, "The situation has worsened."

Manila, Mar 28 — An oil slick, which threatened Toledo City and five coastal villages on Cebu island, central Philippines, has been traced to general cargo *Harpoon*, which caught fire while undergoing repairs at Tsuneshi Heavy Industries (Cebu) Inc shipyard. Reports indicate that the oil spill occurred when a fire broke out in the engine-room of the vessel on Friday evening (Mar 23) while it was drydocked at one of the yard's floating docks located about 20 metres from shore. The

bunker fuel escaped from the floating dock into the surrounding waters when firemen smashed a hole in the ship's hull to gain access into the engine-room. About 250 litres spilled into the sea before oil spill booms could be laid around the floating dock. Tsuneishi officials said that the oil spill had been placed under control by Monday as shipyard workers applied dispersants and laid oil spill booms around affected coastal areas. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

HUMBER WAY (Malta)

Hull, Mar 22 — Roll On Roll Off *Humber Way* is currently alongside in Immingham Dock with discharge operations continuing. Discharge should hopefully complete tomorrow. No serious damages to vessel noted at this time. Further inspections to take place by attending surveyors once discharge completed. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 28 — Roll On Roll Off *Humber Way* arrived and sailed Ostend Mar 26 for Immingham.

HUMEN BRIDGE

Yokohama, Mar 25 — Container Carrier *Humen Bridge* became unnavigable at 1515 hrs, Mar 16, in lat 33 33.6N, long 132 15.9E, due to a leakage of oil from a mechanical seal on the stern tube. She was towed to Aioi port for the necessary repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

ICE QUEEN (Greece)

London, Mar 22 — General cargo *Ice Queen* arrived Gdansk 0135, Mar 21, from Greece.

IL SUNG T-1 (South Korea)

Busan, Mar 28 — Tug *Il Sung T-1* was accepted as a constructive total loss by the underwriters and sold on Mar 19, "as is, where is". The tug is still aground at the site and the refloating operation will be commenced on Mar 29. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

JIMMY SMITH (U.S.A.)

See *Na-Kao*.

JO ROGN (NIS)

Port Said, Mar 26 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Jo Rogn* has completed repairs and entered the Suez Canal at 2215 hrs, Mar 24. — Lloyd's Agents.

KAPITAN ARTYUKH (Russia)

Vladivostok, Mar 23 — On Mar 3, container carrier *Kapitan Artyukh* was successfully towed to Vladivostok from Petropavlovsk and moored at Vladivostok Commercial port. On Mar 19, she was re-towed to Slavyanka shipyard, where she was dry-docked two days later. Repairs are currently in progress and are expected to last approximately 49 days, from Mar 21. — Lloyd's Agents.

KAYE E.BARKER (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 26 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1345, UTC: Bulker *Kaye E.Barker* (11949 gt, built 1952) had boiler backfire at Duluth Mar 22, causing

cracking of boiler outer casing, after it started its engines up to prepare to resume service at the end of its winter lay-up. Marine Safety personnel were reportedly due to inspect vessel Mar 23. At present, *Kaye E.Barker* remains at Duluth effecting repairs to the boiler.

KHALED MUHIEDDINE (Panama)

London, Mar 23 — Bulker *Khaled Muhieddine* arrived St. Vincent, CV, Mar 13.

KRISTIN POLING (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 26 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1330, UTC: Tank barge *Kristin Poling* (1546 gt, built 1934) had steering problems and struck oil pier at East River, New York, in the area of 149th Street, Bronx, in lat 40 47.5N, long 73 54.5W, at 0600, local time, Mar 24. There was some damage to the facility but there were no indications that vessel's hull had been breached. A diver survey was carried out, which did not reveal any damage. Vessel remains at anchor in New York and will probably undergo gas-freeing operations prior to an inspection of its tanks.

London, Mar 28 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1415, UTC: Tank barge *Kristin Poling* is still at New York with inspections, etc, being finalised.

LATO (Greece)

London, Mar 22 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS passenger ro/ro *Lato* at Piraeus in lat 37 56 44.75N, long 23 38 12.25E at 1354, today.

LUKORAN TRI

St. Vincent CVI, Mar 22 — Fishing (general) *Lukoran Tri* is still grounded despite owners/agents refloating attempts using the local port administration's tugs. Owners inform that a salvage team will fly to Cape Verde to assist shortly. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAERSK NOVAZZANO (Liberia)

London, Mar 23 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 2035, UTC: Container Carrier *Maersk Novazzano* (23896 gt, built 1997), Suva for Vancouver, is diverting to Honolulu, where due off port 1700, UTC, Mar 25, to rectify the problem of "a drain plug out of aft void", which allowed seawater enter into some light mineral oil. Vessel is in no danger. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Maersk Novazzano* was in lat 03 36S, long 168 24W, at 1200, UTC, Mar 21.)

London, Mar 26 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 1627, UTC: Container carrier *Maersk Novazzano* is currently at Honolulu anchorage, effecting repairs.

London, Mar 28 — Container Carrier *Maersk Novazzano* sailed Honolulu Mar 27.

MAI (Japan)

Busan, Mar 29 — Barge *Mai* docked on a slipway at Busan on Mar 18 and is now under repair. Expected date of completion Apr 15. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MARC-ANDRE (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Mar 26 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: Around midday, Mar 23, general cargo *Marc-Andre* (2518 gt, built 2007) collided with a bridge, while proceeding from its building yard in Kampen to Harlingen on the Rijkswaterstaat. The ship had been caught by a sudden strong wind. The concrete structure of the bridge was damaged and traffic over it was diverted. Repairs to the bridge are estimated to last some weeks. *Marc Andre* returned to the building yard in Kampen for repairs.

MARIA LOURDES (Philippines)

Manila, Mar 29 — General cargo *Maria Lourdes* is stated to undergo sea trials this week, following completion of repairs at Mayon Docks in Albay province. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

MEISHENG 3698 (China)

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Hopes of rescuing three missing Chinese sailors were fading last night, a day after their cargo vessel hit a South Korean vessel and capsized in the Yangtze River. The collision took place near Baoshan Port at the mouth of the river at 2000 hrs on Sunday (Mar 25), maritime safety administration officials said yesterday. Rescue workers were still looking for the missing sailors last night but officials said it was unlikely they had survived. The 10,000-ton Korean cargo vessel was leaving Baoshan Port bound for Pusan in South Korea when it collided with the smaller Chinese general cargo *Meisheng 3698*, which was arriving from Nanjing in Jiangpu Province with five crew onboard. The Chinese vessel quickly capsized after the collision, officials said. Maritime rescuers said they pulled two sailors from the water within 10 minutes of the collision, but were unable to locate the three other crew members. The identities of the missing crew have not yet been disclosed. The cause of the accident is still under investigation, but authorities said they had ruled out visibility problems, because conditions were clear at the time of the collision. The Korean vessel has been ordered to anchor at a local port to assist in investigations. Attempts by salvage operators to raise the ship were ongoing yesterday and it still lies in the water near the banks of the river. Small vessels that navigate the waterways near the banks were forced to divert to avoid the capsized ship, according to maritime officials.

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated Mar 27, states: Hopes of rescuing three missing Chinese sailors were fading last night, a day after their cargo vessel hit a South Korean vessel and capsized in the Yangtze River. The collision took place near Baoshan Port at the mouth of the river, at 2000 hrs on Sunday (Mar 25). Maritime Safety Administration officials said yesterday. Rescue workers were still looking for the missing sailors last night, but officials said it was unlikely they had

survived. The 10,000-ton Korean cargo vessel (Container Carrier *Star Mariner* (9522 gt, built 2005)) was leaving Baoshan Port bound for Pusan in South Korea when it collided with the smaller Chinese general cargo *Meisheng 3698*, which was arriving from Nanjing in Jiangpu Province with five crew on board. The Chinese vessel quickly capsized after the collision, officials said. Maritime rescuers said they pulled two sailors from the water within 10 minutes of the collision, but were unable to locate the three other crew members. The identities of the missing crew have not yet been disclosed. The cause of the accident is still under investigation, but authorities said they had ruled out visibility problems because conditions were clear at the time of the collision. The Korean vessel has been ordered to anchor at a local port to assist in investigations. Attempts by salvage operators to raise the vessel were ongoing yesterday and it still lies in the water near the banks of the river. Small vessels that navigate the waterways near the banks were forced to divert to avoid the capsized vessel, according to maritime officials.

Busan, Mar 29 — Container Carrier *Star Mariner* is at present at the site for inspection and investigation with ETD Mar 30. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Star Mariner* arrived Shanghai Mar 25 and sailed same day for South Korea, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was anchored 10 nautical miles from Shanghai, in lat 31 24 6.78N, long 121 34 31.68E at 0722, UTC, today.)

MIKHAIL DUDIN (Malta)

Riga, Mar 28 — General cargo *Mikhail Dudin* remains in the same position. Spare parts are expected on Apr 10. — Lloyd's Agents.

MISS RUTHA (Bolivia)

London, Mar 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A tug had to rescue supply *Miss Rutha* (148 gt, built 1966) off Miami Beach this morning, after it broke loose from its moorings and started a dangerous drift toward shore. The Coast Guard said they received a call about *Miss Rutha*, drifting towards Miami Beach just before 1000 hrs today. According to their report, the crew members remained on board and they were not notified that the ship was in distress. A commercial salvage tug joined up with *Miss Rutha* about 1015 hrs. The crew of the tug is trying to re-direct it back out to sea. The Coast Guard says that one of the reasons that may have contributed to the ship getting loose from its anchorage is the higher than normal wind and rough seas.

London, Mar 22 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1750, UTC: Supply *Miss Rutha* has been safely towed into the Miami River.

London, Mar 23 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami 1530, UTC: Supply *Miss Rutha* is still berthed at Miami.

MN-PELICAN (France)

London, Mar 24 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Roll On Roll Off *MN-Pelican* (12,076 gt, built 1998), Lubeck for France, contacted the lock while entering the new Northern Lock, Kiel Canal, this morning, damaging metal installations of a building site within. Damage is being investigated.

London, Mar 28 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, roll on roll off *MN-Pelican* was located stationary at La Pallice as of 1037, UTC, today.

MSC ERMINIA (Panama)

London, Mar 22 — Container Carrier *MSC Erminia* arrived Antwerp 1921, Mar 21 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was still stationary in lat 51 19 32N, long 04 20 11E, at 1831, UTC, today.

Zeebrugge, Mar 23 — Container Carrier *MSC Erminia* encountered steering problems on the River Scheldt and was towed to its berth. The problem has already been solved and the vessel sailed this morning. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MSC NAPOLI (U.K.)

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Container carrier *MSC Napoli* was carrying more than 1,500 tonnes of toxic chemicals including battery acid, a banned pest killer and a substance which can affect human hormones. The owners of the vessel have refused to publish full details of what she was carrying. In the wake of the accident officials only confirmed that 1,552 tonnes of chemicals were being transported, but would not give details of what they were. However, under the Freedom of Information Act, the Coastguard and Maritime Agency (MCA) has now been forced to reveal the full inventory of the chemicals. The list includes 81.5 tonnes of battery acid, 60 tonnes of hazardous phosphorous, 36 tonnes of fluorocarbons - a chemical found inside fridges - and 42 tonnes of methyl bromide - a pest killer banned in most countries. Although none of the chemicals leaked into the sea, environmental groups say it was a "miracle" the accident didn't turn into a major environmental catastrophe. Dr Paul Johnston, of Greenpeace, said: "The chemicals were packaged in drums and tanks, but they can only take so much punishment, as we saw with the non-hazardous containers which came ashore. If these chemicals escaped there would have been a significant environmental impact. It would have been a disaster for sea life if the weather had been worse. Methyl bromide in particular is very nasty. Kids could have tampered with a container and gassed themselves and there would have been dead fish and birds everywhere." *MSC Napoli* was carrying 42 tonnes of methyl bromide - a pest killer banned in most developed countries because it depletes the ozone layer and can cause convulsions and nausea. The vessel also held 2.5 tonnes of carbendazim, a substance listed on Friends of the Earth's 'filthy four' list

of pesticides because of fears it can disrupt hormones. In total, 159 containers of hazardous goods were on board the vessel when she was deliberately beached. Officials say 84 of them have been lifted off. Two, containing nitric acid and car air bags, were washed ashore, but the substances did not get released. Now just 75 remain below deck of the vessel. An MCA spokesman said all the hazardous chemicals were packaged in accordance with United Nations guidelines. She said: "There were 159 containers with hazardous goods in them, but some containers carried more than one substance, hence there are more entries on the list than containers. All dangerous goods are required to be cased in UN-approved packaging in order to minimise accidental release."

London, Mar 26 — Every container removed from the beached Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* is being weighed, opened and the contents examined, as investigators search for evidence of undeclared or misdeclared hazardous cargo. The inspections are being carried out by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in parallel with the main accident enquiry that the UK's Marine Accident Investigation Branch is conducting and could result in prosecutions. Those charged would probably be the consignors, although the cargo screening systems of Mediterranean Shipping Co are also likely to be scrutinised, if large quantities of wrongly labelled dangerous goods or over-heavy freight are found. It is a criminal offence in the UK to not declare dangerous substances and could lead to jail sentences, Captain Jeremy Smart, the MCA's principal enforcement officer, is reminding shippers. Never before has a regulatory agency had such an opportunity to discover exactly what is carried in a container and whether it matches the official description. Most major containership casualties have involved fire, explosion or grounding in relatively inaccessible areas, and often involve vessels flying an international flag. *MSC Napoli*, in contrast, is a British-registered, managed by London-headquartered Zodiac Maritime Agencies and now aground off the south of England.

MTS CHRISTA (Netherlands)

Portsmouth, UK, Mar 24 — Non specific tanker *MTS Christa* (730 gt, built 1962) was in collision with tug *Willem Laurentz* with three barges, at 1930 hrs, Thursday (Mar 22) on the Albert Canal, off Meerhout. The tanker, which was loaded with fuel, sustained a leak, however, no fuel ended up in the canal. Shipping movements on the Albert Canal were unaffected by the collision. — Correspondent.

MYRA (Bahamas)

Georgetown, Guyana, Mar 22 — General cargo *Myra* arrived with a consignment of soya which the public health stated was contaminated with salmonella and should not be off-loaded. However, the consignee went to

the courts, who overruled the public health authorities and said that the consignment be discharged. Today when the vessel was about to discharge, a countermove was made staying the discharge. The vessel is now at anchorage awaiting further proceedings. This morning when the vessel was first expected to discharge, the consignee requested a discharge survey including sampling. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated Mar 25, states: The Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) is unchanged in its position against the release of 900 tonnes of soya feed contaminated with salmonella typhimurium, which is on board the general cargo *Myra*, moored midstream of the Demerara River. On Wednesday (Mar 21) the importer failed for a second time to move the vessel upstream to a facility located 10 miles up the Demerara River from Georgetown. A High Court judge had ordered the GRA to release the contaminated soya aboard the *Myra* after the importer moved to the courts to seek to enforce an earlier order issued by another judge. However, the order of the court conflicts sharply with instructions issued by the Ministry of Agriculture's Quarantine Department. Government spokesman, Dr Roger Luncheon said that the Agriculture Ministry had been mandated by Cabinet to defend the public health of the nation. According to sources, the soya feed was transiting Guadeloupe when the laboratory tests were done. It is believed that the feed was meant for Guadeloupe's poultry industry and after it was found to be defective it was being sent back to Europe to be destroyed. However, the Bahamian-registered ship made its way to Guyana. The GRA has refused several requests to release its hold on the ship, including one made by the Ministry of Agriculture to take samples of the feed onboard for testing. French health authorities have specifically advised that the hold not be opened under the tropical conditions that currently exist. The Customs and Trade Administration is insisting that the cargo be returned unopened to France, from whence it originated.

MYS LEVENORNA (Russia)

Vladivostok, Mar 23 — According to Vladivostok Salvage Co-ordinating Centre, the unwinding of the propeller of fish factory *Mys Levenorna* was completed Mar 21. The work was carried out by divers from salvage tug *Predanny* and took three days. The vessel is presently fishing in the Sea of Okhotsk. — Lloyd's Agents.

NA-KAO (U.S.A.)

Honolulu, Mar 29 — It is reported, but not confirmed, that tank barge *Na-Kao* (4076 gt, built 2005) was struck by her towing tug, pusher tug *Jimmy Smith* (174 gt, built 1976). It reportedly occurred during the voyage from Barber's Point Deep Draught Harbour, Kapolei, to Hilo, on, or about, Mar 24. The barge was reportedly holed, but no spill occurred, due to her double hull

construction. It is reported that the barge is currently being repaired in Honolulu. — Lloyd's Agents.

NATHALIE EHLER (U.K.)

London, Mar 28 — Container Carrier *Nathalie Ehler* arrived Kotka Mar 21 and sailed Mar 22. Vessel subsequently arrived Helsinki same day and sailed Mar 23. *Nathalie Ehler* arrived Hamburg at 0713, Mar 25, and remains in port.

NAVOYSK (Russia)

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigations have started to determine how a fire started on fishing (general) *Navoyak* last night. The fishing vessel was located in Mokhovaya Bay, Avachinsky Gulf (not far from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski). Initial reports suggest it was arson. "The fire started at night. The ship was burned down completely. As the crew was not there, the fire was noticed too late and from the shore," the emergency ministry said. *Navoyak* was detained in July 2006, for crab poaching in the Sea of Okhotsk. About 15,000 kgs of king crab was found in the vessel's holds. She was moved to Avachinskaya Bay. On Feb 20, the vessel was blown aground in a storm in Mokhovaya Bay.

