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Maasvlakte terminal puts cost of oil jetty collision at €150m

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MAASVLAKTE Oil Terminal has told a Dutch court that the damage arising from last week's incident when the CMA CGM Claudel hit an oil jetty is likely to be at least €150m (\$195m).

One of the terminal's key jetties, which handles tankers for most of the world's largest oil companies, was completely wiped out in the incident which occurred in the violent storms on January 18.

Gale force winds led the 34,662 dwt, 2002-built German-owned containership to break free from its berth and swing into the jetty, and this led to around 800 tonnes of oil pouring into the harbour. The Claudel, chartered by CMA CGM, has been under arrest ever since following a legal dispute about guarantees given by the owner, AugusteSchulte Schiffahrtsgesellschaft & Co KG.

One source expects the jetty to be out of action for around six months.

The Dutch court has now ruled that the arrest on the CMA CGM Claudel can be lifted if a further guarantee of €21m, the net value of the ship, is put up.

AugusteSchulte has already offered as security its limitation fund, worth around ?5m, but Maasvlakte Oil Terminal does not believe this is anywhere near enough considering the damage involved.

The German shipowner said there was no reason to offer anything more because there was no negligence or intent involved.

Maasvlakte Oil Terminal argued that the master of the vessel had not requested tugs quickly enough to keep the vessel on its berth in the gales, so it contended this could be regarded as reckless.

But the Rotterdam judge did not accept this as proof of negligence. He said that if every seagoing vessel in Rotterdam requested tugs during bad weather he doubted whether the port would be able to provide enough tugs.

However, there were enormous damages involved, the judge accepted, and Maasvlakte Oil Terminal had only had a very short time to support its claim.

The court has now given Maasvlakte Oil Terminal another two weeks, until February 6, to supply more evidence in support of its claim and carry out further investigations.

An independent expert has already been appointed by the court to investigate the incident.

If the €21m is supplied in the form of a P&I club letter or another guarantee, minus the limitation fund of around €5m, the vessel can sail.

An industry expert said the owner was naturally not keen to have the vessel off-hire and it would be very difficult to prove that the master was either reckless or showed intent.

In an earlier statement, the ship's managers, VBSK of Hamburg, said 12 mooring lines had parted in vicious gusts of wind.

QE2 sails on with stomach bug outbreak in check

CUNARD'S Queen Elizabeth 2 is the latest cruiseship to have suffered an outbreak of a stomach virus during a cruise, although it appears to have been contained, writes Sandra Speares.

According to statistics produced by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, whose officials boarded the vessel on January 19, a total of 276 passengers out of 1,652 were affected by the virus between January 8 and January 22 as well as 28 crew members out of 1,002.

A spokesman for Cunard said yesterday that these figures represented the cumulative total since January 8, and the number of passengers affected had "dropped dramatically".

The current number of passengers showing norovirus-like symptoms was four, he said.

The acting head of the CDC's vessel sanitation programme Jaret Ames said that while, at nearly 17%, the number of passengers affected was high, Cunard had successfully gained control of the outbreak.

Voyages of between three and 21 days, carrying 100 or more passengers and cruiseships in which 3% or more of passengers or crew reported symptoms of gastrointestinal illness to the ship's medical staff during the voyage come within the remit of the CDC's vessel sanitation programme.

The QE2 is on its way from San Francisco to Hawaii.

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

| Vessel | Type | Flag | Class | GT | DWT | Bit | Casualty |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------|-------|--------|--------|------|---|
| <i>BADRINATH</i> | refrig | LBR | LR | 7,286 | 7,337 | 1987 | Disabled 160 nautical miles east of Bermuda Jan 12. Towed to Bermuda Jan 15. Engine repairs in hand, ETD Jan 17. |
| <i>CANADIAN OLYMPIC</i> | bulker | CAN | LR | 22,887 | 33,680 | 1976 | Had crankcase explosion in starboard main engine in lat 42 25N, long 80 10W, Lake Erie. Anchored in Long Point Bay for clean-up and repairs. |
| <i>DOLORES 830</i> | fishing | PHL | — | 466 | 562 | 1972 | Sank after being struck by large wave in lat 00 26.4S, long 149 39E, Jan 11. Crew safely rescued. |
| <i>FRONTEK</i> | product tanker | SGP | NK | 2,836 | 4,418 | 1978 | In collision with tanker <i>Seafalcon</i> and 2 bunker barges near St. John Island, Singapore, Jan 11. 200-tonne oil spill. Bow damaged |
| <i>GOLDEN SKY</i> | bulker | CYP | NK | 15,786 | 26,530 | 1985 | Grounded about 5 nautical miles off Ventspils, in lat 57 28 08N, long 21 35 56E, Jan 15. Holed, water in engine-room. 18 crew taken off, 8 remain on board. Salvors proceeding from Greece. |
| <i>HAGONOY</i> | tanker | PHL | — | 490 | 1,425 | — | Had explosion while undergoing tank cleaning operations while docked along Manila's Pasig River Jan 15. Entire deck torn off. Crew brought fire under control after several hours. |
| <i>JRS CANIS</i> | container | CYP | GL | 7,430 | 8,400 | 2006 | Lost 10 containers in River Elbe estuary Jan 12 after being hit by a series of large waves. Berthed at Brunsbuttel. Arrived Hamburg Jan 15. |
| <i>KAPITAN ARTYUKH</i> | container | RUS | RS | 9,548 | 9,141 | 1986 | Disabled in lat 52 26N, long 158 39E, Jan 15. Water entered engine-room, which flooded. 16 of the 28 crew taken off. Had to be towed to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatka for survey. |
| <i>MEKONG EXPRESS</i> | general | PAN | — | 1,858 | 1,254 | 1962 | Sank off Tien Giang Province, Vietnam, Jan 12. Crew rescued. |
| <i>MSC NAPOLI</i> | container | GBR | NV | 53,409 | 62,277 | 1992 | Believed holed and taking water in engine-room in lat 49 20N, long 04 34W, Jan 18. Crew all abandoned to liferafts. Tugs and helicopters proceeding. Sinking. |
| <i>PASSADEN</i> | general | FIN | GL | 3,828 | 4,455 | 1991 | Towed into Immingham Jan 16 with engine failure. |
| <i>SCL BERN</i> | container/ general | CHE | LR | 9,990 | 12,680 | 2005 | Towed into Malta Shipyard, Valletta, Jan 7. Still at Valletta Jan 15. ETC mid February. |
| <i>SEAFALCON</i> | product tanker | SGP | NK | 1,187 | 2,024 | 1978 | In collision with product tanker <i>Frontek</i> and 2 bunker barges near St. John Island, Singapore, Jan 11. 200-tonne oil spill. Remainder of oil transferred to another tanker. |
| <i>SERVER</i> | bulker | CYP | BV | 19,864 | 33,333 | 1985 | Grounded in lat 60 45N, long 04 42.6E, Jan 12. Crew evacuated. Broke in two, forward section taken in tow, aft section still grounded. Serious pollution caused in nearby area. |
| <i>STELLAR SEA</i> | fish factory | USA | NV | 4,428 | 2,054 | 1980 | Had fire in the main generator about 90 miles north of Dutch Harbor Jan 17. Extinguished after 45 minutes. Propulsion lost. Under tow of Coast Guard cutter Mellon bound Dutch Harbor. |
| <i>VENTO DEL GOLFO</i> | container | TUR | GL | 10,282 | 12,784 | 1985 | Grounded in lat 38 24.95N, long 26 19.31E, Jan 13. Reported Jan 16 waiting at Cesme. |

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Lloyd's
Marine Intelligence Unit



The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



503 HYUNSUNGHO (South Korea)

Busan, Jan 16 — Sand carrier *503 Hyunsungho*, 1538 gt, built 1983, Haeju for Gunsan, with approximately 3,500 tons of sand, was in collision with a small North Korea fishing vessel approximate 3.7 miles north from the Northern Limit Line at approximately 1900, Jan 15. As a result the fishing boat sank soon after the collision. One of the four crew members on board the fishing boat was safely rescued by the *503 Hyunsungho* while the remaining three are still missing. *503 Hyunsungho* is now in apert in North Korea for investigation by the North Korea authorities. Damage to *503 Hyunsungho* is unknown to the parties concerned in South Korea. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A South Korean ship (sand carrier *503 Hyunsungho*) has collided with a North Korean fishing boat in waters north of the sea border, leaving three fishermen missing, an official from the South said. The collision occurred six kilometres north of the countries' maritime border off the west coast yesterday evening. It happened as the South Korean ship was returning after loading sand from a North Korean port, said Coast Guard official Chang Soo-pyo. Four North Koreans were onboard the fishing boat, but only one was rescued. North Korean authorities detained the South Korean ship and its 10 crew are being held by for questioning, Chang said. The Unification Ministry said the North had told the South Korean government that it would return the South Korean crew as soon the interrogation was over.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A South Korean ship (sand carrier *503 Hyunsungho*) and its crew were returning home after questioning by North Korea over its collision with a fishing boat on the northern side of the western sea border, the Unification Ministry said today. "North Korea failed to locate its missing fishermen and asked for our cooperation in search and notification," a ministry official said, asking to remain anonymous.

Busan, Jan 18 — Unknown *503 Hyunsungho* arrived at Kunsan on Jan 17 to discharge sand after completion of an investigation by the North Korea authority in North Korea. No damage was reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

AGIA ZONI (Greece)

Piraeus, Jan 12 — Product tanker *Agia Zoni* was finally refloated yesterday after transshipment of part of its cargo. The vessel sailed at 2130 hrs with destination Agioi Theodoroi

in order to discharge the remaining cargo. The vessel arrived at Agioi Theodoroi roads at 0630, today and still remains awaiting orders. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 12 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Product tanker *Agia Zoni* was refloated yesterday after transferring 400 tons of petroleum products to product tanker *Konstantinos*. The vessel anchored one nautical miles off the coast and is expected to sail once a Class Maintain certificate is issued. Coast Guard patrol vessels are remaining nearby. No pollution was sighted as a result of the incident.

London, Jan 12 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Product tanker *Agia Zoni* was inspected by Hellenic Register and sailed safely to Motor Oil terminal Ag. Theodoroi escorted by tug. On arrival she was prohibited to depart pending further instructions from class.

Piraeus, Jan 16 — Product tanker *Agia Zoni* sailed empty of cargo from Agioi Theodoroi port at 1540, Jan 15, for Perama port for repairs. Arrived Perama 2045 same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

AL BARAKAT 1 (Bolivia)

Chittagong, Jan 14 — Understand from the local agents of chemical tanker *Al Barakat 1* (4060 gt, built 1978) that the vessel sailed Dumai Dec 17 for Chittagong, with 6,000 tonnes of "CPO", and sustained engine damage on about Dec 24. The vessel declared General Average and a tug was engaged to tow it to Chittagong. The tow arrived Chittagong Jan 12. — Lloyd's Agents.

Chittagong, Jan 15 — Understand from the local agents of chemical tanker *Al Barakat 1* that vessel lying at Chittagong outer anchorage awaiting berth. The engine damage will be surveyed after arrival of the vessel at berth on Jan 18. — Lloyd's Agents.

AL KHATTAB (Egypt)

London, Jan 18 — The Suez Canal has closed while salvage work is underway to refloat cutter suction dredger *Al Khattab* that sank in September. A Suez Canal Authority official said shipping was suspended at 0800, local time, (0600, UTC) and will resume six hours later once the wreck is removed.

ALASKAN FRONTIER (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Two of BP's new double-hulled oil tankers are sitting idle off Washington state after each lost an anchor while sailing through rough North Pacific waters, company and Coast Guard officials said Thursday (Jan 11). An investigation into how the anchors got away revealed "material defects" in the enormous steel claws, said Anil Mathur, president of Alaska Tanker Co., a Beaverton, Ore., company that hauls North Slope crude oil for BP. Each anchor weighs 16 tons, stands

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more than 13 feet tall, and hangs at the bow of one of the identical 941-foot vessels. One vessel, crude oil tanker *Alaskan Navigator* (110693 gt, built 2005), discovered an anchor missing on Dec 26 and crude oil tanker *Alaskan Frontier* (110693 gt, built 2004) lost one Dec 23, Mathur said. The tankers were hauling crude through rough seas to West Coast refineries when they lost the anchors, Mathur said. The bodies of the anchors were cracked and that caused them to break off, he said. It wasn't a matter of the anchor chain or coupling breaking. The two vessels are among four new double-hulled tankers BP had built for \$250 million each. The first of the tankers, built by National Steel and Shipbuilding Co. of San Diego, began work in the summer of 2004. The lost anchors are the second glitch to hit the new fleet. In 2005, two of the tankers, including the *Alaskan Frontier*, were laid up for a time because of large cracks in their rudders. The US Coast Guard is investigating the lost anchors. (Note — *Alaskan Navigator* arrived Port Angeles Jan 8. *Alaskan Frontier* arrived Port Angeles Jan 4.)

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: The Coast Guard, the state Department of Ecology and Alaska Tanker Company are cooperatively investigating the cause of anchor failures on two Alaska trade oil tankers. One of the vessels, crude oil tanker *Alaskan Frontier*, is now berthed at the Port Angeles Marine Terminal, where new anchors will be installed. In late December, the *Alaskan Frontier* and crude oil tanker *Alaskan Navigator* lost anchors in heavy weather while transiting from Valdez, Alaska, to Long Beach, California. There were no injuries to the crew or harm to the environment in either incident. A subsequent inspection of the remaining anchor on each vessel revealed a material defect in each anchor. ATC has taken the vessels out of service until replacement anchors can be installed. ATC is working with the vessel's manufacturer, NASSCO, to understand the anchor failure. Both the *Frontier* and *Navigator* have off-loaded their cargoes and are empty vessels. Four anchors have been identified for replacement and are being air-freighted to Seattle and will be fitted to both vessels within the coming days. Today (Friday), the *Alaskan Navigator* will transit to Pier 30 in Seattle where work will be done to install new anchors. Dale Jensen, who oversees oil spill prevention, preparedness and response activities for the Washington Ecology Department, says the measures ATC is taking are consistent with Ecology's top priorities to promote safe maritime practices and prevent possible oil spills. Anchors on the two remaining vessels of the class, the *Alaskan Legend* and the *Alaskan Explorer*, will be inspected soon. The *Legend* is en route to Cherry Point, Washington from Long Beach. Its anchors will be inspected upon arrival. The *Explorer's*

anchors will be inspected in Long Beach. ATC continues to operate the Prince William Sound and will continue to utilize the Denali to transport Alaskan crude to west coast markets. No impact to Alaska North Slope crude oil supply is expected.

ALASKAN NAVIGATOR (U.S.A.)

See *Alaskan Frontier*.

ALMAR (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0839, UTC: Edible oil tanker *Almar* (1756 gt, built 1980), Erith for Hamburg with rapeseed oil, reported engine trouble in lat 53 01N, long 04 24.3E, at 1856, UTC, Jan 11. The vessel dropped its anchor but high winds caused the anchor to drag, and the vessel subsequently lost its anchor. Salvage tug *Waker* took the vessel in tow at about 2330, UTC, escorted by tug *Hunter*. The tow is currently under way to Den Helder, ETA about 0900, UTC, today.

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1034, UTC: Edible oil tanker *Almar*, in tow, is currently just off Den Helder.

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1825, UTC: Edible oil tanker *Almar* is currently safely in Den Helder.

London, Jan 13 — A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage B.V. report, dated Jan 12, states: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage B.V. overnight came to the assistance of a 85 metre long loaded tanker (edible oil tanker *Almar*) that ran into difficulties off the Dutch coast. The vessel developed propulsion difficulties yesterday evening during bad weather and subsequently tried to anchor. Her anchors continued to drag due to the weather. At a later stage the anchorchain even broke, more or less luckily just prior to the casualty drifting over underwater cables/pipelines, pushing the vessel even faster towards the coast of the island Texel. Dutch Coastguard ETV *Waker*, owned by SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage B.V., had moved in already upon difficulties having started as per instructions of the Dutch Coastguard. Tug *Hunter* from partners Noordgat also was mobilised to the site for contingency purposes to assist in shallow waters. A salvage contract was agreed at about 2300, MET, with the *Waker* and *Hunter* still moving in. The *Waker*, despite the very rough conditions, was able to connect up just after midnight less than three miles off the coast and slightly over 15 minutes before the vessel would have drifted into shallow waters. The convoy is preparing to enter Den Helder during daylight, assisted by an additional salvage team of SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage B.V. and in close co-ordination with the Dutch Coastguard.

AMADA (North Korea)

Piraeus, Jan 12 — General cargo *Amada* remains under arrest at Kalamata port, ETD unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

AMALIA (Greece)

Piraeus, Jan 16 — Chemical tanker *Amalia* completed repairs and returned to service/trading Dec 30. — Lloyd's Agents.

AMALTHEA (Marshall Islands)

London, Jan 15 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Container Carrier *Amalthea* (14290 gt, built 2001) got into trouble in the Kiel Canal due to strong wind on Jan 14 and had to be assisted by the tug *Bugsier 11*. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, reported in lat 53 51 35.94N, long 7 50 22.14E at 1045, today.)

London, Jan 15 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Container Carrier *Amalthea* drifted in strong winds towards the old locks in Brunsbuettel. Tug *Bugsier 11* got her back into lane.

London, Jan 16 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, Container Carrier *Amalthea* was located stationary 5.8 nautical miles from Wangerooge, Germany, in lat 53 51 34.98N, long 07 50 23.7E, at 1433, UTC, today.

APL CHILE (Antigua & Barbuda)

Portsmouth, UK, Jan 12 — A report dated Jan 11 states: Response crews worked yesterday to contain a minor chemical spill on container carrier *APL Chile* (40306 gt, built 2000) at Dutch Harbor. Personnel from APL, the Department of Public Safety and the US Coast Guard responded to a chemical leak yesterday afternoon on board the vessel, which docked at Dutch Harbor late yesterday morning. The chemical ethylenediamine was found leaking from a container on board the vessel. The container was filled with 55-gallon drums of the material from Dow Chemical, at least one of which presumably opened and spilled during shipping. APL Dutch Harbor Operations Manager Brian Sewell said the company evacuated longshoremen from the vessel and offloaded the container to a trailer covered in protective sheeting last night. They were today awaiting the arrival of a hazardous response crew from the shipping company's Oakland, California offices to figure out how to dispose of it. The vessel, which was en route from Houston to China, left Dutch Harbor this afternoon. — Correspondent.

ARCTIC SEA (Malta)

London, Jan 13 — General cargo *Arctic Sea* passed Skaw Jan 12. (See issue of Jan 12.)

ARGONAFTIS (Greece)

Piraeus, Jan 12 — Ferry *Argonaftis* completed repairs and returned to service Dec 29. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Jan 2.)

ARROYOFRIO DOS (Canary Islands)

See "Brittany, France" under "Pollution".

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AURE (Norway)

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Sandnes, dated today: At 0855 hrs, today, Roll On Roll Off *Aure* (338 gt, built 1965), Festoy for Hundeidvik, grounded one hundred metres from the quay at Hundeidvik. The master fell asleep and the ferry grounded while at full speed. The ferry was refloated after few hours, assisted by ferry *Nordmore* and proceeded under its own power to Vegsund Slip, for repairs. It arrived here at 1500 hrs, today. The vessel will be drydocked. ETC unknown.

AWAKENINGS (Netherlands)

London, Jan 18 — General cargo *Awakenings*, built 1984, 2945, dwt, Mainz to the Netherlands, with a cargo of soil, grounded in the River Rhine off Oestrich-Winkel at Km 518, evening and night of the Jan 16/17. Vessel was loaded too deep which caused the grounding. After a crane barge discharged 550 tons of its cargo, it was refloated with the help of two tugs at 0300, local time, Jan 17.

BADRINATH (Liberia)

London, Jan 15 — Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1330, UTC: Refrigerated general cargo *Badrinath* (7286 gt, built 1987), drifting and disabled 160 nautical miles east of Bermuda at 1530, UTC, Jan 12. Tug *Faithful* towed vessel to Bermuda, arrived this morning.

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Refrigerated general cargo *Badrinath*, with a cargo of mandarins, was yesterday being towed toward Bermuda by a Government tug after sustaining engine problems. *Badrinath* was en route from Morocco to Delaware with 22 crew when it became disabled on Friday (Jan 12) around 160 nautical miles north east of Bermuda. Its owners requested assistance from the Department of Marine and Ports Services later that day. According to Bermuda Maritime Operations Centre, the tug *Faithful* got underway from Bermuda at 1530 on Saturday afternoon with 11 crew after completing a local shipping commitment. It arrived on the scene yesterday. The tug and towed vessel are expected in around 0830 this morning.

London, Jan 16 — A Bermuda MRCC report, timed 0900, Jan 15, states: The Bermuda Government tug *Faithful* completed the tow into St. George's Harbour of refrigerated general cargo *Badrinath*. The vessel had engine problems and became disabled 160 nautical miles ENE of Bermuda. The ship was enroute from Agadir to Delaware with 22 crew and a cargo of mandarins when it is believed to have had multiple piston problems with its main engine.

Hamilton, Bermuda, Jan 16 — Refrigerated general cargo *Badrinath*: Engine repairs are being carried out today and the ETD is set for tomorrow, Jan 17. It has been reported that there was a problem with the turning gear in the engine and new parts are being prepared locally so that the vessel can

continue its voyage to Wilmington, Delaware. — Lloyd's Agents.

BALTIYSK (Russia)

Berlin, Jan 11 — Roll On Roll Off *Baltiysk* is still in Mukran. Repairs are not done. According to the agent, Junge & Co, a date of departure is not known yet, destination will be most probably Baltijsk/Russia, where the vessel will start the ferry service. — Lloyd's Agents.

BCL IWONA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 15 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: Container Carrier *BCL Iwona* (6701 gt, built 2006) ran aground at km 44 in the embankment of the Kiel Canal after a machine failure at 1730, Jan 14. Tugs *Bugsier 14* and *Steinbock* came from Brunsbuettel to refloat the vessel while the shipping passed the site in one way traffic. A first attempt to refloat the ship failed. The vessel was finally refloated at 2220 hrs and was subsequently towed to Brunsbuettel for investigations. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *BCL Iwona*, bound Hamburg, was reported stationary, not under command, in lat 53 54 36N, long 09 10 25E, at 0648, UTC, today.)

London, Jan 16 — Container Carrier *BCL Iwona* has now arrived at Hamburg.

BITUMEN GLORY (Singapore)

London, Jan 15 — Understand salvage services are being rendered to asphalt tanker *Bitumen Glory* by SMIT Singapore Pte under Lloyd's Open Form. It is understood the vessel is currently in tow of tug *Smit Langkawi*. (See issue of Jan 12.)

Singapore, Jan 18 — Asphalt tanker *Bitumen Glory* was towed to Penang and redelivered to its owners yesterday afternoon. — SMIT Singapore Pte Ltd. (See issue of Jan 16.)

BM-5281 (Poland)

London, Jan 14 — Two inland cargo vessels had a collision at about 1530, local time, yesterday in the Scheldt-Rhine canal off Tholen in the Netherlands. The non specific tanker *Endurance*, in ballast, empty from benzene and the Polish general cargo *BM-5281*, loaded with fertilisers, collided and both vessels were damaged. No persons were hurt in the accident. Both vessels proceeded to the harbour of Tholen for further investigation. The authorities are making inquiries about the cause of the collision. After making the reports, the *Endurance* sailed again, not having much damage, however, the *BM-5281* is still lying in the Tholen harbour today with considerable damage to her superstructure, in which the anchor of the empty tanker caused damage. *BM-5281* is not allowed to sail. Her certificates have been withdrawn until some of the damage has been repaired.

BOW SIRIUS (Singapore)

See *King Edward*.

BRITISH CYGNET (Isle of Man)

Poznan, Jan 12 — Crude oil tanker *British Cygnet* is still under repair. Repairs are expected to be completed Jan 16. As per initial information, its destination will be Primorsk or Tallinn. — Lloyd's Agents.

CANADIAN OLYMPIC (Canada)

London, Jan 16 — Bulker *Canadian Olympic* (22887 gt, built 1976), cargo coal, had a crankcase explosion in the starboard main engine in Lake Erie, Ontario, in lat 42 25N, long 80 10W, at 0847, Jan 15. No injuries, no fire. The vessel proceeded to anchor in Long Point Bay for clean-up and repairs.

CATHERINE R (Republic of Ireland)

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A lifeboat has been sent out to help the crew of a fishing vessel (fishing *Catherine R*, 287 gt, built 2001) experiencing difficulties off the Donegal coast. The alarm was raised by the crew of the 90ft Greencastle-based boat while it was located 18 miles north-west of Aranmore Island. Ropes are believed to have become caught in the vessel's propeller. The Aranmore RNLI lifeboat was despatched to help the stricken trawler and was expected on the scene at around lunchtime.

London, Jan 17 — Following received from Dublin MRCC, timed 1530, UTC: At 1037, UTC, Malin Head MRSC advised us that fishing *Catherine R* had rope in propeller 18 miles north-west of Burtonport, in lat 55 12N, long 08 57W. As there had been no response from any fishing vessels in the area, Aranmore lifeboat was tasked to take vessel in tow for Burtonport. At 1127, UTC, Malin Head MRSC advised that tow had commenced and Dublin MRCC took over co-ordination of tow. At 1327, UTC, tow parted and re-established, now ETA Burtonport 1700, UTC.

CEDARGLEN (Canada)

London, Jan 17 — Bulker *Cedarglen* (18531 gt, built 1959), cargo wheat, sustained main engine problem forcing the vessel to anchor in Lac St-Pierre, Yamachiche, Quebec, in lat 46 11.11N, long 72 54.58W at 2030, local time, Dec 27. Vessel resumed its voyage after repairs.

CHELYABINSK (Russia)

Taranto, Jan 12 — Bulker with container capacity *Chelyabinsk*: Situation officially still unchanged. Rumours seem to suggest vessel might start operations Jan 16. Hearings of crew still on at Coast Guard; guarantees still not formally agreed/presented. — Lloyd's Agents.

Taranto, Jan 15 — Bulker with container capacity *Chelyabinsk* moved to road from 1320 to 1006 Jan 13, to vacate berth which needed by an operational vessel. Vessel is now awaiting to be called back alongside its deputed pier by receivers, pending their acceptance, which still unknown to us, to perform commercial operation if any. — Lloyd's Agents.

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Taranto, Jan 18 — Bulker with container capacity *Chelyabinsk* berthed at pier No.5 (west ILVA pier) at 0330 hrs, Jan 18. Loading commenced at 0700 hrs, same day and is expected to last about 10 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

CHEMTRANS MOON (Liberia)

London, Jan 17 — Product tanker *Chemtrans Moon* sailed Amsterdam 1732, Jan 16.

CITY OF PARIS (Isle of Man)

Brest, Jan 11 — Vehicle carrier *City of Paris* departed Brest Jan 10 for Setubal following the payment of Euros 150,000. — Lloyd's Agents.

CLAUDIA (Netherlands)

London, Jan 15 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Claudia* (4235 gt, built 1999) reached the port of Harwich as a port of refuge this morning (Jan 15), after its cargo of steel coils shifted dangerously in heavy weather and caused a list to port. (Note — *Claudia* sailed Tornio Jan 13 and passed Brunsbuttel Jan 13.)

CLIPPER TOBAGO (Bahamas)

Montreal, Jan 11 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Clipper Tobago* had main engine reversing problems at Hamilton, Ont. In order to avoid the vessel being land-locked on the Great Lakes during the winter period, the vessel was towed, as a dead ship, to Montreal, Canada. The owner's superintendent is currently on site and they will carry out a major main engine overhaul and maintenance. The vessel should in Montreal for at least ten more days. — Lloyd's Agents.

CMA CGM DEBUSSY (France)

Hamburg, Jan 17 — Container Carrier *CMA CGM Debussy* (73157 gt, built 2001) arrived Hamburg Jan 16 with an engine problem. Vessel detained. — Schiffsmeldedienst GmbH.

CSO ORELIA (Marshall Islands)

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen, timed 0145, UTC: The Balmoral production platform has reported that diving support *CSO Orelia* (6368 gt, built 1984) has sustained electrical failure and is now not under command and drifting. Standby vessel *Far Strider* and tugs *Far Sovereign* and *Pacific Blade* are proceeding and are due on the scene at 0255, 0405 and 0800, UTC. *Far Strider* will standby *CSO Orelia* until *Far Sovereign* arrives to attempt to pass a tow line to the casualty.

London, Jan 12 — The following press release was issued by the Martitime & Coastguard Agency, timed 1110, UTC, today: Diving support *CSO Orelia* which lost its main propulsion in the North Sea, 115 miles east north east of Aberdeen, is now securely under tow. The tug *Pacific Blade* which was sent to assist the vessel by its managers has now established a tow and will assist the

CSO Orelia. The intention is to proceed to Invergordon. The other tug on scene earlier, *Far Sovereign* has been released. David Robertson, Aberdeen Coastguard Watch Manager said: "We are very pleased that the vessel is now safely under tow, the weather on scene is still poor, but I can report that all 94 people on board are safe and well". (See issue of Jan 15.)

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen, timed 1837, UTC: At 1800, UTC, diving support *CSO Orelia*, in tow of tug *Pacific Blade* was in lat 58 08.1N, long 01 13.8E. The vessels are waiting on the weather and it is understood the intention is still to proceed to Invergordon, once the weather improves.

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen, timed 2117, UTC: Diving support *CSO Orelia*, in tow of tug *Pacific Blade* is in lat 58 07.39N, long 01 14.37E. *CSO Orelia* has regained emergency steering and has four thrusters operating. *Pacific Blade* intends to wait for the weather to ease before towing *CSO Orelia* to Invergordon.

London, Jan 13 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 0632, UTC: Tug *Pacific Blade* confirmed at 0013, UTC, today, that weather conditions had abated sufficiently for the tow of diving support *CSO Orelia* to commence towards Invergordon. *CSO Orelia*, under tow of *Pacific Blade*, were in lat 58 06N, long 00 28.8E at 0600, UTC.

London, Jan 13 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 2200, UTC: Diving support *CSO Orelia*, in tow of tug *Pacific Blade*, reported at 2006, UTC, in lat 57 50.2N, long 02 17.2W, bound Invergordon, ETA 0630, UTC, Jan 14.

London, Jan 14 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 1700, UTC: Diving support *CSO Orelia* arrived Invergordon at 0700, UTC, Jan 14, in tow of tug *Pacific Blade*.

London, Jan 15 — Understand salvage services were rendered to diving support *CSO Orelia* by Swire Pacific Offshore Services Pte Ltd under Lloyd's Open Form dated Jan 12.

Grangemouth, Jan 16 — Diving support *CSO Orelia* sustained damage to electrical systems and wheelhouse equipment and remains under repair at Invergordon. Repairs are expected to be complete within six to 10 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

CURRENT (Comoros)

Piraeus, Jan 12 — General cargo *Current* remains under repair at Piraeus. — Lloyd's Agents.

DA HAI (Cambodia)

Yokohama, Jan 16 — General cargo *Da Hai* (498 gt, built 1992) contacted the foundation stones of the wharf while berthing at wharf 8, Wakamatsu District (? Tobata) at 0830, Jan 12 due to clutch problems. Vessel sustained cracking damage to bottom of its bow

resulting in water ingress. Vessel can navigate with own power and no oil spill or injuries have been reported. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Da Hai* arrived Tobata Jan 12 from Zhanjiang.)

DAWN FRASER (Australia)

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: A 72-year-old fisherman who suffered a heart attack and lost his leg in a collision with a RiverCat on Sydney Harbour has died in hospital. The man and his 37-year-old son were thrown from their dinghy into waters off Dawes Point, near Luna Park, after the off-duty Sydney Ferries RiverCat *Dawn Fraser* and the dinghy collided on Jan 5. The man was taken to St Vincents Hospital where his right leg was amputated. The severity of his injuries also triggered a heart attack. A St Vincents Hospital spokeswoman confirmed the man died earlier today. (See issue of Jan 8.)

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The New South Wales Opposition is calling for an independent inquiry into Sydney Ferries after the death of a man whose dinghy was hit by passenger *Dawn Fraser* earlier this month. The 72-year-old man died yesterday after spending more than a week in hospital where he had undergone surgery to amputate his leg and treatment for a heart attack. The man was fishing with his son near the southern pylon of the Harbour Bridge when the vessel ran into them. Opposition transport spokesman Gladys Berejiklian is calling for an inquiry into the State Government's management of Sydney Ferries, saying it has ignored critical safety recommendations. "The State Government should explain why it has failed to adopt recommendations regarding safety procedures over a considerable period of time regarding Sydney ferries," she said. Sydney Ferries officials say they are co-operating with three separate investigations into the incident. Sydney Ferries chief Rear Admiral Geoff Smith says the ferry master involved is on leave while the investigation continues. "The master of the ferry is at home where we have been providing counselling to him," he said.

DESPINA (Greece)

See *Rania*.

DIRECTION (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 18 — A press release, issued by U.S. Coast Guard Boston, Mass., dated Jan 17, states: The Coast Guard is towing a disabled 77-foot, Westport, Mass, based lobster boat with five people on board to Provincetown, Mass, after it became stranded approximately 50 miles east of Nantucket, Mass, at about 1630 hrs, yesterday. The Coast Guard Cutter *Seneca*, homeported in Boston, fought through 30-knot winds, 12-foot seas and freezing temperatures yesterday night to assist fishing *Direction* (103 gt, built 1983) after the vessel's propeller became fouled. A Coast

Guard Station Provincetown, Mass, vessel crew is scheduled to take over towing efforts outside of Cape Cod Bay about 1500 hrs and safely moor the *Direction*.

London, Jan 18 — Following received from U.S. Coast Guard Boston, Mass., timed 0525, UTC: At 1600 hrs, Jan 17, the Coast Guard were advised that fishing *Direction* was safely moored alongside at Provincetown, Mass.

DISSIDENTIA (Netherlands)

London, Jan 18 — Non specific tanker *Dissidentia*, built 1991, 2850, 110 metres long, bound for Mainz, grounded in River Rhine, just before 0600, Jan 17. The vessel was loaded too deep with 2200 tons of cargo. The vessel managed to refloat under its own power.

DOLORES 830 (Philippines)

London, Jan 11 — Following received from Coast Guard Guam, timed 1810, UTC: Fishing (general) *Dolores 830* (466 gt, built 1972) 25 persons on board, sank after being struck by a large wave in lat 00 26.4S, long 149.39E, today. All crew safely rescued.

DONAU (Belgium)

London, Jan 18 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Donau* sailed Valletta Jan 16 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 35 57 51N, long 14 48 11E, at 1032, UTC, today, speed 9.1 knots, course 253.8 degrees.

DRELNES (Faroe Islands)

London, Jan 16 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Fishing (general) *Drelnes* (257 gt, built 1961) ran aground Jan 10 and is now under repair at Túrshavnar Skipasmiðja.

EILTANK 4 (Germany)

London, Jan 11 — Non specific tanker *Eiltank 4*, built 1971, 85 metres long, 9,50 width, 1550 tonnes dwt, was pushed against the breakwater Geulenhavendam, Rotterdam harbour, by the strong winds, today. Vessel did not succeed to get off the breakwater by its own power. A patrol vessel from Rotterdam Port Authorities assisted the tanker and pulled it off again.

EL TORO (Singapore)

Ponta Delgada, Jan 15 — Part containerised general car *El Toro* completed main engine repairs. After the satisfactory seal trials the vessel left Ponta Delgada Jan 13, resuming her scheduled voyage to Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Agents.

ENDURANCE (Germany)

See *BM-5281*.

ENFORCER (Netherlands)

London, Jan 17 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 2117, UTC: General cargo *Enforcer* (7642 gt, built 2003), bound Belfast, lost five 20-foot containers in lat 50 33.69N, long 05 50.34W at 1845, UTC. Container contents believed non hazardous.

EREN C. (Panama)

London, Jan 14 — General cargo *Eren C.* passed the Dardanelles Jan 12.

FAULTLESS (Liberia)

London, Jan 12 — Crude oil tanker *Faultless* arrived Kharg Island Jan 2 and sailed Jan 5.

FINNOY (Norway)

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Sandnes, dated today: Ferry *Finnoy* is still at Wartsila, undergoing repairs. ETC unknown.

London, Jan 17 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Ferry *Finnoy* completed repairs today and returned back to normal service.

FRONTEK (Singapore)

See *Seafalcon*.

FUGRO MERIDIAN (Bahamas)

London, Jan 13 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 0328, UTC: Seismographic research *Fugro Meridian* (2255 gt, built 1982), 29 persons on board, reported at 0143, UTC, that vessel had grounded and then refloated three miles north of Peterhead in lat 57 33.4N, long 01 47.3W. Crew refloated vessel without assistance. Vessel was sheltering from weather when the bow went aground. No reported damage or injuries. No pollution. Vessel trying to obtain berth at Aberdeen harbour to carry out full inspection. (Note — *Fugro Meridian* sailed Aberdeen 1910, UTC, Jan 9.)

London, Jan 13 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 0825, UTC: Seismographic research *Fugro Meridian* berthed safely alongside Atlantic Quay, Aberdeen, at 0737, UTC.

Grangemouth, Jan 16 — Understand damage to seismographic research *Fugro Meridian* was assessed at Aberdeen and immediate repairs were not required. Vessel sailed 1412, Jan 16. — Lloyd's Agents.

GENOA (Bahamas)

Piraeus, Jan 12 — Refrigerated general cargo *Genoa* completed repairs and sailed Jan 12 for Chalkis. — Lloyd's Agents.

GIURGIU 29 (Ukraine)

See *Johannes*.

GOLD RIVER (Hong Kong)

Douala, Jan 12 — Bulker *Gold River* was refloated at 1830, local time, Jan 10 after unloading around 5,000 tonnes of cargo to two smaller vessels "freighted" by the owner. Its current location is at Post 52 and the unloading is still ongoing, with completion expected Monday (Jan 15). — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Jan 8.)

London, Jan 17 — A SMIT Salvage report states: SMIT Salvage was contracted (Jan 4) by the owners and underwriters on LOF 2000 to refloat bulker *Gold River* which grounded off Douala. The vessel was laden with cement clinker destined for Douala.

After initial attempts by the owners failed SMIT Salvage was contracted to refloat the vessel. A salvage team from the Netherlands was mobilised to the casualty. After an inspection by the the salvage team approximately 4,500 tonnes of cargo was discharged into offloading tonnage prior to refloating of the casualty. The vessel was safely redelivered to owners in Douala within six days upon contract confirmation.

GOLDEN SKY (Cyprus)

London, Jan 15 — Following received from Riga MRCC, timed 0615, UTC: Bulker *Golden Sky* (15786 gt, built 1985), P3SA9, laden with chemicals, grounded, in winds of 25 metres per second, during the night, approximately five nautical miles off Ventspils. Vessel has been holed and there is water in her engine-room. However, there has been no pollution. Eighteen of her 26 crew have been taken off the vessel, with eight remaining on board. (Note — *Golden Sky* sailed from London on Jan 4 bound for Ventspils.)

