

Jan 12 2007

## US nuclear submarine suckered by passing superfast K Line tanker

'Sucking effect' when VLCC passed over submerged vessel suggested as cause, writes Keith Wallis in Hong Kong  
— Thursday January 11 2007

**T**EMPORARY repairs will be carried out to the K Line very large crude carrier *Mogamigawa* before it can continue its voyage to Singapore.

This follows a divers' inspection of the 300,000 dwt ship which showed at least one of the ballast tanks was holed in a collision with the US Navy nuclear powered submarine USS Newport News near the Strait of Hormuz on Monday.

The US Navy has meanwhile begun to shed some light on what may have caused the collision.

### Overhead

According to US press reports the navy's preliminary findings suggest that when the *Mogamigawa* passed overhead at a high speed it created a "sucking effect" that made the submarine rise.

"As the ship passed over it ended up sucking the submarine into it," Lt Cmdr Chris Loundermon, a spokesman for Submarine Force in Norfolk told reporters.

"It is a principle called the venturi effect. This was a very, very large ship moving at higher speed."

Cmdr Kevin Aandahl, spokesman for US naval forces in Bahrain, said he could not

discuss details such as the speed or depth of the submarine. He did, however, emphasise that Newport News was not surfacing at the time.

K Line said an initial inspection showed two holes, each about 10 cm by 35 cm, in ballast tank 5 on the port side about 70 m in front on the stern. There were also a 40 cm deep, 1 m by 5 m dent and some scratches.

Speaking from Tokyo, K Line spokesman Masato Yamaguchi said emergency repairs were carried out to prevent further ingress of sea water into the ballast tank.

He said the inspection by divers continued yesterday and the divers' findings would be assessed today and a repair plan drawn up.

"Some repair work will be needed before *Mogamigawa* continues its navigation," Mr Yamaguchi added.

### Assessed

He said that until the full extent of the damage had been properly assessed there was no indication where the repairs would be carried out or when they would start.

The divers' inspection was carried out at Khor Fakkan in the United Arab Emirates where the ship arrived at 1310 hrs local time on Tuesday.

The vessel, which was on time charter to Showa Shell Sekiyu, had loaded about 280,000 tonnes of crude oil and was heading towards the Gulf of Oman bound for Singapore when the collision occurred. There was no oil spill and none of the 24 crew — eight Japanese and 16 Filipinos — on board the tanker or the submarine crew was hurt.

The tanker, built by Imabari's Saijo shipyard, is classed by ClassNK and insured through Japan Shipowners Mutual Protection and Indemnity Association.

### Submerged

K Line, Japan's Transport Ministry and the US authorities have all launched investigations into the cause of the collision, which occurred while the submarine was submerged.

Japanese chief cabinet secretary Yasuhisa Shiozaki confirmed that the US was probing the collision.

He said the Japanese government had been told that the 7,011 tonne submarine suffered damage to its bow but its nuclear reactor, hull and mast were unaffected.

The 110 m vessel, one of 48 Los Angeles-class attack submarines in the US fleet, has a complement of 13 officers and 121 enlisted personnel.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>ATLANTIC DESTINY</i>	fishing	CAN	GL	1,113	500	2002	Grounded on rocks on the banks of the Lahave River, Nova Scotia, Jan 2. Refloated same day on tides and returned to Riverport, NS.
<i>BLUE STAR</i>	bulker	PAN	NK	14,889	25,694	1985	Struck drilling platform THE 205 off Veracruz Dec 29. Helipad of THE 205 is on the deck of subject vessel.
<i>BORELLY</i>	general	GBR	BV	499	905	1971	Had main engine failure in lat 53 42N, long 00 41W, on the River Ouse Jan 2. Towed to Albert Dock, Hull.
<i>CHELYABINSK</i>	bulker	RUS	RS	16,794	23,242	1984	Grounded due strong wind in the port of Taranto Jan 2. Still aground Jan 3.
<i>EL TORO</i>	part container/general	SGP	GL	9,912	13,760	2006	Reported with main engine problem about 150 nautical miles NW of Ponta Delgada Dec 30. Towed to Ponta Delgada Jan 3 and put alongside quay for engine repairs.
<i>HARWARD 1</i>	general	RUS	RS	185	141	1973	Broke down in lat 37 47.3N, long 25 40.6E, Dec 31. Taken in tow by tug <i>Atlas</i> & arrived Cesme Jan 1.
<i>KOTOBUKI MARU NO.38</i>	fishing	JPN	—	289	—	1988	Grounded on Midway Island Dec 28. Reported Dec 29 to have been refloated and moored in Midway harbour for inspection. Leaked about 2,640 gallons of marine diesel fuel. Hull patched & under way for Honolulu Jan 2.
<i>OCEAN VISCOUNT</i>	standby safety vessel	GBR	NV	604	520	1971	Drifting with main engine failure in bad weather in lat 57 19.4N, long 00 50.8E, Dec 30. Towed back to Aberdeen Dec 31. Crankshaft replacement required.
<i>SKELLIG LIGHT</i>	trawler	IRL	—	275	—	1966	Reported in lat 40 22N, long 27 03W, without steering or propulsion Jan 2. Vessel had been without proper power for seven days. Two merchant vessels in area, Helicopter took off crew. Abandoned and drifting.
<i>SUNNA</i>	general	NIS	GL	1,980	2,652	1977	Ran aground on Swona, Orkney Islands, in lat 58 44.8N, long 03 03.08W, Jan 2. Tug <i>Anglian Prince</i> tasked. Refloated under own power same day & towed by tugs <i>Erlend</i> & <i>Harald</i> to Lyness Pier, Isle of Hoy. LOF being negotiated.
<i>THOR INGER</i>	general	DIS	LR	1,167	1,210	1988	Lost power following engine problems off Busuanga, Palawan Island, Dec 25. Towed to Mariveles Dec 27. Entered shipyard Dec 28 and commenced repairs Dec 29. Engine pistons damaged.
<i>TRISTAR 1</i>	passenger/ro-ro	IDN	—	288	—	1972	Sank off Muara Sungsang, Tanjung Buyut, Sumatera, Dec 28 after being hit by a storm. Twenty-two persons rescued as of Dec 29.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



## ACACIA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Barcelona, Dec 28 — Roll On Roll Off *Acacia* was due either yesterday or this morning to change quays, from Adosado Quay to Costa Quay, in order to continue with unloading of cargo. — Lloyd's Agents.

## ADLER CLIPPER (Germany)

London, Jan 2 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Ferry *Adler Clipper* (882 gt, built 1973) drifted against the Hoernbridge in the inner harbour of Kiel at 0600, Jan 1. The ropes had been thrown loose by unknown persons, then stormy winds pushed the vessel against the bridge. The police secured the vessel. A guard on board the vessel was not harmed. The vessel was towed back to its lay-up-berth. The damage has yet to be assessed. The police are investigating.

## ALBERT RICKMERS (Liberia)

Portsmouth, Dec 29 — A 56-year-old Polish crewman suffered oil burns to an arm and leg in an electrical fire on board a container ship off North Cape today. The man was airlifted from Container Carrier *Albert Rickmers* (26131 gt, built 1998) by the Northland Electricity rescue helicopter and flown to Whangarei Hospital in a moderate condition. The ship, which left Auckland for Sydney today, was drifting, but the crew were confident of restoring power. — Correspondent.

London, Dec 29 — Following received from Wellington MRCC, timed 2032, UTC: The incident involving *Albert Rickmers* occurred in lat 34 12S, long 173 16E. The vessel took around four hours to effect repairs and then resumed passage to Sydney.

London, Jan 2 — Container Carrier *Albert Rickmers* was reported arriving at Botany Bay earlier today.

## AMALIA (Greece)

Piraeus, Dec 29 — Chemical tanker *Amalia* sailed from Thessaloniki at 2350, Dec 19, and arrived at Piraeus for repairs Dec 21. Reportedly the vessel is expected to complete said repairs and return to service Dec 30. — Lloyd's Agents.

## AMALTHEA (Marshall Islands)

Bremen, Dec 29 — Container Carrier *Amalthea* sailed Bremerhaven 2225, Dec 28, for Kotka. — Lloyd's Agents.

## APL ITALY (Liberia)

Freeport, Bahamas, Jan 3 — Repairs to Container Carrier *APL Italy* were concluded on Dec 24 and vessel departed shortly thereafter bound Miami. — Lloyd's Agents.

## ARCHON (Honduras)

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

## ARGONAFIS (Greece)

Piraeus, Dec 28 — Ferry *Argonafis* contacted bank of Corinth Canal Dec 23 during its crossing from Saronikos to Gulf of Corinth. Minor material damages ascertained. No pollution or injury was reported. The vessel safely berthed at Corinth port and, after inspection, sailed Dec 24 for Rion port. Reportedly the vessel remains at Rion for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

## ASTRON SPIRIT (Hong Kong)

See "Consignment of Wheat Delayed at Chennai, India, due Quality Issue" under "Miscellaneous."

## ATLANTIC DESTINY (Canada)

London, Jan 2 — Fishing (general) *Atlantic Destiny* (1113 gt, built 2002) ran aground on the banks of Lahave River, Nova Scotia, today. She got caught up on the rocks at the mouth of the river. She doesn't appear to be in any danger of sinking but unable to move. An eyewitness says the vessel seemed to drift towards the shore after making a stop in Riverport, NS.

London, Jan 3 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1540, UTC: The grounding of fishing (general) *Atlantic Destiny* occurred in lat 44 17.59N, long 64 21.21W. It was refloated with tides at 1921, UTC, Jan 2 and returned to Riverport, NS.

## BALTIYSK (Russia)

London, Dec 28 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, at 1659, UTC, Roll On Roll Off *Baltiysk* was still in port at Mukran.

## BEN MAYE (Isle of Man)

London, Dec 30 — General cargo *Ben Maye* arrived Ramsey Dec 16 from Troon.

## BLUE STAR (Panama)

See *THE 205*.

## BORELLY (U.K.)

London, Jan 3 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 0720, UTC: At 1925, UTC, Jan 2, general cargo *Borelly* (499 gt, built 1971), outbound from Goole, in ballast, experienced main engine failure in lat 53 42N, long 00 41W, on the River Ouse. Vessel has been taken in tow by tug *Lashette* and is being towed to Albert or Alexandra Dock, in Hull. (Note — *Borelly* arrived at Goole on Dec 23.)

London, Jan 3 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1028, UTC: VTS Humber confirmed at 1003, UTC, that general cargo *Borelly*, under tow of tug *Lashette*, had reached Albert Dock, Hull.

## BOW SIRIUS (Singapore)

London, Jan 3 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Combined chemical and oil tank *Bow Sirius* (29965 gt, built 2006) hit a gate

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of the Southern lock of the Kiel Canal in Holtenau in the morning of Jan 2. It was trapped inside the lock until 0015 when it was towed back to Holtenau roads stern first by two tugs. The vessel was damaged as well as the gate under water. The damage is E1.5-2 millions. The 100 m long dock gate could be saved and was towed into shallow water and thus preventing it from sinking. After the replacement of the damaged gate there are no spare gates left for the great locks in Holtenau which had been hit by combined chemical and oil tanker King Edward *some days ago*.

London, Jan 3 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Combined chemical and oil tank *Bow Sirius* was allowed to continue its voyage to Hamburg in the midday hours of Jan 2. The gate 4 of the lock in Kiel Holtenau which had been hit on Jan 2 by the *Bow Sirius*, on its way from Szczecin building yard to Hamburg for taking its first cargo, will have to be repaired for at least half a year. It had been damaged under water and sustained several leaks. It had to be patched before the gate could be opened and removed. It had just been overhauled for two years at Lindenau Yard Kiel. The damage is several million Euro.

London, Jan 3 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Combined chemical and oil tank *Bow Sirius*: Replacement of the dock gate in Kiel-Holtenau should be completed this evening. The tanks of the replacement gate already filled with 5,000 tons of water. The damage caused by *Bow Sirius* may be up to 2 million Euro.

London, Jan 4 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Combined chemical and oil tank *Bow Sirius* took its first cargo in the port of Hamburg on Jan 4. It sustained only minor damage.

#### **CAPETAN MICHALIS (Greece)**

See "Isthmia, Greece" under "Pollution."

#### **CELTIC SEA (Bahamas)**

See "Ecuador" under "Piracy".

#### **CHANGYUN NO.1 (China)**

London, Jan 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Seven people were injured by an explosion on non specific tanker *Changyun No.1* (5000 gt) in China's southern city of Guangzhou yesterday, the local government said. The explosion was caused by a fire that broke out at around 1420 hrs. It was anchored at a shipyard in Panyu county in the southern suburbs of Guangzhou, said Feng Weihua, an official with the local safety watchdog. He said three people were seriously injured and were being treated at Guangzhou Red Cross Hospital. Four others suffered minor injuries and were treated at a local hospital in Panyu. Feng said the fire was put out last night. The investigation into the cause of the accident continues.

#### **CHELYABINSK (Russia)**

London, Jan 3 — Following received from Rome RCC, timed 0940, UTC: As a result of bad weather, bulker with container capacity *Chelyabinsk* (16794 gt, built 1984) grounded last night, in the port of Taranto and is currently still aground. The vessel, which has 25 crew on board is in no danger and is not damaged as it has grounded on sand. There has been no pollution and no damage to port facilities.

Taranto, Jan 3 — Bulker with container capacity *Chelyabinsk*, lying at roads awaiting to go alongside, after arriving from Koper at 1130, Jan 2, to load about 20,400 tonnes steel sheets, due to very strong wind did not hold anchorage position and went adrift, also through a seafruit plantation, until it went aground still at roads. Coast Guard's investigations underway. Pilot tried to board vessel about 0045, last night, while vessel was already within sea fruit plantation, but could not manage to due to muscles' poles. Vessel grounded around 0100. — Lloyd's Agents.

Taranto, Jan 3 — Bulker with container capacity *Chelyabinsk* is still aground in lat 40 25.713N, long 17 13.810E, about 450 m off the coast within sea fruits plantations in about two metres deep water fully empty and deballasted. Local Coast Guard shall not authorise any action until ship's register had given his advice. A meeting is expected to take place among Coast Guard., P&I Lawyers and all parties tomorrow. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CLIPPER TOBAGO (Bahamas)**

Montreal, Dec 31 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Clipper Tobago* was towed from Hamilton to Montreal, as she has main engine failure. She arrived Montreal Dec 27 and is waiting for replacement parts to effect repairs. These are delayed by the New Year's holiday, but could be completed by Jan 4. She is detained by Transport Canada. She has a cargo of tallow for Columbia. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CONCEL PRIDE (Nigeria)**

Cadiz, Jan 2 — Product tanker *Concel Pride* is still in port (in Algeciras) and though it is not arrested, it is reported that the owners still need to make some payments and met some obligations before the vessel can depart. Her agents, Messrs. Ibarrola, at Ceuta, have advised they are no longer acting as agents, because of the owners many failures to keep their promises. It is reported that the owners are planning to tug the vessel to Algeria for further repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CRIS M. (Italy)**

London, Jan 3 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 0940, UTC: Hydrofoil *Cris M.* remains aground. Bad weather is still delaying salvage operations.

#### **CSL ASSINIBOINE (Canada)**

London, Dec 28 — At 0518, UTC, today, 0018, bulker *CSL Assiniboine* (22772 gt, built 1977) ran aground in

soft mud, in lat 41 42.12N, long 83 26.51W, blocking the channel in the Maumee River, near Toledo, Ohio. Two tugs assisted in freeing the vessel.

London, Jan 3 — Bulker *CSL Assiniboine* was reported arriving at Superior on Dec 31 and sailing on Jan 1.

#### **DALYAN (Cambodia)**

Portsmouth, UK, Dec 29 — An accident has happened at Novorossiysk commercial seaport. General cargo *Dalyan* (2478 gt, built 1972) started leaking. Towboats and a pilot were urgently sent to the location. — Correspondent. (Note — According to Lloyds MIU AIS, at 2000, UTC, *Dalyan* was reported stationary, at Novorossiysk.)

Novorossiysk, Jan 1 — General cargo *Dalyan* was damaged while loading steel scrap at Novorossiysk port and is presently within the inner harbour. Vessel is partly laden with steel scrap and a large hole is located near this, which apparently may not be temporary repaired. One of the rescue team's suggestions is to let the adjacent ballast tank be filled in via hole and discharge some of the cargo. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **DESPINA (Greece)**

See *Rania*.

#### **EL TORO (Singapore)**

Ponta Delgada, Dec 29 — Part containerised general car *El Toro* (9912 gt, built 2006) is presently adrift about 150 nautical miles north-west of Ponta Delgada with main engine problem. The local tug *Sao Miguel* is proceeding to the casualty area in order to assist and tow the vessel to Ponta Delgada. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 2 — Following received from Ponta Delgada MRCC, timed 1025, UTC: Part containerised general car *El Toro* was reported in lat 38 15N, long 22 35W, at 2000, Dec 31. Vessel is currently in tow of tug *Sao Miguel*, ETA Ponta Delgada tomorrow morning.

