

Feb 9 2007

MSC launches High Court claim over alleged \$2m cargo fraud

Case centres on bills of lading for containers said to be empty, writes Roger Pearson — Friday 9 February 2007

BOX giant Mediterranean Shipping Co has launched a legal battle for compensation, accusing a British company of a \$2m fraud.

The claim issued in the London High Court centres round allegations of bills of lading which claimed a ship was carrying dozens of tons of scrap when in fact the containers were said to be empty.

The claim also involves allegations that OMG International unlawfully interfered with MSC's business.

MSC alleges in its claim form that the case involves two cases of fraud and one of attempted fraud, of cargo carried on its vessels the MSC Linzie, MSC Amsterdam and MSC Katie between September 2004, and October 2005.

It accuses OMG International of fraudulently inducing MSC to issue a bill of lading for the MSC Linzie recording three containers as carrying around 22,000 kgs of scrap despite knowing that at least two of them were empty.

OMG is also accused of inducing Mediterranean to breach its contract with Ningbo Toptrade Imp and Exp Co and unlawfully interfering with its business.

MSC is suing OMG for damages for the alleged frauds and for breach of OMG's guarantee as shipper that the three containers contained scrap.

MSC is also seeking damages for what it claims was unlawful interference with its

business, failure to pay demurrage under the contract, and inducing a breach of contract contained in a genuine bill of lading, dated September 30, 2005, issued by South African agent Mediterranean Shipping Co (Pty) for a shipment of copper cathodes on board MSC Amsterdam.

Damages are also sought in respect of alleged inducement of an employee of Mediterranean's South African agent to breach fiduciary duties and unlawfully assisting the employee to breach trust and fiduciary duty, and conspiracy.

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Prospero owner sued over Milford Haven jetty collision

Friday 9 February 2007

HIGH Court action has been launched over a tanker's collision with a jetty at Milford Haven last December, writes Roger Pearson.

A writ issued at the London High Court says that the 18,000 tonne tanker Prospero, which was empty, collided with the jetty as it was trying to dock in the early hours of December 10.

The collision damaged both the vessel and the berth, which was next to the site of liquefied natural gas storage.

Now oil products company SemLogistics is suing the owners and charterers of the Prospero, of the port of Donsö in Sweden, for damages, alleging breach of duty and contract.

The in rem writ issued by solicitors Clifford Chance on December 12 says the collision caused substantial damage to berth number two at the port.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
ALESLEVADA	bulker	PAN	CS	36,544	70,231	1990	In collision with general cargo Fu Xing 8, which sank, at CJK Shanghai, Jan 31. Anchored at Wusong Anchorage for investigation.
AUTOPROGRESS	vehicle carrier	PMD	LR	11,591	4,442	1998	Reported fire in engine-room in lat 47 15N, long 04 43W, Jan 30. Extinguished in 1.5 hours. Taken in tow for Brest due lack of propulsion. Arrived Jan 31 for investigation.
BBC PLATA	general	ATG	GL	9,618	12,837	2005	Arrived Esbjerg Jan 12 after being hit by several freak waves in a North Sea storm. Cargo of a wind turbine and blades damaged. Cargo in No.1 hold broke loose and ruptured a ballast tank and fuel tank. Under repair Jan 25.
CHOYO MARU	crude oil tanker	JPN	NK	2,963	5,678	1990	Stranded in lat 34 03.4N, long 132 27.31E, Jan 25. Refloated by tugs Jan 26. Cracking damage and water ingress to thruster. To be repaired at Onomichi.
HEBEI EAGLE	bulker	HKG	CS	87,831	170,604	1985	Grounded in heavy fog, at Km 101, Port Said, Jan 27. Refloating attempts under way. Reported Jan 30 refloated.
KALEVALA	general	RUS	RS	2,829	3,220	1986	Loading crane dropped 10 tons of steel plates at Bremen Jan 27. Holes torn into bordwand and ballast water tank damaged. Damage repaired and sailed Bremen Jan 28.
KEVIN	general	PAN	RI	4,433	7,278	1985	Had fire in lat 16 08N, long 23 11.13W, Jan 20. One dead. Assisted by tug Leopard to Praia, where arrived Jan 22, where under repair Jan 31.
MARCO POLO 168	pontoon	IDN		3,140	—	2004	Reported Feb 1 that while in tow of tug NOV Terus Daya 21, "wrecked" on the rocks, about Jan 6, near Cham Island, 22 miles off Quang Nam province, China. Oil spilling on beach.
MIKHAIL DUDIN	general	MLT	LR	2,319	3,030	1996	Reported Jan 26 with propeller damage and drifting, 16 miles off Ventspils. Towed to Ventspils same day.
NORDKAPP	passenger	NIS	NV	11,386	850	1996	Grounded just off Deception Island, South Shetland Islands Jan 30. Refloated under own power and anchored in Whalers Bay. Two bunker tanks damaged.
PUENTE AMERICA	fishing	ARG	—	1,468	—	1987	Caught fire and abandoned off Santa Cruz province, north of the Falkland Islands Jan 26. All 46 crew rescued. Drifting in lat 47 10S, long 63 23 W. Subsequently sank in lat 47 17.57S, long 61 27.38 W.
SIERRA NAVA	refrig	PAN	LR	4,660	4,446	1991	Grounded in stormy seas one mile south of Algeciras Jan 28. Hull beached. Water ingress and oil leakage reported. Spill containment operation under way.
TASCO	vehicle carrier	NIS	NV	48,393	22,067	1985	Reported at Gothenburg Feb 1 with rudder problems. To sail Feb 1 under escort to Hamburg for repairs.
WESERSTERN	chem/oil tanker	IOM	GL	6,441	10,932	1992	Grounded in stormy weather 0.5 miles NNW from harbour entrance when departing Tallinn Jan 29. Ballast tank damaged. Tug and lightering vessel being arranged. Refloated Feb 1. Inspection under way.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ACCORD (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 28 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that the oil spill from the general cargo *Accord* has been cleaned. "There is no longer any visible presence of oil in the surrounding waters," Lieutenant Commander Nelson Torre, Coast Guard Tabaco detachment commander reported. Torre said that the oil had been contained with oil spill booms after which absorbent pads were used to soak up the oil floating on the surface. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jan 29 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that salvors finished emptying the contents of the fuel oil storage tanks of general cargo *Accord* on Jan 28. The vessel's storage tanks contained about 15,000 litres of fuel oil when it ran aground on Jan 17 off Malinao. Salvors were not able to pump out all the fuel oil, however, as a portion had leaked out through a hole in the tank and entered the cargo hold. As a result, part of the vessel's cargo of rice was contaminated. The vessel's crew are now waiting the arrival of a sister vessel, onto which the cargo will be transferred. Repairs will also be undertaken to the hole in the vessel's bottom hull, after which a refloating attempt will be made. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

AGIA ZONI (Greece)

Piraeus, Jan 31 — Product tanker *Agia Zoni* completed repairs and departed from Perama port on Jan 25, bound for the Piraeus area. — Lloyd's Agents.

AL BARAKAT 1 (Bolivia)

Chittagong, Jan 29 — Chemical tanker *Al Barakat 1* berthed at River Mooring 8, Chittagong Port on Jan 24, with the assistance of tug *Niko Maru*. At present the vessel is discharging her cargo and expected to complete on Feb 3. After completion of discharge, she will undertake the necessary repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

AL MAHA (North Korea)

London, Jan 26 — Bulker *Al Maha* sailed Alexandria Jan 24.

ALBANE (Panama)

Santo Domingo, Jan 29 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Albane* (6711 gt, built 2002) arrived, in tow, at the port of Las Calderas on Jan 15 to undertake some minimal repairs (afloat) to her rudder and sailed from there on Jan 20. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALESLEVADA (Panama)

See *Fu Xing 8*.

ALGOVILLE (Canada)

Troy, Michigan, Jan 26 — Bulker *Algoville* (18700 gt, built 1967) caught

fire in Hamilton harbour this morning (?Jan 25) as crews were making repairs. No one was hurt, but firefighters struggled to douse the blaze below decks in the ship. District Fire chief Brian Stark said the blaze broke out at 1045 deep in the hull of the *Algoville* as workers were cutting steel with a torch. The heavy black smoke coming out of the vessel was a result of oil and lubricant that caught fire. He says 21 firefighters had to feel their way through heavy smoke to reach the fire. They required a map so they could locate the fire two stories below deck. They mixed a chemical with water to extinguish the oil that caught on fire. There was no damage to the vessel and 12 people were working inside of it when the fire occurred. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News.

ALISON (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 26 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported yesterday, Jan 25, that the Philippine-registered general cargo *Alison* (246.55 gt) remains grounded off Batan island in Albay province. *Alison's* cargo of cement is currently being transferred to another vessel after which attempts will be made to refloat it. *Alison* was anchored off Legaspi port awaiting its turn to unload its cargo of cement when it was ordered by port authorities to seek shelter from tropical storm "Durian" on Nov 28. The vessel was caught by the storm as it was approaching Port Sula on Nov 30 and was carried by large waves to the shores of Batan island. The Coast Guard said that the full length of its bottom hull remains firmly imbedded in the coral and sand seabed off the island. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ALMAR (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Jan 26 — Edible oil tanker *Almar* arrived Hamburg Jan 24.

London, Jan 27 — Edible oil tanker *Almar* sailed Hamburg Jan 25 and arrived Rotterdam Jan 27.

ALSEN (Cyprus)

London, Jan 26 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1000, UTC: General cargo *Alsen* (3925 gt, built 2002), cargo wood pulp, had steering gear problems and dropped anchor in lat 52 44.8N, long 04 07.8E for repairs at 0900, UTC, this morning. (Note — *Alsen* sailed Cardiff Jan 23 for Skutskar.)

London, Jan 26 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1525, UTC: General cargo *Alsen* is still at anchor undergoing engine repairs, estimated completion time unknown.

London, Jan 26 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 2035, UTC: General cargo *Alsen* is now under tow of tug *Svitzer Marken* bound Ymuiden, where ETA 2230, local time.

London, Jan 28 — General cargo *Alsen* arrived Ymuiden 0103, Jan 27, sailed 1811 same day and passed Brunsbittel 1629, Jan 28..

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AMBER BRITTANY (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: The Coast Guard is investigating an accident last week in which a barge, being pushed by tug *Amber Brittany* (370 gt, built 1982) struck passenger *Spirit of Jefferson* (87 gt, built 1963), causing the riverboat to hit the wharf boat Unknown *Mayor Andrew Broaddus* (623 gt, built 1929) that was moored next to it. Both vessel are owned by the Louisville Metro Government and moor near the *Belle of Louisville* at the downtown wharf. *Belle of Louisville* was tied up at the time but was not hit, Belle CEO Linda Harris said. *Spirit of Jefferson* sustained a dent on a bumper, or railing, and lost some paint, but there was no damage to the hull and the craft is "100% operable," Harris said. *Spirit of Jefferson* was tied up parallel to *Mayor Andrew Broaddus* when the accident occurred Thursday (Jan 18) evening. The barge that struck *Spirit of Jefferson* pushed it into *Mayor Andrew Broaddus*, a National Landmark and onetime Coast Guard life-saving station that houses the offices for the Belle staff, Harris said. *Mayor Andrew Broaddus* sustained an 18-inch long, quarter-inch wide crack in its upper deck and also had a pillar holding up the second deck damaged. Harris said an insurance adjuster is expected to inspect the damage in the next few days. She declined to estimate the repair cost but hoped that *Mayor Andrew Broaddus* would not have to be taken to a shipyard for repairs, requiring the staff's move to temporary quarters. She said the towboat company's insurance is expected to pay for the repairs. Lt. Cmdr. Phillip Ison, a Coast Guard spokesman, said a nine-barge tow being pushed down river by *Amber Brittany*, operated by Imperial Towing of Pennsylvania, was lining up to enter McAlpine Locks when it got too close to the Kentucky shore and bumped *Spirit of Jefferson*. "High water was definitely a factor," he said. He said that, for the time being, the Coast Guard has asked that *Spirit of Jefferson* tie up at a wharf berth just down river from the *Belle of Louisville* and to stay as far away as possible from the commercial channel.

ARISBE (Hong Kong)

London, Jan 29 — Bulker *Arisbe* sailed Rotterdam Jan 27.

ASKO (Antigua & Barbuda)

See *Nikar G.*

ATROPOS (Liberia)

London, Feb 1 — A Tsavlis Salvage report states: Mobilised from Mindelo, Cape Verde Islands, salvage tug *Leopard* assisted product tanker *Atropos* (2966 gt, built 1990) in December when its propeller was fouled by a tow line. In spite of difficult weather that threatened diving operations, the propeller was freed and the vessel delivered to Dakar. (Note — *Atropos* sailed Las Palmas Nov 21 and was next reported

to have arrived Nouadhibou Dec 20, from Las Palmas, sailed Dec 21 and arrived at Nouadhibou Jan 8, from Las Palmas.)

AURE (Norway)

Trondheim, Feb 1 — Vegsund Slip AS now inform that repairs to Roll On Roll Off *Aure* have been completed and the vessel left the yard at 0001 hrs, today. — Lloyd's Agents.

AUTOPROGRESS (Madeira)

London, Jan 31 — Following received from Etel MRCC, timed 1020, UTC: Vehicle carrier *Autoprogress* (11591 gt, built 1998) reported fire in engine-room in lat 47 15N, long 04 43W, at 2132, UTC, yesterday. Fire was reported extinguished at 2303, UTC. Vessel was taken in tow by tug *Abeille Bourbon* at 0322, UTC, today for Brest where ETA 1530, UTC. (Note — *Autoprogress* sailed Pasajes Jan 30 for Zeebrugge.)

London, Feb 1 — Vehicle carrier *Autoprogress* had to be taken under tow by the French tug *Abeille Bourbon*, yesterday afternoon, after losing propulsion following an engine-room fire during night of Jan 30, 70 km off the tip of the Brittany peninsula. The vessel, which was on its way from Santander to Zeebrugge with a cargo of 895 cars, was being towed to Brest, where it was due to be examined by port state inspectors yesterday afternoon.

London, Feb 1 — Following received from Etel MRCC, timed 1030, UTC: Vehicle carrier *Autoprogress* was towed into Brest late yesterday afternoon and is now alongside for repairs.

Brest, Feb 1 — Reported that at 2230 hrs, on Jan 30, while vehicle carrier *Autoprogress* was on a loaded passage between Pasajes and Zeebrugge, a fire broke out in the engine-room. The crew extinguished the fire by their own means using portable equipment and CO2. Due to the vessel being without propulsion, the assistance of tug *Abeille Bourbon* was requested in order to arrange the towage of the vessel to Brest, where the convoy arrived at 1800 hrs, Jan 31. Owners are now investigating the extent of the damage and further possibilities to tranship the cargo into another vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

BACO-LINER 2 (Liberia)

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

BADRINATH (Liberia)

London, Jan 25 — Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1400, UTC: Refrigerated general cargo *Badrinath* has completed sea trials. The pilot left the vessel 15 minutes ago and the vessel is now departing for Delaware.

Hamilton, Bermuda, Jan 26 — Refrigerated general cargo *Badrinath* completed sea trials yesterday morning and departed Bermuda waters at 0945, yesterday, for Wilmington. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 1 — Refrigerated general cargo *Badrinath* arrived Wilmington (DE USA) Jan 31.

BBC PLATA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Copenhagen, Jan 25 — General cargo *BBC Plata* (9618 gt, built 2005) arrived Esbjerg at 2015, local time, Jan 12, after being hit by several freak waves in a storm in the North Sea. The vessel was loaded with a wind turbine and blades for the wind turbine (up to three layers on deck). Some of these were damaged in the heavy weather. In addition, several items of cargo in No 1 hold broke loose during the storm. These items were thrown around the hold and ruptured a ballast tank and a fuel tank, causing a mix of oil and water in the hold. Vessel remains under repair. — Correspondent.

Esbjerg, Jan 29 — General cargo *BBC Plata* arrived at Esbjerg on Jan 12, and is still here and is expected remain for another week until all repairs are completed. — Lloyd's Agents.

BEN MAYE (Isle of Man)

Ramsey, Jan 31 — General cargo *Ben Maye* is still mooring in Ramsey harbour with shore engineers continuing with the main engine repairs. Completion is now expected mid February. — Lloyd's Agents.

BRILLIANTE (Gibraltar)

London, Jan 27 — General cargo *Brillante* arrived Brake Jan 25 and sailed Jan 26.

BRITISH CYGNET (IOM)

London, Jan 30 — Crude oil tanker *British Cygnet* passed Skaw Jan 29.

BULOU NI CEVA (Fiji)

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated Jan 25, states: The fate of stricken inter-island passenger (cruise), *Bulou Ni Ceva*, is expected to be known after an emergency meeting of stakeholders this weekend (Jan 27/28). The meeting will include Interim Transport Minister Manu Korovulavula. The vessel was stranded on a reef off Rotuma last September after a storm. Government Shipping Services paid for the bill of salvaging the vessel after its owners, Kadavu Shipping, said they were not able to pay for the salvage costs. Kadavu Shipping manager Ratu Sela Nanovo said the meeting on Sunday would discuss the matter. The meeting will include salvage operator Workboats and the Fiji Islands Maritime Safety Authority. "We should have a fair idea of where we are in regards to this matter after this meeting," he said. Ratu Sela said writing the vessel off was an option that was being considered. However, he said nothing could be confirmed until a complete assessment of the vessel was carried out. "It can be both ways, a write off or the possibility of it being repaired but that will be known once the assessment is carried out," he said. Ratu Sela said a settlement between all parties was expected to be reached by Feb 10. He said he was hopeful of a positive outcome. Venu Shipping vessel, the *Sinuwasu*, has been servicing Kadavu waters in the

absence of the *Bulou ni Ceva*. It replaced a Tongan vessel that was temporarily running the route for two months. That vessel has since returned to Nukualofa.

CAMILLA DESGAGNES (Barbados)

Halifax, Jan 29 — Roll On Roll Off *Camilla Desgagnes* remains alongside at Halifax berth and has recently received major engine components for the repair. Understand that the repair should conclude in the next 2-3 weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

CAPE MARTIN (Cyprus)

London, Feb 1 — Container Carrier *Cape Martin* has now left Wismar. Vessel passed Skaw 1431, Jan 27, and subsequently passed Dover Strait Jan 29, bound Philadelphia.

CARIBBEAN MERMAID (Liberia)

See "Germany" under "Port State Control".

CELTIC ENDEAVOUR (U.K.)

Maassluis, Jan 25 — General cargo *Celtic Endeavour* has finished repairs and left Ymuiden at 1430, local time, today. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

CEMCON (Bahamas)

Bogota, Feb 1 — Bulk cement carrier *Cemcon*, no cargo board, arrived Cartagena Jan 29 in tow of *Manta* coming from Curacao. The vessel is presently berthed at Cotecmar shipyard in Cartagena where it will be subject of repairs. It is unknown the anticipated/expected date of sailing. — Lloyd's Agents.

CHELYABINSK (Russia)

London, Jan 30 — Bulker with container capacity *Chelyabinsk* sailed Taranto Jan 28.

CHOYO MARU (Japan)

London, Jan 25 — Following navigation warning issued at 2005, JST, today: Stranded tanker 2963 tons (crude oil tanker *Choyo Maru*, 2963 gt, built 1990) in lat 34 03.4N, long 132 27.3E.

London, Jan 26 — Following navigation warning issued at 1525, JST, today: Stranded crude oil tanker *Choyo Maru* at Seto Naikai, Hiroshima Wan, removed, exists in lat 34 03.433N, long 132 27.319E.

Yokohama, Jan 31 — Crude oil tanker *Choyo Maru*, en route from Toyama to Iwakuni, Yamaguchi Prefecture, ran aground, due to navigation error, in a position lat 34 03.433N, long 132 27.319E, at 1830, Jan 25. She was towed by tugs on Jan 26, after 950 kilolitres of oil removal from her bow part. She sustained cracking damage to her bow bottom and slight water ingress into her thruster, but can navigate under her own power. No oil spill or personal injury has been reported. She is to be repaired at a dock in Onomichi City. — Lloyd's Agents.

CLIPPER TOBAGO (Bahamas)

Montreal, Jan 30 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Clipper Tobago*

is still in Montreal waiting for parts to complete the overhaul of the main engine. The vessel is not expected to depart until around Feb 8. — Lloyd's Agents.

CMA CGM CLAUDEL (Liberia)

Maassluis, Jan 26 — Container Carrier *CMA CGM Claudel* is still arrested and therefore in port. She shifted to Amazone Haven (EMO) probably to be cleaned. Oil spill has been cleaned. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 31 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS Container Carrier *CMA CGM Claudel* was still in port at 1001, UTC today. (See issue of Jan 29.)

London, Feb 1 — VBSK, manager of Container Carrier *CMA CGM Claudel*, the MS "Auguste Schulte" Schiffahrtsgesellschaft owned containership on charter to CMA CGM, report that a Bond has been agreed by all parties and lodged with the Rotterdam Courts covering the necessary security for the damage incurred to the oil terminal jetty and other claimants following the heavy weather incident on Jan 18. The vessel was cleared to sail on the evening of Jan 31 and has a scheduled departure time of 1400 hrs, today.

COLOR VIKING (Norway)

Gothenburg, Jan 28 — Passenger ro/ro *Color Viking* (19763 gt, built 1985), Sandefjord for Stromstad, took a sudden severe list today, causing panic amongst the passengers. Bottles and parts in tax-free stores overturned and fell to the floor. The master subsequently announced that all was under control but shifting from manual steering to autopilot caused a shift in vessel's balance. Later technicians adjusted the level and all reported in good order. — Westax Marine Services AB.

COMMANDER (Panama)

Buenos Aires, Jan 26 — Bulker *Commander* arrived Buenos Aires Dec 24. — Lloyd's Agents.

CRYSTAL SEA (Marshall Islands)

London, Jan 25 — A Seadrill Management AS press release, dated Bermuda Jan 24, states: The owners of FPSO *Crystal Sea* (6764 gt, built 1994) have decided to relocate the vessel from India in order to market the vessel for new floating production assignments. *Crystal Sea* commenced operations in India under a five-year contract with Discovery Enterprise in June 2006. However, subsequent to commencement, riser related problems occurred that halted the operations. The owners have worked together with the customer to solve these problems, however, it was concluded that operations would not be resumed within the time schedule outlined by the customer. As a result, the contract has been terminated and the vessel has left the port of Mumbai.

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated Jan 26, states: Last week when tanker *Crystal Sea*, owned by Norwegian drilling-rig contractor Seadrill, sought permission from the

Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT) to clean its tank. MbPT agreed and the ship was moved out of the "inner anchorage" area for three days. But instead of returning to the anchorage on Jan 22, it sneaked out of Indian waters and was last spotted charting a new course somewhere in the Gulf of Oman. In the bargain, the vessel breached its contractual obligations and defied Indian laws. Furious officials are now trying to arrest the ship. "We have written to all ports in Persian Gulf about the incident asking them to intimate us whenever this vessels visits them," an official from the Directorate General of Shipping said. The vessel found its way into Indian waters when a subsidiary of Jindal Drilling hired the vessel for a five-year period beginning mid-2006. It was meant to be deployed on a contract with oil and gas major ONGC. On its part, ONGC had paid \$12 million in customs duties for getting the vessel into India. But in May 2006, the vessel developed a 'hose' failure. Since then, it was berthed at MbPT because it takes anywhere between 12-18 months to get a new hose. Sources said that Seadrill was uncomfortable with the idea of waiting so long and surreptitiously got a contractor to fix the hose and got out. On his part, Alf Thorkildsen, CEO of Seadrill downplayed the incident. He called it a "normal dispute" in relation to the cancellation of a contract and promised to sort it out with Indian officials. ONGC says it will get a refund on the duty it paid because the vessel was not utilised by it.

DAE HUNG 6 (North Korea)

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated today, states: South Korea's coast guard were helping a North Korean cargo ship (product tanker *Dae Hung 6*, 1038 gt, built 1984), Wonsan for Nampo, cargo 1,000 of diesel fuel, adrift in the South's waters free its propeller from a tangle of fishing nets today. The propeller of the 1,038-ton cargo ship became snared off the western coast of the peninsula, said Park Jae-young, a coast guard official in Mokpo. The 14-member North Korean crew called for help after they failed to remove the nets themselves, he said. The coast guard would continue to help untangle the propeller tomorrow, he said.

London, Jan 30 — Following received from Inchon MRCC, timed 1125, UTC: "Work to assist product tanker *Dae Hung 6* will start tomorrow."

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescue efforts to save a broken down North Korean ship (product tanker *Dae Hung 6*) off the coast of western South Korea came to a halt due to low visibility and unfavourable weather conditions, local maritime police said today. The tanker drifted into the sea 29 kilometres west of Gageo Island, off the coast of South Jeolla Province, at 0250 hrs after its engine broke down following an entanglement of its propeller with fishing nets, police said.

DALYAN (Cambodia)

Mariupol, Jan 26 — General cargo *Dalyan* was repaired at Kertch ship repairing plant between Jan 11 and Jan 16. — Lloyd's Agents.

DAWN PRINCESS (Bermuda)

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Princess Cruise Lines yesterday paid \$750,000 to settle charges it failed to operate passenger (cruise) *Dawn Princess* (77441 gt, built 1997) in a slow, safe manner near Glacier Bay National Park where a humpback whale was found dead of massive skull fractures. The body of the 45-foot, pregnant humpback whale was found floating in Icy Strait near the mouth of Glacier Bay in south-east Alaska in July, 2001. Humpback whales are an endangered species. "Our marine mammals are national treasures to be preserved for future generations. We must protect them from criminal and negligent acts committed by individuals or large corporations," said Nelson Cohen, US attorney for Alaska, describing the case as a first-of-its kind prosecution. In an agreement with prosecutors, Princess pleaded guilty to knowingly failing to operate the vessel at a slow, safe speed while near two whales on Jul 12, 2001. While not admitting that one of its vessels hit the whale, the company paid a maximum \$200,000 fine, plus \$550,000 in restitution to the National Park Foundation, with the funds specifically dedicated to Glacier Bay National Park conservation efforts. "We take our responsibility to be good stewards of the environment very seriously," said Princess Cruises CEO Peter Ratcliffe. He said the company regretted "the circumstances involving *Dawn Princess*." Princess spokeswoman Julie Benson said this was the first time this type of encounter had occurred involving one of its vessels visiting Glacier Bay National Park. Princess made 75 calls at Glacier Bay last year and plans on 84 this year. Princess said that after the encounter with the whale, it implemented guidelines for how its vessels should operate when whales are near. It also instituted procedures and speed restrictions for the Icy Strait area, with vessels not to exceed 11.5 mph when in the strait south of the national park. According to prosecutors, passengers and crew spotted two humpback whales on the afternoon of Jul 12, 2001, headed on a course that could intersect the vessel's route. *Dawn Princess* continued accelerating and did not change course. Within 100 yards of the vessel, one of the whales dived deep, but the other did not, according to the US attorney's office. As the other whale passed out of sight under the vessel's prow, some people on board reported feeling the vessel shudder. The master ran to the starboard bridge wing to look for the whales, but they were not seen again, prosecutors said. The master noted that the vessel was travelling at 16 mph at the time. *Dawn Princess* made no report of a

possible collision to the National Park Service or other agency. The close encounter was also not mentioned in the vessel's log, and the master did not preserve the recording of what occurred on the bridge, federal officials said. However, the next day, the on-board vessel's naturalist emailed a colleague saying the vessel may have struck a whale. She estimated the vessel's speed between about 17 and 20 mph.

DCI DREDGE AQUARIUS (India)

Kochi, Jan 30 — Cutter suction dredger *DCI Dredge Aquarius* had its drill broken during its work on the Sethu Samudram channel project near Tuticorin on Jan 23. The dredger's spud has also gone down and the dredger is now laid up at Rameswaram and awaiting instructions for repair work. However, the dredger is able to sail on its own power. Bringing the dredger to Kochi Shipyard for repair work has not yet been finalised. A tug is also kept standby for any assistance. — Lloyd's Agents.

DEFI (Netherlands)

London, Jan 31 — About 0815 yesterday Dutch inland cargo vessel general cargo *Defi*, built 1966, 84,70 x 9,05 x 2,95 metres, dwt 1660 tons, owned by Eerkes Lisman Vof at Terneuzen, sank in the Albert Canal after a collision with oncoming inland tanker Unknown *Walcheren*. The four persons on board could be saved. *Defi*, loaded with a cargo of steel coils, in collision with *Walcheren*, which vessel's anchor ripped open the hull of *Defi*, which sank in short time near Herstal off the statue of King Albert. To prevent spreading of the oil leaking from the sunken vessel, an oil boom has been laid around the place of sunken vessel. Steel factory Corus, owner of the cargo of the *Defi*, is asking quotations for the salvage of the valuable cargo. Before the vessel can be raised, first the cargo has to be salvaged, which can take at least a week according experts.

DELL BUTCHER (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated Jan 25, states: All lanes of the U.S. 41 Twin Bridges over the Ohio River are open again after an inspector found no observable damage from a barge (tow of tug *Dell Butcher*, (628 gt, built 1966) that hit the bridge this morning. Northbound and southbound lanes were closed for about 80 minutes while officials waited for a Kentucky Transportation Cabinet inspector to arrive and then to clear it for traffic. The inspector arrived at 1045 hrs, did not find any damage and allowed the bridge to reopen at about 1115 hrs. The northbound side of the bridge was hit just after 0930 hrs when lime barges being towed by *Dell Butcher* broke loose. Some of the barges also struck a mooring downstream from the Twin Bridges, breaking loose additional barges. All of the barges have since been secured. Members of the U.S.

Coast Guard Sector Ohio Valley are headed to the bridge to investigate the cause of the accident, but it was not clear when they were expected to arrive.

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet reports that several barges (Tow of tug *Dell Butcher*) broke loose and hit the North and Southbound bridges just before 1000 today. Traffic was backed up for miles on both sides of Highway 41. Apparently, 15 barges broke free from the tow, hitting both the North and Southbound bridges. Highway 41 between Ellis Park and Watson Lane was shut down for about an hour-and-a-half while an inspector assessed any possible damage as a precautionary measure. The primary artery connecting Evansville to Henderson is used by more than 37,000 drivers every day. Necessary for a thriving Tri-State economy, the section of highway is also one of the area's most vulnerable roads. Hundreds of cars were at a near standstill and officers on both sides of the twin bridges were telling drivers to turn around. Inspectors found the twin bridges to be safe and secure. The bridges opened back up just before the lunch rush. The Coast Guard is investigating the cause of the barge accident. Officials say they should have preliminary results of the investigation by tomorrow. According to a release from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the U.S. Coast Guard reports that *Dell Butcher* was headed downstream on the Ohio River towing 15 lime barges. Some of barges broke loose and struck the northbound U.S. Highway 41 bridge at Henderson. Some of the barges also struck a mooring downstream from the Twin Bridges, breaking loose additional barges. Those barges have now all been secured, and do not pose an additional threat to river traffic. Transportation Cabinet spokesperson Keith Todd says it will take about an hour after bridge inspectors arrive to determine any damage to the bridges.

DIRHAMI (Isle of Man)

London, Jan 26 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: General cargo *Dirhami* (2658 gt, built 1996) ran into the embankment at Dukerswisch at 0030 today. Two tugs from Brunsbittel towed the vessel back into the canal. The vessel then proceeded to Kiel. (Note — *Dirhami* sailed Rotterdam 0120, Jan 25, for Muuga, and passed Brunsbittel 2120, Jan 25. According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Dirhami* was in lat 54 30 42N, long 12 16 34.8E, at 1835, UTC, today, speed 13.5 knots, course 2.2 degrees.)

London, Jan 29 — General cargo *Dirhami*, which ran into the embankment at Dukerswisch, Kiel area, Jan 26 and had to be towed back into the Kiel Canal, has now arrived at Helsinki.

DISCOVERY (Republic of Ireland)

London, Jan 29 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC:

Timed 1259, UTC: A 406 beacon alert, believed to be trawler (All types) *Discovery* (146 gt, built 1980), received at 1013, UTC, in lat 49 41N, long 10 17W. Possible seven persons on board, unconfirmed. Rescue helicopter R193 tasked from Culdrose and Inmarsat broadcast to area for all ships assistance. Madrid MRCC directing known Spanish fishing vessels to area. Aircraft C252 spotted liferaft in position of 406 beacon with flares being fired. Unknown if all crew are in liferaft or any missing.

Timed 1425, UTC: Six persons from trawler *Discovery*, EI6197, rescued by crude oil tanker *Front Commander*. Only debris sighted in area.

London, Jan 29 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC timed 1522, UTC: Trawler *Discovery*: Crude oil tanker *Front Commander* diverted in response to mayday relay broadcast and launched its own lifeboat and recovered all seven crew from liferaft/water. Helicopter R193 currently lifting survivors from *Front Commander* and is returning them to RNAS Culdrose.

London, Jan 29 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1828, UTC: Seven persons on board trawler *Discovery* have been rescued from a liferaft and from the water and taken to shore at Culdrose.

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated Jan 29, states: Noel O'Sullivan the skipper of trawler *Discovery*, and crew member David Murphy almost lost their lives after their boat sank. Mr O'Sullivan was washed overboard of the 23m fishing boat and spent two hours in the open sea, 200 miles west of the Isles of Scilly. Mr Murphy who, along with four Lithuanian crew made it to the ship's liferaft, said: "The boat was dragged down by its nets. Five of us made it to the liferafts but the master and another man were in the sea for two hours."