Riga, Jan 15 — Bulker *Golden Sky*, cargo on board 24,500 tons of potash, stranded at the west coast of Latvia, about four miles north of Ventspils at 0200, local time, today. Vessel was at Ventspils outer road at anchor due to main engine problem said caused by bad quality fuel. Sixteen crew members taken ashore by helicopters, eight are on board. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 15 — Following received from Riga MRCC, timed 2000, UTC: Bulker *Golden Sky* remains aground with eight crew still onboard. Tugs are due on scene, however, the weather is very bad which has delayed them.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated Jan 15, states: Rescuers battling high winds winched to safety most of the crew of bulker *Golden Sky* that ran aground off Latvia in a fierce storm which also cut off power for thousands in Latvia and Lithuania. A Latvian Air Force MI-17 helicopter and a Swedish rescue helicopter evacuated 16 of the 24 crew members of the vessel. The master of the ship, which is carrying 25,000 tonnes of mineral fertilizers and also has 446 tonnes of residual fuel oil and 45 tonnes of diesel fuel on board, decided that eight crew members should remain on board. The ship had sent out an emergency signal after running onto a sandbank about 1.5 kilometres off the coast of northwestern Latvia, officials said. "Sixteen crew members have been rescued, eight are still on board," Andris Sulcs of the rescue services in Ventspils said. The rescue operation was hampered by waves as high as three metres and winds gusting at around 110 kilometres per hour. A small amount of oil was leaking out of the ship's engine-room but did not pose a threat to the environment, Latvian maritime and naval officials were quoted by the Baltic News Service (BNS) agency as saying. Latvian Environment Minister Raimonds Vejonis, who inspected the stranded ship, said it might be

necessary to pump out the fuel tanks and offload its cargo to get the ship off the sandbank. Salvage operations cannot begin until the weather has improved, officials said. Most of the crew members onboard the ship, which had left Ventspils for India, were Filipinos, Sulcs said.

London, Jan 16 — Following received from Riga MRCC, timed 1405, UTC: Bulker *Golden Sky*, loaded with muriate of potash, grounded close to the shore, in lat 57 28 08N, long 21 35 56E. Vessel remains aground and salvors are proceeding from Greece. Slight oil pollution reported.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A rescue operation to salvage bulker *Golden Sky* that ran aground 800-900 metres off Latvia's coast in the Baltic Sea will have to be postponed because of inclement weather, Latvian officials said Tuesday (Jan 16). The vessel was carrying 25,000 tons of mineral fertilizer when it ran aground during the night between Sunday and Monday off the coast of Ventspils, a port town, due to a big storm and gale force winds. Latvian helicopters evacuated 16 crew members, though eight others stayed on board to prevent the damage from worsening, the coast guard service said. The service said the vessel's engine-room incurred serious damage and the vessel is leaking fuel. Two of the vessel's five compartments are filled with water. Capt. Hermanis Cernovs, chief of the naval coast guard service, said that a helicopter crew spotted a 40-kilometre-long oil slick in the sea. However, a mop-up operation is ruled out, Cernovs said, since booms used to contain oil spills are ineffective in such high waves. The owners of the vessel arrived in Latvia on Tuesday and were planning a rescue operation, but it was unclear when they could set to work due to 3-metre-high waves lashing the hull. Cernovs said that the vessel's owners were hoping to begin the rescue operation Wednesday, but that the weather forecast was for more heavy winds and that rescuers were more likely to start the mission Thursday. The vessel first encountered engine problems during the storm and decided to drop its anchor, Cernovs said. However, due to the sheer force of the winds the chain snapped and the vessel went aground.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated Jan 16, states: Cypriot-registered bulker *Golden Sky* which ran aground off the Latvian coast yesterday, carrying 25,000 tons of mineral fertilizer, is still leaking "small amounts" of oil, with no salvage yet possible, authorities confirmed today. "There is a certain amount of pollution, but it's hard to judge how much, because the sea is still rough. It seems to be coming from the engine room, not the main tanks," Sarma Kocane, spokeswoman for the Latvian Maritime Agency, told Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa. "There's little hope that we'll be able to do much about it until the weather improves," she added. Helicopter crews and

observers on the shore reported seeing oil spilling from the wreck, but no accurate estimate has yet been made of the extent of the spill. The ship is known to be carrying 446 tons of heavy fuel oil. "We can see pollution in small areas, but with the sea in this state, we can't tell if it adds up to a few square metres or a square kilometre," Kocane said. The vessel's Greek owners have arrived in Latvia to discuss further action with the local authorities. Weather conditions are expected to become suitable for salvage work at the end of the week, Baltic News Service BNS reported.

London, Jan 17 — Following received from Riga MRCC, timed 0829, UTC: Bulker *Golden Sky* is still aground. Vessel has flooded engine-room and No 2 hold.

London, Jan 17 — Understand salvage service are being rendered to bulker *Golden Sky*, under Lloyd's Open Form, by Tsaviliris Salvage.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Gale-force winds and high waves were preventing Latvian rescuers today from salvaging bulker *Golden Sky*. The ship has been leaking oil since its engine-room sustained damage, Latvian officials said. The extent of the environmental damage was unclear. The high waves ruled out the use of booms to prevent the oil leakage from spreading, officials said. The ship is now unmanned, as the master and seven crew members were evacuated by helicopter yesterday. Capt. Hermanis Cernovs, chief of Latvia's naval coast guard, said it appeared the ship was not sustaining damage, despite the high waves and strong winds. He said the wind speed today was 25 metres per second, and waves were as high as five metres.

GRACE (Netherlands Antilles)

Ferrol, Jan 15 — Transshipment of cargo from general cargo *Grace* to general cargo *Reest* started today, ETC the day after tomorrow. — Lloyd's Agents.

GRACECHURCH JUPITER (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 15 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Navtex shows at around midday today the Container Carrier *Gracechurch Jupiter* (6277 gt, built 2002) had engine breakdown in the Saronic Gulf. Tug *Alexander 1* is nearby the vessel to render assistance if needed along with a Port Authority boat. The master believes that the engine will be operational by 1900 today, however in the case that it is not, then *Alexander 1* will tow the vessel to Piraeus for repairs. (Note — Container Carrier *Gracechurch Jupiter* arrived Piraeus Jan 14 and reported ETA Haifa Jan 18.)

London, Jan 16 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1024, UTC: Container Carrier *Gracechurch Jupiter* was able to repair herself and proceeded on voyage late yesterday.

GRAND ANEMI (Malta)

London, Jan 16 — Bulker *Grand Anemi* sailed Vancouver, Washington, Jan 13 for Umm Qasr.

GRANDE PORTOGALLO (Italy)

London, Jan 11 — Roll On Roll Off *Grande Portogallo* (37726 gt, built 2002) owned by Grimaldi, hit a dolphin while mooring during a heavy gale in the Sloe harbour of Flushing East at about 1000, local time, this morning. The 31 metre wide vessel had a hole below the water line and was getting water in its holds. Salvors from Multtraship Salvage BV from Terneuzen and URS Salvage & Maritime Contracting from Antwerp were soon at the place of the accident with pumps and sufficient materials to close the hole in the side temporarily. Several tugs and salvage vessels came to the vessel, which soon had a list, and pushed it against the quay. Divers went down to locate the hole and closed it provisional. The salvors, owners and authorities are now considering where the vessel will go for repairs.

London, Jan 14 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Roll on roll off *Grande Portogallo* was towed to Antwerp on Jan 13, following temporary repairs.

London, Jan 15 — Roll On Roll Off *Grande Portogallo* arrived Antwerp 1853, Jan 13.

GREAT CENTURY (Hong Kong)

London, Jan 16 — Bulker *Great Century* arrived New Orleans 1735, Jan 13.

GRETA KOSAN (Isle of Man)

Dover, Jan 12 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Greta Kosan* repairs have been completed and vessel sailed to Grangemouth at 1207, today. — Lloyd's Agents.

GRIGOROUSSA I (Liberia)

Piraeus, Jan 12 — Crude oil tanker *Grigoroussa I* remains at Skaramanga undergoing repairs, ETD unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

GULF PRIDE (Panama)

Djibouti, Jan 11 — General cargo *Gulf Pride* is still under arrest and we have no idea as regards to the hull repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

HAGONOY (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 15 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that an explosion ripped through the non specific tanker *Hagonoy* (490 gt, built 1991) at 0815, today while docked along Manila's Pasig River. The explosion occurred while the vessel was undergoing tank cleaning operations. Four workers, who were cleaning the vessel's storage tank No. 5, were injured. The Coast Guard said that the explosion tore off the entire deck of tank No 5. The force of the explosion hurled the heavy steel deck several metres away, landing on top of an adjacent barge. Other equipment stored on the tanker's deck were also blown off. An oil spill boom was

thrown 100 metres away and landed on top of a multi-story office building. The crew was able to place the fire under control after several hours. Coast Guard officials are still trying to determine the cause of the explosion. The vessel is owned by Manila-based Herma Shipping and Transport Corp. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A blast shook non specific tanker *Hagonoy* moored in Manila as crewmen cleaned a tank today, injuring at least three people, Coast Guard officials said. The explosion triggered a fire that was quickly put out, said Commander Charlie Rances, a coast guard operations officer. "The tanker was already empty and they were just cleaning remnants of oil so we need to find out if someone smoked or what it was that caused the explosion," Rances added. He said the tanker, with 497 gross tonnage, was on the shanty-lined Pasig River when the explosion occurred. Two of four crewmen cleaning the tank were among three people brought to a hospital, Rances said. Manila's radio DZMM said a woman was also injured in the blast that blew off one of the oil tanks' metal lid.

Manila, Jan 16 — It has been reported here that four people on cleaning services on non specific tanker *Hagonoy* were injured when an explosion ripped through the oil tanker yesterday morning. The Manila Fire department said the fire began at 0856 hrs, following the explosion on board the oil tanker which was docked on the Pasig River in the vicinity of Parola, Binondo, Manila. It was put out about 0928 hrs, the same day. The blast was strong enough to blow the metal lid of one of the tanks and other equipment onboard including its oil spill boom which landed on top of a building, about 100 metres away from the vessel. The vessel is owned by Herma Shipping Corp. The incident is presently being investigated by the Philippine Coast Guard. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, Jan 16 — Fire department officials investigating the fire on board non specific tanker *Hagonoy* believe that a portable blower used by workers in cleaning the vessel's empty oil storage tanks caused the explosion and subsequent fire. "The portable blower was placed outside No.5 tank while its hose was positioned inside the tank. The hose then filled with oil fumes and the blower acted as an igniter when it was turned on," Capt Adan Bithao, Arson Department Chief of the Bureau of Fire Protection explained. This caused an explosion inside which blew off the top plate of the tank. The subsequent fire burned the exterior of the adjacent pump house and the pilot house. The interior of the two structures were not reached by the fire, however. The engine-room was also unaffected and other vital machinery and equipment are intact. Although an extensive hull survey is still to be undertaken, a cursory inspection showed no damaged to the

hull. Fire department officials said that the vessel, which remains moored along Manila's Pasig River, will remain under its custody until its arson investigation is finished. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, Jan 17 — Herma Shipping and Transport Corp, the owner and operator of tanker *Hagonoy*, will not be taking to court, the company which was undertaking tank cleaning on the *Hagonoy* when an explosion occurred on Jan 15. RNA Marine Services, Inc was contracted by Herma Shipping to clean the vessel's empty storage tanks when the accident took place. "We do not intend to file charges against RNA Marine Services for an accident which no one intended to happen," Herma Shipping fleet manager Lito Manansala said. "We treat our subcontractors as partners and this mishap can be settled amicably and out of court," he added. Mr. Manansala said that Herma Shipping was also shouldering the hospitalization expenses of the three tank cleaners injured in the blast. The three workers are presently confined at a Manila hospital for treatment of second-degree burns. *Hagonoy* is moored along Manila's Pasig River, where it will remain until the Bureau of Fire Protection completes its investigation on the cause of the explosion. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jan 18 — Manila's fire department officials are ruling out arson or sabotage in the explosion that occurred on the non-specified tanker *Hagonoy* on Jan 15. "The cause of the explosion appears to be more accidental than deliberate," Capt Adan Bithao, Arson Department Chief of the Bureau of Fire Protection said. "We are, however, trying to determine if there was criminal negligence on the part of both the tanker's crew and the worker's contracted to clean the vessel's storage tanks", he added. Fire department officials believe that the explosion was caused by a portable blower which ignited the compressed oil fumes in the ship's empty storage tank no. 5. The vessel remains moored in the Pasig River's del Pan area and is still under Bureau of Fire Protection custody. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

HEAVEN STAR

Manila, Jan 12 — Philippine-registered passenger/cargo vessel *Heaven Star* is still docked at Pier 2 of Cebu port undergoing repairs to its engine. Officials of Roble Shipping Lines, owner and operator of the vessel, said that engine repair work has been hampered because of the delay in the arrival of spare parts from abroad. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jan 18 — Engine repairs were completed on passenger/cargo vessel *Heaven Star* yesterday. The vessel is at Pier 2, Cebu port, preparing for its regular voyage to Ormoc City. It is scheduled to leave Cebu port at 2000 hrs, tonight. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

HEINRICH OLDENDORFF (Liberia)

Port Said, Jan 15 — Bulker *Heinrich Oldendorff* (39893 gt, built 2001) underway to enter the Canal with the northbound convoy on Jan 11, sustained sudden engine trouble and S.C.A tugs towed it to Suez outer harbour to effect the necessary repairs. Seaworthiness certificate was granted and vessel completed repairs and entered Canal with the northbound convoy on Jan 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 18 — Bulker *Heinrich Oldendorff* passed Port Said Jan 14 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 41 01 30N, long 28 59 43E, at 1041, UTC, today, speed 8.9 knots, course 41 degrees.

INCH ARRAN (Canada)

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: The engine problem that prompted the crew of ferry *Inch Arran* to issue a mayday off Newfoundland's northeast coast in October was due to routine use onboard the aging vessel, a review has found. A Transport Canada investigation found that a connection between the fuel pump and the engine on *Inch Arran* failed due to normal wear and tear. Marine safety investigators with Transport Canada have determined the ferry's crew took appropriate actions during the incident, when the engine cut out and the ferry started to drift. The ferry broke down near Little Bay Islands in Notre Dame Bay. The crew was able to restart the engine and bring the ferry to port. There were no infractions under the Canada Shipping Act, the review found. *Inch Arran* was built 44 years ago, making it one of the oldest vessels in a provincial government fleet that safety consultants, in a separate report completed last year, said is badly outmoded and in need of replacement.

INDEPENDENT (Barbados)

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0847, UTC: General cargo *Independent* (2113 gt, built 1982), Bremen for Shoreham with cement, was reported not under command in lat 53 31N, long 04 53.1E, at 1300, UTC, Jan 11. The vessel is currently still drifting in lat 53 36.4N, long 05 55.4E, and intends to anchor. The owners intend to arrange a tug.

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1028, UTC: General cargo *Independent* safely anchored in lat 53 36.3N, long 05 55.6E, at 0855, UTC. Tug *Fairplay-23* arranged by owners to assist vessel and due on scene this afternoon.

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1825, UTC: Tug *Fairplay-23* is now alongside general cargo *Independent* and will take the *Independent* in tow and tow her to the River Ems. The actual port to which she will then be towed has yet to be nominated.

London, Jan 14 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1600, UTC: General cargo *Independent*

arrived Eemshaven in tow of tug *Fairplay-23* at approximately 1400, UTC, Jan 14.

London, Jan 16 — General cargo *Independent* sailed Eemshaven 0600, Jan 15, for Shoreham.

JI DA (Sierra Leone)

Busan, Jan 18 — General cargo *Ji Da*, in tow, sailed from Mokpo on Jan 16 and arrived at Kunsan on Jan 17 for scrapping. Understand that the vessel will be completely scrapped at this port by the end of April. — Lloyd's Agents.

JOHANNES

London, Jan 12 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Johannes*, loaded with 1,000 tonnes of soy, and vessel *Giurgiu 29*, with 1,600 tonnes of cargo on board, were in collision on the River Dunav close to Aholing, in the Straubing-Bogen region, at 0200, Jan 11. *Johannes* was struck amidships by *Giurgiu 29* and sustained a two-metre gash, resulting in the vessel's mid-section filling with water. A pontoon with a crane was called to lighter the vessel. *Giurgiu 29* lost one of its attached barges which developed a leak in the bow, resulting in water ingress. The river was closed following the incident but was fully re-opened to traffic yesterday afternoon. Damage is estimated at Euros 250,000.

London, Jan 12 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Traffic on the river Dunav was running after the collision between general cargo *Johannes* and *Giurgiu 29* yesterday evening. Almost the whole cargo of *Johannes* had been lightered, then the ship was towed to a position above the lock Straubing. Plans will be made on how to get the ship into a repair yard. The *Giurgiu 29* resumed its voyage yesterday afternoon.

JOMI (Bahamas)

London, Jan 11 — Following received from Coastguard Swansea MRCC, timed 1635, UTC: General cargo *Jomi* is now under tow of tug *Ayton Cross* bound for Swansea, ETA 2030, UTC.

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC, timed 1205, UTC: General cargo *Jomi* has been towed into Swansea Docks.

Swansea, Jan 16 — General cargo *Jomi* still in Swansea. Repairs are being "prepared" but nothing started yet. — Lloyd's Agents.

JRS CANIS (Cyprus)

London, Jan 12 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Container Carrier *JRS Canis* (7430 gt, built 2006) lost 10 containers in the Elbe estuary today after being hit by a series of waves of a height of 7-8 metres which followed one after another. The Cyprus-flagged vessel was underway from Bremerhaven to St. Petersburg. It had to berth in Brunsbuttel. The container do not contain dangerous goods, no threat for environment, the police said. For more

thorough investigations the vessel will have to proceed to Hamburg after its current stop.

London, Jan 14 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The lost containers of container carrier *JRS Canis* have been traced on the bottom of the River Elbe. They will be raised as soon as possible. None of the damaged containers lost overboard as well as damaged on deck contained hazardous material. They were filled with gloves and tools for Russia.

London, Jan 17 — Container Carrier *JRS Canis* arrived Hamburg 2300, Jan 12, sailed 1629, Jan 15 and passed Brunsbuttel 1818, same day for St.Petersburg.

London, Jan 17 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Only two containers from container carrier *JRS Canis* have been traced and salvaged. Eight are still missing, however, their cargo is now drifting ashore at Hillgroven.

KAPITAN ARTYUKH (Russia)

Portsmouth, UK, Jan 15 — Container Carrier *Kapitan Artyukh* (9548 gt, built 1986), loaded with 1,124 tons of cargo, was reported disabled in lat 52 26N, long 158 39E, at 0230, local time, today. The vessel had to be towed to a moorage at Petropavlovsk-Kamchatka. — Correspondent.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated Jan 15, states: Container Carrier *Kapitan Artyukh* sustained a breach to its hull off the Kamchatka Peninsula in the early hours of yesterday morning. It is not known what caused the accident, but the vessel issued a distress message while on passage from Petropavlovsk Kamchatsky to Vladivostok, loaded 238 containers. Several rescue boats responded and 16 of the vessel's crew of 28 were taken off. There were no injuries and no pollution. The vessel was subsequently towed to a moorage at Petropavlovsk-Kamchatka, where and underwater survey was carried out. The breach to the hull has reportedly been fixed. An investigation into the cause of the accident has begun.

Vladivostok, Jan 16 — Container Carrier *Kapitan Artyukh* sailed Petropavlovsk Kamchatskiy for Vladivostok, 28 persons, at about 2400, local time, Jan 14, having on board 23 loaded and 215 empty containers. At about 0125, local time, the hull experienced vibration and the water started to enter engine-room extensively. By 0200, local time, engine-room was completely flooded and vessel lost power and electricity supply. At 0214, local time, the anchor was dropped in lat 52 54.3N, long 158 39.3E. The port ice breaker *Sadko* was sent by Harbor Master and by 0900 hrs both tug and vessel arrived anchorage of Petropavlovsk. The dropped anchor was left at above position with some buoyant. The diving inspection was carried at anchorage and after completion the vessel was moored at 1200, local time alongside the berth No. 10 for discharging loaded and empty

containers. Preliminary results of diving inspection are that the vessel passed through the rocks situated very close to fairway of Petropavlovsk and damaged the hull in the area of the engine-room (hole with approximately seven metres length). No oil spill was noticed so far. No injuries as well. Today it was tugged to coal terminal. Engine-room is steel flooded. Ship owner representative left Vladivostok for Petropavlovsk today. Owners intention is to prepare the vessel for towage and repair in Slavyanka. Now they are going to make temporary repairs - to close the shell-hole by divers at Kamchatka and then to dry out flooded engine-room and to get class approval for the towage. — Lloyd's Agents.

KING EDWARD (Marshall Islands)

London, Jan 12 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Repairs to the Holtenau lock gates, which were struck by combined chemical and oil tank *Bow Sirius* and combined chemical and oil tank *King Edward* within five days of each other, will take between four and six months. Damage is estimated at about Euros three million.

KIOWA SPIRIT (Bahamas)

Halifax, Jan 16 — Crude oil tanker *Kiowa Spirit* (62619 gt, built 1999), in ballast, has stopped south of Nova Scotia awaiting towage later today to Saint John, New Brunswick. Suspect main engine damage. — Lloyd's Agents

London, Jan 16 — Teekay Shipping confirm crude oil tanker *Kiowa Spirit* lost propulsion while en route approximately 40 miles off the coast of Nova Scotia at 2300, local time, Jan 14. There were no other vessels involved when the vessel lost propulsion and there were no injuries to staff on board the vessel. The vessel is not carrying any cargo. All relevant authorities have been notified and a full investigation into the cause is underway. The vessel is safely anchored and is in the process of connecting with tugs to commence towing.

KONKAR GEORGIOS (Greece)

London, Jan 12 — Bulker *Konkar Georgios*, according to Lloyd's MIU AIS, stationary in lat 29 57 47N, long 90 17 40.8W at 0538, today.

London, Jan 15 — Bulker *Konkar Georgios*: According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, vessel was stationary 2.9 nautical miles from St. Rose, La, in lat 29 57 47N, long 90 17 40.8W at 1225, UTC, today.

KOTOBUKI MARU NO.38 (Japan)

Honolulu, Jan 11 — Fishing (general) *Kotobuki Maru No.38* is waiting to be drydocked at Marisco, Ltd, anticipated to be Jan 20. Repairs are estimated to take approximately 3-4 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

KWONG HIN II (Malaysia)

Tawau, Jan 12 — The search is continuing for two crew of a trawler

who went missing after a collision with general cargo *Kwong Hin II* (304 gt, built 1974) off Tawau early Tuesday (Jan 2). Madili, 25, and Yarman, 30, were among the three on board the trawler when the incident happened at about 0400 hrs. But their 38-year-old captain Gapar Tamin was rescued by another fishing vessel shortly after. Two marine police boats were used in the search and rescue (SAR) operation. A Tawau police officer, Chief Insp. Jafri Othman, said the owner of the trawler involved lodged a report about the incident at about 1200 hrs. He said the container vessel was detained at the port at Tawau to facilitate investigations. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Jan 15 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1535, UTC: Liftboat *L/B Juan*: Salvage operations are due to recommence today.

LAURETTA (Panama)

LaSalle, Quebec, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Lauretta* (17951 gt, built 2004) dragged its anchor in Prince Rupert harbour in winds of more than 100 kph on Monday (Jan 15). More than 30 people, including the crews of six tugs, the Prince Rupert Port Authority, Canadian Coast Guard and Pacific Pilotage Authority, worked quickly to get the *Lauretta* and two other vessels back their anchors. The port authority received a call around 0655 that the *Lauretta*, an empty grain tanker, was dragging its anchor. *Lauretta* will sail for Indonesia carrying wheat. (Note — *Lauretta* arrived Prince Rupert Jan 8.)

LE CASTELLET (French Southern Territories)

London, Jan 12 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Roll on roll off *Le Castellet* (7930 gt, built 1982) started drifting off Holtenuau Jan 11, while waiting to pass through the Kiel Canal, in spite of two anchors. The vessel drifted to Friedrichsort, where it struck some pilings. The vessel was subsequently towed into the Scheer-harbour by tugs.

London, Jan 15 — Roll On Roll Off *Le Castellet* arrived Kiel 1230, Jan 11, sailed 1200, Jan 13, passed Brunsbuttel 1945 same day and arrived Zeebrugge 0521, Jan 15.

LIBERTY A. (Cyprus)

See "Cyprus" under "Port State Control".

LILLEBORG (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jan 17 — Roll On Roll Off *Lilleborg*, St. Nazaire for Nouadhibou, passed Cape Finisterre 0708, Jan 12.

LNG RIVER ORASHI (Bermuda)

London, Jan 15 — Liquid Natural Gas Carrier *LNG River Orashi* sailed Marseilles Jan 11 for Bonny.

MAERSK WAVE (Singapore)

Bremen, Jan 12 — Vehicle carrier *Maersk Wave* (51770 gt, built 2000) tore loose at the stern at Bremerhaven at 1520, Jan 11, after all its mooring lines broke. The vessel's stern drifted across the harbour basin and damaged the quay wall on the other side, over a length of about 30 metres. The starboard side of the vessel was also pressed in in the area of the stern. The vessel was returned to its original position at Kaiserhafen III, with the help of four tugs. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Maersk Wave* arrived Bremerhaven Jan 7.)

London, Jan 14 — Vehicle carrier *Maersk Wave* sailed Bremerhaven Jan 12.

MAGALLANES (Chile)

Santiago, Jan 11 — Roll On Roll Off *Magallanes* (9951 gt, built 1978) sailing from Puerto Natales to Puerto Montt, with 168 tourists on board, sustained a fault in one of motors of starboard, morning, Jan 6. The vessel could continue trip and called in Puerto EdEn. The passengers were transferred to the Ferry Puerto EdEn in perfect condition, for continuing voyage to Puerto Montt. The *Magallanes* continued trip to Puerto Montt with the cargo (50 trucks and 19 vehicles) due to the second motor was operative. From Puerto Montt it will be conveyed with the help of a tug to the Shipyards Asenav of Talcahuano for repairs. The period for them is not known yet. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 15 — Roll On Roll Off *Magallanes* arrived Talcahuano 1630, Jan 8.

MARIELLE BOLTEN (Liberia)

Freeport, Bahamas, Jan 12 — General cargo *Marielle Bolten*: Shipyard advised following: All shipyard repairs have been completed and the vessel has been moved into Freeport harbour. It has not yet undertaken sea trials. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAROULA (Greece)

Piraeus, Jan 18 — Product tanker *Maroula* completed repairs and departed from Perama port on Jan 17, with destination Corinth. — Lloyd's Agents.

MEKONG EXPRESS (Panama)

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Nine crew members including a Vietnamese naval pilot on general cargo *Mekong Express* (1858 gt, built 1962), which sank off southern Tien Giang province's coast, were rescued on Jan 10 by Vietnam's Centre for Maritime Search and Navigation Rescue. Cambodia's *Mekong Express* was on its way from Sai Gon port to Cambodia. The accident happened in Cua Tieu sea, southern Tien Giang province, on Jan 9, as sea water seeped into the vessel's hull. The rescue force has saved and brought the victims ashore safely.

MELDESKIN (Norway)

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Sandnes, dated today: Roll On Roll Off *Melderskin* is still at Wartsila, undergoing repairs. ETC unknown. (See issue of Jan 2.)

MIGHTY SERVANT 3 (Netherlands)

London, Jan 18 — A SMIT Salvage report, states: Semi-sub HL vessel *Mighty Servant 3* developed a list and sank after the offloading of the drilling platform *Aleutian Key* Dec 6. The vessel sank off the port of Luanda and is resting at the sea bottom in approximately 52 metres of water. SMIT Salvage was contracted to conduct a complete diving survey prior to making preparations for the removal of the vessel's bunker oil and pollutants remaining on board. The removal of the bunker oil will take approximately another two weeks. Moreover on Jan 12 SMIT Salvage was contracted to salve *Mighty Servant 3* in order to give hit a second life. *Mighty Servant 3* will be salvaged by means of floating crane *Taklift 7* and by pressurising the various compartments with compressed air. The salvage operation will take a few months.

MOGAMIGAWA (Japan)

London, Jan 12 — Crude oil tanker *Mogamigawa*, which collided with a US Navy nuclear powered submarine on Monday, is heading for Singapore after completion of emergency repairs. The owner of the 2001-built tanker, K Line, said an inspection by divers completed on Wednesday showed most of the damage was limited to ballast tank five on the port side. *Mogamigawa* collided with the USS *Newport News* south of the Strait of Hormuz. The final assessment showed a total of five holes in the ballast tank contained within two dents. One dent measuring 3.5 m by 10 m had two holes of which the largest was 40 cm by 20 cm. The second dent of about 2 m by 4 m had three holes of which the largest was 20 cm by 10 cm. There was a third dent of about 2 m by 10 m although there were no holes. The inspection also showed that the edges of all the propeller blades were missing about 8 cm from the tip. The submarine sustained damage to its bow in the incident. K Line spokesman Masato Yamaguchi said the holes were plugged using "something like epoxy" which prevented further water ingress. ClassNK, which classed the ship, issued recommendations that permanent repairs should be completed by Feb 9 after the vessel discharged its cargo of 280,000 tonnes of crude oil. These recommendations allowed the vessel to leave Khor Fakkan in the United Arab Emirates, where the divers' inspections were carried out, and complete its voyage to Singapore where the tanker is due to arrive on Jan 20. The ship is on time charter to Showa Shell Sekiyu. Mr Yamaguchi said the tanker left Khor Fakkan at 2300 hrs, local time. He

added the ship would need to be dry docked for the permanent repairs to be carried out. Asked if the ship would be repaired in Singapore he added: "It is not decided yet." They were "just starting" to investigate which shipyard was available. Mr Yamaguchi said despite the damage to the propeller the vessel was heading to Singapore at normal speed. He believed investigators from Japan's transport ministry, one of three bodies probing the accident, could travel to Singapore to interview the crew rather than for the crew to travel to Japan. None of the 24 crew, eight Japanese and 16 Filipinos, was hurt in the incident. Investigations into the cause are also being carried out by K Line and the US authorities. Mr Yamaguchi said there was still no information on how the collision occurred. It happened while the submarine was submerged.

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The entire US submarine force has reportedly been placed on "immediate" operational standdown following last week's collision in the Arabian Gulf and the deaths of two submariners off the coast of England last month. All submarine skippers world-wide — including those on ballistic missile submarines — are to spend the next few days conducting thorough reviews of past operations and future plans, according to a statement released by the US Naval Submarine Forces on Thursday (Jan 11). At this standdown, all submariners have also been ordered to evaluate areas of risk and risk management. The reviews will be sent up the chain of command, and submarine squadron and group commanders will review the data to improve routine efficiency. The submarine force will also use the findings to "better prepare commanding officers with tools and techniques that foster good judgment, technical and mariner skills", according to the release. "It is clear that a common thread through recent problems has been errors conducting normal routine operations," said Submarine Forces Commander Vice Admiral Chuck Munns. Normal operations will continue until the reviews, due next Friday, are complete. However, crews will also need to take time to conduct reviews and evaluations, according to Lieutenant Commander Chris Loundermon, spokesman for the Atlantic Fleet Naval Submarine Force. "We're going back to basics, back to practice," said Vice Adm Munns. In February, the review findings will be put into action "to improve routine efficiency" and improve skills. The standdown follows two significant recent mishaps. On Dec 29 last year, two sailors were killed in rough seas after being swept off the deck of submarine *Minneapolis-St Paul* while leaving Plymouth. Most recently, attack submarine *Newport News* and crude oil tanker *Mogamigawa* collided last Monday in the busy Strait of Hormuz, a strategic chokepoint that

runs between Iran and Oman. According to Lt Cmdr Loundermon, both vessels were headed south and out of the Gulf at about 2215 hrs when the submerged submarine was overtaken by the faster moving tanker on the same route. The movement of the large tanker caused the smaller submarine to be drawn into the vessel's surface wake by the intermingling pressure areas created by their hull washes, known in physics as the "Venturi effect". "The submarine was pulled up toward the tanker," said Lt Cmdr Loundermon. Despite initial reports, the officer said *Newport News* was not attempting to surface at the time. "*Newport News* was submerged at depth, on a steady course and speed," he said. The submarine returned to port in Bahrain under its own power last Thursday with a damaged bow. According to the Japanese shipping company, *Mogamigawa* pulled into port in the UAE with hull and propeller damage. A navy investigation is under way, a Bahrain-based US Fifth Fleet spokeswoman said.

MSC NAPOLI (U.K.)

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Coast Guard Falmouth MRCC: Timed 1117, UTC: Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* (53409 gt, built 1992), with 26 persons on board, taking water in engine-room in lat 49 20.41N, long 04 34.50W. Crew abandoned to liferaft. Wind force 7-8 (near gale - gale). French tug proceeding. Helicopter 193/194 proceeding. Timed 1135, UTC: All crew are in liferaft. It is believed the vessel was holed on the starboard side, cause not known at the moment. (Note — *MSC Napoli* sailed Antwerp 1004, Jan 17 for Le Havre and Sines.)

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Container carrier *MSC Napoli* is sinking in the Channel, 40 miles south of the Lizard in Cornwall. All 26 crew of *MSC Napoli* are abandoning ship and as yet there are no reports of injuries. Falmouth Coastguard is co-ordinating the rescue. Maritime and Coastguard Agency tug *Anglian Princess*, plus a helicopter from RNAS Culdrose, are heading towards the vessel. The French are also involved in the rescue effort.

London, Jan 18 — A Maritime & Coastguard Agency press release, timed 1217, UTC, states: At 1030, UTC, this morning Falmouth Coastguard received a MF DSC distress call from container carrier *MSC Napoli* with 26 crew on board. The crew have abandoned the vessel to the ship's lifeboat. The vessel is in the French Search and Rescue Region and the incident is being co-ordinated by the French Coastguard. The French have requested assistance from the UK Coastguard in the rescue of the crew. Falmouth Coastguard have scrambled two Royal Navy Helicopters Rescue, 193 and 194 from RNAS Culdrose. The Coastguard tug is proceeding at best speed to the last known position of the vessel. Lizard

RNLI lifeboat has been requested to launch to provide safety cover. The French Coastguard have deployed their tug and are also sending two helicopters. The weather on scene is south-westerly severe force 9 (strong gale), with eight to nine metre swells. A car carrier is standing by, but due to its size is unable to offer any further assistance. The priority is to rescue the crew from the ships lifeboat.

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1415, UTC: Container Carrier *MSC Napoli*, 75 containers on board, total loss of power, flooded engine-room, holed in starboard side one metre by 50 centimetres. Crew abandoned into vessel's lifeboat. Lizard lifeboat tasked, ETA 1448 hrs. Falmouth lifeboat tasked, ETA 1530.

NAUTILUS (Netherlands)

London, Jan 18 — A SMIT Salvage report, states: Hopper dredger *Nautilus* capsized during dredging activities for the port of Pointe Noir, at approximately 2130, Nov 30. On Jan 12 SMIT Salvage was contracted to parbuckle the *Nautilus* by means of floating crane *Taklift 7*. On Jan 15 and 16 in front of the warehouse of SMIT Logistics in Rotterdam, tug *Smit Madura* was equipped with the required salvage equipment. On Jan 16 *Smit Madura* headed for Las Palmas, Canary Islands, where *Taklift 7*, is currently located in the harbour. In Las Palmas the equipment will be loaded onto *Taklift 7*. Subsequently *Taklift 7* will depart for Congo. After having parbuckled and cleaned debris the hopper dredger will be redelivered to the owners. The salvage operation will take a few weeks. After having terminated this contract *Taklift 7* will immediately depart for the salvage operation of heavy lift vessel *Mighty Servant 3* in Angola.

NORDLANDIA (Finland)

London, Jan 12 — Passenger ro/ro *Nordlandia* arrived Naantali Jan 8.

NORRONA (Faroe Islands)

London, Jan 13 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The departure of passenger ro/ro *Norrone* (35966 gt, built 2003) from Torshavn for Kiel was delayed yesterday after the vessel experienced problems with the bow thrusters on both sides. Divers found damage to both bow thrusters and were unable to effect repairs. The vessel sailed this morning, without working bow thrusters. The vessel is now expected at Blohm & Voss in Hamburg in one to two weeks for substantial repairs.

London, Jan 16 — Passenger ro/ro *Norrone* sailed Torshavn Jan 13 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 58 51 10N, long 05 17 45E, at 0951, UTC, today, speed 17.5 knots, course 167.5 degrees.

London, Jan 16 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: After the damage to both bow thrusters passenger ro/ro *Norrone* is expected at Blohm & Voss in Hamburg at approximately 2100, Jan 21 where the repairs are to be carried out. -

London, Jan 18 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Norrona* waited for two days for improvement of weather, departed for Hanstholm but was unable to berth there due to the storm and proceeded to Frederikshavn. As no berth was available there, she returned to Bergen, where arrived 1700, Jan 17. After the cargo which was destined for Denmark had been unloaded she departed after a short stop to Torshavn, where ETA 1500 today. It is unclear whether she will be able to continue her voyage to Hamburg due to the storm. Once at Blohm & Voss she will have to stay in dock for five days. According to Smyril Line the arrival in Hamburg is scheduled for Jan 20 if weather allows. On Jan 27 it is planned to have the ship back in Hanstholm to resume regular service.

OCEAN VISCOUNT (U.K.)

London, Jan 15 — Standby safety vessel *Ocean Viscount* left Aberdeen 1609, Jan 13 and was last reported on Lloyd's MIU AIS in lat 57 10 18N, long 01 18 12W, at 1859, Jan 13, speed 9.3 knots, course 86.7 degrees.

OMEGA (Netherlands)

London, Jan 18 — Chemical tanker *Omega* built 2004, 1980 tons dwt, ran aground on River Rhine at 0615, Jan 17. The *Omega* was loaded too deep as the river police found out. This vessel was refloated with the help of two tugs at 1330, local time.

ORIENT WIND (Cambodia)

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Orient Wind* (2463 gt, built 1977) made an emergency call due to water ingress in engine-room while at Vladivostok port. Salvage vessel *Lazurit* deployed, with divers on scene, found hull weariness. Repairs underway. (Note — *Orient Wind* sailed Busan Jan 12 for Vladivostok.)