Ponta Delgada, Jan 3 — Part containerised general car *El Toro* was towed by local tug *Sao Miguel* arrived Ponta Delgada today and safely put alongside the quay inner port at 1630, local time, for necessary main engine repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **EMSLAND (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Dec 30 — A press release from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated Dec 29: Earlier today Montrose Port Control alerted Forth Coastguard to the general cargo *Emsland* (1857 gt, built 1984) which had gone aground in the channel just outside Montrose harbour as it was heading to sea. The vessel is carrying 2000 tons of log timbers. There was no danger to the six crew aboard, who have remained on the vessel throughout. The weather on scene was force 5 to 7 (fresh breeze - near gale) at the time of the grounding with the wind on its starboard side. Checks around the vessel which is listing at 5 degrees on the Annat Bank identified



that it was not losing any oil and there was some hope that with a further three metres of tide due to come in she might have floated off at high water. The Montrose lifeboat was launched and along with two pilot boats attempted to tow her off the sand. This proved fruitless and the tow attempt was abandoned after one of the vessels lost a guard rail. Bob Abercrombie of Forth Coastguard said "She appears to have grounded on soft sand just outside the harbour. Unfortunately despite the best efforts of the pilot boats and lifeboat at just before high water at 2130, this evening the vessel remains firmly stuck fast. Tugs from further ports were unavailable as the weather forecast predicts the winds to strengthen to a gale force 9 increasing to storm force 10 and they would be unable to make Montrose harbour in time. Her stern anchor has now been deployed to hold her fast during the night and we are making hourly checks as to the state of the vessel. "In the meantime tug brokers and the owners have been contacted and we are hoping for larger tug or an anchor handling vessel to assist during daylight hours and a rising tide tomorrow. "Both the Agency's Counter Pollution unit and MCA Surveyors in Aberdeen have been kept informed throughout the incident, and a Surveyor will attend the vessel when she is brought back into Montrose harbour to see whether any damage has been sustained especially to its rudder. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) have also been informed."

London, Dec 30 — Following received from Coastguard Forth MRSC, timed 0453, UTC: General cargo *Emsland*: Tug *Esvgt Connector* has been tasked and will arrive on scene at 0700, UTC, today. SAROPS ongoing.

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Emsland*, with six crew on board, has been grounded overnight on the Annat sandbank at the entrance to Montrose harbour. The *Emsland*, loaded with a full cargo of 2,000 tonnes of round timber, rode out the stormy night. A powerful anchor-handling tug has been commissioned from Aberdeen to pull it off on this morning's high tide around 1030 hrs. The incident began just before 1600 yesterday as the *Emsland* prepared to leave the estuary for Scandinavia. Minutes after the local pilot had disembarked and it was under the charge of its own master, the vessel drifted on to the sandbank. The port authority and the Coastguard were alerted and, because it was just one hour after low water, it was decided to let the vessel sit it out until high water around 2100 hrs. The Montrose lifeboat *Moonbeam* went out to the vessel about 1945 hrs and began the task of getting lines on board to pull it off on the rising tide. The harbour's two pilot boats stood by to offer additional control. With the weather deteriorating and the scene lit up by flares, lifeboat coxswain Derek Smart and his crew began the difficult task of getting a tow line on board as

the *Emsland* was gradually wedged more and more securely into the sand. Three hours later it was still aground. "The lines kept breaking under the strain but just before high tide we got one on board," said Mr Smart last night. "Such was the enormous strain that it too broke, damaging the staunch on our deck and ripping off the rails round our stern." Last night Forth Coastguard, who co-ordinated the attempted rescue, said that the crew was safe and there was not believed to be any pollution threat. A Coastguard spokesman said, however: "We have alerted the counter-pollution authorities and, with the weather expected to worsen to storm force 10 during the night, the rescue helicopter has also been placed on stand-by."

London, Dec 30 — Following received from Coastguard Forth MRSC, timed 1132, UTC: General cargo *Emsland*: Tug arrived on scene at 1059, UTC and, under the direction of the pilots, finally gave up trying to tow off the casualty. It is not expected that another attempt can be made until the tide is higher. High water is at 2231, UTC.

London, Dec 30 — Following received from Coastguard Forth MRSC, timed 2322, UTC: General cargo *Emsland*: At 2300, UTC, attempts to refloat the vessel were unsuccessful and aborted. A further attempt is expected to take place at next high tide (1130, UTC, Dec 31.) Duty salvors Switzerwijsmuller have been contracted and will arrive at Aberdeen at 1000, UTC, Dec 31.

London, Dec 31 — Following received from Coastguard Forth MRSC, timed 1216, UTC: General cargo *Emsland* remains aground, after the latest attempt to refloat at high water, at 1114, UTC, was unsuccessful. Salvors due on board to assess situation with option of removing cargo. Next high water at Montrose is at 2337, UTC.

London, Jan 1 — Following received from Coastguard Forth MRSC, timed 0209, UTC: General cargo *Emsland*: Latest attempt unsuccessful at high water at 2337, UTC. Salvor due on board to assess the situation with an option of removing the cargo being considered. No attempt expected today. Next high water at Montrose 1213, UTC, today.

London, Jan 1 — A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV report, dated Dec 31, states: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage was yesterday evening requested to join in and assist in operations to refloat general cargo *Emsland*, which had run aground off Montrose during the evening of Dec 29. Initially SvitzerWijsmuller company Esvagt was requested to come in and provide towing assistance with one of their vessels from Aberdeen after local attempts with pilot boats, etc, had not improved the situation. Also the subsequent assistance yesterday of tug/supply *Esvagt Connector* did not achieve the required results. Overnight a skeleton salvage team from SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage was mobilised in from the Netherlands to

co-ordinate further refloating attempts today.

London, Jan 1 — Following received from Coastguard Forth MRSC, timed 1730, UTC: General cargo *Emsland* remains aground. Refloating activity has ceased for the day. Next high water is at 1313, UTC, tomorrow. Removal of some of the wood cargo, either by ditching overboard or onto a lighter, is being considered. A further tug is proceeding from the Tees.

London, Jan 2 — Following received from Coastguard Forth MRSC, timed 1220, UTC: General cargo *Emsland* remains aground, with salvage plans still being discussed.

London, Jan 3 — Following received from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency dated today: At ten minutes past four on the afternoon of Dec 29 general cargo *Emsland*, ran aground on the Annat Bank in the River South Esk, after departing the port of Montrose. The vessel carrying a cargo of 1776 tonnes of timber logs and bunkers of 33.7 tonnes of marine diesel oil and 1.5 tonnes of lube oil, which pose a threat to the environment. All attempts to date to refloat the vessel have failed. Officers of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency including the Secretary of State's representative who all arrived in Montrose today, have now set up a salvage control unit to oversee the salvage of the vessel and minimise the risk of pollution. The vessel is taking water into its No 3 and 4 ballast tanks. Svitzer Wijsmuller have been contracted as salvors. A Salvage Control Unit has been set up which includes representatives from an Environment Group and local authorities. Fred Caygill, Maritime and Coastguard Agency said: "Every effort is being made to recover the vessel and its bunkers with minimal impact to the environment. Salvage experts are now in place and are assessing the plans to carry out the task ahead of them whilst awaiting the arrival of some specialist marine craft which will carry equipment to the grounded vessel."

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Almost half of the cargo on board general cargo *Emsland*, still grounded on the Annat Bank at Montrose Harbour, will have to be offloaded to get it refloated. The *Emsland* ran aground at the harbour entrance while leaving the port around 1600 Friday (Dec 31) just minutes after the pilot had disembarked. It is thought that the vessel did not have enough power to push against the prevailing wind to make it past the harbour entrance. Despite the best efforts of Montrose Port Authority and the local lifeboat crew to get it refloated twice daily at high tide, the decision was taken to begin offloading cargo which was scheduled to begin yesterday afternoon. Around half the vessel's fuel has also been taken off. A tug has been trying to free the *Emsland* since Saturday but there is a risk of causing further damage to the vessel. The crew are still on board and harbour-master John West said there

is no risk to them and that they still have power and light and are adequately supplied. "It's vital that we take off at least 800 tonnes, ideally 1,000 tonnes, of cargo out of the holds and we're going to concentrate on that rather than the deck cargo while the weather is still with us," he said. "Fortunately we don't have any easterly winds forecast but if we did that could cause problems. It would create heavy seas on the bank which could lift the ship and drive her further ashore. There is a barge in the harbour and we're preparing to lift a log grab on board which will then be welded to the deck. It is a flat-bottomed vessel and has the capability of sitting on the sandbank alongside and, in theory, can take around 500 tonnes on deck. Once it is filled up it will be floated on the incoming tide and will offload at Montrose before going out for another load." The timing of the operation will be tight as the port authority is hoping to have it completed by the high tide on Friday, thought to be the best time to try to refloat the *Emsland*. "There's another big tide on Saturday, and another on Sunday but that is not as big so we're aiming for Friday, or possibly Saturday at the latest," Mr West added. "The port authority and the lifeboat are giving every assistance we can and there's nobody at risk." They delay in beginning the offloading, he said, was due partly to the incident happening over the New Year period and the time it has taken to bring together all the parties involved. The plan is to bring the *Emsland* back into Montrose for the remainder of the cargo to be discharged before it is sent for repairs.

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A salvage team has been set up to refloat general cargo *Emsland* which is posing a threat to the environment and has been grounded outside Montrose harbour for almost a week. The vessel was carrying 1,776 tonnes of timber and bunkers of 33.7 tonnes of marine diesel oil and 1.5 tonnes of lubricating oil. So far, all attempts to refloat the vessel have failed. It is taking water into ballast tanks. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has set up a salvage control unit which includes the Secretary of State's representative, local authorities and an environmental group, to oversee the salvage of the vessel and minimise risk of pollution. Fred Caygill, of the MCA said: "Every effort is being made to recover the vessel and its bunkers with minimal impact to the environment."

**ERHAN BAYRAKTAR (Turkey)**

London, Dec 29 — Following received from Georgia MRCC, dated today: General cargo *Erhan Bayraktar* was safely refloated at 0415, local time, today and anchored in Poti roads for diver survey.

London, Jan 2 — General cargo *Erhan Bayraktar* was reported passing Istanbul in a westerly direction, at 2143 hrs, Jan 1, reportedly bound for Tuzla.

**FAIRPESCA 707**

London, Jan 3 — A press release by SvitzerWijmsmuller Salvage, dated Dec 30, states: SvitzerWijmsmuller Salvage Asia and partners Islands Shipping from Papua New Guinea again were requested to come to the assistance of a fishing (general) *Fairpesca 707* that ran aground on one of the many reefs in the South Pacific. The casualty, (fast tuna fishing vessel), ran aground on the reefs just west of the Tifuasi Island, which itself is on the extreme east side of Papua New Guinea territory. Tugs *Celeste* and *Pacific Hawk* departed their base in Rabaul immediately. The tugs will arrive on site just after the new year has started. Sister vessels of the casualty have tried to refloat her previously, but these attempts have been in vain. In the meantime salvage staff was mobilised in by our partners helicopter and the first on-site inspections have been made. The salvage plan consists of lightening the vessel of the bunkers and to make use of the combined forces of the tugs during anticipated increases in the water levels in the coming days.

**FARAH-3 (Jordan)**

Colombo, Dec 29 — General cargo *Farah-3* still remains in LTTE custody in Mullaitivu. The Owners have sought Norwegian assistance to get the vessel released. The Norwegians have advised the owners to coordinate with the government and other relevant parties to have the vessel released as the mandate of the facilitators is only to communicate between the two warring sides and not carry out rescue operations. Subsequently the vessel owners as well as the local agents held talks with the Foreign Ministry yesterday on moves to salvage the stricken vessel. LTTE media spokesman stated that they were aware of the *Farah-3* owners approaching the Norwegians for help but added the vessel still remained stranded in Mullaitivu together with the cargo of 14,000 tonnes of rice. The vessel was on its way from Kakinada in India to Durban in South Africa, when it developed engine trouble and requested its local agent to arrange for the assistance of a tug from Colombo. The vessel however drifted into rebel waters and was seized together with the 25 member crew. Ship Captain Ramaz Abdul Jabar and owner Bosun Mohamed Abdul Aziz Ahmed Alsiturman stated at a meeting with the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission and the Government Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP) this week that armed LTTE cadres forcibly boarded the vessel after firing gun shots into the air and proceeded to force the weighing of the anchor, raided the vessel and took the crew to the shore after firing more shots. The crew members were handed over to the ICRC on Tuesday (Dec 26) and were subsequently driven to Colombo where they briefed the media on their ordeal with the rebels who had also looted expensive communication equipment and

computers from the vessel. As of today the vessel still remains in LTTE Custody. — Lloyd's Agents.

**FAULTLESS (Liberia)**

See *Universal Brave*.

**FEHN MISTRAL (Gibraltar)**

London, Dec 29 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1603, UTC: General cargo *Fehn Mistral* (2478 gt, built 1993), bound Kirkwall, lost 19 20-ft containers and one 40-ft container overboard in lat 59 09.2N, long 02 16.9W, at 1430, UTC, today. Weather: Wind south-south-east, force 10 (storm). (Note — *Fehn Mistral* sailed Lerwick 0128, Dec 29, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS, was located 16.7 nautical miles from Sanday, in lat 59 02 13.2N, long 02 17 19.2W, at 1627, UTC, today, course 170 deg, speed 4.4 knots.)

London, Dec 29 — An MCA press release, dated today, states: At 1430, UTC, today, Shetland Coastguard received a call from the Gibraltar registered general cargo *Fehn Mistral*, advising that she had lost 20 empty containers overboard eight miles east of Stronsay, Orkney. Weather conditions at the time were south-south-east, force 10 winds with very rough sea conditions. The vessel, which is on charter to Streamline, is making way to Kirkwall where she is expected to stay over the New Year. Local authorities and shipping have been advised and a Navigation Warning has been issued. Weather forecasts for the next 48 hours predict strong southerly winds which will hamper any immediate recovery efforts. In the meantime Shetland Coastguard are warning vessels of the danger as they the containers are a severe hazard to navigation.

London, Jan 2 — General cargo *Fehn Mistral* has now arrived at Aberdeen.

**FINNOY (Norway)**

London, Dec 29 — Information received, dated Sandnes today, states: Ferry *Finnoy* (1935 gt, built 1999), when arriving Hanasand from Talgje, grounded near the quay in dense fog, at 2205, local time, yesterday. Vessel refloated by own means after few minutes and moored to the quay. The ferry proceeded to Stavanger for inspection and is now underway to Rubbestadneset for repairs and is currently in lat 59 27.3N long 05 34.4E, speed 13.5 knots at 1222, local time. today. Roll on roll off *Foldoy* will replace the vessel.

Kristiansand, Jan 3 — Ferry *Finnoy*: Vessel's Superintendent has advised that she is still under repair at Rubbestadneset. They are waiting for spare parts for the broken bow thrusters and no date of completion has yet been set. — Lloyd's Agents.

**FLORA (Malta)**

London, Dec 30 — Following received from Ankara MSRCC, timed 1025, UTC: General cargo *Flora* remains aground, with no change in situation and no developments.

**FRIGGA (DIS)**

London, Dec 30 — Tug *Frigga*, which was towed to Fredericia shipyard Nov 27 after fire in engine-room while transitting Kiel Canal Nov 25, is now back in service. Vessel was reported arriving Fredericia Dec 25.

**GLOBAL HAWK (Panama)**

Busan, Dec 28 — Bulker *Global Hawk* arrived Busan Dec 17 from Homer and sailed Dec 21 for Inchon. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**GREAT CENTURY (Hong Kong)**

See *Princess Laurie*.

**GRETA KOSAN (Isle of Man)**

Dover, Jan 2 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Greta Kosan* remains alongside Dover Cruise Terminal 1 awaiting repairs to turbo-charger, cylinder liners, heads and pistons, etc. Reassembly is scheduled for Jan 5-7 with trials and departure Jan 8, if Classification Society is satisfied. — Lloyd's Agents.

**GRIGOROUSSA I (Liberia)**

Piraeus, Dec 29 — Crude oil tanker *Grigoroussa I* remains at Skaramanga undergoing repairs. Reportedly vessel is expected to complete repairs and return to service at the beginning of next year. — Lloyd's Agents.

**HARWARD 1 (Russia)**

London, Jan 2 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0940, UTC: General cargo *Harward 1* (185 gt, built 1973), Bar for Varna, no cargo on board, broke down in lat 37 47.3N, long 25 40.6E, at 0100, local time, Dec 31. Vessel was taken in tow by tug *Atlas* and safely arrived Cesme at 0600, local time, Jan 1.

**HEAVEN STAR**

Portsmouth, UK, Dec 30 — Leyte-bound passengers were stranded for over three hours at sea after inter-island ferry Unknown *Heaven Star*, 1597 gt, stalled in the seawaters off Cebu early today. The crew of *Heaven Star*, of Roble Shipping Lines, decided to return to Pier 2, in Cebu City. Carrying 998 passengers, *Heaven Star* encountered engine trouble barely an hour after it Cebu City at 2200, Dec 29, the Cebu Coast Guard said. Its main engine failed past 2300 hrs, some 10 to 15 nautical miles off Danao City point, it said. Among those onboard the vessel was the family of newsroom librarian Vilma Pansoy-Dumoran, who sought the Coastguard's assistance, upon learning of the mechanical problem past 0200 hrs. "We were worried because there was no proper announcement from the ship captain. We just learned it from our co-passengers," said Vilma. Vilma contacted both the Cebu CG station at Pier 3 and the ship owner, informing them that majority of the passengers wanted to return to Cebu City. The passengers were anxious about their safety as rain started to pour past 0200 hrs, while the vessel remained stationary in dark rough waters, she said. Her husband learned, from the

ship information officer, that the diesel fuel in the main engine took in seawater, coming from the leak in its liquid compartment, causing the engine to fail. The crew had to plug the leak to stop the seepage and also drain or filter the mixed seawater from the diesel fuel, he said. "With that situation, I do not think we would reach Ormoc because the liquid compartment serves as the engine's cooling system," Nefran, an electronic computer engineer, said. After the crew revved-up the engine and made a test-run, the master announced that they would return to Cebu City. *Heaven Star* finally docked at Pier 2 at 0528 hrs. — Correspondent.