NAXOS (Panama)

Belfast, Mar 23 — Agents inform that the crew of bulker *Naxos* are not refusing to sail, but the vessel is under detention by MCA. The vessel is currently discharging and hopes to complete discharge today. — Lloyd's Agents.

Belfast, Mar 27 — Bulker *Naxos* sailed from Belfast for Greenore, at 1800 hrs, Mar 26. — Lloyd's Agents.

NAZLI G. (Turkey)

London, Mar 28 — Bulker *Nazli G.* has now sailed from Murmansk and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was sailing off the Norwegian coast, in lat 64 16 39N, long 06 43 07E, at a speed of 12.5 knots, at 0914, UTC, Mar 27.

NEPTUNIA MEDITERRANEO (Brazil)

Buenos Aires, Mar 23 — According to Ushuaia sub-agents, container carrier *Neptunia Mediterraneo* is still aground. Still no news in respect of any future salvage operations. — Lloyd's Agents.

NEW HORIZONS (Guyana)

Georgetown, Guyana, Mar 28 — A decision has now been taken to discharge the cargo from product tanker *New Horizons* in Guyana. Therefore, the vessel will be in Guyana for a few days more. — Lloyd's Agents.

NISSHIN MARU (Japan)

Tokyo, Mar 23 — Japan's main whaling vessel, fish factory *Nisshin Maru*, was set to arrive in port (Tokyo) today, with a cargo of 508 whales, after cutting short its Antarctic whaling hunt, due to a fire last month. It is the first time in 20 years that Japan has been forced to shorten its Antarctic whaling expedition and its fleet took

505 minke whales and three fin whales instead of a planned 850 minkes and 10 fin whales. Plans for the rest of the year, including whether the vessel can return to service for next season's hunt, have yet to be determined, a Fisheries Agency official said. "Everything depends on the results of our inspections of the ship, but the fact that it returned all the way to Japan on its own suggests there aren't major machinery problems," he said. After the fire broke out, the environmental group Greenpeace offered to tow the stricken *Nisshin Maru* with its anti-whaling vessel *Esperanza*, but Japan declined, saying it could get help from nearby Japanese vessels if necessary. *Esperanza* is set to arrive in Tokyo on Mar 28, where Greenpeace will invite officials from the Fisheries Agency and the Institute for Cetacean Research on board. — Reuters.

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Fish factory *Nisshin Maru* arrived in Tokyo Bay today.

NORDKAPP (NIS)

London, Mar 29 — Passenger ro/ro *Nordkapp* arrived Bremerhaven Mar 27.

NOVAYA ZEMLYA (Slovakia)

St. Petersburg, Mar 28 — Refrigerated general cargo *Novaya Zemlya* is under repairs at berth No. 41 of Murmansk Fishing Port. Approximate date for completion of repairs is Mar 31. — Lloyd's Agents.

OBSERVER (Egypt)

Port Said, Mar 28 — Grain storage vessel *Observer* (17614 gt, built 1943), ex non specific tanker, which was laying alongside the quay at Port Said Harbour, caught fire at about 0930, this morning. S.C.A Tugs extinguished fire and the Canal is clear. — Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN DREAMING

See *Sirius*.

OCEAN FURY (U.S.A.)

Portsmouth, UK, Mar 28 — A fishing vessel pumped up to 300 gallons of diesel fuel into the ocean after it hit a rock. State environmental officials say the fuel was pumped overboard with the bilge water from trawler (All types) *Ocean Fury* (289 gt, built 1977) early Saturday (Mar 24). Officials say the vessel's steel hull struck a rock north-east of Atka Island. That damaged the day tank fuel line, which leaked into the bilge water for about 30 minutes. Officials say poor weather and the dispersion of fuel in marine waters prevented containment and recovery efforts. The vessel is now in Adak with a containment boom around it. Officials say it will undergo further inspection, but no oil sheen has been reported near the vessel. — Correspondent.

OCEAN QUEST (U.K.)

Grangemouth, Mar 22 — Fishing (general) *Ocean Quest* (183 gt, built 1975, not 1632 gt, built 2002 as reported in issue of Mar 22), length 24

metres, had a serious fire in Fraserburgh Harbour. Under the direction of the harbour-master, the vessel was towed to a beach where it burnt out. The vessel has now been declared a total loss and will be broken up where it lies. — Lloyd's Agents.

OLSEN (Norway)

London, Mar 23 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 1725, UTC: Tug *Olsen*, LJWB, (127 gt, built 1990) towing barge *Olsen II*, length 76 metres, with 50 tons of general cargo on board, had towline break at approximately 1400, UTC, today. Safety line has also broken. At 1658, UTC, the tug was alongside the barge in lat 52 53.2N, long 02 19.8E. Tug is looking for assistance in reconnecting a towline. Weather on scene very poor.

London, Mar 25 — Following received from Coastguard Thames MRCC, timed 1135, UTC: Tug *Olsen* is under tow of tug *Maria*, ETA Felixstowe Pilot Station 1330, UTC. Vessels are bound for Felixstowe Docks Basin.

London, Mar 25 — Following received from Coastguard Thames MRCC, timed 1730, UTC: Tug *Olsen*, in tow of tug *Maria*, arrived Felixstowe around 1500, UTC. Vessel is currently safely alongside berth and is expected to be inspected by Maritime and Coastguard Agency surveyors tomorrow.

London, ar 28 — Following received from the Port of Felixstowe Authority, dated today: Tug *Olsen* is currently at Felixstowe Dock Basin Berth No 2.

PAC PALAWAN (Singapore)

Chittagong, Mar 27 — Container Carrier *PAC Palawan* (5593 gt, built 2003) is presently lying at Chittagong Outer Anchorage, awaiting repair on its turbo-charger, which is alleged to have been damaged. We understand that necessary spares have arrived onboard and more spares likely to arrive today to effect repairs, which are being undertaken by engaging outside repairer with the assistance of vessel's crew. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *PAC Palawan* arrived Chittagong Mar 13.)

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated Mar 26, states: Singapore-bound Container Carrier *PAC Palawan* remains stuck for more than five days at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port with export goods, mainly apparels, worth over Tk 100 crore, due to technical fault in its engine, leaving exporters worried about meeting the lead time of the exportables, according to industry insiders. When the vessel reached the outer anchorage after its departure from the port terminal Wednesday (Mar 21), its engine broke down. The shipping agent, Columbia Enterprise, is yet to repair vessel, which was supposed to reach Singapore today with a total of 621 TEU's (twenty foot equivalent units) of export container.

PALLAS (Sweden)

London, Mar 23 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Product tanker *Pallas* (469 gt, built 1987) ran aground between Hono and

Groto i Goteborgs, off Gothenburg, on Mar 22. The Swedish Coast Guard sent its units *KBV 050* and *KBV 288* to assist. The vessel was refloated yesterday afternoon and taken into harbour, where Coast Guard divers inspected the vessel's bottom for damage.

Gothenburg, Mar 27 — Product tanker *Pallas* was towed to the Gotenius shipyard's floating dock and is currently under repair. The repairs are expected to be finished around Apr 6-8. — Lloyd's Agents.

PATROKL (Russia)

London, Mar 29 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: On Mar 24 operations to refloat fish factory *Patrokl* (3983 gt, built 1976) in Kaliningrad Shiprepair Yard were underway. The vessel had sustained water ingress in the machine-room and had developed a 30 degrees list to port, towards the quay. The stern went aground. There was no danger of an oil spill as the vessel had no bunker fuel on board. She had been berthed in the yard for five years. (Note — *Patrokl* arrived at Kaliningrad on May 6, 2002.)

PAULO DA GAMA (Portugal)

London, Mar 23 — Following received from Lisbon MRCC, timed 1033, UTC: General cargo *Paulo da Gama* is currently proceeding to Ponta Delgada, escorted by a tug.

PETER WESSEL (Norway)

London, Mar 23 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Peter Wessel* is expected to arrive at Frederikshavn this morning following yesterday's fire on board. The vessel will probably be repaired at Orskov Yard and is expected to resume its service to Larvik on Mar 30. One crew member had to be evacuated by helicopter after suffering smoke inhalation and was flown to Aalborg for medical treatment.

London, Mar 23 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1024, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Peter Wessel* is now in port at Frederikshavn.

London, Mar 23 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: At 1045, local time, today, passenger ro/ro *Peter Wessel* was towed into Frederikshavn by tug *Svava* assisted by *Oden* and *Freja*.

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Peter Wessel*, with 357 passengers on board, finally came into port in Frederikshavn at 1100 today after an unusually long voyage from Larvik. A towage operation started yesterday after a fire in a switchboard in the engine-room and the crew was unable to restart the main engines. The ferry was taken in tow by tug *Silex* from Ostenjo and headed for Frederikshavn at a speed of four knots. During the night the tow was taken over by SvitzerWijmuller's tug *Freja of Goteborg*, which was assisted by tugs *Svitzer Oden* and *Svava* for the docking in Frederikshavn. The repair of the switchboard started at noon yesterday, when a number of electricians boarded

the vessel. The Danish RCC central in Karup dispatched three new rescue helicopters to the scene as a precaution.

Aalborg, Mar 27 — Repairs to passenger ro/ro *Peter Wessel* are expected to take one month. — Lloyd's Agents.

PHOENIX (Comoros)

See *Beka I*.

PRESTIGE (Bahamas)

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The Government has now admitted that one of the cracks in the tanks of the sunken crude oil tanker *Prestige* which sank off the coast of Galicia in November 2002, was not properly sealed at the time. The operation to seal the two sections of the split ship on the sea bed cost 109 million Euros and was carried out in 2003 by the Repsol company. However it is now known that since that date at least 20 litres of fuel oil has been escaping a day. The Cabinet yesterday decided to call on the petrol company to carry out a new inspection to establish the seriousness of the problem.

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators will dive more than 3,500 metres to the wreck of crude oil tanker *Prestige* this summer to check how much oil is leaking out of the vessel, which sank off Spain's north-west coast in 2002. The Spanish government said oil company Repsol would do a visual check of the seabed where the vessel is lying and see what state its hull is in.

PRINSESSE RAGNHILD (Norway)

London, Mar 28 — Passenger ro/ro *Prinsesse Ragnhild* sailed Hirtshals Mar 1.

QUEEN OF THE NORTH (Canada)

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated Mar 26, states: Just before passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North* crashed into a remote island, the ship's fourth officer ordered the quartermaster to switch off the autopilot and make a radical course correction, a B.C. Ferries investigation has found. For a split second, the quartermaster questioned the order, until she saw the trees. Then she said she searched for the switch to turn off the autopilot. She could not find it. As she fled the bridge deck to alert the ship's master of the emergency, she told investigators she heard the fourth officer tell the second officer: "I'm sorry I was trying to go around a fishing boat." New details of what went on on the bridge of the ferry on the night of Mar 22, 2006, were outlined by B.C. Ferries investigators in a report released today. The report sheds some light on the chaos that erupted in the minutes before and after the vessel crashed in Inside Passage. The report concludes the ferry left Prince Rupert under routine and uneventful circumstances and went down shortly after midnight because the fourth officer failed to make a course correction. "Human factors were the primary cause of the sinking of *Queen*

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of the North," said the report. In part, it concludes the fourth officer "failed to make a necessary course alteration or verify such alteration was made in accordance with pre-established fleet routing directives and good seamanship." Why the experienced seaman, who had been working for B.C. Ferries since 1990, made the error is not explained. The report also concludes that the navigational watch failed to maintain a "proper lookout." Those who were on lookout maintained a "casual watch-standing behaviour," investigators determined, partly because music could be heard playing on the bridge during radio calls. The report also does not offer any answers why two of the 101 people on board the vessel did not make it to safety. "The divisional inquiry panel has been unable to establish the movement or location on the vessel of the two missing passengers," the report says. The fourth officer and the second officer, who are not named in the report, both refused to co-operate with B.C. Ferries investigators on advice of their lawyers. The quartermaster has also not been named in the report. However, they were identified in court documents filed by passengers suing B.C. Ferries.

RAVANDA (Turkey)

Koper, Mar 23 — General cargo *Ravanda* is still in dry dock at Izola Shipyard. Repairs to the propeller and rudder have been completed and the shipyard expects to complete repairs to the steering gear Mar 27-28. — Lloyd's Agents.

RBD ALEXA (Cyprus)

London, Mar 23 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Container Carrier *RBD Alexa* (7545 gt, built 2006) experienced a bow thruster failure yesterday evening while entering the north basin of the New Lock in Brunsbüttel. Due to the strong easterly wind, the vessel had to perform an emergency anchoring.

London, Mar 28 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, container carrier *RBD Alexa* was located stationary 23 miles from Kronshtadt, Russia, in lat 60 02 14.96N, long 29 22 56.23E, at 0957, UTC, today.

REINA ROSA (Philippines)

Yokohama, Mar 26 — Roll On Roll Off *Reina Rosa* (9992 gt, built 1995) contacted the west wharf, Kogakurayanagi District, Nagasaki port, while berthing at 0708, local time, Mar 22. Vessel sustained cracking damage to bulbous bow and water ingress to the fore tank. No oil spill or personal injury was reported. The berth also sustained damage. — Lloyd's Agents.

REPUBBLICA DI GENOVA (Italy)

Zeebrugge, Mar 28 — The salvage of passenger ro/ro *Repubblica di Genova* will be done by Smit Salvage BV from Rotterdam. The agent has no news about the exact time of lifting and refloating of the vessel. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

REPUBBLICA DI VENEZIA (Italy)

London, Mar 28 — Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Repubblica di Venezia* sailed Amsterdam Mar 26 and arrived Antwerp Mar 27.

ROYAL NUSANTARA (Indonesia)

London, Mar 25 — Roll On Roll Off *Royal Nusantara* (5898 gt, built 1973) Java for Sumatra, had an engine-room fire in the province of Banten in late November 2006. A total of 144 passengers managed to escape the burning vessel. Four passengers suffered minor injuries and all vehicles burned out. The ferry had reported engine trouble prior to the fire. The vessel is a total loss.

London, Mar 27 — Following received from the managers of roll on roll off *Royal Nusantara*, dated today: We would like to advise that the message reporting a fire on board *Royal Nusantara* was not true. The vessel is still serving the same line (Merak / Banten - Bakauheni / Sumatera). It is true that there was a fire incident on a roll-on roll-off vessel at the same location around November 2006 but it did not involve *Royal Nusantara*.

ROZEN (St.Vincent & Grenadines)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

SAMOTHRAKI (Greece)

Gibraltar, Mar 26 — Product tanker *Samothraki* has undergone temporary repairs and is now waiting to carry out ship to ship transfer operations, while at the western anchorage. The vessel will then go into dry dock for permanent repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated Mar 28, states: The Gibraltar Port Authority has confirmed that the Gibraltar Maritime Administration is continuing to monitor product tanker *Samothraki* which it says is safely anchored within Port of Gibraltar Waters. A Government spokesperson has said that "The vessel remains stable and safe, fully upright and with no list." Divers have reportedly been patching up the ruptured bottom steel plating and have now finalised their work successfully. "The Gibraltar Maritime Administrator, the ship's Classification Society and the Ship Emergency Response Service (SERS) have concluded that the vessel is now in a safe position to undertake a ship-to-ship transfer of the complete cargo under an agreed and approved procedure", continued the spokesperson. Arrangements are currently being made to carry out the transfer of the fuel cargo later this week to another vessel owned by the same company. The exercise will be conducted under the strict supervision of the Gibraltar Port Authority, the Gibraltar Maritime Administration and the Bunkering Superintendent.

SEA SPRAY (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Tank barge *Sea Spray* (2244 gt, built 1966) capsized while leaving a dock, sending its load of 4,000 tons of scrap metal to the bottom of Commencement Bay. No one was

hurt and there appeared to be no ecological damage, the Coast Guard said today. The accident happened last night as the barge was leaving a dock at Schnitzer Steel Industries. The Coast Guard was investigating, Petty Officer Shawn Eggert of the Coast Guard's Seattle headquarters said. The barge was towed back to the dock today, and Schnitzer Steel officials were arranging to have the scrap metal salvaged, Eggert said. The Coast Guard issued a "notice to mariners" warning of the metal, which was located about 60 feet off the Schnitzer dock.

Seattle, Mar 28 — Tank barge *Sea Spray* has been returned upside down to its owners, who are taking the opportunity to paint the vessel's bottom while it is exposed. All the cargo has been recovered from the waterway. — Lloyd's Agents.

SENOPATI NUSANTARA (Indonesia)

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated today, states: The remains of four passengers from the sunken ferry *Senopati Nusantara* were found Saturday (Mar 24) by fishermen scattered in waters off Wakatobi and Bombana regencies. Three of the bodies were found in waters off Wakatobi's national marine park and the other was found near Kabaena Island in Bombana regency. One of the bodies, which had decayed to the point of being barely recognizable, was taken to Kendari and placed in Southeast Sulawesi general hospital's morgue for further identification. A card found on the victim identified him. The head of the Kendari search and rescue office, Roky Asikin, said the other three bodies were taken to Kendari Monday and would soon be flown to Semarang, Central Java. The vessel sank off the Java Sea late December last year while on its way to Semarang.

SERVER (Cyprus)

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated Mar 26, states: Ten weeks after the grounding of bulker *Server* at the Helisoy lighthouse, fuel oil still pollutes the local coastline from Selje to Agotnes. In the past couple of weeks a number of new polluted areas have been reported, among these the Vaulen area, where the oil slick along the coast is up to two metres wide. According to Ove Njoten, senior engineer at the Norwegian Coastal Administration, Kystverket: "The further north you get, the less the pollution."