DONA ANASTACIA (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 26 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that general cargo *Dona Anastacia* (228 gt, built 1975) ran aground at 2030 hrs, Jan 22, at the Banilad Marine sanctuary near Dumaguete city. *Dona Anastacia*, sans cargo, was contracted to free general cargo *Jake Vincent Dos*, which had ran aground earlier that day. As *Dona Anastacia* was manoeuvring to lay its towing lines on the trapped *Jake Vincent Dos* its bottom hit the coral reefs of the marine preserve. At around 1100 hrs, another cargo vessel, *Euro Uno* arrived and pulled *Dona Anastacia* free from its grounded position. *Dona Anastacia* then returned on her own power to DUCOMI (Dumaguete Coconut Mills) port in Dumaguete City. An underwater water survey showed only superficial abrasions to the hull. Surveyors declared the vessel fit for operation. *Dona Anastacia* is owned by Dumaguete City-based July Lighterage Corp. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

EAGLE PHOENIX (Singapore)

Novorossiysk, Jan 28 — Crude oil tanker *Eagle Phoenix* berthed for loading at 1443, Jan 20. The fire on board occurred at 1935, Jan 21. *Eagle Phoenix* unberthed for investigation and class service at 0420, Jan 21. Shifted back to the berth after it was freed Jan 23 and sailed at 0318, Jan 24. — Lloyd's Agents.

ECO MARINE (Indonesia)

Manila, Jan 26 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that the Indonesian-registered tug *Eco Marine* (236 gt, built 2003) and the barge *Elanor* (3345 gt, built 2003) were refloated on Jan 24 by salvors of Manila-based Harbor Star Shipping Services. *Eco Marine* and *Elanor* ran aground off Lagundi town, on Batan island, Albay province, on Nov 30 while attempting to seek shelter from tropical storm "Durian". After refloating the two vessels were towed by Harbor Star Shipping tugs to Legaspi port where *Elanor* unloaded its cargo of cement. Both vessels are reported to have sustained extensive damage and the barge lost a substantial part of its 8,000 tonnes of cement to the storm. The vessels are now lying at anchor off Legaspi port. Both vessels are owned by PT Pelayaran Malindo Pacific. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

EFI THEO (Panama)

London, Jan 29 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Bulker *Efi Theo* resumed voyage from Kiel after completion of investigations.

ELANOR

See *Eco Marine*.

ELISABETH (Netherlands)

London, Jan 26 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: Container Carrier *Elisabeth* (5067 gt, built 2000) ran into the embankment at Fischerhutte, at 1100, yesterday but managed to get free with own power. (Note — *Elisabeth* sailed Hamburg 0050, Jan 25 for Malmo, passed Brunsbittel 0315, Jan 25 and arrived Malmo same day.)

ERICARISTINE (Taiwan)

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The court of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky has ruled to confiscate trawler (All types) *Ericaristine*, seized for poaching in Russian territorial waters in August 2006, sources from the local environmental prosecutor's office said today. The vessel belonged to a Taiwan fishing company. It is registered at the Georgian port of Batumi. The crew consists of 28 people, including Chinese, Indonesian and Vietnamese nationals. In June 2006, the schooner was leased for fishing by the Sakhalin Cossack District. It was found out that the crew had been engaged in poaching salmon and transporting it to South Korean ports. Criminal proceedings were launched against the master and the senior representative of the Cossacks. The ship, that had

remained in the Avacha Bay since Aug 21, 2006, broke free from moorings during a storm on Jan 8, and ran aground near the Kazak Cape, where it has remained since then. The ship owner has made no steps to evacuate the crew. The crew remains on board. The lives of the seamen are not in danger. After the confiscation of the vessel the authorities will decide on sending the foreign fishermen back home.

EVENING STAR (U.K.)

London, Jan 27 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 1746, UTC: Fishing (general) *Evening Star* (118 gt, built 1983), four persons on board, sank after ingress of water 25 nautical miles east of Peterhead, in lat 57 29.93N, long 00 59.97W, at 1609, UTC, today. Royal Air Force rescue helicopter arrived on scene and winched the four crew on board from a liferaft, all of them fit and well. The vessel is sunk to a depth of 81 metres and there is a strong smell of diesel being reported by vessels in the area. Weather on scene: Wind westerly, force 6 (strong breeze), visibility good.

FAST JEF (Belgium)

London, Jan 29 — General cargo *Fast Jef* sailed Hull Jan 27 for Guinness Wharf, where arrived same day.

FEN JIN HAI (China)

See *Kalypso*.

FRONTEK (Singapore)

London, Feb 1 — Product tanker *Frontek* arrived Singapore 1204, Jan 24.

FU XING 8 (China)

Antwerp, Feb 1 — On the morning of Jan 31, bulker *Aleslevada* (36544 gt, built 1990) collided with general cargo *Fu Xing 8* at CJK pilot station, Shanghai. This collision resulted in the sinking of *Fu Xing 8*. All crew left the vessel. No oil leakage or casualty was reported. *Aleslevada* is currently anchoring in Wusong Anchorage for investigation. — DPS Teamhead Surveyors.

GAZ DE FRANCE PROVALYS (French Southern Territories)

London, Jan 29 — A report, dated Jan 26, states: Gaz de France has lost the use of its newly built Liquid Natural Gas Carrier *Gaz de France Provalys* for an as yet undetermined period. The vessel, which was handed over to GdF by Aker Yards France in mid-November, is currently in dry dock in Marseilles after encountering a propeller drive shaft bearing problem during its inaugural voyage. The vessel, which left Saint Nazaire on Nov 20, did not complete its return journey from Bethioua in Algeria to GdF's Montoir LNG terminal, close to the Aker Yards France shipyard. Instead, it unloaded its cargo at Sagunto and headed for Marseilles for inspection and repair at the port of the Union Naval Marseille (UNM) shipyard. The vessel went into UNM's

No.8 dry dock on Jan 11 after waiting a month at Marseilles for the dock to become free but, more than two weeks on, neither GdF nor Aker Yards France is able to say when it will leave. GdF said last week that it was waiting for a surveyor's report to know what work needed to be carried out and how long it would take. A spokeswoman confirmed that the vessel had had a problem on its propeller drive shaft but was unable to say where responsibility for it lay. The Alstom group, which retains contractual responsibility for the vessel, confirmed that the vessel was suffering from a drive shaft problem but was unable to say when the vessel would be able to resume operation. A spokesman said, "I am not sure that the causes have been completely identified yet." *Gaz de France Provalys* is one of three ships ordered by GdF from the Alstom group's Chantiers de l'Atlantique in Saint Nazaire, which has since become Aker Yards France. Aker Yards France, which completed construction of the vessel on Alstom's behalf, was also unable to say when the vessel would be able to return to service. A spokeswoman noted, however, that the vessel was under guarantee, saying, "The operation will be without cost for GdF and we have an insurance which comes into play in such cases."

GEORGE MORRIS (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 31 — A Coast Guard Raritan Bay, New York, press release, dated Jan 30, states: The Coast Guard is investigating tank barge *George Morris* (3803 gt, built 1982) that ran aground when it went outside of the channel in Raritan Bay near Ward's Point Bend (lat 40 30N, long 74 15W) around 1830 today. The barge was being towed out to sea by tug *Rowan M. McAllister* (355 gt, built 1981) carrying 50,000 barrels of ethanol on board. Coast Guard pollution response officers and marine investigators report that the barge sustained no apparent hull breach and no oil or ethanol has entered the water. Coast Guard assets will continue to monitor the situation, and are developing plans to refloat the vessel only after the barge is lightened. The Coast Guard is investigating the cause of the grounding.

London, Jan 31 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston., timed 1415, UTC: Tank barge *George Morris* was refloated at 0500, EST, today and is now anchored in the area.

London, Feb 1 — A Coast Guard New York press release, dated Jan 31, states: Outbound tug *Rowan M. McAllister* towing tank barge *George Morris* that ran aground yesterday outside the channel in Raritan Bay near Wards Point Bend, just south of Staten Island, was successfully refloated at 0505 today. Reinauer Transportation conducted lightering operations throughout the night, and with the rising tide in the morning they were able to free the grounded vessel. *George Morris* was

being towed out to sea by the tug *Rowan M. McAllister* carrying just over two million gallons of ethanol onboard when it ran aground around 1830 yesterday. Coast Guard Sector New York pollution response personnel and marine investigators report that the tug or barge sustained no apparent hull breach and no oil or ethanol has entered the water. The barge was moved to Perth Amboy Anchorage to undergo lightering operations. Once lightering is completed, divers will survey the hulls of the tug and the barge for damage. The Coast Guard is investigating the cause of the grounding.

GOLDEN SKY (Cyprus)

Riga, Jan 26 — Bulker *Golden Sky* is in the same position, two cargo holds and engine-room flooded. Salvage Co. Tsaviliris team prepares salvage operation. Polluted water from engine-room pumping to the barge. Cargo of potash in bulk will be discharged to barges. Weather not favourable, but salvors make all possible efforts to minimize pollution. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Wintry winds and rising waves hampered salvage operations today as efforts to pump oil from bulker *Golden Sky* intensified. Wintry conditions forced salvage workers to suspend operations after pumping a third of the fuel oil from the vessel. Iveta Kraule of the Latvian Navy said. "Unfortunately, thanks to the heavy waves, it was impossible to attach a steam generator to the stranded ship. We hope to manage today," she said. Steam is necessary to render the heavy fuel oil liquid, she added. Salvage operations have been interrupted several times due to heavy weather.

GRIGOROUSSA I (Liberia)

London, Jan 30 — Crude oil tanker *Grigoroussa I* arrived Piraeus Jan 25 from Skaramanga.

GULF MASTER (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 29 — A Coast Guard Houston press release, dated Jan 26, states The Coast Guard lowered a dewatering pump to sinking support *Gulf Master* (303 gt, built 2004) about 25 miles south of Cameron, La., late this afternoon. A Coast Guard Sector Houston/Galveston watchstander received a distress call from *Gulf Master*, reporting they were taking on water and in danger of sinking. Coast Guard Air Station Houston launched a rescue helicopter and Coast Guard Station Sabine dispatched a rescue boat to provide the crew of the vessel with another pump and to ensure that if the boat did sink, help would be there. *Gulf Master* dropped off two members of its crew onto an oil platform, West Cameron 149, and began heading towards shore. The HH-65C Dolphin helicopter hoisted a pump from the rescue boat and passed it to *Gulf Master's* sister ship *Brenda Lee*, who arrived to assist. *Gulf Master* made it the El Paso Shore Base dock on the west side of Cameron safely.

HAGONOY (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 29 — Non specific tanker *Hagonoy* entered dry dock at Herma Shipyard, Mariveles, on Jan 25 for repairs and for its annual class survey. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

HEBEI EAGLE (Hong Kong)

Portsmouth, UK, Jan 28 — Bulker *Hebei Eagle* (87831 gt, built 1985), loaded, No 6 in northbound convoy of Jan 27, went aground at km 101 Port Said at 1600, Jan 27 and blocked eight vessels behind it. Suez Canal tugs already deployed and attempts for refloating are being taken. — Correspondent.

Port Said, Jan 28 — Bulker *Hebei Eagle* is still aground in the Great Bitter Lakes, with Suez Canal Authority tugs still trying to refloat it. Vessel's draught is 56 feet. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 30 — Following received from the Hong Kong managers of bulker *Hebei Eagle*, timed 0840, UTC, today: *Hebei Eagle* has been refloated.

HEROEY (Norway)

Trondheim, Jan 29 — Fishing (general) *Heroey*: Coast Guard vessel *Eigun* is still patrolling at the scene of accident. According to local press and the Kristiansund Port Authorities the vessel is breaking up and has now almost disintegrated, i.e. the wheelhouse has disappeared. At the moment it is impossible estimate when the vessel's remaining parts will sink. No oil pollution observed due to light oil and favourable heavy wind. — Lloyd's Agents.

HO FENG NO.6 (Panama)

London, Jan 26 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0524, UTC: General cargo *Ho Feng No.6*: Situation remains the same.

London, Jan 27 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0120, UTC: Salvors are still attempting to extinguish the fire on board general cargo *Ho Feng No.6*.

London, Jan 29 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0010, UTC: General cargo *Ho Feng No.6* is still at Daru, New Guinea, and continues to smoulder.

London, Jan 31 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0100, UTC: General cargo *Ho Feng No.6* is still lying in same position at Daru. Fire is under control, but still smouldering. The salvors have still to decide where to tow the vessel.

HSC GOTLANDIA (Sweden)

London, Feb 1 — Understand ferry *HSC Gotlandia* is to sail to the dry dock at Falkyard, Falkenburg, from Farosund, where it sustained serious hull damage below waterline. Refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Lara* which is at the dry dock for propeller repairs, will shift from the dock and berth alongside in port and is scheduled to return to the dock mid-February. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *HSC Gotlandia* was still at Farosund at 1024, UTC, today.)

HYUNDAI CONFIDENCE (Panama)

London, Jan 30 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1727, UTC: Container carrier *Hyundai Confidence* (64845 gt, built 2003) reported main engine failure at 0955, UTC, Jan 30, after the main engine lubricating-oil pump was dropped while being lifted by a crane. Two crew members reported injured. The vessel is currently in lat 43 16N, long 151 21W, and is on generator power while the crew attempt to effect repairs.

London, Jan 30 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 2123, UTC: Container carrier *Hyundai Confidence* is still drifting and the crew are continuing to attempt repairs. The vessel has reportedly lost 110 containers overboard due to rough seas.

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard is responding to Container Carrier *Hyundai Confidence*, adrift in 20 foot seas, 1200 miles west of Seattle. The Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) in Juneau received notification at 0055 hrs, this morning, that the cargo vessel *Hyundai Confidence* was disabled and adrift due to mechanical problems. At the time of notification, the ship was experiencing heavy rolls, which injured two of the 23 crew members. However, wind speed has dropped to 20 knots as of 0830 hrs. The Coast Guard put out an urgent marine information broadcast (UMIB) and deployed a C-130 out of Kodiak, which is now on scene with radio communications. The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) *Acushnet* was diverted to the scene and will arrive in approximately three days. Coast Guard cutter *Mellon* has also been diverted, with no estimated time of arrival. Container carrier *Suez Canal Bridge* has responded to the UMIB, and is expected to be on scene by approximately 1230hrs. The Coast Guard is awaiting report of a civilian tug agency to be contracted by Hyundai Merchant Marine. *Hyundai Confidence* was on its way from Busan to Los Angeles. The cause of the vessel's engine trouble is unknown at this time.

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated Jan 30, states: Two crew members of Container Carrier *Hyundai Confidence* have been injured, stranded with 21 others on board a cargo ship drifting in the North Pacific Ocean. The U.S. Coast Guard said *Hyundai Confidence* ran into trouble this morning when a crane fell into the engine while the ship was being tossed around in 20-foot seas. The ship is located about 880 miles south of Kodiak. One crew member is suffering from a broken arm and leg, while the other sprained an ankle. The crew is trying to repair the engine, while also trying to stabilise the ship. A Coast Guard C-130 is assisting, along with a civilian ship that responded to the call. Two cutters are expected to arrive later this week.

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated Jan 30, states: Container Carrier *Hyundai Confidence* is continuing to California. The Coast Guard in Juneau said the ship was able to make engine repairs and is being allowed to continue to Long Beach.

London, Jan 31 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1245, UTC: Container carrier *Hyundai Confidence* is now underway for Long Beach at a speed approaching 21 knots.

IBRAHIM G. (Turkey)

London, Jan 31 — Chemical tanker *Ibrahim G.* passed Dardanelles Jan 28 for Syria.

IRAN HENGAM (Iran)

London, Jan 28 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1055, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Iran Hengam*, Rotterdam for Singapore, anchored in lat 50 27N, long 03 24W, for repairs to an engine liner. Estimated time of completion 21 hours. (See issue of Jan 23.)

London, Jan 29 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 0657, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Iran Hengam* completed repairs to main engine and resumed passage to Singapore at 0618, UTC.

IRENE E.M. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jan 31 — Greek owners and operators of bulk carrier *Irene E.M.* have been handed penalties totalling \$1.25m in the latest US oil dumping prosecution. The case, billed as a first opportunity to challenge the legal basis of many recent prosecutions, ended with pre-agreed guilty pleas in Delaware district court. Chian Spirit Maritime and affiliated operating company Venetico Marine each admitted violating the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships by misleading Coast Guard investigators during a US port call in December, 2005. As part of the plea agreement, \$250,000 of the financial penalties will go towards a marine environment-related community project on Delaware Bay. According to the Department of Justice, during a routine boarding officers of the bulk carrier provided investigators with a false log book. Further investigation revealed that the vessel's oil water separator had been inoperable for several months during the previous year, it alleged. A vessel crew member testified that the ship illegally discharged waste oil approximately four times a week into the open ocean. Most of the discharges were said to have taken place at night or far from shore during trips to various ports from Africa to Brazil and from Brazil to the US. The vessel's engineers were also accused of constructing a bypass pipe, which was also hidden during Coast Guard boardings. Last year the ship's chief engineer, Adrien Dragomir, pleaded guilty to one APPS violation for falsifying the oil record book and was sentenced to a one-year term of unsupervised probation.

JAKE VINCENT DOS (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 26 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that general cargo *Jake Vincent Dos* was freed from its grounded position on Jan 22. The vessel ran aground earlier the same day at the Banilad Marine sanctuary near Dumaguete city after it mistook a beach resort for its port of destination. *Jake Vincent Dos* remained trapped in the coral reefs for several hours until it was pulled free by another cargo vessel, *Euro Uno* at the onset of high tide on Monday evening. An earlier attempt by another cargo vessel (*Dona Anastacia*) to free *Jake Vincent Dos* failed after *Dona Anastacia* ran aground itself. The Philippine Coast Guard said that while a small area of the marine sanctuary's coral reefs was destroyed, an oil spill did not occur. *Jake Vincent Dos* proceeded on its own power to the DUCOMI (Dumaguete Coconut Mills) pier in Dumaguete City where it is now unloading its cargo of animal feed. An underwater survey showed that the vessel had sustained a 3 X 20 inch horizontal crack in its bottom hull. After unloading the vessel will be drydocked at a still to be disclosed shipyard. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jan 30 — The Philippine Coast Guard have reported that the Philippine-registered general cargo *Jake Vincent Dos* is still anchored off the DUCOMI (Dumaguete Coconut Mills) port in Dumaguete City, waiting for an available berth. *Jake Vincent Dos* arrived at DUCOMI port on Jan 22, after running aground on the same date, in a nearby marine sanctuary. The vessel, carrying 1,000 metric tons of animal feed, was unable to unload its cargo immediately as all berths were filled. — Lloyd's List Correspondents.

JERIC-JAY (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 26 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported Jan 25, that efforts to refloat the Philippine-registered general cargo *Jeric-Jay* (ex LP Leader), 187 gt, built 1980, are still on-going. *Jeric-Jay* was originally docked at Legazpi port but with the approach of tropical storm "Durian" on Nov 28 port authorities advised all vessels to seek shelter at Port Sula, a protected inlet, 10 miles north-northeast of Legazpi port. On Nov 30, typhoon "Durian" hit the Port Sula area and strong winds and waves swept *Jeric-Jay* along with several other ships into shallow waters. A Marine Protest submitted by the vessel's shipowner detailed the damage sustained by the ship including: propeller and tail shaft assembly; loss of its port bow roller; dents to its port hull and damage to its McGregor hatch cover. Refloating operations are being carried out by the shipowner. *Jeric-Jay* is owned and operated by Eastern Island Shipping Corp based in Camarines Sur province in southern Luzon island. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

JOLANDA

London, Jan 31 — Undersatnd tug *Hendrik 3* has towed barge *Jolanda* from Sluiskil to Ghent for demolition.

KADRIAH II (Malaysia)

Karachi, Jan 27 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Kadriah II*: Understand from Captain Jafar Ullah, Harbour Master of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), it sailed from port yesterday for Singapore. Vessel was very minutely damaged. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

KAGOY

Montevideo, Jan 31 — Fishing *Kagoy* put into Montevideo Jan 24, with apparent problems with the white metal of the stern tube. The vessel has not yet commenced repairs and will be entering dry dock today or tomorrow. — Lloyd's Agents.

KALEVALA (Russia)

Portsmouth, UK, Jan 31 — Following received, dated Jan 30 (?Jan 29): An accident occurred on board the Russian general cargo *Kalevala* (2829 gt, built 1986) when the loading steel plates "yesterday" at Bremen. A loading crane dropped 10 tons of steel plates causing damage to the vessel. The plates tore holes into the bordwand and damaged a ballast water tank. Nobody was hurt. The damage was repaired, so that the vessel could leave the Bremen port area without delay. — Correspondent. (Note — *Kalevala* arrived at Bremen at 2020 hrs, Jan 25 and sailed at 0125 hrs, Jan 28.)

London, Jan 31 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The accident on board general cargo *Kalevala* occurred on Jan 27. The steel plates tore two gashes in the vessel's hull, resulting in water ingress. The damage caused was estimated at several thousand Euros.

KALYPSO (Singapore)

London, Jan 31 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1500, UTC: Bulker *Kalypso* (38364 gt, built 1997) struck the anchor chains of bulker *Fen Jin Hai* (38603 gt, built 1995) at the anchorage at mile marker 115.5, Lower Mississippi, at 0308, UTC, Jan 30. Both vessels sustained dents on port side and have been restricted from sailing pending class survey. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Fen Jin Hai* was at anchor in lat 29 56 05N, long 90 20 40W, at 0005, UTC, today.)

KAPITAN ARTYUKH (Russia)

Vladivostok, Jan 31 — Container Carrier *Kapitan Artyukh* was towed yesterday to Petropavlovsk shipyard and will be dry-docked on/about Feb 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

KC BEATRICE (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 26 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that ferry *KC Beatrice* was released on Jan 24 after being detained by the Coast Guard for several days at Zamboanga Port. *KC Beatrice* was detained after two cargo inspectors were killed by toxic fumes when they entered the vessel's cargo hold on Jan 18. The vessel was docked at Zamboanga port when the accident occurred. The Coast Guard had

originally planned to detain the vessel and its crew until the origins of the toxic fumes could be determined. It was decided to free the vessel, however, after the shipowner promised to present the crew to the Special Board of Marine Inquiry investigating the case. The vessel is owned by Zamboanga city-based Sing Shipping Lines. *KC Beatrice* is now doing its regular route between Zamboanga and Jolo. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

KEOYOUNG SUN (South Korea)

London, Jan 26 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Keoyoung Sun* arrived Yokkaichi Jan 24 and sailed the same day.

KEVIN (Panama)

St Vincent, Cape Verde, Jan 26 — General cargo *Kevin* (4433 gt, built 1985), Las Palmas for Praia, Cape Verde, had fire in lat 16 08N, long 23 11.3W, at 2359, local time, Jan 20, resulting in the death of one crewman, Mr Bushny Sergey, a Ukrainian national. Vessel was assisted by tug *Leopard*, which is usually on station at St Vincent. The tug towed the vessel to Praia, where it arrived Jan 22, and is presently at anchorage. — Lloyd's Agents.

St. Vincent, CV, Jan 31 — General cargo *Kevin* is still undergoing repairs at Praia. The vessel's next scheduled port of call is Porto Novo, CV. — Lloyd's Agents.

KIOWA SPIRIT (Bahamas)

London, Jan 30 — Crude oil tanker *Kiowa Spirit* is reported currently still at Saint Johns(CAN), effecting repairs.

KOMETA (Cyprus)

Honolulu, Jan 29 — Refrigerated general cargo *Kometa* (12398 gt, built 1984) is reported to have wrapped a net in her propeller in position lat 12 21N, long 175 00W, south of Midway. Pusher tug *Jimmy Smith* reportedly enroute to the disabled ship. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 29 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 0225, UTC: Refrigerated general cargo *Kometa* is adrift south of Midway, with a net around her propeller. A tug, with a diver on board, is proceeding.

London, Jan 29 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 1912, UTC: Refrigerated general cargo *Kometa* is still drifting. A tug is due to proceed Jan 31 to assist the vessel.

Honolulu, Jan 31 — The reported position of refrigerated general cargo *Kometa* was in error. The vessel is in lat 12N, long 176E (not West). It was reported the tug *Jimmy Smith* returned to Honolulu, to take on more fuel due to the error in its original position. It is also reported three divers are on board *Jimmy Smith* and will try to cut the net/line away. — Lloyd's Agents.

KONKAR GEORGIOS (Greece)

London, Feb 1 — Bulker *Konkar Georgios* sailed Chalmette Jan 26.

KONSTANTINOS (Honduras)

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Asphalt tanker *Konstantinos* has been beached for four years on the coasts of Isla Beata with the consent of the national authorities, as documents which the newspaper Diario Libre obtained reveal that the Armed Forces as well as the Environment Ministry knew of the case almost from the moment the vessel ran aground on Feb 20, 2003. The Dominican Navy was first to sound the alarm to the Armed Forces Ministry through a memo dated Mar 22, 2003, and the Armed Forces in turn contacted the Environment Ministry 12 days later regarding the vessel's presence and the danger that the 30,000 gallons of diesel which it had on board posed for the area's ecosystem. The only entity which made attempts remove the vessel was the Navy, which in a communication told Mr Konstantinos Kalantzis, the vessel's operator, to "come and remove the fuel and arrange the immediate retrieval of the tanker." However, this reportedly never occurred. Environment minister Max Puig said yesterday that the vessel had not been removed due to the high cost involved. Puig said that for that reason, Environment was approaching the problem from the legal standpoint to force the vessel's operators to pay for its removal. According to Puig, the Navy and Environment have worked closely and have determined that the vessel does not have enough fuel on board to pollute the area in the event that the hull is dismantled.

KOTOBUKI MARU NO.38 (Japan)

Honolulu, Jan 26 — Repairs to fishing *Kotobuki Maru No.38* have been completed and the vessel was undocked yesterday. It shifted to Honolulu harbour and is presently being readied to return to its normal trade, with anticipated departure Jan 27. — Lloyd's Agents.

Honolulu, Jan 29 — Fishing (general) *Kotobuki Maru No.38* departed Honolulu Harbour at 1200, Jan 27. — Lloyd's Agents.

KYROS (Cook Islands)

London, Jan 31 — General cargo *Kyros* sailed Tromso Jan 27.

L/B JUAN (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 31 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1503, UTC: Supply *L/B Juan*: Salvors began preparation work yesterday for the salving of the vessel.

LADY BELINDA (North Korea)

Portsmouth, UK, Jan 31 — Bulker *Lady Belinda* (12180 gt, built 1971) is held up at the Visakhaptnam as the crew members are on strike, demanding back wages following the intervention of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF). Under pressure from the London headquarters of the ITF, the owner of the merchant vessel airdashed to the city on Monday (Jan 29). "With failure to hammer out an amicable solution as

per international conventions, I have decided to arrest the vessel in the Admiralty Court of the Andhra Pradesh High Court," ITF Inspector B.V. Ratnam said yesterday. According to informed sources, *Lady Bellinda* carrying the flag of North Korea was berthed in West Quay 7 in the Inner Harbour for discharging urea to Coromandel Fertilizers Limited on Jan 2. After unloading, it was shifted to another berth. Among the 25-member crew, 14 are from Myanmar, five from Egypt and six from Syria. Nineteen members from Myanmar and Egypt went on strike from Jan 18. The chief engineer, the captain and other officers belonging to Syria are maintaining the engine. The crew do not want to work for the vessel anymore as they are under repatriation. Sources said back wages are due from October last and the owner, who is operating two vessels including *Lady Belinda*, bluntly refused to pay overtime charges during the negotiations held on Monday and yesterday. — Correspondent.

LADY OF GRACE (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 29 — A press report, dated Jan 28, states: Searchers looking for missing fishing (general) *Lady of Grace* (153 gt, built 1978) and its four crew members in Nantucket Sound, detected what appeared to be a sunken vessel near the vessel's last known location today. Coast Guard rescuers said it appeared unlikely the crew would be found alive in the frigid waters, but they would continue their search. "It doesn't look good," Coast Guard spokesman Benjamin Benson said. The 75-foot vessel was last heard from Friday (Jan 26) night. It was supposed to return to New Bedford Harbour at 0500 hrs, yesterday after the Coast Guard warned of rough weather, cutting a planned eight-day trip in half. The crew from another fishing vessel communicated with *Lady of Grace* by e-mail until 2200 hrs, Friday, then contacted the Coast Guard when the vessel failed to reply to the last e-mail. Coast Guard officials said they were concentrating their search on an area where the boat's transponder was last heard, about 11 miles north of Nantucket. Searchers spotted an oil sheen on the surface of the water and some small wood chips and debris nearby yesterday. Officials said they used underwater cameras and sonar in the area today to detect an image beneath the surface consistent with that of a sunken fishing vessel. Divers were preparing to enter the water this afternoon. The Coast Guard identified the crew as Antonio Barroqueiro, Rogerio Vendura, Mario Farinha, and Joao Silva. Officials from the Coast Guard said they were in contact with family members. Twenty-five individual searches have been conducted since yesterday morning using two Coast Guard cutters, three smaller vessels, a Jayhawk Helicopter and a jet from the Cape Cod Air Station. The search has covered 6,000

square miles, including the area where any lifeboat would have drifted. The Coast Guard said weather was favourable for a search, and they would continue looking for any sign of the four men. Benson said the crew's best chances for survival in the 40-degree waters were if they made in onto a life craft. He said the fishing vessel was required to have both a life boat and survival gear. At the time that the vessel went missing, winds were blowing at about 25 to 30 knots and there were eight to 10 foot seas. "Clearly it was extremely cold and icing conditions were severe," Benson said. The trip had been cut to four days because of the conditions. Searchers said they couldn't speculate on what happened, but said it is very easy for fishing vessels to become coated with ice and top heavy in the winter, making it easier for them to capsize. Benson said the *Lady of Grace* was owned by the Santos Fishing Corporation of New Bedford.

London, Jan 29 — A press release, issued by Coast Guard Boston, Mass., dated Jan 28, states: The Coast Guard confirmed today fishing vessel *Lady of Grace* sank in Nantucket Sound, 11 nautical miles north of Nantucket, after divers from the Massachusetts Law Enforcement council positively identified the 75-foot dragger as laying on its port side in 36 feet of water. The vessel's one life raft was found still in its case and attached to the boat. No members of the crew have yet been located. Coast Guard Cutter *Hammerhead* brought the dive team members to the scene, at which sonar and video equipment earlier detected an image which was thought to be the missing vessel. The search for the vessel's four crew continues.

London, Jan 30 — A Coast Guard Boston press release, timed 1315, Jan 29, states: The Coast Guard suspended the search, at about 1040, today, for the four crewmen onboard fishing (general) *Lady of Grace* that sank about 11 nautical miles north of Nantucket Friday (Jan 26) evening. The Coast Guard conducted 27 separate searches covering more than 6,300 square miles employing HU-25 Falcon jet crews and HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter crews from Air Station Cape Cod, the Coast Guard cutters *Bainbridge Island*, *Hammerhead* and *Seneca* and search boat crews from Station Menemsha, Station Brant Point and Station Woods Hole.

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated Jan 29, states: Massachusetts State divers recovered a body from a sunken fishing vessel in frigid waters off Nantucket today, after the Coast Guard halted a search for four crewmen missing for more than two days. The divers found the body around 1430 hrs in the wheelhouse of the 75-foot fishing (general) *Lady of Grace* after diving for nearly nine hours, state police said in a statement tonight. The body, which has not been identified, was taken to the state medical examiner's office in Boston. Poor visibility from leaking oil previously prevented divers from

locating anyone who could have been trapped in the vessel. The Coast Guard had suspended its search earlier today, saying rescuers had exhausted all chances to save the crew. The vessel, found submerged yesterday, was lying on its side, 36 feet beneath the surface, and its inflatable life raft was still in its case and attached to the boat, the Coast Guard said. The cause of the sinking had not been determined.

LETARE (Argentina)

London, Jan 25 — Following navigation warning issued today: Fishing *Don Raimundo* towing fishing (general) *Letare* (103 gt, built 1982) in lat 45 02S, long 61 02W, line length 360 metres, speed 6.6 knots, course 35 degrees, bound for Mar del Plata.

LILLEBORG (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Feb 1 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: GPS Marine Services BV, Slidrecht, salvaged a ships engine that had fallen into the sea at Saint Nazaire, while being unloaded from Roll On Roll Off *Lilleborg* in December 2006. The engine was successfully recovered by floating crane *GPS Atlas*.

LIMESTONE LADY (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Tug *Limestone Lady* (946 gt, built 1973) hit the Mississippi River Bridge, about 172 miles north of New Orleans, Thursday (Jan 25), causing minor damage, officials said. Between 1830 hrs and 1900 hrs, the vessel, pushing 25 barges downriver, collided with one of the bridge's supports, Mississippi Department of Transportation Bridge Inspector Bud Vines said yesterday. Five of the barges, carrying limestone rock, dislodged. Two barges sunk, forcing officials to close the river to traffic until they were located, said Janet Sullivan, assistant to the MDOT commissioner.