Manila, Jan 3 — Passenger/cargo vessel *Heaven Star* is still docked at Pier 2 of Cebu port, Roble Shipping Lines, Inc. officials said today. The vessel is expected to undergo onboard repairs to its main engine which broke down when seawater contaminated its diesel fuel while on a voyage between Cebu and Ormoc City Dec 30. The vessel was stranded for several hours before being towed back to Cebu port. This is the second time in less than a year that the *Heaven Star* encountered an accident. In April last year, a 10 metre portion of its roof deck caught fire when burning embers from its smokestack fell on the deck. The fire was placed under control by the crew and the vessel was able to reach Ormoc port safely. — Correspondent.

**HENDRIK SR. (U.K.)**

London, Dec 28 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 1529, UTC: Trawler *Hendrik Sr.*, proceeding for Lowestoft harbour, is now under the control of MCA surveyors.

**HOLBERG (Uruguay)**

Port Stanley, Jan 2 — Fishing (general) *Holberg* is still at Port Purvis. The weather has hampered operations. It is believed that there may be an attempt to refloat vessel this week. If not, operations will commence to remove the oil on the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Stanley, Jan 3 — Fishing *Holberg* was refloated yesterday (Jan 2). — Lloyd's Agents.

**IN SUNG NO.207 (South Korea)**

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Eleven Vietnamese sailors who were rescued after fishing (general) *In Sung No.207* sank off Argentina last month arrived in Vietnam Monday (Jan 1).

**IOLKOS II (Greece)**

See *Sibirskiy 2101*.

**JOMI (Bahamas)**

London, Jan 1 — General cargo *Jomi* sailed Velsen Dec 31 for Sharpness.

**JUAN**

London, Dec 30 — A press release from the United States Coastguard dated Dec 28, states: The Coast Guard is monitoring liftboat *Juan*, 131

metres, that is listing to one side today about 70 miles south of Gibson, La. A liftboat is a self-elevating, self-propelled boat used for various tasks such as crane operations, pipe laying and construction. The Coast Guard was notified at about 0215, today that the liftboat, owned and operated by Montco Offshore Inc. in Galliano, La., was listing to its starboard side during jack-up procedures. All six crew members were safely evacuated from the boat. Initially, the boat was listing at 10 degrees, and the vessel is currently listing 45 degrees. No pollution has been reported, and personnel from Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Morgan City, La., are continuing to monitor the situation and will investigate the cause of the incident.

**KANG NAM 5 (Hong Kong)**

See "Hong Kong" under "Port State Control".

**KING EDWARD (Marshall Islands)**

London, Dec 28 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Combined chemical and oil tank *King Edward*: One of the two large locks in Kiel-Holtenau shall be operable at about 1800, today. The other one may be back in service in the morning hours of tomorrow. Until then no large vessels can transit after the *King Edward*, Immingham to St. Petersburg, without cargo, hit the gate 3.

London, Dec 28 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: It is now being reported that one of the two large locks in Kiel-Holtenau shall be operable at about 1800 hrs, Dec 28. The other one may be back in service during the morning of Dec 29. Until then no large vessels can transit the lock. Combined chemical and oil tank *King Edward*, which possibly had an engine failure, has been towed, stern first, to a berth in the North harbour.

London, Dec 30 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Combined chemical and oil tank *King Edward* was allowed to leave the North harbour of Kiel in the night of Dec 29, after the end of investigations, and proceeded to St. Petersburg for taking cargo. The insurance of the owners will have to pay several millions of Euro, caused by the canal closures. The canal traffic was not yet back to normal on Dec 29, though teams had worked hard, assisted by the tug *Holtenau* and a sheerleg of the Ostseedienst, as well as several other working ships, to get the replacement gates in situ in the North and South locks in Holtenau.

**KOTOBUKI MARU NO.38 (Japan)**

London, Dec 29 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 2130, UTC: Fishing (general) *Kotobuki Maru No.38* (289 gt, built 1988), JGGG, ran aground yesterday on Midway Island. The vessel has been refloated and is now moored alongside in Midway harbour, pending inspection.

London, Dec 30 — A press report,

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



dated today, states: US Fish and Wildlife Service officials will resume the clean-up operation in Midway today and assess whether there was any environmental damage from a diesel fuel spill in the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. Officials said fishing *Kotobuki Maru No.38* began leaking an estimated 2,640 gallons of marine diesel fuel about 2030 yesterday while delivering an injured crew member to Midway Atoll for medical evacuation. Refuge staff met the vessel in Midway's harbour, escorted it to the pier and surrounded it with a boom to contain the oil spill. The vessel still had 34,320 gallons of fuel on board, officials said. Only a light sheen was reported on the water within the boom this morning. "It obviously collided with something. There are other things out there besides the reef that it could have run into," said Barbara Maxfield, US Fish and Wildlife Service spokesperson. An investigation is under way into the cause of the spill. Maxfield added that, as far as she knows, so far no animals have been affected by the spill, which involves what she described as "lightweight" diesel fuel. The spill occurred in both the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument and the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. Hawaiian monk seals, sea turtles and coral reefs live in the sanctuary. The oil could also pose a danger to the albatross and other birds that nest on the island if it comes ashore, Maxfield said. Staff could not inspect the vessel yesterday because seas were too rough, she said. Seventeen volunteers counting albatrosses on the atoll and a team from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration working with monk seals in the area would help watch for oiled animals, Maxfield said. Pacific Environmental Company, a private contractor hired by the Japanese company that owns the damaged vessel is also helping with the response to the spill. A Coast Guard C-130 left Honolulu yesterday for Midway carrying supplies, Coast Guard personnel and other workers to assist with the clean-up, damage assessment and repair of the vessel.

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated Jan 1, states: Fishing (general) *Kotobuki Maru No.38*, that ran aground Thursday (Dec 28) near the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, has been patched up, and will leave on Tuesday and arrive in Honolulu in a few days.

Honolulu, Jan 3 — Fishing (general) *Kotobuki Maru No.38* struck an old sunken barge while entering the channel at Midway Atoll on Dec 28. Three holes were ripped in one of its fuel tanks. It was reported the tank held 2640 gallons of fuel and a boom was placed around the vessel to contain the spill, which was reported to be small. No signs of pollution were found on the shoreline. The vessel was temporarily patched and reportedly on its way to Honolulu. It is unknown why the vessel was attempting to

enter Midway (daylight only) Harbor. — Lloyd's Agents.

**KURUOGLU III (Turkey)**

London, Dec 30 — General cargo *Kuruoglu III* sailed Antwerp 2239, Dec 28, for Apapa-Lagos.

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

London, Dec 29 — A Coast Guard New Orleans press release, dated Dec 28, states: The Coast Guard is monitoring a liftboat, supply *L/B Juan* (128 gt, built 1997), that is listing to one side today about 70 miles south of Gibson, La. The Coast Guard was notified at about 0215. today that the liftboat, owned and operated by Montco Offshore Inc. in Galliano, La, was listing to starboard during jack-up procedures. All six crewmember were safely evacuated from the boat. Initially, the boat was listing at 10 degrees, and the boat is currently listing 45 degrees. No pollution has been reported, and personnel from Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Morgan City, La., are continuing to monitor the situation and will investigate the cause of the incident. The boat is located on the Outer Continental Shelf in Ship Shoal Block 207, and an overflight is scheduled tomorrow to better assess and monitor the situation.

London, Dec 29 — Following received from Coast guard New Orleans, timed 1020, UTC: Supply *L/B Juan* was last reported with a 45 degree list in lat 28 32.242N, long 90 58.884W. An overflight is scheduled for later today.

London, Dec 29 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 2145, UTC: Supply *L/B Juan* is still in lat 28 32N, long 90 58W, but is now reported to be semi-submerged. A salvage plan is currently being drafted.

London, Jan 3 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1435, UTC: Supply *L/B Juan*: Yesterday evening salvors were on scene and diving operations were under way to plug open vents and prevent further leakage of oil products. A full diving survey will be carried out.

**LAI KING (Hong Kong)**

Cape Town, Jan 4 — General cargo *Lai King*: The original crankshaft has been removed from the main engine and the replacement has arrived in Cape Town. Currently, it is being prepared at a local workshop. The saddles are also being prepared which will be fitted this week and will need to be line bored. Thereafter, the replacement crankshaft will be fitted. The attending surveyor has envisaged a further two weeks duration subsequent to the crankshaft being fitted. The cylinder liner landing is also being prepared for re-fitting, at a local workshop. — Lloyd's Agents.

**LEMO (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

London, Dec 28 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: At 1800 hrs, today, general cargo *Lemo* (2061 gt, built 1980) "got stuck" on the

embankment at kilometre 28.5, in the Kiel Canal. The vessel succeeded in getting free under its own power and turned around to proceed at a very low speed in a westerly direction to berth in the passing point Duekerswisch. The grounding was caused by a rudder failure. The passing traffic has been advised to proceed at reduced speed as the vessel's rudder is still not functioning correctly.

London, Dec 29 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: General cargo *Lemo* arrived Dukerswisch in the evening. The crew tried to repair the rudder damage by own means. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Lemo*, bound Gdansk, was moored in lat 54 21 46.44N, long 10 09 02.1E, at 1136, UTC, today.)

London, Dec 30 — General cargo *Lemo* sailed Kiel 1740, Dec 29, for Gdansk.

**LIST (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Jan 3 — General cargo *List* was reported arriving at Rotterdam at 1225 hrs, Jan 2, from Kaliningrad. (See issue of Dec 27.)

**LUZ DO SAMEIRO (Portugal)**

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing *Luz do Sameiro* (50 gt) has capsized in rough waters off Portugal's Atlantic coast leaving two crewmen dead and four missing. Of the seven crew members on board *Luz do Sameiro* when it sank near the central fishing village of Nazare, one was rescued by an air force helicopter. The helicopter is now searching for the four missing crew members with the aid of several boats. 'We always have the hope of finding them alive but the weather conditions, high waves and the temperature of the water is lowering the chances of that,' local firefighter chief Nelio Gomes said. Rescuers are encountering 2.5-metre-high waves while the temperature of the water was 16 degrees Celsius according to the national weather office.

**MAERSK SCOTLAND (Venezuela)**

London, Dec 28 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Maersk Scotland* was stationary nine nautical miles from Virginia Beach, in lat 36 57 46N, long 76 03 39.79W, at 1549, UTC, today.

London, Jan 2 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Maersk Scotland* was reported arriving at Marcus Hook, USA, at 2114 hrs, Dec 29 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS at 0909, UTC, today, the vessel was reported still in port, at Marcus Hook.

**MARIELLE BOLTEN (Liberia)**

Freeport, Bahamas, Jan 4 — General cargo *Marielle Bolten*: Shipyard advised this week that vessel had completed repairs and was due for sea trials Jan 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MARINE EAGLE (Panama)**

London, Dec 28 — Following received from Vladivostok MRCC, timed 1555, UTC: General cargo *Marine Eagle* is presently in lat 39 39N, long 130 47E.



Vessel is not in any danger but the weather on scene remains bad. Salvage tug *Naporisty* is due on scene tomorrow morning and will try to take vessel in tow.

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A Russian tug rescued general cargo *Marine Eagle* that was in distress in the Sea of Japan today. The vessel's main engine broke down in a storm on Dec 27. The *Marine Eagle*, with the crew of 15 people, drifted 200 miles off Vladivostok. South Korean rescuers asked their Russian colleagues for help, and salvage tug *Naporisty* was sent from Vladivostok to the *Marine Eagle*. Despite four-metre waves and the wind of up to 20 metres a second, the *Naporisty* managed to take the vessel in tow. The Russian rescue vessel, with the *Marine Eagle*, is on the way to the port of Busan.

London, Dec 30 — Following received from Vladivostok MRCC, timed 1035, UTC: General cargo *Marine Eagle*, under tow of tug *Naporisty*, was reported in lat 37 05N, long 130 21E, at 0100, UTC, today. Vessels are proceeding for Busan, where ETA Jan 1.

Busan, Jan 2 — General cargo *Marine Eagle* in tow, arrived at Busan at about 0900, Dec 31. The vessel is now at the Southern outer harbour anchorage, Busan, without repair schedule fixed. Understand that the permanent repairs will be effected soon at Busan. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### MELDERSKIN (Norway)

London, Dec 30 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Roll On Roll Off *Melderskin* (1974 gt, built 1985), when arriving Sunde from Husnes, experienced engine blackout and grounded near the quay at Sunde at 1215, local time today. The ferry is partly stranded and tug is required. There was only a crew of five on board and the ferry was not in regular service.

London, Dec 30 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1310, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Melderskin* was experiencing problems reversing its engine when it ran aground. It remains aground at present in lat 59 49.9N, long 05 43.12E.

London, Dec 31 — Following received from Sandnes, dated today: At 1630, local time, yesterday, Roll On Roll Off *Melderskin* was refloated by tug *Eide Max*, after several attempts. The ferry was towed to Rubbestadneset for repairs and arrived about 2130, local time, yesterday. Damage to rudder and propeller. Estimated time to repair at least two weeks.

#### NAESBORG (Liberia)

Houston, Dec 29 — Roll On Roll Off *Naesborg* struck pier and caused damage to a dock crane, extent of same unknown at this time. Vessel sailed Galveston approximately 2100 yesterday and is on course for Manzanillo, Panama. It does not appear that the pier was damaged, just contacted by dock crane. The vessel was inspected by the Coast Guard prior to leaving the dock and

was apparently cleared to depart. Damage to the vessel was apparently just some minor scratches. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### NAUTILUS (Netherlands)

London, Jan 1 — A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV message, dated Dec 27, states: Hopper dredger *Nautilus*: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage staff and equipment from SvitzerWijsmuller bases in South Africa and the Netherlands completed the oil removal operations from the dredger off Pointe Noire Dec 26. In total 260 tonnes of oil was removed from the capsized and partly submerged hull of the dredger, further reducing the risks to the environment.

#### NORWEGIAN MAJESTY (Bahamas)

Portsmouth, UK, Jan 1 — Mechanical problems caused Norwegian Cruise Lines to cancel the scheduled Saturday (Dec 30) departure of passenger (cruise) *Norwegian Majesty* (40876 gt, built 1992). Full refunds are being offered to passengers and the vessel's departure will be delayed at least a week, cruise line spokeswoman AnneMarie Mathews said Saturday from Miami. Mathews said the ship experienced difficulties in two of its auxiliary engines Friday while entering Charleston Harbour. "This issue had no impact whatsoever on the safe operation of the vessel" and affected only the power supplied to the ship's amenities, she said. She said the vessel's arrival was on time. It was set to depart at 1600 Saturday but people attempting to board were told it would not be taking on passengers. According to an itinerary on the company's website, the *Norwegian Majesty* would have arrived tomorrow at Grand Cayman, Wednesday at Cozumel and Thursday at Key West, then would have returned to Charleston next Saturday. Mathews said the cruise line is offering all guests who would have boarded the vessel a full refund and a future cruise credit for 50% of the amount paid for this cruise, valid on any Norwegian Cruise Lines vessel through 2007. "NCL expects the repairs to be completed within the next few days and anticipates the Jan 6 sailing will commence as scheduled," Mathews said in a written statement. She said the company apologised for any inconvenience and thanked its guests for their patience and understanding. — Correspondent.

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Norwegian Majesty* arrived Charleston on Saturday (Dec 30) with electrical problems and no air conditioning. NCL Corp, the Florida company that operates the ship, cancelled a weeklong cruise scheduled to leave that night. The company said two power-producing engines shut down off Florida on Friday and generators were used to power the ship. The company has offered passengers a 20% discount off a future cruise. It also

offered full refunds and half off another cruise this year to those who had booked for the cruise that was cancelled. The company expected the ship to be repaired in time for another cruise leaving Charleston this weekend.

#### OAK BAY (Canada)

London, Dec 31 — Following received from United States Coast Guard dated yesterday: Crews from the U.S. Coast Guard and Canadian Coast Guard are racing to the aid of a 58-foot fishing (general) *Oak Bay* (56 gt, built 1944) with four people on board 22 miles south-west of Cape Flattery, Wash. The four crewmen of the fishing vessel, homeported in Neah Bay, Wash., have donned their survival suits as a precaution after the vessel began taking on water at approximately 1000, today. The crews of a Canadian Buffalo search aircraft and a Coast Guard HH-65 Dolphin helicopter have dropped pumps to the crew of the *Oak Bay* to assist with the flooding. The fishing vessel's pumps are unable to keep up with the flooding. There are two Coast Guard HH-65 Dolphin rescue helicopters and a Canadian Buffalo search aircraft on scene with the crew of the *Oak Bay*. The lifeboat crews from Coast Guard Stations Neah Bay and Quillayute River are heading to the scene to assist along with the crew of the Canadian buoy tender *Provo Wallace*.

London, Jan 1 — Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 1750, UTC: The crew of fishing (general) *Oak Bay* controlled the flooding of the vessel and the Coast Guard towed it to Neah Bay at 2350, UTC, Dec 29.