SHINSEI MARU NO.3 (Japan)

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A local marine accident inquiry determined yesterday that fishing (general) *Shinsei Maru No.3* was primarily responsible for a 2005 collision with Container Carrier *Zim Asia* off Hokkaido in which the Japanese vessel capsized and seven of its eight crew members died. The collision occurred because *Shinsei Maru No.3* had not avoided the course of *Zim Asia*, said Presiding Judge Kenichi Yonehara of the Yokohama Marine Accident Inquiry Agency in

handing down the ruling. But the judge refused to issue any advisory as requested by investigators that the agency urge both the owner of the Japanese ship and the master and a navigator of the Israeli vessel to take improvement measures with regard to their ships' lookouts and the emergency evacuation routes for crew members.

SIEMPRE DON JOSE MOSCUZZA (Argentina)

London, Mar 22 — Following navigation warning issued today: Fishing *Golfo San Matias* today: trawler *Siempre Don Jose Moscuza* (454 gt, built 1990) in lat 40 51S, long 57 01W, line length 500 metres, speed six knots, course 034 degrees, bound Mar del Plata.

SIERRA NAVA (Panama)

Cadiz, Mar 22 — Refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Nava* was refloated yesterday. No further spills are expected since the tanks were emptied before refloating operations. The vessel is now anchored in Algeciras Bay being inspected before being towed to "CRIMEA shipyard" for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

SILVER

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Mar 22 — General cargo *Silver* passed Dover Strait west Mar 19.

SIRIUS (Australia)

Sydney, Mar 29 — Ferry *Sirius* in collision with passenger (cruise) *Ocean Dreaming*: *Ocean Dreaming* sustained only minor hull damage in the incident. — Lloyd's Agents.

SKARPOE (Cyprus)

Copenhagen, Mar 27 — General cargo *Skarpoe* (3183 gt, built 2004) was reported aground, this morning, outside Hasle, on the Island of Bornholm, Eastern Denmark. The vessel, bound for Finland without cargo, has apparently not been causing any pollution, but is being detained by the authorities until a pollution-combating vessel arrives at the scene. The information is very limited at this point. It does however appear as if the vessel has sailed straight on to the land. The stem is at right angles to the coast, a couple of hundred metres from the beach. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 27 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS general cargo *Skarpoe* was stationary in lat 55 10 38.45N, long 14 41 58.6E, 0.4 nautical miles from Hasle, at 0235, UTC, today.

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Skarpoe* ran aground Tuesday (Mar 27) off a Danish island in the Baltic Sea. No one was injured and there were no reports of any oil spills, the Danish navy said. The vessel was empty when it got stuck in shallow waters off the island of Bornholm, the navy said, adding one of its environmental protection vessel was heading to the area.

Copenhagen, Mar 27 — Understand that the mate on board general cargo

Skarpoe has been arrested by local police for being under the influence of alcohol when on duty on the bridge. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 27 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1704, UTC: General cargo *Skarpoe* is still aground. A tug is due on scene tomorrow morning.

London, Mar 28 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0840, UTC: General cargo *Skarpoe* refloated after deballasting this morning and has anchored near the grounding site awaiting class inspection. Vessel is detained at present and we are currently waiting to receive details on any possible temporary repairs that will need to be effected prior to it proceeding. Several leaks were reported but there has been no oil spillage.

London, Mar 28 — A Svitzer Salvage BV report, dated today, states: Svitzer Salvage BV today refloated general cargo *Skarpoe* at the first attempt. The vessel had grounded yesterday morning on rocks near the island of Bornholm and had breached a number of compartments in the process. A Svitzer Salvage master from Denmark was immediately sent in and arrived on board during the afternoon, upon which a contract was agreed with the owners and underwriters. The salvage plan consisted of adjusting the weight distribution on the vessel and the use of the 51-ton bollard pull Svitzer Salvage tug *Skuld* under control of the Svitzer salvage master. This plan was determined following a thorough inspection of the casualty, inclusive of a diving survey. *Skarpoe* was moved off the rocks about 0515, local time, today. *Skuld* then towed the casualty to nearby Hasle port anchorage for further inspections and stabilisation.

SOL DO BRASIL (Liberia)

London, Mar 22 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, fruit juice tanker *Sol do Brasil* was located 15.7 nautical miles from Port Laudania, USA, in lat 25 59 36.6N, long 79 51 39.6W, at 2219, UTC, Mar 21, course 10 deg, speed 21.6 knots.

SOLAR 1 (Philippines)

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Non specific tanker *Solar 1*: Despite causing the worst environmental disaster in the country, the Guimaras prosecutor's office has dismissed the criminal complaint filed against officials of Petron Corp "for lack of probable cause." The resolution penned by provincial prosecutor Luzermindo Calmorin stated that, while the oil spill caused environmental and economic havoc in Guimaras, particularly in the municipality of Nueva Valencia, "it does not follow that there is criminal liability involved." Guimaras officials are mulling the possibility of asking the Guimaras prosecutor's office to reconsider its decision to dismiss the criminal complaint against officials of Petron Corp for the oil spill. The complaint was filed against Petron officials Nicasio Alcantara, Khalid al-

Faddaq, Carlos Tan and two others for violations of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act. The Petron Corp chartered *Solar 1*, owned by Sunshine Maritime Development Corp, to transport two million litres of bunker fuel when it sank off Guimaras in August last year. Gov JC Rahman Nava and Nueva Valencia Mayor Diosdado Gonzaga will confer with provincial legal officer Plaridel Nava this coming week on their next course of action, the governor said today. "Probably we will ask the prosecutor's office to reconsider the dismissal of the complaint," he said. Following the incident, Gonzaga lodged the complaint in behalf of his municipality, which was considered the hardest-hit. Despite the dismissal, Gov Nava said that they would not give up and that they would continue to support Nueva Valencia. "That is why our provincial legal officer assisted them in the filing of the complaint," he said. Tan, Petron Corp's spokesman, said he had received his copy of the resolution and added that he was delighted that the Guimaras prosecutor's office agreed with them.

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated today, states: The province of Guimaras will appeal the decision of the Guimaras Provincial Prosecutor's Office not to proceed with the criminal complaint against officials of Petron Corp and the owner of the sunken non specific tanker *Solar 1*. Guimaras provincial legal officer Plaridel Nava II said they would file a motion for reconsideration tomorrow. Nava said that while they agreed with the resolution that the sinking of the vessel and the oil spill were unintentional, they would point out that Petron and the vessel's owner were still criminally liable for reckless imprudence. He said that the vessel was already not seaworthy on Aug 11 when it sank 13.3 miles south-west of Guimaras Island. Nueva Valencia Mayor Diosdado Gonzaga said they would press the complaint because of the damage resulting from the oil spill. Guimaras Gov JC Rahman Nava said they are saddened with the dismissal of the complaint. "We will exhaust whatever legal measures that are available to us," he said. The governor refuted criticisms that the complaint that they filed was inherently weak. Environmental groups said Petron Corp should be made to answer for the oil spill that has destroyed the livelihood of thousands of Guimaras residents and devastated the island's rich marine resources. The Save Our Lives, SOS!, composed of non-government organisations, scientists and environmentalists, said the clean-up and rehabilitation of the affected areas and residents were only a part of addressing the oil spill. Guimaras Provincial Prosecutor Luzermindo Calmorin issued a 17-page resolution on Mar 2 dismissing the criminal complaint filed against Petron officials and the owners of the sunken vessel for lack of probable cause. "In fine, while it appears that the oil spill has indeed caused damage to the affected

communities and fisherfolk in the municipality of Nueva Valencia, it does not follow that there is criminal liability involved," said Calmorin in his resolution. Calmorin dismissed the complaint filed on Sep 13 by Gonzaga in behalf of his constituents. The town is the hardest hit by the oil spill among the five municipalities of Guimaras. The respondents included Petron president Khalid Al-Faddagh and Nicasio Alcantara, chairman and chief executive officer, Felimon Antiporta, vice president for operations, and Carlos Tan, health safety and environment officer and company spokesperson. Also named was Clemente Cancio, president of the Sunshine Maritime Development Corp, owners of *Solar 1*. In his complaint, Gonzaga had accused the respondents of violating Republic Act 9275, the Clean Water Act of 2004, Republic Act 8749, the Clean Air Act of 1999, and Republic Act 9003, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. He said the oil spill caused massive destruction, damaged the province's rich marine resources and severely affected their tourism industry and economy. He also said that fumes coming from the oil sludge caused ailments among the residents and polluted communities. Gonzaga also accused the respondents of being responsible for the unauthorised dumping of contaminated debris in San Antonio village and the alleged spraying of unauthorised chemicals along the shoreline of Barangay Guiwanon. However, in his resolution, Calmorin said the respondents could not be held liable of violating the Clean Air Act because the law applies to "intentional or deliberate acts." "There is nothing on record, not even an allegation by the complainant, that the respondents intentionally sank the vessel and spilled, leaked, dumped or discharged its bunker fuel cargo," said Calmorin in his resolution. He said the respondents could also not be made to pay fines and damages because "none of the acts, which would constitute a gross violation of the law, has been alleged or substantiated." The prosecutor also cleared the respondents of any violations of the Solid Waste Management Act. He said the law was not applicable to bunker fuel cargo of the sunken tanker. "In fact, it was not intended to be discarded but was shipped precisely to be used as a fuel in Zamboanga. It cannot be therefore, considered as waste or discarded material." Calmorin also dismissed the complainant's allegation that Petron personnel dumped contaminated debris in San Antonio village and sprayed of chemicals in the shoreline without authorisation. He said the evidence showed that there was no intention to permanently dump debris in the village and it was only used as a transshipment point. The resolution said the complainant failed to establish that the materials sprayed by Petron-hired personnel were prohibited and unauthorised.

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated today, states: The No 4 tank of

non specific tanker *Solar 1* was found empty of oil when research *Allied Shield* completed the penetration on the starboard side of the vessel on Mar 19. However, tank No 3 on the port side of the vessel yielded oil. Office of Civil Defence (OCD) VI Director Rosario T. Cabrera said in a report that *Allied Shield* completed penetration into tank No 3 through hull safety valves and commenced the transfer of the oil into a shuttle tank. The OCD director's report did not elaborate on how much oil had been recovered. The recovered oil will be transferred to ISO tanks on *Allied Shield* today and once the tanks are full, the recovered oil will be transferred to a tanker. The entire process will be repeated until all the oil is recovered. Contingency measures are in place to deal with any sort of oil leakage during the recovery operations, Presidential adviser for Western Visayas Rafael Coscolluela said.

Manila, Mar 26 — The Philippine Department of Justice today charged the Japanese and Filipino owners of Sunshine Maritime Development Corporation, owners of the sunken non specific tanker *Solar 1*, with violation of the country's anti-dummy laws. State prosecutors found probable cause against Japanese nationals Hiroyasu Yamaguchi, chairman of the board and treasurer of Sunshine Maritime, Mototsugu Yamaguchi, board member and vice president, and board members Tomoki Tsubomoto and Hiromi Irishika. Also charged were their Filipino partners identified as Sunshine Maritime president Clemente Cancio, Dionisio Parulan, Roberto Mena, Gregorio Flores and Angelita Buenaventura. The company officials were charged before a Manila regional trial court. Under Philippine law, a domestic shipping company should be majority, or 60%, owned by Filipinos. In the case of Sunshine Maritime, Pesos 4 million (US\$83,333) of its P5.5 million paid-up capital was contributed by its Japanese partners. If convicted, the officers of Sunshine Maritime could face from five to 15 years imprisonment as well as hefty fines. The Japanese partners, however, are unlikely to serve possible sentences as they are all based in Japan. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Mar 26 — Research *Allied Shield* reported that it had penetrated the port side No 5 tank of non specific tanker *Solar 1* over the weekend (Mar 24-25) and found still undisclosed quantities of bunker fuel inside the compartment. This is the third of *Solar 1*'s 10 storage tanks that *Allied Shield* has penetrated. Oil recovery is continuing at the No 5 tank, which will be followed by the installation of hull safety valves at port side No 2 tank. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Mar 27 — After penetrating six of the ten oil storage compartments of sunken non specific tanker *Solar 1* offshore support and recovery vessel *Allied Shield* reported that it had recovered only minimal amounts of bunker fuel. In its latest report released Tuesday (Mar 27), *Allied Shield* said that it had penetrated

portside tank no. 2 and starboard tank no. 2 but found these tanks empty of oil. Over the weekend the air hatch of starboard tank no. 5 was opened and also found to be empty. Earlier, starboard tank no. 4 was penetrated and was also found to be negative for oil. So far of the six oil compartments entered only two, portside tank no. 5 and portside tank no. 3 have yielded any oil. While no figures were given on the amount of oil recovered it is believed to be negligible. The low oil recovery has fueled speculation that most of *Solar 1*'s cargo of 2.0 million litres of bunker fuel leaked out when it sank on Aug 11 last year. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SPAR SCORPIO (NIS)

Montreal, Mar 27 — Bulker *Spar Scorpio* completed temporary repairs at 2130, local time, Mar 22. Sea trials were carried out from 2320 hrs to 0618, Mar 23, with satisfactory results. — Lloyd's Agents.

STAR MARINER (South Korea)

See *Meisheng 3698*.

STEPHEN B.ROMAN (Canada)

London, Mar 26 — Bulk cement carrier *Stephen B.Roman* (6936 gt, built 1965), inbound to Rochester, NY, ran aground in soft mud/silt in lat 43 23N, long 77 32W, at 0707, EDST, Mar 22. No damage reported.

London, Mar 26 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1817, UTC: Bulk cement carrier *Stephen B.Roman* refloated by its own means and berthed at Rochester. The vessel is currently under way to Oswego.

London, Mar 29 — Bulk cement carrier *Stephen B.Roman*, which brings cement to Rochester, almost ran aground entering the port last week. The U.S. Coast Guard said that the vessel "bumped bottom", apparently hitting some shoals that had formed since the vessel last came to Rochester on Jan 11. The vessel was in the centre of the channel near the mouth of the river last Friday (Mar 23) when the crew had to take action to stop the her. Steve Hewitt, Essroc Rochester Spokesman said: "At that point in time there really wasn't a lot of choices other than to take *Stephen B.Roman* back to Oswego and finish off-loading cargo there." Essroc ships cement from Canada to riverfront facilities in both Oswego and Rochester twice a week. The vessel had already called at Oswego and had only a half load on board, when it entered Rochester and it still "got stuck". The ship has a draft of 19 feet. The last time the river was dredged was 2004. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Buffalo says the dredging scheduled for this summer was cancelled because of budgetary constraints and the dredge is only removing about half of what it used to. "Now we're dredging out there every three years," said Michael Asquith, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredging programme manager. "And in fact, it was cancelled this year, so it will be every four years. And we're only

dredging now maybe about 120,000 or 130,000 cubic yards. So we've cut our quantity almost in half, and we're dredging less frequently." Essroc is now trucking cement in from its Oswego port facility and some customers will be served by trucks directly out of Oswego. Essroc says it doesn't know yet whether this will have an impact on the price of cement at the beginning of the construction season. Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), and Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, said "The Port of Rochester is vital to commerce and recreation, and I want to assure the citizens of Rochester and other local communities that I am using every resource I have to resolve this situation. My staff and I have been in regular contact with the Essroc Cement Corporation, the Army Corps Headquarters, and the City of Rochester, and together, we are examining a variety of approaches to fixing this problem." Rochester is pretty low on the federal government's priority list of harbours to be dredged, as it only handles 141,000 tons of cargo a year. The Corps of Engineers says Essroc can pay for the dredging itself. The cost is estimated at about \$750,000, but there is no mechanism for the company to be repaid.

SUEZ EXPRESS (Liberia)

London, Mar 27 — General cargo *Suez Express* sailed Luanda Mar 26.

SUPERSEACAT TWO (U.K.)

London, Mar 25 — Passenger ro/ro *Superseacat Two* has resumed its service on the route between Liverpool and the Isle of Man after an engine overhaul. The Steam Packet Company's vessel sustained a gearbox failure last year, prompting slower services. It has undergone maintenance work and is now operating its usual route between Douglas and Pier Head.

TAKU (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 24 — A small fire on Thursday (Mar 22) caused minor smoke and water damage to a stateroom on board the state passenger ro/ro *Taku* (2625 gt, built 1963), which is being refurbished in Washington state. There were no injuries in the fire, which was confined to an interior cabin deck, said Alaska Department of Transportation spokesman Mike Chambers. A cutting operation above the stateroom caused the fire in the empty stateroom, Chambers said. Sprinklers activated in the stateroom and extinguished the fire. "The fire was out before the fire department arrived," Chambers said. "It was primarily smoke and water damage." *Taku* is in the Todd Shipyard in Seattle as part of a federal refurbishment project, Chambers said.

Seattle, Mar 28 — Quick action by Todd Pacific Shipyard personnel and AMHS crew members, along with the implementation of the shipyard's fire prevention plan, prevented the fire in Cabin 27B on board passenger ro/ro *Taku* from spreading. Repairs will be carried out at the shipyard. — Lloyd's Agents.

TASMAN COMMANDER (Hong Kong)

Noumea, Mar 29 — At approximately 0730 hrs today, general cargo *Tasman Commander* (18468 gt, built 1995), with a pilot on board, hit Noumea quay when she was berthed. One quay fence was crushed and the vessel's bulbous bow was badly dented. The ballast was leaking through a crack discovered on the metal bulb. Temporary repairs will be effected this afternoon in order to permit the vessel to proceed. — Lloyd's Agents.