LISA SUZANNE (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire yesterday afternoon caused heavy damage to shrimp fishing *Lisa Suzanne* (83 gt, built 1978) docked along Lazaretto Creek. Tybee Fire Department responded to the call just before 1300 hrs. When firefighters arrived, Chief Skip Sasser said the cabin of the 70-foot boat was engulfed in flames. It took Tybee firefighters, with the assistance of Southside Fire/EMS, about an hour to get the blaze under control. Sasser said the boat's owner, John Coursey, told him workers had been welding near the cabin just before noon. Everything was fine when they went for lunch, Coursey told Sasser. Sasser said the blaze burned extremely hot, which caused significant damage, but the boat is still seaworthy and posed no risk to the water. "There wasn't any damage to the engine or to the fuel," Sasser said. "It's not in any danger of sinking."

LT BIANCA (Italy)

London, Jan 30 — Container Carrier *LT Bianca* sailed Piraeus Jan 28 for Thessaloniki.

MAERSK DELFT (U.K.)

Dover, Jan 30 — Passenger ro/ro *Maersk Delft* (36636 gt, built 2006) while returning to Dover from Dunkirk reported to Dover port Control at 1503 yesterday that only one of its four engines was operating. At the same time *Maersk Delft* ordered tug assistance. At 1506 hrs eight cables off Dover Eastern entrance vessel blacked out. At 1513 hrs vessel anchored seven and a half cables off Dover Eastern entrance. At 1535 hrs tug *Dauntless* alongside. At 1640 hrs a second tug was requested. At 1705 hrs tug *Doughty* was alongside. At 1713 hrs Port of Dover pilot on board. At 1810 hrs both tugs made fast and anchor weighed and entry commenced as a dead ship. At 1850 hrs first lines ashore Dover Eastern docks, berth No.1. At 1937 hrs all fast. Diagnosis was engine control system failure. Repair were effected overnight and vessel recommenced normal service to Dunkirk at 0810 today. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARCO POLO 168 (Indonesia)

London, Feb 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Provincial authorities, businesses and residents on the coast of central Quang Nam are scrambling to deal with an oil spill from a wrecked Indonesia-registered vessel, with little success so far. Pontoon *Marco Polo 168* (3140 gt, built 2004), destined to China, "wrecked" on rocks offshore 23 days ago near the Cham Island, some 22 nautical miles off Quang Nam province, leading to the oil spill. People living from Quang Nam's Dien Ban district to Hoi An town have been badly hit by the spill, as yesterday an oil slick has drifted from sea to the coastal vicinity. Quang Nam authorities have dispatched personnel to the scene to tackle the problem, but they admitted late yesterday that the clean-up was moving at "a snail's pace" based on the large volume leaked. The oil had curdled and mixed with the sand, further hampering clean-up efforts. The authorities also warned hotels nearby, who were digging holes to bury the curdled oil, to immediately stop doing so, saying it would have a serious effect on the local ecosystem and environment. Da Nang's beaches were also affected by the spill but with less damage. The Quang Nam provincial coastguard has impounded the Indonesian tug *NOV Terus Daya 21* (227 gt, built 2006), which was towing the barge at the time of the incident. Under Vietnamese law, the vessel can be held pending compensation from the owner for the impact of the incident.

MARGARET ANN (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated today, states: The master of tug *Margaret Ann* that sank in Lake Michigan in 2005 has been indicted on

four charges by a federal grand jury. Gary O. Burnham, 52, of Michigan City, is accused of forging his mariner's license, neglect of duty by a seaman and negligently causing the discharge of a hazardous substance. On Mar 31, 2005, *Margaret Ann* sank in Lake Michigan while towing tow barges not too far from Hammond. All the boat's crew members were safely recovered, but several had to be rescued from frigid water. *Margaret Ann* had been towing two barges loaded with coke. Both barges were cut loose from *Margaret Ann* before sinking and were recovered and returned safely. A Coast Guard investigation of the incident turned up the evidence that led to the charges, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Donald Schmid. Burnham, a licensed master from 1989 to 1999, is alleged not to have renewed his license but to have forged a license provided to his employer, Holly Marine. He is alleged to have operated on that forged license for about three years. In the neglect of duty charge, Burnham is accused of failing to keep a proper watch of the tow lines and failing to use tow lines of proper length. As a result, the tow lines tripped *Margaret Ann* and caused the boat to be pulled onto its side and eventually sink, placing the crew in danger of serious injury or death. In addition, Burnham is accused by his alleged negligence to have caused the discharge of 250 gallons of diesel fuel into the lake. The spill could have been much worse, up to 3,000 gallons, except that Holly Marine, owner of the boat, sent in divers to seal the fuel tanks, according to officials. The company is reported to have suffered losses of close to \$1 million in damage to the boat, cleanup costs and lost revenues. Burnham is scheduled for trial beginning Apr 16 in federal court. He is free on an unsecured bond after making an initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Christopher O. Nuechterlein. Federal court personnel say this is the first maritime case of this type they recall having in the local court.

MARIA LOURDES (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 26 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported Jan 25, that general cargo *Maria Lourdes* (639 gt, built 1979) remains grounded off Port Sula. *Maria Lourdes*, carrying a cargo of copra, sought shelter at Port Sula, a protected inlet 10 miles north-northeast of Legazpi port on Nov 30. The vessel hoped to ride out the passing of tropical storm "Durian" but strong waves broke its anchor chain and the vessel was dragged by powerful currents to the shores of Port Sula. The shipowner is now attempting to refloat the vessel although no details on its progress is available. *Maria Lourdes* is owned and operated by Tabaco City-based Candano Shipping Lines. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

MAYOR ANDREW BROADDUS (U.S.A.)

See *Amber Brittany*.

MELEKHOVO (Russia)

Vladivostok, Jan 31 — Fishing (general) *Melekhovo* completed repairs and sailed Vladivostok on Jan 24. On Jan 29 the vessel returned to Vladivostok. From information received from the superintendent, the vessel sustained damage to main engine, shells of the seventh main journal shifted. — Lloyd's Agents.

MER (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jan 27 — General cargo *Mer* sailed Terneuzen Jan 25 for Bristol.

MIKHAIL DUDIN (Malta)

London, Jan 27 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Russian Coast Guard Latvia received emergency call from general cargo *Mikhail Dudin* (2319 gt, built 1996) St. Petersburg to Szczecin, cargo aluminium 2858 tons, at 1800, local time, Jan 26 with propeller damage, drifting towards shore with strong south-west wind, 16 nautical miles from Ventspils port. Tug from Ventspils dispatched, at 0330, today and towed the vessel to Ventspils. No injuries, no spill, no other damages except propeller.

London, Feb 1 — Following received from Riga MRCC, timed 1813, UTC, Jan 31: General cargo *Mikhail Dudin* had main engine damage in Irbe Strait, lat 57 41 01N, long 20 40 00E, at 1536, UTC, Jan 26. The vessel called Riga Rescue Radio/Riga MRCC, requesting towing assistance. At 0110, Jan 27, tug *Ventspils* towed vessel into the port of Ventspils.

MOGAMIGAWA (Japan)

London, Jan 29 — A press report, dated today, states: The captain of submarine *Newport News* has been relieved of command. Rear Admiral Douglas McAneny lost confidence in Commander Matthew A. Weingart's ability to command the submarine, based in Norfolk, VA, according to a Navy spokesman. On Jan 8, *Newport News* collided with crude oil tanker *Mogamigawa*. No mariners or sailors were injured, and the submarine is now in port in Bahrain for temporary repairs. The Navy said today the submarine will return to the United States once those repairs are complete, so permanent repairs can be carried out. Legal and safety mishap investigations have not been completed.

MSC NAPOLI (U.K.)

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Volkswagen South Africa said on Thursday it was cutting back on production after losing car parts on a ship grounded off the southern English coast. Looters made away with everything from car parts to BMW motorbikes and nappies as wreckage littered the beach after Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* was purposely grounded last Saturday to prevent it sinking at sea amid storms. The vessel was supposed to unload almost half of its 2,400 containers at South African ports in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Durban, said Mike Vanhear, Johannesburg's manager for

MSC, one of the world's largest shipping lines. The total value of the cargo was still to be calculated, he said. Volkswagen South Africa said it would shut production at its South African plant every Friday for at least the next four weeks after vehicle parts needed for four car models, the City Golf, Polo, Golf and Jetta, were lost, a company spokeswoman said. The reduced production would affect about two thirds of Volkswagen's 6,500 domestic workforce, the spokeswoman said. She declined to say whether the change would disturb sales. "We will review the situation on an ongoing basis," she said. Also in the beached containers were dozens of oak barrels on their way to South African wineries, said Dalene Steyn, market manager of Wines of South Africa. The shipment loss comes as vineyards prepare to harvest grapes by early February and could disrupt production of some top quality wines, Steyn said. "Some producers will be affected, yes definitely," she said. Acerinox, the Spanish owner of South African steel maker Columbus Stainless, said 160 tonnes of nickel was on board the ship. BMW South Africa said it had 39 motorbikes and back-up vehicle parts on board. Some of the containers were also carrying the belongings of people emigrating to South Africa, officials said. A search is still underway to recover more than lost 30 containers while some 70 have been found, according to London's Zodiac Maritime Agencies, managers of the ship.

London, Jan 26 — Zodiac Maritime Agencies Ltd of London, managers of the container vessel *MSC Napoli*, report that over one-third of the vessel's fuel has now been removed. Pumping continues round-the-clock. By 0500 hrs today (Jan 26) 1,470 tonnes had been transferred to the lightering tanker *Forth Fisher*. *MSC Napoli* has four main fuel tanks and two smaller tanks. The oil removal currently focuses on fuel tanks No. 6 and No. 5, portside. Due to the vessel's list, the two main starboard fuel tanks are under water and will be more difficult to reach. For this reason a special "hot-tap" system has been prepared, to penetrate the submerged tanks and recover the oil. At least another week will be required to recover all fuel. Meanwhile, preparations are well advanced to begin the discharge of containers from the *MSC Napoli* during the weekend. The large cargo discharge barge *Bigfoot*, equipped with two cranes (500 tonnes lift capacity and 250 tonnes lift capacity), is expected to arrive off Branscombe during this evening. Its role is to lift off containers and place them on board the second barge, *Boa Barge 21*, which is already on site. This "shuttle barge" will land the discharged containers at Portland. There are two priorities for container discharge: to recover those containers designed for carriage of chemicals and, secondly, to lighten the vessel and so reduce stresses on the hull. The discharge operation will commence at the stern, with the big barge moored

to form the cross of a "T" with the *MSC Napoli*. This will position the barge well clear of the *Forth Fisher*, which is moored to the portside. The salvage team confirms that the vessel's main fuel tanks remain intact. There is a limited release of oil from the vessel's engine-room and it remains boomed as a precautionary measure. The total oil loss is estimated at around 60-100 tonnes, with oiling sporadic and light and limited to a four mile stretch of shoreline. This oil is being removed manually. Offshore, the personnel working on *MSC Napoli* are using the salvage vessel *Union Beaver* as a floating base. Temporary repairs are under way on board *MSC Napoli*. The salvage team is using special resin to fill cracks and pumps are being used to remove water from cargo holds 3 and 4. The *MSC Napoli* was carrying 2,394 containers, of which 103 were lost, most during last week's violent storm. Work continues to recover the containers and 56 have now been accounted for. A vessel equipped with sidescan sonar continues to search for the remaining containers. Weather conditions at the scene remain favourable, with a high pressure system expected to persist until Monday at least. Winds are light and from the north and north west. The vessel is located in a relatively sheltered position.

London, Jan 27 — The BBC reported today: An operation is under way to save the remaining containers from the beached Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* off south Devon. Scavengers have been warned by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency that they face arrest if they take goods from the ship that wash up ashore. Salvage teams are continuing to pump out the ship's fuel tanks containing 3,000 tonnes of oil. Meanwhile, the RSPCA said most of the oil-covered birds it has found may die. The organisation said the 760 birds in its care covered with oil spilled from *MSC Napoli* have "only a slim chance of survival". The birds, which are mainly guillemots, have now been taken to the RSPCA's West Hatch Wildlife Centre near Taunton, Somerset. It thought that more than 1,000 birds have been rescued since the ship was grounded. A large crane barge will move alongside *MSC Napoli*, today, to start the difficult and lengthy job of lifting off the remaining 2,394 containers still on board. A depot is being set up locally for anyone wanting to return items already taken from the beach. Two specialist crane barges are sailing from the Netherlands to join the salvage operation. The 200 tonnes of oil which had leaked into the sea has now been treated. But officials said, yesterday, it could take another week for all the fuel to be pumped to a second vessel from two of the ship's fuel tanks, which still remain under water.

London, Jan 27 — Zodiac Maritime Agencies Ltd of London, managers of the Container Carrier *MSC Napoli*, report that final preparations are now under way to commence the discharge

of containers from the vessel. The large, crane-equipped barge *Bigfoot 1* arrived off Branscombe yesterday. The salvage team will moor the barge alongside the *MSC Napoli* during the course of today. Work will then begin, to lighten the beached vessel by removing containers. Simultaneously, work will continue on the ship-to-ship transfer of fuel from the *MSC Napoli*. This is a round-the-clock operation. By 1700, yesterday, 1,663 tonnes of fuel had been transferred to the lightering tanker *Forth Fisher*. This represents over 45% of the total fuel on board. The oil removal continues to focus on fuel tanks No. 6 and No. 5, portside. Due to the vessel's starboard list (which has reduced to 16 deg. at High Water and 13 deg. at Low Water), the two main starboard fuel tanks are submerged and are much more difficult to reach. For this reason a special "hot-tap" system has been mobilised, to penetrate the submerged tanks and recover the oil. Divers are now preparing to use the hot-tap system, which must be installed underwater, in confined spaces. It is hoped to start pumping from the submerged tanks during the weekend. At least another week will be required to recover all fuel. The large cargo discharge barge *Bigfoot 1* is equipped with two cranes (500 tonnes lift capacity and 250 tonnes lift capacity). The larger crane will lift off containers. The second crane will then transfer these containers to another barge, *Boa Barge 21*. This shuttle barge will land the discharged containers at Portland. The salvage team has been reinforced, to optimise the discharge operation. Containers designed for carriage of chemicals will be lifted off as a priority. Overall, the discharge of containers has been planned to reduce stresses on *MSC Napoli's* hull. The discharge work will concentrate on the stern of the vessel. The big barge is being moored to form the cross of a "T" with *MSC Napoli's* stern. This positions the barge well clear of *Forth Fisher*, which is moored to the portside. The latest report from the salvage team confirms that the vessel's main fuel tanks remain intact. There has been a limited release of oil from the vessel's engine-room. *MSC Napoli* remains boomed as a precautionary measure. The total oil loss has been estimated at around 60-100 tonnes, with oiling sporadic and light and limited to a 4 mile stretch of shoreline. Work continues on the shore to remove this oil manually. Offshore, temporary repairs continue on board *MSC Napoli*, with the salvage team using special resin to fill cracks. Pumps are removing water from cargo holds 3 and 4. The vessel was carrying 2,394 containers, of which 103 were lost. Work continues to recover containers. A total of 56 have now been accounted for. A vessel equipped with sidescan sonar is tasked with searching for the outstanding containers. Weather conditions at the scene remain favourable, with a high pressure system expected to persist

until Tuesday (Jan 30) at least. Winds are light and from the north and north west.

London, Jan 28 — Zodiac Maritime Agencies Ltd of London, managers of the Container Carrier *MSC Napoli*, report that operations will commence today to discharge containers from the vessel. The large crane barge *Bigfoot 1* has been moored alongside *MSC Napoli*. The salvage team will lighten the beached vessel by removing containers. These containers are to be landed at Portland by a second, "shuttle" barge, *Boa Barge 21*. Simultaneously, excellent progress is being made by SMIT in progressing the ship-to-ship transfer of fuel from *MSC Napoli*. Two of the main fuel tanks (Nos. 5 and 6 on the portside) were emptied at 1530, yesterday, following the transfer of 1,830 tonnes of fuel to the tanker *Forth Fisher*. Half of the fuel oil on board has now been removed. During yesterday a team of salvage divers worked to secure discharge hoses to the two main starboard fuel tanks. It is hoped that pumping from fuel tank Nos. 5 and 6 starboard will begin today and that the ship-to-ship transfer will continue to progress rapidly during the coming week. The weather outlook remains favourable for at least the next few days. The removal of containers will be progressed in such a way as to reduce stresses on its hull. Initially, the discharge operation will concentrate on containers at the stern of the vessel. There has been a limited leakage of oil from the vessel's flooded engine-room and several holds. Special skimmers are being used to remove this oil. Pumps are also working in these spaces.

London, Jan 28 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 1536, UTC: Container Carrier *MSC Napoli*: Pollution situation at 0900, UTC, today: Slick No 1: Position lat 50 37N, long 03 02W, length 1.5 km, width 0.03 kilometres, coverage 70%, area 0.315 square kilometres. Estimated quantity: Minimum 0.037422 tonnes, maximum 0.41139 tonnes. Slick No 2: Position lat 50 39.3N, long 03 02.2W, length 1 kilometre, width 0.06 kilometres, coverage 70%, area 0.042 square kilometres. Estimated quantity: Minimum 0.006048 tonnes, maximum 0.09156 tonnes. Slick No 3: Position lat 50 39.6N, long 03 07.4W, length 2 kilometres, width 0.09 kilometres, coverage 40%, area 0.072 square kilometres. Estimated quantity: Minimum 0.003816 tonnes, maximum 0.03852 tonnes. Slick No 4: Position lat 50 36.9N, long 02 57.3W, length 0.7 kilometres, width 0.03 kilometres, coverage 50%, area 0.0105 square kilometres. Estimated quantity: Minimum 0.0004158 tonnes, maximum 0.0031185 tonnes. Breakdown of slicks: No 1: Sheen 20%, rainbow 60%, metallic 20%. No 2: Sheen 60%, rainbow 40%. No 3: Sheen 95%, rainbow 5%. No 4: Sheen 99%, emulsified 1%.

London, Jan 30 — Following received from Zodiac Maritime Agencies Ltd.,

managers of container carrier *MSC Napoli*, dated today: Zodiac Maritime Agencies Ltd of London, managers of the container vessel *MSC Napoli*, report that lifting work began yesterday at 1130, UTC, to discharge containers from the vessel. The large crane barge *Bigfoot 1* began lightering the vessel by removing containers from the portside stern position. Fifteen containers were offloaded during the afternoon. Discharged containers will be landed at Portland by a second, "shuttle" barge, *Boa Barge 21*. Simultaneously, the SMIT salvage team continues to remove fuel from *MSC Napoli*. Two of the main fuel tanks (Nos. 5 and 6 on the portside) were emptied during Saturday (Jan 27). Pumping now concentrates on Tank No. 5 starboard. Pumping from this submerged tank began at 1645, UTC, yesterday and will continue round-the-clock. A water injection system is being used to achieve a satisfactory pumping rate. By 0800, UTC, today, 2,105 tonnes of fuel had been transferred from the ship to the tanker *Forth Fisher*. This represents nearly 60% of the total contents of the fuel tanks. There has been a limited leakage of oil from the vessel's flooded engine-room and several holds. Special skimmers remain in use to recover this oil. Pumps are also working to control flooding in these spaces. Work continues to recover the 103 lost containers. A total of 57 have now been accounted for. A vessel equipped with sidescan sonar continues to search for the outstanding containers. The weather outlook at the scene remains favourable, with the good conditions forecast to persist until Friday (Feb 2) at least.

London, Jan 31 — Following received from Zodiac Maritime Agencies Ltd, managers of container carrier *MSC Napoli*, dated today: Update, Jan 31: Fifteen containers were removed during Monday afternoon and 28 containers were recovered from the vessel's main deck yesterday, making a total of 43 containers recovered. Pumping continues from tank No 5 starboard. At 0800 today, total fuel recovered to date: 2,600 tonnes which is over 70% of the 3,600 tonnes on board at the time of the incident. Favourable weather conditions are forecast to persist until Sunday (Feb 4) at least.

London, Jan 31 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 1433, UTC: Container Carrier *MSC Napoli*: Pollution situation at 0830, UTC, today: Slick No.1: Position lat 50 40.1N, long 03 09.3W, length 4.5 Km, width 0.8 Km, coverage 60%, area 2.16 Sq.Km. Estimated quantity: Min 0.11448 tonnes(cu.m.). Slick No. 2: Position lat 50 37.4N, long 03 06.2W, length 1.0 Km, width 0.06 Km, coverage 50%, area 0.3 Sq.Km. Estimated quantity: Min 0.0714 tonnes (cu.m.). Slick No.3: Position lat 50 39N, long 03 01W, length 2.5 Km, width 0.7 Km, coverage 60%, area 1.05 Sq.Km. Estimated quantity: Min 0.1239 tonnes (cu.m.)

London, Feb 1 — Following received from Zodiac Maritime Agencies Ltd, managers of container carrier *MSC Napoli*, dated today: Update Feb 1: Thirty-seven containers were recovered from vessel's main deck yesterday, making the total recovered 80. Fuel: Pumping continues from No.5 tank starboard. At 0800 today, total fuel recovered to date 2,900 tonnes.

MURAT BEY (Turkey)

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Water tanker *Murat Bey* (291 gt, built 1985) has run aground some 30 metres off the coast at the Avclar district of Istanbul early today. The water carrier grounded as a result of strong winds and heavy seas. Coastal rescue teams were unable to conduct salvage operations due to the high waves and offered to evacuate the crew on board. The crew of five preferred to stay with the vessel and rescue efforts are to start as soon as sea condition make it possible.

London, Jan 30 — Following received from Ankara MRCC, timed 1355, UTC: Water tanker *Murat Bey* has been refloated and is now in port for repairs.

NAN SHAN (Hong Kong)

London, Feb 1 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Bulker *Nan Shan* (23536 gt, built 1981) was towed to Gibraltar Jan 31 by the Spanish tug *Punta Tarifa* after sustaining engine problems which left it dead in the water. The tow was passed onto the local tugs *Mumbles*, *Egerton*, *Sun Swale* and the MoD tug *MSG Capable*.

NIJORD (Malta)

Riga, Jan 26 — General cargo *Nijord* was stranded, allegedly due to crew consuming alcohol. Vessel was refloated and towed to Ventspils, where crew was changed. It was subsequently towed to Riga Shipyard. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 31 — General cargo *Nijord* arrived Riga Jan 24.

London, Feb 1 — Following received from Riga MRCC, timed 1813, UTC, Jan 31: The grounding position of general cargo *Nijord* at 2034, UTC, Jan 21 was lat 57 39 20N, long 22 10 30E.

NIKAR G. (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 28 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Nikar G.* (2301 gt, built 2000) ran into the embankment of the Kiel Canal close to Audorf, today. The following general cargo *Asko* (3183 gt, built 2005) was not able to stop and ran into the vessel. The canal traffic was completely stopped until the situation was cleared. At 1100 hrs, the *Nikar G.* was refloated and able to proceed to Kiel.

London, Jan 28 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Nikar G.* berthed in the North Harbour of Kiel this afternoon for investigations. It has visible damage to the deck crane and superstructure.

London, Jan 29 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: general cargo *Nikar G.* is to be repaired, if possible, by its crew in Kiel. When struck by general cargo *Asko*, on Jan 28, its crane smashed against the deck house. *Nikar G.* is to be inspected by Germanischer Lloyd. The *Asko* proceeded to Brunsbütel.

NIKOLAY ZABOLOTSKIY (Ukraine)

London, Jan 30 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS general cargo *Nikolay Zabolotskiy* was reported 35.6 nautical miles from Luminitza, Romania, in lat 44 36 24.84N, long 29 10 05.46E, at 2022, UTC, Jan 29, course 038 deg, speed 6.1 knots.

NORDKAPP (NIS)

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Nordkapp* (11386 gt, built 1996) was carrying 76 crew and 295 passengers, 12 of them Australian, when it ran aground just off Deception Island about 1430, local time, Jan 30 (0530, AEDT, Jan 31). Deception Island is part of the South Shetland Islands, which are about 120 kilometres from the Antarctic peninsula. No one was injured and the ship was able to free itself under its own power, proceeded and anchored in Whalers Bay, Deception Island reported Australian sales agency MyPlanet, on behalf of the company that operates the vessel, the Hurtigruten Group. There is no danger to passengers, crew, the environment or the vessel. The Hurtigruten spokesperson, Mr Sten Lillebo, has confirmed that he has been in contact with the people on board and that everything is calm on board. *Nordkapp* is anchored in the sheltered harbour of Whalers Bay and efforts are being made to transfer passengers onto sister ship, passenger ro/ro *Nordnorge*, which has 30 more Australian passengers on board. "The weather conditions in the area are good and the situation is under control. All passengers will be transported back to Ushuaia, in southern Argentina, with the help of *Nordnorge* and other vessels in the vicinity," MyPlanet said. *Nordnorge* is expected to reach *Nordkapp* by 1800, AEDT, MyPlanet said. The families of the Australian passengers have all been contacted this morning by MyPlanet or travel agents.

London, Jan 31 — Passenger ro/ro *Nordkapp* damaged two bunker tanks when she ran aground off Deception Island.

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Nordkapp*, owned by Hurtigruten Group, with 370 people on board briefly ran aground near Deception Island in Antarctica yesterday. Hurtigruten said in a statement today that *Nordkapp* quickly refloated itself after the incident, during which none of the 294 passengers or 76 crew was injured. "No spillage from the ship has been discovered," it said, but added it had laid out oil spill protection equipment as safety routines demand.

Hurtigruten said it was too early to estimate the direct economic consequence of the incident but the company assumed *Nordkapp's* last three sailings planned for this season in Antarctica would be cancelled. The vessel is now anchored at Whalers Bay just off Deception Island and will now continue towards Ushuaia in the company of another ship, Hurtigruten said. It said sister vessel, passenger ro/ro *Nordnorge*, would arrive before noon today, to transport all passengers to Argentina. "The situation is under control and the passengers fully informed of the situation," it said.

London, Jan 31 — Following received from operators of passenger ro/ro *Nordkapp*: Yesterday, during the afternoon transit through Neptunes Bellows into the caldera at Deception Island, our vessel, passenger ro/ro *Nordkapp*, touched bottom at the entrance and incurred some damage to the vessels hull. *Nordkapp* is currently safely anchored at Whaler's Bay and key personnel are assessing the situation. There is no current need for any assistance from any other vessel or stations. Hurtigruten's own vessel, *Nordnorge* is en route to Deception now and will carry the 280 passengers and staff back to Ushuaia. Booms have been deployed around the affected area as a preventive measure. No oil leak or environmental damage has occurred. All passengers on board have been briefed of the situation and are in good spirits. Our Expedition Leader, Mr Ian Shaw will advise all vessels operating in the area of the situation. *Nordkapp* will remain at Whalers Bay waiting for good weather conditions to cross the Drake Passage back to Ushuaia.

London, Feb 1 — Royal Navy divers from ice patrol vessel *HMS Endurance* are due to inspect the hull of passenger ro/ro *Nordkapp*, which briefly ran aground near Deception Island in Antarctica on Tuesday (Jan 30). They will aid in assessing damage to the ship. A spokeswoman for Hurtigruten said yesterday it was too early to assess the cause of the accident but there was no mechanical failure. Oil protection equipment has been deployed but there had been no leakage of oil from the ship according to the cruise company. The accident has forced the cruise company to cancel three further Antarctic cruises by *Nordkapp*. The spokeswoman said it was too early to assess the financial impact of this as the company would be trying to place disappointed passengers on another vessel and the extent of damage had yet to be established. The priority in the first instance was to assess the extent of the damage. No decision has yet been taken by the cruise company as to where repairs to the vessel will take place. Damage assessments will be considered by the vessel's classification society.

London, Feb 1 — A Royal Navy press release, dated today, states: Portsmouth-based Royal Navy ice patrol ship *HMS Endurance* has gone to the assistance of passenger ro/ro

Nordkapp after grounding at Deception Island off the Antarctic peninsula. It is understood that no-one was injured in the incident and the ship is safely at anchor. *Endurance*, operating in the Erebus and Terror Gulf some 150 nautical miles away, responded to *Nordkapp's* call for assistance of a dive team to inspect the damage and after an overnight passage reached the ship anchored in Whalers Bay with booms rigged as a precaution against pollution. One of *Endurance's* Lynx helicopters was sent ahead to establish the level of assistance required, and once the ship arrived its seaboot was sent to rendezvous with *Nordkapp*. *Nordkapp's* sistership *Nordnorge* is also on the scene and is presently transferring the passengers. Some 50 non-essential crew are due to be transferred to *Endurance* in due course. Once damage has been assessed, a plan will be developed to resolve the situation taking into account the special environmental circumstances of the area.

NORRONA (Faroe Islands)

London, Feb 1 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Understand that passenger ro/ro *Norrøna* is to leave the drydock at Blohm & Voss, following repairs to the bowthrusters, at 1600 hrs, on Feb 2 and is to leave Hamburg at 2030 hrs, same day.

NOV TERUS DAYA 21 (Indonesia)

See *Marco Polo 168*.

OELAND (Cyprus)

London, Jan 26 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Oeland* (3925 gt, built 2002) had a total machine failure in the Kiel Canal at 1515, Jan 26. The accident happened at canal kilometre 25 close to Fischerhütte. The crew succeeded in tying up the drifting vessel at canal pilings. Two tugs from Brunsbütel arrived at 1900 hrs and towed the vessel to the communal harbour in Brunsbütel during the night.

London, Jan 26 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Oeland* proceeded to Kiel where it berthed in the North Harbour. (Note — *Oeland* sailed Flushing, for Raahe, 1030, Jan 24 and passed Brunsbütel 1449, Jan 25, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was stationary in lat 54 22 05N, long 10 08 28E, at 1816, UTC, today.)

London, Jan 31 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Oeland* was reported 25 nautical miles from Visby, in lat 58 02 50.69N, long 18 24 32.97E, at 1014, UTC, Jan 28, course 31.7 deg, speed 11.9 knots.

ORIENT WIND (Cambodia)

Vladivostok, Jan 30 — Repairs to general cargo *Orient Wind* were completed on Jan 16. A metal patch with porous rubber was installed by divers. Occasional Survey by GMB was held on Jan 18. Basing on its results, the vessel's operation was

permitted until Jul 26, when permanent repair in dry-dock. The vessel is presently under loading, which is expected to be completed today. Next port was advised as Taysang, IVO Shanghai, China. — Lloyd's Agents.

PELOPONESIAN PRIDE (Panama)

Portsmouth, UK, Jan 27 — Container Carrier *Peloponesian Pride* (46410 gt, built 1986) was damaged by the effects of an explosion when the Sri Lankan Navy hit a Tamil Tigers rebel boat off Colombo today. A Navy spokesman said: "A container burst open and came off its original position as a result of the shockwaves." He added that the vessel was not hit by naval fire. *Peloponesian Pride*, which last sailed from Jeddah, was heading for a berth in Colombo port, the spokesman said. — Correspondent.

Colombo, Jan 27 — Military spokesman Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe said doors of several cargo containers on board a merchant vessel (container carrier *Peloponesian Pride*) had opened apparently due to an explosion during the Sri Lankan Navy's operation against three Tamil Tiger rebel boats today. The contents of the containers had spilled onto the vessel's deck but the ship itself was fine. — Reuters.

PERE CHARLES (Republic of Ireland)

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: There is still no sign of the fishermen missing for more than a fortnight after their trawler *Pere Charles* sank off the Waterford Coast. Naval divers completed four dives at *Pere Charles* off Dunmore East and searched most of the vessel. The divers searched the eating area, the accommodation area, most of the sheltered deck and most of the fish hold but have nothing to report.

PING YANG NO.8 (Belize)

Yokohama, Jan 31 — General cargo *Ping Yang No.8*, with scrap, en route from Funabashi, Chiba Prefecture, to Haimen, China, had fire in her hold in a position lat 34 11N, long 137 38E, at 1150, Jan 23. All crew members have been rescued. The fire has not come under control yet and she has been balanced with the support of tugs. Chinese tugs will be arranged for tow. — Lloyd's Agents.

PIPO (Albania)

Piraeus, Jan 29 — General cargo *Pipo* still remains aground at Gavdo. No salvage operations have been effected, to the current date. The local port authorities have not been contacted by the vessel's owners/managers. It appears that the vessel has been abandoned. — Lloyd's Agents.

PRINSESSE RAGNHILD (Norway)

Bergen, Jan 26 — Passenger ro/ro *Prinsesse Ragnhild* is still in a shipyard in Bergen. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Bergen, Jan 26 — Understand that passenger ro/ro *Prinsesse Ragnhild* will leave the yard today and resume the normal route as from this afternoon. — Lloyd's Agents.

PUENTE AMERICA (Argentina)

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: All crewmembers of fishing (general) *Puente America* (1468 gt, built 1987) which caught fire and was abandoned early this morning off the coast of Santa Cruz province, north of the Falkland Islands have been rescued, reports the Argentine Coast Guard. *Puente America* with 46 crew on board and positioned 110 nautical miles from Puerto Deseado begun radioing for help after a fire which apparently begun in one of the holds turned out of control. A helicopter, a sanitary support aircraft and a Coast Guard vessel took off for the stranded vessel following further distress calls from neighbouring fishing *Carolina P.* In a first operation 38 of the 46 crewmembers jumped into zodiacs and were rescued by *Carolina P.*, with the master and seven other members remaining on board in an attempt to extinguish the fire. However by mid morning it was evident that the fire was out of control and the remaining crew abandoned efforts and were also rescued. According to the latest report a larger Argentine Coast Guard vessel equipped to combat fire is on its way with the purpose of salvaging *Puente America*. "It's not an easy task in the high seas, but we must attempt it," said Captain Miguel Angel Reyes from the Coast Guard, although admitting the fishing could be a total loss given the intensity and damages caused by the fire.