#### OCEAN VISCOUNT (U.K.)

London, Dec 30 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 0846, UTC: Standby safety vessel *Ocean Viscount* (604 gt, built 1971), 12 persons on board, reported main engine failure and drifting in bad weather 1.5 nautical miles north-east of semi-submersible drilling platform *J.W.McLean* in lat 57 19.4N, long 00 50.8E. Weather on scene: Wind south, force 7-8 (near gale-gale), sea five to six metres. Tug *Northern Chaser* is proceeding to the scene, ETA 1200, UTC, today. At 0135, UTC, today the direction of drift of the *Ocean Viscount* indicated that it may pass close to production platform *Kittiwake* and the platform remained at muster until the drifting vessel was clear. The *Ocean Viscount* has now passed clear of the *Kittiwake* and is heading for Aberdeen under limited power pending the arrival of the *Northern Chaser*. Safety checks are being maintained with the *Ocean Viscount* at regular intervals.

London, Dec 31 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 0712, UTC: Standby safety vessel *Ocean Viscount* was towed back to Aberdeen by tug *Northern Chaser*, arriving alongside 0119, UTC, today.

Grangemouth, Jan 3 — Standby safety vessel *Ocean Viscount* sustained main engine failure in the vicinity of

the Kittiwake oil field in the North sea on Dec 30. Steerage and reduced propulsion were maintained using the vessel's Aquamaster azimuthing thruster unit. The vessel was initially tended by supply *Malaviya Thirty* and later towed to Aberdeen by tug supply *Northern Chaser*, berthing at Mathews Quay during the early hours Dec 31. We understand the main engine, a Wichman 8ACAT developing up to 1200bhp, has sustained crankshaft failure of a degree necessitating renewal. Owners, Ocean Mainport Ltd. based in Cork are currently seeking a replacement crankshaft and the vessel could be out of service for a considerable period of time. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **OLVY-01 (Panama)**

Portsmouth, UK, Dec 30 — General cargo *Olv-01* (1768 gt, built 1973) is reportedly aground at Labuan. — Correspondent. (Note — *Olv-01* arrived Labuan Nov 27.)

Labuan, Jan 3 — General cargo *Olv-01* ran aground at Labuan Dec 12. Understand from the port that nothing has been arranged to refloat the vessel yet. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ORENBURG (Russia)**

London, Jan 3 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Orenburg* (4955 gt, built 1994) collided with a gate of the New Northern lock of the Kiel Canal in Brunsbüttel at 0930, Jan 2. The gate was damaged only above the waterline, so it can be repaired without having to be replaced. (Note — *Orenburg* sailed Police Dec 29 for Ghent and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 53 46 43.14N, long 06 2 4.5E, 19 nautical miles from Schiermonnikoog, Netherlands, at 0557, UTC, Jan 3.)

#### **PALLAS (Sweden)**

Gothenburg, Jan 3 — Product tanker *Pallas* left the Port of Gothenburg on Jan 2 and will return again today on its regular schedule. The grounding was obviously of a very limited nature. Divers have been down and no repairs are required. Vessel approved by Class as well as the Swedish Board of Shipping and Navigation according to information from Topoil AB, charterer of the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **PASA (Cambodia)**

Piraeus, Dec 29 — Barge *Pasa* was towed by tug *Archangelos M.* to the high seas Dec 5 and it was subsequently handed over to tug *Pegasus* in order to be towed to Tuzla. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **PETRA (Netherlands Antilles)**

London, Jan 4 — Following received from Port of Workington Harbour Office, dated today: General cargo *Petra* is presently at Berth 6, Workington, undergoing repairs. An engineer is on site at present.

#### **PETROVSK (Liberia)**

London, Dec 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Bad weather stalled the clean-up and pipeline

response efforts 30 miles south east of Galveston, Texas, yesterday night. Strong winds and large waves have made working conditions unsafe, forcing the dive ship *American Victory* and the skimmer *Ampol Recovery* to stop operations. The skimmer *Brutis* is remaining on scene to monitor the oil sheen. The divers sealed the shore side end of the breach by inflating rubber buoys inside the pipe at 2320 hrs, yesterday. Divers were unable to locate the platform end of the breach due to zero visibility caused by heavy silt conditions and deteriorating weather conditions. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the waves are currently five to six feet high, and are expected to reach eight feet by the end of the day. The winds are currently at 17 knots, with occasional gusts to 20, and are expected to pick up to 20 knots with gusts to 27 by tonight. The weather is expected to worsen over the next two days; with pipeline repair efforts expected to resume one Sunday (Dec 31). The ruptured pipeline has leaked an estimated 43,000 gallons of oil, and it continues to leak at approximately 500 gallons per day, or 21 gallons per hour. The cause of the rupture is still under investigation. A Unified Command, consisting of Plains Pipeline LP, Coast Guard and Texas General Land Office personnel, is overseeing the operation.

London, Dec 29 — Crude oil tanker *Petrovsk* arrived Port Arthur Dec 27.

London, Jan 1 — A press report dated yesterday, states: Divers sealed a broken oil pipeline today after about 44,500 gallons leaked into the Gulf of Mexico, the Coast Guard said. The weeklong spill about 30 miles south of Galveston was expected to have minimal effect on the environment. The oil continued to move away from land today and was quickly dispersing, the Coast Guard said. A portion of the High Island Pipeline System ruptured Dec 24. The pipeline's owner, Houston-based Plains All American Pipeline LP, shut down the line after detecting a pressure loss in the system. Crude oil tanker *Petrovsk* trying to moor in the area, where the water is about 90 feet deep, might have dropped its anchor on the pipeline, Plains Pipeline spokesman Jordan Janak said. It was too early to say when the line would be repaired or how much the damage will cost the company, Janak said. The spill's size was significant, but the crude oil was a relatively light grade and is far from land, according to Greg Pollock, deputy commissioner of the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program in the Texas General Land Office.

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The repair of an undersea pipeline that leaked an estimated 44,500 gallons of light crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico (damaged by crude oil tanker *Petrovsk*) cannot begin until a damage assessment is completed, a spokesman for the pipeline operator said Tuesday (Jan 2.). "At this point we are still trying to fully assess damage to the pipeline,"

said Jordan Janak, spokesman for Plains All American Pipeline LP. Janak said workers were hoping to complete the damage assessment today on the break in the High Island Pipeline, about 30 miles south of Galveston. The pipeline was shut down after rupturing Dec 17 but continued to leak about 500 gallons per day until divers plugged it Sunday. Janak said waves dispersed all the oil.

#### **PIPO (Albania)**

Piraeus, Dec 28 — General cargo *Pipo*, from Turkey, ran aground on the west coast of Gavdo island at 2255, Dec 26. All vessel's eight crew members are reportedly healthy and secure and no pollution was reported. The vessel remains aground. Preliminary investigation being held by Chania port authorities. — Lloyd's Agents.

Piraeus, Dec 29 — General cargo *Pipo* had sailed from Mersin, destination Bar, in order to perform engine repairs. The vessel experienced mechanical failure to its propellers, rendering same ungovernable, and also ingress of water was ascertained. The failure resulted in the grounding at Gavdo. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Dec 30 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1020, UTC: General cargo *Pipo* remains aground, with no salvage plans at present.

London, Jan 4 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1230, UTC: General cargo *Pipo* is still aground.

#### **PRINCESS LAURIE (France)**

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A crew of five fishermen have escaped unharmed after their trawler was hit by a Chinese container ship travelling just north of Alderney. The Cherbourg-based *Princess Laurie* was struck four times by the 740 ft container ship near the Casquets on Wednesday (Dec 27) evening.

London, Dec 30 — Following received from Jobourg MRCC, timed 0315, UTC: Fishing (general) *Princess Laurie*, 24.83 metres, built 1989, FGCC, in collision with bulker *Great Century* (38426 gt, built 1999) near the Casquets Dec 27. *Princess Laurie* sustained minor portside damage. *Great Century* proceeded on voyage to New Orleans.

#### **PRINSESSE RAGNHILD (Norway)**

Bergen, Jan 2 — Passenger ro/ro *Prinsesse Ragnhild* was back in service on Dec 25. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **PXXI**

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated Dec 28, states: Fishery protection vessel *Kelso* arrived (Tristan da Cunha) with the salvage team on Dec 22 to start the removal of pollutants from the stranded oil platform *A Turtle* (ex *PXXI*).

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

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated Dec 28, states: Passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North* is in one piece, upright on the bottom of Wright



Sound, with its damaged hull concealed in deep silt 1,400 feet below the waves. Those were the findings of the first submarine examination of the wreck since the vessel struck rocks and sank in the Inside Passage south of Prince Rupert on Mar 22. The initial dive found no sign of two missing passengers.

#### **RANIA (Indonesia)**

London, Jan 2 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1115, UTC: Early this morning, vehicle carrier *Rania* (3245 gt, built 1980) broke moorings in bad weather, at Makassar anchorage, and drifted into bulker *Despina* (36438 gt, built 1993). The starboard side of *Rania* contacted the port side of *Despina* between hold no.7 and its accommodation area. *Despina* has sustained minor structural damage between frames No.43-47. There was no water ingress, pollution or injuries to its crew reported.

#### **RAVANDA (Turkey)**

Trieste, Dec 29 — Nothing has been done regarding general cargo *Ravanda*. Delays apparently due to the fact that the tug was not available. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **RYUNAN (Japan)**

London, Dec 29 — Following notice to mariners issued today: Engine troubled vessel, 749 tons, (general cargo *Ryunan*, 749 gt, built 2004 adrift in lat 27 06N, long 128 41.7E, at 1505, UTC, Dec 28.

London, Dec 29 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0910, UTC: General cargo *Ryunan* has been salvaged and is being towed to Naha.

#### **SCL BERN (Switzerland)**

See "Montreal, Canada" under "Pollution."

#### **SEAFRANCE NORD PAS DE CALAIS (France)**

Dover, Dec 29 — Roll On Roll Off *SeaFrance Nord Pas de Calais* is now back operating its normal service. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SEAHAWK FREIGHTER (Marshall Islands)**

London, Dec 28 — According to Lloyds MIU AIS, at 1720, UTC, today, combined bulk and oil carrier *Seahawk Freighter* was in lat 51 08.43N, long 03 47.2E, 0.4 nautical miles off Terdonk, Belgium, on a course of 154.5 degs, and at a speed of 4.5 knots.

#### **SEAWAY (Panama)**

Adelaide, Jan 3 — Operators of ferry *Seaway*, SEA SA, confirms that the ferry did experience some "minor electrical problems" on Dec 19, which resulted in the ferry service being shut down for only the first of the six passenger services offered daily. He did not specify what the problem was however he has assured me that the problem was assessed and rectified quickly and that the ferry continues to run as normal. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Owners of the recently-grounded tug *Seneca* will travel to Sault Ste Marie Monday (Jan 1) to inspect any water damage the vessel sustained. "There's no decision been made on what we're going to do with it," said Franz VonRiedel, president of the Zenith Tugboat Co of Duluth, which owns the tug. Costs for freeing the tugboat and removing the fuels will initially be paid for through a governmental fund. However, ultimately, the tug company will incur the costs, which are currently unknown but are likely expected to be steep, VonRiedel said. "There was no damage to the vessel except for water getting into all of the systems," said VonRiedel. Crews anticipate a final determination on what will happen with the *Seneca* on Wednesday.

#### **SENOPATI NUSANTARA (Indonesia)**

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry *Senopati Nusantara* with 850 passengers aboard sank overnight as it travelled between Indonesia's Central Kalimantan province on Borneo to Central Java province on the country's main island, Elshintanews radio reported. Indonesia's Metro television put the number on board at more than 500. A navy official told Elshintanews nine people had been saved so far by rescuers. "The ship sank about midnight last night. We got information there are nine people rescued and taken to Bawean island. But it is difficult for us to evacuate because of bad weather," said Central Java Navy commander Colonel Yan Simamora. Rescuers were trying to locate the ship's position by helicopter, and three navy vessels and one police ship were involved in rescue efforts, he said. Simamora said the vessel, sank in the Java Sea near Central Java.

London, Dec 30 — Following received from Reuters, dated Jakarta, Dec 30: More than 500 people were still missing in stormy seas off Indonesia's Java island, today, almost a day after ferry *Senopati Nusantara*, from Borneo, capsized, officials said. The sinking was the second Indonesian ferry disaster in as many days after a vessel overturned on Thursday in rough seas off Sumatra. High seas and bad weather hampered rescue efforts after the latest disaster, officials said today. Rescuers found two bodies and 74 people alive, said Riyadi, head of search and rescue operations in Semarang, Central Java. *Senopati Nusantara* carried 605 people, including 63 crew, according to the manifest, a navy spokesman said. Seventeen survivors were taken to Tuban in East Java province. Transportation Minister Hatta Rajasa said the vessel was on fire before it sank, at about midnight on Friday (Dec 29). "The huge waves and storm caused the ship to burn," he said. "We have received information that dozens of passengers had used life rafts, in addition to those (already)

rescued. We are trying to rescue them," he added. He said *Senopati Nusantara* was seaworthy and had a capacity of more than 850 passengers. "We will continue the search operation, normally until seven days, but it can be extended until we are sure that we have made our utmost efforts." A survivor said heavy seas had battered the ship from afternoon, scattering its furniture in every direction. He said "The crew told us to be calm and that nothing was going to happen. But at about 2315, local time, the ship began to turn over and then capsized." Crew members ordered passengers to put on lifejackets before the ship sank, a survivor said. The ship was reported to be leaking before it sank. Toni Syaiful, a navy spokesman in Surabaya, said the vessel had left Kalimantan, Borneo, for Semarang. Syaiful said the vessel carried 542 passengers, based on tickets sold and 63 crew. Earlier figures from officials and media had ranged from 500 to 850 on board. Indonesian vessels often carry passengers not listed on the official manifests.

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Crowded ferry *Senopati Nusantara* broke apart and sank in the Java Sea during a violent storm that sent towering waves over its deck, and the vast majority of the nearly 640 passengers were still missing a day later, officials said today. Just 59 survivors had been found by late today, many drifting in lifeboats or clinging to driftwood, the transport minister said. Witnesses reported seeing lifeboats carrying more survivors, he said, and one person on board said that most people had time to don life jackets before the sea's warm waters overtook the vessel. No bodies had been recovered. Survivors reported panicked passengers scrambling over life jackets as the boat capsized close to midnight yesterday, after being pounded by heavy waves for more than 10 hours. "The crew kept saying 'relax, relax' but it was clear the ship was not stable. It suddenly veered to one side and the TV and fridges fell over," a survivor said. The ferry was on the final leg of a 48-hour journey from the island of Borneo to the main island of Java when waves of up to 16 feet crashed over its deck, said Slamet Bustam, an official at Semarang port, the ferry's destination. Four naval vessels, several other vessels and at least two aircraft were searching the area, but poor visibility and heavy seas hindered their search. Transport Minister Hatta Radjasa said, after talks with rescue officials, that 638 passengers and crew were on board the vessel and that 59 people had been rescued. He said two navy vessels would search through the night, adding that fisherman had reported seeing several lifeboats. The ferry ran into trouble off Mandalika island, some 190 miles northeast of Jakarta. In a final radio contact, the master informed port authorities that the ship was severely damaged and capsizing,

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said local navy commander Col. Yan Simamora.

London, Jan 1 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The ferry *Senopati Nusantara*, an Indonesian vessel which sank in Suar Mandalika waters early yesterday, was still sea worthy and not very old, Transportation Minister Hatta Radjasa said. The vessel was made in 1990 and it underwent repairs in 2006, Antara news agency quoted the minister as saying at a press conference last night in Semarang, Central Java province. He said when the accident took place, the vessel was sailing from Central Kalimantan to Semarang, Central Java, carrying about 542 passengers, 57 crew members, 29 bus/truck drivers and conductors as well as their respective vehicles. According to a leading local website “detik.com” So far, 109 of the number of passengers listed in the ship’s manifest had been rescued. They had been temporarily evacuated to Bawean island, East Java. The minister said the vessel of 2,178 gross dead weight tons had a capacity to carry 800 passengers and was equipped with sufficient safety gear. He said 14 hours after the vessel had sunk, it was believed to have moved about 39 miles to the east from its previous position at about 24 miles north of Mandalika waters. The local office of the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency (BMG) did not ban the vessel from sailing, Hatta Radjasa said, adding that the Kumai port administration in Central Kalimantan had also issued a sailing permit based on the BMG’s weather report. “Bad weather happened when the vessel had almost reached its destination,” the minister added. Bad weather and high waves were reported to be hampering the search and rescue efforts being made at the location by a team composed of servicemen, marine police and members of the national SAR (Search and Rescue) agency.

Tuban, Indonesia, Jan 1 — At least 200 people survived the sinking of ferry *Senopati Nusantara* the health ministry said today, even as body bags were being prepared for victims and more than 400 remained unaccounted for. Although confirmed deaths were in single digits, officials said corpses from the disaster overnight on Friday (Dec 29) were scattered for miles on beaches along Jawa’s coastline, and local media have reported at least 60 bodies found. A survivor said he was surrounded by floating bodies after the sinking and many had also gone down with the vessel. At a hospital in Rembang in Central Java, Agung Subiarto, a medical team member, said: “We have prepared 100 body bags to anticipate the possibility of (receiving) dead bodies.” He said he expected possibly 50 bodies today. According to the manifest, the *Senopati Nusantara* was carrying 628 people, including 57 crew. The number of survivors was at least 200, according to Rustam Pakaya, head of the health ministry crisis centre. He said that 130 survivors were in the East Jawa town of Tuban and 70 in

Rembang in Central Jawa. Those numbers could go up as officials say some survivors have been picked up by vessels headed for different ports and that liferafts with people on board have been spotted but not reached. Huge waves have hampered rescue operations. Search and Rescue official Budiantoro, co-ordinating fishermen helping in the search from Semarang on the Central Java coast, said rescuing survivors took precedence over recovering bodies. “There is a report that (the fishermen) have found 53 bodies ... but they prioritise helping the survivors so they have left the bodies where they are,” he said. Toni Syaiful, spokesman for the navy’s eastern fleet, said: “We are having problems because the victims are spread all across the beaches from Jepara to Rembang to Tuban.” The area he described stretches some 175 km long. Thirty-five survivors picked up by fishing boats landed in Tuban in East Java province early today. Ten aircraft, including both helicopters and fixed-wing planes, and nearly 20 vessels were involved in the organised search effort for survivors and bodies today, officials said. Officials have said they expected the search to last at least nine days, which would take it through next weekend (Jan 6-7). The ferry had been heading from Kalimantan on Borneo island to Semarang when the accident occurred. — Reuters.