THEARESTON (Panama)

See *Angela Star*.

THOMAS JEFFERSON (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry *Thomas Jefferson* (477 gt, built 1942) struck the dock near the French Quarter too hard today, damaging both vessel and landing. "Our ferry operator reported that he lost steering control of the vessel and hit our landing while docking," said Randy Paisant, assistant executive director of the Department of Transportation and Development's division that runs ferries and the bridge in New Orleans. New Orleans police spokesman Sgt Joe Narcisse said his department received a report of a woman suffering a possible back injury. There were no other reports of injuries. Investigators had not confirmed what caused the accident or determined just how much damage was done to the dock or the ferry," Paisant said. He said the ferry would remain closed today while that is checked out. "The vessel is not in any danger of sinking or anything like that," he said. "There is no structural damage, just superficial."

TIAN HE (Panama)

Busan, Mar 29 — General cargo *Tian He*: Salvage operation now in hand and is expected to be completed on Apr 10. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

TIPU SULTAN (India)

Kochi, Mar 28 — Passenger ro/ro *Tipu Sultan* sailed from Kochi Mar 28 to Lakshadweep Island, after successful completion of repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

TYCHO BRAHE

Helsingborg, Mar 28 — Roll on roll off *Tycho Brahe* is presently out of service, with repairs to switchboard in hand. The vessel is presently scheduled to return to its regular service between Helsingborg and Elsinore on Mar 30. — Damco Survey AB.

TYCHO BRAHE (DIS)

Göteborg, Mar 26 — Roro ferry *Tycho Brahe* (10845 gt, built 1991) had an accident around 1300, Mar 25, when the vessel experienced a "short circuit" and heavy smoke from the engine-room and for a while drifted outside the entrance to Helsingborg inlet to port, before two tugs assisted. At around 1700 hrs, the ferry safely berthed at Helsingborg port. It took almost four hours for the passengers to leave the vessel. The normal time is about 20

minutes. The bow ramp could not be opened for the lorries and cars to depart and a crane was engaged to assist and lift up the gate entrance. Ten minutes later the power returned to vessel and the ramp could be lowered to berth. Total of 43 crew and 259 passengers on board, but no risk and no incident or injuries. No information what caused the breakdown in electricity supply, but, allegedly, this has happened once before. — Westax Marine Services AB.

TZINI (Malta)

London, Mar 28 — Following received from the operators of bulker *Tzini*, dated today: *Tzini* arrived Nha Trang Mar 22 and entered dry dock today.

ULRIKE G. (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Mar 25 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1944, UTC: At 1900, UTC, general cargo *Ulrike G.* (2994 gt, built 2002) reported it had been in slight collision, at 0225, UTC, in lat 51 01.64N, long 01 22.4E, with a barge towed by fire fighting tug *Chambon Sirocco* (433 gt, built 1975). At the time of the incident *Chambon Sirocco* expressed anxiety at the close proximity and actions of *Ulrike G.* This information was passed to *Ulrike G.* At the time of incident both vessels were proceeding south-west in the south-west traffic lane. When in the vicinity of CS2 buoy, *Ulrike G.* was observed to make a sharp alteration of course to starboard and slowed down to two knots. *Ulrike G.* stated: When overtaking the tug *Chambon Sirocco* with the tow, did not observe the towed barge and touched it. No damage was found to *Ulrike G.* right after the impact, but, during daylight, checked vessel's bow and found some damage. *Ulrike G.P* is on passage to Cork and Chambon Sirocco on passage to La Rochelle.

London, Mar 28 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Ulrike G.* was located stationary at Ringaskiddy, Republic of Ireland, as of 1042, UTC, today.

UNICORN ACE (Panama)

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The Philippine Coast Guard yesterday sent an environmental protection team to monitor a possible oil spill from general cargo *Unicorn Ace* that sank in northern Luzon last Wednesday, a senior official said. "There is a possibility that oil may have leaked from the vessel which sank off Ilocos Norte," said Coast Guard spokesman Lieutenant S.G. Armand Balilo. "We have to protect marine life and the environment in the affected areas," Balilo added. One crewman was killed and five others remained missing after the ship sank in the South China Sea off Ilocos Norte. The Coast Guard, Philippine Navy and Hong Kong Maritime Rescue Centre have continued search-and-rescue operations.

London, Mar 25 — Following received from Coast Guard Manila, timed 0040, UTC: After an aerial search, no sign of

the missing five crew of general cargo *Unicorn Ace* was found.

London, Mar 26 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 1631, UTC: Two crew members from general cargo *Unicorn Ace* who were rescued by general cargo *Sea Angel* have been landed at Hong Kong, along with the body of the dead crewman. Five crew are still missing.

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: The 11 Chinese crew members rescued from general cargo *Unicorn Ace*, which sank a week ago in the northern Philippines, returned to their hometowns from Manila today, a Chinese embassy official said. The 10 seafarers from the Chinese mainland, seven of them from Shandong province, left Manila for Hong Kong on board a flight from Ninoy Aquino International Airport at 0620, local time, Huang Li, the Chinese consulate official who saw them off, said. Company representatives from Qingdao will receive the crew, who are in good condition, he added. One crew member from Taiwan also took a flight this morning for Taipei, according to Huang. (See issue of Mar 28.)

Manila, Mar 28 — The Philippine Coast Guard said that it had called off search and rescue operations Monday (Mar 27) for the three missing crew members of general cargo *Unicorn Ace*. The Coast Guard said that one of its helicopters has been searching the area where the vessel sank, for the past week, but there has been no sign of survivors. *Unicorn Ace* was on its way to Pasir Gudang, in Malaysia, from Shanghai, when it sank 80 nautical miles off Currima Point, in the northern Philippine province of Ilocos Norte, on Mar 21. Of its 19 crew members, one was killed and 15 were rescued by passing vessels. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

VARNEBANK (Netherlands)

London, Mar 27 — General cargo *Varnebank* passed Gibraltar west Mar 23 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS, in lat 51 54 14.81N, long 3 21 7.97E at 0852, today, bound Rotterdam.

VOLGO-BALT 209 (Russia)

London, Mar 25 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Volgo-Balt 209* (2473 gt, built 1978) ran aground in the River Elbe estuary in the early hours of Mar 24. Two tugs refloated the vessel, which was then towed to Cuxhaven with a list of 10 deg. It sustained two gashes in its ballast water tanks. The investigations in Cuxhaven are continuing.

London, Mar 26 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Volgo-Balt 209* has been towed by tugs of Otto Wulf from the Lentzkai, in Cuxhaven, to the New Fish Harbour, still with a strong list to starboard.

London, Mar 27 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Volgo-Balt 209*, on Scharhoern reef in the night of Mar 23, had the Weser pilot on board. The vessel carried a cargo of 2960 tons coal from Russia. The first vessel on scene

was the DGzRS-rescue boat *Hermann Helms* from Cuxhaven. At 2230 the multipurpose vessel *Neuwerk* and the police patrol *Buergermeister Brauer* arrived on scene. When the tugs *Taucher Otto Wulf 3* from Cuxhaven and the *Parat* from Brunsbuttel had reached the vessel, the tide was too low for refloating the vessel. At 0215 the vessel finally was refloated and towed to Cuxhaven with 9.5 deg list to port. Two of the three ballast water tanks had been breached when grounding. The vessel then was berthed in the Amerikahafen (America Harbour) in Cuxhaven, but as the the water was too low due its movements caused by strong winds, Wulf-tugs towed the vessel, at 1730, into the New Fish Harbour for investigations. The repair yard is unknown yet as the dock of the Muetzfeldt-Yard is occupied by another vessel and no other dock in port large enough to take the vessel.

London, Mar 27 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Divers from the company Kirchgassner surveyed the underwater region of general cargo *Volgo-Balt 209* on Mar 24. They found out that the hull is damaged for a length of 30 metres. There were dents and breaches. Both propellers are seriously damaged and will have to be replaced. The shelter of the propeller on starboard side is missing, the one on port side is damaged. On starboard the vessel sustained damage above water due to wave impact during the six hours on the reef.

London, Mar 28 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Volgo-Balt 209* ran aground because the Weser Pilot wanted to shorten the way to the Elbe via the old Weser thereby leaving the lane marked by buoys. The man has been warned by the river control that he will be prosecuted. *Volgo-Balt 209* will possibly have to be scrapped as the amount of damage caused is higher than the vessel's value. It is still berthed in Cuxhaven after completion of the divers' investigations.

WALSERTAL (Netherlands)

London, Mar 22 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Walsertal* was located 32 nautical miles from Gdynia, in lat 54 51 02.28N, long 18 58 53.4E, at 1552, UTC, today, course 286.8 deg, speed 11.5 knots.

WILLEM LAURENTZ (Netherlands)

See *MTS Christa*.

WILSON MUUGA (Cyprus)

Reykjavik, Mar 28 — Bulker *Wilson Muuga* is still aground. Understand negotiations are in progress between the authorities and the insurance company that attempts may be made to refloat the vessel during spring high tide on May 18. — Lloyd's Agents.

WINONA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Flushing, Mar 28 — General cargo *Winona* is expected to sail from the dockyard late afternoon/early evening Mar 28. — Lloyd's Agents.

XANADU (Malta)

London, Mar 22 — Understand tug/supply *Carlo Magno* has left Rotterdam for Gijon where it will pick up bulker *Xanadu* and tow it to a repair yard at Flushing. (Note — *Carlo Magno* sailed Rotterdam 0845, Mar 21 for Gijon.)

Piraeus, Mar 29 — Bulker *Xanadu*: Our towage operation was completed 1150, UTC, Mar 23, when salvage tug *Fotiy Krylov* safely delivered the vessel to the port of Gijon. — Tsaviris Salvage (International) Ltd.

London, Mar 29 — Bulker *Xanadu* arrived Flushing 1530, Mar 28.

YBURG (Germany)

Portsmouth, UK, Mar 22 — German inland waterways general cargo *Yburg*, 1511 gt, had a fire on board on the Amsterdam-Rijnkanaal yesterday evening. The fire broke out in the engine-room and spread to the crew space forward. There were no injuries to the crew. The vessel moored alongside at Nigtevecht where the fire services extinguished the fire but not after the vessel was entirely burned out. The cause of the fire is thought to be faulty wiring. — Correspondent.

YONG XING (Hong Kong)

Chittagong, Mar 28 — Container Carrier *Yong Xing* (10835 gt, built 1980), laden with 310 TEU's of export cargo, left Chittagong Port on Mar 25, for Singapore. Reportedly on its way to Chittagong outer anchorage, the vessel developed an engine problem and had to be towed to Chittagong outer anchorage. The vessel is presently undertaking engine repairs at Chittagong outer anchorage. Understand from the vessel's local agents, Peninsular Shipping Services Ltd, Chittagong and also Chittagong port control, repairs are expected to be completed this evening. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Yong Xing* arrived Chittagong Mar 15 from Port Klang.)

ZELDENRUST (Belgium)

See *Andrina F*.

ZHONG SHENG (Cambodia)

Yokohama, Mar 26 — General cargo *Zhong Sheng* sustained a fire in its hold while loading operations at wharf F in Kisarazu port, Chiba prefecture, at 0735, local time, Mar 16. The fire in the cargo of scrap material was contained at 2010, local time, the same day, by the fire service and a patrol boat. The fire was contained to the cargo hold, no personal injury was reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

ZIM ASIA (Israel)

See *Shinsei Maru No.3*.



SOMALIA

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: The families of Kenyan seamen hijacked in Somalia a

month ago have pleaded with the Government to intervene to have them released, as reports indicate the pirates have reduced their ransom demand from US\$1 million (Sh69 million) to US\$170,000 (Sh11.7 million). The families said they had not received any word from their relatives and were concerned about their safety in the lawless country. "We understand that the country is back to the chaotic scenes and we are concerned about their safety," said Mrs Aisha Salim, mother to Salim Hanafi, a crew member on board general cargo *Rozen*. *Rozen*, a World Food Programme chartered vessel, was hijacked 750 nautical miles from Mogadiscio on Feb 25. Mr Andrew Mwangura, the Seafarers Assistance Programme coordinator, who met the families yesterday, said the pirates had reduced the ransom demand. He said the master of the vessel and a Kenyan crew member had been removed from *Rozen* to an undisclosed location for fear that it could be attacked by coalition forces patrolling the area. He also confirmed that two pirates were killed during an exchange of fire between the Puntland authorities and the hijackers. Mr Mwangura and the vessel's agents, Motaku Shipping Agents, said the crew was running out of food and water.



Seizures & Arrests

ANGOR (Russia)

See "Fishing Vessels Seized by Russia."

ANNIE SIERRA (Cyprus)

Karachi, Mar 27 — Understand from the Karachi based counsel that the Sindh High Court is yet to fix the next date for hearing of cases against bulker *Annie Sierra*, which was under arrest at Port Qasim for settlement of port and other charges. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ARIEL S. (Belize)

Beirut, Mar 26 — The Court arrest on general cargo *Ariel S.* was lifted on Saturday (Mar 24) and the vessel sailed at 1300, local time, for its declared destination of Yeisk, Russia. — Lloyd's Agents.

BANSEI MARU

London, Mar 23 — According to the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize the registration of fishing (general) *Bansei Maru* was cancelled on Nov 22, 2006 and since this date, the vessel is not entitled to fly the flag of Belize.

BANSEI MARU (Belize)

Portsmouth, UK, Mar 23 — Russian Coast Guards yesterday detained fishing (general) *Bansei Maru* for violating the border. The coast guard service said today that the vessel, which had not reported itself, was

spotted to the south of Sakhalin yesterday by a surveillance aircraft. It was intercepted by a Coast Guard vessel and taken to the port of Nevelsk for investigation. — Correspondent.

FINDINGS (Cayman Islands)

London, Mar 25 — A press report, dated Mar 22, states: The £4 million yacht *Findings* (290 gt, built 1991) has been impounded by police in Italy after an investigation was launched into the death of an East Lancashire man. Boat engineer Simon Johnson, 35, was found dead in mysterious circumstances on board the Jersey-registered yacht earlier this week. The former ski instructor had been working as an engineer on the yacht off the coast of Genoa. He was found dead in a cabin by a security guard but is believed to have died 18 hours earlier. A post-mortem examination has been carried out in Italy, but the results were inconclusive. His family are anxiously waiting for tests to confirm the cause of death. His body is now back in the UK awaiting further tests and an inquest was opened into his death by Blackburn coroner Michael Singleton yesterday. The coroner's officer said: "It is too early to say whether Mr Johnson's death is suspicious or not but the Italian authorities have seized the yacht as part of their ongoing inquiries."

FISHING VESSELS SEIZED BY RUSSIA

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Four vessels have been detained over the past 24 hours off the Primorye Territory for illegal fishing and violation of the state border, reports said on Thursday (Mar 29) at the press group of the border branch of the Russian Federal Security Service for the Primorye Territory. According to air reconnaissance, four fishing boats without flags of state sovereignty, without names and identification signs were spotted in the central part of Peter the Great Bay, in Russian territorial waters. Coastguard vessels rushed to the area. Borderguards were forced to open fire in order to detain one of the vessels. There were no casualties. Three Russian vessels and a seiner, flying the Cambodia flag, turned out to be the transgressors. An inspection group found 11 tonnes of crabs on board the Cambodian Scat boat and 830 crab traps, some of which were ready for lowering. Another seven tonnes of illegally caught crabs were found on board *Meridian* (? fishing (general) *Meridian* (649 gt, built 1974) and fishing (general) *Vynoslivyy* (448 gt, built 1983), registered in the Primorye Territory. Borderguards detected only several crabs on board the third Russian vessel, the seiner *Angor* (366 gt, built 1995), of Sakhalin, on which the crew were short of time to throw them overboard. Not a single skipper could fetch any permissive documents for fishing. All the detained vessels were escorted to Nakhodka port. The facts of illegal fishing are being investigated. Crabs, to be recognized as

viable in the presence of an ichthyologist, will be released into sea on Thursday.

FLORA S. (Cyprus)

Zeebrugge, Mar 27 — The embargo/arrest on general cargo *Flora S.* was lifted at 2035, local time, Mar 22. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

GRISHA PODOBEDOV (Russia)

Portsmouth, UK, Mar 26 — General cargo *Grisha Podobedov* (2949 gt, built 1976), registered in Kamchatka, has been detained at the Chinese port of Dalian over debts to a shiprepair company. Chinese officials have handed a detention warrant to the master of the Russian vessel, a crewmember told Interfax by phone on Monday (Mar 26). "If the ship owner fails to repay the debt to the shiprepair company before Apr 20, the motor vessel will be sold," he said. "The crew have not received their pay for seven months now and their future is not clear," the Russian sailor said. "Repairs were finished a long time ago, but the ship owner has yet to repay debts to the Chinese shiprepair company and to the crew," he said. The vessel is owned by Kamchatmorflot company. Kamchatmorflot's other motor vessel, *Tikhon Syomushkin*, found itself in a similar situation in Vietnam in February. The problem was settled through diplomatic channels. — Correspondent.

HEBEI CENTURY (Hong Kong)

Zeebrugge, Mar 27 — Combined bulk and oil carrier *Hebei Century* (90747 gt, built 1982), which arrived Antwerp 1702, local time, Mar 20, was placed under embargo/arrest at 1720, local time, Mar 22. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Hebei Century* was reported still in port at Antwerp at 1003, UTC, today.)

MERIDIAN (Russia)

See "Fishing Vessels Seized by Russia."