London, Jan 27 — Following navigation warning issued today, states: Fishing (general) *Puente America* adrift in lat 47 10S, long 63 23W, Jan 26.

London, Jan 31 — Following navigation warning issued Jan 30, states: Fishing (general) *Puente America* adrift in lat 47 19.6S, long 62 21W.

London, Feb 1 — Following notice to mariners issued Jan 31: Fishing (general) *Puente America* sunk in lat 47 17.57S, long 61 27.38W.

PXXI

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: General cargo *Edinburgh* arrived Tristan da Cunha Jan 19, from Cape Town, although harbour condition were favourable it did not come to the settlement first to discharge the passengers, but went to the back of the island, Tripot Bay, to unload materials and pump fuel to the tug *De Hong* (which conducting the operation to refloat oil platform *A Turtle*, ex *PXXI*).

QUINSAM (Canada)

London, Jan 29 — A press report, dated today, states: BC Ferries released the findings of its internal investigation into the Jan 9 incident in which roll on roll off *Quinsam*

unexpectedly pulled away from the dock at the Nanaimo Harbour terminal, resulting in a vehicle rolling off the ramp. The Divisional Inquiry findings concluded that no mechanical, electrical, or system faults were identified as affecting the function of the vessel's propulsion system, either immediately upon the occurrence of the incident or during subsequent inspections and testing. The Divisional Inquiry panel, which included representatives from both management and the BC Ferry and Marine Workers' Union, therefore concluded that human factors probably contributed to the occurrence of the incident, and the report detailed two possible scenarios. The report also made 16 recommendations on operational safety improvements that will be acted upon immediately.

RAVANDA (Turkey)

London, Jan 27 — General cargo *Ravanda* arrived Koper Jan 20 and sailed Jan 24.

REBECCA (Marshall Islands)

London, Jan 29 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1455, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Rebecca* (53341 gt, built 1994) grounded near the Texas City Light 7, at 1930, UTC, Jan 27. No damage or pollution reported. Vessel is now at anchor at the fairway anchorage under restraint pending class report. (Note — *Rebecca* sailed Texas City 1430, Jan 23 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was at anchor in lat 29 13 05N, long 94 38 45W, at 1454, UTC, today.)

London, Jan 31 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1505, UTC: The restraining order on crude oil tanker *Rebecca* has been lifted. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Rebecca* was in lat 29 04 39N, long 94 32 10W, at 2356, UTC, Jan 29, speed 13.5 knots, course 146 degrees.)

RMS KIEL (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 26 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, part containerised general car *RMS Kiel* is still stationary at Wilhelmshaven as of 0914, UTC, today.

RMS SETLARK (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Gijon, Jan 28 — General cargo *RMS Setlark* (1281 gt, built 1983) arrived Aviles at around 1200, Jan 27 under tow of tug *Taktow*. — Lloyd's Agents.

ROBERTA TABOR (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated today, states: The Army Corps of Engineers says work continues to free one of the barges stranded near gate 2 of the McAlpine dam. It's the last of the four barges that broke loose on Jan 16 from a tow (tug *Roberta Tabor*) that had just cleared the locks. A crane mount on the dam is being used to free the barge.

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers continued yesterday to try to free a barge (tow of tug *Roberta Tabor*) stuck near Gate 2

at McAlpine Dam but it was uncertain when the task might be completed. The salvage team was executing a plan approved by the Army Corps of Engineers to retrieve the barge. The plan calls for using a corps-provided crane mounted on the dam to lower workers in a bucket to the barge. The workers are using acetylene torches to try to cut the barge free, corps spokesman Bob Faletti said. When the barge is cut loose it is expected to wash downstream, through the dam, where it is to be recovered by a crane-mounted barge and lifted from the river. The barge is owned by American River Transportation of Decatur, Ill. It has hired marine surveyor Wes Sanders to oversee the salvage operation.

ROERBORG (Netherlands)

Amsterdam, Feb 1 — Container Carrier *Roerborg* is currently at Amsterdam shipdock (Ligplaats 2.) — KVSA Rapportage.

ROMMEL (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 30 — The Philippine Coast Guard have reported that refloating operations on the sunken tug *Rommel* have resumed, after being postponed for several days last week because of rough seas. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ROWAN M.MCALLISTER (U.S.A.)

See *George Morris*.
George Morris.

SAFMARINE AGULHAS (Liberia)

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Mammoet Salvage and its South African counterparts have begun removing the wreck of Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* off East London port. In the last four weeks, the salvage team was busy with preparations for the wreck removal operation. These included the building of ground chain pullers and re-enforcing the south break water. All portal cranes are operational and deployed for removing steel sections of the ship and discharging containers with the support of divers. Today the removal of the forward part of the ship has progressed well. The ship had broken into two after months of being pounded by heavy seas. The accommodation and one of the three ship cranes have already been removed. The team consists of 12 salvage experts from Netherlands and a South African work force. According to the salvage company, all pollutants have been removed from the forward section of the ship. The removal of the forward part of the broken vessel is expected to be finished tomorrow evening.

London, Jan 29 — A press report, dated today, states: With the aid of four hydraulic pullers firmly anchored on dry land, the forward section Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* has been pulled clear of the sea. The job of hauling the heavy hull onto dry land took the best part of one night and most of the following day. Even then the sea tried its best not to give

up its victim, with the hull becoming stuck on the seabed and requiring salvors to pump air into the remains of the ships holds to aid buoyancy and free up the vessel. The contract is expected to be complete by April.

SAVA LAKE (Latvia)

Copenhagen, Jan 25 — General cargo *Sava Lake* was taken off the sandbank at the entrance to Randers fjord at midday today. The job was done by Danish Bjergning / Bugsering using their tug *Asterix*. *Sava Lake* was escorted to Randers for a divers inspection. — Correspondent.

London, Jan 31 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1110, UTC: General cargo *Sava Lake* is now discharging at Randers, after which, classification society will carry out a damage inspection.

Aarhus, Jan 31 — General cargo *Sava Lake*: Discharging of cargo will complete today. The vessel is detained until class inspection. — Lloyd's Agents.

Aarhus, Jan 31 — General cargo *Sava Lake* sailed Randers Jan 31 bound for Klaipeda, for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA AHMED (Liberia)

Piraeus, Jan 29 — Vehicle carrier *Sea Ahmed* (38266 gt, built 1978) was towed into Piraeus on the night of Jan 24 by tug *Megas Alexandros*. *Sea Ahmed* reportedly had an engine failure rendering it ungovernable, south of Kalamata. The vessel was finally towed to Skaramanga Jan 25 for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Sea Ahmed* sailed Pyeongtaek Dec 23, passed Port Said Jan 19 and was due Bremerhaven Jan 30.)

SEAFALCON (Singapore)

Singapore, Jan 28 — Product tanker *Seafalcon* remains at President Marine Yard, Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

SENOPATI NUSANTARA (Indonesia)

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated Jan 26, states: Searchers remain uncertain of the location of ferry *Senopati Nusantara* almost a month after the ship sank in the Java Sea. The Navy's special diving team has conducted 15 dives in the waters around Mandalika Island in Jepara regency, Central Java without sighting the wreck. The team's commander, Lt. Col. M. Faisal, joined the search on the warship *Leuser* from Tuesday to Wednesday morning. Captained by Maj. Budi Mulyadi, the vessel is equipped with sonar to detect metal objects under the sea. Family members of seven missing victims took part in the search, which was conducted in waters off the eastern part of Mandalika Island and off Rembang regency. "The ship's sonar detects metal objects under the sea and we conduct diving operations after we are certain there is an object down there. However, we did not find the targeted object, only the wrecks of wooden ships," Faisal said. Poor

weather also hampered the search, with strong winds and waves reaching two metres.

Manila, Jan 30 — PT Prima Vista, the operator of ferry *Senopati Nusantara*, which sank in the Java Sea nearly a month ago, has agreed to raise the level of compensation for victims in an attempt to head off a class action against the company by victims' families. The compensation increase was announced in newspaper advertisements yesterday. The advertisements reported that Prima Vista would raise the death compensation from Rp 5 million (around US\$526) to Rp 15 million per victim. This is in addition to the Rp 10 million to be provided by state insurance company PT Jasa Raharja. The company also agreed to provide compensation amounting to Rp 2 million for each survivor, as well as reimbursement for medical services to a maximum of Rp 5 million. Muhammad Syaiful Aris, director of the Surabaya office of the Legal Aid Institute, which is providing legal aid to victim's families, said that the compensation increase was made after the victims' families filed legal reports against the company on Jan 24. Syaiful said that despite the compensation increase, victims' families have not yet decided whether they would abandon their plans for a class action. "Some of the family members will likely demand that the compensation be as much as that given by the management of Adam Air (the operator of the plane that crashed in waters off West Sulawesi on New Year's Day)," Syaiful was reported by the Jakarta Post as saying. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jan 31 — The Indonesian Navy said yesterday that it was calling off search and rescue operations for survivors of ferry *Senopati Nusantara*. Aircraft and vessels involved in the search would be withdrawn from the areas in the Java sea where the ferry sank. The Indonesian navy clarified, however, that they would still respond to news about possible survivors. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SERVER (Cyprus)

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A contract for removal of the bow section of bulk carrier *Server*, which is stranded off Bergen, has been agreed by the shipowners and Eide Marine Services of Norway. A project plan, including measures to protect the environment, was approved by the Norwegian Coastal Administration. It is envisaged that the project may take about one month. A diving survey of the separated aft section has revealed serious structural damage, apparently without significant oil seepage. A plan for measures to prevent further pollution and to remove the wreck will be submitted to the coastal administration as soon as the technical experts appointed by the shipowner have completed assessments. The administration has

scaled down the clean-up and pollution prevention measures at sea. Shoreline clean-up operations continue, under the operational command of the local municipalities. Gard, which insured the vessel for both protection and indemnity and hull and machinery risks on behalf of Dalnave Navigation of Greece, has received about 100 claim notifications from individuals and companies affected by the spill.

Gothenburg, Jan 31 — The Norwegian Coast Guard held a conference today regarding the total cost of the clean-up and salvage of bulk carrier *Server*, and indicated that the operation could be as costly as the salvage of bulk carrier *Rocknes*, which capsized in January, 2004. "We cannot predict the costs at present until we know more, but we could see parallel cost indications to the previous serious incident when it comes to total expenses put down", the Coast Guard said. "It is the Norwegian state that will pay the costs and then contact the vessel's owners and their insurers. A total of twelve Communities are involved, and we do not foresee the operation being completed before this summer", the Coast Guard director said. "However, cleaning up the beaches will reach past the summer and into the autumn." The final environmental schedule and report will not be ready before summer, 2008. At present, a total of 26 vessels and over 100 persons are working full time to deal with the situation. — Westax Marine Services AB.

SHAH BADAR-I

Chittagong, Feb 1 — Clearing work to unknown *Shah Badar-I* has completed. As the dry dock is still occupied by another vessel, she cannot be dry-docked now. — Lloyd's Agents.

SIERRA NAVA (Panama)

London, Jan 28 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1300, UTC: Refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Nava* (4660 gt, built 1991), in ballast, ran aground about one mile south of Algeciras port at 1200, UTC, today. Water ingress and oil leakage reported.

London, Jan 28 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1745, UTC: Refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Nava*, grounded off Algeciras: Spill containment operations are still ongoing.

London, Jan 29 — A press report, dated Jan 28, states: Refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Nava* ran aground on a Spanish beach, just south of Algeciras, in stormy seas today, breaching the hull and spilling engine fuel over protected coasts near Gibraltar, Spanish media reported. The vessel was anchored in Gibraltar Bay when strong winds blew it onto a beach across the bay from Gibraltar, the Spanish coastguard said. Newspaper *El Pais* reported environmental group Greenpeace as saying fuel from the vessel had washed up along four kilometres (2.5 miles) of coast inside the Estrecho

National Park. The paper quoted maritime sources as saying *Sierra Nava* is thought to have around 350 tonnes of fuel on board, in four compartments, though only one had been damaged. The sources put the size of the fuel slick at nearer one kilometre. A coastguard helicopter rescued the crew of 14, who earlier had to put out a fire in the ship's engine-room, *El Pais* reported.

London, Jan 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Maritime inspectors today were to investigate damage done to refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Nava*, authorities said. A port spokeswoman said that the weather had improved and that a team of inspectors and underwater technicians would fly out by helicopter to the ship to evaluate the damage. Authorities say the ship was carrying 350 tonnes of light fuel in four tanks and that one tank was leaking. They said it is also carrying 130 tonnes of gasoline.

London, Jan 29 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1155, UTC: Tug *Remolcanosa Cinco* is near refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Nava*, awaiting high tide in order to attempt to refloat the vessel.

London, Jan 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Spain's merchant marine authority has demanded that the owners of refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Nava*, which ran aground in Algeciras Bay yesterday, must put up Euros 1.2 million to cover a possible administrative infringement and possible damage to the environment. The vessel's owners have also been given 24 hours to formulate a salvage plan. Salvamento Maritimo airlifted the crew to safety yesterday after the vessel dragged anchor in heavy weather. The vessel had 530 tonnes of bunkers on board, and about 170 tonnes are estimated to have leaked. Inspectors are trying to locate the source of the spill.

Cadiz, Jan 29 — Refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Nava* ran aground at Punta de San Garcia, Algeciras, at midday, Jan 28, due to a storm which pushed the vessel to the shore while it was anchored one mile away. The 14 crew members were rescued without injury by a Maritime Rescue and Safety helicopter. One of the vessel's fuel tanks was damaged, and a fuel spillage of an unknown amount has reached the beaches surrounding the accident site. The vessel's fuel capacity is 350 tonnes, but the fuel involved appears to be less than 175 tonnes. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 30 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1025, UTC: Refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Nava* is still aground. The only operations in hand are pollution prevention work and divers are inspecting the vessel's hull.

London, Jan 30 — A press report, timed 1458, today, states: The cleaning teams working on the Chinarral beach at Algeciras, following the grounding of refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Nava* say they have so far removed 60 tons of sand and tar. The provincial

organiser of emergency services, Alberto Armario, said that work has been continuing and that the Town Hall and public companies from Algeciras are involved. Meanwhile the divers inspected the ship itself this morning to establish how best to try and refloat it. The shipowner has said that plans will be discussed and a final plan will be presented tomorrow for the removal of the rest of the oil and the then the vessel itself. The Ministry for Development say that the leaking of oil has now ended after affecting 1km of coast, but Greenpeace consider that some measures are still not in place to stop further pollution.

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Nava*, which ran aground in southern Spain, has leaked up to 170 tons of oil into the sea, officials said today. One kilometre of the coast was reported affected. Cleaners removed 100 tons of sludge. Environmentalists criticized the authorities for not erecting a protective barrier and said the spill was affecting marine life.

Madrid, Jan 31 — Refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Nava* has stopped leaking fuel and divers are assessing the damage, a Coast Guard spokeswoman said today. Salvage workers from SvitzerWijismuller will now concentrate on pumping water out of the ship's holds, removing the rest of its fuel and refloating it, the Coast Guards said. — Reuters.

London, Jan 31 — Understand salvage services are being rendered to refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Nava* by SvitzerWijismuller Salvage BV under Lloyd's Open Form.

SKY WONDER (Malta)

London, Jan 29 — Passenger (cruise) *Sky Wonder* arrived and sailed Santos Jan 21.

SPAR GARNET (NIS)

London, Jan 30 — Bulk carrier *Spar Garnet* arrived Klaipeda Jan 28.

SPIRIT OF JEFFERSON (U.S.A.)

See *Amber Brittany*.

SPRUCE (Marshall Islands)

London, Jan 28 — Barge carrier *Spruce* sailed Rotterdam Jan 26.

STAR FERRY 1 (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 26 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported Jan 25, that Roll On Roll Off *Star ferry 1*, 324 gt, (built 1981) remains grounded off Port Sula. *Star Ferry 1*, sought shelter from tropical storm "Durian" at Port Sula, a protected inlet 10 miles northeast of Legazpi port on Nov 30. The powerful storm drove the vessel aground off Port Sula, however. The shipowner is now attempting to refloat the vessel although no details on its progress is available. *Star Ferry 1* is owned and operated by Regina Shipping Lines based in Catanduanes province in southern Luzon island. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

STARRIGAVAN (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A series of huge waves completely rolled over 58-foot fishing *Starrigavan* (78 gt, built 1973) three times on the south jetty of Tillamook Bay (lat 45 34N, long 123 57W) near Garibaldi (Oregon) at approximately 2130 yesterday. A Coast Guard helicopter rescues people from the capsized boat by lifting them out of the water. Stormy seas and darkness challenged members of the U.S. Coast Guard as they made the daring rescue. Waters were extremely rough, as the teams successfully rescued four people from the vessel. One of them, a man said to be 50-years-old, suffered serious injuries and later died at the Tillamook County General Hospital. Authorities also said fuel spilled out of the fishing boat and debris was everywhere.

London, Jan 31 — A press release, issued the the Coast Guard Portland, Ore., dated Jan 26, states: The fishing vessel *Starrigavan* is currently on the south side of the south jetty at the Tillamook Bar entrance out of the navigable channel, approximately 500 yards from the shore line. The vessel appears to be upright in approximately 12 feet of water, mostly submerged. The full extent of damage to the vessel is still unknown. It is not posing a hazard to navigation at the bar entrance. There is no active pollution from the vessel. A Coast Guard HH-60 helicopter crew from Airstation Astoria conducted overflights of the area earlier in the day. No oil sheen was observed. Pollution Investigators from Sector Portland responded to the scene to assess the integrity of the vessel and determine if there is any potential for a release of fuel into the water. Response personnel conducted both shore and waterside surveys of the vessel today. The exact amount of fuel onboard, if any, is still unknown. Plans are being made to deploy preventative measures such as boom on the shore if local sea conditions allow prior to salvage operations. Sector Portland will also oversee commercial salvage operations that will safely remove the vessel from the jetty. Coast Guard personnel from Sector Portland and Station Tillamook Bay will continue to monitor the stability and location of the vessel on scene. The cause of the incident is unknown at this time. An investigation has been launched by Coast Guard Sector Portland. The *Starrigavan* wrecked on the south jetty of Tillamook Bay near Garibaldi, Ore., yesterday night. A 47-foot motor lifeboat crew from Station Tillamook Bay and an HH-60 helicopter from Airstation Astoria responded to the emergency. All four crewmembers were rescued from the vessel by the HH-60 and taken to a local hospital. One of the crewmembers suffered serious injuries and was later pronounced dead at Tillamook County General Hospital.

SUMATRA (Argentina)

Buenos Aires, Jan 26 — Trawler *Sumatra* returned to dock where a new propeller, tailshaft and rudder stock were installed. It was launched yesterday, and will be leaving to continue its fishing operations around Feb 2, 3 or 4. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUNNA (NIS)

Kirkwall, Jan 26 — General cargo *Sava Hill* arrived alongside general cargo *Sunna* at 1000 yesterday and cargo discharge commenced at 1300 hrs, same day. So far 400 tonnes out of the 1,900 tonnes of ferrosilicon has been transhipped and completion of this operation is anticipated by late Sunday/early Monday. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUNSET QUEEN (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Passenger (cruise) *Sunset Queen* (98 gt, built 1973) partially sunken in Sheepshead Bay, New York, after the night watchman aboard heard a load bang at 0530, today. Although there was no pollution reported initially, at approximately 1300 hrs, the vessel began to discharge an unknown amount of fuel as vents to the fuel tanks began to flood with the rising tide. The owner of the vessel said there was approximately 1200 gallons of diesel on board. Sea Tow contained the area with a boom as a precautionary measure well before the fuel began to leak and are using absorbent pads to collect the fuel as it surfaces. U.S. Coast Guard is investigating.

London, Jan 29 — A Coast Guard New York press release, timed 1431, Jan 27 states: The Coast Guard is investigating the circumstances surrounding 89-foot motor yacht *Sunset Queen* partially sunken in Sheepshead Bay after the night watchman on board heard a load bang at 0530 today. Although there was no pollution reported initially, at approximately 1300 hrs the vessel began to discharge an unknown amount of fuel as vents to the fuel tanks began to flood with the rising tide. The owner of the vessel said there was approximately 1,200 gallons of diesel on board. Sea Tow contained the area with a boom as a precautionary measure well before the fuel began to leak and are using absorbent pads to collect the fuel as it surfaces. The Coast Guard received the report of the partially submerged *Sunset Queen* at 0930 hrs and immediately dispatched investigators to the pier where it was moored. Investigators found the vessel's stern completely submerged. The man who heard the bang said that the vessel began listing to the right shortly after he heard the sound and then slowly sank. Divers from the NYPD are standing by to survey the damage. Sea Tow is required to submit a salvage plan to the Coast Guard for review before attempting to recover the vessel. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

TASCO (NIS)

Gothenburg, Feb 1 — Vehicle carrier *Tasco* (48393 gt, built 1985) is at Gothenburg with rudder problems and function limited. The vessel is scheduled to depart Gothenburg around midnight tonight under own engines for a dry dock in Hamburg, under escort of Danish tug *Asterix*. Originally Gotaverken Cityvarvet repairyard, Gothenburg, was contacted but at present there is extra bottom sediment under the dock and so it cannot be lowered to full extent. — Westax Marine Services A/S. (Note — *Tasco* arrived Gothenburg 0120, Jan 24.)

THEODOROS (Panama)

Genoa, Jan 25 — Wine tanker *Theodoros* remains under arrest at Genoa. — Lloyd's Agents.

THETIS 1 (Panama)

London, Jan 28 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0600, UTC: Bulker *Thetis 1* (21107 gt, built 1977), with 18 persons on board, grounded, between 0430 and 0500, UTC, this morning, in lat 38 21.6N, long 23 39.31E, on sandy bottom. No injuries to crew. Vessel still aground.

London, Jan 28 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1800, UTC: Bulker *Thetis 1* was refloated with the assistance of three tugs around 1430, local time, today and has anchored nearby for class inspection, which not yet complete.

Piraeus, Jan 29 — Bulker *Thetis 1* ran aground at shallow waters at Avlis Bay, Euboea, yesterday morning, due to the adverse weather conditions, strong winds, prevailing at that time and place. No pollution nor ingress of water were reported. The vessel was refloated by own power and safely anchored near the area. It currently awaits end of inspection/port formalities and is expected to sail later today. — Lloyd's Agents.

Piraeus, Jan 31 — Bulker *Thetis 1* sailed (from Avlis Bay) upon class inspection on Jan 30, bound for Ukraine. No damages reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

TIKHON SYOMUSHKIN (Russia)

London, Jan 29 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Tikhon Syomushkin* (4417 gt, built 1982) has remained in port Haiphong, Vietnam, for "a year and a half" with Russian crewmembers aboard. Relatives told Interfax that a spokesman for the crew yesterday called Kamchatka and related the text of a complaint about the ship-owner to the prosecutor's office. "This ship has been under repairs in port Haiphong for a year and a half," the complaint says. At first the crew lived in a hotel but later was told to move to the ship because the ship-owner stopped paying hotel bills. In summer 2006 the sailors stopped receiving their salaries. In December food and drinking after supplies were stopped. "The crew lives in unbearable conditions," the message says. In addition the ship-owner - the

Kamchatka-based company Kamchatmorflot - remains "indebted to the Vietnamese side" for the repairs. Today the relatives of the crew submitted the plea to the prosecutor's office in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski. The regional fishermen's trade union plans to apply to the international sailors trade union for assistance today. Attempts to contact the owners have proved unsuccessful.

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated today, states: The crew of the Russian general cargo *Tikhon Syomushkin* has been held up in in Vietnam since May 2006, because of the owners have been unable to pay for repairs to the vessel in Vietnam. The Prosecutor's Office of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky has opened an investigation into the complaint lodged by the vessel's crew stranded at Hai Phong seaport, the regional prosecutor's office told Tass yesterday. The prosecutor's office is to give a legal assessment of the conduct of the shipowner that is not paying wages to the crew and decide whether a criminal case should be opened against the shipowner on charges of withholding wages. City Prosecutor Valery Krivenko told Tass yesterday that the prosecutor's office was questioning the personnel of the Kamchatmorflot company that leased the ship from the shipowner - Flot 4 Company. The Kamchatka regional branch of the Russian Foreign Ministry put the overdue debt for the repairs made to the vessel in Vietnam in July, 2006 at around \$400,000. The crew said in its complaint to the administration of the Kamchatka region that the sailors had not been paid since last May. The sailors asked the regional authorities to satisfy their wage claims and help the crew return back home from Vietnam. The regional authorities have brought the situation under control, the local press service said. The Russian Consulate in Hanoi has been following the situation, spokesman for the Kamchatka branch of the Russian Foreign Ministry Alexei Polkovnikov said. The Russian embassy was expecting the vessel's captain to visit the embassy yesterday. If he fails to arrive Russian diplomats will go to Hai Phong tomorrow to assess the situation. There are 17 crewmen on board. The vessel has food supplies on board to last until Feb 11.

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated today, states: "Kamchatmorflot" company has guaranteed back wages to the crew of general cargo *Tikhon Syomushkin* in trouble at Haiphong, Head of the Kamchatka branch of the Russian Foreign Ministry Alexei Polovnikov said today. Chief of the Russian Consulate in Hanoi Viktor Burda has been staying on board the ship now. The master of the vessel Yuri Kozyrev said that the "Kamchatmorflot" director general had contacted the Russian crew and assured that the overdue wages would be paid in a week's time. Kamchatmorflot has promised to pay

the debt for the ship repairs by Feb 10, and then the ship may sail back home.

TONG CHENG (China)

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A Coast Guard cutter and tugs sat with general cargo *Tong Cheng* yesterday about two miles south of Ke'ehi Lagoon. Water was being pumped out of the ship to lighten it enough to get into the shallower waters of the Barbers Point harbour for repairs. The vessel which made an unscheduled stop in the port of Honolulu to repair a crack in its hull is carrying an unspecified type of ammunition, the U.S. Coast Guard said yesterday. High-ranking officials from the Coast Guard and the U.S. Department of Customs and Border Protection now are conferring with the U.S. State Department on what to do with the damaged ship and its cargo, officials said. Lt. Nikki Samuel, a spokeswoman for the Coast Guard, said a manifest submitted by the ship indicated it is carrying general cargo, including plywood and steel, as well as ammunition. The manifest was filed so the vessel could get permission to enter Hawai'i waters to repair a crack in the hull. But the manifest does not specify what kind of ammunition the ship is carrying, Samuel said. Samuel said the ship and its owner indicated the ship was en route from Busan to the Caribbean when a crack 56 inches long and an eighth of an inch wide developed in the ship's hull, below the waterline under the No. 2 cargo hold. Cargo in the No. 2 hold came in contact with the seawater that leaked in, Samuel said. The ship was granted permission on Monday to enter the port in Honolulu for hull repairs. Repair workers spent yesterday pumping water out of the hold into a barge. That was done to lessen the ship's draught so it can enter Barbers Point Deep Draught Harbour for more permanent repairs, Samuel said. An official familiar with the circumstances, who asked not to be identified because the situation is still developing, said Coast Guard and Customs officials had not been able to inspect the ship's cargo as of mid-afternoon yesterday. "They don't know yet what all is onboard the ship, and the ship's crew is being evasive about what's aboard and where they were headed other than for a 'small island' in the Caribbean," the official said. The official said that if the cargo is bound for Cuba, a problem arises because an embargo prevents cargo from being shipped out of any U.S. port to Cuba. "Even if it were unloaded here, no other ship would be able to transport (the cargo) to Cuba. And if the cargo were to be unloaded here and presented a safety issue, there are concerns as to who would be responsible for addressing those concerns," the official said. After the ship first contacted the Coast Guard, a C-130 aircraft, a multi-purpose vessel and a team were dispatched to conduct a preliminary assessment of the damage and determine if there was

any pollution as a result, the Coast Guard said. A sheen was initially observed; however, the source could not be identified, it said. Overflights reported no further sighting of pollution. A team of technical experts from the USCG Salvage Engineering Response Team, the Navy's Mobile Diving Salvage Unit One, and commercial companies assessed the vessel's structural integrity while offshore, the Coast Guard said. Based on that assessment, the vessel was granted permission to enter the port of Honolulu zone for repairs.

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Efforts continued yesterday to make damaged general cargo *Tong Cheng* light enough to get it into Kalaheoa Barbers Point Harbour for repairs while federal officials pored over what was described as a "more thorough" cargo manifest in hopes of determining what kind of munitions are on board the ship. Meanwhile, the anticipated arrival at the harbour of *Tong Cheng* and the decision to send it there have upset businesses that will be displaced during the repairs. Delays caused by the work could cost them hundreds of thousands of dollars in shipping penalties, they said. State Department of Defense and Civil Defense officials, as well as the Honolulu Fire Department, have not been told that the cargo poses a risk to the public. Coast Guard Lt. Nikki Samuel said inspectors from the Coast Guard and Bureau of Customs and Border Protection have been able to look into the cargo holds of *Tong Cheng* anchored off Sand Island but have not been able to examine the contents of the containers onboard the ship. "They got the manifest late yesterday and have been going through it to try to verify what's onboard," she said. "Indications are that there is a limited amount of 'munitions' on the ship." Because the ship was not yet within a protected anchorage, safety concerns prevented inspectors from opening containers on the ship to check their contents. The manifest lists a "small amount" of munitions onboard the ship but does not describe them in detail, Samuel said. Hawai'i businesses that use the harbour could end up paying hefty penalties if cargo ships they have hired are delayed by the repair work to *Tong Cheng*. But one of those businesses, independent electricity producer AES Hawai'i Inc, is also worried that its shipment of coal will not be unloaded before the company runs out of its reserve supply, said Matthew Riel, the power company's president and general manager. AES produces 20% of the power Hawaiian Electric Co. uses. Riel said the company is waiting for a monthly shipment of coal, about 55,000 tons, which was due in today onboard bulk carrier *Joyous Society*. The company has special coal-unloading machinery fixed at Pier 6. It typically takes seven to eight days to unload the coal ship. "We are already digging into our storage pile of coal here at our site," Riel said. "We have used up our active

pile." No one has told Riel how long it could take to repair *Tong Cheng*, he said. Banigan, the general manager for Schnitzer Steel Hawaii, Corp., said the company is waiting to load 33,000 tons onboard bulk *Glyfada* tomorrow or Sunday at Pier 7. Banigan is worried that authorities will move *Tong Cheng* to his pier when coal delivery arrives. Both companies estimated their individual costs associated with the repairs would hit six figures. The state Department of Transportation, which oversees the harbour, said federal homeland security officials chose to move *Tong Cheng* to the deep-draught harbour. "It is not as congested as Honolulu Harbour," said transportation spokesman Scott Ishikawa. "With Honolulu Harbour, you have cruise ships and everything else going in and out." Ishikawa said the owners of *Tong Cheng* are responsible for setting up a claims process for affected businesses. He said the state had no choice but to bring the ship into port. "We have to bring in the ship for repairs or we might have environmental issues on our hands," he said.

Honolulu, Jan 26 — General cargo *Tong Cheng* departed the Honolulu Hazardous Anchorage at 0900 this morning and is presently on its way to the Barber's Point Deep Draught Harbour, with an ETA late this afternoon. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Customs officials said there are no ammunition, explosives or hazardous waste on board general cargo *Tong Cheng*. "The confusion was all related to translation that was on the manifest, descriptions were somewhat vague," said Lamar Witmer, port director. The vessel was escorted to Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor yesterday afternoon. This emergency stop will allow crews to fix a crack in its hull. They made temporary repairs when the ship was at sea. The visit has worried residents and businesses like Marisco. "Foreign flagship vessels tend to use tributal tin for underwater hull preservation, that's a very strong toxic. In America, we're not allowed to use it," said Steve Hinton, environmental compliance manager. The Coast Guard is checking for any damage to the environment. "None has been found since the ship was over 70 miles away over a week ago," said Vincent Atkins, Coast Guard port captain. The vessel was heading to the Caribbean, but will now return to China for further inspections and repairs. The Coast Guard said it could remain for another week or two. All 26 crewmembers will remain on board the ship.

London, Jan 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A local Hawaiian steel processing company, Schnitzer Steel Hawaii, is expecting to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars because of the unexpected stop by general cargo *Tong Cheng*. The *Tong Cheng* is undergoing repairs to its hull at Kalaeloa harbour but it is displacing the steel company's

container vessel, costing thousands of dollars a day in penalties and thousands more in legal fees to try and get the money back. Schnitzer Steel Hawaii general manager Jim Banigan said: "We should have trucks in and out of here, taking scrap to our vessel, which should be berthed at Pier 7." All that is on hold, because of the *Tong Cheng*, which is berthed at one of the piers at Kalaeloa, leaving Schnitzer's container vessel waiting at sea. "What we're looking at is the merage charges of \$20,000 a day for six days," said Banigan. "So that's \$120,000 before we even start." The company is supposed to be shipping out more than 70,000 tons of scrap metal, most of it to Thailand. Schnitzer is planning to file a claim with the vessel's insurance company but managers say it could take weeks to determine exactly how much the delay will cost them.