Rembang, Indonesia, Jan 2 — Indonesia intensified today its search and rescue effort for survivors after a ferry carrying more than 600 people sank in stormy seas off the coast of the main island of Java. Some survivors are still on life rafts in the open water, with food being airdropped to them as rough seas and bad weather prevent rescue craft from reaching them. At least 200 passengers survived the early Saturday (Dec 30) sinking of the ferry *Senopati Nusantara*, a health ministry official said, but more than 400 people remain missing. Local media reported at least 60 passengers were confirmed dead. “The search and rescue efforts are focused on saving the living first. The search is concentrated on areas in East Java province until seven days after the accident date,” Central Java province rescue co-ordinator Eko Prayitno told Reuters. He said high waves and strong sea currents were pushing the bodies of the dead and the living eastwards in the direction of Surabaya, the capital of East Java province and Indonesia’s second largest city. Officials said dozens of the ferry passengers had been picked up by passing ships and rescuers were also trying to reach several life rafts with people on board. “Because of the bad weather, SAR (Search and Rescue) is using a fixed-wing plane for searching, and a helicopter for dropping food,” Prayitno told Reuters. He said in one area alone 30 survivors remain on life rafts. Tony Syaiful, a spokesman for the Indonesian navy, said 33 survivors had been found today. Two corpses were also recovered. Strong winds and high seas

continued to hamper rescue efforts, he said. According to the manifest, the *Senopati Nusantara* ferry was carrying 628 people, including 57 crew. Transportation Minister Hatta Rajasa has said the Japanese-built, 2,178-tonne ferry was seaworthy and had a capacity of more than 850 passengers. The vessel had been heading from Kalimantan on Borneo island to Semarang. — Reuters.

London, Jan 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Bad weather hampered the work of Indonesian rescue workers who are looking for survivors of ferry *Senopati Nusantara* that sank last week in stormy seas off the main island of Java, officials said today. The Indonesian Navy has deployed seven ships, two helicopters and three aircraft and expanded its search area off the northern coast of Central Java, 400 km east of Jakarta. “By this afternoon, some 210 survivors and 13 bodies have been rescued from the rough seas,” Maji, an official at the Search and Rescue Agency in the Central Java capital of Semarang, told Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa. Rescue workers resumed their search at daybreak today for more than 400 people still missing and feared drowned after the sinking Friday. Authorities said 20 of the survivors plucked from rough waters in the Java Sea were in critical condition. The ferry, packed with at least 631 people, sank in a storm off Central Java while en route from the central Kalimantan port of Kumai to Semarang harbour. Officials said the captain had radioed to port authorities that the storm had severely damaged the vessel.

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A press report, dated today, states: Twelve people on board ferry *Senopati Nusantara*, that sank four days ago in Indonesia’s Java Sea, were found alive today after they had clambered onto an unmanned offshore oil rig, navy officers said. The survivors, all male, were weak but well, said Navy spokesman Lt Col Tony Syaiful, who monitored the rescue operation just after midnight from land via radio. Authorities say 628 people were onboard the ferry when it sank late Friday (Dec 29) after being pounded by waves for 10 hours during a violent storm en route from Indonesia’s section of Borneo island to the main island of Java. At least 212 people have been found alive so far, most of them plucked from life-rafts or clinging on to debris, but some 400 remain missing in still-heavy seas, Simamora said. Simamora said that 12 bodies have been recovered. Officials have reported seeing some corpses in the ocean, while at least two survivors said that many of the victims were trapped in the vessel when it sank. The 12 men rescued today had drifted around 200 kms from where the ferry sank before coming across the rig, said Syaiful.

#### **SIBIRSKIY 2101 (Russia)**

London, Dec 30 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0910, UTC: General cargo *Sibirskiy 2101* (3409 gt,

built 1980) and bulk cement carrier *Iolkos II* (2500 gt, built 1992), both without cargo, were in collision at Volos at 1525, Dec 29. Damage unknown at present, no leakage reported.

Piraeus, Jan 3 — Only minor material damages (scratches and light dents) were reported in the collision between general cargo *Sibirskiy 2101* and bulk cement carrier *Iolkos II*. The local port authorities permitted the *Iolkos II* departure and the vessel sailed the same day, Dec 29, destined to area. *Sibirskiy 2101* is expected to sail today, with destination Rostov, and will reportedly undergo repairs in Russia. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### SKAGERN (Sweden)

Poznan, Jan 3 — General cargo *Skagern* is still under repairs, which will take about one more month. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### SKELLIG LIGHT (Republic of Ireland)

London, Jan 2 — Following received from Ponta Delgada MRCC, timed 1005, UTC: Trawler *Skellig Light* (275 gt, built 1966), six persons on board, was reported in lat 40 22N, long 37 03W, at 0810, UTC, today with no steering or propulsion. Apparently vessel has been without proper power for seven days without reporting a distress. Two merchant vessels are in the area and are to proceed, while a helicopter will try to take off the crew once the weather improves.

London, Jan 3 — Following received from Ponta Delgada MRCC, timed 1100, UTC: Trawler *Skellig Light* was abandoned and adrift, last recorded position lat 40 18.5N, long 36 47.6W, at 1915, UTC, Jan 2. Crew have been rescued and taken ashore in the Azores.

#### SOLAR 1 (Philippines)

Manila, Dec 29 — Sonsub is reportedly looking for a Philippine salvor to partner with for the offloading of the remaining bunker fuel in the sunken tanker *Solar 1*. While the Italian underwater engineering company is fully capable of undertaking the recovery operation by itself, it has to team up with a local salvor to fulfill local salvage laws. Under Philippine law, only locally-owned companies can undertake salvage operations in Philippine waters. The Philippine Coast Guard has recommended Malayan Towage and Salvage Co as a local partner. The Philippine company will basically provide support services such as towing, provision of tanker barge and oil spill response in the event of an oil spill. Malayan Towage officials said that a joint work proposal had already been submitted to Sonsub although no response has yet been received. The Venice-based company was recently awarded the contract to recover the remaining oil in *Solar 1* by the International Oil Pollution Compensation (IOPC) Fund in a public bidding held in London. Sonsub plans to begin the recovery operation in

February. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### SPAR GARNET (NIS)

Falmouth, Jan 2 — Bulker *Spar Garnet* is expected to complete repairs here and depart around Jan 10-12. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### SPIRIT OF ONTARIO I (U.S.A.)

Montreal, Jan 2 — Passenger ro/ro *Spirit of Ontario I* arrived in Halifax late Dec 26. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### STEVNS ARCTIC (DIS)

London, Jan 3 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Tug *Stevens Arctic* (510 gt, built 2006), leaving berth at Ymuiden, in collision with fishing *TX 53*, built 1984, owned by Lenger Seafoods BV, moored after being repaired in Ymuiden in December. *TX 53* has some damage. *Stevens Arctic* damaged on port side of hull.

#### SUNNA (NIS)

London, Jan 2 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 0522, UTC: General cargo *Sunna* (1980 gt, built 1977), bound Guinness, eight persons on board, ran aground in lat 58 44.8N, long 03 03.8W at 0457, UTC. ETV to proceed to full speed to assist. Tug tasked at 0459, UTC,

London, Jan 2 — Following press release received from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated today: At 0450, UTC, today, Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, were alerted to an incident in the Pentland Firth, where general cargo *Sunna* was reported to be aground by the bow on rocks in the Pentland Firth, on Swona near South Ronaldsay in the Orkney Islands. There are seven crew on board the double hulled vessel. In a dialogue with the crew, it was ascertained that they had tried to go astern after the grounding and pull the vessel off, but had not managed to do so. The crew are checking around the vessel for damage. There are no signs that the vessel is taking water. The vessel is carrying 37,000 litres of fuel oil and is fully loaded with 1,900 tons of ferrosilicon which it was taking from Grundartangi in Iceland to Spurn Head on the River Humber. The weather on scene: south westerly winds of force six, with excellent visibility. The Coastguard Emergency Towing Vessel, the salvage tug *Anglian Prince* was immediately sent to the scene and will arrive at around 0930, UTC. The Agency's counter pollution team was also informed. The RNLI Longhope lifeboat has also been despatched to the scene to standby in case of any crew evacuation and an aerial surveillance aircraft has also been readied up for first light. The Orkney harbour authorities have despatched two further tugs, the *Erlend* and *Harald* to the scene as a precaution as the site of the grounding is within their port limits and they have set up an emergency control room to oversee any future salvage activities.

London, Jan 2 — Following received

from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1030, UTC: General cargo *Sunna* refloated under its own power at 0715, UTC. Tugs *Erlend* and *Harold* then attached lines on the vessel and towed her, escorted by the Longhope lifeboat and salvage tug *Anglian Prince*, to Lyness Pier, Isle of Hoy, tying up alongside at 1020, UTC.

London, Jan 2 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1112, UTC: General cargo *Sunna*: Tug *Anglian Prince* stood down 1001, UTC, and returning to base. Orkney tug *Einar* deployed booms as a safety precaution, no pollution sighted.

London, Jan 2 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1403, UTC: General cargo *Sunna* alongside Lyness Pier and stabilised. Orkney Harbours are currently negotiating salvage under LOF with United Salvage.

London, Jan 2 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1653, UTC: General cargo *Sunna*: Diver inspection reported severe damage to forepart and severe-to-moderate damage aft towards accommodation area. Eric Johnson of United Salvage has been appointed by Orkney Harbours and will assess the situation when he arrives in Orkney tomorrow.

Kirkwall, Jan 3 — General cargo *Sunna* aground north west end of Swona Island in lat 58 45.4N, long 03 03.8W at 0440, UTC, Jan 2. At 0510, UTC, informed Aberdeen Coastguard that the vessel was aground and requested to render assistance because attempts to free from the rock by itself were without effect. At 0635, UTC, vessel afloat using own engine. At 0706, UTC, tug line forward fast, at 0715, UTC, tug line aft fast. All fast berthed in Lyness at 1020, UTC, and released tug fore and aft at 1025, UTC. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### TANANGER (Barbados)

London, Jan 2 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 0920, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Tanager* (4636 gt, built 1980) grounded in lat 59 43.5N, long 05 35.75E, about 0200, local time, today. Vessel was refloated at 0950, local time, and proceeded to Leirvik for inspection. Some damage to hull but no leakage and crew unharmed.

London, Jan 2 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today: Roll On Roll Off *Tanager*, bound Odda, grounded in Bjoafjorden, near Sveio, at 0230, local time, today. No injuries to the crew of eleven and only small damage to the vessel. It refloated at 0900, local time, today, assisted by supply *BB Lifter*. Rescue vessel *Halfdan Grieg* also assisting. Vessel proceeded to Stord by own means for inspections.

London, Jan 3 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, roll on roll off *Tanager* was located 9.5 nautical miles from Skagen, in lat 57 38 15.6N, long 10 44 14.4E, at 1219, UTC, today, course 183.5 deg, speed 14.1 knots.

#### THE 205 (U.S.A.)

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



London, Dec 29 — A Todco press release, dated Houston Dec 28, states: Drill platform *THE 205* (5340 gt, built 1979) had completed its three-year drilling contract with PEMEX and was jacked up at a safe harbour location offshore Veracruz, Mexico, while preparing to mobilize back to the U.S. Gulf of Mexico when it was struck by a cargo vessel owned by an unrelated party. The Company has not yet determined the full extent of the damage, the necessary cost and time to repair the rig or recoveries against the cargo vessel owner. The rig is insured for \$33 million with a deductible for rig damage of approximately \$4 million. The Company is self-insured for 30% of all losses above the deductible.

London, Dec 29 — Following received from the owners of drill platform *THE 205*, timed Houston 1520, UTC: *THE 205* was struck by bulker *Blue Star* (14889 gt, built 1985) Dec 23. The platform has sustained serious damage as its helipad is on the deck of *Blue Star* and platform is also holed and it is believed there is some leg damage. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Blue Star* was in stationary lat 19 12 26.08N, long 96 07 37.32W, at 1516, UTC, today.)

#### **THEODOROS (Panama)**

Genoa, Dec 29 — Wine tanker *Theodoros* remains under arrest at Genoa. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **THOR INGER (DIS)**

Manila, Dec 28 — General cargo *Thor Inger* (1167 gt, built 1988) reached Mariveles port in Bataan province towed by a Malayan Towage and Salvage Co. tug yesterday evening. The vessel was on its way to Mariveles, when it lost power because of undisclosed engine problems, on December 25 off Busuanga town in Palawan island in western Philippines. The vessel was chartered to bring a cargo of explosives to the Philippine Explosives Corporation in Mariveles, Bataan. The vessel is now being unloaded. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Dec 29 — General cargo *Thor Inger* is now undergoing engine repairs at Herma Shipyard in Mariveles Bataan. According to the vessel's Manila ship agent, Inter-Asia Marine Transport, the vessel entered the shipyard on Dec 28. The engine pistons were apparently damaged. The vessel is awaiting parts replacement from overseas. The vessel sustained engine problems off Busuanga town in Palawan island in western Philippines on December 25 and had to be towed back to Mariveles for repairs. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **TRANSBORA (Turkey)**

Novorossiysk, Jan 1 — Bulker *Transbora*, which grounded off Novorossiysk Nov 7, is expected to be refloated in the next few days. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TRISTAR 1 (Indonesia)**

Manila, Dec 29 — At least three people drowned and 33 went missing when passenger ro/ro *Tristar 1* (288 gt, built 1972) sank yesterday evening off Muara Sungsang, Tanjung Buyut, River Banyu Asin, southern Sumatera. Vessel was carrying 58 crew members and passengers as well as 11 cars and two motorcycles from Palembang to Bangka island when hit by a storm. It capsized around 2200 hrs. Reports indicate that 22 persons have been rescued so far. The *Tristar 1* has a capacity of 108 passengers and 17 vehicles. Search and rescue operations are now ongoing for possible survivors. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TX 53**

See *Stevns Arctic*.

#### **TZINI (Malta)**

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: The Bureau of Environmental Protection under the Yilan County Government issued yesterday another fine of NT\$1.5 million to the owner of the stranded Maltese-registered bulker *Tzini* for moving the vessel without approval. But the shipping company said it will file an appeal. The 23,000-ton *Tzini* ran aground Dec 24 about two nautical miles off the eastern Suao Harbour after losing power. At least 100 tons of the more than 700 tons of fuel oil on board the vessel has leaked into adjacent waters, causing an environmental disaster and disrupting the normal operations of fishermen. Bureau officials said they had given a specific order to the ship's owner not to tow the vessel away from the scene without removing the remaining fuel oil on the vessel and before a solution is worked out on the pollution issue. The instruction was given as a precaution that there would not be further leaks that could make the disaster even worse. Officials said that a Coast Guard patrol boat was assigned for an around-the-clock monitoring of the situation. However, in the darkness of Wednesday night (Dec 27), the owner arranged a tugboat ordered from Kaohsiung to tow the vessel when the patrol boat was dispatched to handle a new incident that another boat had lost power nearby. *Tzini* was already towed to a location about four nautical miles away from where it had been grounded when a new a Coast Guard patrol boat was sent to the scene, said the officials. Yilan County's Bureau of Environmental Protection, officials had earlier fined the ship owner NT\$1.5 million for failing to act in time to control the spreading oil slick. The second fine of the same amount was issued to the owner for towing the vessel away without permission from local environmental authorities, said Tzou Tsan-yang, director of the bureau. He said the Yilan County government has notified the Ministry of Transportation and Communication that it has filed a complaint seeking the detention of the US\$10 million vessel until the owner pays NT\$100 million — the estimated cost of

cleaning up the oil spill. Fishing firms and fishermen were also demanding compensation for their financial loss caused by the oil slick. Officials of the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) at the central government said that people of a shipping company that ignore the instruction will face a jail term under one year plus a fine between NT\$200,000 and NT\$1 million in accordance with the existing regulations. Executives of the shipping firm said they will appeal the ruling, citing regulations allowing the emergency measure of towing away of ships in distress in order to save the ship. An insurance firm handling the incident for the *Tzini* said it will take care of the job of cleaning up the oil slick caused by the vessel. The "Tzini" lost power four days ago when it was travelling with no cargo from Japan to Hualien port in eastern Taiwan, where it was scheduled to be loaded with a cargo of cement for delivery to Japan, when it began drifting. Taiwan's Coast Guard Administration received the ship's SOS signal and dispatched a rescue helicopter. Vessels nearby also joined the rescue mission and pulled the 24 crew members to safety.