PATRICIA (Philippines)

Manila, Mar 28 — The Bureau of Customs said that it had released non specific tanker *Patricia* and dropped all charges of oil smuggling against its owner and charterer. Bureau of Customs officers said that there was insufficient evidence to pursue the case. The *Patricia* was arrested on Jan 1 for allegedly diverting its transshipment cargo of diesel fuel to a local depot, instead of delivering it to two international vessels to which the fuel was consigned. Bunkers Manila, Inc., owner of the vessel, said that its cargo of 600,000 litres of diesel fuel had been returned to its supplier at the Subic Bay Free Port oil storage facility. The *Patricia* is now on standby at the Cargolift Terminal at the Baseco compound at the Port of Manila awaiting orders for deployment. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PAULIJING (Belize)

London, Mar 23 — General cargo *Paulijing* sailed Batu Ampar before Jan 3.

RODONIT (Russia)

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Georgian border police have released general cargo *Rodonit*, detained Mar 20 for allegedly violating Georgian shipping regulations. The Georgian Interior Ministry border police press service said the ship was released after paying a \$30,000 fine and has already left the port of Batumi. The ship was detained nine days ago for allegedly sailing near the coast of the unrecognised Georgian republic of Abkhazia, which has been declared a closed area.

SHUEN MAN (Taiwan)

London, Mar 25 — Fifteen crewmen from Taiwanese fishing (general) *Shuen Man* have been detained in Brisbane as authorities investigate whether they were operating illegally in Australian waters. The 35-metre vessel was escorted into the Port of Brisbane around midnight, after being detected off Lord Howe Island earlier this week. It is suspected of illegally fishing in Australian waters after being intercepted about 65 nautical miles inside the Australian Exclusion Zone. Immigration officers have detained the crew. Nine of those detained claim to be Indonesian, four from China and the other two from Taiwan. Quarantine officers inspected the boat for biosecurity risks on arrival, with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority now heading the investigation.

Brisbane, Mar 29 — Fishing (general) *Shuen Man* is currently detained in Brisbane. — Lloyd's Agents.

STAR WIND (Cambodia)

Portsmouth, UK, Mar 26 — Russian border guards have detained trawler (All types) *Star Wind*, flying the Cambodian flag, in the Sea of Okhotsk, a local border guard spokesman said today. The vessel was detained in Russian territorial waters by border guards and escorted to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky for further investigation. — Correspondent.

VICTORIA 2000 (Belize)

London, Mar 22 — Notice of Judicial Sale of ferry *Victoria 2000* (532 gt, built 1985): *Victoria 2000*, in the port of Eilat, is to be sold at auction "as is where is" at 1130 hrs, Apr 19.

VYNOSLIVYY (Russia)

See "Fishing Vessels Seized by Russia."

Pipeline Accidents



BALUCHISTAN, PAKISTAN

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

DELTA STATE, NIGERIA

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Shell Petroleum

Development Company of Nigeria has resumed pumping of crude oil through its Nembe Creek Trunk Pipeline, where a spill led to a shut-in of 187,000 barrels a day, a spokesman said today. However, the Nigerian government has sued the oil company for alleged violation of nuclear safety and radiation law, according to media reports today. "We have resumed pumping, but I cannot say how much it is now," Bisi Ojediran said. "Normally, production will ramp up," he said. Ojediran said Shell wouldn't comment on the government's suit, "since the case is already in court." The government, according to the report, accused Shell and three other companies - C and E Global Limited, Western Atlas, and E D Wayles - of transporting radioactive materials from Port Harcourt to Warri, both in the Niger Delta, without proper authorisation.

VITEBSK REGION, BELARUS

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Latvia's emergency services were on high alert yesterday, as an oil spill in Belarus flowed along the Daugava river towards the Latvian border. The spill, estimated at more than 100 tons of diesel, began on Friday evening (Mar 23) in the Vitebsk region of western Belarus, when a section of pipeline leading to the Latvian port of Ventspils burst and began spilling diesel into the ground. Belarusian rescue services managed to contain much of the spill, but by mid-afternoon on Saturday (Mar 24) an unknown quantity had flowed into the Ulla river. Approximately 1.2 hectares of land were also contaminated. The Ulla is a Belarusian tributary of the Daugava, known as the Dvina in Russia. The Daugava is Latvia's largest river and flows through both Riga and Daugavpils. Initial attempts by Latvian rescue services to place preventive booms across the river were hampered by high water levels and rapid currents. Latvia's rivers are running high as a result of the spring thaw and rains.

Pollution



LONG ISLAND SOUND, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishers Island Ferry District has agreed to pay \$200,000 to settle civil claims for violating the Rivers and Harbours Act by discharging raw sewage into the Thames River and Long Island Sound, federal authorities said on Friday (Mar 23). "This case demonstrates this office's ongoing commitment to prosecuting serious environmental violations to the fullest extent of the law and we will seek both criminal and civil penalties when appropriate to do so," said US Attorney Kevin O'Connor.

Capt Peter Boynton, who commands the Coast Guard's Long Island Sound division, welcomed the settlement. "The United States Coast Guard takes the prevention of maritime pollution very seriously and is firmly committed to the protection and preservation of the marine environment in Long Island Sound," Boynton said. "We hope that this settlement will serve as a deterrent to others." The Fishers Island Ferry provides daily year-round ferry service from New London to Fisher's Island, NY. The Fishers Island Ferry owns and operates two ferries that were used in the illegal discharges, authorities said. From 2000 to 2004, the overboard discharge valves for the sewage holding tanks on the vessels were kept and maintained in the open position, authorities said. The practice allowed hundreds of thousands of gallons of raw sewage and untreated sludge to be discharged into the Thames River and Long Island Sound, authorities said. On Jul 13, 2004, the US Coast Guard performed an unannounced inspection on the vessels that revealed the overboard discharge valves were open. Mark Easter, operations manager for the ferry district, pleaded guilty in 2005 to two counts of violating the Rivers and Harbours Act. Easter was sentenced last year to 30 days in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Weather & Navigation



ROMANIA

Bucharest, Mar 23 — Due to bad weather, the Sulina Channel was closed at 0500, Mar 23, Constantza port was closed at 1100 hrs, Mangalia port was closed at 1230 hrs and Midia port was closed at 1245 hrs. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 25 — The heavy rain over the past few days have affected 10 counties in Romania, with 28 people being evacuated, the Romanian Administration and Home Affairs Ministry (MAD) said yesterday. A total of 150 houses were submerged by floods, while 38 bridges and 21 km of county roads were damaged, said the MAI, adding that a national road was completely blocked. Meanwhile, strong winds affected the energy supply in 21 counties, and 978 transformer stations and 21 electric lines were totally broken down. As many as 600 MAI employees are currently evacuating and protecting the people in the disaster-hit areas.

Bucharest, Mar 26 — Constantza port reopened 0600, local time, Mar 24. Mangalia port reopened 2335, local time, Mar 23. Midia port reopened 1815, local time, Mar 23, and Sulina Channel reopened 0550, local time, Mar 25. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 26 — The port of Durban, South Africa's busiest harbour, is tackling the backlog of vessels

waiting to berth after high seas and strong winds forced the closure of east coast ports early last week. Solly Letsoalo, the chief operations officer for containers at SA Port Operations (Sapo), which runs the Durban container terminal, said last week that the parastatal had implemented a plan to address the 47-hour delay caused by the weather as quickly as possible. "We are communicating with the shipping lines about this plan," the statement said. Before the ports of Richards Bay and Durban were closed last Sunday, strong winds were already hampering operations at the Durban container terminal. Container cranes cannot operate in winds exceeding 60km an hour. Based on information from both Sapo and shipping lines, the delay to berth was between 28 hours and three days.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated Mar 22, states: South African Port Operations (SAPO) east coast ports are fully operational and addressing delays caused by high swells which affected operations earlier this week. Extraordinary high tides, heavy swells of up to eight metres and strong winds caused port closures in Richards Bay, Durban, East London and Port Elizabeth on Monday (Mar 19) and Tuesday (Mar 20) resulting in a loss of about 47 hours. The current operational status for the various terminals is as follows: (Durban) Maydon Wharf Terminal: number of vessels outside: seven, average delays: 40 hours. Number of vessels on berth: eight. Car Terminal: Number of vessels on berth: two. Durban Container Terminal: Number of vessels outside: 14, average delays: 28 Hours. Number of vessels on berth: six. Port Elizabeth Container Terminal: Number of vessels outside: none, average delays: nil. Number of vessels on berth: one. Richards Bay MPT: Number of vessels outside: two, average delays: none. Number of vessels on berth: none. Solly Letsoalo, Chief Operations Officer Containers said: "We have implemented a recovery plan to address the 47 hour delay caused by the weather as quickly as possible and we are communicating with the shipping lines about this plan."

TROPICAL CYCLONE "BECKY"

London, Mar 27 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Becky" was located near lat 14.1S, long 165.0E, approximately 405 nautical miles south-east of Honiara, Solomon Islands and has tracked southeastward, or 125 degrees, at nine knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds: 25 nautical miles in the north-east, south-east and north-west quadrants and 20 nautical miles in the south-west

quadrant. Radius of 34 knot winds: 55 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants, 50 nautical miles in the south-east quadrant and 45 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant. The maximum significant wave height is 12 feet. At 0600, UTC, Mar 28, the centre is predicted to be near lat 15.6S, long 167.1E, with maximum sustained winds of 85 knots and gusts to 105 knots.

London, Mar 28 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0001, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Becky" was located near lat 18.0S, long 167.4E. Movement over the past six hours 155 deg at nine knots, position accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 65 knots, gusts 80 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds: 35 nautical miles north-east and south-east quadrants and 30 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds: 70 nautical miles north-east, 65 south-east quadrant and 60 nautical miles elsewhere. The maximum significant wave height is 16 feet. At 0001, UTC, Mar 29, the centre is predicted to be near lat 20.8S, long 168.1E, with maximum sustained winds of 60 knots and gusts of 75 knots.

London, Mar 29 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0000, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Becky" was located near lat 20.7S, long 167.7E, approximately 120 nautical miles north-east of Noumea and has tracked west-southwestward, or 245 degrees, at seven knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 45 knots, gusts 55 knots, dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over water. Radius of 34 knot winds: 60 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant and 55 nautical miles in the south-east, south-west and north-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 14 feet. At 0000, UTC, Mar 30, the centre is predicted to be near lat 21.2S, long 166.2E, with maximum sustained winds of 25 knots and gusts to 35 knots.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "INDLALA"

London, Mar 24 — A total of 69 people were killed and more than 77,000 left homeless after cyclone "Indlala" struck northern Madagascar last week, authorities said overnight in a sharp upward revision of the toll. The national emergencies agency, the BNGRC, said new figures showed that 33 people were killed in the town of Port-Berge, in addition to the 36 dead elsewhere counted up to yesterday. The BNGRC said 77,674 people were made homeless, up from 53,750. In addition, 17 bridges and 40 public buildings had been damaged, and 8000 hectares of ricefields destroyed.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "KARA"

London, Mar 25 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone "Kara" near lat 16.6S, long 116.5E, at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 260 degrees at six knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots, gusts 45 knots. Forecast position lat 16.8S, long 115.7E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots. Forecast position lat 17.1S, long 115.1E, at 0600, UTC, Mar 26. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots.

London, Mar 26 — At 1400 hrs, Mar 25, the centre of tropical cyclone "Kara" was in position lat 16.5S, long 116.8E, approximately 245 miles north of Dampier. "Kara" is travelling west-south-west, at six knots, but is expected to begin to recurve and intensify over night or tomorrow. The port of Dampier is being progressively closed down in preparation for the effects of this cyclone. Clearing of the outer anchorage commenced at 1300 hrs, yesterday, in order to provide sufficient time for vessels to clear the path of the cyclone. Selected vessels which may be able to berth prior to the arrival of the cyclone have been permitted to remain subject to the weather not deteriorating quickly. Port Walcott have advised that as from 1800 hrs, yesterday, the anchorage will be closed to shipping. Closure of the terminal is under review.

London, Mar 26 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Kara" located near lat 18.0S, long 115.1E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours: 200 deg at five knots, position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, position based on centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds: 30 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 75 nautical miles northeast semicircle, 80 nautical miles southeast quadrant, and 70 nautical miles southwest quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Mar 27, position predicted to be near lat 19.5S, long 115.6E with maximum sustained winds of 100 knots and gusts to 125 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 25 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 40 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 95 nautical miles east semicircle, 90 nautical miles elsewhere. Maximum significant wave height at 0600, UTC, today, is 21 feet.

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A Cyclone Warning for a Severe Category 3 Cyclone is current for coastal areas from Onslow to Wallal, according to the Australian Bureau of Meteorology's Tropical Cyclone Advice No.18 issued at 0555 hrs, today. At 0500 hrs, Severe Tropical Cyclone "Kara" was estimated to be 255 kms north-north-west of Karratha and 315 kms north-west of Port Hedland, moving east-south-east at nine kms per hour. "Kara" is now slowly moving on an east-southeasterly track and has maintained intensity as a Category 3 system overnight. "Kara" is a small but strong tropical cyclone and may

continue as a Category 3 system today while being well offshore. However, weakening is anticipated by tomorrow and Thursday (Mar 29) as the cyclone approaches the coast. Heavy rain may cause areas of flooding in the central and eastern Pilbara as the system approaches the coast. The situation at affected ports as Kara approaches is as follows: Dampier: Anchorage closed at 1300 hrs, Mar 25. The port closed around 1500 hrs, yesterday. Port Walcott: Anchorage closed at 1800 hrs, Mar 25. The port closed at 1600 hrs, yesterday. Port Hedland: Anchorage closed at 2359 hrs, Mar 26. The port closed around 0500 hrs, today. At this time, it is expected that the above ports will re-open early tomorrow.

London, Mar 27 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Kara" was located near lat 18.8S, long 117.8E, approximately 100 nautical miles north-northwest of Port Hedland, Australia and has tracked east-southeastward, or 100 degrees, at 10 knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 80 knots, gusts 100 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 20 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 60 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 70 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 16 feet. At 0600, UTC, Mar 28, the centre is predicted to be near lat 19.7S, long 120.2E, with maximum sustained winds of 45 knots and gusts to 55 knots.

London, Mar 28 — Current outlook for Tropical Cyclone "Kara" indicates that the storm is rapidly weakening and is now likely to make landfall tomorrow morning in the region of Eighty Mile Beach. In line with the threat from cyclone "Kara" diminishing, latest iron ore ports information: Dampier: Anchorage reopened during the afternoon of Mar 27. Port reopened in the morning of Mar 28. Port Walcott: Anchorage reopened 0600, local time, Mar 28. Port reopened 0800, local time, Mar 28. Port Hedland: Anchorage reopened 0600, local time, Mar 28. Port reopened 0800, local time, Mar 28.

London, Mar 29 — The following closure and opening times within Port Hedland: Closures: Anchorage closed 0001, local time, Monday (Mar 27), port closed 1200, local time, Mar 27. Reopenings: Anchorage reopened 0600, local time, Mar 28, port reopened 0800, local time, Mar 28. Following closure and opening times within the port of Dampier and Port Walcott: Closures: Parker Point closed 1615, local time, Mar 26. East Intercourse Island closed 1442, local time, Mar 26. Port Walcott closed 1600, local time, Mar 26. Reopenings: East Intercourse Island opened 2130, local time, Mar 27. Parker Point opened 0542, local time, Mar 28. Port Walcott opened 0800, local time, Mar 28.

Natural Disasters



BATU TARA VOLCANO, KOMBA ISLAND, INDONESIA

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Thousands of people on an eastern Indonesian island have been warned to prepare to evacuate after a volcano started spewing rocks and lava, authorities said today. The 748-metre Batu Tara volcano, which began rumbling last week, has released hot lava and rocks over the last two days and shot clouds of hot air up to 2,000 metres into the sky, said Andreas Duli Manuk, chief of Lembata District. Andreas said about 6,800 residents in six villages on the northern coast of Lembata Island, the closest islet south of the volcano, were on alert for evacuation. Some residents had already fled their villages to safer areas. Fishermen have been warned to stay at least three kilometres from the volcanic island, he added.

JAPAN

London, Mar 25 — A 6.9-magnitude quake struck Japan's main island of Honshu this morning. Landslides were triggered, roads buckled and at least 25 houses collapsed completely when the quake struck at 0942 hrs, Kyodo news agency said. The tremor, which was felt in Tokyo, seriously damaged some 200 houses, it said. The quake's focus was at a depth of 11 km below the seabed off the Noto peninsula in Ishikawa prefecture, about 300 km west of Tokyo. A 52-year-old woman died in Wajima, a resort and fishing town on the western side of the peninsula, after being trapped under a stone lantern that toppled in her garden, officials said. About 40 people were being treated for injuries, mostly minor, in hospital in Wajima, a town of around 34,000 people, media said. The Japan Meteorological Agency originally estimated the magnitude at 7.1 but later revised it to 6.9. It had earlier estimated the depth of the focus at 50 km. Some trains were halted, people were trapped in lifts and there were reports of power outages in some areas. Water was cut off to 4,500 homes, Kyodo said. Flights were suspended between Tokyo and local airports in Ishikawa but high-speed bullet trains resumed service after being halted for checks, Kyodo said. A tsunami warning for waves of up to 50 cm issued for Ishikawa prefecture was later lifted after small tsunamis hit some areas. Power companies said there were no reports of irregularities at nuclear plants in the area. Earlier, two strong earthquakes struck near the archipelago of Vanuatu in the South Pacific, Australia's geological agency reported, but there were no reports of damage.