London, Jan 29 — A Coast Guard Honolulu, press release, dated Jan 26, states: Additional repairs to general cargo *Tong Cheng* will be made at Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbour. All repairs will be certified by the vessel's Classification Society. The vessel was originally destined for various Caribbean ports, including Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Panama, but will now return to China for further inspections and repairs. The Coast Guard will conduct a safety of navigation inspection of the vessel prior to its return to China.

Honolulu, Jan 30 — General cargo *Tong Cheng* is secured port side to Pier 7, Barber's Point Deep Draft Harbor. Presently, cargo is being offloaded to access the damaged areas, reportedly in the No. 2 cargo hold. Temporary repairs will be completed after survey and the vessel is reportedly to return to China for permanent repairs. Estimated time is one month. — Lloyd's Agents.

TORM ANHOLT (Panama)

Freeport, Bahamas, Jan 26 — Repairs to bulk *Torm Anholt* were concluded satisfactorily and the vessel departed Freeport on Jan 19, bound New Orleans to resume trading. — Lloyd's Agents.

TRINITY (Marshall Islands)

London, Jan 29 — Following received from OMI Marine Services L.L.C., Stamford, CT, managers of combined chemical and oil tank *Trinity*, dated today: Combined chemical and oil tank *Trinity* (23842 gt, built 2000) grounded off Longkou, China, in position lat 37 39.42N, long 120 06.63E, while approaching the port, to pick up a pilot. There has been no casualties or pollution reported, due to this incident. The vessel was loaded with 30,199 tonnes of fuel oil, draft was 10.2m and the depth indicated on the chart was 13m. The nature of the bottom was mud and sand. An internal inspection of the ballast tanks did not reveal any damages. The vessel floated free with the help of harbour tugs and is currently safely anchored within port limits awaiting berthing.

An underwater inspection of the hull with class attendance will be arranged prior departure from the port.

TZINI (Malta)

London, Jan 31 — Following received from the operators of bulk *Tzini*, dated today: Tug *Salvage Giant* has arrived in Suao to tow the *Tzini* and departure of the vessels is expected Feb 2.

UNDEN (Netherlands Antilles)

Gothenburg, Jan 29 — A fire caused by a broken fuel pipe broke out on board general cargo *Unden* (2577 gt, built 1984), Hull for Vargon via the Gota River with a cargo of coke/coal, on Jan 26 as the vessel was approaching Gothenburg roads. The fire was extinguished by the vessel's crew but the vessel experienced a black-out, and lost main engine and electrical power. Tugs from Roda Bolaget proceeded to assist and towed the vessel to a berth at City Repairyard, Gothenburg. Following a clean-up, a survey will be carried out by Swedish Club and Class to ascertain the cause of the fire and the extent of damage. — Westax Marine Services AB.

VISAYAN TRADER (Panama)

London, Jan 29 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, roll on roll off *Visayan Trader* was located 5.2 nautical miles from Awaji, Japan, in lat 34 36 11.77N, long 134 55 17.69E, at 1116, UTC, today, course 243.8 deg, speed 9.4 knots.

VOLENDAM (Netherlands)

London, Feb 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Holland America's passenger (cruise) *Volendam* (60906 gt, built 1999) returned to Port Everglades from Costa Rica at about 0630 hrs, today with 74 sick people on board. According to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, 68 passengers and six crewmembers became violently ill with flu-like symptoms. It was not clear if there was a Norovirus outbreak on board, but health officials were investigating.

VORIOS IPIROS HELLAS (Panama)

London, Jan 31 — Bulk *Vorios Ipiros Hellas* arrived Lianyungang Jan 29.

WALCHEREN

See *Defi*.

WESERSTERN (Isle of Man)

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated Jan 29, states: Combined chemical and oil tank *Wesersterm* (6441 gt, built 1992, voyage Gefle for Tallinn), carrying 10,000 tonnes of diesel fuel, ran aground in stormy weather as it left the Estonian capital Tallinn, but there appeared to be no immediate risk to the environment, authorities said. The master of *Wesersterm* has asked for a tug to get the vessel going again, said an Estonian border guard. Estonia will provide the tug in the morning, so that

the rescue operation can take place in the daylight, the guard said. The ship has a double hull, so there is no danger of environmental pollution, according to the master's assessment. In addition to the double hull, the risk of an oil spill is minimal because the sea bed at the accident site is soft and therefore unlikely to cause damage to the tanker, the guard added. The situation will be monitored by the border guards. The master had earlier turned down an offer of assistance from the Estonian authorities, saying that he first wanted to try to free the vessel under its own steam and also that he was consulting the ship's owners.

London, Jan 30 — A British-registered oil tanker carrying 10,000 tons of diesel fuel ran aground near Tallinn, but there was no immediate danger of a spill or threat to the environment, officials said today. The Isle of Man-registered Combined chemical and oil tank *Wesersterm*, reportedly on its way to Karlshamn, Sweden, ran aground late yesterday just after leaving a port near the Estonian capital. There were no reports of any injuries to the vessel's crew. Maritime authorities said the vessel, operated by German shipping company Rigel Schiffahrts GmbH & Co. KG, was double-hulled, minimizing the risk of an oil leakage. They would attempt to pull the tanker off the ground today.

London, Jan 30 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Wesersterm*, operated by Bremen-based Rigel Schiffahrts, grounded outside of Tallinn late last night, although the authorities are stressing that every is currently under control. The sea bed at the site of the grounding is soft. A spokesman for Rigel said that he was hopeful that *Wesersterm* could be refloated later today. "The latest operational situation is that we are waiting for divers and experts to assess the extent of the grounding. "First we'll do the assessment and then we'll decide on further steps." But assuming all goes well, the Estonian authorities have confirmed that tugs are available today.

London, Jan 30 — Following received from Tallinn MRCC, timed 1615, UTC: Combined chemical and oil tank *Wesersterm* is still hard aground. The vessel's owners are looking for another tanker for them to tranship the diesel fuel to.

Tallinn, Jan 31 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Wesersterm*, loaded with 9,600 tonnes of diesel oil, grounded approximately 0.5 nautical miles north-north-west from the harbour entrance, during departure from Vene-Balti Harbour, Tallinn, Jan 29. Port side ballast water tank No.1 damaged. No pollution noted. At least 2,500 tons of cargo has to be off-loaded for refloating of the vessel. Commencement of off-loading is planned for tonight. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Combined chemical and oil tank *Wesersterm*, which ran aground near Tallinn late

Monday (Jan 29), is preparing to transfer 3,000 tons of diesel to another vessel. Salvage experts yesterday decided not to try towing it free while fully laden, said Riin Kiik of the Estonian Border Guard. "This afternoon a tanker will arrive from Sweden, and they will try and pump some of the oil out of the vessel. It's not possible to say how long it will take," Kiik said. *Wesersterm* is carrying a cargo of 10,000 tons of diesel. No pollution has been reported from the double-skinned vessel, but one ballast compartment has been holed and the vessel appears to be listing slightly, Baltic News Service BNS reported.

London, Feb 1 — Following received from Tallinn MRCC, timed 1050, UTC: Combined chemical and oil tank *Wesersterm* is no longer aground. So far 4,500 tonnes of fuel has been pumped onto product tanker *Nimbus*. Divers are currently conducting damage inspection operations.

Tallinn, Feb 1 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Wesersterm* was refloated at 0305, local time today after 2,175 tonnes of its cargo of gasoil ULSD was transferred to product tanker *Nimbus*, and towed to safe anchorage position in Kopli Bay, Tallinn. Underwater inspection and class survey are currently in progress. As to initial dive survey the double hull of the vessel was holed in way of water ballast tank No.1 port side. — Lloyd's Agents.

WESTERN STAR (South Korea)

See "Belgium" under "Port State Control".

WILLEM VAN DER ZWAN (Netherlands)

London, Jan 30 — A fire broke out on fishing (general) *Willem Van der Zwan* (564 gt, built 1973), while repairs were being carried out at the Velserkade in Velsen-Noord near Ymuiden, at the Daalimpex Coldstore, at 0845, local time, today. The firebrigade of Velsen called the help of the fire brigades of Beverwijk, Haarlem, Haarlemmerliede & Spaarnwoude and Zandvoort, because it was a fire of the highest grade. The smoke was so thick that the traffic on the A9 has been closed between Beverwijk and Velsen-Zuid. Cause of this accident is that during repairs with a cutting torch the insulation material of the vessel caught fire. According to the police there were no injuries and there was no danger for the public health.

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated today, states: The A9 motorway between Beverwijk and Velsen will remain closed during this morning's rush hour due to the massive fire on board fishing (general) *Willem Van der Zwan* in the harbour at Velsen. The fire was still burning this morning, almost 24 hours day after the blaze began. The crisis website of the local authority reports this morning that the vessel has still not stabilised. Roads around the area are to remain closed because thick smoke could develop when the fire brigade restart their work to put out the blaze. They

were forced to abandon their work in the early hours because of fears that the ship would capsize and spill oil into the sea. The fire on the fishing vessel started at around 0900 yesterday. An area a kilometre round the fire, mainly industrial, was evacuated because of the release of harmful emissions. A spokesman for the crisis centre said that the emissions released by the fire, including sulphur dioxide, do not pose a health threat outside the evacuated area.

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated today, states: It could be days before a fire raging onboard fishing (general) *Willem Van der Zwan* in the Velsen port is completely extinguished, fire brigade commander Sieb Paauwe said yesterday. The danger of explosion during the day was reduced by late afternoon. Any explosion now would only affect the ship and the area a few metres around it. The fire brigade called in the help of an inspector from salvage company Wijsmuller and a specialist from the shipping inspectorate to stabilise the vessel. A spokesperson confirmed this morning that the fire brigade would resume efforts to extinguish once the ship was adequately stabilised. The fire brigade stopped spraying water on the ship yesterday evening because there was a danger of it capsizing from the large amounts of water on board. Three oil screens were also placed around the ship to prevent any oil from leaking into the surrounding areas.

London, Feb 1 — Understand the fire on board fishing (general) *Willem Van der Zwan* is still burning. At midnight it was decided by the authorities to let the ship burn out under control and the hatches have been opened to locate the "firesides." An oil boom has been laid around the vessel. The 45 people who live in the neighbourhood of the burning vessel on houseboats and in industrial houses having to stay elsewhere, some in hotels. Also 140 industrial companies in the area are still closed of which some companies claim they are making losses of Euro 20,000 an hour, not being able to work. In the meantime the motorway A 9 has been opened again for the traffic, but the road N 246 is still closed for all traffic.

WITTENBERGEN (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Feb 1 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1105, UTC: General cargo *Wittenbergen*, V2DA, (2381 gt, built 1992) reported a mechanical failure in lat 37 59.6N, long 24 41.5E, 1.5 nautical miles north west of Andros Island yesterday morning. Master stated no assistance was required, however, vessel was taken in tow yesterday afternoon by tug *Karapiperis 18*. The tug and tow arrived Piraeus anchorage 0145, local time, this morning. *Wittenbergen* is still at the anchorage.

YEDITEPE S. (Turkey)

London, Jan 30 — Bulker *Yeditepe S.*, Mariupol for Tuzla, passed Istanbul Jan 27.

YERUSLAN (Cambodia)

London, Jan 31 — General cargo *Yeruslan* arrived Shanghai Jan 25.

ZIM MEDITERRANEAN (Israel)

London, Jan 27 — Container Carrier *Zim Mediterranean* sailed Leghorn Jan 25.

Port State Control


BELGIUM

Zeebrugge, Jan 30 — The departure from Antwerp of refrigerated general cargo *Western Star* has been suspended, as she has been detained. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Western Star* arrived at Antwerp at 1511 hrs, Jan 22.)

GERMANY

London, Jan 25 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Refrigerated general cargo *Caribbean Mermaid* (9829 gt, built 1993), which arrived at Bremerhaven on Jan 23, was detained by the police on Jan 24 due to a lack in safety concerns. The pipes in the machine room were found to be in very poor condition. A main dewatering vent could not be opened and repairs were not carried out in order at 15 places of the pipe system. In case of water ingress the ship would have sunk. Also the fire fighting system was unsafe and oil traces were found in the water. The vessel may not leave the harbour until repairs are carried out.

London, Jan 31 — Refrigerated general cargo *Caribbean Mermaid* arrived Rotterdam 1445, Jan 26, and sailed 2245, Jan 27, for Paramaibo.

UNITED KINGDOM

See *Sodade* under "Marine."

Seizures & Arrests


AETOS (Liberia)

Maassluis, Feb 1 — Product tanker *Aetos* (22943 gt, built 1980) is under detention at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Aetos* arrived at Rotterdam at 0655 hrs, Dec 22.)

ANNIE SIERRA (Cyprus)

Karachi, Jan 28 — The honorable Sindh High Court (SHC) has set Feb 1 for the owner of bulker *Annie Sierra*, Nimbero Shipping, a Greek Company, to appear in court against admiralty lawsuit filed by crew member of vessel for not paying of wages. It arrived at Karachi /Port Qasim in Nov last year to load rice cargo for shipment to an African port. The details of admiralty lawsuit reported in media says, the vessel was first arrested on Dec 12,

last year by MG Forest Ltd, a Singaporean company for breach of various contracts and illegal discharge of their cargo in Vietnam instead of India. The vessel was then arrested by the Pakistani company who had chartered it and later by a Brazilian company. Presently, the 21 crew members on board for the last two months without proper food, fresh water, and bunkers, said Aga Zafar Ahmed, Advocate, who is appearing on behalf of the crew members. Meanwhile, the Port Authorities ordered the Master of the vessel to shift the vessel from berth to moorings, however, crew members have refused to do so. It said huge port dues to Port Qasim and payments to suppliers, repairers and shipping agents are also payable by the owners of vessel. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ASIAN EXPRESS (Maldives)

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Exercising its admiralty jurisdiction, the Madras High Court has ordered the "arrest" of a vessel, flying the Maldivian flag, berthed at the Tuticorin Port. Justice K. Chandru granted the plea made by the Pakistan-based Garibsons (Private) Limited and directed the Registry to issue a warrant for the arrest of general cargo *Asian Express* (5955 gt, built 1977), ex *Ocean Venture I*. Counsel for the petitioner-company S. Vasudevan and Abdul Quddhose submitted that the vessel was transporting a cargo of 5,500 metric tonnes of bagged rice from Karachi to Illichevsk in the Ukraine. It sailed from Karachi on August 29, 2006. "The vessel, instead of prosecuting her voyage from Karachi to Ukraine, remained off Jeddah, and clandestinely travelled to Colombo," they submitted, adding that it had offloaded around 4,000 tonnes of rice at Colombo. The petitioner-company said while it acted properly and in good faith, the vessel owners had acted fraudulently and in bad faith. Even before an arrest order obtained in a Sri Lankan court could be executed, the vessel sailed out of Galle with a view to "frustrate and defeat the execution of the order and thereby exhibited complete disrespect and disregard to the orders passed by the court." Claiming that over \$17 lakh was payable by the vessel's owners, the petition said unless the plea to arrest and detain the vessel was granted, it would sail out of the court's jurisdiction. As the 30-year-old vessel had already reached the end of its commercial life and it was likely to be beached, broken and sold as scrap, the court should order that the vessel to be condemned and sold, it said. The vessel, together with her hull, tackle, engines, machinery, apparel, equipment, stores, articles, things and other paraphernalia, should be arrested and detained by a warrant of arrest, it said. (Note — *Asian Express* arrived at Tuticorin on Jan 6.)

Kochi, Jan 19 — general cargo *Asian Express*, loaded with 6513 tonnes of general cargo destined for Male, was arrested on Jan 10, following a Madras High Court Order. The vessel is now at Tuticorin Anchorage. — Lloyd's Agents.

ASTARA (U.S.A.)

Honolulu, Jan 26 — It was reported that fishing (general) *Astara* (67 gt, built 1972) was boarded by the U.S. Coast Guard, after being caught fishing four miles inside the North-western Hawaiian Islands National Monument. Further action is pending investigation. — Lloyd's Agents.

BIGA (Canary Islands)

Bilbao, Feb 1 — General cargo *Biga* is still under embargo at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

BOREAS (Cyprus)

Bilbao, Feb 1 — General cargo *Boreas* is still under embargo at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

BRILLIANT ZHEJIANG (Panama)

Maassluis, Feb 1 — Bulker *Brilliant Zhejiang* (40796 gt, built 1982) is currently under detention at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Brilliant Zhejiang* arrived at Rotterdam at 1800 hrs, Jan 13.)

CARLA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Container Carrier *Carla* (6362 gt, built 1996) has been detained in Georgian territorial waters for "violation of shipping rules", the "border department of Georgia" reported. "The captain of the ship is a Ukrainian citizen. There is also another Ukrainian among the crew," a department's official said. Legal proceedings will take place within two days at Poti. The owner of the vessel faces a heavy fine. (Note — *Carla* was reported passing Istanbul at 1342 hrs, Jan 27, bound for Poti.)

Batumi, Jan 31 — Container Carrier *Carla* was detained due to the launching "of boat without any confirmation" (the master had not informed the harbour master's office, nor agent or Georgian Coast Guard). For this action the vessel was penalised 50,000 Georgian lari (£14,929). Presently the vessel is at anchorage at Poti (due to bad weather). We have information from the agent "Maersk" that the vessel's owner has refused to pay the penalty. The matter will be heard in the Coast Guard's department and not in court. — Lloyd's Agents.

ELWOOD (PANAMA)

Maassluis, Feb 1 — General cargo *Elwood*, now named *Cote Aranza* is still under detention at Bolnes. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

IMAN T. (North Korea)

Bucharest, Jan 29 — The arrest on general cargo *Iman T.* was lifted and the vessel sailed from Constantza on Jan 26, bound for Odessa. — Lloyd's Agents.

JOSE BREEZE (Panama)

Maassluis, Feb 1 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Jose Breeze* (9087 gt, built 1982) is under detention at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Jose Breeze* arrived at Rotterdam at 1335 hrs, Jan 23.)

LASS MARS (Germany)

Zeebrugge, Jan 30 — General cargo *Lass Mars* was arrested while at Antwerp. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Lass Mars* arrived at Antwerp on Jan 23 and sailed from there on Jan 26.)

MEHMET KAPTAN-3

Batumi, Jan 26 — Fishing (general) *Mehmet Kaptan-3* was detained by the Georgian coast guard and environmental department at 1600, UTC, on Jan 24, for illegal fishing. Presently the vessel is located on the coast guard's berth. According to Georgian legislation item 86 part five, the vessel was penalised for illegal fishing from 30,000 to 50,000 gel (exchange rate for one US dollar is 1.70 gel), the correct sum of penalty presently is unknown. Moreover, the vessel will pay a penalty sum for damage, about 50 tons of fish was found on board. — Lloyd's Agents.

NYZDAN (North Korea)

London, Jan 26 — General cargo *Nyzdan* sailed Karachi Jan 25.

OTAPAN (Mexico)

Amsterdam, Feb 1 — Tank barge *Otapan* is still at Amsterdam shipdock (Ligplaats 4). — KWSA Rapportage.

PATRICIA (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 31 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported yesterday that non specific tanker *Patricia* is still detained at the Coast Guard's Arroceros Station along Manila's Pasig River. The vessel, however, is under the custody of Bureau of Customs personnel. The vessel is being held under a seizure and detention warrant issued by the Bureau of Customs for alleged oil smuggling. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SARATOV CITY (Russia)

London, Jan 29 — Product tanker *Saratov City* (2878 gt, built 1995), which arrived Amsterdam Jan 25, was arrested at Amsterdam last week and will stay there until claims against owners are settled.

Maassluis, Jan 31 — Product tanker *Saratov City* is still under arrest (at Amsterdam). The arrest was made at the request of a Dutch law firm. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

SENTINEL (Comoros)

Genoa, Jan 25 — General cargo *Sentinel* remains under arrest at Genoa. — Lloyd's Agents.

SHIREEN S. (U.K.)

Maassluis, Feb 1 — Tug *Shireen S.* (312 gt, built 1975) is under arrest at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Shireen S.* arrived at Rotterdam on Jul 27.)

SODADE

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)
See under "Marine."

SUPERSTAR LIBRA (Bahamas)

Portsmouth, UK, Jan 29 — In a significant ruling, the Kerala High Court has ordered the "arrest" and detaining of the passenger (cruise) *SuperStar Libra* (42285 gt, built 1988) in connection with the death of a 14-month-old U.S. citizen of Indian origin at Lakshadweep last year. This is the first time that a warrant of arrest has been issued against a passenger vessel by an Indian court, court sources said. The interim order was issued by Justice C.N. Ramachandran Nair on a petition filed by Neuna Shah's parents - Mehul Shah and Natasha Bannerji - to seek action against the vessel for negligence that resulted in their only child's death by drowning on Nov 21, 2006. The vessel is expected to sail from Mumbai to Lakshadweep yesterday. The court directed the Lakshadweep Port officer to arrest and detain the foreign-registered vessel, owned by Malaysia's Starcruises, when it arrives in any port under the control of the Lakshadweep administration. The court order said the vessel could be released only after its owners furnished a bank guarantee of Rs. 10 lakh towards damages claimed by the Shahs for the death of their child. Neuna, a passenger of the Mumbai-Lakshadweep liner, drowned when the small boat into which she and her parents had alighted near Kadmath Island in Lakshadweep overturned in heavy rain and rough seas. The excursion entailed passengers disembarking from the *Superstar Libra* into a smaller vessel to get to the island. — Correspondent.

TALavera

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Venice, Jan 30 — General cargo *Talavera* was auctioned on Jan 23 and reportedly sold to Syrian interests. — Lloyd's Agents.

THEODOROS (Panama)

See under "Marine."



BAYOU PEROT, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 26 — A Coast Guard Houma press release, dated Jan 25, states: The following is the latest information in the multi agency response and investigation surrounding a spill of medium crude from a damaged wellhead in Bayou Perot, Louisiana: As of 1500 hrs. the discharge was stopped and the well was secured. To date 49,000 feet of oil containment boom have been deployed and more than 61,000 gallons of emulsified oil and water waste have

been collected. The operator of the well, ExPert Oil & Gas, continues to offer a \$35,000 reward for information directly resulting in the identification (as determined by the operator) of the person or persons responsible for damaging the wellhead. The Coast Guard's investigation into the cause continues.

Weather & Navigation



ANGOLA

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated Jan 25, states: More than 70 people have died in Angola after a week of storms and heavy rain caused flash flooding in the capital, Luanda, authorities say. Sixty-five of the deaths were in Luanda, the rest were in the southern province of Benguela. Reports from Luanda say the government has approved emergency measures to shelter, rehouse and provide other assistance to the city's residents. Luanda's governor, Job Capapinha, said thousands had been made homeless. On Wednesday (Jan 24), Angola approved a \$10m six-month emergency plan to provide assistance to those affected by the storms and to re-build damaged infrastructure. A government statement said the plan would shelter, re-home and provide "other forms of assistance to citizens between now and June." "According to the last count, there have been 71 deaths," fire service spokesman Faustino Sebastiao told AFP news agency. "We are carrying out search operations for bodies with the help of the defence forces and the police," he added.

HURRICANE "KATRINA"

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated today, states: A federal judge yesterday approved a settlement between Murphy Oil Corp and about 6,000 St. Bernard Parish homeowners over an oil spill that happened during hurricane "Katrina". In a three-page ruling, US District Judge Eldon Fallon called the \$330 million settlement "fair, reasonable and adequate." He also approved more than \$36 million in attorney fees and costs to be paid by Murphy. The settlement puts to rest the vast majority of lawsuits filed after a huge oil-storage tank at Murphy's flooded refinery near New Orleans floated off its foundation and broke, unleashing about 25,000 barrels of oil in the surrounding neighbourhoods. "I think it's a victory for the people of St. Bernard that this matter was resolved so quickly," said Scott Bickford, lead attorney for the plaintiffs. If Murphy accepts the settlement, people could get cheques within 60 days, he said. George A. Frilot III, lead attorney for Murphy, said the company and its insurers were deciding on a possible appeal. An

estimated 200-500 people who live outside the class action boundaries but claim oil damage are not affected by the settlement, Bickford said. "They still have a lawsuit. Their claims are not settled," he said. Bickford said the same is true for the few people who live within those boundaries but chose to opt out. The settlement spells out four levels of compensation, from a flat \$15,000 for damages to homes farthest from the tank to buyouts of the closest houses: \$40 per square foot of living space, plus \$19.25 per square foot in damages, plus \$3,375 per occupant. The company's attorneys said on Jan 4, when the settlement offer was made public, that Murphy hoped to buy about 570 homes on the four streets next to the refinery and tank as a buffer zone.

IRAQ

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated Jan 30, states: Berthing and sailing operations at Basrah Oil Terminal were temporarily suspended due to rough weather since 0001 hrs, today (Jan 30).

MALAYSIA

London, Jan 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Road and bridge damage in Sabah during the three-week long bad weather is costing the Malaysian government RM87 million (£11.3 million). State Infrastructure Minister Datuk Raymond Tan said that flood damage to roads in the state cost about RM53.9 million (£7.87 million) while damage to federal roads cost RM33 million (£4.8 million) following the bad weather and floods that began on December 23, last year. He said the priority was to deal with landslides that had cut off road access to kampungs and schools and to repair roads that had collapsed in the various flood-hit districts of Sabah. Giving an example, he said the Marakbarak road that connects interior Ranau to northern Kota Marudu was badly damaged in four areas and the state had decided to create a by-pass as an emergency measure while rebuilding the trunk road. "Rebuilding of the Marakbarak road was allocated under the Ninth Malaysia Plan, so by making a by-pass we won't be wasting our funds," he told reporters after briefing the state Cabinet on damage caused by the floods and landslides. "We are also looking at damage to main water pipes," he said, adding that the state would inform Kuala Lumpur about the damage sustained in at least nine Sabah districts. Chief Minister Datuk Musa Aman, meanwhile, said the state Infrastructure Ministry was ordered to go ahead with repairs to projects that cost below RM500,000 (£78,000) but a tender process would be necessary for repair works costing more than RM500,000. He said he had ordered the state Agriculture and Food Industry Ministry to assess the losses sustained by farms and the state would see how best it could alleviate the suffering of victims.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jan 28 — The departure and arrival of international and domestic flight were affected in Lahore city of Punjab province of Pakistan due to thick fog blanketed city and its suburbs yesterday. It massively disrupted the schedule of all international and domestic flights. Fog covered the city after a gap of some 20 days or so. The airport authorities said at least 12 international and domestic flights either left or arrived here more than six hours late than their scheduled time. The departure of the flights for Karachi, Islamabad, Multan, Glasgow, London, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha, and arrival of flights from Karachi, Islamabad, Multan, Jeddah, Doha and Dubai were delayed due to heavy fog. The fog blanketed the city at about 0500 hrs that lasted for more than five hours. The meteorologist department said that decrease in temperature caused yesterday's fog that would likely to persist today as well. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Jan 29 — This is to advise that Constantza and Midia ports were closed at 1350 hrs and 1045 hrs, today, respectively, due to weather conditions, wind west north-west force 7-8 (near gale-gale), sea 6-7 feet, (Midia) and wind westerly force 6-7 (strong breeze-near gale), sea 3-4 feet on seaside, 5-7 feet at sea (Constantza). The Sulina Channel closed from 0610, yesterday, due to high winds. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Jan 30 — Constantza port was re-opened today at 0900 hrs today and Sulina Channel at 1405 hrs. — Lloyd's Agents.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "ARTHUR"

London, Jan 27 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Tropical cyclone "Arthur" was located near lat 28S, long 147W at 0500, UTC, today. Cyclone is moving south-east about 20 knots. Expect sustained winds of 50 knots close to the centre decreasing to 35 knots in the next 12 hours. Expect winds over 47 knots within 30 miles of centre and over 33 knots within 120 miles of centre in the southeastern semicircle and within 90 miles of centre in the northwestern semicircle. Forecast position near lat 31S, long 145W at 1800, UTC, today and near lat 35S, long 142W at 0600, UTC, Jan 28

TROPICAL CYCLONE "DORA"

London, Jan 30 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Dora" was located near lat 12.7S, long 65.2E, approximately 750 nautical miles northeast of La Reunion. Movement over the past six hours: 205 degrees at two knots. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 55 knots,

gusts 70 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds: 35 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 120 nautical miles in all four quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 26 feet. At 0600, UTC, Jan 31, the centre is predicted to be near lat 13.5S, long 64.8E, with maximum sustained winds of 75 knots and gusts to 90 knots.

London, Jan 31 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, the centre of tropical cyclone "Dora" was located near lat 13.8S, long 65.9E, approximately 740 nautical miles northeast of La Reunion, and has tracked south-southeastward, or 160 degs, at three knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 75 knots, gusts 90 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 20 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 130 nautical miles in the northeast and southeast quadrants and 120 nautical miles in the southwest and northwest quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 30 feet. At 0600, UTC, Feb 1, the centre is predicted to be near lat 14.9S, long 66.3E, with maximum sustained winds of 90 knots and gusts to 110 knots.

TURKEY

Istanbul, Jan 27 — Traffic will be suspended from South due to fog visibility in the Bosphorus Straits at 0210, today, and reopen at 1215 hrs. — TurkishStraits.com.

London, Feb 1 — Traffic suspended from North to South at 2050, yesterday, pilotage suspended due to strong wind southwesterly traffic will be open at noon, today.

UNITED STATES

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated Jan 29, states: An ice storm that blasted across Missouri this month caused an estimated \$103 million in damage to counties, cities and other public agencies in its path, the State Emergency Management Agency said today. The figure comes from preliminary damage assessments from public bodies like local governments, fire departments and school districts in 38 counties and the city of St. Louis. Ice and sleet tore down trees and power lines in a 50-mile swatch along the Interstate 44 corridor from south-west Missouri to St. Louis on Jan 12-14, causing widespread power outages. SEMA deputy director Duane Nichols said the damages included such things as emergency rescue operations, clearing debris off roads and providing water, food and shelter to residents. The figure does not include damage to private property and individuals, Nichols said. A federal disaster declaration made public entities eligible for federal dollars for 75% of their costs from the storm. The federal disaster declaration paves the way for reimbursement of government costs but not the costs of

individuals. The agency said five teams of damage assessors will begin visiting the stricken areas tomorrow to make a separate tally of the costs to individuals. Nichols said if uninsured losses to homeowners for their primary residences are high enough, the state of Missouri could ask FEMA for an emergency declaration that would let the federal government pay for some of those costs. Nichols said there is no fixed dollar figure that private damages would have to exceed for a FEMA declaration. Instead, total uninsured costs to individuals would have to meet a definition of "substantial or significant".

Earthquakes



AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 30 — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.7 rocked the coast of Australia's remote Macquarie Island today, the U.S. Geological Survey said. The quake struck at 1454, local time and was centred six miles below the seabed. Stuart Koyanagi, a geophysicist at the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center at Ewa Beach, Hawaii, said the quake was unlikely to generate a major Pacific-wide tsunami. "Normally at this magnitude we don't expect any kind of destructive tsunami," he said. Clive Collins, a seismologist at Geoscience Australia, said the Macquarie Island earthquake involved two tectonic plates moving against each other horizontally, rather than vertically, and was unlikely to displace the large quantity of water needed to generate a tsunami.

INDONESIA

Jakarta, Feb 1 — A moderate earthquake shook the southern part of Indonesia's Java island early today, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, an official said. The 5.9 magnitude quake was centred in the sea 147 km southwest of Sukabumi in West Java, Suharjono, chief of the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency in Jakarta, told Reuters. The U.S. Geological Survey put the quake magnitude at 5.8 and said it hit at 0331 hrs, (2031, UTC). — Reuters.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Jan 31 — A powerful earthquake struck under the Pacific Ocean near a remote and uninhabited New Zealand island today, seismologists said. Officials said there was no threat of an ocean-wide tsunami. A magnitude 6.5 tremor hit about 25 miles south of Raoul Island in the Kermadec group that lies within a marine park far north of New Zealand, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

TAIWAN

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A magnitude-6.2 earthquake struck about 60km off the coast of Taitung City at 1900, last night. Originating 5km below the sea floor, the relatively shallow quake measured 4 on the Richter scale in Taitung and Hualien counties, the Central Weather Bureau said. Taipei, meanwhile, was shaken by magnitude 1 tremors from the quake, while the nation's second-largest city, Kaohsiung, experienced 2-magnitude tremors, the bureau's Web site said. Buildings swayed in the capital, located approximately 210km northwest of the epicentre, but no damage or casualties were reported at press time.

Volcanic Activity



SHIVELUCH, RUSSIA

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A plume of ash from the eruption of the Shiveluch volcano on Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula has stretched for 210 kilometres south-west of the giant mount, the Kamchatka branch of the Geophysical Service of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAN) said today. Shiveluch became active on Dec 5, 2006 after a relatively calm period since autumn 2005 and this eruption is continuing now.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A NATO airstrike destroyed a Taliban command post in southern Afghanistan, killing a suspected senior militant leader, the alliance said Friday (Jan 26), while 10 rebel fighters died in a clash with police in the east. An undisclosed number of the militant leader's deputies also were killed in Thursday's airstrike in Musa Qala district of southern Helmand province, a NATO statement said. It did not disclose the name of the leader killed. In eastern Afghanistan, Afghan border police clashed with suspected militants in Gomal district in Paktika province on Thursday, leaving 10 suspected Taliban and one police dead, said Ghammai Mohammadi, spokesman for the province's governor. Five policemen and 15 militants also were wounded in the clash, which happened close to the Pakistan border. Ghammai said that the militants took the dead and wounded across the border into Pakistan. His claims could not be verified. In southern Kandahar

province, two gunmen on a motorbike fatally shot the chief of criminal department of police of Panjwayi district on Thursday, said Mohammad Akbar Khan, a police official.