PACIFIC PARADISE (Liberia)

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Pacific Paradise* (38379 gt, built 1993) ripped loose of its moorings and ran aground in the Prince Rupert harbour early Monday morning (Jan 15), as high winds hit the area. There were no reports of injuries and the crew of the vessel is safe, said a spokesman for the Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Victoria. Troy Haddock said winds of 75 km/h hampered efforts to pull the 225-metre bulk carrier off the rocks to safety. "The Coast Guard is on scene. However, the vessel that we have on scene is unable to assist a vessel of this size," said Haddock. However, seven tugs that were called to the scene managed to get the vessel, which has a capacity of 74,000 tonnes, off the rocks a short time later. Haddock said the *Pacific Paradise*, which is registered in Monrovia, has been checked over since it ran aground, and there are no signs of any damage or leaks. (Note — *Pacific Paradise* sailed Busan Dec 27 and arrived Prince Rupert Jan 9.)

London, Jan 16 — Following received from Victoria, BC, RCC, timed 1835, UTC: Bulker *Pacific Paradise* dragged anchor and grounded at Prince Rupert in strong winds yesterday. The vessel was refloated with tug assistance and secured at Prince Rupert at 2152, UTC.

PACIFIC WINNER (Chile)

Yokohama, Jan 16 — Vehicle carrier *Pacific Winner* (48688 gt, built 1987), Yokohama for Hitachinaka, struck the Yokohama Koro light buoy No.1 in lat 35 26.2N, long 139 41.48E, at 0024, Jan 4 due to steering gear trouble. Vessel sustained no damage but the light buoy sustained damage to its marking sensor. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Pacific Winner* sailed Yokohama Jan 4, arrived Nagoya Jan 6, and sailed Jan 8 for Guatemala.)

PARADISE ACE (Panama)

London, Jan 18 — Information received, dated Jan 17, states: Yesterday evening tug *Multasalvor* was at Wandelaar anchor area where vehicle carrier *Paradise Ace* (60175 gt, built 2004) lost an anchor. The lost anchor weighed about 60 tons including collar. Because of sea current it was not possible to retrieve the anchor. Later assistance of salvage *Union Beaver* was called upon. (Note — *Paradise Ace* sailed Malmö Jan 16 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was at Bremerhaven at 0633, UTC, today.)

London, Jan 18 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: On Jan 16 the *Multasalvor* searched in vain for the lost anchor of the vehicle carrier *Paradise Ace* in Dutch Wandelaar. The anchor together with its chain has a weight of 60 tons. Also the *Union Beaver* was asked to assist as the attempts of the *Multasalvor* proved not to be a success. Due to rough sea it was not possible to chase the lost anchor.

PASSADEN (Finland)

London, Jan 17 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1040, UTC: General cargo *Passaden* (3828 gt, built 1991), Klaipeda for Immingham, had engine failure off Immingham yesterday and was towed to Immingham at 1330, UTC.

PERE CHARLES (Republic of Ireland)

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Gale force nine winds and choppy seas hampered yesterday's search for five fishermen missing off the south coast of Ireland. Divers were prevented from investigating what the Irish Coastguard believe to be the wreckage of the Dunmore East-based trawler *Pere Charles*, which sank on Wednesday night (Jan 10) off Co Wexford with five fishermen on board. The naval service hopes to resume the search two miles off Hook Head this morning during a forecasted lull in the weather.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Navy divers have

begun searching the wreck of trawler (All types) *Pere Charles* off the coast of Co Wexford today. Five fishermen are still missing after the trawler sank around three miles from Hook Head during stormy conditions last week. Bad weather over the past week had made it impossible to reach the vessel, which has been located on the seabed under 35 metres of water. However, conditions improved today, allowing divers to search the wreck for the bodies of the missing crewmen.

PIONER KHOLMSKA (Russia)

See *Tatarstan*.

PIONER KHOMSKA (Russia)

See *Tatarstan*.

PIPO (Albania)

Piraeus, Jan 12 — General cargo *Pipo* remains aground at Gavdo. No salvage operations effected up to this date. — Lloyd's Agents.

PXXI

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated Dec 31, states: Tug *De Hong* has arrived at Tristan da Cunha and is currently busy discharging materials needed to refloat oil platform *A Turtle* (ex *PXXI*). On Dec 30 two barges from Tristan were asked to standby in case the tug was unable to lay alongside of the rig, however due to excellent weather conditions the tug was able to get in close enough and remain on position using its bow and stern thrusters. Compressors cutting facilities and welders were discharged to rig in order to remove the helicopter platform and other top structures, to make the rig as light as possible before making an attempt to tow. The scrap metal will be lower onto the rig to be dumped into deep water.

QUEEN OF ESQUIMALT (Canada)

Vancouver, Jan 15 — BC Ferries officials have advised that Roll On Roll Off *Queen of Esquimalt* had only minor damage to the "rubbing streak" (rubber bumper) and no repairs were required. She is back on her regular route and there were no delays in service. — Lloyd's Agents.

QUETZALCOATL (Mexico)

Coatzacoalcos, Jan 11 — Product tanker *Quetzalcoatl* is still berthed at berth six, where the accident happened. Understand that it remains arrested by the District Attorney and investigations over the accident are still in progress. — Lloyd's Agents.

QUINSAM (Canada)

London, Jan 11 — A BC Ferries press release, dated Victoria, BC, Jan 10, states: Roll On Roll Off *Quinsam* will be returning to service tomorrow morning, Jan 11, with the 0750 hrs scheduled sailing from Descanso Bay. Prior to this sailing, water taxis will be available beginning at 0700 hrs from F Dock in Nanaimo Harbour and from the Emergency dock in Descanso Bay.

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: The fact that

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

Transport Canada has cleared roll on roll off *Quinsam* without finding a reason why it pulled away from the dock during loading and dumped a pickup truck into Nanaimo harbour is not surprising to the president of the BC Ferry and Marine Worker's Union. "It's not unusual Transport Canada couldn't replicate the occurrence. This is consistent with dozens of documented cases in the past," said Jackie Miller. The vessel was pulled from service on Tuesday night (Jan 9) after pulling away from the dock, forcing Randy Nicifore of Gabriola Island to climb from his truck seconds before it fell into the water. Ferries spokeswoman Deborah Marshall said Transport Canada cleared the vessel at 2000 Wednesday and it returned to service for the 0750 hrs run on Thursday. "After exhaustive tests, Transport Canada was unable to identify or replicate any deficiencies that would have caused the vessel to pull away from the dock," said Marshall. Miller said inspectors from the Transportation Safety Board concluded preliminary interviews Thursday and were on board *Quinsam* yesterday. "They are attempting to replicate what happened, but it's been our experience that the problem with this type of machinery is it is almost impossible to duplicate the exact situation," she said. Marshall said BC Ferries was conducting its own investigation, expected to be wrapped up by the end of January, but the safety of *Quinsam* was not in question. Asked if they were now searching for human error as the cause, Marshall said she would not want to speculate on the findings.

London, Jan 17 — A BC Ferries press release, dated Jan 16, states: The Transportation Safety Board issued a Marine Safety Advisory to BC Ferries today regarding the installation of warning alarms on right-angle-drive (RAD) units in the wake the Jan 9 incident where Roll On Roll Off *Quinsam* unexpectedly pulled away from the dock. "BC Ferries supports Transportation Safety Board's view regarding audio-visual alarms has already made a commitment to install such devices on the nine vessels in the fleet equipped with RAD units," said David Hahn, BC Ferries' President and CEO. "In light of last week's incident, BC Ferries is also reviewing tie-up procedures and arrangements throughout the fleet." In the meantime, BC Ferries internal investigation into the *Quinsam* incident is ongoing, and the final report is anticipated next week.

RANIA (Indonesia)

Jakarta, Jan 16 — Vehicle carrier *Rania* departed from Makassar on Jan 9, destination Jakarta. Bulker *Despina* has completed discharge and she departed Makassar on Jan 12, destination Australia. — Lloyd's Agents.

Jakarta, Jan 17 — Bulker *Despina* completed discharge and is still anchored at Makassar port, not as

before reported. Up to now there is no schedule for departure. — Lloyd's Agents.

RAVANDA (Turkey)

Trieste, Jan 16 — General cargo *Ravanda*: Owners have not yet decided where to send their ship for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

RENEGADE (Republic of Ireland)

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A County Wexford skipper and his crewman were recovering last night after their fishing vessel sank east of Tuskar Rock lighthouse. They had taken part in the search for missing fishermen when they had to be winched up by a rescue helicopter. Kevin Downes, skipper/owner of 27m twin-rig trawler *Renegade* (93 gt, built 1968), and Ken Doyle from Duncannon, Co Wexford, were airlifted from a liferaft less than an hour after they had issued a Mayday broadcast, reporting that the vessel was taking water. *Renegade* was en route to Howth, County Dublin, for repairs, having been involved in yesterday's continued search for the bodies of the five crewmen from *Pere Charles*. Winds yesterday evening were north-easterly force three to four with a moderate swell and searches for the seven missing fishermen had been suspended for the night when the third fishing vessel got into difficulty. Dublin Coast Guard tasked the Irish Coast Guard Waterford-based Sikorsky helicopter and the Rosslare lifeboat, under coxswain Eamon O'Rourke. A container ship, *Euphoria*, which was within four miles of the alert, steamed to the area and located the two men in the life raft. The ship stood off while both were winched on board the helicopter and flown to Waterford Regional Hospital for observation. All three life rafts with the vessel were retrieved by the Rosslare lifeboat and taken ashore, according to its deputy launching authority, Dave Maloney.

London, Jan 17 — Following received from MRCC Dublin, timed 0622, UTC: At 1709, UTC, Jan 16, a mayday was received from trawler *Renegade*, in lat 52 10N, long 06 01W, approximately 13 nautical miles east of Carnsmore Point. Vessel was taking water and her crew of two were abandoning. Rosslare Lifeboat was launched and Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC reported that container carrier *Euphoria* was four nautical miles from the scene. At 1735, UTC, *Euphoria* reported a flashing light in lat 52 11N, long 06 01W. At 1743, UTC, the two crew were winched onto helicopter R117 and the were then flown to Waterford. At 2019, UTC, Rosslare lifeboat confirmed *Renegade* had sunk.

RMS KIEL (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 18 — Information received from Kiel, dated today states: Part containerised general car *RMS Kiel* was christened in Wilhelmshaven on Jan 17. It had been damaged while being launched. Now its repaired, fitted out and ready for "take off".

ROBERTA TABOR (U.S.A.)

Portsmouth, Jan 16 — A barge loaded with fertiliser was jammed in a gate of the Ohio River McAlpine Dam and another vessel carrying salt sank after four barges broke loose from a disabled tow boat, the U.S. Coast Guard said today. The barges broke out about 0100 hrs, shortly after the Tug *Roberta Tabor* (937 gt, built 1976) had passed through the McAlpine lock on an upriver trip, said Coast Guard Petty Officer James Sybor. There were no injuries to the barge crew. One salt barge sank just north of the Sherman Minton Bridge, which connects Louisville and New Albany, Ind. Another salt barge and one loaded with ethanol were rounded up and secured, Sybor said. The tug was disabled by mechanical failure, Sybor said. The full tow consisted of 14 barges, including one that was empty, said lock operator Lamar Copeland. The Sherman Minton Bridge along Interstate 64 was shut down while officials examined it for damage, but none was found and the bridge reopened about 0600 hrs, officials said.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Four separate barges (tow of tug *Roberta Tabor*) broke away overnight and caused some tense moments on the Ohio River, according to Lt. Tina Owen with the U.S. Coast Guard Louisville office. The Sherman Minton Bridge was closed in both directions as authorities tried to secure the barges. However, it was opened back up prior to rush hour. Two of the barge sections, one carrying ethanol and the other salt, have been secured as of press time. One section, carrying fertiliser, sank near the Sherman Minton Bridge while a fourth is pinned against the McAlpine Locks. The chemicals are not an environmental threat, officials said. Owen said authorities are still investigating how the barges broke loose. She said the barge company will likely organise a salvage plan to remove the barge from the locks. She said river travel is open and safe.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated Jan 17, states: High water may delay until next week an attempt to salvage two partly submerged barges near McAlpine Dam, according to the U.S. Coast Guard. Because of the fast current, "it would be real risky to get equipment out there," said Lt. J.G. Tina Owen, spokeswoman for the Coast Guard's Ohio Valley Sector. Owen confirmed that both of the stranded barges spilled all of their cargo into the river after they broke loose yesterday, apparently when cabling holding the fleet together snapped. They were part of a 14-barge tow (of tug *Roberta Tabor*) that had cleared the McAlpine Locks. One barge lost about 1,450 tons of a liquid fertilizer, and the other roughly 1,450 tons of salt. The high water helped dilute the spill, which caused no noticeable environmental impact, Owen said. Officials from the Environmental Protection Agency have been monitoring the spill. The

barge carrying the fertilizer remains partly submerged near McAlpine's Gate 2, and the barge with the salt cargo is lodged near the Indiana shore, midway between the Sherman-Minton and K&I bridges. Two other barges that broke loose, along with their cargo, were secured shortly after the accident. Owen said that American River Transportation of Decatur, Ill., the company that operated the tow and fleet, has dispatched a marine surveyor, Wes Sanders, to develop a salvage plan for the two stranded barges. She said officials hope soon to station a tug near the barge stuck at McAlpine to monitor any movement until it can be secured. The Ohio River at McAlpine was expected to crest tomorrow several feet below flood stage.

ROMMEL (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 10 — The Philippine Coast Guard in a belated report said that the Philippine-registered tug *Rommel* (182 gt) sank on Jan 2 off Tingloy town in Batangas province, south of Manila. The tugboat was trying to seek shelter from a storm and anchored of the Batangas Bay town. Strong waves battered the ship, however, punching a hole in its port side. It's five-man crew was able to abandon ship before it sank. The crew was rescued by passing fishermen. The sinking of the tugboat came to light only recently, after residents of Tingloy complained that the sunken vessel has started to leak oil. The Coast Guard said that it had sent an oil spill response team to investigate. *Rommel* is operated by Manila-based Asian Shipping Corp.

ROSEMOUNT (U.K.)

London, Jan 13 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 2054, UTC: Fishing (general) *Rosemount* (176 gt, built 1983), MBQW7, Registration PD 313, length 26 metres, owner Mr D Marr, reported aground in lat 57 35.44N, long 01 49.49W, 500 metres north of St. Fergus gas terminal, at 1928, UTC, Jan 13. Peterhead RNLI lifeboat and Peterhead Coastguard rescue teams called. Contact made with fishing vessels in area. Peterhead RNLI lifeboat has attached a line and plan to tow *Rosemount* off the ground. Other fishing vessels are standing by and Peterhead Coastguard rescue team keeping watch from shore.

London, Jan 14 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 0202, UTC: The final attempt to tow fishing *Rosemount* clear of the beach failed at 2300, UTC, as the tide ebbed. Fishing *Ability* and several other vessels will remain on scene throughout the night. The four crew have remained onboard. Further attempts to recover the *Rosemount* will begin in the morning. Peterhead RNLI lifeboat will launch at 0800, UTC, and join the *Ability* and other fishing vessels on scene.

London, Jan 14 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 2200, UTC: Fishing (general)

Rosemount was refloated at approximately 2047, UTC, by trawlers *Luna Bow* and *Challenge II*. *Rosemount* now proceeding under own power for Peterhead escorted by Peterhead lifeboat.

London, Jan 15 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 1600, UTC: Fishing (general) *Rosemount* arrived alongside at Peterhead at 2213, UTC, Jan 14.

Grangemouth, Jan 18 — Fishing (general) *Rosemount* grounded on the evening of Jan 13 and refloated on the evening of Jan 14. Vessel has now been slipped at Peterhead. Some hull damage found but none serious. Repairs should be completed by around Jan 30. — Lloyd's Agents.

SABINA (Switzerland)

London, Jan 17 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRSC, timed 1709, UTC: General cargo *Sabina* (5968 gt, built 2000), Szczecin for Alexandria, with 5500 tonnes of coke, left TSS at anchor in lat 50 59.23N, long 01 03.22E. Vessel has a slight list and possible ingress of water from unidentified location, vessel also has a defective echo sounder. (Note — *Sabina* sailed Szczecin Jan 13 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was anchored in above position, 10.5 nautical miles from Folkestone at 1734, UTC.)

London, Jan 17 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRSC, timed 2320, UTC: General cargo *Sabina* completed repairs and resumed passage at 2047, UTC.

SAGA SPRAY (Hong Kong)

Gothenburg, Jan 12 — The Board of Shipping have confirmed in their report on the accident involving bulker *Saga Spray* in Helsingborg in November last year, that neither the "law nor routines" were applied at time of the fatal accident, where a Filipino seaman died through a lack of oxygen and the presence of "coalmonoxide". The investigator stressed the fact that the parties did not follow the general safety rules. He is quite concerned that the Port of Helsingborg did not know the rules, and that nobody should be allowed to enter into a hold before having it checked and approved with a meter. Both the vessel and stevedores should sign a checklist, but none of the stated procedures took place in this case, where a stevedore also sustained injuries when he entered to support the seaman - but he did it because he wanted to try to assist the injured person. MD Per-Olof Jansson denied that the risks should be well knowned as the Board of Shipping has stated, and having looked closer into common procedures, "this fact has not become generally known". However, the Port/Stevedores have subsequently tightened up the procedures. The local DA will await all details and reports before taking any decision in the matter. — Westax Marine Services AB.

SAMUR 4 (Malta)

See *Teymur Ehmədov*.

SCL BERN (Switzerland)

London, Jan 15 — Understand part containerised general cargo *SCL Bern* (9990 gt, built 2005) was towed into Malta Shipyard, Valletta, Jan 7 by tug *Priolo*. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *SCL Bern* was still moored at Valletta at 0754, UTC, today.)

Valletta, Jan 18 — Part containerised general car *SCL Bern* arrived in Malta in tow and is presently undergoing repairs at Malta Shipyards. Completion date of repairs is not yet known but estimated to be mid-February. — Lloyd's Agents.

SCOT TRADER (U.K.)

London, Jan 15 — General cargo *Scot Trader* has completed repairs and sailed from Skagen. According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, vessel was reported 22.8 nautical miles from Helgoland, in lat 54 01 02.7N, long 08 14 24.12E, at 1418, UTC, today, course 27.5 deg, speed six knots. (See issue of Jan 11.)

Aalborg, Jan 16 — General cargo *Scot Trader* departed Skagen Jan 13 for Goole, where ETA am Jan 17. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA MASTER ONE

London, Jan 17 — The vessel named *Sea Master One* which grounded at Chittagong Dec 7 and is now being cut into pieces, is not the Antigua & Barbuda-flagged general cargo *Sea Master One* as we have previously reported.

SEA MASTER ONE (Antigua & Barbuda)

Chittagong, Jan 14 — Understand from the local agents of general cargo *Sea Master One* that further salvage attempts have been unsuccessful, and work has begun to cut the vessel into sections. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEABULK PRIDE (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: Product tanker *Seabulk Pride* (30415 gt, built 1998) got into trouble again this week, almost a year after it broke free of its moorings at a Nikiski dock. On Tuesday (Jan 9) ice strained the ropes of the 600-foot vessel at Nikiski, forcing it to retreat to safer waters. The Coast Guard is investigating the incident. (Note — *Seabulk Pride* arrived Nikiski Jan 8, sailed Jan 9, arrived Homer Jan 9 and sailed Jan 11.)

SEAFALCON (Singapore)

Manila, Jan 12 — Two Singapore-registered bunker barges, product tanker *Seafalcon* (1187 gt, built 1978) and product tanker *Frontek* (2836 gt, built 1978), collided near Singapore's St. John Island on Thursday resulting in a 200-tonne oil spill, Singapore's Maritime and Port Authority reported. The vessels were sailing from opposite directions and rammed into each other 500 miles south of the island. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Two Singapore-registered bunker tankers collided near St John's Island resulting in a

200-ton oil spill, maritime officials said. No one was injured in the crash Thursday (Jan 11) and most of the spill was cleaned up, the Maritime and Port Authority said. Product tanker *Seafalcon* and product tanker *Frontek* were sailing from opposite directions and rammed into each other 500 miles south of the island in Singapore's waters, the MPA said. The tankers operate as "floating fuel stations" that refuel vessels sailing to and from other countries. The collision damaged one of the *Seafalcon's* 10 tanks. The *Frontek's* bow was damaged, but no oil spilled from it. The MPA had dispatched five-anti-pollution craft to the scene. The clean-up continued late into the night. As a precaution, authorities have placed an oil boom around the vessel. The remaining oil carried by the *Seafalcon* was transferred to another tanker. The incident did not affect port operation and is under investigation, the MPA said. (See issue of Jan 15.)

Singapore, Jan 16 — Product tanker *Seafalcon* is presently at President Marine Yard, Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEAHAWK FREIGHTER (Marshall Islands)

London, Jan 14 — Combined bulk and oil carrier *Seahawk Freighter* sailed Ghent Jan 12.

SEASPAN 193

Vancouver, Jan 12 — Barge *Seaspan 193*, carrying approximately 3,600 tons of scrap metal, overturned on Dec 27 while in transit from Vancouver, BC, to Seattle. The cargo, valued at approximately C\$1 million, was lost overboard. The barge is presently lying at the Seaspan North Vancouver facility, awaiting a survey by hull and cargo underwriters. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEGESTA JET (Italy)

London, Jan 15 — Ferry *Segesta Jet* (392 gt, built 1999), on passenger service from Reggio Calabria to Messina, collided at speed with Container Carrier *Susan Borchard* (6701 gt, built 2004), passing through Straits of Messina, at about 1800 hrs today. The collision took place about three miles off the Sicilian coast about three miles south of the port of Messina. There were apparently 151 passengers aboard the fast-ferry, there have been no casualties so far reported but several passengers of the fast-ferry have sustained considerable injuries, some fractures reported. Fire broke out on the fast ferry and many passengers jumped overboard and were rescued by passing vessels. Presently the two vessels are still locked together, navigation in the Straits has been stopped and the port area of Messina has been cordoned off, giving access only to ambulances. Extent of damages sustained to either vessel unknown. (Note — *Susan Borchard* sailed Marseilles Jan 13, and had an ETA at Ashdod on Jan 18 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 38 11.55N, long 15 36.45E, speed 7.9 knots, at 1925, UTC.)

London, Jan 15 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1930, UTC: Ferry *Segesta Jet* and Container Carrier *Susan Borchard* were in collision in the Strait of Messina, exact position unknown, at about 1800, local time, today. Extent of damages unknown. No fire reported on *Segesta Jet*.

Palermo, Jan 15 — High-speed ferry *Segesta Jet* (392 gt, built 1999) carrying about 150 commuters, collided with Container Carrier *Susan Borchard* off the coast of Sicily today, killing at least four people and injuring about 70, eight seriously, Italian authorities said. Port authorities said the collision took place in the Straits of Messina between Sicily and the Italian mainland, one of the busiest waterways in Italy. Officials co-ordinating the rescue operation said the four dead were crew members aboard the ferry, which was travelling from the city of Reggio Calabria on the mainland to Messina in Sicily on a regular afternoon commuter run at rush hour. Television pictures showed the ferry with a large gash in its side. Some of the injured suffered burns from a fire that started after the collision. Several were trapped in the wreckage of the ferry until rescuers arrived to free them. Officials said more than 41 people were taken to hospital in Messina on the Sicilian side of the straits and more than 25 on the mainland side in Reggio Calabria. About eight were in critical condition. The collision took place at about 1715, UTC, in a narrow section of the straits, which range in width from three to 16 km. — Reuters.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry *Segesta Jet* and Container Carrier *Susan Borchard* collided near the entrance to Messina port yesterday evening, killing four people and leaving dozens of passengers injured, officials said. Five of the passengers were in serious condition, police said. No one onboard the cargo vessel was hurt. The bodies of the hydrofoil's master and three crew members were found in the wreckage, which sustained heavy damage to its starboard side, police said. The only other two crew members were injured. After freeing two passengers, firefighters worked late into the night trying to extract the bodies of two of the dead from the wreckage, working gingerly because of fear any false move might cause the stricken vessel to sink. "The bridge of the hydrofoil was destroyed," Port Cmdr. Antonino Samiani said. About 55 of the 150 people onboard were injured, said Gaetano Pellizzeri, an official for the state railways, which operated the hydrofoil. From survivors' accounts and images of the craft as it was being towed toward the dock, it appeared the hydrofoil had been struck in the side by the container ship. The hydrofoil was crumpled on one side, near the pilot's cabin, with the middle of the roof smashed inward. Despite the appearances of the vessel, Messina

police official Salvatore Arena told private TG5 TV that it was premature to conclude that the container ship had rammed the passenger craft. Prosecutors, port officials and transport authorities began investigations.

London, Jan 17 — Four people were killed and more than 80 injured, at least five of them seriously, on Monday (Jan 15) evening when a high-speed commuter ferry *Segesta Jet* collided with the 1994-built, 672-teu container carrier *Susan Borchard* in the straits of Messina. The four dead were all members of the ferry's crew, including its captain and chief engineer. The incident occurred shortly after 1730 hrs, when the high speed monohull *Segesta Jet*, owned by Italy's state railway company, left Reggio Calabria for Messina with around 130 passengers on board, most of them workers and students returning home for the evening. Early reports suggest that the ferry was struck on the side shortly before entering the port of Messina and that its bridge was destroyed in the collision. Transport minister Alessandro Bianchi immediately ordered an inquiry, and both vessels have been detained. Though the reasons for the incident are as yet unknown, Italian news agency Ansa quoted union officials at the rail company, who said they had warned repeatedly about the dangers of staff cuts on local ferry services. Commenting on the incident today, Italian coast guard officials raised the possibility of the involvement of a third vessel, another ferry owned by the state railways which was in the area at the time of tragedy. They added that the 8,239-dwt *Susan Borchard*, which was en route to Israel after leaving Salerno when the collision happened, would have had precedence as it crossed paths with the *Segesta Jet*. Executives at London-based Bouchard Lines were still declining all comment on the incident as of yesterday afternoon. An analysis of data collected by the vessel traffic system located on a hill above the port of Messina would be critical to determining the course of events and eventual responsibility for the collision, they said.

London, Jan 17 — Italian transport minister Alessandro Bianchi is to launch an urgent review of vessel safety provisions in the straits of Messina in the wake of Monday evening's fatal collision between ferry *Segesta Jet* and Container Carrier *Susan Borchard*. In an address to Italy's chamber of deputies in Rome this morning, Mr Bianchi said he would call together "all relevant parties", including shipowners, coast guard officials and local authorities, to discuss what new measures might be taken to improve navigational safety in the straits, which he described as "one of the busiest sea lanes in the Mediterranean." He stressed the efficiency of existing provisions in the straits, noting that the last fatal vessel collision occurred 20 years ago, when three people were killed

following a collision between two merchant vessels. At the same time, he conceded that "it is still a system developed before the dramatic increase in traffic levels moving through the straits that has taken place over the last few years," in particular with the rise of Gioia Tauro as a major transshipment centre. He added that "it may be necessary to upgrade the navigational safety systems to accommodate these higher volumes." Mr Bianchi provided updated casualty figures for the collision. He confirmed the deaths of four members of the crew and said around 100 of the roughly 150 passengers on board were injured, six of them seriously. And he noted that the death toll could have been far higher if *Susan Borchard* had struck *Segesta Jet* in the passenger areas just a few metres closer to the bow or the stern, and if the emergency services had not responded so swiftly and efficiently. The coast guard and police in Messina and Reggio are among those conducting separate investigations into the cause of the crash. Mr Bianchi said the coast guard would begin its task today and that he hoped it would be capable of reconstructing the events leading up to the crash, and determining how it happened "in a few weeks." Among other issues, investigators will assess the possible involvement of a third vessel, the Caronte-owned *Roll on Roll off Zancle*, en route from Messina to Villa San Giovanni and in the area concerned at the time of the collision. Mr Bianchi said in his address in Rome that early indications from eyewitness accounts suggested that the *Segesta Jet* crossed the stern of *Zancle*, and that once *Zancle* had passed in front of it and moved away *Segesta Jet* found itself on a collision course with *Susan Borchard*.

SENOPATI NUSANTARA (Indonesia)

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The Navy is having a hard time locating the wreck of ferry *Senopati Nusantara*, which sank two weeks ago near Mandalika Island, because of the many shipwrecks in the area and sea mines from World War II, a spokesman said yesterday. Speaking from Surabaya, Eastern Naval Fleet spokesman Tony Saiful said the search was also hindered by the murky conditions of the water, restricting divers to a depth of only 24 metres. "The search has not yet yielded anything. We have conducted dives in waters near Rembang, but Navy divers could only dive up to 24 metres," he said. He added the metal scraps from shipwrecks and many sea mines were also confusing the Navy's sonar equipment. "We have also equipped our ships with magnetometers to detect the magnetic pull of metal objects that have recently sunk so as to expedite the search process," he said. The search for the vessel is being focused along waters off Mandalika up to Lasem in Central Java, a stretch of

nine km. To facilitate the search process, the Navy has deployed minesweeper *Pulau Rengat* to assist vessel *Untung Surapati*. When *Senopati Nusantara* is found, Tony said Navy frogmen will dive to the wreck and recover victims' bodies. He said the Navy might bring in heavy machinery from overseas to raise the vessel because Indonesia does not have such equipment. The wreck will be used as evidence in the inquiry into the disaster by the National Commission on Transportation Safety. The official cause of the accident has not been ascertained. The managing director of ferry company PT Prima Vista, Hartomo, said the firm would take responsibility for the accident and pay out compensation — in the form of travel insurance — to victims. Of the more than 600 people on board an estimated 400 are still missing and presumed to have drowned.

Manila, Jan 13 — Relatives of fatalities in the sinking of the Indonesian-registered passenger ferry *Senopati Nusantara* said they would issue a legal notice to the owners of the ferry. The legal notice would serve as an ultimatum demanding that "proper attention" be extended to the victims of the tragedy. Should the legal notice be ignored the families would file a lawsuit against the shipowner, Jakarta-based PT Samudra Pratama. "We have strong legal basis for this legal action," Kemal Firdaus, a legal representative of the victims, said. He claimed that the owners of the ferry had ignored the rights of the sunken ship victims as well as their families. The ferry with up to 800 people on board sank in Indonesia's Java Sea during a violent storm. About 400 passengers and crew are feared to have drowned. — Lloyd's List Correspondent. (See issue of Jan 15.)

Manila, Jan 15 — A day after issuing a legal warning for negligence against the owners and operators of ferry *Senopati Nusantara*, relatives of the fatalities in the mishap have issued a legal notice against the Indonesian Transportation Ministry. Lawyers representing victims of the sinking issued a legal warning for negligence against PT Prima Vista, the operator and PT Samudra Pratama, the owner of the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: The families of those who died in the sinking of ferry *Senopati Nusantara*, which went down off Central Java more than two weeks ago, will get compensation amounting to Rp 15 million (US\$1,578) each. Rp 10 million will be paid by state-owned insurance company PT Jasa Raharja, and the other Rp 5 million by ferry operator PT Prima Vista. The decision about compensation was made in a closed-door meeting among representatives of the two companies and the transportation ministry in Jakarta on Monday, according to Detik.com news portal. Data at the integrated searching post at Tanjung Emas port in Semarang showed that as of yesterday, 235 of the ferry's 628 passengers had survived and another

35 were confirmed to have died. More than 350 were still unaccounted for. PT Prima Vista president Hartomo Ranoedihardjo said yesterday in Semarang that his company would take responsibility for the disaster. "The victims' families can go ahead with claims. But they have to be accompanied by legal identities from the local administrations where the victims lived," Hartomo said after a meeting with members of the families, Central Java legislative councilors, and representatives of PT Jasa Raharja and the Central Java Transportation Office. Hartomo said he believed the names in the manifest would be different from those of some passengers who died in the disaster. "This is because the passengers usually buy the tickets from scalpers or through the help of their relatives or friends. That's why a legal identity from the local administration is needed," he said. He further said that based on the manifest, the 628 passengers of the ferry included 57 crew members and 29 vehicle drivers and their assistants. To ensure the victims were really passengers of the ferry, he said, there must be confirmation from their family members. "Out of the 35 dead victims, only three families have claimed compensation, two from Central Java and one from East Java. Tomorrow there will be two other claims from Purbalingga and Sukoharjo (Central Java)," said Juragan Sitorus, head of PT Jasa Raharja's Central Java office. He said his company would also provide compensation for medical treatment to a maximum of Rp 5 million for each survivor. Costs higher than that will be covered by PT Prima Vista, he added. Slamet Budi Prayitno of the Central Java welfare bureau said that out of the 35 dead victims, 19 could not be identified. The bodies will be buried in Rembang, Central Java, near the graves of three other unidentified bodies buried earlier. Umi Marwah, a member of an advocacy group for ferry victims, urged PT Prima Vista to arrange a meeting with the management of the company. "There have been 53 victims who have asked us to legally represent them," Umi said.

SERVER (Cyprus)

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1920, UTC: At 1826 hrs, today, RCC were advised that bulker *Server* (19864 gt, built 1985), Aardalstangen for Murmansk, in ballast, had run aground in lat 60 45N, long 04 42.6E. Operations to evacuate the 25 man crew are now in progress.

London, Jan 12 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: At approximately 1815 today, bulker *Server*, bound for Murmansk, grounded on Hellesoy Island near Fedje. The vessel is now in lat 60 75.1N long 04 07E. The vessel is taking water. Tugs *Audax*, *VeloxP*, *Baut* and *Belos* are in the area and also a rescue vessel. The grounding occurred near the Mongstad harbour so

the tugs were quickly on scene. There is some pollution in the area. The crew of 25 are now starting to be evacuated by helicopter and the weather in the area is very rough.

London, Jan 12 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Bulker *Server* is now broken in two, and there is big chance that all 600 tonnes of fuel will be spilled out in the sea. There is already pollution in the area. The forward-section is now under tow by tugs, and the aft section is still grounded. All 25 crew members, most of them from Indonesia, were safely rescued by helicopter. Four tugs and coastguard vessel *Aalesund* is in the area.

Gothenburg, Jan 13 — The forward part of bulker *Server*, which broke in two late yesterday evening, is under tow to a safer location. Work is now beginning to remove as much oil as possible and to calculate the quantity that has polluted the sea and surrounding islands and coastline, Svein Kjellsen of the Norwegian Coast Guard said. Oil has been found in several places, and as much as 270 tons may have reached the coastline by now. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Norway has mounted an intense effort overnight to clean up and contain a fuel spill from bulker *Server*, which ran aground on Friday (Jan 12) on the west coast, north of Bergen, officials said. The entire 25-man crew was rescued by helicopter on Friday evening after the vessel hit rocks near the Helleøy lighthouse on the island of Fedje in the county of Hordaland. The vessel broke in two, and the stern section sank, but the bow section was towed to calmer waters and secured, officials said. "There is oil in the water and it has reached one part of the island where the vessel ran aground," said spokeswoman Ane Eide Kjaeraas at the Norwegian Coastal Administration which is leading the clean-up. "It has reached the west of side Fedje." The Coastal Administration estimated that 290 tonnes of heavy fuel oil spilt into the water, Eide Kjaeraas said. "It is a serious accident — absolutely," she said. The vessel, which en route to Murmansk with no cargo on board, had 585 tonnes of bunker fuel oil and 72 tonnes of marine diesel on board when it ran aground, the Coastal Administration said in a statement. Four tugs and four Coast Guard vessels took part in the clean-up and efforts to control the spill yesterday, it said. "We have high seas, quite intense wind in the area so it is hard to estimate visually how much oil is out there," Eide Kjaeraas said. A tank that had been situated where the vessel broke in two held 290 tonnes of bunkers. Another tank with capacity of 300 tonnes is in the bow section that has been secured, she said. It was unclear what caused the vessel to run aground. Conditions were rough with seven-metre seas, but not unusually harsh for the time of year along Norway's coast, officials said.

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The Norwegian Coast Guard said today it had cleaned up about one-third of the nearly 400 tons of oil that spilled into the sea after a Cypriot bulker *Server* ran aground off the country's western coast.

Norway's Coastal Administration said a powerful storm sweeping across Scandinavia was hampering the clean-up efforts, but that the strong winds could also limit the damage from the spill by breaking down the oil faster, and preventing it from reaching land. Officials said yesterday it could take up to six months to clean up the entire spill. The vessel split in two, spilling an estimated 370 tonnes of oil into the sea. All 25 crew members, mostly Indonesians, were saved. The vessel had 650 tonnes of oil on board, but no other cargo.

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated Jan 14, states: A severe storm that battered southern Scandinavia today may have helped disperse some of the thick fuel oil that leaked from the Cyprus-registered bulker *Server* that ran aground off western Norway and broke up late Friday (Jan 12), officials said. Captain Erik Blom said a survey of the area indicated that oil that leaked from the vessel was less visible near the wreck, Norwegian news agency NTB said. Local volunteers were however warned against trying to clean-up the oil from affected islets and rocks until the weather improves. The 25-strong crew were evacuated by helicopter to the island of Fedje from where they were taken to the west coast city of Bergen. In all some 370 tons of the 600 tons of fuel aboard was estimated to have leaked into the sea, but as of today 130 tons had been salvaged. The oil threatened a local bird sanctuary. Eiders, common scoters and black ducks were among birds effected. The bow section of the stricken vessel was yesterday towed to a nearby harbour protected from the open sea. The stern sank. The Greek captain of the *Server*, Andreas Dimarakis, said he was glad that all the crew survived and praised the "efficient rescue operation" at a brief news conference yesterday. Dimarkis, 47, said the vessel's engines did not stop as some reports had suggested but that the power effect was "reduced" over "the very heavy pitching." He said he would give a more detailed account at the inquest due next week, and expressed regret for the accident and "all the environmental damage it already has caused."

London, Jan 15 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Bulker *Server* grounded on the southwestern coast of Norway, Jan 12. On board were 25 crew members (four Greeks and 21 Indonesian) who were rescued from the vessel by the Norwegian Coast Guard and remain in hotels at Bergen. All are good in health. Previously *Server* had sailed from Norway in Ballast bound for Russia. Following the incident the vessel broke in two and lost about half

of the 650 tons of bunkers carried on board. The forward section of the vessel has been towed by a tug while the aft section remains on the rocks. Strong weather in the area is making the antipollution efforts difficult.

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Stormy weather continued today to obstruct efforts to contain oil spilled from bulker *Server* that grounded Friday (Jan 12) evening just north of Bergen. Clean-up crews struggled to contain the oil spilled from a grounded vessel in stormy seas. The grounding once again highlighted the environmental threat posed by the large ships that sail along Norway's coast. Local residents were deeply disturbed by the oil that was washing up on the rocks and islands at Fedje, site of one of Norway's most scenic lighthouses, Helleøy Fyr. Divers were inspecting the wreckage of the *Server* this morning, while more volunteers were showing up to help contain pollution from the vessel's leaking fuel. She was sailing empty on her way to Murmansk when she ran into trouble off the Norwegian coast late Friday afternoon. She ultimately grounded near the lighthouse and broke in two with 585 tons of bunker oil and 72 tons of diesel on board. The two government ministers in charge of the environment and coastal issues visited the site yesterday, and were met by angry local residents and environmental protection groups who claimed that the authorities are poorly prepared for oil spill emergencies. The cause of the grounding was to be probed during a maritime hearing set for Wednesday, but a spokesman for insurance carrier Gard suggested the vessel was sailing with inadequate ballast, leaving it too light and high in the water. The vessel's captain lost control in high winds that swept the vessel too close to shore.