London, Mar 25 — Following navigation warning received today,

states: Earthquake information: Earthquake occurred off Noto Hanto at 0042, UTC, today; magnitude 7.1; dangerous drifting objects, change of depth and damage of harbour facilities or navigational aids may occur. Vessels in coast area requested to be cautious.

Wajima, Mar 26 — Aftershocks jolted the west coast of central Japan today, after a strong earthquake killed one person, injured nearly 200 and flattened homes. Yesterday morning's 6.9 magnitude quake, which struck the Noto peninsula in Ishikawa prefecture, about 300 km west of Tokyo, destroyed houses, buckled roads, triggered landslides and cut off water and electricity supplies to thousands of homes. A 5.3 magnitude tremor, one of more than 175 aftershocks, struck early today, and a 4.8 magnitude quake jolted the area in mid-afternoon, Japan's Meteorological Agency said. Officials warned that more could occur. About 2,600 people spent the night in evacuation shelters and many other residents slept in their cars. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told a parliamentary panel in Tokyo that 68 houses, many of them old wooden structures with heavy tile roofs, had been destroyed and another 164 badly damaged. The government's disaster agency put the total number of damaged houses at 564 and public broadcaster NHK said more than 10,000 households lacked running water. An emergency relief team of firefighters that had been searching the rubble of collapsed houses confirmed that no-one was trapped, an Ishikawa prefecture official said. Electricity was restored to most homes after outages yesterday affected around 160,000 households, Noto airport on the peninsula re-opened after cracks on the runway were repaired, and train services were back to normal, officials and media said. — Reuters.

Political & Civil Unrest



IRAN

London, Mar 24 — A group of British sailors were detained by Iranian forces overnight as the UN Security Council prepared to vote on extensions to its sanctions against the country. The 15 sailors were conducting anti-smuggling checks in a disputed stretch of water between Iraq and Iran, the Shatt al-Arab waterway, in line with a UN Security Council resolution. The British Ministry of Defence has demanded their immediate release. A senior Navy commander said he hoped the capture — involving sailors from *HMS Cornwall* — was a "simple misunderstanding at a tactical level". A BBC television correspondent on board *HMS Cornwall* said the group had been seized at gunpoint. "The British Government is demanding the

immediate and safe return of our people and equipment," said the Ministry of Defence. "We are urgently pursuing this matter with the Iranian authorities at the highest level, and on the instructions of the Foreign Secretary the Iranian ambassador has been summoned to the Foreign Office." British media speculated the sailors could be held hostage and used as a bargaining tool ahead of the UN vote on sanctions against Iran. The UN Security Council is expected to adopt a resolution this weekend broadening its sanctions against Iran over the country's refusal to halt nuclear fuel work.

NIGERIA

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen in speed boats kidnapped a Dutch security manager of a German construction company in Nigeria's oil capital, Port Harcourt, today, security sources said. The attackers invaded the construction yard of Bilfinger Berger on the waterfront at dawn, engaged guards in a three-hour shoot-out and abducted the security manager when he went to investigate what was happening. The company has tried unsuccessfully to contact the group that kidnapped him, he added.

PAKISTAN

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Gas supply was suspended to the purification plant from a well of the Sui gas field as militants blew up a pipeline yesterday. Official sources confirming the incident said that tribal militants placed a locally-made powerful bomb under the pipeline supplying gas to the main plant from well No 86 and blew it up. Security forces and PPL officials rushed to the site and immediately cut off the gas supply. "An eight-inch diameter of the pipeline was blown up in the blast," police sources in Sui said.

Karachi, Mar 26 — The crude oil pipeline owned by Pakistan and Abu Dhabi joint venture-Pak Arab Refinery Ltd (Parco) was blown up near Rojhan in Rajanpur district, some 200 km from Dera Ghazi Khan, in Punjab Province of Pakistan early yesterday morning. According to media, the 16-inch diameter pipeline supplying oil from Karachi port to the Mahmoodkot refinery in Muzaffargarh district was blown up in the limits of the Mazari-dominated area of Chouki Kin, Rojhan tehsil, at 0300 hrs, damaging a three-metre portion of the pipeline. A Parco official said that the pipeline was non-functional due to the annual repair work from Mar 12 and the remaining oil in it went to waste after the blast. The engineering team has reached the blast site to repair it. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SRI LANKA

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Tamil rebels, for the first time, used light aircraft to attack a Sri Lankan Air Force base adjoining Colombo's international airport, military officials said today. The

rebel assault killed at least two airmen and wounded 17 others, as the airport suspended operations temporarily, Air Force spokesman Group Captain Ajantha Silva said that rebels are believed to have used two light aircraft to drop explosives in the early hours of today, onto the base at Katunayaka, 23 kilometres north of the capital. Bandaranaike International Airport has been temporarily closed, and all flights scheduled to land in Colombo have been redirected to other airports in India and Thailand, said Sri Lanka airlines communications manager Chandana Silva. At least seven flights with points of origin including Paris, Dubai, Frankfurt and London have been redirected to nearby countries. The flight from Frankfurt was directed to Kochin in India. Additional troops have been moved into the area to carry out a search operation, while all passengers heading to the airport from Colombo have been turned back. Tamil rebels claimed responsibility for the attack. Military spokesman Rasaiah Illanthiriyar of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) confirmed the attack, saying that the two aircraft took off from the rebel-controlled Wannu northern region and returned to the base after the attack. He said the targets for the airstrike were hangars where Air Force Kfir and MiG-27 fast-attack aircraft were parked. He threatened that other Sri Lanka military installations will be targets for future attacks. Residents in the area of the airport said that four loud explosions followed by gunfire were reported from the Air Force base, which lies 1,000 metres from the airport. The damage caused within the base by the airstrike was immediately not known. All Kfir fighter jets used to bomb suspected Tamil rebel targets operate from Katunayaka airbase.

Hong Kong, Mar 26 — Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. has suspended flights to and from the Sri Lankan capital after a rebel aircraft bombed an air force base next to the Colombo international airport early today. Asia's third-largest carrier said in a statement it would resume its daily flights of Boeing 777-300 aircraft only after conducting a careful assessment of the situation. "We will just have to monitor the situation very closely," a company spokeswoman said. Three airmen were killed and 16 wounded in the pre-dawn attack by a Tamil Tiger light aircraft that dropped bombs on an air force base by the civilian airport that is 23 miles north of the capital. It was the first such air strike by the rebel group. Airline and government officials said the civilian airport was not damaged, but was closed for several hours after the attack. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam vowed to carry out more air attacks. — Reuters.

London, Mar 29 — Sri Lankan navy troops have sunk three Tamil Tiger boats off the island's north-east coast, killing at least 15 rebels, the military says. Officials said the navy fought a three-hour battle with 10 rebel boats. They said one navy sailor was wounded in the clash, which took place about 60

nautical miles from Trincomalee. The incident came a day after Sri Lankan troops said they had driven Tamil Tiger rebels from a major base in the east of the island. "A naval patrol has come across about 10 Tiger boats and our boats launched an attack, and we were able to destroy three rebel craft," Reuters news agency quoted Commander Athula Senarathne, a navy spokesman, as saying. "During the attack we believe 15 to 18 rebel cadres were killed." The remaining rebel boats fled, he said. There was no immediate comment from the rebels, who have been fighting for decades for a homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east of Sri Lanka. Despite a ceasefire still being in place on paper, Sri Lanka has been sliding back towards civil war, with more than 4,000 people killed in the past 15 months. On Tuesday (Mar 27), a Tamil Tiger suicide bomber killed himself and at least seven others in an attack on an army camp in the east of the country, the military said. The attack followed the rebels' first aerial attack, on a military base, on Monday. At least one light plane bombed an air force facility next to the international airport near the capital, Colombo.

Labour Disputes



AIR SENEGAL INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL

Dakar, Mar 26 — Workers at Air Senegal International launched a two-day strike today, grounding flights to France and destinations across West Africa. Staff at Air Senegal, with services from Dakar to around 10 neighbouring countries as well as France, Italy and Spain, called the stoppage to demand an increase in their wages, their unions said. "There will be no flights today or tomorrow," Moustapha Diakhate, co-ordinator of the unions representing Air Senegal's employees, told Reuters. A spokesperson for the company, which employs around 500 people, said negotiations had begun but declined to comment further. — Reuters.

FRANCE

London, Mar 23 — Workers operating the the Lavera and Fos oil terminals have still not accepted the "protocol of agreement". Therefore the strike continues at the oil terminals, although work has resumed at the dry bulk cargo/container terminals and private jetties.

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Bunkering operations are still being blocked by a strike at the Marseilles-Fos-Lavera port complex. One of the major bunker suppliers in the hub said today that her company had made no deliveries for over a week. She said strikers were planning a meeting before the weekend, but she was not optimistic

that bunkering would be able to resume soon. Strikers have been preventing vessels accessing the terminals, making it impossible for bunker barges to load. The Port Authority said the 10-day old dispute had halted all oil traffic. More than 30 vessels, including 23 oil tankers, were waiting outside Fos and Lavera terminals earlier this week.

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Marseille port authorities and representatives from French union Confederation Generale du Travail are meeting today in an attempt to end a strike which has entered its thirteenth day, a spokeswoman for the port said. Unloading at the oil and gas terminals at the ports of Fos and Lavera have been blocked since Mar 14, as workers protest against Gaz de France's decision to use only specially trained workers on its future Fos liquified natural gas terminal and not Marseille workers. According to the port authorities 47 vessels, including six gas tankers and 23 oil tankers, were waiting to unload Saturday (Mar 24).

London, Mar 27 — Union representatives and the Marseille port authority were once again locked in talks, yesterday, aimed at trying to resolve a dispute that has paralysed oil terminal activities at Fos and Lavera since Mar 14. As of yesterday morning there were 49 ships, including 26 tankers, 17 chemical carriers and six gas carriers, queuing up outside the two terminals. Although the port said on Friday that union leaders had recommended, during a meeting, that members should return to work, they had decided to continue the strike.

London, Mar 28 — Strikers at the port of Marseille have voted to continue their industrial action, which has paralysed the oil terminals at Fos and Lavera, for a further 24 hours. Workers took the decision to continue the strike, now in its fifteenth day, at a meeting held yesterday afternoon. As of yesterday morning 51 vessels, including 28 tankers, 17 chemical carriers and six gas carriers, are awaiting entry to the two terminals.

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A meeting involving French regional governmental authorities, the Confederation Generale du Travail labour union, Gaz de France representatives and the Marseille Port authority began at 0850 UTC, today, in an attempt to put an end to the 16-day port workers' strike, a spokeswoman for the prefecture said. At 0800 UTC, today, 57 vessels including 33 oil tankers, 18 chemical tankers and six gas tankers were waiting outside the port, a Marseille Port Authority spokeswoman said. This is the third meeting between unions, GdF and local authorities and comes after the CGT workers voted Tuesday (Mar 27) for the strike to continue, rejecting another plan to end the blockade. The workers on strike, unlike dockers, are employed by the Port Autonome de Marseille and therefore by the French

state. The strike has cost refiners about EUR25 million so far and is threatening fuel supplies, the French oil trade organization said yesterday. "Refineries will start stopping one-by-one as soon as Friday, which will inevitably lead to a shortage" of refined products, l'Union Francaise des Industries Petrolieres said in a statement.

KRONSHADTSKIY (Russia)

See *Vasileostrovskiy* (Russia).

NETHERLANDS

London, Mar 29 — Towage services provided by SMIT Harbour Towage, Rotterdam, were suspended from 1205, yesterday. At this point, it is not known how long the suspension will last.

VASILEOSTROVSKIY (Russia)

Portsmouth, UK, Mar 22 — The crews of fish factory *Vasileostrovskiy* (2416 gt, built 1989) and *Kronshadttskiy* (2416 gt, built 1990) recently arrived at St.Petersburg from Murmansk have declared a strike. The wages of the crews have not been paid for several months. On Mar 22 the crews declared their intention to strike in order to protect their rights. The management of the company/shipowner "Transmar" refused to comment. — Correspondent. (Note — *Vasileostrovskiy* arrived St. Petersburg Mar 10 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS both vessels were reported 0.7 nautical miles from Kanonerskiy Is, Russia, at 1455, UTC, today.)

St. Petersburg, Mar 27 — The crews of fish factory *Vasileostrovskiy* and fish factory *Kronshadttskiy* laid a class action to Procuracy with regards to non-payment of wages within the period of four to five months. At the moment ship owner, Transmar, is trying to patch up the dispute. — Lloyd's Agents.

Fires & Explosions



WAREHOUSE, HUMBOLDT, TENNESSEE, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated Mar 28, states: Fire broke out in a chemical storage facility today, forcing as many as 700 people to evacuate homes and businesses in the area, officials said. Homes downwind were evacuated because of the smoke and workers at nearby manufacturing plants were told to leave as a precaution, Mayor Allen Barker said. No injuries were immediately reported. Firefighters were still working this evening, a dispatcher said. Some evacuated residents were allowed to return. The fire was at the Helena Chemical Co. warehouse and office in Humboldt. Helena Chemical makes crop protection products, agricultural chemicals, seed, fertiliser and related products. Officials with the Collierville-based company issued a statement

saying they believe the fire was started by lightning. Firefighters could not use water because of the chemicals in the building, so they had to wait for it to burn down before applying foam, Barker said. Company officials said the facility includes an office for salespeople, as well as the warehouse holding products for sale to farms. However, the fire started before business hours and no-one was in the building at the time, they said. Fire Department dispatcher Derrick Seymour said that the fire was reported around 0600 hrs and that firefighters found the building engulfed in flames.



ABORTED TAKE-OFF, BEN GURION AIRPORT, ISRAEL

London, Mar 25 — An El Al flight to Zurich, carrying 128 passengers and six crew members, was forced to stop during its take-off from Ben Gurion Airport when the cockpit was filled with smoke. The passengers were evacuated from the aircraft and no one was injured.

ACCIDENT, SOUTHEND AIRPORT, ESSEX, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 25 — A pilot has been praised by fire crews after safely landing his aircraft after its landing gear collapsed with seven people on board. Firefighters were called to Southend Airport, Essex, after a distress call from a pilot who said he had problems deploying his landing gear. When the aircraft landed the front landing gear collapsed and it skidded down the runway on its nose. Firefighters were called but no-one was injured in the landing yesterday. Assistant Divisional Officer Martyn Hodder said: "The pilot did an incredible job, as the plane hit the runway the front landing gear collapsed and the plane skidded down the runway on its nose." There were a total of seven people on board including a man, a woman, three children, a pilot and a co-pilot. None of the people on board were hurt in the incident.

AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated Mar 28, states: An aircraft that had taken off from Orlando International Airport quickly returned for a landing after a possible mechanical problem, said airport spokeswoman Carolyn Fennell. The aircraft, which was operated by Continental Airlines, had 139 passengers on board when it started reporting problems after 2200. The Pilots were worried it may have had a leak in its hydraulic system. There

were no injuries. The airline was making other arrangements for passengers, Fennell said.

CRASH, AUSTIN, INDIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated Mar 25, states: A plane crashed in the back yard of an Austin, Indiana, resident just after 1700 hrs, today. The two people onboard the plane, a married couple: Dan and Barbara Burns, were airlifted to University Hospital in Louisville. They were listed in stable condition at University Hospital late tonight. Officials said that the Cessna 150 plane they were flying in clipped the treetops and crashed into a house at 4878 N. Meridian Avenue, shortly after it took off from a nearby airport. Witnesses said that the plane burst into flames not long after it hit the ground, just before the pair was pulled to safety. Local resident Amy Coomer said “there was a lot of debris” after the crash, “and a big rut where maybe the plane had hit the ground.” The exact cause of the crash is still under investigation. According to Scott County police, the plane possibly lost power, and that may have led to the crash. The FAA was expected to join the investigation tomorrow.

London, Mar 28 — Cessna 150M N66673 crashed at Austin, Indiana, at 1724, Mar 25. The two persons on board were injured.

CRASH, CULLINAN, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Mar 24 — Two men were seriously injured after a private aircraft they were travelling in crashed at the Cullinan diamond mine this morning, Pretoria police said. Inspector Paul Ramoloko said the men in their late 40's were trying to view the mine from above. They were apparently trying to land and flying low over the area when the aircraft crashed. The men were rescued by Cullinan Emergency Services and taken to a nearby hospital.

CRASH, GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated Mar 25, states: A small plane flown by a student pilot crashed just after noon today, at Lee Gilmer Memorial Airport, after its landing gear failed to open. According to Gainesville Police, the plane, owned by Aviation Atlanta, was damaged when the plane touched down, but no-one was injured. The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating.