ALGERIA

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated Jan 30, states: Fifteen people have been killed in a clash between Islamist militants and Algerian security forces in the eastern region of Batna, local media report. The militants carried out a rocket attack on an army post, killing five soldiers, while 10 Islamists reportedly died in an army counter-attack. They are thought to belong to a group now renamed "al-Qaeda in the Maghreb". Earlier this week, the Salafist Group of Preaching and Combat (GSPC) announced that it had changed its name. This latest clash comes amid repeated calls by the army to the general population to help them in their fight against armed militants. The army has put up posters across north-central Algeria, urging people to give them any information they had about "terrorists". It is the first time since the start of the violence linked to radical Islamists in 1992 that the army has used this method of gathering information on the militants. The extensive use of posters by the army contrasts with the government's insistence that armed Islamist groups have been defeated with no chance of resurgence. Last August, Algeria offered Islamic militants a six-month amnesty on condition of surrender, but fewer than 300 came forward. Militants were promised immunity from prosecution provided they were not involved in serious crimes such as massacres, rapes and bombings.

BOLIVIA

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated Jan 29, states: Protesters in south-east Bolivia have blocked the only road that links the country with Argentina and Paraguay. They want more state control over oil and gas firms and say nationalisation has not gone far enough. Demonstrators object to the fact that the president has renegotiated deals with foreign oil firms rather than take back control of the operations. The blockade, in the city of Camiri, could disrupt fuel deliveries to the provincial capital, Santa Cruz. The demonstrators from the Civic Committee of Camiri have said that until YPFB, the state oil firm, is restructured, they will not give up their protest. It comes three days after the YPFB head quit alleging differences with the government of President Evo Morales. The president has named former company adviser Manuel Morales Olivera as the firm's new head. The new contracts with foreign firms are due to come into effect this week.

INDIA

Srinagar, India, Jan 28 — Indian police used teargas and batons today to disperse Shi'ite Muslims as they

marched to mark the death of the Prophet's Mohammed's grandson in Kashmir's main city, police and witnesses said. More than 20 people were wounded, they said. "God is Greatest, there is no god but Allah," the mourners, led by activists of a separatist group, shouted in Srinagar. Shi'ite Muslims across the world mourn the 7th-century slaying of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet, and his followers in the Iraqi city of Kerbala, during the first Muslim month of Muharram, which began on Jan 21. "Over 100 people (Shi'ite Muslims) have been also detained," said a police official. Religious processions, including those in Muharram, led by separatists have been banned in Jammu and Kashmir state since a bloody rebellion against Indian rule broke out in 1989. After the procession, Shi'ites clashed with police in several parts of Srinagar, witnesses said. The procession was headed by members of Ittihad-ul-Muslimeen Jammu Kashmir, part of the region's main separatist alliance, the All Parties Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference. — Reuters.

IRAQ

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A bomb hidden in a box carrying pigeons struck a popular animal market in central Baghdad on Friday (Jan 26), killing at least 13 people and wounding some three dozen, officials and a witness said. The explosive device was hidden in a box when it detonated at about 1000 at the Souq al-Ghazl or Spinning Market, which attracts buyers, sellers and farmers peddling birds, dogs, cats and other animals. Police and hospital officials said at least 13 people were killed and 33 were wounded.

Baghdad, Jan 27 — Two car bombs killed 15 people in a mainly Shi'ite area of Baghdad today in the latest in a series of attacks by militants on crowded shopping areas in the Iraqi capital. The attacks struck New Baghdad in the east of the capital, targeting weekend shoppers thronging shops and market stalls selling fruit and exotic birds. A witness described seeing dead bodies and said several cars were ablaze. Police said 15 people had been killed and 55 wounded in the quick-fire blasts at a street intersection. One police source said the blasts were both the work of suicide bombers in cars, while another said there had been one suicide bomb and a second bomb in a parked car. Gunmen dressed in police commando uniforms abducted eight people from a central Baghdad computer store on Saturday in the latest mass kidnapping to hit the Iraqi capital, police said. Gunmen dragged out employees from the store, situated on a main road, and bundled them into waiting cars. There had been a relative lull in such mass abductions in recent weeks. A rocket was fired into the international Green Zone in Baghdad today and a witness said it appeared to have landed in the US embassy grounds. A US embassy

official said two people were lightly wounded. They were not embassy staff and he could not confirm it landed in the embassy compound. US forces killed 14 insurgents in an air strike early today in an area near Baghdad where Sunni insurgents are battling Iraqi government and US troops. The US military said the air strike was launched after some militants had tried to escape troops closing in on them. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jan 28 — Iraqi security forces battled Sunni militants south of Baghdad as a spate of bomb blasts in the capital killed 13 people in mainly Shi'ite areas today, on the eve of the climax of a major Shi'ite religious rite. A US helicopter was shot down in the fighting near Najaf, Iraq security sources said. The US military declined comment. A reporter saw a helicopter come down trailing smoke. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims have converged on Iraq's other main Shi'ite holy city, Kerbala, for Ashura, marking the 7th century Battle of Kerbala, which helped consolidate the schism between Shi'ite and Sunni Islam. It ends tomorrow. It is the first time the 10-day annual ritual has been held since violence erupted last February between Iraq's majority Shi'ites and once-dominant minority Sunnis. The governor of Najaf province said Iraqi troops fought a fierce day-long battle with a group of Sunni gunmen, including foreign fighters, holed up in orchards on the northern outskirts of the holy city, seat of Iraq's most powerful Shi'ite clerics. Governor Asaad Abu Gilel said the authorities had uncovered a plot to kill some of the clerics tomorrow, to coincide with the climax of Ashura. The focus of Ashura rites is in Kerbala, 70 km north of Najaf. "There is a conspiracy to kill the clergy on the tenth day of Muharram," Najaf governor Abu Gilel said, referring to the day of the Muslim calendar tomorrow. A reporter about 1.5 km from the fighting said he heard intense gunfire and saw smoke trailing from a US attack helicopter before it came down in the midst of the fighting. He was unable to see what had happened to the helicopter but officers in Iraq's 8th Army Division and policemen said it had crashed and that the two crew members were dead. One of the army officers said the gunmen were dressed in camouflage uniforms and appeared to be well organised and fighting in small formations. About 25 had been captured, including a Sudanese national. Several had said under interrogation they belonged to the Army of Imam Ahmed al-Yemeni, a group not previously heard of. The reporter said he had earlier seen two wounded Iraqi soldiers with a dead comrade in the back of a truck outside an Iraqi military base. He said troop reinforcements from the nearby city of Hilla had been summoned and at one point in the battle he heard radio communications in which soldiers in the midst of the fighting were asking for fresh ammunition supplies. In

Today's violence in Baghdad, five girls were killed in a mortar strike on a school in a predominantly Sunni Arab district in western Baghdad today and five people were killed by a bomb on a minibus in a Shi'ite area. The victims were among 18 people killed by bombs and mortars in the city, while at least six more were shot dead, including the top civil servant in the Industry Ministry. Thirteen of the bomb victims were in mainly Shi'ite neighbourhoods. — Reuters.

Najaf, Iraq, Jan 28 — US and Iraqi forces killed 250 gunmen in a fierce battle involving US tanks and helicopters on the outskirts of the Shi'ite holy city of Najaf today, a senior Iraqi police officer said. The day-long battle was continuing after nightfall, Colonel Ali Nomas said, as tens of thousands of pilgrims converged on the nearby city of Kerbala for the climax of the Ashura commemorations. A US helicopter was shot down in the fighting, Iraq security sources said. Shi'ite political sources said the gunmen appeared to be both Sunni Arabs and Shi'ites loyal to a cleric called Ahmed Hassani. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jan 30 — Bombers killed 36 people in two attacks on majority Shi'ite worshippers marking the religious ritual of Ashura today amid heightened tensions between Iraq's Shi'ites and once politically dominant minority Sunnis. Four more pilgrims were killed in an ambush in the capital on the final day of the week-long annual Ashura mourning rite, the highpoint of the Shi'ite religious calendar. Also in Baghdad, mortars were fired on the mainly Sunni district of Adhamiya, killing 17 and wounding 72, a police source said. Fearing a possible strike by insurgents, Iraqi authorities had deployed 11,000 police and soldiers to the holy Shi'ite city of Kerbala, focus of the commemoration that marks the death in battle of the Prophet Mohammed's grandson there 1,300 years ago. The fears were fuelled by the discovery of what Iraqi officials said was a plot by a messianic Muslim cult to target senior Shi'ite clerics in the holy city of Najaf south of Baghdad at the climax of Ashura this week. Iraqi security forces backed by US tanks, helicopters and jet fighters fought a fierce day-long battle with the "Soldiers of Heaven" near the city on Sunday (Jan 28) in which one US helicopter crashed. Iraqi officials said the cult's leader was killed. Iraqi Defence Ministry spokesman Mohammed al-Askari said on Tuesday the final toll from the battle was 263 killed. A total of 502 "Soldiers of Heaven" followers had been arrested, including 210 wounded. In the first blast today, 13 people were killed, including three women and a teenage boy, and 39 wounded when a roadside bomb hit a procession of Shi'ites in the town of Khanaqin north-east of Baghdad, police said. Shortly afterwards, a suicide bomber blew himself up among worshippers outside a Shi'ite mosque in the town of Balad

Ruz, about 80 km to the south of Khanaqin, killing 23 people and wounding 57, police said. Gunmen also attacked two minibuses carrying pilgrims returning from Najaf in Baghdad's south-western Bayaa district, killing four and wounding nine, police said. Several barrages of mortars rained down on Adhamiya, a mainly Sunni district in northern Baghdad, killing 17 people and wounding 72, a police source said. — Reuters. (See issue of Jan 31.)

London, Jan 31 — Insurgents killed at least nine people in a series of car bombings in Iraq today, security officials said. A car bomb ripped through Baghdad's northern Bab al-Muadam district, killing five people and wounding 12, a security official said. A similar attack in which two people were killed and three wounded was reported from Baghdad's western Al-Yarmuk district, he said. A third car bombing in the capital's eastern Al-Amin district killed one and wounded six others. In the restive northern city of Mosul, a car bomb slammed a police patrol and left one policeman dead and another three wounded, police said. In a separate attack, a suicide bomber blew up his fuel truck at an Iraqi army base wounding 12 soldiers, six of them seriously, a security source said. The attack took place in Muqdadiya, 100km north-east of Baghdad in the restive province of Diyala.

Baghdad, Feb 1 — Iraqi civilian deaths in political violence reached a new high in January, data from an interior ministry official showed today. The statistics, widely viewed as an indicative but only partial record of violent deaths, showed 1,971 people died from "terrorism" in January, slightly up from the previous high of 1,930 deaths recorded in December 2006. The figures from the Interior Ministry source are collated from various ministries and while not comprehensive, are a guide to trends that are consistent with data from other sources. The United Nations, which gathers data from the Health Ministry and Baghdad's morgue, put the number of civilian deaths in December at 2,914, down from 3,462 in November. The Interior Ministry toll refers to people killed in "terrorism" — a category that may not include many of the dozens of unidentified bodies found daily in Baghdad, many the victims of sectarian death squads. January's figures also put the number of insurgents killed at 590, the highest toll for at least a year. That included a fierce battle between security forces and a shadowy sect near the holy city of Najaf on Sunday (Jan 28) in which the government has said around 260 gunmen were killed. — Reuters.

London, Feb 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Iraq indefinitely halted all flights to and from Syria and closed a border crossing with Iran as the government prepares for a new security crackdown aimed at crushing violence in the capital and surrounding regions, a member of

parliament and an airport official said yesterday. The airport official said flights to and from Syria would be cancelled for at least two weeks and that service had been interrupted on Tuesday (Jan 30). The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to reveal the information. Hassan al-Sunneid, a legislator and member of the parliament Defense and Security Committee, said the move "was in preparation for the security plan. The state will decide when the flights will resume." The actions were seen as a signal to both countries not to interfere in Iraq's affairs as U.S. and Iraqi forces prepare for the major crackdown on armed groups in the capital. Syria is believed to be harbouring former Baath party officials who support the Sunni insurgency and has been accused of allowing foreign fighters to slip across its border with Iraq. U.S. officials have complained that Iran smuggles weapons to Shiite extremists who have killed Americans and provides Shiite militia with training and support. Syrian authorities yesterday denied reports arising elsewhere that it had halted Iraqi Airways flights but said it would bar landings by Iraqi airliners lacking safety requirements or those arriving without advance permission. The official Syrian news agency, SANA, said the measure was agreed to last week by the Iraqi Civil Aviation Authority after Syrian technical teams found that some Iraqi planes did not meet safety codes, or that they entered Syrian airspace without notice or permission from Syrian authorities. Iraqi Airways is now the only airline linking the Syrian and Iraqi capitals. Al-Sunneid refused to confirm reports that Syrian border crossings also would be closed, saying only that "more decisions would be taken." He said the Sheeb border crossing with Iran "also was closed in preparation for the (security) plan." Iraq said last week that closures of Iranian crossings involved the border checkpoints at Sheeb, in Maysan province, and the Shalamjaa border checkpoint in Basra province. Authorities in Baghdad said the two crossings had been shut down ahead of the Ashoura festivities, the Shiite ceremony in which tens of thousands of pilgrims — many from Iran — descend the Shiite holy city of Karbala. The festival reached its climax Tuesday. Iranian television said Sunday (Jan 28) that Iran had closed several border crossings with Iraq ahead of Ashoura, citing a decision by the government in Tehran. It said the crossings were closed to "contain the large number of pilgrims" bound for Karbala without "legal documents."

ISRAEL

Gaza, Jan 27 — At least two Palestinians were killed today when rival factions clashed in the Gaza Strip near the pro-Hamas Islamic University, hospital officials said. One of the dead was believed to be a university student who was caught in

the cross fire, witnesses said. — Reuters.

Gaza, Jan 28 — Palestinian civilians sought refuge across Gaza today from a third day of fierce clashes which have killed 22 people and brought the coastal strip closer to civil war than any time since Hamas came to power last year. The sounds of exploding grenades and automatic weapons fire echoed in Gaza City as gunbattles raged, witnesses said, and a bomb blast damaged the Gaza home of a bodyguard of senior Fatah figure Mohammed Dahlan. The clashes are the fiercest among Palestinians since the Islamist Hamas group won elections last January, unseating President Mahmoud Abbas's once dominant Fatah. The violence, and a wave of abductions, have derailed troubled coalition talks between the two factions and brought much of Gaza to a standstill. Residents said some families were evacuating homes near the worst of the fighting. Schools across the narrow, densely populated territory, home to 1.5 million Palestinians, were closed today and only a few shops were open for people buying emergency supplies. Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas urged Abbas to pull Fatah gunmen off the streets but Fatah spokesman Tawfiq Abu Khoussa said the Hamas-led executive forces were "the major element in tensions and in the continuation of sabotage and killing." There were no casualties reported today in either the bomb blast or the fighting. Hospital officials said a Hamas gunman died of wounds sustained yesterday when explosives he was handling detonated. In the latest skirmishes, Hamas gunmen and members of the Fatah-dominated Preventive Security Service clashed outside its main headquarters in Gaza, witnesses said. Snipers took up positions on rooftops as Hamas and Fatah gunmen exchanged fire below. There were also gunbattles outside the headquarters of the Hamas-led police, witnesses said. In the West Bank city of Nablus at least five Hamas supporters, including a city councillor, were abducted by the the Fatah-linked Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. Eight Fatah and nine Hamas supporters were still held in Gaza. — Reuters.

London, Jan 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A suicide bomber attacked a bakery in the southern Israeli town of Eilat, killing three people, police said. Witnesses speaking on Israeli radio said body parts were scattered throughout the building. It is the first such attack by Palestinian militants inside Israel since in April 2006. "Our assumption is that it's not one bomber, and there might be more bombers in Eilat right now," said Bruno Stein, Eilat's police commander. Three separate Palestinian militant groups have reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack: Islamic Jihad, al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and a previously unknown group calling itself the Army of Believers.

Gaza, Jan 30 — Rival Palestinian factions held their fire in the first

hours of a truce today but some gunmen remained on the streets of the Gaza Strip and police deployment was limited, witnesses and security sources said. No major violence was reported after 0300 hrs (0100, UTC). The truce took effect after Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas met an aide to President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah yesterday in a bid to stem a surge of fighting. While Hamas gunmen removed their impromptu checkpoints, some Fatah fighters remained visible in Gaza City, protecting the official residences of Abbas and a senior faction chief as well as the compound of a security service considered loyal to Fatah. The ceasefire also requires Hamas and Fatah gunmen to release hostages and Palestinian police to deploy in force. There was a limited police presence in Gaza today, but no immediate word on the release of hostages. A day after a suicide bomber from Gaza killed three people in Israel's Red Sea resort of Eilat, Israeli Defence Minister Amir Peretz vowed to take action but gave no hint as to when, where or against whom the military would strike. "The initiative will be ours and we have no intention of relaying what we plan to do," Peretz said in broadcast remarks during a visit to the porous border with Egypt, near Eilat. With the Quartet of Middle East peace mediators due to meet in Washington on Friday (Feb 2), Israel could be wary of taking military action that might jeopardise a diplomatic drive promoted by its main ally, the United States. In remarks yesterday after the Eilat attack, Peretz said Israel would "do everything to preserve" a two-month-old Gaza ceasefire with militant groups. The suicide bombing, claimed by Islamic Jihad and al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, was the first in Israel in nine months. Palestinian Foreign Minister Mahmoud al-Zahar, speaking after Haniyeh and Abbas met, said the two sides agreed to hold their fire and remove all their gunmen from the streets of Gaza. In the run-up to the truce, at least 30 Palestinians were killed in 5 days of factional street battles. The violence has derailed unity government talks between Hamas and Fatah and prompted some Gazan families to flee their homes. Many shops and schools have been closed. Previous ceasefires, including one last month, have been short-lived. In a separate incident, Israeli forces bombed a tunnel near the Gaza Strip's Karni crossing today which they believed Palestinian militants planned to use to carry out attacks inside Israel, an army spokesman said. It followed the killing yesterday of three people in Eilat, by a Palestinian suicide bomber, who apparently slipped from Gaza into the Egyptian Sinai. "There was an aerial attack on a tunnel near the Karni crossing, which was going to be used for attacks against Israeli citizens in the immediate future," the army spokesman said. "There were secondary explosions." Gaza residents

heard an explosion near Karni but there were no immediate reports of casualties. It was Israel's first aerial strike in Gaza since several Palestinian factions announced a limited truce with Israel in late November. — Reuters.

Gaza, Jan 31 — A cease-fire between the governing Hamas movement and the once-dominant Fatah faction largely held in the Gaza Strip for a second day despite sporadic incidents of violence today. Hospital officials said Bashir Issa, a member of Fatah's al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, was in critical condition after being shot by gunmen who opened fire from a car in Gaza City. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. Gunmen on a rooftop fired at the headquarters of the Preventive Security Service, most of whose members are loyal to Fatah. Residents said a four-minute clash ensued but no one was hurt. The cease-fire went into effect yesterday after the deaths of at least 30 Palestinians in the fiercest internal Palestinian violence since Hamas, an Islamist group, defeated the long-dominant Fatah faction in an election a year ago. Shops and schools had shut down during five days of bloodshed that preceded the agreement by the feuding factions to pull back from what many Gazans described as a rush towards civil war. The violence had derailed unity government talks between Hamas and Fatah and prompted some families in the coastal strip to flee their homes. The truce was initially threatened when Hamas blamed the Preventive Security Service for the killing yesterday of one of its commanders, Hussein Shabasi. Hospital officials said Shabasi was shot in the head in the town of Khan Younis. The security service denied any connection with his death. In the West Bank city of Nablus, Israeli forces seized a wanted Islamic Jihad militant, the army said. The militant's wife was seriously wounded during the raid. The Israeli army has mounted several raids in the occupied West Bank since a Palestinian suicide bomber killed three people in the Israeli resort city of Eilat on Monday (Jan 29). The suicide bombing, claimed by Islamic Jihad and al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, was the first in Israel in nine months. A shaky truce between Israel and the Palestinians has been in place in the Gaza Strip since November but does not apply to the West Bank. — Reuters.

Nablus, West Bank, Feb 1 — Israeli troops killed two Palestinian militants in the West Bank today during a raid, local residents and medical officials said. They said the two were shot dead during a clash in the old town of Nablus. An Israeli military source said: "a force identified two gunmen and fired at them during an operation in Nablus." Local residents said the two belonged to the military wing of the militant group Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. Israeli forces also seized a wanted Islamic Jihad militant in Nablus yesterday, the army said. The

militant's wife was seriously wounded during the raid. — Reuters.

LEBANON

Beirut, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Clashes erupted between government loyalists and opposition supporters in Lebanon yesterday, escalating swiftly and leaving at least three people dead and 158 others wounded by the time a rare curfew was imposed on the city at 2030 hrs. Thirteen Lebanese Army soldiers, including four officers, were also wounded while trying to defuse the violence that spilled over from a political argument on a university campus in Tariq al-Jdideh. Premier Fouad Siniora, speaking from the Paris III donor conference, called for restraint. The initial fight yesterday broke out in a cafeteria at Beirut Arab University in the Tariq al-Jdideh neighbourhood. Two students — one a supporter of the Future Movement and the other a Hizbullah partisan — exchanged insults, with one spitting at the other. From there, it escalated into a mainly Sunni-Shiite clash, escalating from fists to clubs to gunfire and Molotov cocktails. The initial fight trapped many people, including local high-school students, in the midst of the clashes until they were escorted out by the army. Supporters from pro-government Sunni parties and their Shiite counterparts, Amal and Hizbullah, quickly arrived at the scene for a face-off. The army responded by blocking off main roads and imposed a curfew over Beirut from 2030 yesterday until 0600 today. The curfew applied to pedestrians and moving vehicles, while the tents in Downtown — where opposition supporters have been sleeping since December — were to be treated as a residential area. Military personnel, medical staff, the diplomatic corps, media and bakeries were excluded from the curfew. The army confirmed the presence of snipers, but both groups blamed the other. In Basta, army barracks were destroyed. Bank Street, near the opposition's sit-in, was also the scene of violent clashes, where many windows were broken. The army blocked several roads in Beirut, boxing in Hamra for a period, and deployed heavily in areas where tensions have been high, such as Corniche al-Mazraa. In Jiyeh, unidentified armed men erected roadblocks and stopped motorists to check identification papers. The army eventually cleared the gunmen and reopened the highway from Beirut to the South. Despite the curfew, Beirut's Rafik Hariri International Airport remained open. An airport official told The Daily Star that passengers would be allowed to travel to the airport if they showed army soldiers a valid ticket. However, passengers were expected to remain in the airport until the curfew ended. Some flights were cancelled. All schools and universities were ordered shut until further notice, Education Minister Khaled Qabbani said. — Lloyd's Agents.

NEPAL

Kathmandu, Jan 27 — One person was killed and many wounded today when police opened fire at protesters in south-east Nepal, taking to six the number of people killed in protests by ethnic Madhesi people, an official said. The incident took place in Kalaiya town, 75 km south-east of Kathmandu, the official said from Bara district of which Kalaiya is the capital. "Police had to open fire after the protesters pelted stones at them," he said without giving details. Witnesses said six protesters were also wounded and had been rushed to a nearby hospital. — Reuters.

Kathmandu, Jan 30 — Nepal has agreed to give more parliamentary seats to the ethnic Madhesi people in parliament, the home minister said, after two weeks of anti-government protests by Madhesis that left eight people dead. Madhesis, who live in the southern fertile flatlands of Terai, say they have been sidelined after a peace pact between the government and former Maoist rebels. The Madhesi have been demanding more positions in parliament, political parties, the government and security agencies. They say their community is under-represented by "political elites" from Nepal's mountains. The Madhesi want greater autonomy for the Terai, Nepal's breadbasket and industrial hub, which borders India and is home to nearly half of Nepal's population. "We plan to redraw the seats according to the population in the Terai and the Kathmandu Valley, where population density is higher," Home Minister Krishna Prasad Sitaula told Reuters in an interview late yesterday night. "The representation will increase from Madhesh (Terai) and Kathmandu," said Sitaula, accusing supporters of King Gyanendra of trying to stir trouble to derail the peace pact with the Maoists. More than 100 people were wounded in the unrest over the last two weeks and authorities have placed several towns in Terai under curfew. Yesterday, Commerce Minister Hridayesh Tripathi, who is from the Madhesi community resigned, saying the governing alliance was not serious about addressing their grievances. Despite making up about 30 percent of Nepal's 26 million people, Madhesis occupy only about 15 percent of seats in parliament. Sitaula blamed supporters of King Gyanendra, who was stripped of his powers after mass protests ended his absolute rule last April, for exploiting Madhesi grievances to fuel violence. "I feel the king's conspiracy to try to create the feeling that there can be no peace in Nepal without royal rule," Sitaula said, speaking from the high-security ministers' quarters. Yesterday night, police detained former home minister Kamal Thapa, who held his post during Gyanendra's absolute rule. Another two royalist ministers were also detained on suspicion of inciting unrest in the Terai. — Reuters.

Kathmandu, Jan 31 — Nepal's prime minister today promised to turn Nepal

into a federal state after this year's constituent assembly elections, a move to stem protests by ethnic Madhesi people in which 11 people have died. Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala also vowed to redraw constituencies for the planned vote, the first in eight years, on the basis of population and geography to raise the representation of different groups, including the Madhesi people, in the assembly. Hours after his comments, Madhesi protesters clashed with police in Biratnagar, Koirala's home town in southeast Nepal. A police officer and a protester were killed, police said. Protesters ransacked a police post and stole a pistol and two rifles, a police official said. At least two towns remained under curfew today as the protests continued to cripple Terai, Nepal's economic and industrial hub which borders India. Protests from Madhesi people, who live in Nepal's fertile southern lowlands, have cast a shadow over the landmark deal in 2006 that declared an end to the decade-old Maoist revolt in which more than 13,000 people were killed. The constituent assembly, a key demand of the former Maoist rebels, is meant to draw up a permanent constitution for the country and map out its political future. "The new constitution to be prepared by the constituent assembly will create a federal democratic system," Koirala said in a nationally televised address. The move is seen aimed at ending centuries of central rule and appeasing ethnic groups complaining of government neglect. Koirala's comments came nearly two weeks after violent protests across the eastern Terai, also known as Madhesh, in which more than 100 were also injured. Earlier in January, government and Maoists approved an interim constitution that saw the former rebels start to lock up their arms and join a provisional parliament as part of the peace deal negotiated by Koirala and Maoist chief Prachanda. However many, including the ethnic people of the Terai region, said the new constitution had failed to give them adequate representation in parliament. — Reuters.

NIGERIA

Manila, Jan 30 — The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs said today that seven of the 24 abducted Filipino crew members of barge container carrier *Baco-Liner 2*, which was hijacked in Nigeria, are seriously ill. "We are deeply disturbed by the report in the Nigerian press that our seafarers are critically ill," Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Eduardo Malaya said. The Nigerian newspaper, *The Punch*, reported that the health of seven Filipino hostages had worsened due to lack of medication. The Filipinos are reportedly suffering from hypertension and diabetes. The paper also said that the group holding the hostages, had been in touch with the shipowners to ask for medicines. The Philippine ambassador in Nigeria has been

ordered to verify the reports, the Department said. The Department also said that there is still no breakthrough in negotiations between the Nigerian government and the hostage-takers. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PAKISTAN

Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 27 — A blast near the largest mosque in the Pakistani city of Peshawar killed up to 10 policemen, a police official said. Police officer Chaudhry Ashraf said half a dozen police were wounded, including the city's deputy police chief. — Reuters.

Karachi, Jan 29 — Another attack on gas installation was reported in western Province of Pakistan. Tribes in two districts of province have been demanding government that natural resources endowed in Balochistan are their legitimate assets and no one should be allowed to exploit it. According to local media, gas supply to the main purification plant in Sui, owned by largest gas producer-Pakistan Petroleum Ltd (PPL) was suspended yesterday after saboteurs blew up the main pipeline from the gas field in Balochistan Province. It said high explosives materials with a timer were used to blow up the pipeline. "The blast destroyed a portion of the pipeline," official sources in Sui said, adding that soon after the incident the gas supply in the affected pipeline was cut off from the wells. "Gas supply to the main purification plant was temporarily affected," sources in the PPL said. However, they said that the plant was working normally. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PHILIPPINES

Zamboanga City, Jan 27 — Fighting erupted in the southern Philippines today between security forces and Muslim separatists engaged in a peace process with the government and at least six people were killed, rebels and military officials said. Mohaqher Iqbal, chief peace negotiator of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), told Reuters soldiers were shelling rebel positions in Midsayap, a farming town in North Cotabato province. "Fighting is still raging in Midsayap," Iqbal told Reuters by telephone from a hideout on the southern island of Mindanao. "We're still trying to confirm if our troops suffered some casualties because OV-10 planes were also indiscriminately dropping bombs in several villages in Midsayap." Iqbal said the conflict was ignited by a land dispute between native Muslims and Christian settlers in Midsayap, and hundreds of villagers had fled the area. Lieutenant-Colonel Julieta Ando, a military spokesman in Cotabato, said six people were killed in the fighting including three rebels and three members of a pro-government militia. — Reuters.

Manila, Jan 28 — The chief of the Philippine Armed Forces has ordered troops to stand down to prevent an escalation of fighting between the

military and the Muslim separatists which could further endanger the government's peace talks, the Muslims' chief peace negotiator said today. Mohaqher Iqbal, chief of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) peace panel, said that he was informed by the head of the government truce panel that Armed Forces Chief of Staff Hermogenes Esperon ordered a stop to military operations in Midsayap town in the southern Philippine province of North Cotabato. "As of this morning, fighting has stopped, both sides have disengaged," Iqbal said. But he added that troops were still visible in the area. The fighting that erupted yesterday left six dead and members of a joint ceasefire committee of the government and the MILF have been sent to investigate the cause of the skirmish. "The unfortunate incident in Midsayap, North Cotabato is now being handled by the joint ceasefire committee of the government and MILF," Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process, said. "The situation has started to normalise. We are now moving to assist the evacuees," he said. Around 2,000 residents from five villages fled their homes when the fighting started but some have started to return, Dureza said. Lieutenant-Colonel Julieto Ando, a military spokesman in Cotabato, said there were no more additional casualties from the six killed yesterday, which included three rebels and three members of a pro-government militia. Ando had said the fighting broke out when soldiers chased a group of armed men raiding rice farms in Midsayap, seizing produce from local farmers. — Reuters.

Manila, Jan 30 — Washington is offering a \$50,000 reward for the capture of a Muslim rebel blamed for bomb attacks in the southern Philippines just ahead of a summit of Asian nations this month, the U.S. embassy said today. Abdul Basit Usman, a former member of the Muslim separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) who is believed to have ties with radical militant groups Jemaah Islamiah and Abu Sayyaf, was said to be behind bomb attacks on Mindanao since October 2006. "It is time to bring this despicable terrorist to justice," the U.S. embassy said in a statement, encouraging informers to call Manila's anti-terrorist task force and the embassy. — Reuters.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Jan 30 — Midia port was re-opened at 2230 hrs, Jan 29. Constantza port and Sulina Channel are still closed. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOMALIA

Mogadiscio, Jan 28 — Gunmen attacked a Somali security boss and fired rocket-propelled grenades at police stations in the latest wave of guerrilla-style ambushes on the government and its Ethiopian allies, residents said today. Gunmen opened fire on Mogadiscio Police Chief Ali

Said's convoy this afternoon, witnesses said. He survived, but one civilian was wounded in the ensuing shootout. Another seven people were hurt when gunmen fired rockets at two police stations in Mogadiscio late yesterday, before opening up with machine-guns at officers on guard outside. The government blamed remnants of an Islamist movement which vowed a long guerrilla war after it was ousted from Mogadiscio over the New Year. "We will make sure such individuals are filtered from society and apprehended," said spokesman Abdirahman Dinari. Leaflets circulating at the weekend in Mogadiscio, and purporting to be from the defeated Somalia Islamic Courts Council (SICC), urged residents to avoid collaboration with Ethiopians or face "losing lives and property". Ethiopia's military joined Somali government forces late last month in a two-week offensive that drove the Islamists out of strongholds in south Somalia they had held since June. Islamist fighters scattered to remote parts of the south, where they been attacked by Ethiopian and US air strikes. Witnesses said assailants on two vehicles fired two rockets at Wardigley police station in south Mogadiscio late yesterday, before shooting at officers on guard. Rockets were simultaneously fired at Howlwadag police station in the centre. "In Howlwadag, two policemen and three civilians were wounded while in Wardigley, a civilian and a policeman were injured," police officer Ali Nur said. In Ethiopia, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi warned that, while the Islamists were no longer a military threat, they could regroup if there was not reconciliation among Somali clans. — Reuters.