London, Jan 16 — Norwegian pollution experts are striving to contain a bunker fuel spill from a Cypriot-registered bulk carrier that ran aground and broke in two on Jan 12, north of Bergen. The extent of the pollution appears to be substantial, according to insurer Gard, which is supporting the clean-up operation, headed by the Norwegian Coastal Administration in co-operation with local authorities and volunteers. All 25 crew were rescued by helicopter from the Greek-managed 33,333 dwt bulker *Server* after it hit rocks near the Helleøy lighthouse on the island of Fedje, in the county of Hordaland. The ship broke in two, and the stern section sank, but the bow was towed to calmer waters and secured. Built in 1985 and classed by Bureau Veritas, the ship grounded in heavy weather at about 1825 hrs, local time. It is insured by Gard for both protection and indemnity and hull and machinery risks on behalf of Dalnave Navigation of Greece. The hull policy is for \$9 million. All crew apart from those who will have to stay in Norway to attend a maritime enquiry have been allowed home, with Gard helping the shipowner obtain the required

permits and travel documents. Gard said that further handling of the bow section will be discussed with the authorities in charge and relevant experts. Priority is given to securing the area against pollution before the remaining bunker oil in the tanks is removed. Ane Eide Kjaeraas of the Norwegian Coastal Administration estimated that the spill was 290 tonnes of heavy fuel oil, adding: "It is a serious accident absolutely. The *Server* was in ballast en route to Murmansk, with 585 tonnes of bunker fuel oil and 72 tonnes of marine diesel aboard when it ran aground, the Coastal Administration said. Four tugs and four Coast Guard vessels have been battling the spill. Environmental groups feared the fuel could drift to a bird sanctuary where a large number of birds have wintered in unseasonably mild weather, but Ms Eide Kjaeraas said no oil had been observed in the area. Conditions were rough with 7 metre seas, but not unusually harsh for the time of year, officials said. Of the crew members released to travel home, 15 were from Indonesia, one was Greek, one Ukrainian and one Romanian. The remaining seven, among them the master, will stay in Bergen for the inquiry. Master of the vessel, Andreas Dimarakis, has been at sea for 29 years. He praised the very efficient rescue operation and the high standard of the team involved. He said: "It was very difficult to get the rescue man from the helicopter on board. This was essential to fasten the safety harness to lift us up into the helicopter. Without his help, we probably would not be here today. The cause of the incident remains a mystery. Capt Dimarakis said: "I can inform you that the engine did not break down and that there were no technical problems with the engine itself. What we experienced was reduced power effect because of the very heavy pitching."

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: An accident in the galley of bulker *Server* played a role in its eventual grounding off western Norway over the weekend. Attempts were being made today to get more oil out of its wreckage to contain a worsening oil spill. The waters in the sound around the lighthouse at Fedje were brownish-black this week after more heavy bunker oil seeped from the wreckage. Only about 135 of the 585 tons of oil on board *Server* had been recovered as of last night. One of the vessel's fuel tanks remained intact, and emergency workers said they'd try to transfer its contents over to containers during the course of the day. It was possible to move the tank into calmer waters to conduct the transfer. There was a threat of more pollution, however, from tanks at the stern of the vessel, which continued to be buffeted by stormy winds. They were believed to contain more than 100 tons of oil and diesel, and likely are not intact. "As long as the weather is this bad, it's impossible to do anything with them," said Ane Eide

Kjærås of the Norwegian National Coastal Administration, which is in charge of the oil spill clean-up operation. Ornithologists feared more than 1,000 birds could be killed by the oil. The vessel had been inspected by Det Norske Veritas as late as last Wednesday when it was in port at Aardalstangen. The vessel then sailed empty from Aardalstangen to Murmansk but the voyage was interrupted by a galley accident on board. The vessel's cook accidentally cut off a finger and the master decided to take the vessel in towards land at Fedje to get medical help for the injured crew member.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A Cypriot Shipping Department inspector left for Norway yesterday to assist in the investigation of a Cyprus-flagged bulker *Server* that ran aground and broke up off the coast on Friday (Jan 12), spilling hundreds of tonnes of fuel oil into the sea. Acting Director of the Shipping Department Andreas Constantinou said "We will cooperate closely with the marine authorities of Norway to establish the cause of the accident," he said. Divers were examining the sunken wreckage yesterday. It was not clear what caused the vessel to hit the rocks but reports from Norway yesterday said it was reportedly due to insufficient ballast which made the vessel vulnerable to the strong waves. A strong hurricane-strength storm on Sunday night did help disperse some of the oil near the area's cliffs and stopped more fuel from reaching land. Norwegian Environment Minister Helen Bjørnøy and acting Fisheries Minister Dag Terje Andersen visited the area on Sunday, while environmental crews had managed to clear up around one-third of the total spillage. It was estimated that a total clean up could take six months. Asked to comment on the spill that has been reported as being a serious environmental threat, Constantinou said it was being dealt with and the cost would be covered by the vessel's insurers. The Greek captain Andreas Dimarakis said the vessel's engines did not stop as some reports had suggested but that the power effect was "reduced" over "the very heavy pitching".

London, Jan 17 — Marine insurer Gard has said that the bulker *Server*, which grounded and broke in two off the Norwegian coast on January 12, is a constructive total loss. The Norwegian insurer said that the insured value under the hull and machinery policy was \$9m, but it is clear there could be a hefty claims bill too, as Gard covers protection and indemnity matters. The shipowner's liabilities in respect of clean-up costs and third party damage caused by oil pollution, as well as any wreck removal costs, will fall to the Gard account. The owner is insured by Gard for such liabilities as arise under Norwegian law, which in this case relate to clean-up and wreck removal. Gard said that the clean-up operations

would continue as long as necessary. Weather conditions were reported to be very poor. A maritime inquiry is due to open in Bergen on Jan 17, which at this stage will be to ascertain the facts of the loss of the 33,333 dwt ship.

SHAH BADAR-I

Chittagong, Jan 17 — Vessel *Shah Badar-i* is still lying in same position as reported earlier. Reportedly it is expected to be shifted to Karnaphully Dry Dock, within next three/four days for repair. — Lloyd's Agents.

SIERRA LARA (Panama)

Copenhagen, Jan 15 — Refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Lara* (5110 gt, built 1996) was in trouble at Skagen, just before the weekend (? Jan 12). After some days anchored at the roads, it sailed into Skagen port during windy weather. It resulted in a touch of the quay and also the breakwater. So much that the propeller was damaged. Today the vessel was connected to tug *Stevns Icequeen* for a tow to Falkenberg and a docking. The crew on the reefer advised not to start the main engine before docking and a line-up of the engine. Vessel and tug is now connected, but still awaiting a decrease in wind and swell. — Correspondent.

Copenhagen, Jan 16 — The tug *Stevns Icequeen* with refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Lara* in tow, left Skagen at 1000, this morning, bound for Falkenberg. — Correspondent.

SILINA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Aleppo, Jan 13 — Container carrier *Silina* was towed to Aliaga on Dec 13 to be scrapped. — Lloyd's Agents.

SKAGERN (Sweden)

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: Six people have been injured as a result of explosion at a shipyard at Swinoujscie. The explosion occurred at 0800 this morning. Its causes are still unknown but initial investigation points to simultaneous painting and welding work being performed. All the injured have been taken to local hospitals. Three people are in very serious condition, having suffered extensive burns and spinal damage. Rescue operations continued throughout the morning.

Poznan, Jan 13 — An explosion occurred on board general cargo *Skagern* (4426 gt, built 1983) yesterday morning while the vessel was undergoing repairs at Swinoujscie. The explosion was apparently due to welding work being carried out in an area which had been painted the previous day. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOLAR 1 (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 12 — Non specific tanker *Solar 1*: The International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPCF) has described as "inaccurate" claims by the Philippine Roman Catholic

Church that the IOPC is forcing claimants affected by the Guimaras island oil spill to sign a settlement agreement that waives their right to future damage claims. "I am afraid that statements issued saying that the agreement was disadvantageous to claimants in that they have to irrevocably waive their rights for further court claims is incorrect," said (IOPCF) Deputy Director Joe Nichols. He explained that the Fund was currently issuing two types of receipt and release agreement. Fishermen solely engaged in catching wild stocks of fish and shellfish have been offered compensation for losses of earnings over a period of three months (Aug 11 to Nov 11). Nichols added that the Fund had taken the view that fishing activities after the three month period have returned to normal and so these types of fishermen have to sign full and final settlement agreements for that period. "However, there is another group of fishermen, who besides being engaged in catching wild stocks of fish and shellfish, are also engaged in aquaculture, such as the cultivation of seaweed." The Fund has not yet completed its assessments of the claims for losses in the aquaculture sector and so fisherfolk engaged in mixed activities are being asked to sign an interim receipt and release agreement. Once their remaining losses have been assessed those claimants will also be asked to sign full and final settlement agreements when they receive their compensation, added Nichols. The IOPC is paying out claims for economic losses arising from the oil spill after the *Solar 1* sank in stormy seas off Guimaras island on Aug 11, 2006. These claims range from P3,000 (US\$61) to P32,000 (US\$653 dollars). Church officials said, however, that residents were being paid a "pittance for the surrender of their rights" to seek "just compensation". Officials said that they would provide legal assistance to claimants seeking higher compensation. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

STELLAR SEA (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 17 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1845, UTC: Fish factory *Stellar Sea* (4428 gt, built 1980), with 142 persons on board, reported a fire in the main generator about 90 miles north of Dutch Harbor, at 0730, UTC, Jan 17. The fire was extinguished after about 45 minutes, there were no injuries. However, the vessel had no propulsion or electric power, only power to radio and bridge from emergency generator. A number of vessels responded to a DSC alert and were on scene soon after. Coast Guard cutter *Mellon* responded and remains on scene and will probably take in tow. *Stellar Sea* is currently in lat 55 34N, long 167 10W, about 90 miles north of Dutch Harbor, still without propulsion. Understand a tug from Dunlap Towing has also been arranged.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Fish factory

Stellar Sea, whose engine-room caught fire late last night, is adrift in the Bering Sea with 142 people on board, Coast Guard officials said Wednesday (Jan 17). The fire on board the Seattle-based *Stellar Sea* started at 2220, local time, Jan 16, and was extinguished in about an hour, Coast Guard officials said. No injuries were reported. The Coast Guard dispatched a cutter to assist the 316-foot fish processing vessel, which is without power or propulsion in relatively calm seas about 90 miles north of the Aleutian Island community of Dutch Harbor. "They're trying to figure out what the capabilities of vessel are to make a recommendation," Chief Petty Officer Barry Lane said Wednesday. "Right now no one is in immediate danger." The boat was headed from Seattle to tiny St. Paul Island, 275 miles north of the Aleutian chain. Lane said he did not know what plans the Coast Guard was considering to bring the boat back to port. The cause of the fire has not been determined.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated Jan 17, states: Fish factory *Stellar Sea*, adrift at sea after its engine room caught fire, was being towed back to harbour today by a Coast Guard cutter, officials said. The fire on vessel was extinguished yesterday night, but it left the 316-foot processing vessel without power or propulsion about 90 miles north of Dutch Harbor. Authorities said 142 people were on board. The Coast Guard dispatched the cutter *Mellon* to assist the vessel. The cutter took the *Stellar Sea* under tow until a commercial tug boat could finish the job, said Chief Petty Officer Barry Lane. The first civilian tug dispatched from Dutch Harbor had a problem with its propulsion system and turned back, Lane said. *Mellon* will continue towing the processor until a second tug arrives, Lane said. With relatively calm seven-foot seas, weather was not a problem, Lane said. "There's no foreseeable danger to any of the crew members at this time," he said. The vessel was headed from Seattle to tiny St. Paul Island, 275 miles north of the Aleutian chain.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: The U.S. Coast Guard is towing fire-damaged fish factory *Stellar Sea* toward Dutch Harbor. The 142 people on board *Stellar Sea* are in good condition with no injuries. Last night, about 90 miles north of Dutch Harbor, the ship caught fire and was left powerless and without propulsion. The fire was extinguished within an hour and the ship called for help and was answered by Coast Guard authorities. Once it reaches shore, officials will conduct an on-board inspection. "We expect the level of damage of this to be around or to exceed \$100,000. Fires are extremely destructive," said Coast Guard Alaska petty officer Sara Francis. Because of extensive damage, the Coast Guard says it will conduct drug and alcohol tests, which it says is normal procedure.

Seattle, Jan 18 — Fish factory *Stellar Sea* is currently on fire in the Bering Sea. The Coast Guard expects to tow the vessel to Dutch Harbor, in the Aleutian Chain, once the fire has been contained/extinguished. — Lloyd's Agents.

STENA VOYAGER (U.K.)

London, Jan 16 — Understand passenger ro/ro *Stena Voyager* (19638 gt, built 1996) missed its 2210 hrs sailing from Belfast on Jan 8 following the loss of one of its vehicle deck doors as it was leaving Belfast. The incident happened as the vessel was leaving Belfast on the 2210 hrs sailing for Stranraer, and involved a portside contact with the berth, causing the door to fall off into the water. *Stena* then called upon marine salvage experts and divers to retrieve the door from the bottom of the harbour. In the meantime, the vessel was fitted with a spare door, and *Stena* said repair work was expected to take two days. A spokesman for *Stena Line* said: "An investigation into how this occurred is now underway. "At no time was there any risk to the safety of passengers who disembarked and were accommodated on an alternative ferry sailing. "Remedial work is now in progress to enable *Stena Voyager* to resume service as quickly as possible." (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Stena Voyager* was in lat 54 57 28N, long 05 01 23E, at 1001, UTC, today, speed 13.2 knots, course 353 degrees.)

SUNNA (NIS)

Kirkwall, Jan 18 — General cargo *Sunna*: General cargo *Hauker* is still at Castletown Bere and will no longer be proceeding to the casualty site. Understand a replacement vessel has been arranged and will proceed. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Understand general cargo *Sava Hill* will be sailing to the site of the *Sunna*.)

SUSAN BORCHARD (Antigua & Barbuda)

See *Segesta Jet*.

SYENITE (Cambodia)

Yokohama, Jan 16 — General cargo *Syenite*, 683 gt, ran aground at the time of departure from Ishikariwan, for Korsakov, at 1830, Jan 12. Vessel was refloated by tugs. Vessel can navigate under its own power. No water ingress or injuries reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

TACOMA (U.S.A.)

Seattle, Jan 12 — The rudder and rudder quadrant of roll on roll off *Tacoma* will be replaced while the vessel is in dry dock. Repairs are expected to be completed by Feb 28. — Lloyd's Agents.

TATARSTAN (Russia)

Portsmouth, UK, Jan 16 — Fish factory *Tatarstan* (2683 gt, built 1977) in collision with general cargo *Pioner Kholmaka* (5590 gt, built 1975), in ballast, in lat 41.09N, long 139.19E at 1500, yesterday, under the conditions of the restricted visibility (snow

storms). *Pioner Kholmska* sustained a hole in the region of hold No.3 starboard above the water line. *Tatarstan* sustained damage to a tank. Both vessels preserved seaworthiness and they continued on their voyages. — Correspondent.

Vladivostok, Jan 16 — Fish factory *Tatarstan* in collision with general cargo *Pioner Kholmska* at Sangarskiy Strait last night. According to the information we have managed to obtain from the Vladivostok Salvage Coordinating Centre the reason of collision is poor visibility. *Pioner Kholmska* sustained damage to the starboard side above the waterline. *Tatarstan* sustained damage to forecabin. No oil spill was noticed. No injuries as well. Both vessels didn't lost seaworthiness. — Lloyd's Agents.

TELTALE I (Guyana)

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: Captain Wiegand Holger of bauxite company Oldendorff Carriers said he was "very happy" to assist in the rescue of general cargo *Teltale Ps* 11 crew members after the vessel sunk in the Berbice River on Wednesday morning (Jan 10). Holger said that Director of the Maritime Administration Department Stephen Thomas and Harbour Master V Skeete called him at about 0600 on Wednesday to ask for assistance since the vessel was experiencing some problems. He said he immediately called the captain of one of the company's tugboats, Captain McCallum of the *Luebeck*, and other workers who were out at sea and instructed them to proceed to the Berbice River in search of the vessel. Shortly after he said McCallum reported that he saw a "red flare" and he instructed him to proceed to the location. He said he then sent out a pilot boat named *Maria B.* to help in the search. At about 1930, Holger said, the captain told him that he saw one person floating on a life raft and seven other on a life boat. McCallum also reported that the crew members had told him that three persons were still missing but they were found on another life raft close by and were rescued by another vessel, *Canada Club*. Holger said he instructed the captain of the *Maria B.* to collect the three persons from the *Canada Club* and take them, along with the seven, to the New Amsterdam stelling. The crew also recovered the life rafts but cannot say what became of the life boat. The owner of the cargo vessel met the crew at the stelling and took them to Georgetown. A Government Information Agency press release had said that the vessel was privately owned and was transporting 1,552 tonnes of fertilizer for the Guyana Sugar Corporation at the time.

TEYMUR EHMEDOV (Azerbaijan)

London, Jan 16 — General cargo *Teymur Ehmədov* sailed Yeisk Jan 11 and general cargo *Samur 4* sailed Yeisk Jan 14.

THOR INGER (DIS)

Manila, Jan 12 — Repairs to general cargo *Thor Inger* have been completed at Herma Shipyard, in Mariveles Bataan. The vessel departed shipyard on Jan 6 bound for Amamapare, Indonesia. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TONG CHENG (China)

Honolulu, Jan 15 — It has been that general cargo *Tong Cheng* (11959 gt, built 1977) has sustained hull damage enroute from China to Cuba. Details have not been confirmed, but it is reported she is on her way to Honolulu and due to arrive in two days time. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Tong Cheng* sailed from Busan on Dec 21, bound for Havana.)

Honolulu, Jan 16 — It has been confirmed general cargo *Tong Cheng* sustained hull damage in the area of the No. 2 Hold, with ingress of water into Nos. 2/3 Holds, either from transfer or hull damage to both. The vessel is being escorted into Honolulu with an ETA of noon, Jan 18. There is no confirmation as to the type of cargo in the affected holds. — Lloyd's Agents.

TORM ANHOLT (Panama)

Freeport, Bahamas, Jan 15 — Hull repairs to Bulker *Torm Anholt* are nearing completion and the vessel is due to depart Freeport later this week. — Lloyd's Agents.

TRANS FREJ (Antigua & Barbuda)

Gothenburg, Jan 15 — General cargo *Trans Frej* (2997 gt, built 1994), which departed the SSAB plant, Oxelosund, at 1700 hrs, ran aground at Ronnskarsgrund at 1725 hrs not far from Oxelosund port. Coast Guard vessel No.287 assisted within short but could establish that no outlet of oil or environmental problems occurred. Special environmental vessel No.046 is proceeding towards the place and ETA after midnight/early tomorrow. Vessel carrying total 103 cbm of oil as bunker. Vessel was due from Vaesteras with steel products but hard wind and conditions at sea has been part of the problems. Coast Guard confirm that they commenced discharging over to their environmental vessel and confirm no oil before starting pulling her. Presume at this time the vessel remains there. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Jan 17 — Yesterday, the Coast Guard and divers checked the position of general cargo *Trans Frej* and she remains grounded "Orsbaken ground," east of Oxelosund. Confirm that the vessel damaged in bottom and two bunker tanks sustained damage and holed in both, with ingress of water. No risk of leaking oil as long as the vessel remains in position. The vessel is at present "standing" at bottom from bow to 55 metre aftwards. Preparations and contacts for discharging containers at deck with steel products to be removed before attempts to pull her off the ground,

which to be done earliest Thursday/tomorrow. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Jan 17 — General cargo *Trans Frej*: Coast Guard confirms that at present no contract ready, or who or when containers to be discharged. It could be difficult to obtain a barge/vessel with a 20 ton crane, or more, pending weight. They confirm there is at present no schedule how to proceed from here and vessel at ground until heavy steel containers discharged. Weather also not favourable more wind/storms expected. — Westax Marine Services AB.

TRISTAR 1 (Indonesia)

Manila, Jan 12 — Indonesian authorities reported that the death toll in the sinking of passenger ro/ro *Tristar 1* near Sumatra has reached 23 fatalities. Search and rescue teams yesterday recovered seven more bodies along the Musi River, near where the vessel capsized. The vessel, with 58 passengers and crew, was travelling from Palembang to Bangka island when it was hit by a storm on Dec 28 while crossing the Bangka Strait, and capsized in heavy seas. Reports indicated that 29 persons were rescued but six passengers remain missing. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TZINI (Malta)

Manila, Jan 13 — Taiwan and Norwegian insurer Assuranceforeningen Gard, the P&I Club of bulker *Tzini*, have agreed to settle out of court for the oil spill clean-up, as well as payment for damages and rehabilitation of the marine environment resulting from the grounding of the vessel off Suao on Dec 24. "Both the Taiwanese government and the vessel's insurer have generally agreed that the entire incident will be settled through direct negotiations, and not through a lawsuit in the international court," Hsu Jen-tse, chief of the Environmental Protection Administration Marine Pollution Section, said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

UNIVERSAL BRAVE (Malta)

London, Jan 13 — Non specific tanker *Universal Brave* sailed Kharg Island Jan 8.

VANS QUEEN (Liberia)

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Roll on roll off container carrier *Vans Queen* (11861 gt, built 1978) broke free from its moorings yesterday and drifted down the Tyne during strong winds. The vessel was blown into the river from the Nissan terminal at Jarrow at about 1500 yesterday. A rope used to secure the vessel snapped and the vessel, which had cars on board, drifted sideways down the Tyne. Geoff Main, managing director of engineering firm Tyne and Wear Marine, Tyne Dock, South Shields, saw the drama unfold. He said: "The

vessel was broadside and drifting down the river. I could see everything from my office and it was quite worrying to see it heading towards the DFDS terminal. Thankfully, they managed to get control of the vessel without it colliding with anything." Harbourmaster Mike Nicholson, who went on board the vessel, said: "At approximately 1540 yesterday, *Vans Queen*, while departing Tyne Car Terminal, had a mooring rope break free in the strong winds. This caused the vessel to drift downriver while the master used the engines to keep the vessel in the channel and clear of danger. By 1600 hrs, with the assistance of a tug and pilot, the vessel was turned in the river and departed without further incident."

London, Jan 13 — Roll on roll off container carrier *Vans Queen* arrived Amsterdam Jan 12.

London, Jan 16 — Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Vans Queen* sailed Amsterdam 0304, Jan 13, arrived Zeebrugge 1448 same day and sailed Zeebrugge 0600, Jan 14, for Tees, where arrived 0614, Jan 15.

VENTO DEL GOLFO (Turkey)

Istanbul, Jan 16 — Container Carrier *Vento Del Golfo* (10282 gt, built 1985) during its voyage from Izmir to Alexandria, grounded at Uzun Adalar point in lat 38 24.95N, long 26 19.31E, at 0355, Jan 13. The vessel is presently waiting at «esme. — Lloyd's Agents.

VERA (Germany)

London, Jan 12 — General cargo *Vera* sailed Hamburg Jan 10.

VERA (Russia)

London, Jan 15 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Vera* (2457 gt, built 1976) while trying to enter the Park Harbour in Hamburg was caught by stormy winds in the morning of Jan 13. Three empty containers were blown into the river Elbe. A floating dredge salvaged all of them. Investigations were started against the captain because of having not secured the cargo enough.

London, Jan 18 — General cargo *Vera* arrived Papenburg Jan 16 from Hamburg.

VIKING SUNRISE (Canada)

Vancouver, Jan 12 — Fishing (general) *Viking Sunrise* has now left Port Hardy, BC and is en route to Arrows Shipyard at the North Arm of the Fraser River. No details on type or extent of damages were given. — Lloyd's Agents.

VINDO (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 11 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1826, UTC: General cargo *Vindo* (3183 gt, built 2004), nine persons on board, cargo 4,200 tonnes fertilizer, broken down and drifting intowards a platform in the Murdoch Gas Field in lat 54 16.67N, long 02 09.4E at 1609, UTC. Six metre swell, wind west force

9 (strong gale). Vessel requested to drop anchor to slow drift, R128 evacuating rig.

London, Jan 11 — Following received from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated today, states: Humber Coastguard are currently co-ordinating assistance to the general cargo *Vindo*, which broke down earlier this afternoon in very poor weather, nine miles from the Murdoch gas platform in the North Sea and is currently drifting in the rigs direction. The vessel is carrying 4,200 tons of fertiliser and has nine crew on board. The vessel has lowered its anchor and the rate of drift has slowed to about one knot. No crew have been airlifted from the *Vindo*. The stand by vessel *Putford Viking* is keeping a close watch on the situation locally whilst the crew of the vessel attempt to fix their engineering problems. In consultation with the oil installation manager, 10 non essential personnel are currently being gathered together before being flown from the platform by use of a RAF rescue helicopter from Leconfield. They are being taken to a nearby rig (ENSCO 101) and out of any potential danger. The helicopter is now returning to the Murdoch platform for a further 10 personnel who will be airlifted to the ENSCO 70 platform, leaving 10 essential personnel on board the Murdoch rig. Humber Coastguard have also initiated a mayday signal locally to alert other vessels to the situation and who may be able to assist the *Vindo*. Winds locally are passing 55 knots which are making conditions very difficult. The Agency's counter pollution team has also been put on alert.

London, Jan 11 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 2226, UTC: General cargo *Vindo*: Engines restarted but failed soon after and dragged anchor. Vessel passed the Murdock Gas Platform but is drifting on course for the Caister oil rig only about five nautical miles away.

London, Jan 11 — Following received from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency: The cargo vessel which has been drifting towards a gas platform in the North Sea has cleared the rig. General cargo *Vindo* managed to start its engines temporarily and slipped its anchor so that there was no damage to gas pipelines. However, the vessel is now drifting towards another unmanned platform, Caister. Humber Coastguard scrambled an RAF helicopter to the scene a short while ago, and it is now standing by in case of need. Humber Coastguard Watch Manager Mike Green says: "Although the ship has now drifted clear of the original platform, the problem still remains since it is now drifting towards a second platform with the ship's nine crew on board. The crew of the vessel are still working hard to reinstate engine power. "Earlier this evening, all thirty of the Murdoch Platform's crew were evacuated by helicopter. There is no intention to begin re-manning the platform until

morning. "Weather conditions are challenging with 50 knot winds from the west and a seven metre swell.

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Coastguard Humber, timed 0007, UTC: General cargo *Vindo* has now drifted clear of Caister platform. Recue 128 has been recalled. No further rigs in direction of drift. Tug *Red Wolf* under contract, ETA 0900, will tow vessel to safety.

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1129, UTC: General cargo *Vindo*: Tug *Red Wolf* connected tow at 1032 hrs and will tow casualty to River Humber. Berth being arranged.

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Specialist-Marine Services, dated today: Specialist Marine Services managed tug *Red Wolf* was fixed at 2200, Jan 11, to proceed from Immingham, direct to the location of general cargo *Vindo*. *Red Wolf* arrived on location, lat 54 14N, long 02 55 E, at 0830, Jan 12, and was connected up and under way at 0940 hrs on passage to Hull. Shortly after tug and tow commenced passage, master of *Red Wolf* reported winds of W 7-8, with a forecast of NW 9 to gale force 10 reported for later in the day. Current speed 3 knots proceeding towards Flambourgh in an attempt to seek calmer waters. Current swell 5-6m.

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1620, UTC: General cargo *Vindo*, in tow of tug *Red Fox*, was reported in lat 54 06N, long 02 33E, at 1523, UTC, course 235 deg, speed 3.75 knots. Vessels are currently about 90 miles from the River Humber and are navigating rough seas.

London, Jan 13 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1251, UTC: General cargo *Vindo* is now at the entrance to the River Humber and will be held in place by tug *Red Wolf* until 1930, UTC, when a pilot will board the vessel to take it up the river. The tow is expected to arrive at Alexandria Dock, Hull, at 2359, UTC.

London, Jan 13 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1820, UTC: General cargo *Vindo* now entering River Humber in tow of tugs *Red Wolf* and *Yeoman*. Pilot is about to board vessel and it will be taken to Alexandria Dock, Hull. No ETA given but expected to be about 2359, UTC. *Vindo* has problems with steerage due to main engine problems.

London, Jan 14 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 0253, UTC: General cargo *Vindo*, and tug *Red Wolf*, are safely moored at Alexandra Dock, Hull. Search and rescue operations terminated at 0246, UTC.

London, Jan 14 — Owner's representatives Buss Group, of general cargo *Vindo* report that the vessel has berthed at the port of Hull for inspection and any necessary repairs. The *Vindo* sustained engine problems last Thursday night (Jan 11) in poor weather conditions and had been drifting in the direction of two gas platforms in the North Sea. The

tug *Red Wolf* established a tow with the vessel on Friday morning and was joined by a second tug later. The vessel arrived in Hull early this morning. The *Vindo* has a crew of 8 and was on a voyage from St. Petersburg to Seaham with a cargo of 4,200 tons of fertiliser.

Hull, Jan 17 — On completion of repairs, general cargo *Vindo* sailed from Hull at 0417 hrs, Jan 16. — Lloyd's Agents.

VLORA (Panama)

London, Jan 18 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Vlora* arrived Rijeka Jan 15, from Vlore, and sailed same day for Vlore.

WARFLETH (Antigua & Barbuda)

Falmouth, Jan 18 — General cargo *Warfleth* (1022 gt, built 1980), Cork to Rotterdam, in ballast, arrived Falmouth at 0300, Jan 17 with engine problems and berthed Queens Wharf, Falmouth. Docked to effect repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

WILMA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 15 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The repair works on the New Levensau Bridge after the contact by general cargo *Wilma* had to be interrupted due to the stormy weather and are delayed until improvement of weather.

WILSON MUUGA (Cyprus)

Reykjavik, Jan 17 — Nothing much has happened to bulker *Wilson Muuga* after the oil was pumped out. She is still sitting at the grounding site and has not shifted. The local authorities are now pressing the owners to come up with a plan as to how they are going to remove the vessel from the grounding site. — Lloyd's Agents.

WILSON TANA (Malta)

Brest, Jan 12 — Bulker *Wilson Tana* was on ballast passage between Nantes and Rouen when it experienced main engine trouble. The vessel drifting dangerously towards the coast in heavy seas and strong winds and the assistance of tug *Abeille Bourbon* was requested. A tow was passed early Jan 10 and the convoy arrived Brest in the afternoon of the same day. Repairs were carried out and the vessel is now at order. There is no information yet as to its date of departure. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 16 — Bulker *Wilson Tana* sailed Brest Jan 12, and passed Brunsbuttel 0543, Jan 15 bound Kaliningrad.

WORLD DYNASTY (Panama)

Singapore, Jan 18 — Chemical tanker *World Dynasty* (7916 gt, built 1991) had engine failure (believed Jan 9) and was towed, as a commercial tow, to Singapore by SMIT Singapore last week. — SMIT Singapore Pte Ltd.

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, dated today: Chemical tanker *World Dynasty* was reportedly due to carry out transhipment operations off Singapore on Jan 12.

WU CHANG HAI (China)

LaSalle, Quebec, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Wu Chang Hai* (16677 gt, built 1998) dragged its anchor in Prince Rupert harbour in winds of more than 100 kph on Monday (Jan 15.) More than 30 people, including the crews of six tugs, the Prince Rupert Port Authority, Canadian Coast Guard and Pacific Pilotage Authority, worked quickly to get the *Wu Chang Hai* and two other vessels back to their anchors. *Wu Chang Hai* is destined for Guatemala, carrying wheat. (Note — *Wu Chang Hai* arrived Prince Rupert Jan 12.)



NIGERIA

London, Jan 17 — The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia reports that thieves went on board a Ro-Ro vessel at Boma anchorage on the night of Jan 10, boarding the vessel from several boats. The men were armed with long knives and wooden staves and attempted to attack the duty crew, which retreated to the vessel's bridge where they raised the alarm. After breaking open two containers and stealing some contents the thieves made off in their boats. Port control at Boma failed to acknowledge appeals for help from the vessel. Armed robbers bearing guns and knives boarded a products tanker during STS cargo operations at Lagos Roads on 8 January, the IMB reports. This attack took place during the night, also shortly before midnight. The duty officer managed to raise the alarm despite receiving injuries to one of his hands. Port control was advised of the attack but the robbers made their escape.



CYPRUS

Limassol, Jan 12 — General cargo *Liberty A*, which is still under detention, is not suitable to sail but only for scrap. — Lloyd's Agents.



AMADA (North Korea)

See under "Marine."

BLUEBIRD

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jan 11 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Bluebird* (1115 gt, built 1982), was stopped by the police in the Elbe estuary at 2345, Jan 10. The vessel which was underway from Queensborough, Canada, to Liepaja, was navigating much too much on the Northern side of the traffic lane. Then the vessel suddenly altered course towards the Southern side and was in danger of colliding with the *Tina*, which was running river upstream. As the attempt to get into contact with the *Bluebird* via VHF failed, the traffic control in Cuxhaven was asked to make another attempt which was successful. But in the traffic control it was remarked that the captain coming from Latvia spoke unclear, and the police was alarmed. Due to storm and rough sea the rescue boat *Hermann Helms* of the DGzRS was asked to take police out to the vessel. Once on board, the police remarked the captain obviously had drunk alcohol. A test proved he had 2,4 6 promille. He was taken to the city hospital in Cuxhaven for further testing. He was fined with 2114 Euro and was not allowed to take his vessel further which is now in need of another captain. The *Bluebird* had to return to Cuxhaven under guidance of the steerman and there berthed at the Lenzquay.

EASTERN POS (South Korea)

London, Jan 18 — General cargo *Eastern Pos* (4032 gt, built 1994), which arrived at Hong Kong at 1825 hrs, Jan 16, is today reported at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under Baliff's Office, Admiralty and High Court arrest.

ESSCO BOUNTY (Panama)

Cape Town, Jan 15 — General cargo *Essco Bounty* was sold at the end of December to Medusa SA. Subsequently, the arrest has been lifted. Advised that she will complete temporary repairs in Cape Town prior to her sailing. — Lloyd's Agents.

FALCON IV (Greece)

Piraeus, Jan 12 — Ferry *Falcon IV* remains under arrest at Volos port, release date unknown at present. — Lloyd's Agents.

GOLDEN TRADER I (Panama)

London, Jan 17 — Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Golden Trader I* (6861 gt, built 1979), which arrived Singapore Nov 13, was under arrest there between Nov 14 and Jan 12. Vessel remains at Singapore at present.

PAN RISE (South Korea)

London, Jan 12 — General cargo *Pan Rise* arrived Busan Jan 5 and sailed Jan 6.

PATRICIA (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 16 — The Philippine Bureau of Customs has issued a warrant of seizure and detention against non specific tanker *Patricia*

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

for alleged oil smuggling. The issuance of the warrant follows the transfer of jurisdiction of the vessel from the Philippine Coast Guard to the Bureau of Customs last week and gives the Bureau legal justification for the continued detention of the *Patricia* and its cargo. The *Patricia* was arrested by Philippine Coast Guard personnel on Jan 1 for allegedly diverting its transshipment cargo of 600,000 litres of diesel fuel to a local depot, instead of delivering it to two international vessels. Physical custody of the *Patricia* has also been transferred from the Coast Guard to the Bureau of Customs. The vessel is still moored off the Pasig River Coast Guard station in Manila but Customs police have replaced the Coast Guard personnel who used to guard the vessel. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TIOMAN (Honduras)

Jakarta, Jan 15 — Product tanker *Tioman* has been towed to Johor-Malaysia last month. — Lloyd's Agents.



BRITTANY, FRANCE

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated yesterday states: France's top court today confirmed a 200,000-euro fine on the Croatian captain of a Roll On Roll Off *Arroyofrio Dos* for causing an oil slick off the French coast. The vessel caused the 11-kilometre by 100 metre oil slick on March 2, 2004 as it carried more than 400 vehicles from Southampton to Santander. The captain, 47-year-old Goran Milicic, had appealed the fine, blaming the slick on another vessel which was travelling alongside.



BELARUS

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Stormy winds with gusts up to 25 metres per second that swept down to Belarus in the small hours yesterday. More than 1,200 populated localities, especially in the Grodno and Minsk regions, have been hit by the storm since the beginning of the day, an official at the country's Ministry of Emergency Situations told Itar-Tass yesterday. The storm left 1,077 towns and villages without electricity supplies. Over 500 of them still remain cut off from the national power grid, the official said. At least three people were injured. In Minsk, an advertising board tumbled down on an elderly woman. In Soligorsk,

constructions of a bus stop, which was overturned by the hurricane, fell on a group of people. As a result, two of them were injured, one of whom was rushed to a hospital, the official said. Almost 2,000 specialists and over 450 units of machinery were mobilized to deal with the storm aftermaths, the official said. Minsk rescuers are working round-the-clock. Special teams are trying to do their utmost to resume power supplies and repair roofs.

CANADA

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: While residents of the West Coast, walloped by the kind of winter usually reserved for central Canadians, braced themselves for yet another storm, residents of Ontario finally welcomed their first real taste of winter in 2007. Freezing rain left a layer of ice across much of the southern and most populated part of the province, snarling traffic at Toronto's Pearson International Airport, where 26 flights to Ottawa, Montreal, Halifax, Winnipeg and Vancouver were cancelled due to a de-icing backlog. More than 20 flights to US destinations were also cancelled as was an Air Canada flight to sunny St. Lucia. Some 42 flights out of Toronto were delayed by 1100, said the Greater Toronto Airport Authority. Ontario Provincial Police reported more than 200 fender-benders, most involving single vehicles spinning into ditches. Thousands of kids across the province got the day off school, thanks to cancelled buses. Many train commuters also struggled on their way into Toronto as switch problems caused delays of up to one hour for GO Transit riders. Environment Canada was expecting up to 15 millimetres of rain and 15 centimetres of snow to fall over various parts of the province. Residents of the Maritime provinces who have also experienced a relatively balmy, snowless season were also rediscovering winter Monday: Forecasters were calling for up to 15 centimetres of snow by Tuesday morning (Jan 16) throughout most of Nova Scotia. A heavy snowfall warning was also in place for P.E.I. and southeastern New Brunswick, with more than 15 centimetres expected. Bitter cold was also gripping parts of Newfoundland and Labrador, where the wind chill in some areas dipped into the minus-40 range. Residents in Greater Victoria, Vancouver and the Fraser Valley were expecting another five to 10 centimetres of snow by midday Tuesday, although chilly temperatures were expected to ease in the southwestern part of the province over the course of the week. Environment Canada also issued a wind warning for northern Vancouver Island, the central and north coasts and the Queen Charlotte Islands, with predictions of heavy snow and wind speeds of 60-90 kilometres-per-hour.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Eastern Canada was finally hit by the first snow storm

of the winter after an unusually mild start to the season. The weather forced 50 flight cancellations and 80 delays at Montreal and Toronto airports.