CRASH, GREENACRES, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated Mar 22, states: A former Boca Raton resident says she has won a seven-figure settlement in a lawsuit stemming from a 2003 plane crash in Greenacres, that killed her husband, the pilot. A National Transportation Safety Board report ruled that Norman

Lowenstein's fatal crash was caused by pilot error, probably brought on by an excessive amount of an over-the-counter antihistamine. His widow, Roberta, said: “He was a phenomenal pilot and I knew the reporting was inaccurate. It wasn't pilot error or drugs so I hired [attorney] Ed Curtis and independent inspectors to go to the site.” They found that the 10-seat Cessna 441's right propeller was in a reverse-thrust position, signifying a mechanical problem with the aircraft, according to Curtis. A toxicologist hired by Mrs Lowenstein determined that the elevated antihistamine level was probably a result of changes to the body after death. “By the time we started talking about settlement, I don't think anybody ever believed drugs had any impact on the crash,” Curtis said. “If you went back and looked at the NTSB reports where the pilot was taking some sort of antihistamine, a very large percentage were found to have high post mortem amounts. A [Federal Aviation Administration] bulletin came out doubting the accuracy of that finding. “The NTSB stands behind its findings,” agency spokesman Ted Lopatkiewicz said. In a written statement, Lopatkiewicz said the NTSB is aware of the phenomenon of post-mortem redistribution of antihistamine and any other drug. “We know how to look for it, when to suspect it and how to account for it,” he wrote. “Unlike alcohol, antihistamine is not produced by the body after death; it must have been ingested before death.” In December 2005, Lowenstein brought the suit in federal court. She said she recently struck a seven-figure settlement with defendants Cessna, Honeywell, which makes the Cessna's engines and some other parts and maintenance company West Star Aviation. Settlement terms are confidential. A spokesman for Wichita, Kan.-based Cessna said the company paid less than \$100,000 in a “settlement of convenience.” Phoenix-based Honeywell Aerospace “settled for a very small fraction of the total judgment cost,” according to company spokesman Bill Reavis. West Star officials declined to comment. The \$1.5 million Cessna was being flown by Norman Lowenstein on Dec 20, 2003, but when near the River Bridge community off Forest Hill Boulevard in Greenacres, the aircraft went into a flat spin and plummeted into a community pond.

CRASH, HILLENDALE GOLF CLUB AREA, BALTIMORE COUNTY, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 25 — A press report, dated Mar 24, states: Police in Maryland said three men were killed when a single-engine aircraft crashed this morning in Baltimore County. The men were identified as Theodore Ryder, Paul Sorensen and Timothy Connor. All three were from Joppa. Police said Ryder was the pilot. A National Transportation Safety Board spokesman said the Piper Saratoga PA-32 took off from Harford County Airport, in Churchville, and was on its

way to Abingdon, Virginia. The aircraft crashed shortly after take off, between 0900 hrs and 0930 hrs. Investigators from the NTSB, the Federal Aviation Administration, Piper and Lycoming, the maker of the aircraft's engine, are on the scene near Green Tree Drive and Country Club Lane. Fire spokeswoman Elise Armacost said the aircraft crashed near the Hillendale Country Club golf course, but it is not clear if the pilot was trying to land at the course. She said the aircraft crashed about 75 feet from a home, which was not occupied at the time.

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated today, states: An investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board has ruled out an “in-flight break-up” or fire as the cause of the Baltimore County plane crash that killed three Harford County men on Saturday morning (Mar 24), an official said yesterday. The three men were on board a Piper PA-32-301 (Saratoga) that took off from Harford County Airport in Churchville at 0906 on Saturday. They were headed to Abingdon, VA, to attend a car race in Bristol, TN. Nine minutes into the flight, the aircraft crashed in the back yard of a home in the first block of Country Club Drive in Jacksonville. No one was in the house at the time of the crash, and there were no injuries on the ground. “The entire aircraft is right there at the accident site, so what that tells the investigator is there's no evidence of an in-flight break-up,” said Ted Lopatkiewicz, a spokesman for the NTSB. “Also, there's no evidence of an in-flight fire.” Todd Gunther, the air safety investigator assigned to investigate the accident, interviewed witnesses yesterday and will examine the engine, which was separated from the wreckage, in the next few days, Lopatkiewicz said. A preliminary report will be released in five to 10 days. Gunther has not yet determined how fast the aircraft was travelling at the time of impact, which could indicate whether the pilot was attempting to land. A more detailed report will be released in about eight months, but a final report, which will detail the cause of the crash, could take a year, Lopatkiewicz said.

London, Mar 27 — Piper PA-32R-301 (Saratoga IHHP) N324ST crashed near Cockeysville, Maryland, at 1319, Mar 24, while on a flight from Churchville, MD, to Abingdon, Virginia. The three persons on board were killed.

CRASH, HOWELL TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated Mar 28, states: A small aircraft crashed and burned in a wooded area of Howell Township, near the Jersey shore tonight, killing the pilot, authorities said. Howell Township Mayor Joseph DiBella said no-one else was on board. The pilot's identity was not immediately released. Witnesses said the aircraft went down at around 2000 hrs, in a park in the township's Ramtown section, about 100 yards from the nearest homes. No-one on the ground was hurt. A Federal Aviation

Administration spokeswoman said the aircraft was a Piper PA-28, a single-engine aircraft. The FAA and National Transportation Safety Board are investigating the cause of the crash.

CRASH, LEWES AREA, DELAWARE, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 27 — Bell 206B JetRanger N828BA crashed near Lewes, Delaware, at 2000, Mar 23, while on a flight from Lewes to Manassas, Virginia. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The four persons on board were not injured.

CRASH, MALTA AREA, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A passenger in a private helicopter suffered minor injuries after the aircraft sustained damage in a field near Malta, Illinois, according to a statement from the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department. The pilot, who was not injured in the crash, told deputies that he landed the helicopter to check the cause of a warning light. When he attempted to take off again, one of the skids got stuck in the mud, causing the helicopter to roll onto its side, according to the statement. The rotor went into the ground, causing damage to the entire aircraft. The helicopter's passenger was taken to Kishwaukee Hospital with minor injuries. The pilot was treated and released at the scene. The Sheriff's Department is calling the crash an accident, but has turned the case over to the Federal Aviation Administration for further investigation.

London, Mar 28 — Rotorway 162F N162MC crashed near Malta, Illinois, at 2148, Mar 26. The two persons on board were not injured.

CRASH, MOGADISHU, SOMALIA

London, Mar 24 — The 11-person crew of a cargo aircraft that was shot down by a missile during take-off, died, officials said today. The downing of the aircraft, which yesterday delivered equipment for Ugandan peacekeepers in Mogadishu, came at the end of a particularly violent week in the Somali capital. Dozens of people, most of them civilians, were killed in fighting. Ten of the crew died in yesterday's crash. Rescuers found a wounded crew member and took him to a Mogadishu hospital where he died while being treated, said Hussein Mohamed Mohamud, spokesman for Somalia's president. All crew members were either Ukrainian or Belarussian, Mohamud said today, adding that their bodies will be flown back to their countries later in the day. Egi Azarian, acting head of Belarus-based Transaviaexport, confirmed that the company's plane was shot down but would not give any details. Mogadishu International Airport Manager Mohamed Ahmed Siyaad said that before the plane crashed, the captain contacted the control tower and said one of the engines caught fire. Transaviaexport, based in Minsk, Belarus, operates only Ilyushin-76s.

Mogadishu, Mar 24 — Belarus said today a missile caused an aircraft crash in Mogadishu that killed 11 of its citizens, while the Somali government said the crash looked more like an accident than an attack by insurgents. "The aircraft was shot down," Transport Ministry spokeswoman Kseniya Perestoronina said in Minsk, adding that the large Ilyushin plane, in Somalia to assist struggling African peacekeepers, was hit at a height of 150 metres. Both a local Somali radio and an Islamist Website said a missile hit the Russian-made Ilyushin — used by a Belarussian firm — just after take-off from Mogadishu yesterday afternoon. However, witnesses who saw the aircraft burning in the sky and then crashing could not confirm it had been shot first. Somali Interior Minister Mohamed Mahamud Guled insisted the incident had the hallmarks of a technical fault, though investigations were under way to confirm exactly what happened. "As soon as the aircraft reached an altitude of 10,000 ft, the pilot reported an engine problem in engine No 2 and said he would turn back to the airport," he said in Mogadishu. Only one of the 11 persons on board — seven crew members and four engineers — initially survived the crash. The survivor was found wandering among corpses and wreckage but then died in hospital. — Reuters.

CRASH, MONTEGO BAY FREEPORT AREA, JAMAICA

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated today, states: An AirPak Express cargo aircraft crashed in the Montego Freeport area yesterday after it reportedly developed mechanical difficulties, the police say. Corporal Peter Salkey, Constabulary Communication Network liaison officer for St. James, stated that the two-passenger Cessna aircraft, registered 6YJHO, went down about 1705, next door to The Lagoons and Sunset Beach Resort and Spa. Its occupants, the pilot and a female passenger, said to be of Chinese descent, were airlifted to hospital by a Jamaica Defence Force helicopter. The nose of the aircraft, which left Negril at 1645 destined for the Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay, was damaged. The first person at the scene was taxi operator Lloyd 'Big Dread' Wilson, who said he realised that something was wrong when he "heard a sound in the air". According to him, the aircraft was sputtering and circled the area before the pilot crash-landed in the open lot. AirPak Express staff, who were quick on the scene, reportedly removed the cargo that was inside the aircraft.

CRASH, MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 25 — A banner aircraft crashed about 100 to 200 feet offshore near Surfside Beach just before 1230, yesterday, according to an Horry County emergency official. The pilot, who was the only occupant, was able to get out of the aircraft and swim to the

beach, said Todd Cartner with Horry County Fire Rescue. He was taken to Conway Medical Centre where he was in stable condition with minor injuries. The Piper PA-18 floated in the ocean near Ocean Lakes Campground at 1330 hrs while the officials with the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board were notified of the crash, Cartner said. The aircraft was eventually pulled ashore and investigators worked yesterday to determine what caused the crash. No other injuries were reported during the incident, Cartner said. The aircraft was owned by Sky Signs LLC of Conway, said Kathleen Bergen, spokeswoman for the FAA in Atlanta.

London, Mar 27 — Piper PA-18-150 (Super Cub) N4330Z crashed into the water off Surfside Beach, South Carolina, at 1640, Mar 24, following take-off from Sky Field, SC. The one person on board suffered minor injuries.

CRASH, PONTE VEDRA BEACH, NORTH FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people were killed today when a small helicopter crashed and caught fire on the beach in Ponte Vedra Beach, North Florida. Officials were still trying to determine who was on board and said the National Transportation Safety Board will be investigating the crash. Witnesses heard the aircraft engine splutter before it nosed into the beach in St. Johns County. Investigators said they believe it is a training helicopter with Silver State Helicopters, which operates a training academy out of Craig Field. Investigators would not say whether the crash happened during a training flight.

CRASH, SPICEWOOD, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated Mar 25, states: A private plane crashed this morning in Burnet County, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety. No-one was hurt. There were two occupants in the plane. Charles Connally of Spicewood owned the plane and was at the controls, when it went down near the Windemere private landing strip in Spicewood. The passenger was named John Dial — also of Spicewood. The aircraft was reportedly taking off when it lost power and crashed in the trees. The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board have been notified.

London, Mar 27 — PZL 101A N69NV crashed near Spicewood, Texas, at 1558, Mar 25, following take-off from Spicewood. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were not injured.

CRASH, YOGYAKARTA AIRPORT, INDONESIA

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Indonesia is giving six commercial airlines three months to improve safety standards or face closure, the country's aviation chief

said today. The audit was ordered by the government to evaluate transport safety following a string of deadly air accidents in recent months. First an Adam Air aircraft (Boeing 737-33A PK-KKV), carrying 102 people, disappeared in January, and on Mar 7 a Garuda aircraft (Boeing 737-497 PK-GZC) overshot the runway and burst into flames, killing 21 people. An audit of 54 aviation firms revealed that none of them made it to the first of three rating classes, said Budhi Muliawan Suyitno, the director general of civil aviation at the transport ministry. Fifteen companies, including six scheduled passenger airlines, were placed in the lowest category and were considered to have met only minimal standards of safety. National carrier Garuda Indonesia made the second grade. Suyitno said airlines in the third category would be given warnings to improve standards in three months. "If there's no improvement within three months, there will be a suspension order, and if there's still no improvement they will be shut down," he said. The airlines given three months to shape up were AdamAir, Kartika Airlines, Jatayu, Batavia, Trans Wisata Air and Dirgantara.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BELGRADE, SERBIA

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated Mar 25, states: An aeroplane belonging to the German carrier Lufthansa had to make an emergency landing in the Serbian capital Belgrade this evening, after smoke built up in the cockpit. None of the 213 passengers or 11 crew members was injured in the incident, Serbia's RTS television reported. After damage to an electronic device was repaired, the plane continued on its flight from Frankfurt to Cairo, the report said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated Mar 22, states: A Great Lakes Aviation flight with 30 people on board made an emergency landing at Denver International Airport this afternoon. The Brasilia commuter aircraft had a blown tyre, according to reports. Airport spokesman Steve Snyder confirmed the aircraft had landing gear problems but said he did not have the details. The flight was from Gillette, Wyo., to Denver, and had 27 passengers and three crew members on board.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MANCHESTER AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 28 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft carrying 50 passengers was forced to make an emergency landing at Manchester Airport as the pilot thought the aircraft's landing gear had broken. Crew on board the Flybe aircraft were unsure whether the

landing gear had been deployed or not. A faulty indicator light is believed to have caused the confusion. Flybe said there had been a "minor technical fault" but the aircraft had landed safely and passengers disembarked without incident. The crew contacted the control tower requesting a flypast to inspect the wheels. Observers on the ground confirmed the wheels had been deployed and the aircraft was allowed to land at about 0840, UTC.

EMERGENCY LANDING, ROME, ITALY

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated Mar 22, states: A lightning strike forced the pilot of an Airmalta aircraft to make an emergency landing yesterday. None of the passengers and crew on the Malta to Rome flight were injured but many said it was a terrifying experience. The flight from Fiumicino to Malta scheduled at 1800 hrs, was then grounded yesterday for a couple of hours after the aircraft was hit by lightning during heavy storms on its approach to Rome. An official spokesman for the airline said that the aircraft was struck by lightning during its descent and the crew had taken all the necessary precautions for the safety of its passengers and crew. During such circumstances, top priority is given to safety, the spokesman explained. It was a normal flight until the descent and all of a sudden a bolt of lightning hit the wing. The pilot told passengers that the plane had been hit by lightning but there was nothing to worry about, a witness said. It is believed that the lightning caused a short circuit in the cockpit, but the pilot was able to control the steering of the aircraft when it landed.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SAKHALIN, RUSSIA

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated today, states: An An-12 aircraft from Seoul has made an emergency landing on Sakhalin Island. During the flight the aircraft reported failure to lower nose landing-gear leg, an announcement made by the Far Eastern regional centre of the Russian Ministry for Emergencies said. The aircraft circled overhead above the destination airport of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, where rescuers were summoned, until full fuel runoff. Prior to the very moment of landing, the crew managed to extend the nose landing-gear leg, and the aircraft landed safely at 2345, local time, on Monday (Mar 26). None of eight crewmembers was hurt. There were no passengers on board.

HELICOPTER CRASH, URAL MOUNTAINS, RUSSIA

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated Mar 23, states: At least two people died in the crash of a helicopter in the Ural Mountains in Russia. Two bodies were found at the site of the crash, the Novosti news agency reported. A spokesman for the prosecutor in the Komi republic said that snow is making rescue operations difficult. The Mi-8 helicopter, owned by

Gazpromavia, was on an environmental survey, flying over a national park, when it disappeared Wednesday (Mar 21). It was carrying a crew of five and one passenger. The helicopter crashed into a mountain at a height of 700-900 metres, an official in the emergency ministries said. The crash could have occurred due to poor weather conditions. Alexander Shuklin, the Komi prosecutor, was reportedly expected to arrive at the crash site this morning.

HELICOPTER CRASH, WAT BAN NAMKIEW AREA, THAILAND

London, Mar 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A Bell 214 helicopter crashed, yesterday, into an open field close to Wat Ban Namkiew, Rattanaburi district, some 70km from Surin, bursting into flames upon impact, killing all nine naval officers on board. The helicopter was one of two belonging to the Royal Thai Fleet's Wing 2, in Rayong province, which left Ubon Ratchathani airport at around 1100 hrs on a flight training programme. They were heading back to U-tapao naval base, in Rayong, when one apparently developed engine trouble. The helicopter suddenly lost altitude and hit the ground before bursting into flames. An eyewitness said the two helicopters were flying close together. One of them then started to sway from side to side before plunging to the ground. Royal Thai Navy secretary Rear Adm Ruengtip Tienthong said smoke was spotted coming from the rear engine of the helicopter before the crash. He said mechanical failure was suspected as the cause of the accident. Navy chief Adm Sathiraphan Keyanont ordered a fact-finding panel set up to look into the cause of the crash.

INCIDENT AT BEN GURION INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ISRAEL

London, Mar 27 — A press report, dated Mar 26, states: An El Al jet taxiing before take-off at Ben Gurion International Airport filled with smoke on Sunday (Mar 25), forcing passengers and crew to flee the aircraft on emergency slides, airport officials said. The 128 passengers and crewmembers on the Zurich-bound 737 were evacuated after smoke began billowing out of vents on the aircraft, airport spokesman Yiftach Kramer said. No one was hurt in the mishap, the cause of which was still unknown, he said.

INCIDENT AT ISTANBUL, TURKEY

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated today, states: An Afghan aircraft skidded off the runway at Istanbul's Ataturk airport today and came to a halt resting on its right wing, a news agency reported. All passengers and crew members were safely evacuated through emergency slides. The Ariana Afghan Airlines flight from Kabul, overshot the runway after it landed, the private Dogan news agency said. None of the 50 people, including 20 crew members, on board was injured, the agency said. It was not immediately

clear what caused the Airbus A300 to skid but the runway was slippery due to light rain at the time of the landing.

London, Mar 25 — Airbus A.300B4-203 YA-BAD, operated by Ariana Afghan Airlines, overran Runway 24 by 30 metres and came to rest on its No 2 engine, close to the airport perimeter fence, on Mar 23.