Baidoa, Jan 31 — Somalia's parliament elected a new speaker today to replace the one ousted over his overtures to Islamist rivals defeated by government and Ethiopian troops during a two-week war in December. Members of parliament voted overwhelmingly in favour of Sheikh Adan Madobe who takes over from Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan, voted out of office on January 17. Parliament sources said Madobe enjoys support from President Abdullahi Yusuf, who arrived in Baidoa yesterday evening. Former speaker Adan had close ties with Mogadishu businessmen who financed the Somalia Islamic Courts Council. He tried several times to strike peace deals between the government and the Islamists — moves that infuriated the government. As Somalia's transitional government tries to cement political control of the country, African leaders are struggling to build an African Union peacekeeping force for Somalia, which would fill a security vacuum after Ethiopian troops leave. Ethiopia says its mission is complete and it wants the first AU units to deploy by mid-February. But an AU summit ended today in Addis Ababa with a proposed peacekeeping force for Somalia still lacking firm

commitments for thousands of troops. Many African nations are nervous about committing soldiers to one of the world's most dangerous countries where warlords and their gunmen ruled unchecked for 15 years. The dangers were underlined yesterday when a series of blasts rocked northern Mogadishu in an area of the capital where Ethiopian troops are based, security sources and residents said. Uganda, Nigeria and Burundi have pledged most of the troops so far, with an unknown number also committed by Ghana and Malawi. Zambia is considering a contribution. A senior Algerian official said his country would provide about 12 transport planes to airlift the troops. The European Union has released 15 million euros (\$19 million) to finance the Somalia peacekeepers. Speaking in Baidoa, Prime Minister Gedi called yesterday for a state of emergency law recently passed by parliament to be implemented, citing the presence of technicals — pick-up trucks mounted with heavy arms that are Somalia's version of tanks. — Reuters.

SRI LANKA

Colombo, Jan 27 — Sri Lanka's Navy sank three suspected Tamil Tiger craft off the capital's main harbour early today and a large blast on board one suggested it was an explosives-packed suicide vessel, the military said. Navy fast-attack boats sank one of the small fibreglass vessels six nautical miles from Colombo harbour and chased two others out to sea, sinking them as well, officials said. It was not clear how many people were on board the boats but a Navy search team later found three suspected Tigers alive in the sea and were interrogating them. "We suspect they came to attack naval boats to create panic," said military spokesman Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe. "Given the explosion, there must have been a lot of explosives aboard. It must have been a suicide boat. The Tigers have been losing ground in the east, so they want to (prove) something here too," he said. — Reuters. (See also *Peloponnesian Pride* under "Marine.")

Colombo, Jan 31 — Suspected Tamil Tiger rebels ambushed a police bus with a roadside bomb outside a university in eastern Sri Lanka today, killing six officers as they headed on leave, the military said. The attack in the restive eastern district of Batticaloa came after the government vowed to wipe out the Tigers militarily, a development analysts say could deepen a new chapter in a two-decade civil war. "A Claymore (fragmentation mine) attack in front of the Eastern University in Batticaloa has blasted a bus carrying police personnel going on leave," military spokesman Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe told reporters. "Six were killed. There may be more injuries." — Reuters.

YEMEN

Sanaa, Jan 28 — Six Yemeni soldiers were killed and 20 were wounded

when Shi'ite rebels attacked state forces in a northern province, a government official said today. "A group of saboteurs led by Abdul-Malek al-Houthi carried out a rare attack yesterday on locations belonging to the armed forces and security in the province of Saada," the official said in a statement sent to Reuters. Anti-U.S. Shi'ite Houthi is the son of Sheikh Badr el-Deen al-Houthi and the brother of slain cleric Hussein, who sought to set up a Shi'ite regime. — Reuters.

Labour Disputes



CANADA

Montreal, Jan 29 — The Verreault Navigation shipyard at Les Mechins is on strike and will not be operating until the matter is settled. — Lloyd's Agents.

GUINEA

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated Jan 25, states: The general strike in Guinea is continuing despite President Lansana Conte's offer to name a new prime minister, a key union demand. Thousands of people have held protests in the eastern town of Kankan, reports the AFP news agency. Talks are also continuing, focused on how much power the president would hand over to the prime minister. Almost 60 people have died in 16 days of protests, organised by unions who say Mr Conte should step down. Officials now say that at least 49 people were killed in the capital, Conakry on Monday, 16 more than were previously said to have died. The trades unions said they wanted first to see concrete action from President Conte before ending the strike. (See issue of Jan 26.)

Conakry, Jan 27 — Guinea's unions suspended a crippling, 18-day-old general strike today after forcing President Lansana Conte's government to agree to name a consensus prime minister and reduce the prices of fuel and rice. The strike was launched on Jan 10 to challenge the 23-year rule of Conte. Union leaders said was no longer fit to run the West African country. "The union association has decided to suspend the strike this Saturday, Jan 27, and invites all Guineans to return to work," Ibrahima Fofana, leader of USTG union federation, told a meeting late today in Conakry's Palace of the People. Street clashes between security forces and protestors have killed at least 60 people, rights campaigners say, and the stoppage halted bauxite shipments by the world's top exporter of the aluminium ore. Today's agreement, signed by the head of the Supreme Court and the National Assembly as well as union leaders and a representative of business leaders, formalised the appointment of

a new consensus prime minister to take over the day-to-day operations of government. Strike leaders have insisted this post must be filled in the coming days. — Reuters.

Conakry, Jan 30 — From January 10 up to January 27, all activities in Guinea and Conakry were affected by a general strike organised by the labour union. However, port installations, warehouses and cargoes have not been "touched" by events. Despite the troubles in some areas, three vessels have berthed at Conakry port, during this period. Container carrier *Maersk Noumea* on January 14, for unloading unloading and loading of containers, a vehicle carrier on January 15, for unloading vehicles and container carrier *Maersk Itajai* on January 20, for unloading and loading of containers. Conakry airport was considered in operational condition during this period, especially for the Guinean pilgrims return from Mecca. The damaged installations during these troubles were notably some police stations in Conakry and provinces. Loss of life is estimated at more than 60, while the wounded total more than 150. At around 2330, UTC, January 27, a protocol of agreement was signed by the labour union leaders and the Guinean government suspending the general strike and re-starting all activities. — Lloyd's Agents.

INDIA

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A breakthrough in a paralysing fuel truck strike is expected to restore the flow of gasoline to the Indian state of West Bengal today, a spokesman for truck owners said. Truck owners agreed to suspend the strike — in its sixth day — for 15 days following a state government's request to facilitate negotiations, West Bengal Oil Tankers' Association secretary Ajit Das said. Truck owners are demanding a hike in charges for transporting the fuel from gasoline depots to pumps. The state government promised to take up their demand with the federal government, Das said. Federal government-owned oil companies set the transportation rate the truckers can charge, according to the Press Trust of India news agency. Fuel shortages have paralysed public transportation as stocks ran dangerously low in more than 300 gas stations across the eastern state, officials said. Only about a quarter of the state's buses and taxis were operating today as many gas stations had exhausted their stocks of gasoline and diesel, said Jaideb Sarkar, the general secretary of the West Bengal Gasoline Dealers' Association. Long queues of cars and buses were seen outside all gas stations as vehicle owners tried to buy fuel.

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated today, states: After six days, the West Bengal Tankers' Association decided yesterday afternoon to defer by a fortnight their strike that had hobbled the city. Association secretary

said members had given in to the numerous requests from all quarters, but sources said it was transport minister Subhas Chakraborty who worked overtime to break the logjam.

INDIA

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated Jan 25, states: Members of the West Bengal Tanker' Association went on an indefinite strike today in protest against payment of low charges. The members said petrol pumps would not face any crisis in the next four to five days as tankers had delivered fuel till last night. Members of the association met transport minister Subhas Chakraborty at Writers' Buildings to voice their grievances. The minister assured them that he would take up the matter with the Centre. They will meet him again on Jan 29.

ISRAEL

London, Jan 31 — The Ashdod Port has been totally strikebound since early this morning, after the workers committee decided at midnight yesterday to exercise a labour dispute declared three weeks ago. The workers committee claims a breach in the labour agreement signed when the ports were privatised, positions have not been filled and that port workers have been harassed.

London, Feb 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers at the Ashdod port declared a strike yesterday to protest aspects of its workers' agreement, ignoring an agreement not to strike for five years as part of the reforms instituted at the country's ports. In response to the breaking of the pledge, the Ashdod Port Company board said it would meet with urgency to discuss canceling all grants and bonuses promised to the workers in the framework of the reform agreement. "The workers union is opposed to the application of a number of chapters in the workers' agreement, which they signed a number of years ago," the Ashdod Port Company said, singling out their objections to the use of electronic swipe cards, which it said has become standard use in government and public organizations. The port's management said it was taken by surprise by the strike since it reached an oral agreement with the Histadrut Labor Union last Thursday (Jan 25) to end the work dispute between the parties over the last three weeks. "The discussions had continued from Thursday every day until late [Tuesday] night," the Port's management said. "The Histadrut did not honor its agreement." The electronic swipe cards were one of the measures instituted to make the port more efficient as part of the government's long-term program to privatize Israel's ports as it seeks to open the market to competition. The workers have opposed the reforms as they believe they ultimately will lead to massive layoffs. The Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce estimated the business community lost NIS 50 million in the first day of the

strike and accused the workers of using the strike as a political means of weakening the management to bring the port to the same situation it was in before the reforms.

NORWAY

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Doctors and other workers at nearly a dozen hospitals around the country headed back to work on Friday (Jan 26), ending an eight-day strike that affected thousands of patients who'd been waiting for treatment. Scheduled operations had been cancelled and outpatient clinics were severely disrupted when the union representing hospital employees called a strike late last week. Both sides were called in to mediation Thursday night and national mediator Svein Longva put forth a proposal that both the state agency running the hospitals, NAVO, and the union, Akademikerne, accepted Friday morning. It calls for immediate pay hikes of between 2 and 2.5 percent, with more pay negotiations to be hammered out for doctors in September. The settlement also addresses other workplace concerns such as scheduling. "We are very satisfied," said union negotiator Rune Frøyland. "But without the strike, we never would have secured such a solution." Anne-Kari Bratten of NAVO said she was also satisfied, "and very happy that we reached a solution."

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jan 27 — Cargo handling of rice, solvents, oil seeds, at Port Qasim Port of Pakistan is suffering on account of un-official tussle between the cargo handling companies and port authority. President, Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Majid Aziz, in statement has said that all cargo handling companies at the Port Qasim have stopped operations, resulting in cessation of loading and unloading of essential items, like rice, solvents, oil seeds. The chamber is getting frantic calls from businessmen who fear shortages from next week. It is alleged that some PQA officials have created this situation by arbitrarily enforcing conditions that are against the spirit of doing business, he said. It is understood cargo handling companies have refused to accept illegal and unjustified demands of the officials who have retaliated by enforcing interest at 36 per cent per annum on false claims of PQA on these companies. These officials are threatening to en-cash bank guarantees given by the companies. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jan 28 — The Port Qasim Authority (PQA) has denied suspension of essential items handling at port as pointed out by country biggest chamber - Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) in an official statement on Friday's (Jan 26) evening. It was alleged that due to difference between port officials and

cargo handling companies, the handling was disturbed. However, PQA in a clarification said: "There was brisk cargo handling activity at all the terminals of Port QASIM on Jan 26". A spokesperson of port said three berths at Marginal Wharf are allocated to Cargo Handling Companies (CHC) to handle dry cargoes only and there are no vessels handled by CHS on Jan 26. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SURINAME

London, Jan 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Rosebel gold mine in Suriname has been temporarily shut down after workers went on strike, company officials said. A number of workers began the strike Thursday (Jan 25) night at the mine, located about 100 kilometres south of the capital of Paramaribo, the mine's parent company IAMGold Corp. said yesterday in a statement. The miners' union said they went on strike because negotiations over the new collective bargaining agreement were going too slow, De Ware Tyd newspaper reported.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated today, states: A strike by thousands of civil servants is threatening to disrupt public services from tax returns to benefits. Members of the Public and Commercial Service (PCS) union are walking out over plans to cut more than 100,000 civil service jobs. The action may disrupt courts, passport offices, job and driving test centres. The Welsh Assembly is also expected to be closed for the day, as workers picket government offices and join rallies across the UK. The union wants guarantees that a decision to cut more than 100,000 civil service jobs will not be achieved through compulsory redundancies. Mr Serwotka also said thousands of civil servants earned just above the minimum wage, and called for government assurances over jobs, services and privatisation as well as pay inequalities. Cabinet Office minister Pat McFadden said there was "absolutely no need" for the strike and only one civil service union had chosen to do so. He said civil servants were highly valued and did a "great job" for the public. But he added: "At a time when the government is increasing investment in public services no organisation, including the civil service, can be immune from the need for change, both to ensure value for money for the public and to adapt to new technology." He said unions could go through "an established process" to raise concerns without going on strike, and said departments would do what they could to minimise its effect on important services. A spokesman for the Department for Constitutional Affairs said it provided services for vulnerable people, including those in debt, which could be jeopardised by a strike.

Awards & Settlements



ACCIDENTAL DEATH, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated Jan 29, states: The family of a woman who died after being hit by an SUV at a car wash was awarded \$7.5 million in compensatory damages on Friday (Jan 26) in a lawsuit against the business. Brenda Lee Brown, 43, died of head injuries after the crash in 2005 at Town 'N Country Car Wash. Her 18-month-old son, who she was pushing in a stroller at the time, survived. Her husband, Mac Brown, was awarded \$2.5 million and her son got \$5 million. The award was added to the \$92,000 the car wash already agreed to pay for documented financial damages. The Tampa Tribune reported. Mac Brown declined to seek any punitive damages. In its verdict, the jury said punitive damages were warranted in the case. Thomas Lyons was the owner of the carwash at the time of the crash, but sold it four months ago. Sheriff's deputies said Brown and her baby were walking to her washed vehicle when a car wash worker drove an Isuzu Rodeo out of another bay, knocking her onto the vehicle's hood and then the ground. The stroller fell on its side and the baby boy strapped inside was not injured.

FAILURE TO MEET OBLIGATION, ITALY

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Telecom Italia SpA, Italy's biggest phone company, was ordered to pay FastWeb SpA more than 60 million euros (\$77.7 million) in damages, the country's second-biggest fixed-line phone company said. The compensation relates to Telecom Italia's "failure to meet its obligation to provide FastWeb with unbundled local loop access" or direct access to the homes of about 11,000 clients", FastWeb said in a stock-exchange statement today. The decision, which was taken by an arbitration panel, relates to failed connections from 2001 through 2004, Milan-based FastWeb said. The panel rejected 4,000 additional cases, which were irregularly filed after the start of the arbitration procedure, the company said. Several clients who had subscribed to FastWeb's services weren't "connected within the prescribed time," the company said, adding that "no plausible technical justification was provided by Telecom Italia."

ILLNESS DUE TO DRUG TREATMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated Jan 30, states: A couple who contended that a hormone-replacement drug caused the woman's

breast cancer were awarded \$1.5 million this week in a jury verdict in Philadelphia against drug maker Wyeth. The jury also found that Wyeth acted with malice or reckless disregard, prompting a hearing on possible punitive damages. The Philadelphia jury awarded \$1 million in compensatory damages to plaintiff Mary Daniel, 60, of Hot Springs, Arkansas, and \$500,000 to her husband, Tom, a courtroom clerk said. Mary Daniel developed breast cancer after taking the Wyeth drug Prempro, a combination of oestrogen and progestin, every other day for about 16 months to relieve hot flashes. Daniel had two surgeries and underwent chemotherapy and radiation following her July, 2001 diagnosis. She has since been cancer-free. Her lawyer said Wyeth knew of research indicating a link between Prempro and cancer, but put profits ahead of patients. "Wyeth has known for decades that postmenopausal drugs cause breast cancer, but the company deliberately failed to do studies to understand or quantify that risk," lawyer Zoe Littlepage said. "Wyeth protected their bottom dollar instead of protecting the patients." At its height, Wyeth sold \$2 billion a year in drugs that treat menopausal symptoms, including Premarin and Prempro. However, many women stopped taking them after the federal Women's Health Initiative study in July, 2002, found higher rates of breast cancer and heart problems in women who took estrogen-progestin pills. The jury deliberated for about two days following a three-week trial. Daniel's lawsuit is the third of about 4,500 against Wyeth to reach a jury. Wyeth won its first trial in Arkansas in August, and a mistrial was declared in the second trial in Philadelphia in October. Other suits are pending in the courts.

MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated Jan 29, states: A three-year-old girl from Nottinghamshire who was starved of oxygen at birth has won £2m compensation at the High Court. Amy Nunes-Mayo was born at Chesterfield Royal Hospital in August 2003. She has the severest form of cerebral palsy. Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust admitted her delivery had been negligently mismanaged. The financial award will be spent on Amy's needs over the next nine years. The trust has agreed to make annual payments of £250,000 a year to cover the costs of Amy's care. If she lives to see her 12th birthday she will be able to seek further compensation. Amy sued the hospital through her mother. A settlement was reached today. In a statement the trust said it "accepted full responsibility for the injuries arising from the circumstances of Amy's birth and has expressed its unreserved apologies to her family."

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 28 — The city of Seattle may have to pay much of a likely \$4.5 million in damages to a couple hit and severely injured by a driver during a police chase, a King County Superior Court jury has ruled. The jury said that the city is partly responsible for the collision because a Seattle Police officer continued a chase that the jury decided he should have abandoned. Ronisha Rashawn Kelley, the driver of the car, is liable for \$4.1 million of the damage done to Pacific County residents Ronald and Jeanette Ashley. But the city could have to pay Kelley's share if she is not able to. Seattle City Attorney Tom Carr said the city will appeal the jury's verdict.

UNDERPAYMENT OF ROYALTIES, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated Jan 29, states: A jury in Spencer, West Virginia, on Saturday (Jan 27) imposed approximately \$134.3 million in compensatory damages and \$270 million in punitive damages against defendants in the case of Tawney, et al v Columbia Natural Resources et al in Roane County Circuit Court. CNR is a former NiSource Inc subsidiary, which was sold in 2003. NiSource, Columbia Energy Group and Chesapeake Appalachia LLC are named as defendants in the lawsuit. In a statement released on its Website, NiSource said the verdict in the is clearly excessive and should be set aside by the trial court or overturned on appeal. The plaintiffs in the case, natural gas royalty owners, filed the lawsuit in early 2003, alleging that CNR underpaid royalties by deducting a portion of post-production costs incurred in order to gather and transport gas to interstate pipelines and by not paying market value for gas produced under all leases, even those providing for payment based on actual proceeds received for the gas, the release said. The jury's verdict and its award of damages are subject to review by the trial court, which could result in the verdict being set aside or reduced. The defendants will appeal any adverse judgment, the release said.



CIREBON, INDONESIA

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A train heading to the Indonesian town of Solo from Jakarta derailed in Cirebon, West Java, halting the passage of dozens of other trains from Jakarta to other Javanese cities, a report said today. However, there were no injuries as a result of the derailment. The Bengawan "economy train" departed from Jakarta yesterday evening and

was scheduled to arrive in Solo early today. The train went off the track when it entered Bangau Dua station, in Cirebon, West Java. Many other trains behind the Bengawan train were halted following the incident. Suharsono, a spokesman of state owned railway operator PT KAI, was quoted as saying. Hundreds of passengers have been forced to cancel their trips and/or reclaim money for their unused tickets.

DALBY, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 27 — Twenty-two rail wagons have been derailed in a freak storm that unroofed homes and snapped power poles in Dalby on the western Darling Downs in Queensland. The storm hit about 1700, AEST, yesterday with State Emergency Service (SES) crews still in the process of putting tarps on 20 homes with damaged roofs. Dalby Mayor Warwick Giesel says the eastern side of town was hardest hit, with 22 empty coal wagons on their side at the Blaxland. Queensland Rail says the main western line has reopened. Some sheds have been completely demolished. Six classrooms were damaged at the South Dalby State Primary School. About 300 homes are still without power but Ergon Energy has called in additional crews from the region to help restore services.

DREM, EAST LOTHIAN, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters have been tackling a blaze on a goods train on the main railway line between Scotland and England. Police said the final carriage of the train at Drem, in East Lothian, was well alight. Ten fire engines have been sent to the scene and some services on the East Coast Main Line have been disrupted. Buses have replaced trains between North Berwick and Prestonpans, with rail services starting and terminating at Berwick upon Tweed.

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated Jan 30, states: Rail services on the UK east coast main line should be back to normal tomorrow, according to Network Rail. The line was closed after a fire broke out on a freight train near Drem in East Lothian at about 0630, UTC, destroying 36 new cars. Network Rail said the overhead cables needed extensive repairs but there was thought to be no damage to the track. In the meantime, rail passengers are being taken between Edinburgh and Berwick by bus. A special train will test the tracks before it reopens. About 40 firefighters spent more than three hours bringing the blaze under control. The damage is thought to have run into hundreds of thousands of pounds. Lothian and Borders Police said the final three carriages of the train had caught fire and the vehicles on board had been destroyed. The 10-wagon train, operated by freight carrier EWS, left Washwood Heath, Birmingham, at

2153, UTC, yesterday and had been due into Bathgate, West Lothian, at 0832, UTC, today.

GIBBON AREA, NEBRASKA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Union Pacific Railroad reported the derailment of a train Thursday morning in Gibbon. UP spokesman James Barnes said 46 cars derailed on an eastbound train on the east edge of Gibbon at about 0200. Barnes said the derailment spilled coal across the three main lines. Cleanup efforts were under way. The train was bound for Kansas when it derailed. Gibbon is about 13 miles east of Kearney.

Miscellaneous



OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Jan 27 — Officials in Japan have confirmed a second outbreak of the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu. Work is under way to cull more than 100,000 birds on the farm where the outbreak was discovered and on the neighbouring property. A 10-kilometre-wide quarantine zone has been declared. Inside the zone, officials will check farms and small holdings, where birds have been reared, to try to find out whether the virus is spreading. The outbreak of H5N1 is the second in Japan in a fortnight. There are no reports that anyone has fallen ill.

Tokyo, Jan 29 — Japan confirmed another outbreak of bird flu at a poultry farm and further tests will be carried out to check for the presence of the H5N1 strain, the agriculture ministry said today. The ministry said in a statement that tests showed the presence of a type of bird flu among chickens at the farm in the city of Takahashi in Okayama Prefecture, where 49 birds out of 12,000 have died since Friday (Jan 26). The outbreak is the third in Japan this month. The ministry said it had ordered all poultry at the farm to be killed and the site to be disinfected. Movement of people and goods within a 10 km radius of the farm was to be restricted, it added. — Reuters.

Tokyo, Jan 31 — Japan has confirmed an outbreak of H5N1 bird flu in the western prefecture of Okayama, the third to be confirmed in the country since the beginning of the year, the Agriculture Ministry said in a statement today. The ministry said yesterday that a separate outbreak was suspected after 23 birds died at a poultry farm in the southwestern prefecture of Miyazaki, site of two earlier H5N1 outbreaks and Japan's biggest poultry producing region. — Reuters.

Lagos, Jan 31 — A Nigerian woman who died of flu symptoms has tested positive for the H5N1 bird flu virus,

Information Minister Frank Nweke said today, the first reported death from the virus in the West African country. "Last night our team of 13 scientists were able to conclusively identify the case of avian influenza in a 22-year-old female who died in Lagos," Nweke told a news conference. The woman was one of 14 people, three of whom died, from whom samples were taken for tests that were concluded yesterday. Samples are now being sent to foreign laboratories for confirmation. — Reuters.

Fires & Explosions



BUSH, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 28 — Firefighters were battling a major blaze raging through a conservation park in Western Australia on Sunday night. Lightning sparked the massive fire that has destroyed 3,000 hectares of Lesueur National Park near Jurien Bay, north of Perth, forcing campers to evacuate the area. The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) said scorching heat and strong north-west winds had fanned the flames onto private property. DEC spokesman Nigel Higgs said shortly before 1700, WDT, the blaze still had not been contained. "Two water bombers from Perth have been used during the day to support ground crews and heavy earth moving machinery," he said. Lesueur National Park, home to the threatened Carnaby's black cockatoo, is one of WA's most important areas for native flora conservation. DEC Acting Deputy Director General Alan Walker said more than 350 volunteer and professional firefighters endured searing temperatures to battle the Lesueur blaze and two other bushfires in WA. But he said the losses caused by the fires had been minimal so far given the high temperatures and gusting winds over the past three days. The DEC expects to contain a second fire that has burned 350 hectares of Julimar Conservation Park in the Perth hills. Water bombers were used earlier on Sunday until smoke hampered visibility. Meanwhile, fire fighters are mopping up a third fire that has burnt 4,500 hectares of jarrah forest and farmland between Dwellingup and Pinjarra, south of Perth. The blaze, which burned 200 hectares, has so far not threatened private property, but visitors have been evacuated from nearby Lane Poole Reserve.

COAL MINE, PANXIAN COUNTY, CHINA

Beijing, Jan 29 — A gas explosion in southwest China killed 11 coal miners yesterday and five others were missing, Xinhua news agency reported. The accident occurred in the Yile Coal Mine at Panxian County, Xinhua reported, citing a spokesman

for the Guizhou Provincial Administration of Coal Mine Safety. Twenty-five miners were working underground when the blast occurred, and only nine managed to escape, the spokesman said. The owner of the coal mine, which has an annual output capacity of 60,000 tonnes, has been taken into custody, he said. The cause of the blast was under investigation. — Reuters.

FACTORY, AL NAKHEEL AREA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Karachi, Jan 26 — A major fire broke out in a privately owned sponge factory in the Al Nakheel area, northern United Arab Emirates (UAE) yesterday at 0630, local time. Major Ali Mohammad Al Mahbobi of the Civil Defence Department told media that the blaze gutted the entire factory, but no casualties were reported. He said that his department immediately moved the fire fighting vehicles with adequate back-up. He stressed that firefighters conducted a risky mission to remove barrels of chemicals near machines before they exploded, by using the necessary equipment and smoke pumping machines. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

GLASS FACTORY, SAN SALVO, ITALY

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated today, states: A huge fire flared up on Saturday (Jan 27), shortly after 0900, inside the Pilkington plant in San Salvo Italy, where automotive windshields are made. It could have originated from overheating of a cooling engine in the laminated glass assembling room. The blaze seized the whole factory building consisting of over 300 square metres. 20 workers inside the building were luckily able to escape the dramatic accident and give the alarm. The fire was extinguished later in the evening. The first appraisal made by the management estimated over 20 millions in damage.

OILFIELD, YAMAL PENINSULA, RUSSIA

London, Feb 1 — Yet another gas-water firefighting vehicle has arrived at the Kholmistoye (hilly) oil and gas condensate field on the Yamal Peninsula, where a producing well has been on fire for the second week. Rescuers are to make yet another attempt today to put out the burning oil gusher that is 20 metres high. The first attempt was made on Jan 30. However, the prepared capacities did not suffice. At that time, rescuers did not manage to free the fittings of the drilling rig or drag the latter away from the scene of the breakdown. Rescue work is being considerably hampered by a high flow rate of the well prepared for production, and a high reservoir pressure. Three artificial water reservoirs have been constructed there over the past two weeks and a pit has been dug to collect water in the conduct of operations to

cool and protect machinery and personnel. According to the Area Center of the Russian Ministry for Emergencies, 44 firemen currently grapple with the fire there. All machinery is in running order. The breakdown at the Kholmistoye oilfield of the Noyabrskneftegaz Company occurred at midday, Jan 18 during the preparation of the well for commissioning.

REFINERY, TEXAS CITY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated Jan 29, states: Officials today estimate it should take three weeks to fully repair a Valero refinery in Texas City where fire damaged parts of the plant. The cause of yesterday's fire is being investigated. The blaze was contained in less than two hours. Emergency officials say the only injury was a man who scraped his knee while evacuating. San Antonio-based Valero estimates it will lose production of about 67,500 barrels of gasoline per day during repairs. It also expects to lose 40,000 barrels of distillate production per day.

SALEM MARINA, BOSTON, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated Jan 30, states: Fire crews battled a fire at a Salem marina tonight. Flames broke out at the Hawthorne Cove Marina on White Street in Salem early this evening. According to some witnesses, the fire may have spread to some boats that were docked at the marina. Several streets in the immediate area were closed as crews battled the blaze. The cause of the fire is unknown.

WAREHOUSE, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated Jan 30, states: A Goodwill Industries warehouse in Sacramento filled with donated televisions, clothes and appliances burned in a late-night fire that caused \$1 million in damage. Firefighters arrived around midnight yesterday to find flames shooting 30 feet into the sky at the warehouse in the 6000 block of Franklin Boulevard near Florin Road. Crews were hampered by low water pressure but were able to protect a nearby office building and several Goodwill trucks. The burned building was a total loss. Investigators do not yet know what caused the fire.



ACCIDENT, GENERAL MITCHELL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES

See N7886Q.

AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO DENVER, COLORADO, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 1 — A press report, dated Jan 31, states: One of two jet engines on a commercial flight carrying 54 people broke down and showered debris over Colorado last week, but the plane returned to the Denver airport and landed safely, federal investigators said today. The National Transportation Safety Board said it was investigating the Thursday (Jan 25) incident involving a Mesa Airlines Bombardier CL-600-2B19 Challenger operating as America West Express Flight 2985 from Denver to Phoenix. No injuries were reported to the 50 passengers and four crew members, and the plane suffered only minor damage, the NTSB said. Some parts of the left engine fell off as the plane was climbing through 24,000 feet over a sparsely populated area of Teller County about 60 miles south of Denver. Debris fell over an area about 25 miles long, the NTSB said. Mesa Airlines spokesman Brian Gillman said maintenance was up to date on the engine but declined to comment further.

C-GAXR

London, Jan 25 — Westwind Aviation Cessna 401B, C-GAXR, was landing on runway 22 at Swift Current, Saskatchewan, at 0702, CDT, Jan 24. After touchdown the starboard main gear collapsed. The starboard wing contacted the runway surface and the aircraft veered to starboard off the runway surface. There were no injuries.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur, Jan 30 — Rescuers pulled nine people from the sea but one was still missing after a Super Puma L2 helicopter, operated by Malaysian Helicopter Services, carrying 10 passengers and crew crashed in the South China Sea off Sarawak today. State oil firm Petronas said the helicopter, with eight passengers and two pilots went down around 1430 hrs, shortly after taking off from an offshore platform 80 km from the coastal town of Bintulu. Petronas gave no reason for the crash. Searchers were still hunting for the missing person, Petronas said, adding that the helicopter was heading for another platform when it crashed. — Reuters.

Manila, Feb 1 — All helicopter flights by Malaysian Helicopter Services Sdn Bhd (MHS) to Petronas Carigali offshore sites have been suspended following Tuesday's (Jan 30) crash by an MHS helicopter off Bintulu. State oil company, Petronas said yesterday that it had suspended its offshore helicopter ferry service with MHS pending an investigation into the crash of an MHS-operated Super Puma L2 helicopter. This is the second time in less than a year that a similar MHS helicopter had crashed off Sarawak waters. On June 18 last year, a Super Puma helicopter ditched in

the South China Sea enroute to the B11 oil platform, off Bintulu, but no casualties were reported. Petronas said that, in the meantime, its offshore installations will be serviced by sea-going vessels. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

CRASH, BUTLER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

See N492AT.

CRASH, JONES COUNTY, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A pilot was killed when a small plane crashed in northeastern Jones County. Miles Harry McDonald, 56, was the only person aboard the single-engine 1978 Cessna when it crashed today, Jones County Sheriff Butch Reece said. The cause of the crash was not immediately known, but Reece said the Federal Aviation Administration reported it had received a mayday call from the plane. He did not know the nature of the emergency call. The plane crashed into a stand of pine and oak trees at the edge of a pasture on farmland off U.S. 129. Buddy Hawkins, the landowner's son who lives next door, was the first on the scene, soon followed by his father. Hawkins said the plane was burning when he arrived. Hawkins said he heard a small explosion after he arrived and saw a body pinned beneath a tree trunk near the plane. "I think he was already dead, but we couldn't get to him because of the fire," Hawkins said. "There was nothing we could do." Firefighters from the Jones County Fire Department and the Georgia Forestry Commission put out the fire and ploughed a firebreak around the trees, which had caught fire.

CRASH, PAU-PYRENEES AIRPORT, FRANCE

See F-GMPG.

EMERGENCY LANDING LEEDS BRADFORD AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated Jan 25, states: The Airbus 319 which sparked an emergency after all four of its tyres burst when it landed at Leeds Bradford airport was back in service today. The incident unfolded as BMI Flight BD412 from Heathrow touched down at the airport just after midday yesterday. Smoke was seen coming from the undercarriage of the Airbus 319 as it skidded to an abrupt halt halfway down the runway. The tyres were visibly flat as emergency crews led all 60 passengers and aircrew to safety from the stricken aircraft. The incident caused cancellations, delays and diversions as engineers worked to remove the aircraft from the runway. Jo Tabberer, for BMI, said: "This is a very unusual and isolated incident and at this stage we still don't know what caused the tyres to burst. The aircraft is back in service today." The Air Accidents

Investigations Branch is also investigating. The airport said flights were back to normal today.