INDONESIA

London, Jan 12 — A landslide triggered by heavy rains killed 16 people on a remote Indonesian island and a further 10 were missing, a health department official said on today. More than 60 houses and two churches were damaged in the landslide on Sangihe island late yesterday, Christian Tilla, chief of the health department of North Sulawesi province, said. At least five people were injured.

LATVIA

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Damage caused by a hurricane that swept over Latvia the day before is estimated at almost two million U.S. dollars, an official at the Ministry of Regional Development and Self-Government said yesterday. The minister has asked the government to reserve budgetary funds for cleaning up the aftereffects. Riga sustained the largest damage of 860,000 U.S. dollars. In the capital, wind gusts broke trees and tore off telegraph wire. Some streets were inundated by waters, that went up in a Daugava tributary. Power supplies are irregular to many populated localities across the country. Water towers were stricken down by the hurricane in the Līspai district and in Ventava. A dam at one of the channels in the Vidzem suburb was broken.

MALAYSIA

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Johor has been hit by another wave of floods after three straight days of rain, forcing more than 16,000 people from their homes yesterday. Officials are warning that more people might be forced to leave their homes, as more rain is expected over the weekend. The rising waters forced evacuation centres to reopen, just days after many of them were closed. The centres were set up after last month's floods. 'It is getting bad again because it has been raining non-stop,' a Johor police spokesman said. 'And we expect more people to be evacuated with every hour.' This time, Johor Baru was the hardest hit town in the state, with 8,623 people having to flee waters swirling round their homes. Batu Pahat was also badly hit, as 8,056 people had to seek shelter. Officials expect the numbers to continue rising through the night. Other major towns in the state facing the latest round of floods include Kluang, Segamat, Mersing, and Pontian. In Kota Tinggi, the water levels reached 1.2m in some low-lying villages, forcing the evacuation of more than 1,000 people. Waist-deep waters inundated most other areas. A total of 17 people were killed when the worst floods in Malaysia in more than three decades first hit last month. The hardest hit state has been Johor. At

the rain's peak last month, more than 90,000 people were evacuated. The majority of them were from Johor. Meteorological experts blame the heavier rains in the south of peninsular Malaysia on shifting winds and a cold front in Siberia. The east coast of Malaysia usually faces the brunt of heavy rains this time of year because of the north-east monsoons. But the east coast states of Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang have escaped relatively unscathed this time, with just a few thousand people evacuated last month due to floods. Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi was reported as saying yesterday that initial estimates showed losses caused by the floods had already exceeded RM100million (S\$44million). This figure is expected to rise substantially. The Meteorological Department said yesterday that the continuous rainfall in Johor was expected to continue until Monday. In a statement, the department also warned of more rainfall in Negeri Sembilan, Malacca, Terengganu, and Pahang. A red alert, signifying high wind-speeds of up to 50kmh and heavy rains, has already been issued for Sabah. The continuous rains have also begun to wreak havoc on Johor's road network, further hampering relief efforts. The main Johor Baru-Kota Tinggi trunk road was closed to light vehicles yesterday. Rising waters and landslides caused by the rain also closed the Kota Tinggi-Kluang road and a number of minor roads. According to official statistics, a massive 264mm of rainfall fell in Senai, near Johor Baru, on Thursday night, compared to just 18mm the day before. Kluang recorded 171mm, while 121mm fell on Batu Pahat.

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 90 000 people have been evacuated from southern Malaysia following a second wave of flooding, with one only rooftops poking above floodwaters in one town, officials and news reports said on today. The fresh floods in southern Johor state came after many people had returned home from the public shelters they had moved to in late December. At the time, heavy rains had caused major rivers to overflow, killing at least 17 people, blocking roads and railway lines and disrupting power supplies. A Johor police official said incessant heavy rains since Thursday night (Jan 11) forced the evacuation of 92 500 people to 355 relief centers. The meteorological department, in a red alert warning on its website, said the heavy rain was expected to continue until on Monday.

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated Jan 16, states: Over 115,000 Malaysians have been forced to flee their homes as floods worsen in the south and on Borneo island, officials said as relief workers struggled to feed and shelter victims. The national flood operations centre said the situation was expected to deteriorate in the worst-hit state of Johor in Malaysia's south, where nearly 110,000 have

abandoned their homes. Eighteen people have been killed so far in two rounds of floods that started last month, which officials say are the worst Johor has seen in a century. Health officials have warned of the risk of disease, particularly leptospirosis, which is spread by animal urine, after two evacuees died of the disease.

NETHERLANDS

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: The storm which hit the Netherlands yesterday caused some E15m worth of damage, insurers said today. Zeeland and Noord-Holland provinces were the hardest hit, insurers said. A spokesman for the storm warning service said that water levels in the north of the country had risen far higher than expected in some places. In Den Helder, strong winds whipped the sea level to 2.3 metres above NAP, over a 1.5 metres higher than normal.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of passengers have been affected by fog which has delayed flights in and out of Wellington Airport this morning. The airport remained closed to air traffic late this morning and an Air New Zealand spokeswoman said about 20 flights and over 2000 passengers had been affected.

London, Jan 18 — A magnitude 5.3 earthquake shook New Zealand's central North Island today, seismologists said, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The tremor was centred near Taihape, 150 miles north of the capital, Wellington, at a depth of 30 miles, the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences reported.

PHILIPPINES

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: At least four people were confirmed dead while three others were declared missing as floodwaters, triggered by days of incessant rains, continue to rise in Caraga and Southern Mindanao regions. The Office of Civil Defence (OCD) in Caraga said the latest recorded fatality was a 9-year-old boy from Barangay Sayon in Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur. The OCD Caraga said Jeboy LabareOo, the fourth confirmed fatality in the region, drowned while trying to cross a foot bridge on New Year's Day. The boy's death was reported by his parents only on Friday (Jan 12). In Compostela Valley, at least 11 miners cheated death after the opening of the tunnel they were digging in Nabunturan town collapsed, trapping them inside on Thursday. Antonio Cloma, operations chief of the OCD in Southern Mindanao, said the cave-in at Barangay Mainit was apparently caused by the softening of the soil due to the continuing bad weather. Rains have been battering many parts of Mindanao since late last year. Cloma said the miners were freed after more than 10 hours of

rescue efforts by their fellow miners. In Don Marcelino, Davao del Sur, trees toppled by strong winds cut off power supply. Although the Davao del Sur Electric Cooperative (Dasureco) has already sent a repair team, a large area of the town remain without power as of Friday. Don Marcelino Mayor Fidel Sasuman also reported that the floods destroyed cornfields in many villages but no casualty has been reported so far. Malita town agriculturist Leoncio Salamanca said the floods also destroyed about P1 million worth of crops. The OCD in Caraga, meanwhile, said the total number of people displaced by rising floodwaters has already reached 36,546 families or 150,198 persons. These came from 194 villages in the region's four provinces. Local officials of Sta. Josefa and Loreto towns in Agusan del Sur have already declared their areas under a state of calamity because of the increasing amount of damage wrought by the floods.

RUSSIA

London, Jan 12 — Due to strong winds and heavy swell, Novorossiysk port has closed for navigation. The nearby Sheskharis and CPC oil terminals also closed at noon today.

SRI LANKA

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: At least three people were killed and another 61,000 made homeless in south and central Sri Lanka today in flash floods caused by heavy monsoon rains, the National Disaster Management Centre said. The centre's spokesman G.M. Gunawardene said two people were buried alive in a mudslide at Walapane while another was killed in Meepai. A total of 61,281 people were driven out of their flooded homes, he said. He said the flooding in the south was compounded by irrigation reservoirs which overflowed after the heavy rains.

SWEDEN

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated Jan 14, states: Hurricane-strength winds whipped across southwestern Sweden today, leaving more than 100,000 households without power and causing major disruptions in train and ship traffic across Scandinavia, officials said. The bridge connecting Sweden and Denmark was shut down to all traffic, while nearly all train departures in southern Sweden and parts of Norway were cancelled, as the strong winds knocked down trees across the tracks in several places. The central train station in Sweden's second largest city, Gothenburg, was left completely without power, and several ferry lines between Denmark, Norway and Sweden were cancelled, officials said. No injuries were reported, but police in Norway and Sweden urged people to stay indoors. Power companies said they had called in extra personnel to restore electricity but that the strong winds made it nearly impossible to repair the damaged power lines. The

storm was expected to move eastward during the day, and could possibly reach Finland late today, the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute said.

TURKEY

London, Jan 11 — Ferry expeditions, which were cancelled due to the dense fog yesterday in Istanbul have returned to normal as the fog dispersed this morning. The Istanbul Sea Buses Co.(IDO) has announced that expeditions restarted today under the current schedule. The written statement given by IDO also stated that ferry expeditions between Eskihisar and TopAular are still on pause due to the dense fog in the area.

London, Jan 12 — Traffic in the Canakkale Strait was suspended at 1000, local time, due to dense fog.

London, Jan 16 — Traffic in the Istanbul Strait was suspended due to dense fog at 0715, local time, this morning.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 18 — Gales and heavy downpours have affected travel across the UK. Scotland has seen its first major snowfalls of 2007, while blown over lorries caused the M1 to close between junctions 29 and 30 in South Yorkshire. The managing director of Birmingham Airport, Richard Heard, died after a branch fell on his car in Shropshire. The Met Office has issued a severe weather warning, warning of gusts of up to 70mph, and Network Rail has brought in speed restrictions on some lines. The M18 has been closed between junctions 4 and 7 northbound and junctions 6 and 7 southbound. The accident which killed Mr Heard, 49, happened on the B4373 Bridgnorth to Broseley road. A second car heading in the opposite direction also collided with part of the branch but its driver was uninjured, West Midlands Ambulance Service said. A man was taken to hospital after Bar Vin's roof collapsed. In the south, ferry services to the Isle of Wight have been cancelled and Southampton Container Terminal is closed. A man was taken to hospital after he was injured when the roof of Bar Vin in Bournemouth, Dorset, collapsed as winds of up to 80mph hit the coast. Train operators ONE and GNER are operating a revised and reduced timetable on the East Coast Mainline. And the Shrewsbury to Chester rail line has been closed after a train collided with a tree just outside Chirk Station, just over the Welsh border. P&O Ferries reported delays on their crossings from Dover and have advised passengers due to sail from the port on 18 January not to travel.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of homes in Wales have lost power after heavy rain and winds reaching more than 80mph brought down power lines. Electricity company Scottish Power said some 25,000 homes across north and mid Wales and on Merseyside had been hit. There is widespread disruption on the roads

and rail lines from fallen trees and flooding. Flights from Cardiff International Airport have been hit, along with rail services in and out of Wales. Environment Agency Wales has 13 flood warnings and 35 flood watches in force. Scottish Power is dealing with 100 separate incidents in mid and north Wales, many of them isolated households. The area hit by power cuts appears to stretch from mid Wales to the north-east. Half the village of Llanuwchllyn near Bala is without electricity but the village school is still open. Train services between London and Cardiff have been cancelled, as have most flights out of Cardiff airport. High winds forced Cardiff International Airport to cancel or divert flights, with only one flight leaving today. Stena Line's 1430 hrs ferry service between Fishguard and Rosslare was also cancelled and passengers should check before travelling.

UNITED STATES

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A crippling winter storm lashed the central part of the nation with another blast of freezing rain, sleet and snow Saturday (Jan 13), causing widespread power outages and tying up highways and airports. The storm was expected to continue through the weekend, laying down a coat of ice and snow from Texas to Illinois, where an ice storm warning was in effect through Monday morning. Farther west, frigid arctic air reached as far south as southern and central California, where plunging temperatures prompted worry about the homeless and crops. The storm in the Midwest had been blamed for at least six deaths, and brought Amtrak service in Missouri to a halt on Saturday. Trees and other debris knocked down by the weight of ice blocked tracks at several locations between St. Louis and Kansas City. About 115,000 homes and businesses had no electricity Saturday in the St. Louis area. Between 60,000 and 70,000 customers were without power in Springfield, Mo., Saturday, plus an unknown number of homes and businesses in surrounding towns, said Jenny Fillmer Edwards, spokeswoman for the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management. Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt declared a state of emergency Saturday and activated the National Guard. He said the worst wave may come Sunday. In San Marcos, Texas, it wasn't clear whether a tornado or straight-line wind damaged at least 10 homes, several businesses and the police headquarters. Fallen power lines blocked a section of Interstate 35 until crews could remove them, said Melissa Millecam, communications manager for the city, 30 miles south of Austin. More than six inches of rain fell in places across central Texas, causing local flooding. Water also blocked three highways in southeastern Oklahoma, the Department of Transportation reported. About 300 flights were cancelled Saturday at

Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, spokesman David Magana said. Cancellations also were reported in St. Louis, Kansas City, Oklahoma City and Tulsa. In Oklahoma, about 40,000 customers were without power early Saturday, said Michelann Ooten, spokeswoman for the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management. More rain, freezing rain and snow was expected from northwest Oklahoma all the way to Wisconsin on Sunday, Pedigo said. In Nevada, temperatures plunged as much as minus 28 in the northern part of the state, filling homeless shelters to capacity and prompting ranchers to use axes to break ice in troughs so cattle could drink, authorities said. In California's San Joaquin Valley, where much of the state's nearly \$1 billion citrus crop is grown, temperatures dropped into the teens overnight Friday. Growers burned fires, sprayed warm irrigation water and ran giant fans to keep cold air away from their oranges, lemons and tangerines. A.J. Yates, California's agriculture undersecretary, said the citrus industry could be substantially damaged if the temperature stays below 25 degrees for six hours or longer. Citrus growers said it was too soon to evaluate the damage.

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated Jan 14, states: The ice storms that have been blamed for at least 20 deaths continued to lash much of the United States today, as crews tried to restore power to hundreds of thousands and slick roads spawned accidents. Waves of freezing rain, sleet and snow since Friday (Jan 12) have caused at least 11 deaths in Oklahoma, six in Missouri, two in Texas and one in New York. Seven adults were killed early today near Elk City, Okla., when the minivan they were in hit a slick spot on Interstate 40, crossed the median and hit a tractor-trailer, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol reported. Missouri Governor Matt Blunt said about 300,000 households there remained without power today. About 350 National Guardsmen were going door to door checking on residents in the hardest-hit areas and were helping to clear slick roads of tree limbs and power lines. About 111,000 customers lacked power in Oklahoma, utilities reported. In Texas, 415 flights were cancelled today at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. In Nebraska, which has been pummeled by winter storms in the past month, the weekend storm deposited even more snow, making roads treacherous. In Syracuse, N.Y., Interstate 81 was closed for about two hours after about 30 cars were involved in six accidents early today. Several people were taken to hospitals. The storm system was expected to continue heading northeast, said National Weather Service meteorologist Joe Pedigo. While the Ohio region could expect rain tomorrow afternoon, lower Michigan and parts of New England were predicted to get more than a foot of snow. In the St. Louis region, about

150,000 people remained without power this afternoon, after a pattern of freezing and thaws. "We've had three real pushes of rainfall," said National Weather Service meteorologist Jim Kramper. One was Friday, one Saturday and a third came Sunday afternoon and persisted into the evening.

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from a powerful winter storm rose to 36 across six states Monday (Jan 15) as utility crews laboured to restore service to hundreds of thousands of Missouri households and businesses enduring cold weather without electricity for heat and lights. The crews hoped to take advantage of moderate weather expected Monday, with only a few lingering snow showers and flurries, before temperatures plunged back to the single digits Monday night. However, some people won't be back online until late Wednesday, said the utility Ameren. Power outages spread to other states Monday as the remains of the storm system streamed across New England. Ice-covered roads cut into Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observances from New York to Texas, where officials cancelled Gov. Rick Perry's inauguration parade scheduled for Tuesday. Even in Maine, more accustomed to winter weather, a layer of sleet and snow on roads Monday shut down numerous businesses, day care centres and schools. Waves of freezing rain, sleet and snow since Friday had been blamed for at least 15 deaths in Oklahoma, eight in Missouri, five in Iowa, three in Texas and four in New York and one in Maine. About 330,000 homes and businesses had no electricity Sunday night in Missouri. State officials did not have a new estimate Monday morning, but Ameren's share of those outages had dropped from 130,000 to 98,000, spokeswoman Susan Gallagher said. However, that figure included about 13,000 new outages in central Missouri. Most of the Missouri power outages were caused by the weight of ice snapping tree branches and dropping them onto power lines, officials said. In New Hampshire, outages also were caused by vehicles sliding into utility poles. As the storm blew across the lower Great Lakes and northern New England on Monday, a layer of ice up to a half-inch thick knocked out power to more than 50,000 customers in northern New York and was blamed for dozens of traffic accidents, authorities officials said. The ice accumulation also blacked out at least 4,500 customers in New Hampshire, but in the northern part of the state ski areas were celebrating their first significant snowfall of the season. The weather and the need to de-ice aircraft prompted the cancellation of 100 scheduled departures Monday morning at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, DFW Airport spokesman Ken Capps said. More than 400 flights were cancelled there Sunday. About 122,000 customers

were blacked out in Oklahoma as of Sunday night, the state Department of Emergency Management said. Authorities said it could be up to a week before power is fully restored. Late Sunday, President Bush declared a federal disaster for Oklahoma because of the storm. Elsewhere, a weekend cold snap that had worried citrus growers and other farmers in California produced rare freezing temperatures Monday in southern Arizona.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated Jan 15, states: Three nights of freezing temperatures have destroyed up to three-quarters of California's \$1 billion citrus crop, according to an estimate issued today as forecasters warned the weather could continue. Other crops, including avocados and strawberries, also have suffered damage in the cold snap, agricultural officials said. The latest freeze will likely surpass the damage done by a three-day cold snap in December 1998 that destroyed 85 percent of California's citrus crop, a loss valued at \$700 million, A.G. Kawamura, secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture said. Overnight temperatures dropped into the teens again early today in parts of the San Joaquin Valley, where many of the state's oranges and lemons are grown, according to the National Weather Service. The subfreezing conditions came after a weekend of record lows. Growers should expect "the mercury" to dip into the mid-20s until at least Wednesday (Jan 17) night, National Weather Service meteorologist Daniel Harty said. "Even though it's slightly warmer, it's still dangerous for the citrus crops," Harty said. Citrus growers already have lost between 50 and 75 percent of their crops, said Philip LoBue, a farmer and chairman of California Citrus Mutual, a 2,000-member trade organization. Growers hastened to pick as much fruit as possible before the chilly weather hit Friday (Jan 12), but an industry labour shortage meant much of the \$960 million crop went unharvested, LoBue said. The full impact of the freeze would not be known until inspectors check fruit for damage, agricultural officials said. In the meantime, fruit packers were asked to keep produce harvested during the freeze on hold for five days to monitor for quality problems and keep damaged fruit off store shelves.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Powerful winter storms that have killed at least 35 people in central US states are now sweeping north-eastwards. Ice storms have been reported in New York state. Some half a million people have been left without electricity after the storm brought down power lines. Many businesses, day-care centres and schools have been forced to close in Maine because of treacherous roads. Workers with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Fema) distributed generators and bottled water in Oklahoma, after President

George W Bush declared an emergency in the state on Sunday (Jan 14). Most of those who have died were killed in weather-related accidents. One person died from carbon monoxide poisoning. In California, officials in the agricultural Central Valley said up to 70% of the oranges still on trees had been destroyed by the freeze. The state's top agricultural official, A G Kawamura, estimated that damage from the freeze would surpass that of December 1998, when the state citrus industry lost 85% of its crop, valued at \$700m (£355.9m). In Texas, Governor Rick Perry called out the National Guard after more than 15cm (six inches) of rain caused flash flooding in the centre of the state. Forecasters say the Midwest will now get a break from the weather, followed by light snowfalls.

London, Jan 16 — The northern end of Bergen Point Reach Channel, from Kill Van Kull to Newark Bay, was closed last night (Jan 15) due to fog.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: US shoppers could soon be paying more for oranges and citrus fruits after a severe freeze damaged crops. Growers in California say 70% of the season's oranges, lemons and tangerines may be destroyed costing \$1bn. California has issued a state of emergency in 10 counties. One grower said the price of an orange in US supermarkets could triple from 50 cents to almost \$1.50 as a result. It is not just citrus fruits that have been damaged, strawberries, avocados and other crops have also been harmed by the bad weather. As a result other crop prices have risen, tracking a global trend where adverse weather has affected markets. As the governor of California issued the state of emergency across 10 counties, similar emergencies were also declared in Oklahoma and Missouri following severe weather.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of people stuck it out in dark, unheated homes Wednesday (Jan 17) and hundreds of others hunkered down in shelters waiting for restoration of electrical service knocked out by the snow and ice storm blamed for 55 deaths in nine states. More than 300,000 homes and businesses in several states were still without electricity Wednesday because of the ice, snow, and high wind that battered an area from Maine to Texas, where roads and schools were closed Wednesday. Some 92,000 customers still had no electricity Wednesday in Oklahoma. Houston and San Antonio were under rare ice warnings Wednesday and icy roads in Dallas slowed morning highway commuters. Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport cancelled 100 flights. The Austin airport cancelled 32 outbound flights and 28 inbound, and ran out of de-icing fluid, officials said. A 300-mile stretch of Interstate 10 in Texas from Fort Stockton to San Antonio had been closed since Tuesday because of fresh snow atop a layer of ice. About 163,000 homes and businesses in

Missouri still had no electricity. Elsewhere, about 24,000 customers in Michigan were still blacked out early Wednesday, along with an estimated 11,000 in New York state and 12,000 in New Hampshire. Some New Hampshire customers might not get electricity until sometime Thursday. Since Friday, the storm system's waves of freezing rain, sleet and snow have been blamed for at least 20 deaths in Oklahoma, nine in Missouri, eight in Iowa, four each in New York and Michigan, five in Texas, three in Arkansas and one each in Maine and Indiana.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated Jan 17, states: An icy storm blamed for at least 60 deaths in nine states spread snow and freezing rain across Texas all the way to the Mexican border today, closing the Alamo, glazing freeways and immobilizing communities unaccustomed to such cold. Accumulations were light by many regions' standards - the Dallas area topped out at a half-inch of snow, and more than three inches piled up west of Fort Worth. Hundreds of airline flights were cancelled, tens of thousands of electricity customers lost power and a 300-mile stretch of Interstate 10, a major east-west highway that cuts through the state, was closed. Across the country, storms since Friday (Jan 12) have cut off what had been an unseasonably mild winter in many areas. Seven deaths were blamed on the storm in Texas. In Oklahoma, the ice storm was blamed for at least 23 deaths, most from auto accidents, and about 78,000 utility customers in eastern Oklahoma remained without power. In the mountains north of Los Angeles, a sudden snowstorm brought traffic to a halt on busy Interstate 5. Snow mixed with hail also fell at lower elevations of northern Los Angeles County, leaving some neighbourhoods with rare coatings of white. California already had been suffering from an unusual cold snap that threatened many of its winter crops and wiped out a most of its citrus. In Dallas, Houston and San Antonio, roads were largely empty this morning. Motorists unaccustomed to driving on ice took the day off after waking up to light snow, trees sagging with ice and icicle-draped cars. Many schools closed for the day or opened late. Freezing rain and sleet were reported in Laredo and other communities along the Mexican border. Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, across the border from El Paso, had icicles hanging from famous fountains and other landmarks. Tree limbs laden with ice snapped and brought down electrical lines in the San Antonio area, where as many 65,000 customers lost power at the height of the storm late Tuesday. More than 350 flights out of Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, San Antonio and Austin were cancelled as officials worked to de-ice runways. In addition to the fatalities in Oklahoma and Texas, the storm was blamed for nine deaths in Missouri, eight in Iowa, four each in New York

and Michigan, three in Arkansas and one each in Maine and Indiana. In Missouri, more than 128,000 homes and businesses were still waiting for power to be restored, but some residents were told the work could take several more days. More than 3,600 people sought relief from the cold at 85 shelters throughout the state.



INDONESIA

London, Jan 11 — A moderate undersea earthquake rattled parts of eastern Indonesia today, officials said, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries and little likely threat of tsunamis. The magnitude 5.9 quake was centered 102 kilometres west of Ambon in the Maluku Islands, the U.S. Geological Survey said in a statement. Indonesian government seismologist Bagio said that the quake was felt strongly in parts of the Maluku archipelago, but that there were no immediate reports of damage.

London, Jan 17 — A moderate earthquake rocked parts of Indonesia's Papua province today but there were no reports of any damage. The 5.9 magnitude quake hit 80 miles southwest of Jayapura, the provincial capital, the U.S. Geological Survey said on its web site.

JAPAN

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated Jan 16, states: A moderate earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.7 has jolted central Japan. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) says the quake, at 0318, local time, was also felt in Tokyo. There have been no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The JMA says the focus of the tremor was 170 kilometres below the surface of the earth, in Shizuoka prefecture, 150 kilometres west of Tokyo. The earthquake measured three on the Japanese intensity scale, which measures ground motion.

PACIFIC OCEAN

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Japan's Meteorological Agency issued tsunami warnings on Saturday (Jan 13) following a powerful 8.3-magnitude earthquake in the Pacific Ocean and officials ordered coastal residents to flee to higher ground. The agency said waves as high as 3.3-feet could hit the northeastern coast of Japan's northern island of Hokkaido around 1400, local time. The quake struck around 1324 about 310 miles east of the Etorofu islands between northern Japan and Russia, the agency said. There were no immediate report of injuries or damage from the quake. Local authorities along Hokkaido's coast ordered residents living along the

northern and eastern coasts of Japan's northern main island of Hokkaido to evacuate to higher ground. Hideo Suzuki, a municipal official for the town of Rausu, said he had not observed any visible change of the sea level as of around 1400, although the town has ordered all residents to evacuate. The US meteorological agency also registered a quake, but assessed its strength as 7.7.

Tokyo, Jan 13 — A small tsunami wave hit Japan's northernmost island today after a powerful north Pacific earthquake prompted tsunami warnings for northern Japan, Russia and a wide swathe of Japan's Pacific coast. A tsunami watch was also issued for a wide area of the Pacific, including Guam, Taiwan, the Philippines and Hawaii by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre in Hawaii, but there were no reports of injury or damage. A 10-cm wave was reported at Nemuro, on Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido, a little after 1500, local time (0600, UTC), NHK public television said. Officials said several harbour waters had drawn back slightly in what could be a precursor to a wave. There were no reports of injuries or damage, or more significant waves, as of 1545 hrs, but officials warned that larger waves could still arrive and evacuation advisories were issued for thousands of households. Japan's Meteorological Agency said that tsunami of as much as a metre in height could strike parts of Hokkaido and that smaller waves were likely to hit a large part of Japan's Pacific coastal areas from Hokkaido to Wakayama prefecture in western Japan on the largest main island of Honshu. The US Geological Survey put the quake magnitude at 7.9, a "major" tremor, and said its epicentre was 525 km east-north-east of Kuril'sk, Kurile islands, and 1,710 km north-east of Tokyo. Hokkaido officials urged residents to move to higher ground, and fire trucks made the rounds of coastal areas warning about the possibility of a tsunami. There was only moderate shaking in Hokkaido and no immediate reports of injury due to the quake. "We have cars going around the city telling people to evacuate," said Takahiro Yamamoto, an official with the Monbetsu city government, told NHK. An official in the Philippines said they had issued a tsunami alert "level one", which warned residents on the northern and eastern coastlines to wait for further information and possible evacuation. — Reuters.

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: Tsunami advisories were cancelled today in Alaska and Hawaii after officials determined waves from a powerful earthquake in the northern Pacific were too small to pose a threat. A tsunami of less than 4 inches was recorded Friday night (Jan 12) at Shemya, Alaska, at the western end of the Aleutians, the National Weather Service said. Alaska's tsunami warning, made after an 8.3-magnitude earthquake struck off Japan's

northern coast on Friday, prompted more than two dozen people on a remote Aleutian island to take refuge in an underground shelter.

TAIWAN

London, Jan 16 — Three weeks after a strong earthquake jolted sea areas south of the island of Taiwan, its impact is being felt by Internet users plagued by slow connectivity. It will take up to two weeks more to repair the undersea cables that were damaged, sources said yesterday. The original deadline was for them to be fully operational by yesterday. The quake, measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale, ruptured fiber-optic cables that cross the ocean floor south of Taiwan, affecting telecommunication traffic between the mainland and Taiwan, Hong Kong, the United States, Southeast Asia and Europe. Millions of people on the mainland are enduring slow Internet speeds after the quake. Referring to the earlier statement that repairs would be finished by the middle of this month, sources at China Telecom the country's largest telecom operator said that work was slow because of complicated undersea conditions. "We are informed that because of the intricate undersea conditions and capricious weather, the whole work might take a few more days to complete," an official from the public relations department of China Telecom said. "We are as anxious as most people, but the repair work is done by the other companies we commissioned," she said. China News Service quoted sources with China Netcom, the country's second largest telecom operator, as also saying that the repair might be completed by the end of this month. An AFP report attributed the slow repair to workers painstakingly dragging the seabed with old, time-tested technology. The report said crewmen on boats south of Taiwan are dragging the seabed with grappling hooks at the end of long ropes to recover cables about 4,000 metres down in the sea. The report quoted the general manager of one of the firms engaged in underwater repairs as saying that the whole process could take up to six weeks.

Volcanic Activity



MOUNT KARTHALA, COMOROS ISLANDS

Moroni, Jan 15 — Earth tremors from Comoros' Mount Karthala volcano weakened on Monday (Jan 15) but the archipelago's largest island remained on high alert, officials said. Strong tremors at the weekend forced thousands of nervous residents to sleep outside for fear their homes would collapse, after Mount Karthala, one of the world's largest active volcanoes, began glowing red and emitting fumes on Friday. Scientists

on Monday continued to record weak but constant tremors from the 2,361-metre volcano, which dominates the island of Grand Comore. — Reuters.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, Jan 16 — Thirteen insurgents were killed as NATO and government troops fought a series of clashes with Taliban in southern Afghanistan, the government said today. Violence in Afghanistan has eased off since winter set in but there have been several big clashes in the south and east in recent days. Two British members of the NATO force have been killed in fighting in Helmand province in recent days. NATO said a significant number of insurgents were killed in a series of clashes involving NATO air attacks in Helmand's Garmsher district yesterday. "ISAF is aware of a significant number of insurgent casualties but we are unable to confirm numbers," said a spokeswoman for NATO's International Security Assistance Force. Interior Ministry spokesman Zemarai Bashary said 13 Taliban were killed, including two local-level commanders. — Reuters.

BANGLADESH

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Caretaker president Iajuddin Ahmed has announced a state of emergency in Bangladesh after weeks of political crisis over elections due this month. A late night-early morning curfew (2300-0500 local time) is in force. A presidential address is due shortly. Weeks of violence have left more than 40 people dead. A major alliance of parties is boycotting the election because it says it is being rigged. Earlier today, the UN and EU withdrew support for the disputed vote. Sate television said the curfew affected more than 60 cities and towns across Bangladesh. UN statement: "The president has declared a state of emergency and a curfew has been imposed daily from 2300 to 0500 hrs," it reported. "The president will address the nation over television and radio tonight." Hours earlier, the UN and the EU said they were suspending assistance for the Jan 22 general election. The EU said conditions for a credible vote did not exist and its observers would leave Bangladesh by Sunday night. The alliance led by the Awami League is refusing to take part, claiming the electoral register is incomplete, inaccurate and biased in favour of its bitter rival, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) which left office in October. But the caretaker government insists the constitution does not allow it to suspend the election. The BNP rejects the allegations of bias and says it and its allies will take part in the vote.

BOLIVIA

La Paz, Jan 11 — One person was killed and about 50 were injured in Bolivia today during clashes between protesters demanding the resignation of the governor of the Cochabamba region and his supporters, local media reported. Fighting broke out when supporters of Gov. Manfredo Reyes Villa entered the center of Cochabamba city, which had been occupied since Monday (Jan 8) by thousands of protesters wielding sticks and stones and demanding he step down. Reyes Villa is at odds with Bolivia's leftist government over his plans to call a referendum on regional autonomy. The protests against him are organized by supporters of President Evo Morales. State-owned television network TV7 said a pro-Morales demonstrator was killed during the clashes. It was not immediately clear how he was killed. Local radio Erbol reported that police were trying to break up the protest with tear gas. Thousands of Morales supporters gathered in the main square of Cochabamba, 275 miles east of La Paz, today, hours before supporters of Reyes Villa entered the city, also armed with batons and rocks, local media reported. — Reuters.

CHAD

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: Rebels opposing the government in Chad say they have captured a town in the north-east of the country, inflicting heavy casualties on government forces. The Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD) said its forces attacked the town of Ounianga Kebir at dawn today. Chad's government disputed the rebel statement, playing down the clashes. Chadian rebels launched a campaign last year aimed at overthrowing President Idriss Deby. A spokesman for the rebels said the UFDD attacked as part of an effort to broaden the offensive against the government. "We have been obliged to open several fronts," said Makaila Nguebla, from the Senegalese capital, Dakar. "It is a military strategy, we are trying to generalise the conflict across the national territory so as to stretch the government forces." Chad's Communication Minister, Hourmadji Moussa Doumgor, confirmed only that "some armed men" had briefly occupied Ounianga Kebir. They then retreated towards the Sudanese border, the minister said. The desert town of Ounianga Kebir lies about 900km north-east of Chad's capital N'Djamena. The UFDD unsuccessfully tried to capture N'Djamena last April, with a coalition of rebel groups. One of those groups (the United Front for Democratic Change) signed a peace accord with Mr Deby three weeks ago. The UN says about 90,000 Chadians have been displaced by recent fighting.

GREECE

London, Jan 12 — Attackers have fired a rocket at the US embassy compound in the centre of the Greek capital, Athens. The rocket, fired from

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street level into the front of the embassy, caused minor damage to the building but no-one was injured. The US envoy condemned the “very serious attack”, as fire engines and police cordoned off the area. Greece’s Public Order Minister Vyron Polydoros said it was “very likely” a domestic group was behind the attack. He said police were investigating claims that a left-wing radical group, Revolutionary Struggle, was responsible. The blast was reported in the early morning at the embassy, which is on one of the main boulevards in Athens. Police said a rocket was fired at the US eagle emblem at the front of the building. “A self-propelled explosive was fired at 0358, GMT, from the surrounding area, causing minor damage to the front windows and the roof,” a statement from the Greek public order ministry said. The rocket landed in a toilet on the third floor of the building, which also houses Ambassador Charles Ries’s office. “I am treating this as a very serious attack,” Mr Ries said. “The embassy was attacked in a senseless act of violence.” Mr Ries said the reliability of any claims of responsibility would have to be assessed. Television pictures showed a mass of emergency vehicles and stationary traffic outside the embassy as the area was sealed off.

IRAQ

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A suicide car bomber slammed into an Iraqi army patrol in the northern city of Mosul today, killing seven people and wounding 28, police said. At least 16 people were killed in bombings and shootings across Iraq, mostly outside Baghdad. The violence came as Iraqi and American forces prepared a new military offensive to pacify the Iraqi capital by cleansing it of militiamen and other sectarian killers that threaten to divide the country. The biggest bombing occurred during evening rush hour in the al-Arabi neighbourhood of Mosul, some 225 miles northwest of Baghdad. Two Iraqi soldiers were among the dead, and some houses and shops were damaged by the blast, said Ninevah police Brig. Abdul Karim al-Jubouri. He said the army patrol had stopped near an office of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, or KDP, which is headed by the president of Iraq’s autonomous Kurdish region, Massoud Barzani. Also in Mosul, two gasoline black market vendors were killed in a drive-by shooting, another police official said. The attackers tossed a leaflet saying they would punish anyone selling fuel on the black market, the official said on condition of anonymity because of security concerns. An off-duty policeman was also shot to death south of Mosul, said Ninevah police Brig. Abdul Karim Khalaf. At least three bombs went off across Baghdad, Iraqi officials said, including one in which a suicide attacker drove into an Iraqi army checkpoint and killed four soldiers. Another three soldiers were wounded, and the explosion set fire to

two military vehicles. A roadside bomb targeted a police car in southeastern Baghdad, killing three policemen and wounding two others, a police official said. That attack occurred during morning rush hour near a gas station in the Rustomiyah neighbourhood of Iraq’s capital. Another roadside bomb injured two policemen and two civilians, police said.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion outside a Baghdad university as students were heading home for the day killed at least 65 people on Tuesday (Jan 16), in the deadliest of several attacks on predominantly Shiite areas. The attack came on a day the United Nations said more than 34,000 Iraqi civilians died last year in sectarian violence. Attacks in Baghdad, the university explosion, blasts at a marketplace for used motorcycles and a drive-by shooting, came as at least 109 people were killed or found dead nationwide in what appeared to be a final spasm of violence ahead of an imminent security operation by the Iraqi government and US forces to secure the capital. The violence also came a day after the Iraqi government hanged two of Saddam Hussein’s henchmen in an execution that left many of the ousted leader’s fellow Sunni Muslims seething after one of the accused, the ousted leader’s half brother, was decapitated on the gallows. Tuesday’s deadliest attacks took place in primarily Shiite neighbourhoods and appeared to be the work of Sunnis, who largely make up the insurgency targeting the Iraqi government and US forces.

London, Jan 17 — A suicide car bomb struck a market today in the Shiite district of Sadr City, killing 13 people and wounding 20, police said, a day after a blast targeting university students killed 70 in what appeared to be a renewed campaign of Sunni insurgent violence against Shiite targets. The explosion occurred at 1555 hrs near the outdoor Mereidi market, one of the neighbourhood’s most popular commercial centres, police said, giving the casualty toll.

NIGERIA

Yenagoa, Jan 12 — Nine South Korean oil workers abducted from an oil services base in Nigeria’s southern delta were freed unharmed today after three days in captivity, a government spokesman said. On Wednesday (Jan 10), gunmen in six boats invaded the riverside base in Bayelsa state and kidnapped the nine men after blowing up part of an office building. “The Korean hostages have been released,” a spokesman for the Bayelsa state government said. “They were released unharmed this evening and they have been handed over to their employers.” The nine were working for South Korea’s Daewoo Engineering and Construction, which is working on a pipeline project in Bayelsa state, when they were kidnapped apparently for ransom. Their abduction happened less than a week after five Chinese telecom

workers were kidnapped for ransom in another area of the lawless delta. They are yet to be released. Three Italians and one Lebanese employed by Italian oil company Agip have been held hostage since December 7 in the delta by the militant Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta. The group, which says it is fighting for local control of oil assets and reparations for neglect and pollution, was responsible for a wave of attacks on the oil industry last February that shut down over 500,000 barrels per day in output. But it said it was not responsible for the kidnap of the Koreans and the Chinese. — Reuters.