Space Vehicles



ATLANTIS

London, Mar 23 — A press report, dated Mar 22, states: NASA engineers spent the day yesterday studying space shuttle Atlantis to determine how badly it was damaged. As of yesterday, no new launch date was set. The shuttle's external fuel tank was damaged by hail last month leaving several dents which could prove harmful to a potential mission. CBS news correspondent Peter King says NASA has a lot to consider. NASA engineers are still determining the extent of the damage. They must determine if the fuel tank can be

repaired or if they are better off replacing it. King says there will be a lot to repair if that's the route they decide to take. Engineers should be able to make the decision on Apr 10.

Port Conditions



SOMALIA

London, Mar 29 — A press report, dated Mar 28, states: Somali businessmen have announced they will stop importing and exporting through the port of Mogadishu because of a dispute over additional tariffs imposed by the interim government. The announcement came after the union of business people in Banadir Province met to discuss a recent double tariff on traders using the port, which has been imposed since the interim government came to power. A spokesman for the union, Abbas Mohamed Duale told Shabelle Radio in Mogadishu that the government had more than doubled the tax and said that for example a sack of sugar which previously carried

a tax of \$1 was now being taxed at \$3.60. He said this was something the business people could not afford to pay and they had decided to stop using the port at Mogadishu as a result. He did not disclose the means by which businesses intended importing cargo in future.

WEST AFRICA

London, Mar 26 — A press report, dated today, states: The following delays are reported: Luanda, Angola - berthing delays of 20 plus days. Matadi, Democratic Rep of Congo - berthing delays of between two and three days. Cotonou, Benin - berthing delays of two days. Tema, Ghana - berthing delays of two days. Takoradi, Ghana - berthing delays have reduced, following a number of measures introduced to ease the situation. These include companies trading in cocoa being allocated set days on which to dispatch trucks with the produce. After parking at approved open spaces trucks can be offloaded in the harbour on a first-come, first-serve basis. Conakry, Guinea - Due to the national strike and port closure it is recommended utilising the alternative ports of Dakar, Lome or Tema for CTBL containers to Mali until the situation improves.

Port Delays

Information received from BIMCO, Denmark and the Indian Ports Association

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	02-April-2007	Coal: One vessel loading at berth; 4 vessels arrived; 8 vessels due by 3/5; 6-14 days delay expected.
Brisbane	02-April-2007	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth; Four vessels due by 17/4.
Dalrymple Bay	02-April-2007	Coal: Two vessels loading at berth; 45 vessels arrived; 20 vessels due by 15/4; 15-25 days delay expected.
Dampier	02-April-2007	Coal: Parker Point: Three vessels loading at berth; 12 vessels arrived; 7 vessels due by 14/4; East Intercourse land: 1 vessel loading at berth; 8 vessels arrived; 5 vessels due by 4/4; 8-14 days delay expected at Dampier..
Esperance	02-April-2007	Iron ore: One vessel at berth; 3 vessels due by 16/4.
Geelong	02-April-2007	Mar 28: No. 3 bulk grain pier: 3 vessels due by 5/4, of which 2 to load wood-chips, 1 wheat; no delays expected.
Geraldton	02-April-2007	Iron ore: One vessel at berth; 2 vessels at anchor; 3 vessels due by 20/4.
Gladstone	02-April-2007	Coal: 12-15 days delay expected; R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Three vessels at berth, 16 vessels arrived; 34 vessels due by 11/5; Barney Point: 3 vessels arrived; 18 vessels due by 12/5.
Hay Point	02-April-2007	Coal: Fifteen vessels arrived; 11 vessels due by 28/4; 15-25 days delay expected.
Newcastle	02-April-2007	Coal: 24-25 days delay expected; Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: Two vessels loading at berth; 44 vessels arrived; 38 vessels due by 20/4; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel loading at berth; 22 vessels arrived; 13 vessels due by 20/4.
Port Adelaide	02-April-2007	Mar 28: Grain: No. 27 berth: 6 vessels due by 25/4, 2 to load barley, 4 wheat; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion, cargo availability and maintenance. The terminal will be closed to export shipping from 14/5 to 3/6 for maintenance to shipping weighers and rain inwards infrastructure.
Port Hedland	02-April-2007	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: Two vessels loading at berth; 5 vessels arrived; 3 vessels due by 5/4; "B" berth: 1 vessel loading at berth; 5 vessels arrived; 3 vessels due by 10/4; 8 vessels due by 19/4 at A or B berth; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island "C" berth): berth closed for refurbishment; (Finucane Island "D" berth): 4 vessels arrived; 4 vessels due by 9/4; Cockatoo Island: 2 vessels due by 5/4; 4-10 days delay expected at Port Hedland. .
Port Kembla	02-April-2007	Coal: Two vessels loading at berth; 3 vessels at anchor; 12 vessels due by 3/5; up to 4 days delay expected.
Whyalla	02-April-2007	Iron ore: Three vessels due by 24/4.
Azerbaijan		
Apscheron	27-March-2007	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 2 vessels berthed, both completed discharging, of which 1 gasoil, 1 crude oil; 1 vessel anchored in roads to discharge gasoil; 1 vessel due 28/3 to discharge fuel oil.
Baku	27-March-2007	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: 1 vessel in roads, completed discharging crude oil; Sangachal district: no vessels.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	02-April-2007	Six vessels in port of which 4 loading (3 coils, 1 copper anodes), 2 discharging (1 wooden material, 1 copper concentrate); 1 vessel in roads to discharge iron ore; 7 vessels due of which 6 to load (3 coils, 1 pig iron, 1 ammonium nitrate, 1 containers), 1 to discharge equipment.
Varna	02-April-2007	Varna East, Varna West, Balchik: Twelve vessels in port operating of which 4 loading (1 equipment in cases/dangerous cargo, 1 equipment in cases, 1 scrap, 1 soda), 5 discharging (1 steel sheets, 2 iron bars, 1 raw phosphate, 1 bulk coal), 3 discharging/loading (2 containers, 1 soda/bulk gypsum); no vessels waiting in roads.
Cyprus		
Larnaca	03-April-2007	One conventional vessel discharging at berth; 1 conventional vessel due 4/4; no delays expected.
Limassol	03-April-2007	Five container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 1 conventional vessel discharging at berth; 4 container vessels, 1 conventional vessel, 1 Ro/Ro, 1 passenger vessel due 4/4; no delays expected.
Egypt		
Adabiya	26-March-2007	Four vessels berthed (loading/discharging), all general cargo..
Alexandria	26-March-2007	Thirty-seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 30 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 2 tankers, 2 container vessels, 1 passenger vessel; 9 vessels at outer anchorage, 12 at inner anchorage. .
Damietta	26-March-2007	Thirty-six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 19 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 4 container vessels; 7 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	26-March-2007	Nine vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 5 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 2 container vessels; 4 vessels at outer anchorage.

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Port Conditions

Port Said	26-March-2007	Five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 4 general cargo, 1 container vessel.
Suez	26-March-2007	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 3 passenger vessels; 2 tugs, 2 vessels dry-docked.
Suez Canal	26-March-2007	Twenty-seven vessels transiting Northbound, 28 Southbound.
Estonia		
Tallinn	26-March-2007	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 1 coal vessel loading at berth; no vessels anchored; 1 vessel due, with 10 days berthing delay expected.
India		
Kolkata	02-April-2007	3 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Iron Ore, 2 vessels discharging Containers; 4 vessels working at midstream discharging (Pules-3, Logs); 2 vessels under repair; 2 vessels under dry docked; 1 vessel under arrest; 2 vessels waiting to sail.; 1 vessel due
Haldia	02-April-2007	9 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels discharging (Crude, LPG, Coke, Soya, Noke, MOP, Rock), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers, 1 vessel waiting to load Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge; 3 vessels waiting berth at anchorage to load; 6 vessels due (Crude-2, Buta, Coke, Containers-2).
Paradip	02-April-2007	7 vessels operating at berth to discharging (Coking Coal-4, H. Coke, RPC, Sulpher); 3 vessels waiting berth at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load); 20 vessels due.
Vizag	02-April-2007	13 vessels operating at berth of which 9 vessels loading (Iron Ore-2, CP Coke, Soya Bean, Steel Cargo-3, Thermal Coal-2), 4 vessels discharging (Coking Coal, Crude, Steam Coal, Product); 8 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (7 to discharge, 1 to load); 1 vessel under arrest; 28 vessels due (Iron Ore-7, Steel Cargo, B F Slag-2, Molasses, Granite, Containers, Phosphoric Acid, Rock Phosphate, Coking Coal-2, Containers-3, Steam Coal-2, Steel Pipes-2, Caustic Soda, Product Tanker-2).
Chennai	02-April-2007	17 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Cars, Granite Block, IOL, Iron Ore), 6 vessels discharging (General /Steel Coil, General / Passenger, Steam Coal, Project, Thermal Coal, C. Oil), 6 vessels loading and discharging (Containers-3, Steel Coil/Granite Blocks-2, Project/Granite Block); 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge; 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load); 3 vessels due (General Cargo, Containers-2)
Tuticorin	02-April-2007	3 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels discharging (Logs, MOP), 1 vessel loading Ilminite; 2 vessels not ready to work at anchorage to load, 2 vessels awaiting order at anchorage (1 to load, 1 to bunkering); 1 vessel under dry docked; 1 vessel under arrest.
Cochin	02-April-2007	3 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels discharging (Shredded Scrap, Zinc Concentrate), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 40 vessels due (Crude-2, Chemicals, Phosphoric Acid, Domestic Passenger-6, International Cruise-7, Containers-15, POL-2, Break Bulk).
New Mangalore	02-April-2007	8 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Iron Ore Fines, POL Product, Container), 5 vessel discharging (POL Crude, Wood Pulp, Fertiliser-2, Timber); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 11 vessels due (Cement, Steam Coal-2, Methenol-2, Iron Ore Fines-2, POL Crude-3, LPG).
Mormugao	02-April-2007	2 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Iron Ore, 1 vessel discharging Steam Coal; 6 vessels working at midstream loading Iron Ore; 5 vessel under dry docked; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 2 vessels waiting berth at anchorage to load; 5 vessel under dry docked; 5 vessels due (Containers, Coking Coal, Iron Ore-3).
Mumbai	02-April-2007	20 vessels operating at berth of which 11 vessels loading (Steel/General/ Mach/Project Cargo/Heavy Lift-7, Bagged Sugar, POL-3), 8 vessels discharging (Rubber Process Oil, Steel Cargo/ Project/General/Woodpulp Machinery-5, POL-2), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels working at midstream discharging (Peas in bulk, Steel Cargo); 5 vessels awaiting order at anchorage to discharge, 4 vessels working at anchorage(2 to load, 2 to load and discharge); 9 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 5 vessels under arrest; 1 vessel under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 41 vessels due (Contaners-4, Oil-2, Fertilizer (RM), General Cargo-34).
J.N.P.T.	02-April-2007	8 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessel discharging (Cement, High Speed Diesel), 6 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load and discharge, 2 vessels not ready to work at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel due Containers.
Kandla	02-April-2007	17 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Agriculture Product-3, Zinc, Rice), 10 vessels discharging (Timber Logs-3, Iron, High Speed Diesel, CPO, SKO, Chemical, Furance Oil, Urea), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (1 to load, 1 to discharge); 3 vessels not ready to work at anchorage (1 to load, 1 to discharge, 1 to load & discharge).
Ennore	02-April-2007	1 vessel working at inner anchorage to loading Iron Ore, 3 vessels due (MV Medi Shanghai (Iron Ore), MV Pelagia (Coal), MV Good Season (Coal)).
Israel		
Ashdod	20-March-2007	No labour problems; Two vessels loading general cargo at berth, 13 discharging at berth (7 general cargo, 6 bulk cargo), 6 loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 1 tanker); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge general cargo, 13 waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (2 bulk cargo, 11 containers); 20 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	20-March-2007	No labour problems; One vessel discharging general cargo at berth; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge containers.

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Port Conditions

Haifa	20-March-2007	No labour problems; Three vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 2 bulk cargo), 9 loading/ discharging at berth (4 containers, 5 tankers); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge general cargo, 6 waiting at anchorage Sto load/discharge (2 bulk cargo, 2 containers, 2 tankers); 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 17 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	27-March-2007	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, all loading crude oil; 14 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargo; 3 vessels due by 27/3, all to load unknown cargoes.
Pakistan		
Karachi	02-April-2007	Six vessels loading at berth (3 rice, 2 cement, 1 ethanol), 3 discharging at berth (2 general cargo, 1 coal), 3 loading/discharging containers at berth; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (3 containers, 1 rice), 5 waiting at anchorage to discharge (3 containers, 1 general cargo, 1 crude oil); 11 vessels due (3 containers, 2 cement, 1 tuna, 3 crude oil, 1 chemicals, 1 naphtha), with no delays expected.
Port Qasim	02-April-2007	Three vessels loading at berth (2 wheat, 1 cement), 1 discharging MEG at berth; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load containers, 5 waiting at anchorage to discharge (3 containers, 1 carbon oil, 1 VCM); QICT berth: no vessels..
Poland		
Gdansk	02-April-2007	Twelve vessels in port operating of which 6 loading at berth (1 coal, 2 bulk cargo, 2 general cargo, 1 tanker), 6 discharging at berth (2 bulk cargo, 2 tankers, 2 general cargo); 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 23 vessels due.
Gdynia	02-April-2007	Four vessels in port operating of which 1 loading general cargo at berth, 3 discharging at berth (1 grain, 2 general cargo); 9 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 42 vessels due.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	02-April-2007	Fifteen vessels in port operating of which 11 loading, 3 discharging bulk sugar, 1 discharging/loading containers; 9 vessels in roads of which 6 to load (3 wheat, 1 copper, 1 steel sheets, 1 D/O), 3 to discharge bulk sugar; 77 vessels due of which 71 to load, 5 to discharge (1 vehicles, 1 debars, 1 meat products, 1 coils, 1 potatoes), 1 to load/discharge containers; Oil terminal: 2 tankers loading crude at berth; 6 tankers in roads, all to load (5 crude, 1 D/O); 4 tankers due, all to load (2 crude oil, 2 D/O).
Slovenia		
Koper	26-March-2007	Port working normally. Five vessels berthed of which 3 loading general cargo/sawn timber, 1 discharging general cargo, 1 discharging bulk cargo; 26 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 5 to discharge/load containers, 3 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 1 car carrier to discharge vehicles, 2 tankers to discharge liquid cargo, 7 vessels to discharge bulk cargo, 3 to load bulk cargo, 5 to load general cargo/sawn timber.
Spain		
Bilbao	02-April-2007	Twenty-eight vessels in port operating (4 tankers, 24 others), of which 7 loading, 12 discharging, 9 loading/discharging.
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	26-March-2007	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Twenty-one vessels loading at berth (17 containers/feeders, 4 essential services), 14 discharging at berth (12 containers/feeders, 2 bulk cement); 2 container/feeder vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 4 vessels dry-docked; 13 vessels due (12 containers/feeders, 1 essential services), with no delays expected.
Turkmenistan		
Turkmenbashi	27-March-2007	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, completed loading gasoline; 5 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 3 fuel oil, 1 gasoline, 1 unknown cargo; 1 vessel due 27/3 to load unknown cargo.
Ukraine		
Ilichevsk	02-April-2007	Eleven vessels in port operating of which 10 loading (4 steel products, 2 sunflower oil, 1 grain, 1 fuel oil, 1 sulphur, 1 ferronickel), 1 discharging/loading containers; 6 vessels in roads of which 1 to load sunflower oil, 1 to discharge tin, 4 to discharge/load containers; 21 vessels due of which 13 to load (8 steel products, 1 sulphur, 2 pellets, 1 ferronickel, 1 ore), 1 to discharge ore, 7 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	02-April-2007	Thirteen vessels in port operating, all loading (7 steel, 1 fire-clay, 3 coal, 1 sunflower beans, 1 sulphur); 8 vessels in roads, all to load steel; 62 vessels due of which 54 to load (38 steel, 5 coal, 3 fire-clay, 1 kaolin, 2 sulphur, 3 sunflower beans, 1 barley 1 repairing), 4 to discharge (2 equipment, 1 equipment/containers, 1 feldspar), 4 to discharge/load containers/fire-clay.

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Port Conditions

Odessa	02-April-2007	Twenty vessels in port operating of which 12 loading (5 metal, 1 metal/general cargo, 1 scrap, 1 ore, 1 coal, 1 corn, 2 barley), 7 discharging (2 passenger vessels, 1 baggage, 1 autotechnics/citrus, 1 citrus, 1 bananas, 1 sugar), 1 discharging/loading containers/timber/citrus; 5 vessels in roads of which 4 to load (3 metal, 1 oil), , 1 to load/discharge containers; 96 vessels due of which 44 to load (27 metal, 8 pig iron, 2 scrap, 2 oil, 1 corn, 1 ferroalloy, 1 timber, 2 coal), 12 to discharge (2 metal, 3 citrus, 1 general cargo, 2 bananas, 1 ore, 2 baggage, 1 equipment), 40 to load/discharge containers.
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United States

New Orleans, LA	27-March-2007	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 2 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 4 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 1 day's delay; ADM/Destrehan: 4 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 4 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Paulina: 4 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 1-2 days delay expected;
Portland, OR	27-March-2007	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay; CLD Irving terminal: no delays; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays.
Seattle, WA	27-March-2007	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 2 days delay.
Tacoma, WA	27-March-2007	Temco terminal: 2 days delay.
Vancouver, WA	27-March-2007	United Harvest terminal: 2 days delay.

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