London, Dec 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Tzini*, which ran aground last week causing a 100-tonne oil spill off the Taiwanese coast, has incurred further fines as it faces a Lm1 million clean-up bill. The oil slick is reported to have contaminated a 10-kilometre stretch of ecologically sensitive coastline and brought the local fishing industry to a halt. Yilan county government has filed a complaint seeking the detention of the ship until the owner pays Lm1 million, the estimated cost of cleaning up the oil spill, while fishery firms and fishermen are also demanding compensation. The vessel has been prevented from leaving harbour by the Taiwanese Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) until its owners, Kingston Shipping Ltd, cleans up the mess and provides financial compensation to the fishing industry and for further clean-up operations. After having received an initial fine of Lm15,000 for failing to act quickly enough to contain the oil spill, on Thursday (Dec 28) the owners were fined again for surreptitiously moving the vessel without approval and against orders. The Taiwanese Environmental Protection Authority had instructed the vessel's owners to remove the remaining fuel oil on board to prevent a further release of oil into the sea. It had also refused a request from the owner to move the vessel until it had cleaned up the pollution and ensured that the oil tank was completely empty. Although a Coast Guard boat had been on site, monitoring the vessel around the clock, the patrol boat had been sent off to look into another incident and in the dark of Wednesday night the owners arranged for the vessel to be towed while unattended. The manoeuvre could land those responsible with further fines and a



jail sentence but the shipping company is said to be preparing an appeal citing regulations allowing the emergency measure of towing away vessels in distress in order to save the ship. The company's insurance firm, meanwhile, has said it will handle the clean-up operation itself. While the Malta Maritime Authority is itself investigating the incident, preliminary investigations by Taiwanese port officials have found that the *Tzini* appeared to have lost power due to engine trouble, causing it to be pushed towards the shore by strong waves. Following further investigations, however, EPA head Chang Kow-lung declared that the vessel had run aground on the coral reef due to the master's carelessness. Mr Chang also raised suspicions that the master and pilot had been dozing at the time — only to have been awoken by the accident. Taiwanese authorities, in the meantime, are continuing their efforts to contain the spill. Despite the placing of oil-absorbent booms, the slick has spread to cover a 10-kilometre area. The crisis management team set up to fight the slick has said it might have to call in the armed forces if the situation gets out of control in adverse weather conditions. To compound matters, the Suao coastline is mostly composed of cliffs, meaning that efforts to set up boom nets to prevent the oil from spreading are even more complicated.

Taipei, Jan 3 — Bulker *Tzini* berthing at pier No.7 of Su-Ao port, Taiwan, at about 1036, Dec 29, for repairing. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ULHEELANI (U.S.A.)**

Honolulu, Jan 2 — Fishing (general) *Ulheelani* was towed to Pier 38, Honolulu Harbor, by the U.S. Coast Guard on Nov 16. We assume repairs were completed, as we have now confirmed she has returned to her normal trade. — Lloyd's Agents.

**UNIVERSAL BRAVE (Malta)**

Bahrain, Dec 28 — Non specific tanker *Universal Brave* and crude oil tanker *Faultless* arrived at Asry shipyard Dec 20. Repairs are scheduled to completed by the end of the month. — Lloyd's Agents.

**VESTHOLM (Denmark)**

Aarhus, Jan 2 — Dredger *Vestholm* is at Agger shipyard. They are now calculating the cost of repairing the vessel at Agger Shipyard. If it is too expensive, the ship will be sold for scraping. — Lloyd's Agents.

**WAHKIAKUM (U.S.A.)**

Portsmouth, Dec 31 — The Puget Island ferry *Wahkiakum* (88 gt, built 1961) resumed operations around 1000, Dec 29, after an inspection determined there was no damage caused when the ferry gently hit a sandbar yesterday morning. A Coast Guard diver examined the ferry this morning and gave the OK to begin running again, said Pete Ringen, Public Works director for Wahkiakum County. Ringen said, "The *Wahkiakum*

had what you might term a 'soft grounding' on a sandbar in the Westport channel." The Public Works Department notified the Coast Guard, which ordered the ferry shut down for inspection, a standard procedure. — Correspondent.

**WELSH VENTURE (Panama)**

London, Jan 2 — Crude oil tanker *Welsh Venture* arrived at Kiire on Dec 28 and sailed on Dec 29, bound for Fujairah.

**WILMA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Dec 30 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Wilma* has to stay longer at Norderwerft, in Hamburg, than expected. When the classification society checked the vessel, it was found that there were some small gashes in the hull. This was obviously caused by the foundation of the crane, when it hit the Levensau Bridge in the Kiel canal. The crane leg itself has to be rebuilt completely.

London, Jan 2 — General cargo *Wilma* was reported sailing from Hamburg at 2140 hrs, Dec 30, reportedly bound for Norrkoping.

**WILSON MUUGA (Cyprus)**

Reykjavik, Dec 29 — Bulker *Wilson Muuga* is still sitting where it was grounded and has not moved. Up until now some 90 tonnes of heavy fuel oil has been pumped from vessel's tanks and pumping has now been stopped. Approximately 50 tonnes of heavy fuel and marine diesel oil have leaked out but some oil is floating on top of the seawater in vessel's compartments (holds and engine-room). No oil pollution has been reported on the shores, probably as a result of storms and heavy swell. — Lloyd's Agents.

**XANDRINA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Dec 30 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 1532, UTC: General cargo *Xandrina* (1567 gt, built 1986), with 1680 tonnes of steel, anchored in lat 53 00.5N, long 01 03.3E, 2.5 nautical miles north of Cley, Norfolk, at 1317, UTC. Vessel has problem with turbo, initially anchored for two-hour repair. This was later extended to four hours. Weather on scene, south-west 4 to 5 (moderate to fresh breeze), swell moderate, visibility three miles, slight rain. Forecast south-west 6 (strong breeze) to 8 (gale), occasionally 9 (severe gale) perhaps storm 10 later.

London, Dec 30 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 2026, UTC: Repair to general cargo *Xandrina* only partially successful, now under way to Lowestoft, where estimated time of arrival 2200, UTC.

London, Dec 31 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 0439, UTC: General cargo *Xandrina* alongside the Grain Silo in Lowestoft Harbour at 0046, UTC.

London, Jan 3 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Xandrina* was still stationary at Lowestoft as of 0854, UTC, today.

**XIBOHE (Panama)**

Port Said, Dec 28 — Container Carrier *Xibohe* (36772 gt, built 1997), which entered Suez Canal with the northbound convoy on Dec 21, went aground at Km 101, in the canal. Suez Canal Authority tugs are still trying to refloat it. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Xibohe* sailed Singapore Dec 16 with eta Ashdod Dec 27.)

Port Said, Jan 4 — Container Carrier *Xibohe* completed repairs and should resume her passage today. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ZARA (Netherlands Antilles)**

London, Jan 4 — General cargo *Zara* arrived Szczecin Dec 30.



**ECUADOR**

London Jan 1 — The crew of a Bahamas-flag refrigerated general cargo *Celtic Sea* (9869 gt, built 1970) was ordered off the vessel at gunpoint during its stay at Guayaquil, according to the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF). The ITF says that armed guards ejected the Ecuadorian crew "who were told to get off or be shot" from the vessel when it was in Guayaquil. The ITF adds that the crew were told that the same fate is planned for the seafarers on three other Ecuadorian manned vessels currently at sea belonging to Transmabo, which is owned by Alvaro Noboa, one of the two Ecuadorian presidential contenders. The motive for the action against the crew appears to be a matter for speculation, although several of Transmabo's ships have switched from Ecuadorian to Filipino crews in recent years. (Note — *Celtic Sea* arrived Guayaquil Nov 16 and sailed Nov 25, arrived and sailed Salerno Dec 14.)



**HONG KONG**

London, Jan 4 — Owners of the general cargo *Kang Nam 5* received a welcome start to the New Year as port state control officials released the vessel after 10 weeks detention following the completion of repairs. The vessel, which was detained after arriving in Hong Kong on Oct 25 from Kaohsiung in Taiwan, is registered to Cho Sung Shipping in Belize. Repairs were delayed due to difficulties the owner had remitting the \$25,000-\$30,000 needed to cover the cost of work and supplies in Hong Kong. But following receipt of the cash in the past few days and the completion of repairs, port state control released the

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vessel following an inspection yesterday by a Marine Department surveyor. The vessel, which was expected to leave Hong Kong by today, had racked up anchorage fees estimated to be about HK\$38,136 (\$4,889). The Marine Department confirmed an invoice had been sent to the vessel's agent, Topping Enterprises. Yu Ying-wai, Marine Department senior surveyor of ships in the port state control section, told Lloyd's List the vessel had seven detainable defects. These included an inoperative emergency lighting system which Mr Yu said has "now been tested and is in good order" and two sets of inoperative radio equipment without batteries which had been rectified with three sets of rechargeable batteries. The lack of a maintenance certificate for a 25-person life raft has been dealt with by the purchase of a replacement life raft complete with certificate. Outdated or non-existent navigation charts, publications and manuals have been either replaced or provided. Mr Yu said the remaining deficiency, for a lack of original crew medical certificates, has been covered by an approval letter from the flag state - North Korea - which allows the ship to leave on condition originals are placed on board. The inspection by the Marine Department's surveyor yesterday coincided with a visit to the ship by Lloyd's List. Some of the 20-strong crew, including the master, were initially happy to chat, but were not prepared to discuss their stay in Hong Kong and refused to allow people, including a Korean speaker, on board. Eventually they waved our launch away. This was much the same response the Mission to Seafarers received when it tried to deliver gifts to the crew during the Christmas break. Commenting on the visit Reverend Peter Ellis said, the Flying Angel group had been told the crew had plenty of food and could be seen fishing over the side of the vessel.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 1 — Honduran-flag product tanker *Archon* (1711 gt, built 1970) which had been detained nine times in eight years, twice while under its current manager, was held once more by the UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) when it called in Belfast in November. The 36-year old *Archon* was among nine under detention in UK ports during November after failing Port State Control (PSC) safety inspection. The *Archon* was detained in Belfast with over 50 deficiencies, 20 of which were detainable, including three ISM major non-conformities (maintenance of ship and equipment, emergency preparedness and resources and personnel). It was held for five days. According to the MCA detainable deficiencies included main engine air control not operating properly, liferaft not properly stowed, crew unable to demonstrate functioning oily water separator, bow thrust space full of oily water, cover damaged and no securing

nuts, forepeak tank lid not bolted, lifeboat sails damaged, medical equipment out of date, stern light obscured, and three ISM major non-conformities: maintenance of ship and equipment not according to SMS, emergency preparedness and resources and personnel. (Note — *Archon* arrived Belfast Nov 17 and sailed Dec 14.)



#### BIGA (Canary Islands)

Bilbao, Jan 3 — General cargo *Biga* is still under embargo at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### BOREAS (Cyprus)

Bilbao, Jan 3 — General cargo *Boreas* is still under embargo at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### IBN SINA II (Algeria)

Zeebrugge, Jan 2 — General cargo *Ibn Sina II* (5403 gt, built 1978) is currently under arrest at Antwerp. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Ibn Sina II* arrived at Antwerp at 1845 hrs, Dec 26.)

#### IMAN T. (North Korea)

Bucharest, Dec 29 — General cargo *Iman T.* remains under arrest at Constantza. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### KATRINA 2 (Philippines)

Manila, Dec 28 — Police authorities detained the Philippine-registered passenger (cruise) *Katrina 2*, 98 gt, yesterday at the port of Zamboanga in southern Philippines† after a woman's decapitated head was found in an ice box lying on the passenger deck. Crew members said that the ice box† was discovered underneath one of the passenger† bunks. The woman† remains unidentified. Police authorities are keeping the vessel in port while the crew is being investigated. The vessel operates a regular service between Jolo town in Sulu island and Zamboanga port. The vessel is owed by Zamboanga-city based Katrafar Shipping Lines. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### NEMIROV (Russia)

Vladivostok, Dec 29 — Fishing (general) *Nemirov* (654 gt, built 1981), which arrived Vladivostok Jan 11, is currently waiting orders/under detention at Vladivostok. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### ORION I (Cambodia)

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Cambodian fishing vessel (? general cargo *Orion I* (497 gt, built 1980) operated by a predominantly Russian crew was detained overnight for alleged poaching off the Kamchatka Peninsula, in Russia's Far East, spokesmen for a Pacific Coast Guard

unit said today. Coast Guard inspectors arrested the vessel and her crew, consisting of 13 Russian nationals and two citizens of Burma, in the small hours today, after discovering more than ten metric tons of crab on board. The vessel's captain failed to produce any documents authorizing the catch. The vessel will now be conveyed to the port of Petropavlovsk Kamchatsky for an inquiry.

#### OTAPAN (Mexico)

Amsterdam, Jan 1 — Tank barge *Otapan* is presently at Amsterdam Shipdock (Ligplaats 4). — KVSA Rapportage.

#### PAN RISE (South Korea)

Vladivostok, Dec 29 — General cargo *Pan Rise* (5484 gt, built 1990), which arrived Nakhodka Nov 24, was reported under detention Nov 30. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### PATRICIA (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 2 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that the Philippine-registered non specific tanker *Patricia* (282 gt) was arrested by Coast Guard officials for oil smuggling along Manila's Pasig River on Monday (Jan 1). The Coast Guard said that the vessel had originated from Subic Bay and was supposed to deliver its cargo of 600,000 litres of diesel to two international cargo vessels docked at the Port of Manila's South Harbour terminal, the *MOL Inspiration* and the *Saipan Winner*. The Coast Guard learned, however, that the *Patricia's* crew did not intend to deliver its cargo to the South Harbour but was planning to sell it to blackmarket traders at the Nagtahan oil depot along the Pasig River. Coast Guard officials intercepted the vessel while on its way to the depot. The vessel and its crew have been detained by the Coast Guard pending the filing of charges for oil smuggling. The vessel is owned by Manila-based Bunkers Manila, Inc. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jan 4 — Philippine Coast Guard officials are looking into the involvement of the owner of non specific tanker *Patricia* in the hijacking of its cargo of 600,000 litres of diesel fuel. The *Patricia* is owned by Manila-based Bunkers Manila Inc. "We are trying to determine if the shipowner was a party to the crime," Coast Guard Commander J. Burgos said. "If they are, the appropriate charges will be filed against the company's owners," he said. The tanker and its 10-man crew are presently detained at the Coast Guard Pasig River station in Aroceros, Manila. The tanker was apprehended Monday (Jan 1) as it was entering Manila's Pasig River by Coast Guard officials. The tanker was supposed to deliver its cargo of diesel fuel to two international vessels docked at Manila's South Harbour terminal, the vessel was caught allegedly bringing its cargo to a blackmarket buyer along



the Pasig River instead. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**PAVEL BUTOV (Russia)**

Vladivostok, Dec 29 — Fishing (general) *Pavel Butov* (584 gt, built 1966), which arrived Nakhodka Nov 18, was reported under detention Nov 30. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SENTINEL (Comoros)**

Genoa, Dec 29 — General cargo *Sentinel* remains under arrest at Genoa. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SINEGORSK (Russia)**

Zeebrugge, Jan 2 — General cargo *Sinegorsk* was arrested while at Antwerp. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Sinegorsk* arrived at Antwerp on Dec 19 and sailed on Dec 29.)

**TOMI MARU NO.53 (Japan)**

London, Dec 31 — A press report, dated Dec 28, states: A court in Russia's Far East ruled today to confiscate fishing (general) *Tomi Maru No.53* (279 gt, built 1987) caught poaching in Russian waters in early November, local prosecutors said. The trawler was detained off Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula with illegal catch -pollock, halibut, skate, cod - along with two other Japanese fishing vessels, which belong to Kanai Gyogyo company based in Japan's Hokkaido. The company, which a Russian court has found guilty of breaching fishing regulations, will also have to pay a fine of 2.8 million rubles (over \$108,000). The equipment and over 50 metric tons of the catch will also be confiscated by Russian authorities, prosecutors said. The captain of the *Tomi Maru No.53* is still under investigation in Russia.



**Pipeline Accidents**

**GALVESTON AREA, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

See *Petrovsk*.

**SARATOV PROVINCE, RUSSIA**

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A pipeline in the south-eastern Russian province of Saratov has leaked nearly 40,000 gallons of oil over an area of more than 12 acres, the regional law-enforcement agency said today. "A portion of the Samara-Lisichansk pipeline, 1.22m in diameter, ruptured yesterday 1.5 km away from the town of Bratsky, spilling 150 cubic metres of oil across five hectares of surrounding land," an official said. Even as the broken pipeline is being fixed, an investigation is looking into what may have caused the rupture and what the environmental implications of the resultant spill are likely to be.

**SURABAYA AREA, INDONESIA**

London, Jan 2 — Santos says it is attempting to clarify its share of costs relating to the Banjar Panji mud flow incident following reports it would cost \$US421 million to clean up. The oil producer said recent media reports carried statements by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono regarding costs associated with the mud flow incident in East Java. "It has been reported that PT Energi Mega Persada's unit Lapindo Brantas Inc (the operator) must pay 3.8 trillion rupiah to cover repairs and losses after gas exploration drilling triggered a mud flow disaster," Santos said. "Despite continued requests, Santos has not received any official communication in this regard from the operator. "Santos is continuing to attempt to clarify the status of discussions between the Government of Indonesia and the operator." Santos holds an 18 per cent stake in the project while operator Lapindo holds a 50 per cent. Lapindo has previously estimated it would cost about \$US180 million to clean up following the incident but some analysts are estimating it is more likely to cost in the order of \$US800 million.

**WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Enbridge Inc., Canada's second-largest pipeline operator, aims to resume partial operation today of a Wisconsin line that leaked an estimated 500 barrels of oil. "We expect to begin some oil movement, probably later today," spokesman Larry Springer said in a telephone interview. A four-foot-long rupture early Jan 1 shuttered the 24-inch-diameter conduit that delivers about 300,000 barrels a day of oil from Canada and the U.S. to several Chicago-area refineries, Springer said. A preliminary estimate shows that about 80 percent of the 500 barrels has been recovered, Springer said. The leak was located about 112 miles east of St. Paul, Minnesota, said David Weitz, a spokesman for Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources. The damaged section of the pipe has been replaced and reduced deliveries may begin soon, Springer said. "There will likely be some restrictions on the operations of the pipe" as oil shipments resume, he said. The company plans to use a nearby 36-inch line it owns to restore daily oil deliveries to Midwest refineries operated by BP Plc and other companies to about 300,000 barrels "in a day or two," Springer said. The cause of the accident has not been determined and is under investigation, he said. Frozen ground prevented the oil from penetrating more than an inch of soil and enabled heavy equipment, including bulldozers and vacuum trucks, to clean up the site, Wisconsin's Weitz said today in a telephone interview.

**Pollution**



**BATUMI AREA, GEORGIA**

London, Dec 29 — Following received from Georgia MRCC, dated today: An oil spill occurred from Batumi Oil Terminal pipeline onshore to the River Bartskhanka and then from the river to the sea at 0030, local time, today. By 1000, local time, 47 tons of crude oil had been collected. The clean-up operation is continuing and the final quantity of oil spilled has not been determined yet. Seacor-Georgia, Batumi Oil Terminal and Supsa Marine Terminal are involved in the clean-up operation under the command of the Batumi Harbour-master.

**ISTHMA, GREECE**

Piraeus, Dec 29 — An oil spillage which covered an area of approximately 100 square metres was ascertained during loading of chemical tanker *Capetan Michalis* yesterday morning. The spillage was caused by the vessel's No 4 starboard tank overflow. The vessel was berthed at the Motor Oil Harbour facilities at Isthmia. Clean-up operations were reportedly completed by Motor Oil Cleaning Unit. Preliminary investigation being held by port authorities of Isthmia. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MIDWAY ISLAND**

See *Kotobuki Maru No.38* under "Marine."

**MONTREAL, CANADA**

London, Jan 3 — Part containerised general car *SCL Bern* struck the approach wall near Iroquois Lock, lat 48 49.30N, long 75 18.50W, at 2320, EST, Dec 15, resulting in plate fracture and frame damage to the lower port stern 2.7m above the waterline. Seaway Inspection and cleared to Montreal for repairs.

**Weather & Navigation**



**AUSTRALIA**

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Damage caused by last weekend's hailstorms in the nation's capital is likely to cost millions of dollars to repair, with one insurer receiving more than 1500 claims. The storms lashed the ACT on Friday and on New Year's Eve, leaving a trail of devastation, including flooded homes, shattered roofs and damaged vehicles, particularly in the suburbs of Chisholm, Gowrie and

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Fadden. The National Museum of Australia alone suffered damage to its administration area estimated at \$500,000. NRMA Insurance, an IAG company, said it had been forced to allocate additional staff to cope with the increased number of claims, particularly for its 24-hour Teleclaims service, as well as home and motor assessors. "Our main priority is to make sure that our customers immediate needs are met as quickly as possible," NRMA Insurance ACT operations manager Stephen Beatty said. NRMA said it was working with local builders to fix the damage, but since many were working at capacity already, the insurer had organised for a number of builders from neighbouring areas to attend to any urgent home claims. Sydney artist Paul Blahuta, whose art works were damaged at the National Museum by the storm, will inspect conservation work on his paintings tomorrow. The paintings, which were on show in conjunction with the Museum's exhibition - "Between the Flags - 100 years of Surf Lifesaving" - are currently under the care of the NRMA's expert conservators. ACT Opposition frontbencher Brendan Smyth said damage to about 400 properties during Sunday's storm showed the ACT still did not have an adequate emergency warning system. The Emergency Services Agency had issued storm emergency warnings, but the first came only minutes before the weather hit.

#### DENMARK / SWEDEN

London, Jan 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Danish police evacuated two apartment blocks on the outskirts of Copenhagen today over fears the buildings would collapse as high winds lashed Denmark and southern Sweden. "We are evacuating two high buildings ... because of the storm," police spokesman Michael Bundgaard said. Authorities feared a fault in the concrete construction of the 12- and 14-storey structures, built in the mid-1950's, could put the buildings at risk of collapse in high winds that hit the Scandinavian country today, Danish media reported. The evacuation involved between 800 and 1,000 people living in the two blocks located in the Roedovre area of Copenhagen, police said. Those evacuated were provided temporary accommodation in a nearby school. Earlier today authorities closed the Oeresund bridge linking Denmark and Sweden to car traffic for one hour due to concerns over strong winds. The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) today issued its highest level weather warning for the country's southern tip, which lies to the east of Copenhagen. The provinces of Skaane and Halland could expect wind speeds of between 25 and 29 metres per second later today, with some areas warned of gusts of up to 33 metres per second, an SMHI spokesman told Swedish news agency TT. Swedish power companies reported that storms had caused

power outages for some 15,000 households throughout the south of the country. Airline traffic at Copenhagen and Sweden's southerly Malmoe airports was unaffected by the high winds.

#### GREECE

Piraeus, Jan 2 — The Corinth canal closed on Dec 31 due to bank landslides. After survey by the canal's management company it was ascertained that the canal's depth was unsafe for navigation. The time of re-establishment of the problem is estimated in roughly seven days. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 3 — The Corinth Canal, linking the Aegean Sea with Greece's western seaboard and the Adriatic, is likely to reopen later this week after being shut for several days. Management was hopeful the canal could receive traffic again by Friday (Jan 5). Earlier it had been reported that the four mile-long waterway would remain closed at least until the weekend. The canal, which averages about 12,000 transits annually, is being dredged to clear up debris from a recent landslide that has impeded traffic. Vessels have had to navigate around the Peloponnese peninsular, adding as much as 150 miles to the journey.

#### INDIA

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Several flight and train schedules were disrupted for the third consecutive day Wednesday (Jan 3) as thick fog enveloped the capital and the mercury dipped below normal. "Flight schedules were disrupted since late Tuesday forcing airlines to cancel nine flights, one arrival and eight departures, until early this morning," said a spokesperson of the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL). Passengers were stranded for hours at the airport owing to the rescheduling of flights. Seven international flights and 15 domestic flights were diverted to places like Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Jaipur and even Mumbai. Authorities, however, said the situation improved after 0730. "The runway visibility was above 2,000 metres by 1000. Flights are landing and taking off normally now," he said. Officials in the Northern Railways also said that over 24 trains were running between 3-19 hours late.

#### INDONESIA

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated Dec 28, states: Authorities deployed boats and helicopters today to move aid to survivors of floods and landslides in north-western Indonesia that have killed at least 109 and displaced more than 400,000. Heavy rain continued to fall over the hardest-hit districts in Aceh province on Sumatra, complicating relief efforts and adding to the misery of survivors, said local government spokesman Nadir Musa. The relief efforts followed days of torrential seasonal rain, the cause of dozens of landslides and flash floods each year in the sprawling

archipelagic nation where millions of people live in mountainous areas or in fertile flood plains. Helicopters dropped food, tents and medicines while volunteers in dinghies also distributed aid, said Musa.

Sukajadi, Indonesia, Dec 29 — Thousands of villagers forced from their homes by floods on Indonesia's Sumatra island returned today to begin cleaning up. In Indonesia's Aceh and North Sumatra provinces, where floods and landslides killed as many as 141 people, the number of displaced fell from 400,000 to a figure nearer to 200,000 as people returned from shelters on high ground and temporary government camps. Aid was getting through to many of those in need of food and other basics but rain was still heavy enough in some isolated areas to block relief shipments, officials said. "There are still five villages and two districts that we cannot reach because of the rain," health ministry crisis chief Rustam Pakaya said. He put the death toll in the two provinces at 104, although domestic affairs minister Muhammad Maaruf later gave out figures totalling 141. Maaruf said there were 211,530 people displaced and 179 missing in the two provinces. Many survivors who had gone home were cleaning up mud and debris today but others had found the task overwhelming and returned to the camps. — Reuters.

Jakarta, Dec 30 — Hundreds of thousands of Indonesians were still in temporary shelters today after floods in recent weeks forced them from their homes but conditions were gradually improving, officials said. In Aceh and North Sumatra Provinces, where floods and landslides have killed at least 114 people, the displaced total was nearly 272,000 people, Agus Sardiyo, an official at the disaster management co-ordination centre in Jakarta, said. However, that was well down on the 400,000 reported earlier this week. — Reuters.

#### JAPAN

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Snowstorms are forecast to hit areas along the Sea of Japan in the Hokuriku and Tohoku regions of Honshu from Friday (Dec 29) through Saturday morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. The agency also warned against gusty winds in Sea of Japan-facing areas, forecasting winds of up to 72 kilometres per hour on the ground in Sea of Japan-facing areas of the Hokuriku and Tohoku regions and winds of up to 54 kph in areas of Hokkaido and the Kinki and Sanin regions on the Sea of Japan coast. For the 24 hours through 0600, Saturday, snowfall may reach 70 to 80 centimetres in Niigata and Nagano prefectures as well as the Tohoku region on Honshu's Sea of Japan coast, 40 to 60 cm in parts of Hokkaido bordering the Sea of Okhotsk, and in the Hokuriku, Sanin and Kinki regions facing the Sea of Japan.

**KENYA**

London, Jan 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: As serious down pour continued to wreck havoc throughout Kenya, three people drowned from serious floods. Likewise, travellers and boda-boda operators are facing difficulty in movements, they reportedly cross a submerged bridge at Awach-Kano on the Kisumu/Kisii road at the weekend. Several houses were buried in landslides, while the Rift Valley Railway Company suspended train services between Mombasa and Nairobi due to floods. In Sabatia, Vihiga District, two boys aged six and two drowned in Izava River as they were crossing. The brothers, who were pupils at Gaigedi Primary School, had been sent by their mother to buy milk before attending the end of year Mass. Local police boss, Mr Mohammed Shaban, said their bodies were yet to be recovered. Separately, a man died in Ombeiyi village, Nyando District, when his house was submerged in water on Saturday night. Kwale District Commissioner, Mr Moffat Kangi, said the Mombasa/Lunga Lunga road was impassable at the bridge, which is under construction after it was swept away by floods in November, last year. "We had to stop the movement of vehicles from Kenya and Tanzania on Saturday evening to avert a disaster," he said. Meanwhile, hundreds of travellers were stranded for more than six hours on the Kangundo/Nairobi road after floods cut off sections of the road. Athi River and two other springs burst their banks at Ruai and Njiru.

**MALAYSIA**

Sukajadi, Indonesia, Dec 29 — Parts of Malaysia have been hit by the worst flooding seen in the country since 1969. The Bernama news agency said at least 11 people had been killed and 63,000 displaced, while the state Meteorological Department expected rains in Johor and southern Pahang to continue until Sunday (Dec 31). "Of course, we hope there will not be a second round of the heavy rains that caused the current floods," the "New Straits Times" newspaper quoted Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak as saying today. "But we will be ready for it if it happens." Officials said three states, including Johor, the hardest-hit, would remain on red alert. "Other states have been put on stand-by," Che Moin Omar, director of the government's crisis and disaster management directorate, told the newspaper. Malaysian palm oil prices rocketed to eight-year highs on Thursday on fears that floods could severely cut supplies. Johor is one of Malaysia's top palm oil producers. — Reuters. (See issue of Dec 29.)

London, Dec 31 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The death toll from Malaysia's disastrous floods has risen to 12, but authorities said that fears of another round of flooding had been averted as storm clouds shifted direction. The latest victim is a five-year-old girl whose body was found

late yesterday, the official Bernama news agency said. She was swept away when the car her family was travelling in was caught by strong currents. Her father survived, but her mother and three-year-old sister also died. Malaysia's opposition has called for an inquiry into the floods, the worst in decades, which have forced more than 60,000 people in southern Johor state to flee their homes and take shelter in relief centres. However, Johor chief minister Abdul Ghani Othman said he was confident the situation in the state would be back to normal within the next few days.

**PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Jan 1 — The movements of passengers, cargo trains, local and international flights scheduled were disturbed in Punjab Province of Pakistan due to thick fog blanketed Lahore and several other cities of northern area of country for the last two days. The Pakistan Railways officials said that many trains reached the city several hours late because they had to be moved at a snail's pace on the foggy track while Civil Aviation and Airport authorities reported almost a total disruption of the flight schedule, saying many incoming international flights were diverted to other cities because of poor visibility. There was a huge backlog of flights, creating a great deal of inconvenience for passengers. Similarly, vehicular traffic moved at very slow pace in Lahore and on highways in the province because the reduced visibility made driving extremely difficult. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jan 2 — The extreme fog is still persist in several cities of Punjab Province of Pakistan, affecting the schedule of train services and domestic and international flights. Motorway officials decided to close motorway for a span of time until fog is thick. According to airport officials, the schedule of nearly three dozen flights has been affected. It said that at the time of heavy fog, the flights were delayed by six to seven hours and now this delay has been dwindled to one to two hours. Railway officials said that Lahore-bound Shalimar Express, Awam Express and Khyber Express are three-hour late. Besides, Sindh Express and Night Coach are 12-hour late. As per synoptic situation, a trough of low-pressure area lies over Kashmir, which may cause partly cloudy weather in Rawalpindi, and cold and dry weather in Sargodha, Gujranwala, Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan and D.G.Khan divisions during next 24 hours. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**RUSSIA**

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: The sea storm has subdued in the Tatar Strait near Sakhalin today, allowing to re-start the ferry link to the mainland, however heavy snowfall continues and keeps the local airport closed for a third day. Weathermen said the cyclone, which brought one to two

metres of snow, is likely to leave Sakhalin and Kurile Islands by this evening. The airport, where 22 flights were kept aground, is expected to reopen the same time. Only one major accident was reported during the cyclone, when the fishing boat *Sofia* ran aground. All the 12 crew members were rescued.

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The powerful snowy cyclone formed over Sakhalin two days ago is slowly leaving the island for Kamchatka and the Pacific Ocean. Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk's airport has resumed working. Aircraft land and take off there again. More than 20 flights from Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk to various Russian cities and abroad were delayed during the two days. Two passenger airliners from Moscow on the flights to Sakhalin landed at Khabarovsk and Vladivostok and waited for the weather to calm down on the island. The runway is cleared of snow. Passengers take their flights, the airport press service said. The ferry service between Vanino and Kholmsk has been resumed. Four diesel vessels have come to the line. Each is capable to carry 100 passengers and 26 loaded railroad cars.

**TROPICAL CYCLONE "CLOVIS"**

London, Jan 1 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Clovis" located near 17.5S, long 52.8E, at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 220 deg at 13 knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution 60 knots with gusts to 75 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 50 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 100 nautical miles. Forecasts for 0600, UTC, Jan 2: Position lat 19.1S, long 50.3E. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots with gusts to 110 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 35 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 65 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 135 nautical miles.

London, Jan 3 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Clovis" located near 20.5S, long 48.8E, at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 260 deg at five knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds 65 knots with gusts to 80 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds: 55 nautical miles east semicircle, 45 nautical miles west semicircle. Radius of 34-knot winds: 100 nautical miles east semicircle, 85 nautical miles west semicircle. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jan 4: Position in lat 21.2S, long 48.2E with maximum sustained winds of 25 knots with gusts to 35 knots. Dissipated as a significant tropical cyclone over land.

London, Jan 4 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Clovis" located near 20.7S, long 48.4E, at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 225 deg at one knot. Position accurate to



within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 21S, long 48E with maximum sustained winds of 25 knots with gusts to 35 knots.

### TROPICAL CYCLONE "ISOBEL"

Sydney, Jan 2 — Gales were expected to develop overnight as a cyclone, the first of the season, approached Australia's remote northwest coast, meteorologists said today. Tropical Cyclone "Isobel" was rated as a category one storm, the lowest in a five-point scale, with winds of up to 95 kmh near its centre. Australia's Bureau of Meteorology said Isobel was about 600 km north of Port Hedland, about 1,350 km north of the Western Australia state capital Perth. Mining giant BHP Billiton has port operations at Port Hedland. The bureau said a cyclone warning was in place for coastal waters extending another 550 km north to Cape Leveque and inland to the Pilbara region. The Pilbara region is home to more than 12,000 people and includes Woodside Petroleum's multi-billion-dollar North West Shelf liquefied natural gas project at Karratha. BHP and fellow mining major Rio Tinto both have operations in the Pilbara, which has large deposits of iron ore. The Bureau of Meteorology said no alerts had been issued for communities in the affected areas, but it said that damaging winds and heavy rainfall leading to flooding could develop by Thursday (Jan 4), when the remnants of Cyclone "Isobel" were expected to combine with a deep trough currently forming over the south of the state. — Reuters.

Sydney, Jan 3 — Tropical Cyclone "Isobel" crossed the northwest Australian coast today, causing little damage, but weather forecasters warned it may now link up with a deep depression inland to create a destructive "perfect storm". "It's one of the few occasions as a forecaster that you really do hope your forecast is wrong," Australia's Bureau of Meteorology forecaster Grant Elliott told local radio. "But unfortunately indications are that it's going to be a very significant, perhaps a once-in-a-generation, storm for this time of year," said Elliott. Cyclone "Isobel", Australia's first tropical cyclone of the season, was rated category one, the lowest in a five-point scale, with winds of up to 100 km per hour near its centre. "Isobel" caused little damage in sparsely populated Western Australia state but temporarily disrupted offshore oil production by Woodside Petroleum Ltd. and Santos Ltd. It is expected to weaken below cyclone strength within a few hours as it moves south, but the bureau said remnants of the cyclone will join an inland storm, creating a new destructive storm late today or tomorrow over Australia's major goldfields in the south of Western Australia. "We're expecting some quite exceptional winds on Thursday,

perhaps eaching 100 to 120 km per hour, so there'll be localised damaging winds and the risk of quite significant livestock losses with the combination of rain and wind producing hypothermia," said the bureau's Elliott. — Reuters.