Port Harcourt, Jan 15 — Unknown gunmen killed four community chiefs in a remote part of Nigeria’s oil-producing Niger Delta, kidnapping eight others who were travelling in the same boat, police said today. A police spokeswoman in Port Harcourt, the delta’s main city, said the chiefs and the other travellers were from a community called Kula, in the coastal area of Rivers state, and it was unclear why they had come under attack in the creeks. “Four chiefs were killed, eight others were taken away and two were left with bullet wounds,” said the spokeswoman. It was unclear what prompted the attack. A militant group fighting for local control over oil assets has been holding captive three Italians and one Lebanese employed by Italian oil firm Agip since December 7, in another part of the delta. Five Chinese telecom workers are also being held hostage in Rivers state after they were kidnapped for ransom on January 5. — Reuters.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Royal Dutch Shell evacuated staff from two oil installations in southern Nigeria and the military boosted troop levels in the volatile area Tuesday (Jan 16) after community clashes left a dozen community chiefs dead, officials said. Bisi Ojediran, a spokesman for Shell PLC, said only a skeleton crew remained at the two evacuated pipeline hubs in the Niger Delta region, a vast area of mangrove swamps where Nigeria, Africa’s largest producer, pumps all its crude oil. Production had not been affected by the fighting, which Ojediran characterized as a community fight. He gave no details of how many staff were evacuated. “This seems to be an inter-community problem and not a direct attack on the oil company by militants,” he said. Irejua Barasua, a spokeswoman for police in Rivers state where the attack took place, said that 12 chiefs were killed overnight Sunday when unknown assailants attacked their boat.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated Jan 16, states: Two oil workers - a Nigerian and a Dutch national - have been killed in an attack in Nigeria’s Delta region, security sources say. Gunmen attacked a vessel operated by the South Korean firm Hyundai, near an oil export complex at Bonny Island. Several others were reported wounded in a gun battle. No

group so far has said it carried out the attack. Reports say at least six people were wounded in the attack on the boat transporting oil workers between Bonny Island and the city of Port Harcourt. The Bonny Island complex produces some 400,000 barrels of oil for export each day and about 20 million tonnes per year of liquefied natural gas. The government says instability in the Delta cost some \$4.4bn last year.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A Nigerian militant group holding three Italian oil workers hostage said Wednesday (Jan 17) it was negotiating for their release with a state government in the restive southern region. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, which has launched crippling attacks against the energy industry in Africa's oil giant in recent months, also said it played no part in a deadly attack Tuesday in southern Nigeria. An e-mail from the group was its first indication of contact with the government concerning the Italians, who were seized Dec 7. The group said it had engaged the Bayelsa state government in talks aimed at "securing the release of the hostages." The group gave no other details. A Lebanese worker taken in the same attack wasn't mentioned. Bayelsa officials weren't immediately available for comment. Five Chinese have also been taken by unknown assailants.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: The Italian Foreign Ministry says militants in Nigeria have released an Italian oil worker seized last month from a terminal in the Niger Delta. Two of his Italian colleagues who were kidnapped at the same time remain in captivity, as does a Lebanese man. A militant group called the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (Mend) said it had released Italian Roberto Dieghi as a goodwill gesture. Mr Dieghi was handed over to a Bayelsa state government delegation at around 0100 hrs, (0000, UTC) today, the militants said. Mend denied that his release was linked to his poor health, calling it "an act of goodwill on our part which we hope will be reciprocated by the Nigerian government". No discussions were going on concerning the remaining men, who would be held "indefinitely", a statement from the group said. The men are all employees of Italian oil firm Agip.

PAKISTAN

Islamabad, Jan 16 — Pakistan army air strike on a militant camp near the Afghan border today killed around 20 fighters in a tribal area regarded as a hotbed of support for the Taliban and al-Qaeda, according to intelligence officials. "The operation was carried out at around 0655 hrs in Zamzola in South Waziristan, based on information that 25 to 30 miscreants, including foreigners, were present there," Major General Shaukat Sultan, Pakistan's military spokesman, said. The attack came hours after US

Defence Secretary Robert Gates arrived in Kabul for talks with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, and follows comments by senior US officials putting pressure on Pakistan to do more to stop Taliban fighters crossing the border to fight Afghan, NATO and US forces. Sultan said there was a precision air strike on a cluster of five mud-walled compounds, of which three were completely destroyed, and helicopter gunships mopped up. "Our ground forces didn't participate in the operation and dead bodies and wounded were retrieved by locals," Sultan said. Fighters loyal to a pro-Taliban militant leader called Baitullah Mehsud were housed and trained at the compounds, according to intelligence officials. Mehsud's fate was unknown. Based on intelligence gathered, the military spokesman said eight fighters were killed and 10 were wounded. Intelligence officials from two different agencies said the death toll was more like 20, though they confirmed that of the corpses found so far five were Afghans and the other three belonged to men of the Mehsud tribe. — Reuters.

Karachi, Jan 17 — Pakistan state owned gas utility - Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) said this morning that some unknown terrorists have blown up gas pipeline near Khairpur, in Sindh Province yesterday. In a statement, a spokesman of SSGC said a 16-inch diameter SSGC's Indus Left bank Pipeline (ILBP) was ruptured due to powerful explosions near Rattar Village, Tehsil Faiz Gung, District Khairpur (Sindh). The incident occurred at 50 km downstream Sukkur towards Karachi at about 2020, yesterday. The pipeline was carrying 20 mmcf of natural gas from Nawab Shah to Sukkur City and en route town and villages. About 30 feet long piece of pipeline was damaged abruptly. An emergency crew of SSGC engineers and technicians reached the site of the explosion, to carry out the repair work immediately. The gas supply to Industrial Customers and CNG Stations was immediately stopped to maintain the domestic supplies for maximum period. The repair work is expected to be completed by today's evening. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, Jan 17 — The Philippines said today that troops had killed the top planner of the country's most deadly Islamic militant group in a clash at a rebel jungle camp in the south-west. Abu Sulaiman, one of the top five leaders of the Abu Sayyaf militant group and who is believed to have links with al-Qaeda, was killed in a gunbattle yesterday on the island of Jolo, military chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon told reporters. "We are confident that with the death of Sulaiman, who is actually the number one planner, most of the activities of the Abu Sayyaf will continue to go down," Esperon said. Late last month, the military said Abu Sayyaf chief Khaddafy Janjalani might have been

killed in September and sent tissue from a decomposing body found on Jolo for forensic tests. "The DNA tests results are not yet with us," Esperon said. "We are told they should be coming in within the week. If both have been killed, it will be a significant success for the Philippines. — Reuters.

Manila, Jan 18 — U.S.-trained Philippine soldiers killed 10 Islamic rebels in fresh fighting in the south today as President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo vowed to put down the militants "with a hand of steel". Lieutenant-Colonel Ariel Caculitan, a Marine spokesman, said 10 Abu Sayyaf militants and three soldiers were killed in a hour-long gunbattle on the island of Jolo, where most of the militant group has taken shelter. Two rebels were captured. About 100 U.S. military advisers are on Jolo to provide intelligence and training to the 7,000 Philippine troops combating the Abu Sayyaf, the most deadly militant group in the country. The group, allied to the regional Jemaah Islamiah, is accused of deadly bomb attacks and kidnapping and beheading tourists, including Westerners. It was the latest success reported by the military against Abu Sayyaf. — Reuters.

SOMALIA

Mogadiscio, Jan 12 — Militiamen clashed today outside talks to try and bring peace to Somalia, where a charity said anti-Islamist air raids had hit the wrong people and killed 70 herdsmen. President Abdullahi Yusuf, in the capital Mogadiscio after driving out Islamists with Ethiopian help, was talking to former warlords at his compound to try and bury past differences when his government guards and warlord militiamen clashed. A government spokesman said armed followers of two warlords had tried to force their way inside Villa Somalia. "Fighting ensued. It went on for nearly four minutes," he said. Two militiamen were killed and four wounded, he added, while a government security source said up to nine may have died. The British-based aid agency Oxfam said today that air raids to pursue the Islamists as they fled south in recent days had mistakenly targeted nomadic herdsmen, killing 70 of them. The Washington Post reported today that a small team of US military personnel entered south Somalia after their air strike Monday (Jan 8) to try and determine who was killed. — Reuters.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated Jan 15, states: Somalia's main broadcasters have been ordered to close, shortly after the interim president set up a new team to end the "chaos" in the capital. Three top Somali radio stations and al-Jazeera TV are affected. They have been ordered to appear before the national security agency. A policeman was killed and a convoy of government and Ethiopian troops attacked in overnight violence. The policeman was killed when unknown gunmen opened fire on

a police station in the north-eastern Hurwa district. The president returned to Mogadishu last week, after Islamists were routed. "The city is in chaos. It's not safe," he said, as he appointed a mayor, Adde Gabow, and three other officials to run the city. President Abdullahi Yusuf was elected at peace talks two years ago but has been powerless until Ethiopian forces helped drive out Islamists. Meanwhile, there are unconfirmed reports that senior Islamist leaders may have been arrested after crossing the border into Kenya. Local sources reported that explosions could be heard in many areas of the city overnight. It is not clear who is behind these and other attacks but the Islamists vowed to launch a guerrilla war, as they fled the Ethiopian advance. Many armed Islamists are thought to have remained in the capital in hiding. The violence comes as an African Union delegation is in the city to discuss the deployment of peacekeepers. Ethiopia says it wants its forces to pull out within weeks. Over the weekend, the regional body, Igad, sent envoys to seven African countries, asking them to contribute to a proposed 8,000-strong peacekeeping force - Rwanda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola, Zambia, Tunisia and Algeria. So far only Uganda has offered troops - 1,500 - although it needs parliamentary approval. African leaders are concerned about becoming bogged down in a quagmire.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Somali gunmen battled government and Ethiopian troops in Mogadishu's heaviest fighting since the ouster of hardline Islamists last month as the fledgling administration silenced four broadcasters yesterday for allegedly fomenting unrest. At least two people died in a gunbattle between rebels and Islamists in southern Mogadishu, the Islamists' traditional stronghold, while a policeman was gunned down when a gang raided a cache of weapons he was guarding. The deaths underscored the scale of the task facing President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed's weak interim government, which was only able to supplant the Islamists with the aid of the Ethiopians. As many Somalis seethe at the presence of Ethiopian troops on their streets, Addis Adaba tried to explain its intervention to other African states and urge them to help make a planned peacekeeping force a reality. Witnesses said rockets and mortar shells were used in the overnight battle. The exchanges dragged on for up to an hour before a joint force of government troops and Ethiopian soldiers brought the situation under control. In the second incident, gunmen raided a nearby police station in Huriwa neighbourhood, gunning down an officer and stealing three rifles. Ethiopian troops and tanks then arrived, sealing off the area and searching houses for weapons. Parliament approved the imposition of

martial law at the weekend, giving the security forces wide-ranging powers. In a sign of the government's willingness to flex its muscles, it ordered the Qatar-based satellite television network Al-Jazeera and Mogadishu radio stations Shabelle Radio, Radio HornAfrik and Voice of the Koran radio off the air.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated Jan 16, states: Several unnamed African countries have offered to contribute troops to a Somali peacekeeping force, the leaders of Ethiopia and Kenya have said. In Somalia, Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Ghedi named five countries as agreeing to send troops and said he expected them to be in place this month. Only Uganda has publicly offered to contribute to the proposed 8,000-strong peacekeeping force. Ethiopia wants to pull its soldiers out of Somalia within weeks. They recently helped government forces oust Islamists who controlled much of southern Somalia, including the capital, Mogadishu. In a briefing to parliament, Mr Ghedi named the countries who had agreed to send troops as: Uganda; Nigeria; South Africa; Malawi and Senegal. Over the weekend, the regional body, Igad, sent envoys to seven African countries, asking them to contribute to a proposed 8,000-strong peacekeeping force. Meanwhile, Somalia's main broadcasters have been allowed to resume operations a day after they were banned. The reversal follows a meeting between media executives from three radio stations and the interim government. Al-Jazeera TV can also resume work. The government had said the stations were instigating violence, amid accusations they were biased in favour of the ousted Islamist group. In Somaliland, large demonstrations have been held after interim Somali President Abdullahi Yusuf said he views the breakaway region as part of Somalia. Somaliland declared independence from Somalia after the overthrow of dictator Siad Barre in 1991, since when the country has been without an effective national government. For years Somaliland has been campaigning to win support for its claim to be a sovereign state and many Somalilanders, who have escaped much of the chaos and violence that have plagued Somalia, are fiercely opposed to any talk of reuniting with their lawless neighbour.

SRI LANKA

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: At least nine soldiers and two policemen have been killed in fresh violence in Sri Lanka, military officials said today. The pro-rebel Tamilnet web site quoted a Tamil Tiger spokesman as saying that 12 of their fighters have been killed. The army said that four soldiers were killed and many others injured in a pre-emptive strike against the Tamil Tiger rebels in the eastern region. Another five soldiers were killed in a mine blast in the town of Vavuniya.

Earlier military officials say that two policemen were killed in a separate blast in the northern town. The army says that 30 Tigers have been killed and many more injured in the fighting in the east. Tamilnet said that, as well as the 12 dead Tamil Tigers, seven other rebels had been wounded. Military spokesman Upali Rajapakse told the BBC Tamil service that troops were "consolidating their positions" after this morning's offensive which involved air attacks. He said that the army was forced to take action following heavy rebel mortar fire, and captured two villages from them. Maj Rajapakse said that 15 soldiers injured in the fighting were being treated in nearby hospitals.

SUDAN

Khartoum, Jan 16 — Sudanese government aircraft bombed Darfur rebel areas today despite a declared truce, rebels said. "The Antonovs bombed our areas of Amrai and Anka," Darfur rebel commander Jar el-Neby said from North Darfur, near the affected areas. He said it was not immediately clear whether any civilians were killed. An army spokesman denied the bombing. "No Sudanese aircraft have moved in Darfur or in Chad in the past two days," he said. Chadian officials yesterday said Sudanese military aircraft had violated Chad's air space. — Reuters.

THAILAND

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Two bombs planted by suspected Muslim insurgents damaged a bridge and disrupted rail traffic in parts of southern Thailand today, officials said. No injuries were reported. A bomb exploded on rail tracks running through the Rangae district of Narathiwat province, leaving the tracks intact but prompting about an hour's delay as security personnel inspected the area for more bombs, said Montakan Sriwilas, a spokeswoman for the State Railway of Thailand. Train services resumed around 1000, local time, (0300, UTC). He said authorities believe insurgents were behind the blast. Another bomb exploded before dawn at the foot of a bridge in the Bajor district of Narathiwat province, causing minor damage, police said. Separately, one soldier was killed and five others injured in a bombing in nearby Pattani province Sunday night (Jan 14).

TURKEY

Tunceli, Jan 15 — Turkish soldiers killed two Kurdish guerrillas in a clash in south-east Turkey as the troops sought out rebels preparing winter hideouts in the region, a military official said today. The two militants from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) died in a firefight yesterday in the district of Lice, near Diyarbakir, the largest city in the region. A day earlier, one PKK fighter was killed and one soldier was

wounded in a clash in the neighbouring mountainous province of Bingol. — Reuters.

Labour Disputes



CYPRUS

Limassol, Jan 17 — Road Hauliers are on strike for outstanding demands since Jan 15 until Jan 18. Negotiations with the Cyprus Government and trade unions are carried out to solve the problem. As a result no cargo is being delivered at Limassol and Larnaca ports. At present vessels are working normally. — Lloyd's Agents.

FRANCE

London, Jan 12 — A strike by French Eurotunnel workers demanding higher pay has slowed traffic through the Channel tunnel and created hours-long delays for vehicles using the link. "It's difficult to say how many strikers there are, but there are strikers, that's clear," a spokesperson for the tunnel operator said today. The number of rail shuttles transporting vehicles between France and Britain had been cut from three to two per hour, resulting in trucks stuck in lines stretching several kilometres as they waited up to five hours to board. The separate Eurostar passenger train service was unaffected. Philippe Vanderbec, a representative of one of the three unions organising the strike, warned that "we are headed towards a tough strike situation" because of negotiations that stalled overnight. The workers are demanding a three percent pay rise and the reimbursement of company-based savings accounts scrapped in a restructuring plan forced by Eurotunnel's crippling 9.1-billion euro debt.

GUINEA

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Soldiers and police patrolled against looters in Conakry yesterday as a general strike called to protest against the rule of President Lansana Conte gripped the West African country for a second day. The indefinite stoppage, the third nationwide labour protest called by unions in a year, got under way on Wednesday (Jan 10), shutting schools, shops and markets across the country. But the strike has not yet seriously affected bauxite production in Guinea. Nevertheless, union leaders were talking with their colleagues in the bauxite industry about the possibility of trying to escalate the strike action to this strategic sector from Monday, an industry official said. In Conakry, where markets, shops, schools and most government offices remained closed, soldiers and police patrolled the streets and guarded major cross-roads and the city's main prison and

military barracks, witnesses said. One of the few government offices showing signs of activity was the city's customs headquarters. The latest stoppage has been relatively peaceful so far, although police said they intercepted would-be looters who tried to break into a rice store in the Matoto neighbourhood. "Our strike call has been completely backed by our supporters, especially in the interior," union negotiator Ousmane Souare said.

Conakry, Jan 15 — Police in Guinea fired shots in the air and tear gas today in clashes with protesters who threw stones and burned tyres in the capital on the sixth day of a general strike in the West African country, police said. They said the protests by groups of youths, who also trashed cars and tried to break into a police station to steal firearms, broke out in at least four neighbourhoods of Conakry in defiance of an official ban on public demonstrations. — Reuters.

Conakry, Jan 15 — After a day of violence during which security forces clashed with protestors in several Conakry suburbs, union leaders this evening presented Guinean President Lansana Conte with an ultimatum to either reform his government or face mass nationwide demonstrations. The National Confederation of Guinean Workers (CNTG) and the Guinean Workers Union (USTG), which last Wednesday (Jan 10) called an indefinite and widely observed national strike, met with Conte and demanded he hand over all his presidential powers, name a new prime minister, and authorise that person to name a new government, according to a senior union leader who attended the meeting. The unions said the new candidate should not come from the military, which is still effectively headed by Conte, a former colonel now in his 70's who seized power in 1984 in a coup. "We asked the president to nominate a new prime minister and give him power to run the country because we now know the president's health has deteriorated and he is no longer in charge of the day to day administration of the state," said the union official, who requested anonymity. The ultimatum marks a serious turn in the small, impoverished country led by Conte, one of the region's longest-serving rulers. Ibrahima Fofana, secretary general of the USTG, confirmed that the union had demanded that Conte change the government and warned the unions would mobilise widespread protests if Conte refuses to act by tomorrow. "If the president doesn't respect the proposition, he is inviting a general movement and we will invite all Guineans to actively participate in demonstrations," Fofana said. The unions' demand and ultimatum marks a significant shift from their policy in two other strikes in the capital, Conakry, last year of backing away from calling for protests. The unions have won support throughout Guinea, and the strike action has shut down almost all business and activity in

most towns and cities. The union ultimatum follows a day of clashes between Guineans and state security services in some of Conakry's poorest suburbs. Intermittent automatic weapons fire was heard in the Matoto, Hambaleye, Koloma and Bambeto Cosa districts of Conakry from around 1000 hrs, onwards after armed police, gendarmes and the Guinean military moved in to fight stone throwing youths who had set up makeshift barricades of burning tyres. Fighting had died down by midday but there were dozens of tear gas canisters, bullet casings and stones littering the streets after the clashes. There were no reports of dead or wounded, and witnesses said the police were mostly shooting above the heads of people in the crowds. Local residents nonetheless accused the gendarmes and police of using excessive force, breaking into houses and stealing food, money and mobile phones. The police commissariat in Conakry refused to comment on the accusations of excessive force this afternoon. Leaders of Guinea's political opposition called last week for a campaign of peaceful civil opposition to start today, backed by the unions, and two NGOs had also planned to hold peaceful protests in Conakry despite a government order against demonstrations. The ensuing violent protests today were not backed by any of the strike co-ordinators or unions. Yesterday, police briefly arrested 12 members of the National Council of Civil Society Organisations (CNOSCG) youth organisation, one of the groups that had planned the peaceful protest. CNOSCG members said the 12 were discovered making placards to carry. Organisers subsequently cancelled today's peaceful demonstration, which had been expected to take the form of a prayer meeting. At least another 80 people from throughout Conakry were arrested yesterday, diplomatic sources said. "Everyone who was arrested overstepped the bounds of the strike because they attacked the police and tried to break into shops. They will face justice," said a police official who identified himself as Superintendent Mansare on Guinean national radio this afternoon. — Reuters.

Conakry, Jan 16 — Police and youths clashed in Guinea's capital for a second day today after supporters of a week-long general strike aimed at ousting President Lansana Conte defied a ban on protests. Later, in a televised statement read on his behalf by the speaker of the National Assembly, Conte offered to slash fuel prices, halt food exports, improve teachers' pay and tackle police corruption. Union leaders dismissed Conte's offer at a stormy meeting in Conakry and voted to step up their action with nationwide protests tomorrow. Witnesses reported shots fired in two neighbourhoods of the impoverished capital Conakry and said police officers chased protesters into family homes before arresting them. "They're arresting anyone and everyone and then demanding money

from the families who come to seek their release," said one witness, who asked not to be named. Yesterday unions presented the president with a letter calling on him to hand over the running of the country to a civilian prime minister at the head of a unity government. In his statement Conte appealed for a return to work. "I call on the unions, and on Guinea's men and women to go back to work," said the statement read by Aboubacar Sompore. "Now is not the time for division." "We received a copy of this document and it provoked our anger because it is unacceptable," union leader Ousmane Souare told Reuters. "Now we are going to go out onto the streets because (Conte) has shown contempt for the working class." If the strike is not resolved, union bosses have also threatened to shut down from Thursday (Jan 18) Guinea's bauxite and alumina industry, the main source of national income in a country where most of the population live in poverty. Guinea is the world's single biggest exporter of bauxite ore. The strikers' call for Conte to step aside in favour of a consensus government included a demand he dismiss his powerful right-hand man Fode Bangoura and other ministers. — Reuters.

Conakry, Jan 17 — Workers at Guinea's national bauxite company CBG today halted production in support of a general strike aimed at ousting President Lansana Conte, a senior company official said. "The union leaders held a meeting with everybody ... and told them to stop ... the production line has been halted," the Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinee (CBG) official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters. Guinea is the world's biggest exporter of bauxite ore from which aluminium is extracted. — Reuters.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Police in Guinea arrested union leaders and broke up a protest march in the capital today as a week-long general strike aimed at ousting President Lansana Conte disrupted the country's strategic bauxite production. For the third day running, there were clashes in Conakry as riot police fired tear gas and warning shots to block a march in the city centre by strike supporters, witnesses said. Some strike leaders were arrested and at least one was injured. Late yesterday, Conte offered some concessions to the strikers, saying he was ready to slash fuel prices, halt food exports, improve teachers' pay and tackle police corruption. But strike leaders dismissed this and ordered protest marches in defiance of an official ban on public demonstrations. Witnesses said protesters scattered in central Conakry as police broke up the union march.

Conakry, Jan 17 — At least three people were killed in demonstrations against Guinean president Lansana Conte that rocked Conakry and several provincial towns today, and a late evening meeting between strike

leaders and the president failed to bring an end to the crisis. Guinea's powerful unions called a nationwide strike a week ago. A meeting late today between union leaders and president Conte ended acrimoniously, according to Rabiadou Serah Diallo, head of the National Confederation of Guinean Workers (CNTG) union. — Reuters.

SOUTH KOREA

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Unionised workers at Hyundai Motor ended their strike yesterday after agreeing with management to fulfill last year's production target, missed due to union strikes and their refusal to work overtime. The union accepted the company's proposal for a 50% year-end bonus when it meets the target, ending 21 days of labor disputes. However concerns are mounting that management again abandoned its principles in dealing with the union, as the automaker agreed to pay the bonus that it cut last year. The company said the bonus of W40 billion will be paid when workers fulfill the production loss, expected to happen in late February if employees work overtime. Production losses at the nation's top automaker total 50,000 units, including 28,700 carried over from last year's unmet target and 21,600 caused by the recent strike and refusal to work overtime. Hyundai Motor estimates the loss at around W820 billion. The two sides agreed to discuss the issue of a W1 billion lawsuit the company filed against the union and its 26 leaders for compensation as well as another suit against 22 union members for alleged violence at a company New Year's ceremony. Meanwhile, Lee Hun-koo, a former leader of the union, was arrested yesterday by the Ulsan prosecutor's office on charges of taking W200 million from Hyundai Motor executives to end a 2003 strike.



BIRRONG, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

Sydney, Jan 17 — A 24-wagon QR National general freight train, travelling south from Sydney to Melbourne, derailed at Birrong, 22 km west of the Sydney CBD last night. One of two locomotives pulling the train flipped on its side at 2245 hrs, causing a fuel 6,000-litre tank to rupture, spilling diesel onto the tracks. The freight train was not carrying dangerous goods, a QR spokeswoman said. One locomotive was fully derailed while the second remained upright. The wagons and their cargo were not damaged and had been removed from the site, she said. The fire brigade contained the leak and declared the site safe. The drivers

were not injured, but were taken to the local hospital for assessment. Minor delays were expected on the Bankstown, Inner West and South lines as commuter trains were slowed down around the derailment site. QR was conducting an investigation into the derailment, the spokeswoman said. New South Wales Government investigators were also onsite. QR would not speculate on the cause of the derailment until the investigations were completed. The recovery operation has already begun and, at this stage, it is expected repairs will be completed by the weekend. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

DENVER, COLORADO, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A coal train derailed in Denver Pictures from SkyFox Wednesday showed at least 17 cars off the tracks, and several work crews off-loading coal from the cars, and scooping spilled coal from the ground. SkyFox Pilot Rob Marshall reported that the train had Burlington Northern markings on it. The derailment did not disrupt automobile traffic. Rob Marshall said that trains were able to move along the tracks in both directions at the site of the accident. Rail cars were crumpled and twisted, and coal was spilled over a large area.

EAST ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: The clean-up continues in East Rochester after a train derailment Tuesday night (Jan 16) in a residential neighbourhood. Just before 1900 Tuesday night, thirteen rail cars came off the tracks on the South Lincoln Road overpass. The CSX freight train was travelling at about 60 miles per hour, which is the speed limit in the village. Fortunately, no injuries have been reported. The cars ended up in backyards and cars parked along the side of the road were hit. Investigators from the Federal Railroad Administration are searching for a cause. The tracks were inspected just yesterday during a routine inspection. The CSX train was travelling to Syracuse from Buffalo. It was not carrying any hazardous material.

IRVINE, KENTUCKY, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Two trains wrecked near Irvine, Kentucky Monday morning (Jan 15) causing a derailment, fire, and a Hazmat situation. There are no reports of injuries at this time. However, a plume of noxious gas is said to be moving northeast in the area. Residents are asked to stay indoors and turn off ventilation systems. Buddy Rogers with Kentucky Emergency Management confirms one rail car is on fire. They say the car contains the chemical Butyl Acetate. Emergency Management and State

Fire Marshall's officials are on the way. Apparently, it all started when four cars got loose from the Winchester train yard and rolled towards Irvine where another train was leaving. The two collided and derailed. There are reports that hazardous chemicals were onboard the train and that the car is now on fire. There are some reports that the cars are leaking chemicals. One viewer has reported that the fire has spread to a nearby building. Fire officials say the fire is located next to Carhartt Plant in Irvine.

JAVA PROVINCE, INDONESIA

London, Jan 16 — At least five people were killed and over 270 others wounded after one of the railroad passenger cars of a train skidded off on a bridge and plunged into a ravine in Indonesia's central Java province today, a police officer said. The train on route Solo of the province to Jakarta slid after midnight today and felt down into the seven-metre deep ravine in Banyumas regency, said a police office of the regency named only Sunaryo. "Five people were killed and 270 others injured after the railroad coach number three was separated from the others coaches while the train was on the bridge," he told Xinhua on telephone from the regency. All the victims have been admitted to some hospitals in the regency, said Sunaryo.

JHARKHAND STATE, INDIA

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: The engine and three bogies of a cargo train fell into a river in central Indian state Jharkhand today, said a senior railway official. The cargo train laden with coal was crossing a railway bridge over a river in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district when its engine and three of its wagons jumped off the rails and fell into the river, said Dinesh Kumar, Additional Divisional Railway Manager of Dhanbad Division, contacted by Xinhua over phone. Both the driver and guard were rescued safely, Kumar said. The derailment has disrupted local railway traffic.

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from a freight train accident in Jharkhand has risen to six following the recovery of three more bodies today, police said. Parts of a goods train ferrying coal fell into a river yesterday evening from a bridge near Heheragaha railway station in Latehar district. The train was going to Panipat in Haryana from Khelari in Jharkhand. The dead include an eight-year-old boy. The accident disrupted train services on the route.

LOUISVILLE AREA, KENTUCKY, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Several train cars, including at least one carrying liquid propane gas, derailed and exploded south of Louisville today, shutting

down a nearby highway and forcing evacuations of homes, businesses and a school, authorities said. There were no immediate reports of injuries from the wreck that occurred about 0850, EST, said Kentucky State Police dispatcher Joey Mattingly. The cause was under investigation. CSX Corp. spokesman Gary Sease said the fire produced a massive column of black smoke in the mostly rural area. Television footage showed several blazing cars stacked across the rail lines and flaming liquid flowing down ditches from the mangled tanker cars. Sease said the train, with four locomotives and 80 cars, was headed to Louisville from Birmingham, Ala. At least three cars carried liquid propane gas, he said. Forty-one cars were loaded with freight and the rest were empty, he said. The immediate area, including Brooks Elementary School, was evacuated, said state police Maj. Lisa Rudzinsky. She did not give the radius of the affected area, which has a mixture of residential, industrial and rural properties. Authorities also shut down an 18-mile stretch of Interstate 65, Mattingly said. The Kentucky National Guard said it mobilized 20 to 25 soldiers and airmen to check air quality.

LOUISVILLE AREA, KENTUCKY, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Thick, billowing smoke and flames fed by volatile chemicals leaking from a derailed train belched into the sky early today, frustrating officials long after the accident shut down a highway and forced evacuations. With water appearing to be of little use in putting out the flames, fire officials expected it would burn out by this morning and then cleanup operations could begin. Firefighters used 2,000 gallons of foam, including a large quantity from a nearby chemical factory, from late yesterday to this morning. Despite the efforts of 60 firefighters the blaze remained out of control at 0600 EST. Art Smith of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said officials would continue to monitor the air and that a nearby creek would be sampled and private wells identified for monitoring. Mark Rosenker, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, said the event recorder from the train would be sent to Washington for reading. The track had been inspected by CSX inspectors on Monday, Rosenker said. Results of toxicology tests performed on the two-man crew were expected within two weeks, he said.

NATRONA COUNTY AIRPORT AREA, WYOMING, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: A broken railroad track derailed a BNSF Railway train close to midnight Thursday (Jan 11), according to the company and the Natrona County

Sheriff's Office. The train derailed near the Haines Road railroad crossing, north of the Natrona County International Airport. According to BNFS Railway spokesman Gus Melonas, the train was carrying 91 cars and traveling at a speed of approximately 30 miles an hour when it hit the broken track. Nine cars derailed, he said, with six of them falling on their sides. Five of the six fallen cars contained liquid asphalt, and the other was empty, he said. There were no injuries and none of the containers broke open, Melonas said. The cause of the break is under investigation, he said. Howard McCall, the train's conductor, told deputies that the railroad track likely became brittle in the cold and snapped, according to an incident report. He said there were no safety hazards to report. McCall told them a team of railroad workers would begin repairing the track today, according to the report. Railroad crews worked Friday to get the fallen cars back upright. They fell to the right of the track heading south into Casper, and did not interfere with an adjacent sidetrack that runs to the left of the main line, Melonas said. By 1300, all the derailed cars had been cleared from the tracks. The line should be open by 2300 tonight, Melonas said.

NONG-KAE RAILWAY STATION, HUA JIN, THAILAND

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Three people were killed and more than 100 injured after two trains collided at Nong Kae railway station near Hua Hin town early yesterday. The three dead included two railway workers and a train hostess. Four foreign tourists were among the injured. At press time, eight victims including a seven-year-old girl and a monk remained in hospital. The Thon Buri-bound train collided at 0242 hrs with a stationary Yala-bound train waiting on a diversion track. Five carriages were derailed. Medical professionals and rescue workers were quickly on the scene. Yala-bound locomotive engineer Paijit Chuyod was killed in the accident. Rescue workers battled for four hours to extricate railway technician Theerapon Boonchai from the wreckage but he later lost consciousness and died. SRT board chairman Siva Saengmanee estimated damage caused by the accident at between Bt150 million and Bt200 million. He said initial investigations suggested the north-bound passenger train ran a stop signal and collided with the other train, which was stationary on a rail siding. The exact cause will be determined by a full-scale investigation conducted by a specially-appointed fact-finding team. The SRT cleared the tracks and rail services resumed as usual by 0710 hrs. Public Health Ministry spokesman Dr Suphan Sritham-ma said the collision left more than 100 injured but many suffered only minor cuts and bruises.

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

**QUEENS, NEW YORK,
UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated Jan 16, states: It could take up to 24 hours for things to get back to normal after a propane tanker derailed in Queens today, forcing nearby businesses to be evacuated. The tanker went off track and flipped onto its side at around 0900 hrs at a rail yard owned by New York & Atlantic Railway near Metropolitan Avenue and 62nd Street in Maspeth. Police say one of 10 tankers fell off the tracks as the train was backing up. By this evening, about 75 people within a two-block radius of the accident had been evacuated, including three families. No injuries have been reported. Most of those who were displaced, however, worked at local businesses. The overturned tanker was carrying 27,000 gallons of propane, but officials say none of it has leaked out. The Office Emergency Management said that they are waiting on two "sidewinder" cranes, which will pull tanker back on track with propane still inside.

SURREY, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 400 passengers were guided to safety along railway tracks after a landslip onto a line in Surrey caused their train to be derailed. The 1059, UTC, Southern service from Bognor Regis to London Victoria remains stuck between Merstham and Coulsdon South, to the north of Redhill. The front carriage remained upright although its wheels "jumped the rail". There were no reports of any injuries, but rail services were predicted to be disrupted for the rest of today. The incident happened at about 1230, UTC. A Network Rail spokeswoman said: "There was a landslide. One carriage of the train came off the track." Passenger Adrian Webb from Reigate said: "There was an enormous noise of rubble hitting the train. The front carriage then started churning up the sidings and rocks were thrown up." Mr Webb, who was in the train's third carriage, said windows were smashed and thick smoke billowed up. Three ambulances were sent to the scene, but none of the 413 passengers on board required treatment. They were guided towards an exit point from the tracks, where a bus was waiting to take them to Purley station. Network Rail and Southern Railway engineers were assessing the situation at the derailment site. A spokesman for train operator Southern said: "The train is likely to be there for much of the rest of the day, and the line will not reopen today." It was shut in both directions between Purley and Redhill, with replacement buses brought in. Through trains are being diverted via an alternative line.

Miscellaneous**COLLAPSE OF CONSTRUCTION
SITE, SAO PAULO, BRAZIL**

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: Rescue crews aided by dogs searched into the night today for occupants of a minibus and other possible victims feared buried in a huge crater after the earth gave way at a construction site for a new subway station. Witnesses told police that a minibus with a driver, fare collector and two passengers fell into the crater when a 130-foot-wide circular hole lined with concrete walls at the site collapsed yesterday, said Etrusco Juarez, a spokesman for Sao Paulo's state public security department. Two pedestrians and a truck driver who was working at the construction site were also missing and may be buried under the rubble, the government's Agencia Brasil news agency said. The search effort continued after darkness set in tonight, and authorities said it was possible there were still survivors more than 24 hours after the accident. However, rescuers had not found any sign of the minibus or possible victims by late tonight. "We're making every possible effort in the search for the people who disappeared," Sao Paulo state Governor Jose Serra told reporters at the site. The hole at the construction site collapsed without warning yesterday, creating a crater about 260 feet wide and 125 feet deep. It swallowed cars and dump trucks along one of the busiest traffic corridors in South America's largest city. Two cars were removed from the rubble today and a 55-ton crane teetering at the edge of the hole was stabilised. More than 100 people living nearby were evacuated, however, for fear the crane may still topple over, Sao Paulo's Civil Defence Department said in a statement. The cause of the collapse was under investigation, but the consortium of Brazilian companies building the subway station said in a statement that heavy tropical rains may have contributed by softening the ground under the site. "All efforts are focusing now on the rescue of possible victims," said Consorcio Via Amarela, a group that includes Constructora Norberto Odebrecht SA, Brazil's largest construction company. The consortium denied that the accident was caused by negligence.

**FLOODED MINE,
BAOTOU AREA, CHINA**

Beijing, Jan 17 — Thirty-six Chinese miners were trapped in flooded iron ore pit shafts today and it was unknown if they were dead or alive, Xinhua news agency said. The miners were trapped in three vertical shafts at the mine near Baotou in the northern region of Inner Mongolia.

"The fate of the miners is unknown and a full scale rescue operation is under way," the agency said. It did not give details. — Reuters.

Beijing, Jan 17 — Six of 35 Chinese miners trapped in a flooded iron ore pit have been found alive, but the fate of their colleagues was unknown, Xinhua news agency said today. The miners became trapped in three vertical shafts at the mine near Baotou in the northern region of Inner Mongolia yesterday. Xinhua originally put their number at 36. "The six miners, whose condition is unknown, were rushed to the nearest hospital," Xinhua said, citing sources from the rescue operation headquarters. — Reuters.