EMERGENCY LANDING, CARACAS, VENEZUELA

London, Jan 27 — A press report, dated today, states: An American Airlines flight to Brazil made an emergency landing in Caracas overnight after the pilot noticed an acrid odour like burning wiring coming from cockpit instruments, the airline said. Venezuelan aviation authorities earlier said a fire in the cockpit of the Miami to Sao Paulo flight forced the landing, but American Airlines spokesman Tim Smith later said this was incorrect. "There was a strong electrical odour, but no flames, no fire," he said. None of the 245 passengers on board the Boeing Co. 777 was injured. The passengers returned to Miami from where they were to travel to Brazil. The diversion to Caracas was probably caused by an electrical short in the captain's audio panel, American Airlines said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, KARACHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jan 27 — A Boeing 737 aircraft of state owned Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) made an emergency landing at Karachi International Airport after a bird stuck one of its engines yesterday afternoon. It is said that Flight PK-391 bound for Karachi from Rahimyarkhan with 90 passengers on board left Lahore at 2025 hrs and while landing at Karachi International Airport met with this unfortunate mishap. However, later aircraft landed safely but one of the engines damaged which is being repaired. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

EMERGENCY LANDING, KOTA KINABALU, MALAYSIA

London, Jan 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A Korean Air flight carrying 234 passengers from Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, to Seoul made an emergency landing due to an engine malfunction last Tuesday morning (Jan 23) it was belatedly reported last Friday. According to reports, the aircraft's engine suffered a glitch five minutes after taking off, causing the plane to violently shake. Passengers reported smelling smoke and hearing an explosion from the left wing. Before returning to Kota Kinabalu airport the aircraft dumped its fuel into the sea. After landing passengers were kept on board for more than an hour without air conditioning, due to a loss of power, before being put on another Korean Air flight to Seoul. Many passengers demanded a public apology from the carrier but instead were provided with a 50,000 won gift voucher as compensation for the delay. The passengers claimed the incident was not a simple delay but resulted from Korean Air's own negligence. Some passengers are preparing to file a suit against the carrier. Representatives

from the airline said the problem was due to an engine surge, adding it is not uncommon in jet engines. They said the carrier abided by safety regulations. The Civil Aviation Safety Authority is investigating the case.

EMERGENCY LANDING, LAKELAND, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated today, states: No-one was injured when a plane with malfunctioning front landing gear touched down on its nose yesterday afternoon at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport, Lakeland police reported. Pilot Danny Waizman, 48, of Brooklyn, N.Y., and passenger Moshe Azoulay, 46, of Apollo Beach, escaped injury in the incident about 1400 hrs, Lakeland police spokesman Jack Gillen said. Waizman's 1965 twin-engine Cessna 310J sustained \$5,000 to \$10,000 damage to its propeller, landing gear and undercarriage, Gillen said. The men took off from Wimauma. After discovering the malfunction, the plane circled the airport for some time to burn fuel, Gillen said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MOSCOW, RUSSIA

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated Jan 29, states: A Russian airliner made an emergency landing in Moscow after its engine caught fire shortly after take-off today. The Orenburg Airlines Tupolev-154 jet had taken off from Domodedovo airport in the Russian capital and reached a height of 1,700 metres when the plane's warning system indicated an engine was on fire, Interfax reported. The pilot turned off the engine and requested clearance to execute an emergency landing at Domodedovo. Permission given, the landing was successfully completed. None of the 51 passengers or nine crew members were injured. The plane had been en route to Orenburg, in the southern part of Russia's Ural Mountains.

EMERGENCY LANDING, NARITA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, JAPAN

London, Feb 1 — Flames erupted from the engine of an aircraft with 133 on board after it took off from Tokyo's international airport for China today, forcing an emergency landing, officials said. Airport controllers spotted fire in the left engine of All Nippon Airways flight 935 shortly after its departure from Narita international airport, and ordered the aircraft to turn back, according to Transport Ministry official Eiichi Suzuki. The Boeing 767-300 that was headed to the Chinese coastal city of Xiamen, landed safely at Narita about 30 minutes later, Suzuki said. ANA spokesman Keiko Ninomiya said no one on the aircraft was injured.

EMERGENCY LANDING, RAS AL KHAIMAH, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated today, states: A Dubai-bound

Kuwait Airways flight from Kuwait was forced to make an emergency landing at Ras Al Khaimah International Airport in the early hours of yesterday. Barring minor injuries to 13 passengers, all the remaining 106 passengers on board the Airbus A320 aircraft were evacuated safely, said sources. The emergency hard landing ignited a small fire in the aircraft. The pilots on board, they said, had requested immediate emergency landing facilities after detecting the technical faults and aid and rescue teams were on the tarmac to assist passengers and crew. All the 13 affected passengers were taken to the Obaidallah Hospital and later discharged after being given the necessary medical treatment. Civil aviation authorities in RAK and Dubai confirmed later that the Kuwait Airways flight KAC 675 was forced to land at RAK International Airport at around 0230 hrs, yesterday, after it developed technical faults. No other details were immediately available as an investigation into the incident is still continuing. Civil Defence personnel said that they succeeded in quickly controlling the fire in the aircraft after it made a hard landing. The aircraft was later towed away from the runway as a precautionary measure.

F-GMPG

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: An airliner carrying 54 people has crashed into a small truck in the south of France, killing the driver. The transport ministry says the incident happened at the Pau-Pyrenees airport after a bird flew into the Regional Airlines aircraft's engine as it was taking off, forcing it to make an emergency landing. The aircraft then hit the public works truck travelling on a road around the airport. The aircraft came to a stop several hundred metres later. The 50 passengers and four cabin staff weren't injured and were evacuated from the aircraft, which was flying for Air France between Pau and Paris' Roissy airport. Local authorities believe the runway may have been slippery after recent storms.

London, Jan 27 — The takeoff from Pau was abandoned after a loss of engine power as a result of bird ingestion. The Fokker 100 operated by Régional Compagnie Aérienne Européenne, (F-GMPG) overshot the runway and collided with a truck, killing the driver at 1115, Jan 25. The undercarriage broke off and the airplane came to rest in a field.

G-BLUN

London, Jan 30 — No evidence of major mechanical failure has been found in connection with a helicopter crash which killed seven men, a preliminary report has revealed. Five gas workers and two pilots died when the aircraft plunged into the Irish Sea in Morecambe Bay Dec 27. An inquest into the death of six of the men has been adjourned. The body of gas

worker Keith Smith, 57, from Stockton-on-Tees, has not yet been found. The helicopter had been travelling from Blackpool, between gas platforms picking up workers, when it got in to difficulties on its final approach to its third stop, the North Morecambe platform. The twin-engine aircraft was seen to pitch sharply forward and bank to the right seconds before it crashed into the icy waters, according to the report by the Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB). On board were co-pilot Simon Foddering, 33, from Preston, and helicopter commander Stephen Potton, 52, from Blackpool. The other gas workers who died were Robert Warburton, 60, of Heysham, Lancashire, Leslie Ahmed, 48, from South Shields, Tyneside, John Shaw, 51, from Kirkcaldy, Fife, and Alfred Neasham, 57, from County Durham. Flight recorders show the crew had been approaching the platform but had become unhappy with the manoeuvre and aborted their attempt to land. The AAIB report said: "A review of the recorded data to date has not indicated any problems of a technical nature and no helicopter manoeuvres have been identified which were not in response to flight control inputs. "A detailed investigation of the wreckage is continuing together with further analysis of the recorded data".

INCIDENT AT KUWAIT AIRPORT

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Take-off of a passenger aircraft of Kuwait Airways bound for Frankfurt was delayed two hours on Wednesday (Jan 31) after an ambulance crashed into the engine of the aircraft. Adel Bouresli, the director of the KAC department of public relations and information, said in a press release that the aircraft had to be replaced after its engine was hit with the ambulance, with a patient on board. The aircraft was scheduled to fly at 0910, but the take-off was delayed when the vehicle hit its engine while passengers were boarding the aircraft. The passengers and their luggage were transported to another aircraft that took off at 1125.

N25932

London, Jan 31 — Cessna 152, N25932, operated by California In Nice Inc., force landed in a field under unknown circumstances and flipped over, five miles west of Watsonville, California, at 2346, local time, Jan 30. The aircraft sustained substantial damage.

N2823H

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated Jan 30, states: The National Transportation Safety Board has released a factual report on an aircraft crash two years ago which killed a McCormick County family. The agency has not yet determined the cause of the crash. James Strong was flying the Piper PA-28-181 (Cherokee Archer II) (N2823H), which went down near Bradley in Greenwood County in January, 2005. Strom, his wife, Robin,

and their children, Bradley and Brittney were killed in the crash. Strom was flying from McCormick to Greenwood when the aircraft went down. The report stated that Strom had 150 hours of flying experience. The report also said a witness said the engine sounded like it was "idling high" before the crash. The aircraft had a routine inspection just over a month before the crash. A toxicology report found no alcohol or drugs in Strom's body.

N492AT

London, Jan 26 — Cessna C550, N492AT, operated by Air Ambulance by Air Trek Inc., landed long, slid off the runway, and collided with the localizer at Butler, Pennsylvania, at 1415, local time, Jan 24. There were four persons on board, two sustained minor injuries. The aircraft sustained substantial damage.

N699CZ

See N7886Q.

N761RS

London, Jan 30 — Cessna T210M (Centurion II) N761RS crashed near Macon, Georgia, at 2135, Jan 29. The one person on board was killed.

N7886Q

London, Jan 26 — Cessna C402, N7886, operated by Freight Runners Express FRG1539, while taxiing collided in the taxiway intersection with Beech BE99A, N699CZ, a Freight Runners Express FRG1509, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at 0200, Jan 25. There was one person on board each aircraft, minor injuries reported to one person on N699CZ, damage to both aircraft reported as substantial.

PK-KKW

Jakarta, Jan 30 — Indonesia has asked for foreign help to recover the black box of a missing aircraft from deep on the sea bed, but the mission may prove impossible at depths of up to 2,000 metres, an official said today. Last week, a US Navy vessel detected signals suspected of coming from flight recorders on board the Adam Air Boeing 737-400 (PK-KKW), which disappeared on New Year's Day. The chief crash investigator said last week a camera-equipped Remote Operated Underwater Vehicle might be able to retrieve the black box. Since then, Indonesia has sought help from the United States, France and Japan. "Today, we will meet the US ambassador to discuss the capability of their retrieval technology. France has offered to help and we are awaiting word from Japan," said Setio Rahardjo, Indonesia's national transport safety board chief. Despite continuing efforts to obtain the necessary equipment, Rahardjo said he was not certain that such a retrieval could be performed in the Adam Air case. The flight recorder, set up to emit a signal for 30 days to aid detection, may be lying deep on the floor of the Makassar Strait. Wreckage from the aircraft, which went missing

during a flight from Java to the North Sulawesi city of Manado, was first sighted in waters off the west coast of Sulawesi island more than a week after the accident. There were 102 people on board including three Americans, a father and his two daughters. No bodies have yet been found. Rahardjo said his team still hoped to recover the black box but said the main body of the aircraft had probably disintegrated. "The undersea wreckage is in the form of small pieces and shreds so the body no longer exists, according to the observations from USNS *Mary Sears*," he said, referring to the US Navy vessel that located the flight recorder. "We need to retrieve the black box because that is the best way we could reveal how the aircraft fell," Rahardjo said. The undersea search had been ended, but a search for bodies or pieces of the aircraft was still being conducted on the surface, Transport Minister Hatta Rajasa was quoted by Koran Tempo newspaper as saying. Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kalla said on Friday it was the airline's responsibility to pay for the retrieval of the black box, but cast doubt on whether it would ever be retrieved. Before the aircraft vanished in bad weather, its pilot made no distress call but had reported concerns over crosswinds. — Reuters.

Space Vehicles



SATELLITE LAUNCH FAILURE, PACIFIC OCEAN

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated Jan 30, states: A Sea Launch Co. rocket carrying a commercial communications satellite blew up during its launch from an oceangoing platform in the equatorial Pacific. The Boeing-built NSS-8 satellite was intended for Netherlands-based SES New Skies. The Zenit-3SL launch rocket was Ukrainian-built and the engines are Russian-made. "There was an explosion as we were lifting off," Sea Launch spokeswoman Paula Korn said from the company's home port in Long Beach, California. The platform is cleared of all personnel during launches, which are conducted remotely by a mission control team onboard a ship, the Sea Launch Commander, stationed several miles away. Korn did not know the condition of the self-propelled platform *Odyssey*, a converted oil platform. The blast occurred at the scheduled 1522, PST, (2322, UTC) launch time. It was not known if the Zenit-3SL rocket actually lifted off the platform. A failure review oversight board will be formed to determine what happened, Korn said. The NSS-8 satellite, which was insured, was to have been used for audio, video, data and Internet services for countries in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent and Asia, Sea Launch

said. SES New Skies has five other satellites in orbit and another under construction. SES New Skies said in a statement issued from The Hague that the satellite was a total loss. It was intended to replace the company's existing NSS-703 satellite, which will now have to remain in its orbital position to continue serving existing customers until at least 2009, the company said. A satellite now under construction, NSS-9, will be launched in 2009, allowing another satellite, NSS-5, to move into position to replace the NSS-703, the company said. "The NSS-8 launch failure is thus not expected to have an impact on existing customers or revenues," SES New Skies said. Based in the Port of Long Beach, Sea Launch is owned by Boeing, RSC-Energia of Moscow, Kvaerner ASA of Oslo, Norway, and SDO Yuzhnoye/PO Yuzhmash of Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine.

Product Recalls



CANDLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 31 — A press release by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Jan 30, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Told Williamsburgh Candle Corp., of Brooklyn, N.Y., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 3.7 million Old Williamsburgh Mason Jar Candles, sizes 3.5 to 5.0 oz. The wick can move from the centre of the jar to the side causing the glass to overheat and possibly crack or shatter. Old Williamsburgh Candle Corp. has received 11 reports of the candles cracking or shattering, including one laceration injury. This recall involves all scents and colors of Mason Jar Candles in 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, and 5.0 oz. sizes. The size of the candle is specified on the label at the bottom of the jar, on the last line of the label. Replacement Mason Jar Candles, which are not included in the recall, have a 0Q0 on either side of the label. Manufactured in the United States, the candles were sold through Dollar stores, discount stores, and grocery stores nationwide from May 2006 through to December 2006 for between \$1 and \$1.50.

HONDA MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 1 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Jan 31, states: American Honda Motor Corp. Inc., of Torrance, Calif., in co-operation with the CPSC, are voluntarily recalling approximately 11,000 Honda Model Year 2006 TRX450ER/R All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs). The front suspension arm ball joints could have been contaminated during production, resulting in rapid wear of one or more of the ball joints

and possible ball joint separation. If the ball joint separation occurs while riding, the operator could lose control of the ATV. American Honda Motor Corp. has received seven warranty claims about this problem. No injuries have been reported. The recall involves 2006 model year TRX450ER and TRX450R ATVs. They are adult-sized ATVs designed for use by riders age 16 and older. The ATVs are available in red or black. The TRX450ER and TRX450R model names are located on the front cowling just below the handlebars and the name Honda is printed on the seat. Manufactured in Japan, the ATVs were sold by Honda dealers nationwide from September 2005 through to December 2006 for between \$6,600 and \$7,000.

Port Conditions



AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated Jan 27, states: The queue of coal vessels at the Newcastle port has grown so large that some customers are deferring purchases rather than let their ships idle offshore for 20 days before loading. Gloucester Coal this week revealed its demurrage costs had risen five-fold in the past year. In December, demurrage added more than \$2.50 a tonne of coal to Gloucester's costs. The delay between ships arriving and loading blew out to 20 days this month from 16 days in December, so the costs are not likely to abate soon. "Demurrage costs are forecast to continue at higher levels [this quarter]," Gloucester said in its quarterly production report. As of the week ended Jan 22, 52 vessels were waiting off Newcastle to load 4.5 million tonnes of coal from producers such as Gloucester, Centennial Coal, Rio Tinto's Coal & Allied subsidiary and Xstrata Coal. Some customers had elected to defer sales rather than have vessels stand in the queue, Gloucester said. In a recent research note, UBS analysts noted demurrage costs had risen as high as \$5 a tonne. But they said Gloucester had only to pay the fees on half of its sales, since some coal is sold under customary dispatch - a system in which there is no penalty for long waiting times at port. Xstrata Coal is said to be lobbying other Hunter Valley producers to reintroduce a quota system which was dropped at the end of last year. In the September quarter, mines were struggling to produce enough coal and get it to the port in time to meet their allotted shipments. But as the production situation improved in the December quarter, huge shipping queues were formed. Gloucester sold 621,000 tonnes of coal in the December quarter, of which 77% was export thermal coal and 23% was export coking coal. The December

sales figure was 37% higher than the 455,000 tonnes sold in the September quarter.

ITALY

Genoa, Jan 29 — There are currently no vessels waiting for berths at Genoa, Savona or La Spezia — Lloyd's Agents.

PANAMA CANAL

Balboa, Jan 29 — Several days of arrivals below the daily capacity have allowed considerable improvement in overall conditions. Present backlog now stands at 38 vessels. Delays for non-booked vessels are now running at 36 to 48 hours. The booking system remains at a full level of utilisation. — Lloyd's Agents.

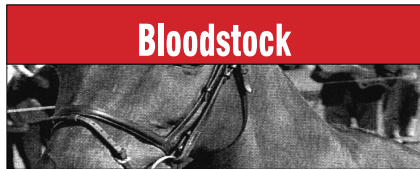
TANZANIA & KENYA

London, Jan 29 — A press report, dated today, states: According to a Kenyan newspaper ships are diverting from Dar es Salaam for Mombasa as a result of congestion at the Tanzanian port. The report said that from November ships have had to wait in the outer anchorage for between six and 10 days with little indication when the situation will improve. A build up of containers in the terminal is thought to be the reason for the congestion, with their slow removal clogging the stacking area and hindering day to day operations. The Tanzanian terminal, which is privately operated, is about half the size of the Mombasa terminal — 6,000 TEU compared with 13,000 TEU. As a result of the diversion Mombasa is having to store the Tanzanian-bound containers until they can be shipped to Dar es Salaam. However Mombasa also has a storage problem which recently led to some drastic measures to relieve the buildup.

London, Jan 31 — A press report, dated Jan 30, states: Massive congestion of containers, blamed on slow clearance by importers and the diverting of vessels from Dar es Salaam, has hit the port of Mombasa. At least 14,000 containers were stacked at the port, by yesterday. There were fears that the congestion at the port, with a capacity of 13,000 containers, could get worse because five ships were waiting to dock. They are container carriers *Red Sea*, *Kota Merdesa*, *MSC Lucia* and *CEC Ace*, and vessel *Rosa* which reported at the port between Friday (Jan 26) last week and yesterday. Three more - container carriers *Delmas Mascareignes*, *MSC Himalaya* and *Francisca Schulte* - were yesterday expected to join the increasing number of vessels in Mombasa. Shipping agents said they were taking up a Vessel Delay Surcharge (VDS) to recoup their losses due to lost time. Shipping lines have already imposed a VDS on Dar-es-Salaam port, whose terminal managers part with between Sh700,000 and Sh1.05 million a day. Senior port managers were unavailable for comment because they were meeting to try and resolve the congestion, but maritime sources

blamed the situation on the slow off-take of containers by importers. "Most of those who have imported goods for use locally are not in a hurry to remove the containers because they are engaged in speculative habits, withholding their goods until it is the right time," said a port user who did not wish to be named. Mombasa has also been receiving ships from Tanzania's Dar es Salaam Port, which had been hit by congestion since November. By yesterday morning, there were eight container ships waiting to berth in Dar-es-Salaam, whose waiting time varies from six to 10 days. At the Mombasa port, the waiting time is four days, but it is set

to go up if the congestion question is not solved soon.



BARBARO

London, Jan 30 — A press report, dated today, states: The US horse Barbaro, who broke his leg in a race shortly after a stunning victory at the Kentucky Derby last May, has been put down. The four-year-old colt

shattered his right hind leg in the Preakness Stakes and underwent a series of operations. But he suffered more complications to the injury over the weekend which needed further surgery. "We reached a point where it would be difficult for him to go on without pain," said co-owner Roy Jackson. "It was the right decision, the right thing to do. We said all along if there was a situation where it would become more difficult for him then it would be time." Barbaro won four of his five career starts and over \$1m in prize money. He first caught the public imagination by winning the Kentucky Derby by nearly seven lengths, the biggest margin in 60 years.

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	05-Feb-2007	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 10 vessels due by 25/2..
Brisbane	05-Feb-2007	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 6 vessels due by 3/5.
Dalrymple Bay	05-Feb-2007	Coal: DBCT berth 1: 5 vessels waiting; DBCT berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; DBCT berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; other vessels not scheduled: 20 vessels waiting; 26 vessels due by 23/2.
Dampier	05-Feb-2007	Iron ore: Parker Point berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 8 vessels due by 20/2; Parker Point berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; Parker Point berth 3: 4 vessels waiting; 3 vessels due by 13/2; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 7 waiting; 6 vessels due by 13/2
Esperance	05-Feb-2007	Iron ore: 2 vessels due by 11/2
Geraldton	05-Feb-2007	Iron ore: 3 vessels anchored; 3 vessels due by 8/3; regular maintenance shutdowns are expected at berth No. 4 from approx. 19/3 during construction of a new iron ore berth No. 5.
Gladstone	05-Feb-2007	Coal: R.G. Tanna (Clinton) coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed, 20 waiting; 37 vessels due by 27/3; shiploader No. 1 shut down for repairs and maintenance from 5-8/02; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed, 3 waiting; 11 vessels due by 10/3
Hay Point	05-Feb-2007	Coal: Berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 6 waiting; 3 vessels due by 5/2; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; 1 vessel due 6/2; 7 other vessels due by 21/2, not yet scheduled
Newcastle	05-Feb-2007	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 32 waiting; 43 vessels due by 4/3; 17-21 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; approx. 34 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 16 waiting; 30 vessels due by 1/3; 17-20 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 18 vessels off port awaiting coal
Port Hedland	05-Feb-2007	Feb 2: Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 5 vessels due by 11/2; "B" berth: 3 vessels waiting; 5 vessels due by 14/2; 6 other vessels due by 14/2, no e.t.a. received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: berth undergoing refurbishment and closed until further notice; Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; 2 vessels due by 10/2; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 1 vessel due 11/2
Port Kembla	05-Feb-2007	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 13 vessels due by 11/3
Port Walcott	05-Feb-2007	Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 9 waiting; 15 vessels due by 22/2; shippers may experience product shortage which might affect berthing schedules
Whyalla	05-Feb-2007	Iron ore: 3 vessels due by 9/3
Azerbaijan		
Apscheron	02-Feb-2007	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 1 vessel berthed, completed discharging HPGO; 2 vessels due by 3/2, 1 to discharge crude oil, 1 gasoline.
Baku	02-Feb-2007	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: 2 empty vessels berthed, both completed discharging; Sangachal district: no vessels
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	05-Feb-2007	Ten vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (1 scrap, 1 baryte concentrate, 3 coils, 1 pig-iron), 4 discharging (1 billets, 1 copper cathodes, 1 gasoil, 1 coke); 2 vessels in roads, both to load, of which 1 ammonium sulphate, 1 steel sheets; 7 vessels due, of which 4 to load (1 profiles, 1 copper concentrate, 1 reinforced concrete, 1 coils), 3 to discharge (1 reinforced concrete, 1 coke, 1 profiles)

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Aviation/Product Recalls/Port Conditions

Varna	05-Feb-2007	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 29 January - 4 February: Twenty-five vessels in port operating of which 16 loading (4 bulk maize, 2 sunflower seeds, 1 dolomite in big bags/bulk silica sand, 2 bulk sulphuric acid, 3 dense soda in bulk, 2 soda in big bags, 1 caustic soda solution, 1 bagged soda/lightly packed soda/bicarbonate of soda on pallets), 4 discharging (1 bulk slag, 2 bulk coal, 1 pipes), 5 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in road
Georgia		
Batumi	02-Feb-2007	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed loading crude oil; 2 vessels in roads, both to load crude oil; 2 vessels due by 5/2, both to load crude oil.
Poti	02-Feb-2007	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed loading kerosene/jet fuel; 2 vessels in roads, both to load naphtha; 4 vessels due by 3/2, all to load, of which 3 gasoil, 1 naphtha.
India		
Kolkata	05-Feb-2007	6 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessel loading (Container, General Cargo-2), 1 vessels loading & discharging Container, 2 vessel waiting to load (Container General Cargo); 2 vessels under repair, 1 vessel at Dry Docked, 1 vessel under arrest; 5 vessels waiting to sail; 3 vessels due (LOGS, General Cargo, Crude)
Haldia	05-Feb-2007	17 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading Thermal Coal, 9 vessels discharging (POL, LPG, Coke-2, Crude, Sulp., Caus., Moke, Logs), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers, 2 vessels waiting to load Iron Ore; 11 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (5 to discharge, 5 to load, 1 to load & discharge), 3 vessels waiting berth at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load); 4 vessels due (Crude-2, Noke, AACD).
Paradip	05-Feb-2007	11 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Ch. Ore, T. Coal, Ch. Con., Fe. Ch.), 7 vessels discharging (NCC-2, RPC, P Cargo, Ammonia, S Acid, Lime Stone); 9 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (4 to discharge, 5 to load), 5 vessel waiting berth at anchorage to load; 30 vessels due.
Visakhapatnam	05-Feb-2007	19 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels loading (Iron Ore-4, Product, Granite), 12 vessels discharging (Steam Coal-2, Coking Coal-2, Crude Oil, Rock Phosphate-2, Alumina, Urea, Steel Pipes, Product, Limestone), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 13 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (9 to discharge, 4 to load); 1 vessel under arrest; 35 vessels due (Iron Ore-9, Alumina-2, Soya-3, CO Coke, Granite, Steel Cargo, I. Sand, Food Graines, Urea-2, Coking Coal-2, Methanol, Containers-2, Steam Coal, Lime Stone, MET Coke, Pet Coke, Styrene, Crude & Product Tankers-4).
Chennai	05-Feb-2007	15 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (Granite Blocks-3, Bary, HSD, M Ore, IOL), 5 vessels discharging (Wheat, MOP, Thermal Coal, S. Coal, C. Oil), 3 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage for want of berth to load; 5 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 4 to load); 2 vessels waiting at outer anchorage for want of berth (S. Coal, C. Coal); 5 vessels not ready for work (MOLAS, F Oil, S Slab, PROJ, W. PULP/ S. PIPE); 3 vessels due (Supply, T Coal, Containers).
Tuticorin	05-Feb-2007	6 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading General Cargo, 1 vessel discharging Coal, 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load, 1 vessel awaiting order at anchorage to load; 1 vessel under arrest.
Cochin	05-Feb-2007	6 vessels operating at berth of which 5 discharging (Steel Plates, Crude, Soda Ash, CBFS, Logs), 1 vessel loading and discharging.
New Mangalore	05-Feb-2007	4 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessel loading (Iron Ore Fines, POL Product), 2 vessels discharging (Fertiliser, POL Crude); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage for other reason to discharge; 15 vessels due (Iron Ore Fines, Methonol, Granite Stone, POL Product-3, LPG-3, iron Ore (P), Pig Iron, Wood Pulp, XYRENE, Container, POL Crude).
Mormugao	05-Feb-2007	4 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessels loading Iron Ore, 3 vessels discharging (M Coak, P/Acid, MOP); 5 vessels working at midstream and loading Iron Ore; 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load); 2 vessel under dry docked; 6 vessels due (Coal, Iron Ore-4, M. Coke).
Mumbai	05-Feb-2007	13 vessels operating at berth of which 8 vessels loading (Soya Bean/Bagged, Sugar Bagged, SBM/ Bulk Maize, Rice/Steel, POL, Vehicles), 4 vessels discharging (General Cago-2, Rock Phosphate-2), 1 vessels loading and discharging Steel Product; 1 vessel working at midstream discharging Base Oil; 1 vessels awaiting order at anchorage to discharge, 4 vessels awaiting order for other reason anchorage (2to load, 2 to discharge); 9 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 6 vessels under arrest; 1 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 33 vessels due (Contaners-7, General Cargo-26).
J.N.P.T.	05-Feb-2007	5 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage (1 to load, 1 to discharge); 2 vessel due (Cement, HSD).
Kandla	05-Feb-2007	14 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels discharging (Timber Logs-3, Urea, Chemical, Phos. Acid), 6 vessels loading (Agri. Product-4, Coster Oil, Chemical), 2 vessel loading and discharging TEUs; 5 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (4 to 1 to discharge)
Ennore	05-Feb-2007	1 vessel working at inner anchorage loading Iron Ore, 1 vessel working at berth discharging Coal; 1 vessels due (Coal).
Israel		
Ashdod	06-Feb-2007	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 10 vessels discharging at berth (6 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 5 vessels loading/discharging at berth (3 containers, 2 car carriers); 9 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (6 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load/ discharge; 19 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected

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Port Conditions		
Eilat	06-Feb-2007	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel discharging at berth, 1 car carrier loading/discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 1 vessel due, with no delays expected
Haifa	06-Feb-2007	No labour problems. Six vessels discharging at berth (2 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 9 loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 4 tankers, 1 passenger vessel); 3 bulkers waiting at anchorage to discharge, 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (3 containers, 3 passenger vessels); 7 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 21 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected
Russia		
Novorossiysk	05-Feb-2007	Eighteen vessels in port operating, of which 16 loading, (1 HBI, 1 bulk urea, 1 coils/steel sheets, 4 wheat, 1 steel blooms, 1 copper, 1 zinc, 1 tin plate/equipment, 2 coils, 1 steel billets, 1 vegetable oil, 1 diesel oil), 2 discharging bulk sugar; 15 vessels waiting in roads, of which 11 to load (1 copper WRIC, 1 copper, 1 coils/steel billets/steel sheets, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 barley, 1 wheat, 1 aluminium, 1 slabs/steel billets, 1 slabs, 1 steel billets), 4 to discharge (3 bulk sugar, 1 citrus); 91 vessels due, of which 82 to load (3 HBI, 6 vegetable oil, 9 copper, 2 wire rods, 4 DRI, 22 steel billets, 2 scrap, 4 slabs, 9 coils, 1 bulk NPK, 2 wheat, 1 equipment, 1 pig-iron, 1 pipes/steel billets, 4 pipes, 1 UAN solution, 3 aluminium, 1 WRIC, 1 barley, 1 steel sheets/tin plates, 1 ammonium sulphate, 1 copper WRIC, 1 copper/copper WRIC, 1 coils/slabs), 6 to discharge (1 vegetable oil, 1 bananas, 3 citrus, 1 zinc concentrate), 3 to discharge/load containers. Oil terminal: 1 tanker berthed, loading crude oil; 3 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 8 tankers due, all to load, of which 7 crude oil, 1 diesel oil.
Slovenia		
Koper	05-Feb-2007	Port working normally. Eight vessels berthed of which 1 discharging/loading containers, 3 bulk carriers discharging ore/minerals, 1 barge loading coal, 1 vessel discharging general cargo, 2 loading general cargo; 1 bulk carrier waiting at anchorage to discharge iron ore; 20 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 5 to discharge/load containers, 3 bulk carriers to discharge coal/minerals/cement, 3 bulk carriers to load coal, 4 vessels to load steel products/sawn timber/general cargo, 2 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 3 tankers to discharge mineral oil.
Spain		
Bilbao	05-Feb-2007	Twenty-three vessels operating (7 tankers, 16 other vessels), of which 4 loading, 13 discharging, 6 loading/discharging.
Turkmenistan		
Aladja	02-Feb-2007	Oil products: 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	02-Feb-2007	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, of which 1 completed loading gasoline, 1 completed loading crude oil, 1 loading gasoil; 4 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 jet fuel, 2 unknown cargoes, 1 gasoil.
Ukraine		
Ilichevsk	05-Feb-2007	Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading (1 steel products, 1 grain, 2 sunflower oil), 4 discharging (3 ore, 1 steel products), 4 loading/discharging (2 containers, 2 ore); 2 vessels in roads, both to load/discharge containers; 22 vessels due, of which 9 to load (5 steel products, 2 sunflower oil, 2 ore), 3 to discharge ore, 10 to load/discharge containers.
Mariupol	05-Feb-2007	Thirteen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (7 steel, 2 fire-clay, 3 coal), 1 discharging equipment; 4 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 3 steel, 1 steel/equipment; 54 vessels due, of which 50 to load (29 steel, 4 fire-clay, 9 coal, 3 sulphur, 1 equipment, 1 slag, 1 sunflower beans/husks, 1 bran, 1 coke), 3 to discharge (2 equipment, 1 equipment/containers), 1 to load/discharge containers/fire-clay
Odessa	05-Feb-2007	Twenty-four vessels in port operating, of which 13 loading (7 metal, 1 pig-iron, 1 iron ore pellets, 1 oil, 1 coal, 1 wheat, 1 soya), 8 discharging (2 luggage, 2 sugar, 1 citrus, 2 bananas, 1 general cargo), 1 discharging/loading containers, 2 passenger vessels; 9 vessels in roads, of which 4 to load (1 metal, 1 soya, 1 general cargo, 1 coal), 4 to discharge (2 sugar, 2 citrus), 1 to discharge/load containers; 95 vessels due, of which 37 to load (23 metal, 7 pig-iron, 1 iron ore pellets, 1 barley, 1 general cargo, 3 timber, 1 coal), 11 to discharge (2 metal, 4 citrus, 1 general cargo, 2 bananas, 2 sugar), 47 to discharge/load containers.

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