LAMO (Panama)

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated Jan 15, states: Satyaveer Choudhary was almost expecting his son to return home. But Sanjeet's ship, bulker *Lamo* (ex *Alamo*, 11751 gt, built 1971), is stranded in Africa for nearly two months. With him are 17 other Indians. "The ship is anchored but the crew cannot go to the port. My son has been surviving on minimal food and rainwater for days. Yesterday he told us that the food stock is almost gone. He has caught a fever too. We are going to approach the South African Embassy now so he and his colleagues can be relieved," said Choudhary. Sanjeet and the crew were flown to South Africa by their Mumbai-based employer, Leo Shipping Private Limited. They were to take charge of *Lamo* from Bioco Island and bring it back to Mumbai after it was loaded. "The ship is stranded at Luba since Nov 23, without any proper arrangement for food and lodging," said Sumit, Sanjeet's brother. "All of us are in a really terrible situation here with no proper arrangements of food and water. The ship is very old and has developed defects. Five people are sick, given the unhygienic conditions," Sanjeet said over the phone from Luba. The delay, he said, was owing to the delay in loading, or that is what his parents had heard from the company and relayed to him. BB Goswami, the master of the ship, said: "We cannot go to port because we have no money. The company says it has sent money, but we have received none. The ship is run by diesel which has run out and there's none even to work the generators. We have no way to make outgoing phone calls. We can only receive incoming calls and now the company threatens that they'll spoil our career if we complain. My only plea to the government is to get us back home safely." Sanjeet had joined Leo Shipping in November. This was his first assignment with them. "The company promised that the ship will take about three months to reach India after docking at various places. But it is very curious why they haven't yet started," said Subhlesh Chaudhary, Sanjeet's mother. According to Leo Shipping, they have already sent enough food supply and other basic facilities and the crew

members should have no reason for complaints. "As per the contract, they are supposed to be on the ship for six months and they are being paid accordingly. Technically, they cannot start from there till Feb 23 till the cargo is loaded as per our arrangement with the shipowner. The owner has already paid them enough money before they started and even we sent them with basic first-aid and spices, which would last them at least 45 days. We have also sent them additional money on Jan 8," KS Padhdha, the director of Leo Shipping said from Mumbai.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The farm ministry ordered nationwide checks of poultry farms Friday (Jan 12) after about 750 chickens died earlier this week at a farm in the town of Kiyotake, Miyazaki Prefecture, Japan. The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry and the Miyazaki Prefectural Government said late Thursday night that a highly pathogenic bird flu is suspected as the cause of the deaths. This is the first domestic bird-flu outbreak since June 2005, when the H5N2 strain spread to 40 farms in Ibaraki Prefecture, forcing 5.7 million chickens to be culled, the agriculture ministry said. The ministry said the presence of the bird-flu virus was confirmed in preliminary testing. It said the prefectural livestock hygiene service center would isolate the virus before sending it for more detailed testing to the National Institute of Animal Health in Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture. "We must ensure early detection and disclosure (of an outbreak)," Vice Agriculture Minister Masayuki Kunii said Friday. After setting up a task force the same day, the ministry ordered all prefectures to inspect their poultry farms for bird-flu infection as soon as possible. The Environment Ministry will conduct a national survey to determine whether the virus entered Japan via migratory birds from elsewhere in Asia. While avian influenza is deadly to humans, it is not highly contagious among people. The virus mainly infects birds, including chickens, and spreads in two main strains. The highly pathogenic H5N1 strain has been spreading worldwide, and cases of bird-to-human and suspected human-to-human infection are continuing. It is feared the virus will eventually mutate into a form easily spread by humans. The H5N1 virus has claimed at least 157 lives worldwide since it began ravaging Asian poultry farms in late 2003, according to the World Health Organization. There were about 12,000 chickens at the farm's three poultry facilities, the ministry said. The farm's veterinarian alerted Miyazaki authorities after 250 chickens died in one facility Wednesday and 500 more died Thursday. The farm's employees and their families appear to be in good health so far. The ministry and the

Miyazaki Prefectural Government have isolated the remaining chickens as required by law until tests on the virus are done. There are 17 other poultry farms within a 10-km radius of the Kiyotake farm and all have been asked to refrain from moving their chickens and eggs elsewhere. The authorities are checking these farms for bird-flu signs as well. Poultry farming is one of the main industries in Miyazaki Prefecture, and the city of Miyazaki, which borders Kiyotake, is tops in the nation for both broiler chickens raised and the number of farms. Epidemiologists fear the bird-flu virus may mutate into a new flu that can spread easily among humans and cause a pandemic. In Seoul Friday, the South Korean Agriculture Ministry announced a temporary ban on poultry imports from Japan in response to the suspected bird-flu outbreak.

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A 27-year old woman patient, who is still suspected of being infected with bird flu, died on Friday night (Jan 12) in Persahabatan Hospital, Jakarta, Metro TV station reported. If later she is confirmed of being infected with bird flu, the death toll from the fatal bird flu in the country would reach 60 people. Few days before she died, a 14-year-old boy and a 38-year-old woman died from bird flu in the same hospital. Meanwhile, Coordinating Minister for Social Welfare Aburizal Bakrie emphasized that there would be no change in the current measures against bird flu.

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Avian influenza was confirmed Saturday (Jan 13) as the cause of a large number of chicken deaths on a farm in Miyazaki Prefecture. The confirmation of Japan's fifth case of avian flu came through a virus test by the National Institute of Animal Health based in Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture, officials said. The Miyazaki Prefectural Government announced that the virus was in the H5 family. The institute will continue testing to determine whether it is the virulent H5N1 strain. The prefecture will mobilize some 150 workers starting Sunday to dispose of the roughly 12,000 chickens on the farm, including those already dead and around 8,000 remaining to be culled with carbon dioxide and incinerated, officials said. The operation should be completed in around three days, an official said. The farm reported the deaths of 250 chickens Wednesday. The death toll by Friday had risen to around 2,400 and reached 3,800 as of Saturday, according to the prefectural government. There have been no reports of any people at the farm falling ill.

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Two women have died of bird flu in Indonesia and there is another confirmed case, officials said Saturday (Jan 13), bringing the death toll to 61 in the country hit hardest by the disease. The women

were both admitted to Persahabatan hospital Thursday and were later confirmed as suffering from bird flu by health officials.

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: A new outbreak of bird flu have been reported in the southern Tra Vinh province, bringing the number of avian influenza affected provinces to six, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). Authorities in Tra Vinh said on Jan 12 that the H5N1 virus was found on ducks bred in Ngoc Ho hamlet, Tam Ngai commune, Cau Ke district, while as many as 800 ducks were dead. Five other provinces reported with avian influenza cases so far are Ca Mau, Bac Lieu, Hau Giang, Vinh Long and Kien Giang. The ministry's Veterinary Department, meanwhile, said no new bird flu cases had been discovered in Luong The Tran commune and Dam Doi town of Cau Mau province during the last 20 days, while as many as 24 communes and districts of Ca Mau and Bac Lieu found no new outbreaks in the last ten days. In order to prevent the reoccurrence of avian influenza, localities all launched vaccination campaigns and nearly two million poultry heads were vaccinated as of Jan 12.

Bangkok, Jan 15 — Thailand has suffered its first outbreak of the H5N1 bird flu virus in six months, an Agriculture Ministry official said today after a rash of outbreaks in Vietnam and four human deaths in Indonesia this year. "The lab results confirmed that some ducks in the northern province of Phitsanulok have been infected with H5N1 bird flu virus," Livestock Department chief Pirom Srichan told Reuters. "We have culled about 1,900 ducks in the area." Thailand's last outbreak of the virus in poultry was in late July, and the last human death in August, the country's 17th since the virus re-emerged in Asia in late 2003. — Reuters.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: The bird flu virus detected in Miyazaki Prefecture has been identified as the highly virulent H5N1 strain, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said today. The state-run National Institute of Animal Health made the identification in a test conducted over the weekend, officials said. The H5N1 strain is a subtype of the influenza A virus that can cause illness in humans and many other animal species, experts said. If infected with the strain, almost all the poultry would die after developing blood hemorrhages. The Miyazaki prefectural government conducted disinfection and other preventive measures today at a poultry farm where about 12,000 dead birds were all moved out by Monday after the highly pathogenic avian influenza was confirmed there over the weekend as the fifth case in Japan.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated Jan 17, states: All backyard poultry in the Indonesian capital

Jakarta are to be banned in a bid to stem the deadly bird flu virus, officials have announced. Four Indonesians have died already this year from the disease and another was recently confirmed as infected. The governor of Jakarta said the ban, which is voluntary at the moment, would become compulsory in two weeks time. The ban will cover all domestic birds in the city, including chickens, ducks and pigeons. However, enforcing the policy could prove difficult. Backyard poultry farming is a long-established tradition in Indonesia as a way to supplement the family income. There are estimated to be hundreds of thousands of birds in the city. Jakarta governor Sutiyoso said residents had until the end of the month to "voluntarily eliminate their pet fowls but by consuming it in the proper way... selling them, or destroying them". He said that from February 1, "it will be forbidden to keep birds in residential environments". Poultry owners will be eligible for compensation of around \$1.40 per bird, he added. Jakarta is the first city to implement such a ban, but eight other provinces are scheduled to follow. The ban is the latest attempt by officials to stem the bird flu virus, which is now endemic in the country's poultry population.

POWER OUTAGE, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Several parts of Port-of-Spain and environs were yesterday affected by a power outage because PowerGen's number four generating unit lost all power. Trinidad and Tobago's Electricity Commission (TTEC) was forced to engage in load shedding because of the generating unit, according to TTEC's acting corporate communications manager, Stephen Martel.



ABATTOIR, SANTA COMBA, SPAIN

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: A slaughterhouse in Santa Comba (Galicia), Spain has been the target of a fire attack that is believed to have been carried out by the Spanish ALF. The fire, which happened on Thursday (Jan 11), has left the slaughterhouse in a severe state of damage, rendering it unable to resume operations for at least six months. The attack is thought to have occurred during the very early morning hours. Sources say that, prior to setting the fire, doors were propped open with tape to allow animals destined for slaughter to escape. 160 cows were liberated. The fire was specifically aimed at the killing floor, refrigeration units where the carcasses of 250 cows and 64 pigs were

stored, and two transport trucks, one of which was a costly 15 ton vehicle. As first responders rushed to help stop the blaze from reaching the roof and vehicles, several fire extinguishers were also found to have been emptied prior to the fire. No communiqué has as yet been sent and no one has stepped forward to claim responsibility. Police and forensic investigators currently have few leads, but they do believe the action was carried out by people who were familiar with the property and buildings. "The fact that the intruders propped doors open with tape to allow live animals to escape while they simultaneously set fire to key areas of the property is definite proof that they knew the place well," stated a police spokesperson. Business owner Jes's Pérez has asked the town council for financial assistance for the slaughterhouse's 35 workers. The slaughterhouse is considered to be of great importance to the region. The damage to the building, refrigeration units, and vehicles is estimated to be E5,000,000 (£3,298,256). Necessary repairs to restore normal operations will most likely take at least six months. None of the 160 liberated cows has yet been recovered, and it is unclear whether the 35 workers will receive compensation during the six month repair period.

APARTMENT BUILDING, HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: At least seven people, including a child, have been killed in a massive apartment building fire, and a team of firefighters was still searching the building this morning as some residents remained unaccounted for, CBS affiliate WOWK reported. Authorities said today that they feared the death count could grow. The fire is now considered to be under control, though some pockets of fire remain, particularly on the fifth floor. The fire broke out in the 64-unit Emmons Jr. Apartments late yesterday. Huntington Fire Chief Greg Fuller said an estimated 100 people were inside the building when the fire broke out and that at least 14 people were injured. Firefighters discovered three bodies on the building's top floor while fighting the blaze, and crews found four more bodies this morning on that floor, Fuller said. Crews had not been able to search the fifth floor and sections of the fourth floor because of heavy smoke and fears about the building's structural stability. A recon team finally was able to enter the building around 0800 hrs, beginning a floor-by-floor, room-by-room search for additional pockets of fire and other potential victims. "We have not been able to complete the search," Fuller said. He said some of the fifth floor was blocked because the building's roof and part of the floor collapsed. Fuller said the building provides housing for city residents and Marshall University students. The fire was reported around 2300 yesterday.

City Fire Marshal David Bias said it could take days to determine the cause of the blaze that began in a second-floor unit. From that apartment, flames and smoke shot up utility access channels to the upper floors, Fuller said.

APARTMENT COMPLEX, DURANGO AREA, COLORADO, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: A fire destroyed ten apartments and damaged up to five others early this morning. A firefighter suffered a dislocated thumb but no injuries to residents were reported. Firefighters were called to the Whispering Pines Apartments about 12 miles north of Durango shortly after 0330 La Plata County sheriff's spokesman Dan Bender says firefighters were hampered by low water pressure and the lack of a sprinkler system in the apartments. He says the complex was built before sprinklers were required. Bender says 20 residents were evacuated but some had been allowed to return. The fire began in a third-floor apartment.

BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION, DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

London, Jan 18 — Dozens of workers are reported trapped by flames in a fire that has engulfed a building under construction in Dubai. Workers were seen on upper floors waving towels and hanging on to scaffolding as black smoke billowed. Ambulances and firefighters have rushed to the scene. Up to 25 people have been taken to hospital, officials said, with some apparently seriously injured. The building is one of a cluster more than 30 storeys high being constructed on the Jumeirah Lake Towers. Witnesses said the fire broke out around 1230 hrs and it was some time before the emergency services arrived. A helicopter was unable to land on the roof, they said, as workers began to climb down to escape the fire.

BUSH, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews will spend the weekend working on control lines around blazes in Gippsland and north-east Victoria, ahead of extreme conditions forecast for next week. Firefighting aircraft spent much of yesterday spraying fire retardant in the area, after flames came within 50 metres of properties. Today, the area between the Whitfield-Benalla Road and Greta South at Tatong remains the biggest concern, with flames coming within 200 metres of homes. Country Fire Authority spokesman John Athorn says more than 300 firefighters and 70 tankers are currently working there along the fire edge. Mr Athorn says residents have worked well with authorities since the fires first threatened the area early last month. The Mount Buller Ski Resort has survived another night but fires continue to burn close to properties. Guests were sent home

from the resort early last month when the fire emergency first began. As the ACT endures its hottest day so far this summer, firefighters are battling several outbreaks in the region. Lightning strikes have sparked blazes near Cooma, Thredbo and Bombala. No property is under threat. To the north of Canberra, crews are mopping up after a fire burnt 100 hectares of bushland beside the Federal Highway near Lake George. Firefighters in Alpine areas of New South Wales are being kept busy battling a series of small fires. The largest blaze at Bobundra Bush, near Cooma, remains inside containment lines, but crews have been backburning overnight. One shed and a substantial amount of fencing has been destroyed, along with 2,000 hectares of bushland in two nature reserves. The extent of stock damage has not been established. Meanwhile, at least six aircraft and ground crews are working on a fire in remote bushland at Tom Groggin in the Kosiousko National Park, near the Victorian border. Park authorities are closely monitoring wind conditions for any change. No property is under threat.

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews battling a blaze sparked by lightning in Victoria's northeast will spend today protecting homes as flames approach. Several towns are under threat from the Tatong fire which has burned 15,000 hectares since being ignited by lightning on Thursday (Jan 11). Fire authorities are advising residents in and near Myrree, Molyullah, Whitfield and Banksdale, south of Wangaratta, they could come under direct threat. Residents between Benalla-Whitfield Road and Boggy Creek Valley have also been told to be ready for ember attacks and spot fires if the fire intensifies. Department of Sustainability and Environment spokesman Pat Groenhout said the fire was very active and producing a lot of smoke. The threat was changing with wind shifts and crews were trying to establish containment lines around the blaze. The fires have already razed a shed in the area in the past couple of days and crews would spend today focused on asset protection, he said. "Fire is very close to properties and has burnt right up to assets in quite a few places and was spotting overnight with the wind," Mr Groenhout said. Backburning has started on the fire's southern edge and crews are aiming to complete this by tomorrow while conditions are milder. In Gippsland, a fire near Tambo Crossing, north of Lakes Entrance, has jumped control lines and moved north, but no towns are under direct threat. Crews, however, are concerned about two outbreaks towards Mt Elizabeth, about seven kilometres east of Tambo which are burning in steep, remote country. Fire fighters are also trying to control another blaze started by lightning in recent days near the NSW border in the northeast. The blaze is burning in remote country around Tom

Groggin, east of Mount Hotham. Victoria's fires have torn through 1,002,450 hectares this summer, with four blazes in northeast Victoria and East Gippsland still out of control. Losses include 33 homes, 62 outbuildings, 153 other buildings, 1200km of fencing, three hectares of vineyards, 649 hectares of crops, 1100 hectares of pine plantation and 1000 livestock. Firefighters are trying to contain a blaze in central western NSW bushland ahead of strong winds forecast for this evening. The fire burnt through 9000 hectares of bushland in Goonoo Community Conservation Area, near Dubbo, after being sparked by two lightning strikes on Friday afternoon. A wind change late yesterday pushed the fire in a western direction and people living in properties to the west of the blaze were being warned to watch for spot fires and smoke throughout the day. The threat to properties to the east of the bushland had eased by mid-morning. Winds of up to 35km/h have been forecast for the area today and are expected to increase to up to 60km/h by later tonight. Meanwhile, Tasmanian Premier Paul Lennon has expressed his sympathy to the family and colleagues of a forestry worker killed fighting fires in the state's north-east.

Canberra, Jan 15 — U.S. firefighters will help Australian crews tackle fierce bushfires advancing on towns in the country's southeast that have already blackened an area larger than Lebanon. A team of 143 firefighters from the American National Interagency Fire Centre at Boise, Idaho, will arrive in Victoria next week as thousands of Australian volunteers brace for days of searing temperatures and gusting winds, expected to fan flames. "In the fire area, we are looking at winds of 25 to 30 kph and temperatures of 37 Celsius, and the possibility of lightning. There will be no rain," Environment Department spokesman John Lloyd said today. The Americans, travelling to Australia under a mutual assistance pact between the countries, will join volunteers from Canada and New Zealand already battling bushfires in what experts say is the world's most fire-prone area. Bushfires this summer in Australia's southeast have destroyed more than 1.1 million ha of Victorian bushland, while blazes have also struck four other states. In New South Wales firefighters were struggling today to control fires sparked by lightning and burning out of control in the state's central-west. Several central Victorian towns were on alert to expect ember showers, while control lines and fire-retardant chemicals were being used to protect the Mount Buller ski resort and Thomson Dam, Melbourne's largest water supply. In South Australia police were hunting an arsonist suspected of lighting up to a dozen bushfires. — Reuters.

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Residents of the Tatong Valley in Victoria are bracing

themselves for a potential bushfire emergency tomorrow, with hot winds and temperatures in the high thirties predicted. Fire officials say the fire is burning out of control about 20 km south-east Benalla, sparking warnings to nearby property owners. The wild blazes have so far gutted more than 17,000 hectares of bush. But, officials have announced crews are trying to finish a 30 km backburn along the western and southern edges of the Tatong fire. Up to 150 American firefighters are expected to arrive in the country to help exhausted fire crews. Meantime, four fires in the north-east and Gippsland regions remain out of control, with blazes razing more than one million hectares of bushland.

Melbourne, Jan 16 — A bushfire and soaring summer temperatures caused major power outages across Australia's southern state of Victoria today, plunging hospitals into darkness and sparking road chaos. Electricity firms said up to 200,000 customers across the state were affected by blackouts after a bushfire cut power supplies on a day of very high demand for electricity. Rolling outages were imposed by power firms to spread the load across the state electricity network. "There are power outages across Victoria from the border with New South Wales state to Melbourne," a Victorian police spokesman told Reuters. "The cause is bushfires and heavy demand. It's a stinking hot day and the demand is overloading transformers." The power outages saw traffic lights blacked out around Melbourne, and city offices, hospitals and trains without power. "We don't know when all the customers will be back on," Shannon Walker, a spokesman for energy infrastructure group Alinta, told local media. "Customers that are out now will be brought back on line but customers who have power may lose power for a while so we can spread the electricity load across the network." Australian spot power prices rocketed in Victoria and South Australia states today due to the high demand. — Reuters.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated Jan 17, states: Eight homes have been destroyed in Victoria overnight, as bushfires cause havoc across the state. A fire at Tatong in Victoria's north-east destroyed seven homes near Toombullup and burnt another 7,000 hectares. The fire is still threatening the communities of Archerton, Toombullup, Tolmie, Bunstons Subdivision, Masons Road and Upper 15 Mile Creek. In Gippsland, the Great Divide Southern Complex is threatening Tambo Crossing yet again, as well as Doctors Flat and Ensay. The Department of Sustainability of Environment (DSE) says there is also an alert for residents in Swifts Creek to look out for embers and spot fires. Fire activity has increased in Gippsland and fire authorities are expecting the situation to worsen as the morning progresses. In a separate blaze west of Melbourne,

authorities have confirmed that one house was destroyed by a fire caused by lightning near Steiglitz late last night. The fire, which was started by lightning in the Brisbane Ranges National Park, has destroyed one home and burnt more than 200 hectares. It is still burning out of control, but local weather conditions have eased. (See issue of Jan 17.)

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated Jan 16, states: Massive power cuts and soaring temperatures have caused havoc in the Australian state of Victoria. Electricity supplies to about 200,000 people were hit after a bushfire knocked out power lines linking Victoria to the national grid. In Melbourne, trains and trams were affected and more than 1,000 traffic lights failed, causing chaos on roads. The outages happened at a time of high demand as people used air conditioners to cope with 39C heat. It is not clear when power supplies will be restored to normal. In Melbourne, Australia's second-biggest city with 3.4 million residents, hospitals lost power and shops and offices were forced to close. During rush-hour, massive traffic jams occurred after 1,200 traffic lights in the city and nearby Geelong metropolitan area stopped working. Along with a series of blackouts, in which all electricity supplies are cut, some areas experienced brownouts, in which voltage drops, causing lights to dim. A spokeswoman for transport company Connex said trains across the suburban network were running, but not at their usual rate: "They're running very slowly, we've got low voltage coming through," Kate De Clercq said. "There are chances of massive delays, rather than cancellations." Both landline and mobile telephone networks also jammed as the disruption caused a sudden spike in calls. Local media said a bush fire near Benalla, in the north-east of the state, had been the cause.

COAL MINE, SHANXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: An underground gas explosion in a Chinese coal mine killed 13 people and injured nine, a news report said today. The explosion struck the Niuxinhui Coal Mine in the northern province of Shanxi yesterday afternoon, the official Xinhua News Agency reported, citing local industrial safety officials. The cause of the blast was under investigation, Xinhua said. It said the mine was undergoing an expansion project at the time.

COMMERCIAL PREMISES, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated Jan 15, states: Investigators still aren't certain what caused a fire Saturday (Jan 13) night at the Roger Wood Foods facility in west Savannah. Damage at the Alfred Street plant was concentrated in the sausage maker's main warehouse. Smoke and water

damage also spread to an adjoining office, according to Drew Baker, Savannah Fire and Emergency Services chief investigator. The cause is thought to be accidental. Baker said the fire was caught in a void between the packaging and shipping area's ceiling. Foam insulation burning in that space generated a great deal of smoke. Crews from Savannah Fire, joined by Port Wentworth and Garden City fire departments, worked the smoldering blaze for nearly 15 hours, starting around 2000 hrs, Saturday with just a few units remaining just before 1100 hrs, yesterday. David Solana, president of Roger Wood Foods, said the coolers in the warehouse failed during the fire, which spoiled sausage valued between \$750,000 and \$1.25 million. "Our coolers received significant damage resulting in the USDA condemnation of our finished goods," Solana said. "Those two areas (packaging and shipping) and the office were damaged by either fire or smoke and they are going to need to be significantly renovated." Solana expected the plant could operate at 70 percent of its normal levels within a few days, but he said layoffs are likely. The plant currently employs around 200, and some of those workers will have to be placed on leave immediately, Solana said. He said the company would rush repairs on the warehouse and hopefully be back up to normal production levels within eight to 12 weeks. The plant processes 500,000 pounds of smoked sausage a week. Roger Wood Foods distributes to six Southeastern states. Solana said USDA inspectors are on site any time the facility is in operation. The production area, where the meat is processed, was not damaged in the fire, Solana said. They will reorganize the layout of the facility and perform all packaging and shipping functions from other parts of the facility.

FIRE STATION, DRAPER, UTAH, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated Jan 15, states: Firefighters in Draper spent today going through what's left of their own fire station. The station caught fire early yesterday morning. The loss from the fire exceeds a million dollars. The fire started in the garage area and actual damage to the fire station is said to be limited — the dorm area where the firefighters live was not damaged, but for now, station 114 is out of commission. The fire broke out about 0200 hrs yesterday. The firefighters had just returned from a call and were in their living quarters, when two Draper police officers saw the smoke and came to get them out. The fire department has smoke detectors in the living area, but not in the garage, where the fire started. Firefighters got out their engines, but bomb squad equipment, specifically two bomb robots in the station, could not be saved. Battalion Chief Brent Speirs, Unified Fire Authority: "The damage is anywhere from 1.3- to 1.5-million

dollars, and that's due to contents and structure." Insurance adjusters and a structural engineer are trying to determine what it will take to repair the damage. Firefighters hope within a few days they can return while their station is repaired. Exactly what caused the fire is still being investigated, but so far it is not suspicious and it's believed to be from either an electrical problem or from one of the fire trucks.

GAS PIPELINE, KOLKATA, INDIA

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: At least six people were injured when a portion of an underground gas pipeline of the Greater Calcutta Gas Supply burst at Tala area early today. Police said the pipeline exploded and the pieces hit the passers by. They were immediately rushed to the nearby R G Kar Medical Hospital but were released after being given first aid. Sources said the cause of the explosion was not yet ascertained. GCGS officials rushed to the site and plugged the leak. Police has been deployed in the area.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, LEYTON, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The company that ran the art storage depot that went up in flames destroying hundreds of pieces of Britart has secretly paid out tens of millions of pounds in damages to leading artists, collectors and insurance companies. Momart Ltd settled out of court after a group legal action was launched alleging the firm was negligent. The artist Gillian Ayres, the husband of the late Helen Chadwick, the novelist Shirley Conran and the heirs of the painter Patrick Heron were among those involved in the legal action. Through their lawyers, they claimed the storage warehouse in east London, which caught fire in May 2004, was wholly unsuitable for high-value fine art, had inadequate fire detection and was "a disaster waiting to happen". Estimates at the time of the fire put the losses to artists, collectors, galleries and insurance companies at between £30m and £50m. Hundreds of works by artists including Tracey Emin, Patrick Heron, Damien Hirst and Barry Flanagan were destroyed in the blaze on the Cromwell industrial estate in Leyton, east London. At least 100 of the works destroyed were part of Charles Saatchi's collection, including Emin's Whitstable seaside hut, The Last thing I said to you is Don't Leave Me, Everyone I Have Ever Slept With 1963-95, and Jake and Dinos Chapman's Hell, which Saatchi commissioned for a retrospective at his gallery for around £500,000. Momart's clients include the National Gallery, Tate Modern, Tate Britain and Buckingham Palace. Art critics said the fire, which was investigated by police, was an appalling tragedy. At the time the legal action was announced in June 2005, Ms Ayres said the warehouse she was shown around when she agreed to store her

work with Momart was different from the one which went up in flames. All claims were settled by Momart out of court in an agreement last summer. Mark Dalrymple, the loss adjuster acting for Momart Ltd, said he could not comment on the settlement. Momart also refused to comment.

MANUFACTURING PLANT, BERN TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated Jan 15, states: The blaze that destroyed part of a Bern Township cleaning-chemicals manufacturing plant caused more than \$2 million damage, a fire official said Monday (Jan 15). Chief Scott A. Haupt of the Greenfields Fire Company said crews continued to respond to Misco Products Corp. just north of Reading Regional Airport well into Saturday morning. Company officials said they resumed operations Monday morning. The plant, which employs more than 60 people, makes janitorial cleaning chemicals and floor-care products. The blaze started Thursday about 2130 and was fueled by cleaning chemicals and a liquid lubricant. The fire destroyed about half the 125,000-square-foot plant. No injuries were reported. The 17 workers who were inside the facility at the time got out safely when they were alerted by fire alarms, officials said. About 150 volunteers from 16 area fire companies worked into Friday morning to control the blaze.

PREMISES, IRVINE, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated Jan 14, states: A three-unit townhouse building in the Woodbridge area of Irvine was seriously damaged early today after a malfunctioning electrical transformer ignited a fire, said Capt. Stephen Miller of the Orange County Fire Authority. The blaze caused an estimated \$1.5 million in damage to the building and about \$500,000 to its contents, Miller said. Six adults and a child were safely evacuated. There were no injuries. The fire on Ashwood was reported at 0020 and took about 50 firefighters 51 minutes to bring under control, Miller said.

REFINERY, RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

Albany, California, Jan 15 — A diesel fire at a Chevron refinery in Richmond, California, on Monday (Jan 15) sent flames leaping as high as 100 feet into the air but the fire appears contained to a small area, emergency officials said. "It looks like the fire is contained to a small area in the crude unit," which is where the fire started, said Tony Semenza, executive director of Contra Costa County's emergency response. A company notice filed with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services said one worker received minor injuries and was treated at the refinery without requiring transport to a hospital. The same notice said the flames broke out

at the refinery's No. 4 crude unit. Merlin Turner, battalion chief for the Richmond Fire Department, said the fire was reported at 0522, local time, (1322, UTC) and a shelter-in-place recommendation for area residents issued at 0538. Nearby toll collectors at the Richmond Bridge, which links to Marin County, were evacuated as a precaution as drivers were allowed a rare free trip over the bridge, Turner said. He added that Coast Guard and other officials were monitoring the air for the presence of possible dangerous chemicals. The Chevron Richmond refinery, which is more than 100 years old, has a crude throughput capacity of 243,000 barrels per day. The refinery began shutting down units for an annual overhaul on Jan 12. According to Semenza, Monday's fire started in a crude unit that was being shut down. — Reuters.

TEXTILE FACTORY, KARACHI, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jan 15 — A huge fire broke out in a privately owned textile garment export unit-Union Export (Pvt) Ltd, at SITE industrial area in Karachi, Sindh Province of Pakistan, today. During fire fighting operations, two firemen were dead, 18 people injured and number are still missing, an official of central fire brigade said and added fire was started around 1150, today, and soon engulfed the whole factory. More than seventeen fire fighting vehicles from different fire stations took part in operation which is still going on. It is said factory has two portions, one of which collapsed during fire and caused death of firemen. Reason for fire and loss are yet to be ascertained. Sindh government has ordered an inquiry for cause of fire and loss. Help were also called from army and Navy. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

WAREHOUSE, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters are battling to protect buildings in an industrial estate in Melbourne's south-east, where fire has engulfed a warehouse and power sub-station. The inferno broke out in a storage and logistics warehouse on the corner of Gaine Road and Qantum Close, in Dandenong South, at about 2200, AEDT, last night. Country Fire Authority operations officer Craig Brownlie was on scene along with 120 firefighters who were battling to protect the three surrounding factories in the industrial estate. Mr Brownlie said there was 50 pallets of engine oil and 500 pallets of fibreglass inside the warehouse and the fire had also gutted a power sub-station. Three semi-trailers have been destroyed, he said.

Sydney, Jan 18 — An intense fire at DTM Business Logistics's warehouse in the Melbourne suburb of Dandenong last night caused damage thought to amount to Aus\$20m (£8 million) and consumed 15 trucks in an adjoining compound. K&S Corporation

managing director Legh Winsor, whose company bought DTM Business Logistics in October, confirmed to Lloyd's List DCN that the trucks belonged to his firm but said it was too early to comment on the losses. Fuelled by LPG cylinders and oils, burned items included 150,000 litres of engine oil, two tonnes of raw fibreglass, drums of hydraulic oil, mattresses, guitars and amplifiers and a large amount of plastic, according to news.com and the ABC. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

YACHT CLUB, BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: Local authorities are investigating whether a yacht club fire that heavily damaged 26 boats was intentionally set. The fire swept through the Miamogue Yacht Club's boat yard off Seaview Avenue shortly after 0200, Friday (Jan 12). It took firefighters about 90 minutes to extinguish the blaze. Fire Marshal Bruce Collins said the damage estimate was at least \$1 million. Authorities said at least eight boats were destroyed and described the fire as "suspicious." Several boats were also broken into, police said. Paul Lengyel, the club's commodore, said it appeared that vandals cut through a back fence at the club. About 30 firefighters responded to the blaze.



ACCIDENT AT KUCHING INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MALAYSIA

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Kuching International Airport re-opened for flight arrivals and departures at noon after a six-hour closure following the crash-landing of a cargo carrier early today. Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad general manager of corporate communications, Norliza Kamaruddin, confirmed the airport's operations had resumed after the mishap at 0552 hrs. Departures and arrivals of 16 Malaysia Airlines (MAS) and 14 AirAsia flights were delayed when the airport was temporarily closed after the Boeing 737-200, belonging to Gading Sari Aviation Services Sdn Bhd, crash-landed and veered off the runway into a grassy area. The aircraft operated as a mail courier for Pos Malaysia Bhd. The airport was closed from 0600 hrs, in order to remove the aircraft. Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Douglas Uggah Embas said the aircraft's two rear tyres came off on landing. The engine compartment and the right wing of the aircraft were damaged due to the impact. "Fragments of the tyres, splinters of engine parts and the right wing were scattered on the runway, forcing airport authorities to close the

airport for clean-up work and to remove the aircraft," he said. The aircraft, flown by an Indonesian pilot, took off from the Kuala Lumpur International Airport at 0400 hrs, carrying letters and parcels of Pos Malaysia Bhd, and newspapers. Following the incident, about 2,000 MAS and AirAsia passengers were stranded at the airport. The Minister said the crash-landing did not damage the runway except for a few broken navigational lights. "Inspection reveals the runway is safe for flight arrivals and departures," he said. The DCA is investigating the cause of the incident, he added.

C-FDTR

London, Jan 12 — At 2240 hrs, Jan 10, the Northern Thunderbird Air Beech 1900D aircraft, C-FDTR, operating as NTA926, took off from Vancouver for Edmonton. When the landing gear was retracted, the gear handle light remained on and the gear warning horn sounded. The crew selected the gear down and were able to obtain a normal gear down indication with 3 green lights. The crew decided to return to Vancouver but, as the aircraft was above its maximum landing weight, they decided to circle to burn off fuel. At this time, smoke appeared in the cabin area. The crew advised ATC, declared an emergency, and requested an immediate landing at Vancouver. The aircraft was cleared for a visual approach on runway 26L where the aircraft landed without further event and was met by ERS. The source of the smoke was determined to be the flap motor, which had shorted out. The landing gear malfunction is still under investigation by company maintenance.

C-GBKV

London, Jan 12 — At 1110 hrs, Jan 9, the Pacific Western Helicopters Eurocopter AS 350 B-2 helicopter, registration C-GBKV, was being relocated from a landing pad at the company base in Grande Cache to a nearby parking area. Visibility was about 0.7 statute miles in falling dry snow and there was approximately four inches of dry snow on the ground. After lift-off the pilot established the helicopter in a hover at 15 to 20 feet above ground. In conditions of blowing snow, the helicopter moved forward and to the right and then down. The helicopter then struck a four-foot high snowbank and the main rotor blades struck the ground. The helicopter came to rest upright; however, it was substantially damaged. The pilot sustained a minor injury. There was no report of a system malfunction.

CRASH, BANKSTOWN AIRPORT, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A light aircraft crash-landed at Sydney's Bankstown airport when its landing gear collapsed, aviation authorities say. Civil Aviation Safety Authority

spokesman Peter Gibson said the Piper Malibu six-seater, bound for Toowoomba, had climbed to about six metres when the pilot decided to abort the take-off. "The pilot aborted the take-off and as he descended down and landed back on the runway the landing gear collapsed," Mr Gibson said. The aircraft's undercarriage was damaged before it came to a halt on a patch of grass next to the runway about 1730, AEDT. Ambulance crews responded, but all four of the aircraft's occupants were uninjured, an NSW Ambulance spokesman said. Mr Gibson said it was not yet clear why the landing gear failed, but reports from the pilot, owner and repairer would be provided to the Australian Transport Safety Bureau.

CRASH, CHESTERFIELD AREA, DERBYSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: A helicopter has crashed into a field in north Derbyshire. Emergency services were called to the scene of the crash at Old Tupton near Chesterfield at 1030, UTC. A spokesperson from Derbyshire Police said the helicopter crashed as it made a "forced landing" at the field near Mill Lane. The two people who were in the aircraft were not injured in the crash. They managed to climb out of the helicopter before fire crews arrived. Firefighters had to reach the site on foot because of its rural location. Police said the incident will be reported to the Civil Aviation Authority.

CRASH, CLINTON, MISSISSIPPI, UNITED STATES

See N2625H.

CRASH, EL NIDO, PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated Jan 16, states: A private helicopter carrying three Japanese businessmen crashed in the western Philippines but all people on board were safe, officials said yesterday. The businessmen and their pilot were flying low in Palawan's El Nido town, 410 kilometres southwest of Manila on Sunday (Jan 14) to shoot a video to promote the area to Japanese tourists when the aircraft was apparently buffeted by a barrage of strong winds, causing it to crash into the sea, police and air transport officials said. "No one was hurt, no one died," Navy Capt. Bert Araujo, commander of a military task force in the area, told Manila's dzBB radio. He said the pilot managed to manoeuvre the craft to avoid a heavy crash. Navy and volunteer rescuers plucked the men from the sea. Chief Inspector Rolando Amurao of the Palawan provincial police said they were unharmed but were brought to hospital for a medical check-up.

CRASH, MANILA DOMESTIC AIRPORT, PHILIPPINES

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A two-seater Cessna aircraft crashed off the coast of Grande and Chikita Island near Subic

Bay in Zambales. Capt. Emil Mananghaya, the aircraft's pilot and flight trainer, and his student, Malaysian Ng Soong Sen, escaped the accident with minor injuries. The victims were from the Aeroflight Training center in Subic. They were immediately brought to the James Gordon Hospital in Olongapo City for treatment. Armand Arreza, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority administrator, said the aircraft failed to reach the runway by a kilometre and crashed into the waters.

CRASH, PUEBLO BELLO AREA, COLOMBIA

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated Jan 14, states: A small plane departing Maracaibo, Venezuela and crashed in northeastern Colombia, killed four people on board, rather than the 14 authorities had reported, officials said today. Alba Quintero, of Cesar provincial government, told Caracol radio, that, after visiting the crash site, only four burned bodies had been found, near Pueblo Bello in Cesar. She added that the twin-engine's plane's capacity was a total of eight people. Colombian civil aeronautical officials said today that the plane, en route to Panama City, was ordered back to Maracaibo after reporting radar problems. Aerocivil officials instructed the crew to activate the plane's transponder so that it could be spotted by radar. When the attempt failed, the plane headed for Maracaibo but crashed in northern Colombia, an Aerocivil statement said.

CRASH, QINGDAO, CHINA

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: A helicopter crashed in Qingdao, a coastal city of east China's Shandong Province, on Thursday (Jan 11), according to the China News Service today. The helicopter fell on Zhuzhou Road of Laoshan district. The authorities received report at 1750, the CNS quoted the Qingdao news network as saying. The crew evacuated safely before the helicopter caught fire. There were no reports of casualties and damages of public facilities. The fire was put out soon after. The investigation into the cause of the accident is underway.

CRASH, TARIJA AREA, BOLIVIA

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: A Bolivian air force Cessna 210 (Centurion) crashed in a southern state today, killing all eight people on board, officials said. The aircraft was being used to transport civilians after landslides destroyed stretches of the highway earlier this week. Six civilians were on board, including two children. The aircraft experienced a "mechanical failure" as it approached the airport in Tarija, about 405 miles south of La Paz, Col Tito Gandarillas, a spokesman for the air force, said. Gandarillas said the two-member crew attempted to make an emergency landing in fields about six miles from

Tarija. The aircraft had been heading from the city of Bermejo, near the Argentine border, deputy police commander Edgar Iniguez said. The cause of the accident was under investigation.

CRASH, WOLVERHAMPTON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated Jan 15, states: A pilot has escaped with minor injuries after his helicopter crashed at Wolverhampton Airport. The two-seater helicopter is believed to have been hovering when it crashed on one of the three runways at the airport, today. It is run by Heliflight UK, which operates training and charter flights, airport director Gary Hall said. The airport remains operational while the helicopter is dealt with. An inquiry will be held into the crash. An airport fire and rescue crew plus engines from Staffordshire and the West Midlands were sent to the scene, just before 1430 UTC. A spokeswoman for Staffordshire fire and rescue said the airport crew was believed to have applied a blanket foam covering on to the crashed helicopter. Mr Hall said: "We have had a crash and the pilot has walked away ok. He has minor injuries. "The helicopter will be removed from the runway and obviously there will be an investigation into the accident." He said the airport would be in contact with the Air Accidents Investigation Branch, which would then decide how the investigation should be carried out.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BAKU, AZERBAIJAN

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A Vietnam Airlines aircraft travelling from Paris to Hanoi was forced to make an emergency landing in Azerbaijan after a crack appeared in the cockpit window, airport authorities reported. "The decision to make an emergency landing was taken because of the crack in the cockpit window," a spokesperson for the international airport in Baku said yesterday. The emergency landing by the Boeing 777 occurred around 2230 hrs, with all 240 passengers and 15 crew members evacuated without injury.

EMERGENCY LANDING, HEYDAR ALIYEV INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, AZERBAIJAN

London, Jan 12 — Passengers of Tu-134 aircraft belonging to Bashkiria Airline Company, force-landed in Heydar Aliyev International Airport yesterday, took other aircraft to Ufa at 0300, today, Azerbaijan Airline State company department chief Meherrem Seferli told APA. He said that Bashkiria Airline Company sent another Tu-134 and solved the problem. Yesterday, the aircraft, took off at 1353 hrs, force-landed in Heydar Aliyev International Airport at 15.57, because of crack on the glass in front of the pilot. There were 65 passengers on board. No casualty was reported

during force-landing. The specialists from Bashkiria Airline will come to investigate the accident.

EMERGENCY LANDING, KRASNOYARSK AIRPORT, RUSSIA

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: KrasAir Tu-204 aircraft made an emergency landing in Krasnoyarsk airport Yemelyanovo at 1720 hrs. The aircraft left Yemelyanovo airport at 1416, local time, heading from Krasnoyarsk to Saint-Petersburg, Siberian rescuing center of Ministry for Emergencies reported. There were 154 passengers, 13 crews and 2,297 kg of cargo on board. No deaths or damage is reported. According to the preliminary reports, the reason for the emergency landing is a failure of signaling in the conditioning system, KrasAir spokesperson Natalia Burmistrova stated. The exact reason will be established by an expert commission. "The crew made a decision about the emergency landing at 1440 hrs, and the company started preparing a reserve Tu-154 plane for Saint-Petersburg flight immediately. After the airplane spent its fuel it landed safely. All the passengers are on board of the reserve plane now," Burmistrova reported.

EMERGENCY LANDING, LAHORE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jan 16 — A Russian aircraft made an emergency landing at Lahore International Airport in Punjab Province of Pakistan this evening following a technical fault and worn-out of tires during take off. Earlier, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of Pakistan has declared an emergency at Lahore airport and closed it for operation. Later, it provided all kinds of assistance to Russian aircraft for landing. The aircraft was going to Tashkent from Bangkok with 155 passengers on board, local electronic media pointed out. The aircraft is now parked at Bay No1 and passengers were taken out. It is said the aircraft first burnt fuel before landing on the airport on the advice of CAA. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

EMERGENCY LANDING, LIVERPOOL (JOHN LENNON) AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: An Easyjet aircraft travelling from Belfast to Stansted has made an emergency landing in Liverpool Airport. Air traffic controllers at John Lennon Airport received a call from the pilot today warning he was low on fuel, the airport said. He then declared a full emergency which led to 999 services standing by on the tarmac, said an official. However, Easyjet said the diversion was due to high winds en route to London and that there was no shortage of fuel. Robbie Barrigan, a spokesman for Stansted Airport said the Easyjet flight was the only divert the airport had had. The aircraft landed safely at Liverpool Airport at

1140, UTC, and was due to be inspected by the airline's safety experts. Easyjet was laying on coaches for passengers to take them on to Stansted.

INCIDENT AT DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated Jan 15, states: Florida-bound Delta Air Lines Flight 1833 from La Guardia Airport, New York, to West Palm Beach, Fla, was diverted to Dulles International Airport today because a landing gear door did not close properly. The aircraft, with 97 passengers and five crew, landed safely at about 1810 hrs. No one was hurt. Passengers were put on another aircraft and continued their trip.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated Jan 15, states: Officials with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority say United Express flight 5663 from Portland, Maine, to Dulles landed at about 1730 hrs after reporting a problem with its nose landing gear. The aircraft landed without incident and no one was injured.

INCIDENT, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A small piece of an aircraft's engine crashed through the roof of a home located near Midway Airport, Chicago, and no one was injured, federal authorities said. One of the aircraft's engine turbine wheels, a disc 12 inches in diameter that holds the turbine blades in the engine, came to rest 2 feet from the foot of a bed where homeowner Dorothy Gohn was sleeping on Friday (Jan 12). She was not injured. The blades broke off from disc and have yet to be found, said Tony Molinaro, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration. The multiengine aircraft, apparently being used as a cargo aircraft, landed safely without any indication of distress to air traffic control, Molinaro said. The pilot did not report the engine failure to authorities, Molinaro said. Instead, FAA inspectors found the aircraft themselves, with significant engine damage and some wing damage, in a hangar at Midway Airport, Molinaro said. The aircraft, a Mitsubishi MU-2B-36, arrived at Midway en route from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It is registered to a firm called American Check Transport, which also does business as Flight Line Inc., according to the FAA. Gohn said she was sleeping about 0100 Friday when a heavy thud woke her up. She saw a hole in her ceiling and found a piece of metal with teeth like a gear about 2 feet from the foot of her bed.

INCIDENT, GARDERMOEN AIRPORT, OSLO, NORWAY

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: An aircraft operated by Turkish Airlines ploughed into the soil as it was taxiing to the terminal building at Oslo's Gardermoen airport after landing

today, but there were no injuries, officials reported. The 157 passengers and crew disembarked from the Boeing 737 via stairs and the aircraft has since been towed away for inspection. The incident did not cause any delays, airport spokesman Jo Kobro said. A few hours later, a mobile ramp used when passengers disembark into the terminal building hit the fuselage of a charter aircraft that had arrived from a holiday resort off Venezuela. SAS Ground Services spokesman Sven Westgaard said no one was hurt but the Boeing 767 was taken out of service, and 169 passengers scheduled to continue to neighbouring Sweden were rebooked onto a later flight.

INCIDENT, SULTAN ISKANDAR MUDA AIRPORT, INDONESIA

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A Lion Air Boeing 737-400 jetliner delayed Friday (Jan 12) to fly for hours after failing to take-off in the Sultan Iskandar Muda airport due to engines failure. Antara quoted an official in the airport that the airplane must undergo a repair for 2.5 hours due to the engines failure. "The Lion Air jetliner was back in operation and departed to Jakarta at 1333 after being grounded for 2.5 hours because of engines problem discovered at 1049," Zulkifli, an official at the Sultan Iskandar Muda airport's air traffic control center, said. Zulkifli said the Lion Air jetliner with flight number PKLIQ arrived from Medan at 0957, local time. According to its schedule, the aircraft was supposed to depart to Jakarta via Medan at 1049 but when it reached the runway it failed to take-off because of engines trouble.

N2625H

London, Jan 12 — Cessna 310 N2625H crashed near Clinton, Mississippi, at 1801, Jan 10, while on a flight from Jackson, MS, to Ocean Springs, MS. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N425TN

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A pilot and two passengers aboard a small aircraft escaped serious injury when the aircraft crashed while landing at the Harbor Springs Airport Friday (Jan 12). Emmet County Sheriff Pete Wallin said the crash happened at about 1833 as the twin-engine Cessna Corsair twin turboprop was attempting to land heading from east to west. The flight departed from Toledo Express Airport in Toledo at about 1734. Wallin said he had few details about the circumstances surrounding the crash other than an initial statement from the pilot saying that as he was coming in the aircraft began to "buck" and then overturned and crashed. The 1984 model aircraft is owned by Lyden Air Co. of Toledo. Wallin said officials from the Federal Aviation Administration were on the

scene investigating the crash Saturday. The crash remains under investigation.

London, Jan 16 — Cessna 425, N425TN, operated by Lyden Air Co, on landing, crashed under unknown circumstances, at Harbor Springs, Michigan, at 2318, local time, Jan 12. The aircraft was destroyed.

N431CA

Washington, Jan 17 — The crew of a Comair jet noted seconds before crashing in Kentucky that it was "weird" the runway they were on was not lit, but they continued anyway unaware it was the wrong one, documents showed today. The fully loaded regional jet, a CRJ-100 made by Montreal-based Bombardier Inc., roared off the runway — which was too short — on August 27, 2006 and crashed in a field, killing 49 of the 50 people aboard. The co-pilot, Jim Polehinke, was the only survivor. It was the worst U.S. air disaster since an American Airlines jetliner crashed in New York in November 2001. Cockpit recordings released by the National Transportation Safety Board revealed that Flight 5191, heading to Atlanta, was cleared to taxi to the other, longer runway at Lexington's Blue Grass Airport. Polehinke acknowledged while preparing for the predawn take-off the plane had been assigned the longer Runway 22, which was lit, but the captain, Jeffrey Clay, taxied to Runway 26, which had recently been repaved and was only open for daytime operations by small planes. Safety board documents showed the crew initially boarded the wrong plane ahead of its predawn takeoff. They found the right one and then went through the usual preflight chatter and check list duties. Excerpts of the cockpit transcript included instructions from the lone air traffic controller on duty and evidence of two other flights using the correct runway. The captain, Jeffrey Clay, was at the controls during taxi but handed off the aircraft to Polehinke for takeoff. The controller's taxi command was heard over the radio: "Comair (five) one ninety one, taxi to runway two two ..." "Hydraulics checked .. we got runway two two out of Lexington," Polehinke said to Clay two minutes later. Clay taxied the plane to the threshold of Runway 26 — the wrong strip — and handed off to Polehinke. Neither the controller nor the cockpit stated a runway number to one another when takeoff clearance was granted, the documents showed. Polehinke noted the runway looked "weird with no lights." Seconds later the aircraft roared down the runway at 100 knots. It never left the ground. — Reuters.

N444TW

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Two Americans died when their light aircraft crashed in Zapotlanejo, a town in the western Mexican state of Jalisco, the state Public Security Directorate said yesterday. Officers said remains of the crash victims and debris from the

plane, which was registered in the US state of Texas, were spread over an area of 200 square meters, close to the La Carrera Ranch, 40 km south-east of the state capital Guadalajara. Air traffic control authorities lost contact with the aircraft at 2315, Tuesday night. The crash scene was located early yesterday. The Lear jet belonged to private jet company Amerijet, which flies tourists and business people all over the United States, Canada, Mexico, South America and the Caribbean.

London, Jan 12 — Learjet 24 N444TW crashed near Guadalajara, Mexico, at 2315, Jan 9, while on a flight from Laredo, Texas, to Guadalajara. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N711SK

London, Jan 16 — Beech A36, N711SK, operated by Berg-A-King Flying Corp., crashed under unknown circumstances on a residential street at Wayne, New Jersey, at 0040, local time, Jan 5. The one person on board was fatally injured, the aircraft was destroyed.

N77215

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: Two people were killed when a business jet crashed and caught fire today north of the Van Nuys, California, airport, officials said. The Federal Aviation Administration's Ian Gregor said that the aircraft had an emergency on board and was trying to return to the airport. It was unclear what the emergency was, he said. Airport spokeswoman Stacy Geere said the jet's pilot reported "some difficulties before and just after take-off." The aircraft crashed about a half-mile north of a runway, she said. The Cessna Citation 525 jet can hold up to seven people, including a pilot and co-pilot. It crashed about 1100. Assistant Chief Tim Manning with the Los Angeles Fire Department said a one-block area was evacuated because jet fuel fumes remained in the area. The jet was carrying a full load of 3,400 pounds of fuel, he said. He also said the crash cut power and telephone service to the area. A National Transportation Safety Board investigator was en route, the agency said. A search based on the aircraft's tail number, N-77215, shows the aircraft was registered to Moonchild Aviation LLC. The flight plan showed the aircraft travelling from Van Nuys to Long Beach, the NTSB said. Preliminary information showed the flight was a "positioning flight," meaning it was only to move the aircraft. FAA officials were trying to ascertain the communications between the pilot and the airport control tower, Geere said.

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: The owners of charter jet (N77215) that crashed just north of Van Nuys Airport declined to identify the two pilots killed in the accident, while coroner's investigators

worked to match dental records today to confirm their names. Due to the charred remains, coroner's investigators declined to name the pilots pending positive identification, and no one at Sun Quest aviation would identify the two. "They're (the pilots) charred. It's going to be weeks because they'll have to go to their dentals," coroner's Lt. Brenda Shafer said. Investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board are in charge of the investigation. The Cessna Citation 525, a twin-engine business jet, apparently had a problem with a luggage hatch on the left side of the nose of the plane and crashed just north of the runway with a full load of fuel, bursting into flames shortly before 1100 yesterday. A corporate jet pilot who saw the crash from the tarmac at Van Nuys told broadcasters he noticed the luggage hatch open, but he did not see any bags inside. He theorized that something could have fallen out and jammed in one of the jet intakes. The two pilots were en route to Long Beach Airport, then Prescott, Ariz. Just before the crash, one of the pilots radioed the tower, saying he had an emergency and was trying to return to the airport. Witnesses said the plane banked right moments before hitting the ground in a lot in the 8500 block of Hayvenhurst Avenue. No one on the ground was injured. According to Stacey Geere of Van Nuys Airport, the aircraft was owned by Sun Quest, an aviation company that provides charter services and flight training.

London, Jan 16 — Cessna 525, N77215, operated by Moonchild Aviation LLC, shortly after take-off, crashed 3/4 mile north of the runway at Van Nuys, California, at 1852, local time, Jan 12. The two persons on board were fatally injured, the aircraft was destroyed.

PK-KKW

Makassar, Jan 12 — Police and the military have narrowed their search to focus on a beach area and surrounding waters where wreckage from missing Indonesian Boeing 737 (PK-KKW) has been found, the head of the search said today. Pieces of the Adam Air aircraft, which vanished from radar screens on Jan 1 with 102 people on board were found in the past few days at roughly the same location, floating in the sea or washed up on beaches. The biggest part found so far appeared to be the tail stabiliser, found snarled in a fisherman's net off Lojie Beach on the west coast of Sulawesi island on Tuesday (Jan 9) but not immediately reported to authorities and only announced yesterday. The fisherman who made the discovery had initially taken the piece home and kept it under his bed, the "Jakarta Post" reported. A life vest, food trays and interior material have also been recovered by residents, military and police in the sea and on the shore around the seaside town of Pare Pare, 8 km north of Lojie Beach. "Search teams in the mountains have been pulled back and we have built new

posts in Pare Pare. Marines are helping police and army scour beaches there," said First Air Marshal Eddy Suyanto, who is co-ordinating the search. Suyanto, who commands the air base in Makassar, Sulawesi's largest city, said later that flotsam and other items that did not belong to the doomed aircraft were being sifted out and the search would go on until something major was found. More than three dozen items identified as from the aircraft were displayed at the air base. Suyanto suggested the aircraft had crashed into the sea off Majene, north-west of Pare Pare, adding he believed it had disintegrated into small pieces. He declined to say whether this could have happened before or after it hit the water. Despite the possibility that the Boeing had broken up, Indonesian navy vessels assisted by a US oceanographic vessel were still trying to locate its fuselage, which could still house the black box that could provide clues to explain the disaster. So far no bodies confirmed as the missing passengers have been found. Suyanto said that, considering that the biggest part of the aircraft found so far was just one metre long, a body was unlikely to have survived the disaster in one piece. — Reuters.

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Adam Air (PK-KKW) search-and-rescue teams continued their hunt today for the aircraft's black box to unravel the mystery of its disappearance, Elshintia radio station reported on Sunday (Jan 14). The radio station reported that the radius of the search for black box would be widened to 10 kilometres from Mallusetasi beach, South Sulawesi as hope of finding survivors is slim. An information technology expert Roy Suryo said the black box should be found to avoid further speculation over the cause of the missing aircraft. Experts have speculated that the aircraft exploded in the air, thus its wreckage scattered in sea, in beach, and in land. But a relevant air transportation authority and the police have said they had checked the baggage manifest and did not find any dangerous materials brought by passengers in the aircraft.

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Officials overseeing the search for a missing Adam Air jetliner (PK-KKW) are awaiting the arrival of a metal detector and "undersea camera" from the US to help identify wreckage detected on the ocean floor off the coast of South Sulawesi. The metal detector is expected to arrive today (Sunday). In Surabaya, East Java, the commander of the Navy's Eastern Fleet, Rear Adm. Moekhlas Sidik, said the US government also had offered to send an undersea camera to help locate the wreckage. "The undersea equipment is scheduled to arrive Wednesday," Moekhlas said as quoted by Antara newswire. Commodore Eddy Suyanto said that search operations were also focused on locating the missing aircraft's black box. "A team

of Air Force special forces troops, Marines and police officers will search the waters off Mamuju to the south and along the western coast of Pare-Pare." On land, search teams assisted by residents and fishermen continued searching Saturday for more debris from the missing aircraft along the coasts of Barru, Pangkajene Island and Pare-Pare. However, heavy rain and strong winds hampered the efforts. Eight Navy vessels, including the *Fatahillah*, *Ajak*, *Leuser* and *Nala*, arrived in the waters off Barru on Saturday to help locate the missing aircraft. Pieces from the aircraft continue to wash up on beaches in South Sulawesi, including a part of the aircraft's left wing. Authorities have yet to confirm all of the recovered pieces came from the missing Boeing 737-400. On Saturday, more relatives of passengers from the missing aircraft arrived in Barru, along with additional search and rescue personnel from Ambon in Maluku and Manado in North Sulawesi. Also arriving in South Sulawesi on Saturday was Roy Suryo, a telecommunications expert. He will assist in the search for the aircraft's black box, which he believes fell into a swampy area between Pare-Pare and

Barru, Indonesia, Jan 15 — Indonesian rescue workers scouring the seas for a commercial airliner that went missing two weeks ago have found a fuel spill believed to be from the doomed jet, an official said today. Small pieces of the Adam Air Boeing 737-400 that vanished from radar screens on New Year's Day with 102 people aboard have been found in the past few days floating in the sea or washed up on beaches off the west coast of Sulawesi island. The jet fuel was found in the sea off Majene on Sulawesi, said First Air Marshal Eddy Suyanto, commander of the airbase in Makassar, the capital of South Sulawesi province, where the search is being co-ordinated. "This gives us a clear idea where the bigger pieces of the plane such as wings are located," he told Reuters. Fragments of human hair and scalp that might come from passengers were found yesterday, an official said. Muslimin, a rescue official in Makassar, said by telephone that the remains had been sent for DNA testing. The process could take two or three days. A fragment of one of the plane's wings was also found on Saturday (Jan 13) night. So far no bodies confirmed as the missing passengers have been found. Search head Suyanto said previously that, considering that parts of the plane found so far were mostly small, a body was unlikely to have survived the disaster in one piece. Despite the possibility that the Boeing had broken up, Indonesian navy ships assisted by a U.S. oceanographic ship have been trying to locate its fuselage, which could still house the flight recorder that could provide clues to explain the disaster. Search mission chief Suyanto said on Saturday that the search for the plane's main body and black box was being hampered by the depth of

the sea in areas where metal objects had been detected in the Makassar Strait. The flight recorder is set up to give off a signal for 30 days to aid detection, but it is likely to be very hard to locate in waters as deep as 1,700 metres in the area. — Reuters.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: The search team for a missing Indonesian passenger aircraft (Adam Air Boeing 737-400 PK-KKW) was reported today of having detected a significant undersea metal object suspected to be the cabin recording device known as black box. National search and rescue team head Bambang Karnoyudho said a Navy warship had detected the object in the waters of South Sulawesi using its sonar device. "So far we have detected a few significant objects in the area. However, we can not really be sure before these objects are verified using a better device," he said. The extensive search has been fruitless since the Boeing 737-400 operated by local carrier Adam Air went missing with 102 people onboard on the New Year's Day. Singapore, Canada and the United States have sent teams to help the search. Bambang said a US ship with stronger sonar would start work in the area tomorrow. Local authorities have collected 107 pieces of the aircraft debris, yet no significant clues were found to locate the aircraft.

PK-RPX

London, Jan 15 — Boeing 737-230C, PK-RPX, operated for Gading Sari Aviation Services, leased from RPX Airlines, operated on a flight on behalf of the Malaysian postal services, departing Kuala Lumpur around 0400, Jan 13. Upon landing the aircraft at 0552 hrs, skidded off the side of the runway, coming to rest in the grass, about about 1,500m from the runway threshold. One engine and the main gear had separated.

Product Recalls



MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Jan 17 — Mitsubishi Fuso Truck & Bus Corp plans to recall a

large number of its "Super Great" large trucks to fix faulty wheel hubs installed to replace previously defective hubs that resulted in massive recalls in 2004, sources familiar with the matter said yesterday. The parts in question are the F0 and F2 hubs installed in some 150,000 heavy trucks that were recalled in March 2004 following the January 2002 death of a young mother in Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture, who was hit by a wheel that flew off a truck in motion due to a faulty hub.



Port Conditions

BANGLADESH

Karachi, Jan 15 — The feeder operators are showing reluctance to carry Dhaka-bound containers from Singapore on the ground of inordinate delays in reaching those cargoes to the Dhaka ICD from the Chittagong Port. As a result, the Bangladesh Railway (BR) has formed three separate monitoring cells to look after the movement of cargo-loaded wagons plying between the Chittagong Port and the Dhaka Inland Container Depot (ICD). A Shipping sources told media that they needed at least one month to reach import cargoes from Chittagong port due mainly to the availability of a small number of railway wagons, slow cargo handling at the Dhaka ICD and the Chittagong Port, and the persisting container congestion at the port. On an average, 2,100 Dhaka ICD-bound containers remained stockpiled at the Chittagong Port yard following the congestion there. Two trains with a combined capacity of 120 containers run on the both sides each day. However, Gatco's Managing Director Syed Galib Ahmed said that they had adequate equipment to handle containers at both the Chittagong port and the Dhaka ICD. "I think only a small number of wagons plying to and from Dhaka ICD was the main problem for the delay of cargoes at the Dhaka ICD", he disclosed. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

IRAQ

London, Jan 16 — Work to install meters at Basrah Oil Terminal started at about 0545 hrs, today. Vessels at anchor or arriving will have to wait until after the completion of meter installation, expected on Jan 20.

ITALY

Genoa, Jan 15 — Port situation Jan 15: Genoa: One container vessel waiting for berth. Average number days delay in berthing 12-24 hrs. Savona: No vessels waiting for normal berth. One vessel awaiting special berth, average delay 12 hours. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

KENYA

London, Jan 11 — According to Kenya media reports the congestion at the Mombasa container terminal has eased after the port authority introduced additional workers and equipment to help clear the backlog. The congestion had been blamed on the suspension of three insurance companies that were responsible for issuing transit bonds. According to Kenya Port Authority's MD Abdallah Mwaruwa, all vessels that had been delayed had now cleared their cargo and sailed. He said the port had 12,568 containers in the terminal on Saturday (Jan 6) of which 4,000 were undocumented import boxes. Mombasa was expecting another 22 vessels with over 8,000 containers for discharge.

PANAMA CANAL

Balboa, Jan 15 — Present backlog of ships awaiting transit exceeds 75 vessels and there is no sign of conditions improving in the short term due to heavy arrivals. During the last couple of weeks the Canal has seen very high level of arrivals and this has limited the ability to reduce the large backlog. Delays for non-booked vessels are now at a level of 3 to 5 days with Panamax vessels suffering the most. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

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

| Country/Port | Date of report | No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay |
|-------------------|----------------|--|
| Australia | | |
| Abbot Point | 22-01-2007 | Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 8 vessels due by 10/2. |
| Brisbane | 22-01-2007 | Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 11 vessels due by 11/3. |
| Dalrymple Bay | 22-01-2007 | Coal: DBCT berth 1: 4 vessels waiting; DBCT berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; DBCT berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; other vessels not scheduled: 9 vessels waiting; 25 vessels due by 6/2. |
| Dampier | 22-01-2007 | Iron ore: Parker Point berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 15 vessels due by 7/2; Parker Point berth 2: a 4 week shutdown commenced at 06.00 hrs. 10/1; Parker Point berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; 5 vessels due by 25/1; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; 5 vessels due by 26/1. |
| Esperance | 22-01-2007 | Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed; 3 vessels due by 8/2. |
| Geraldton | 22-01-2007 | Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed, 1 anchored; 4 vessels due by 4/2; regular maintenance shutdowns are expected at berth No. 4 from approx. 19/3 during construction of a new iron ore berth No. 5 |
| Gladstone | 22-01-2007 | Coal: R.G. Tanna (Clinton) coal terminal: 3 vessels berthed, 18 waiting; 30 vessels due by 7/3; shiploader No. 1 shut down for repairs and maintenance from 5-8/02; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed, 1 waiting; 11 vessels due by 21/2. |
| Hay Point | 22-01-2007 | Coal: Berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 4 vessels due by 27/1; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 3 vessels due by 28/1; 6 other vessels due by 4/2, not yet scheduled |
| Newcastle | 22-01-2007 | Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 3 vessels berthed and loading, 34 waiting; 32 vessels due by 10/2; 17-22 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, 14 waiting; 25 vessels due by 7/2; 17-21 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 17 vessels off port awaiting coal. |
| Port Hedland | 22-01-2007 | Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 6 vessels due by 30/1; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 5 vessels due by 1/2; 8 other vessels due by 7/2, 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, 4 waiting; 2 vessels due by 25/1; Cockatoo Island: 2 vessels due by 7/2. |
| Port Kembla | 22-01-2007 | Coal: 16 vessels due by 11/3. |
| Port Walcott | 22-01-2007 | Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 8 waiting; 16 vessels due by 8/2; shippers may experience product shortage which might affect berthing schedules. |
| Whyalla | 22-01-2007 | Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed; 5 vessels due by 23/2. |
| Azerbaijan | | |
| Apsheron | 22-01-2007 | Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 3 empty vessels berthed, 1 vessel berthed discharging crude oil |
| Baku | 22-01-2007 | Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: 1 vessel berthed loading crude oil; Sangachal district: no vessel |
| Bulgaria | | |
| Bourgas | 22-01-2007 | Six vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 coils, 1 steel billets, 1 sunflower seeds), 3 discharging (1 copper concentrate, 1 steel, 1 bulk salt); 2 vessels in roads, both to load, of which 1 gasoil, 1 baryte concentrate; 4 vessels due, of which 1 to load scrap, 3 to discharge (1 steel, 1 gasoil, 1 slabs). |
| Varna | 22-01-2007 | Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 15-22 January: Thirty vessels in port operating of which 14 loading (3 bulk maize, 1 bulk wheat, 4 dense soda in bulk, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 1 chamotte, 1 bulk clinker, 1 containers, 2 scrap), 11 discharging (1 iron bars, 1 rock-salt, 1 bulk copper slag, 5 bulk coal, 1 petcoke, 1 pipes, 1 equipment in packing cases), 5 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads. |
| Cyprus | | |
| Larnaca | 23-01-2007 | Two conventional vessels discharging at berth; 1 conventional vessel due 24/1; no delays expected |
| Limassol | 23-01-2007 | Three container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 4 conventional vessel discharging at berth; 4 container vessels, 4 conventional vessels and 1 passenger vessel due 24/1; no delays expected |
| Egypt | | |
| Adabiya | 22-01-2007 | Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), all general cargo |
| Alexandria | 22-01-2007 | Forty-two vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 33 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 3 tankers, 4 container vessels; 12 vessels at inner anchorage, 3 at outer anchorage. |
| Damietta | 22-01-2007 | Sixteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 11 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 3 container vessels; 8 vessels at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage. |
| Dekheila | 22-01-2007 | Thirteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 6 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 3 container vessels; 16 vessels at outer anchorage |

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

Port Conditions

| | | |
|----------------|------------|--|
| Port Said | 22-01-2007 | Five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 3 container vessels. |
| Suez | 22-01-2007 | Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 3 passenger vessels; 2 tugs, 1 vessel dry-docked. |
| Suez Canal | | Forty-one vessels transiting Northbound, 30 Southbound |
| Estonia | | |
| Tallin | 22-01-2007 | Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): Three vessels loading at berth (2 coal, 1 fertiliser); no vessels anchored; 3 vessels due, with 1 day's berthing delay expected |
| Georgia | | |
| Batumi | 22-01-2007 | Oil products: 2 vessels berthed of which 1 loading LPG, 1 crude oil; 2 vessels in roads, both to load crude oil; 2 vessels due by 25/1, both to load, of which 1 kerosene, 1 crude oil. |
| Poti | 22-01-2007 | Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, to load gasoil; 5 vessels due by 25/1, all to load, of which 3 gasoil, 2 gasoline |
| Israel | | |
| Ashdod | 22-01-2007 | No labour problems. One general cargo vessel loading at berth, 10 vessels discharging at berth (7 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 4 vessels loading/discharging at berth (3 containers, 1 tanker); 3 general cargo vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 20 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected. |
| Eilat | 22-01-2007 | No labour problems. One general cargo vessel discharging at berth, 1 car carrier loading/discharging at berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 2 vessels due, with no delays expected. |
| Haifa | 22-01-2007 | No labour problems. Six vessels discharging at berth (2 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 10 loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 2 car carriers, 3 tankers, 1 passenger vessel); 9 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (8 containers, 1 tanker); 7 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 19 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected |
| India | | |
| Kolkata | 22-01-2007 | 8 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Iron Ore, 6 vessels discharging (Containers-2, Edible Oil-2, Logs, General Cargo), 1 vessel waiting to load General Cargo, 3 vessels working at mid stream discharging (Pules, Crude, Logs); 4 vessels under repair; 1 vessel under arrest; 2 vessels waiting to sail; 2 vessels due Containers. |
| Haldia | 22-01-2007 | 16 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Iron Ore-3, Thermal Coal), 7 vessels discharging (POL, Coking Coal-2, Crude, More, Cement, Lime), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers, 2 vessels waiting to load, 1 vessel waiting to discharge; 4 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (1 to discharge, 3 to load), 3 vessels waiting berth at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load); 4 vessels due (Crude, POL, Coking Coal-2). |
| Paradip | 22-01-2007 | 12 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Iron Ore-3, Super Kerosene Oil), 8 vessels discharging (High Speed Diesel, A. Coal. Lime Coke, Coking Coal, Rock Phosphate-2, S. Oil); 7 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (1 to discharge, 6 to load), 1 vessel waiting berth at anchorage to load; 37 vessels due. |
| Vizag | 22-01-2007 | 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; 15 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (7 to discharge, 8 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 | 22-01-2007 | 15 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (Granite Blocks-2, Bary, Molas-2, Iron Ore, Containers), 5 vessels discharging (DAP, Met Coke, Thermal Coal Furance Oil, C.P. Oil), 3 vessels loading and discharging (Steel Coil, Steel, Containers); 4 vessels due (Supply, LSHS/ Palm Oil, Containers, Steal Coal). |
| Tuticorin | 22-01-2007 | 9 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading General Cargo, 5 vessels discharging (Logs, Coal, Thermal Coal-2, Project Cargo), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load, 2 vessels awaiting order at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load), 1 vessel under arrest. |
| Cochin | 22-01-2007 | 3 vessels operating at berth discharging (Steel Plates, Crude, Sulphur). |
| New Mangalore | 22-01-2007 | 7 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Iron Ore Fines, 6 vessels discharging (Fertiliser, Timber, Crude Palm Oil, LPG, POL Crude, Coal); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load); 6 vessels due (Container, POL Product-2, Pig Iron, Xyrene, Iron Ore (Fines)). |
| Mormugao | 22-01-2007 | 4 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading Iron Ore, 2 vessels discharging (Coal, Motor Sprit/High Speed Diesel); 6 vessels working at midstream and loading Iron Ore; 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge, 1 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 2 vessel under dry docked; 10 vessels due (Coal-3, Container, Met Coke, Iron Ore-5). |
| Mumbai | 22-01-2007 | 12 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Steel Pipes, General Cargo, Vehicles), 6 vessels discharging (Steel Cargo, Steels Pipes, Wheat, Logs, POL), 4 vessels loading and discharging (POL, Steel Cargo, General Cargo, Project/ SBM); 1 vessel working at midstream loading and discharging Lubricant Oil; 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load, 5 vessels awaiting order at anchorage to discharge, 5 vessels awaiting order at anchorage to discharge; 9 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 5 vessels under arrest; 1 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 40 vessels due (Contaners-6, Oil, General Cargo-32). |

Port Conditions

| | | |
|---------------------|------------|--|
| J.N.P.T. | 22-01-2007 | 7 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Naptha, 1 vessel discharging Lubricant Oil, 6 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load and discharge, 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel due Containers. |
| Kandla | 22-01-2007 | 16 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Timber Logs, Coal, Wheat), 12 vessels discharging (Cement-2, Soda, Soya-3, Rice, POL-3, Chemical), 1 vessel working at midstream and discharging Timber Logs; 13 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (12 to load, 1 to discharge), 4 vessels not ready to work at anchorage (1 to load, 3 to discharge). |
| Ennore | 22-01-2007 | 1 vessel working at inner anchorage loading Iron Ore; 3 vessels due (MV Clipper Gemini (Iron Ore), MV Tamil Anna (Coal), MV Jag Pavitra (POL)). |
| Russia | | |
| Novorossiysk | 22-01-2007 | Sixteen vessels in port operating, of which 13 loading, (1 bulk cement, 2 pipes, 1 scrap, 1 steel billets, 2 copper, 1 coils, 1 aluminium, 1 wheat, 1 vegetable oil, 2 diesel oil), 3 discharging (1 debars, 2 bulk sugar); 20 vessels waiting in roads, of which 15 to load (3 copper, 2 barley, 3 slabs, 1 steel billets, 2 aluminium, 1 pipes, 1 wheat, 1 bulk cement, 1 equipment), 4 to discharge bulk sugar, 1 to discharge/load containers; 68 vessels due, of which 64 to load (3 scrap, 2 vegetable oil, 10 steel billets, 5 copper, 5 wheat, 1 wire rods, 2 copper WRIC, 4 DRI, 2 pipes, 5 slabs, 3 HBI, 1 UAN solution, 1 WRIC, 2 aluminium, 2 pig-iron, 1 vehicles/tin plate, 3 coils, 2 diesel oil, 1 tin plate/equipment, 1 coils/steel sheets, 1 coils/steel billets/ steel sheets, 1 equipment, 1 wire rods/steel billets, 1 coils/slabs, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 bulk NPK, 2 bulk urea), 2 to discharge (1 citrus, 1 bulk sugar), 2 to discharge/ load containers. Oil terminal: 1 tanker berthed loading diesel oil; 8 tankers in roads, all to load, of which 7 crude oil, 1 diesel oil; 8 tankers due, all to load, of which 6 crude oil, 1 fuel oil. |
| Slovenia | | |
| Koper | 22-01-2007 | Port working normally. Twelve vessels berthed of which 1 tanker discharging liquid cargo, 1 car carrier discharging/loading vehicles, 1 vessel discharging/loading containers, 3 loading sawn timber/general cargo, 4 discharging bulk cargo, 2 loading bulk cargo; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage, both to discharge bulk cargo; 17 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 5 to discharge/load containers, 3 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 1 to discharge vehicles, 3 vessels to load sawn timber/general cargo, 2 to discharge bulk cargo, 3 to load bulk carg |
| Spain | | |
| Bilbao | 22-01-2007 | Twenty-three vessels operating (6 tankers, 17 other vessels), of which 4 loading, 12 discharging, 7 loading/discharging. |
| Turkmenistan | | |
| Aladja | 22-01-2007 | Oil products: 1 vessel berthed loading crude oil; port open |
| Okarem | 22-01-2007 | Oil products: 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil |
| Turkmenbashi | 22-01-2007 | Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, of which 1 completed loading HPGO, 1 loading gasoline; 7 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 fuel oil, 2 gasoil, 1 crude oil, 3 unknown cargoes. |
| Ukraine | | |
| Ilichevsk | 22-01-2007 | Seven vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (2 slabs, 1 sunflower seed oil, 1 sunflower cake, 1 sunflower seeds, 1 wheat), 1 loading/discharging containers; 2 vessel in roads, of which 1 to load steel products, 1 to load/discharge containers; 26 vessels due, of which 14 to load (8 steel products, 3 sun flower oil, 3 ore), 5 to discharge ore, 7 to load/discharge containers |
| Mariupol | 22-01-2007 | Thirteen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (5 steel, 1 sunflower beans/husks, 2 fire-clay, 1 sulphur, 1 coal, 1 coke, 1 sorghum), 1 discharging/ loading equipment/pig-iron; 16 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 10 steel, 1 fire-clay, 1 sulphur, 3 coal, 1 slag; 44 vessels due, of which 41 to load (27 steel, 2 fire-clay, 7 coal, 2 coke, 1 fire-clay/kaolin, 1 equipment, 1 pitch), 2 to discharge equipment, 1 to load/discharge equipment/containers. |
| Odessa | 22-01-2007 | Eighteen vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (3 metal, 1 barley, 1 coal), 8 discharging (2 luggage, 1 citrus, 1 bananas, 1 equipment, 1 sugar, 2 general cargo), 3 discharging/loading containers, 2 passenger vessels; 6 vessels in roads, of which 2 to load (1 scrap, 1 metal), 3 to discharge (2 sugar, 1 bananas), 1 to discharge/load containers; 87 vessels due, of which 40 to load (26 metal, 4 pig-iron, 2 wheat, 1 coal, 2 general cargo, 2 timber, 1 ferro alloy, 2 iron ore pellets), 11 to discharge (3 metal, 4 citrus, 1 general cargo, 1 sugar, 1 ore, 1 fertiliser), 36 to discharge/load containers. |

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