London, Jan 3 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Isobel" located near lat 18.0S, long 120.0E ar 0001, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 175 deg at nine knots, position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, position based on centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 60 nautical miles north semicircle, 65 nautical miles south semicircle. Forecast for 0001, UTC, Jan 4: Position near lat 28.9S, long 125.9E with maximum sustained winds of 20 knots and gusts to 30 knots, dissipated as a significant tropical cyclone over land.

Sydney, Jan 4 — Iron ore, oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) production in Western Australia's north should be back on stream quickly this morning after a weakened Cyclone "Isobel" left facilities largely unscathed yesterday. The Bureau of Meteorology expects that a low pressure system over southern WA, combining with ex-cyclone "Isobel", could flood mining operations in the south and has suspended shiploading at the port of Esperance. The category one cyclone, now downgraded to a tropical low, crossed the WA coast 110km north-east of Port Hedland at about 1400, WDT yesterday. It is expected to merge with a low pressure system in southern WA where it could bring heavy rain and strong winds to the Goldfields area around Kalgoorlie, about 600 km east of Perth. The bureau described the storm as a one in 10 year event and said it would bring unseasonal heavy rainfall and widespread damaging winds. BHP Billiton took the precaution of locking down its Ravensthorpe nickel project, about 150km west of Esperance, yesterday in preparation for the wet weather. BHP and Rio Tinto are also monitoring their iron ore mines in the Pilbara, after a savage cyclone season last year saw both lose production volumes as a result of mine flooding and port closures. Shiploading at the big two iron ore ports of Port Hedland and Dampier was suspended as the ports took the precaution of closing ahead of the predicted 110 km/h winds. Both ports have re-opened after earlier having made the early decision to lock down and send ships out to sea to ride out the storm. Woodside plans to re-open its offshore Legendre oil facility, which the company said was not affected, with production set to resume shortly. Woodside's other North West Shelf oil and gas sites were largely unaffected. The Cossack Pioneer LNG facility had been shutdown but will be re-opened shortly. Strong winds forced the port of Esperance to suspend loading its only vessel in port, the 79,000 grt iron

ore carrier Coppersmith. Harbour master Ian Harrod said 30-35 knot winds and heavy rain had made it too dangerous to continue loading. The vessel would recommence loading tomorrow, but no other vessels would be affected because the port did not expect any new arrivals until Wednesday next week. Port of Albany harbour master Steve Young said one vessel had left the port this morning with no other ship movements expected until the weekend. The port was experiencing winds of up to 30 knots and the bureau expected significant beach erosion between Albany and Israelite Bay. About 89mm of rain had fallen in some areas of southern WA and more than 40mm around Kalgoorlie in the 12 hours to 0500 this morning. The bureau expects rain to become heavier before easing tonight. A flood warning remains in place for the Goldfields area and other mining areas near Kalgoorlie. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

London, Jan 4 — Dampier Port Authority advise that the port "will be progressively closed from 1200, Jan 2". Vessels at anchor were the first to depart, the last one being underway at 1712. The final bulk carrier cleared sea buoy outbound at 2000, Jan 2, at which time the port was officially closed. The port was reopened for vessels at anchor at 1040, Jan 3. EII and PP were reopened at 0600, Jan 4, when wind and swell criteria were met. The first vessel was scheduled to berth at East Intercourse Is at 0900, Jan 4. The first vessel was scheduled to berth at Parker Point at 1000, Jan 4. Port Walcott: The port was closed at 1700, Jan 2. The anchorage was vacated and all vessels ordered to put to sea. The port was officially opened for vessels to anchor at 1200, Jan 3. The first vessel to berth will be *Kazusa* which had POB scheduled at 2045, Jan 3. Port Hedland: The port was officially closed to all inbound vessels at 1100, Jan 2. The port was subsequently closed to all traffic at 1400, Jan 2, with all vessels ordered to sea. The port was officially reopened at 1600, Jan 3, for vessels anchoring. The first vessel to berth was at 2300, Jan 3, at Nelson Point. The cyclone has dropped significant rainfall in inland areas. However the heaviest falls were South and east of the major iron ore mining areas of the inland Pilbara. Esperance: The port of Esperance is currently being affected by heavy rain. The vessel currently alongside the iron ore berth has had loading suspended due to the weather, but the vessel will remain alongside at this stage. Loading is expected to resume tomorrow. There are no reports at this stage that the rainfall will affect iron ore production or railing.

### TURKEY

London, Jan 1 — Winds and rain have lashed across Turkey, causing massive travel disruption on Dec 27. Kuna news reports that local television stations are claiming that flights have been cancelled and road



and maritime transport has been disrupted. Flights between the capital of Istanbul and the provinces have been cancelled due to snowfall, while Anatolian villages were cut off. One person is said to have been killed and another injured in the storms and locals have been told to expect more bad weather.

Istanbul, Dec 28 — Northbound tankers face delays of six to seven days in Turkey's Dardanelles Strait and three to four days going south, Istanbul-based shipping agent GAC said yesterday. For the Bosphorus, northbound tankers were being held one or two days and southbound tankers two or three days, it said in a daily bulletin. Twenty-five vessels were waiting to pass through the Dardanelles and 22 for the Bosphorus, the agent said. Fog often closes the routes to traffic in winter. — Reuters.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated Dec 28, states: New Year's travelers jammed Denver Airport today, trying to get out of town ahead of a snowstorm that threatened to close runways and gum up the nation's busy holiday travel season for the second time in a week. The storm was expected to dump up to 18 inches of snow on the Denver area overnight and prompted Governor Bill Owens to again declare a statewide disaster emergency, just a week after a pre-Christmas blizzard shut the airport for more than two days. The shutdown stranded 4,700 holiday travellers and backed up flights around the country. Managers at the nation's fifth-busiest airport drew up snowploughing plans, and airlines urged ticket-holders to leave Denver early or delay departures until after the storm. By 1400 hrs, United Airlines and Frontier, the two biggest carriers at Denver International Airport, had cancelled more than 180 flights. Clear Creek county government offices in the foothills west of Denver closed early, as did the University of Colorado in Boulder. Residents of Cheyenne, Wyoming, also braced for the second snowstorm to hit the area in a week. Up to a foot of snow was expected in Cheyenne, and more in the mountains, said National Weather Service meteorologist Steve Rubin. In California, another powerful winter storm left tens of thousands of people without power today as winds gusted to near-hurricane force and blowing snow closed a stretch of Interstate 5 in the mountains north of Los Angeles for 11 hours. It reopened this morning. Forecasters in California warned of dangerous winds, with gusts over 80 mph, through tomorrow morning in the region's valleys and mountain passes.

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: The second big wintry storm of the holidays hit Colorado today, disrupting air and highway travel, shutting down businesses and threatening to drop as much as two feet of snow on streets. At Denver International, the nation's

fifth-busiest airport, the major airlines cancelled 15 percent to 20 percent of their flights this morning, more than 300 departures, to ease congestion as the snow deepened. But officials were optimistic they would avoid a rerun of the pre-Christmas blizzard that dropped two feet of snow and shut down the "all-weather" airport for two days, stranding 4,700 passengers and snarling holiday travel around the country. The current storm was expected to be spread out over two or three days, making it easier for snowploughs to keep up. Parts of the metropolitan area were under more than a foot by this morning, and up to a foot more was expected by tomorrow. A weather slowdown at Denver has relatively little nationwide ripple effect on airlines other than United and Frontier, which account for 80 percent of Denver's traffic, said David Castelveter of the Air Transport Association, an industry group. A 200-mile stretch of Interstate 70, the main east-west highway through the state, was closed from Denver to Colby, Kan. Greyhound cancelled all bus trips out of Denver. Colorado Governor Bill Owens again declared a state of emergency, putting the National Guard on standby. During the previous storm, troops rescued motorists and delivered diapers, blankets and baby formula to stranded travelers at the airport. At the airport, check-in counters that had been packed yesterday with travelers rushing to beat the storm had normal lines this morning. The storm stretched across the Rocky Mountains into the western Plains, where forecasters warned that the gusts could whip up blinding whiteouts. In New Mexico, Interstate 40 was closed from Albuquerque to Santa Rosa, and numerous crashes were reported, after a storm swept through. More than an inch of snow per hour fell this morning in Kansas. Forecasters predicted 15 to 20 inches in some areas. The seven inches of snow that had fallen in Cheyenne, Wyo., by this morning gave the city 24 inches total in December, topping its nearly century-old record of 21.4 inches for the month.

London, Dec 31 — A press report, dated Dec 29, states: Officials at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University say a tornado that tore through the campus damaging aircraft and buildings caused between \$50 million and \$60 million in damages. President John P. Johnson said the number is a conservative estimate and expects the university should have a more definitive number late next week. The Christmas Day twisters that touched down in DeLand and Daytona Beach are responsible for more than \$32 million in damages across the county. The Daytona Beach storm destroyed 40 planes and significantly damaged another 10 of the school's 65 single-engine aircraft fleet. Johnson said it would cost about \$11 million to replace the planes. The campus also lost its primary administration building, Spruance Hall, and Johnson expects it to cost about \$14 million to replace the

45,000-square-foot facility. Other damages were sustained at the school's athletic complex, atrium, auditorium and advanced simulation center. The clean-up has already begun and Johnson said they are making "exceptional progress in restoring the campus."

London, Jan 2 — A press report, dated Jan 1, states: Pilots in a dozen planes flew over parts of Colorado and Kansas today to look for snowbound travellers following a blizzard that dropped nearly three feet of snow and piled some of it in drifts 15 feet high. As the aircraft soared above the frozen landscape, utility crews struggled to restore electrical service to tens of thousands of homes and businesses that lost power. The storm, which struck on Thursday (Dec 28), dwindled to a line of heavy rain today along the East Coast, but a few roads in southeastern Colorado and western Kansas were still choked by snow. The huge storm was blamed for at least 12 deaths in four states. The Civil Air Patrol sent six aircraft into the air today over Colorado's Kit Carson County, where there had been reports of people snowbound along Interstate 70, even though that highway reopened yesterday. Several of the planes were equipped with infrared heat-sensing equipment to help spot stranded livestock. Authorities were considering using C-130 cargo aircraft and snowmobiles to get hay to snowbound animals. They wanted to avoid a repeat of a 1997 blizzard that killed up to 30,000 head of livestock at a cost of \$28 million. In Kansas, six other planes conducted a similar search for snowbound travellers. Some roads in southeast Colorado were choked by snow drifts that measured 10 feet high. Fifteen-foot drifts were piled up in western Kansas. Sections of a few Kansas state highways were still closed today. "We're chipping away at it," said Ron Kaufman, spokesman for the Kansas Department of Transportation. Sunshine and warmer temperatures helped, he said. There was no way into or out of the western Kansas town of Sharon Springs today, but the community of 835 people did not lose electricity, said Bill Hassett, manager of the town power plant. However, about 60,000 homes and businesses elsewhere in western Kansas were still in the dark, and utility officials said it could take more than a week to restore service. Kansas National Guard troops had been out delivering generators, fuel and supplies to assisted living centers and shelters. In Nebraska, about 15,000 customers remained without power, said Beth Boesch, spokeswoman for Nebraska Public Power District. Utility crews in the Oklahoma Panhandle had restored power to several towns blacked out by the storm, but up to 4,500 customers still had no electricity, mostly in rural areas. Ten traffic deaths were blamed on the storm in Colorado, Texas and Minnesota. A tornado spawned by the same weather system killed one person in Texas, and a Kansas man

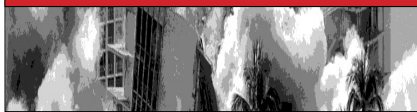
was reported dead in a rural home where a generator apparently was in use during the blackout.

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The damage from last weekend's storms in Johnson County, Texas, was worse than first thought, officials said Tuesday (Jan 2). The winds that spawned at least two tornadoes, destroyed homes and injured people and livestock caused more than \$2 million in damage, prompting county officials to make an emergency declaration.

#### ZIMBABWE

Harare, Jan 3 — Zimbabwe enjoyed rains this week after a two-week dry spell but farmers said today that hopes of a bumper harvest could fade after floods washed away crops in southern areas. "First it was the dry spell in the southern and western parts of the country and when the rains started around the new year this was accompanied by flooding," said Abdul Paul Nyathi, vice president of the Zimbabwe Farmers' Union. "Farmers in these areas are very worried, they don't know what to do next." Farmers in southern and western Zimbabwe had been forced to re-plant their crops following the two-week dry spell in most parts of the country. — Reuters.

### Earthquakes



#### ARGENTINA

London, Jan 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale hit Argentina's eastern provinces of Neuquen, Mendoza and Rio Negro yesterday, with no casualties or serious damage reported. Argentina's Earthquake Prevention Institute said that the earthquake was felt along the Andes, with the epicentre in Caviahue, near the border with Chile.

#### GULF OF ADEN

London, Dec 31 — A severe earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter scale struck the Gulf of Aden south of Yemen at about 0841, UTC, yesterday, the Hong Kong Observatory said in a bulletin. The epicentre was initially determined by the Hong Kong Observatory to be in lat 13.3N, long 51.5E, or over the eastern Gulf of Aden, about 710 km east of Aden.

#### TAIWAN

London, Dec 29 — Five cable vessels are heading towards southern Taiwan to repair undersea communications cables cut during an earthquake which occurred off the southern tip of Taiwan earlier this week. The damage has paralysed internet, fax and data communication throughout much of east and south-east Asia over the past

two days. Some companies, such as Orient Overseas Container Line of Hong Kong, have coped well. Others, including Taiwanese shipping lines, have however fared badly. OOCL said it had re-routed data transmissions, such as electronic documentation to another system and, although service was slower, it had been maintained. Internal e-mail communication had not been affected. However, Taiwanese carriers such as Evergreen Marine and Yang Ming Marine had been adversely affected, with customers unable to get web access. Some freight forwarders and logistics operators had also suffered because of the lack of internet access.

Hong Kong's telecommunications authority confirmed yesterday that two cable vessels, one from Singapore and the other from the Philippines, were already on their way to the area, while three other vessels left yesterday. The area off the southern coast of Taiwan is a hub for submarine cables linking east and south-east Asia with North America. The telecommunications authority said six out of seven main submarine cable systems linking Hong Kong were cut by the earthquake, which measured 7.1 on the Richter scale. One of the damaged cable networks is owned by a consortium that includes Singapore Telecom and France Telecom, while another is part owned by China Unicom, StarHub and Telekom Malaysia. The cables account for about 90% of the total capacity and mainly affect connections to Japan, Taiwan, Korea, the US and Canada. Most data traffic between Asia and Europe goes through North America. Operators have tried to re-route traffic but capacity constraints have meant some services have been slow. Most voice call services to countries in the region were back to normal yesterday although non-voice data were still badly affected. Communications links to Taiwan were also difficult yesterday. Telecommunications authority director-general Au Man-ho expected it would take up to a week for emergency repairs to be completed to the cable system serving Hong Kong. Chunghwa Telecom, Taiwan's largest telephone operator, said two of its undersea cables had been cut. The company's head of international business, Leng Tai-feng, said it was likely to be two or three weeks before repairs were completed, although there would be a steady improvement in service levels as damaged cables were repaired.

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The powerful earthquake which hit Taiwan Tuesday (Dec 26) has cut Philippine telecoms capacity by as much as 40 percent, a senior official said yesterday. National Telecommunications Commission Deputy Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento said some 60 percent of phone and Internet capacity was operational as carriers rerouted through other links to North America, the Middle East, Hawaii, Malaysia and Singapore. A spokeswoman for local telecom giant, Philippine Long

Distance Telephone (PLDT) confirmed that connectivity was down by about 40%.

London, Jan 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Asian telephone companies and regulators said repairs to undersea cables damaged by an earthquake off southern Taiwan were delayed by problems with a repair ship and bad weather. "The schedule for the repair of submarine cables is delayed" because of a "major fault" to one of the ships sent to fix the cables, Hong Kong's Office of the Telecommunications Authority said in a statement today without elaborating. Bad weather is also hampering repairs, according to phone companies. At least eight fiber-optic cables connecting Asia to the rest of the world were damaged after a 7.1-magnitude quake and its aftershocks shook Taiwan on Dec 26. Early assessment of the cables showed "substantial" damage, Hong Kong's telecom regulator said. The repair of the ship is expected to take about a week, it said. Weather forecasts showed strong winds gusting up to 45 knots today in the Bashi Channel off Taiwan's south coast, and in the south Taiwan Strait, according to Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau. The strong winds are expected to ease slightly in the next two days, according to the bureau. Repair of all cables is expected to be finished by the end of January, the Hong Kong authority said, reiterating a timeline given by Chunghwa Telecom Co., Taiwan's biggest phone company. Chunghwa said Dec 30 that 99 percent of its phone services for major customers, which together contribute 15 percent of the company's international-business revenue, were restored. Services Return China Telecom said yesterday that Internet service returned to 70% of normal operation, while voice services to Hong Kong and Macau were back to normal.

### Volcanic Activity



#### SOUFRIERE HILLS, MONTSERAT

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated Dec 28, states: Activity at the Langs Soufriere volcano has residents of Montserrat anxiously watching the smoking mountain. The island was put on high alert as large plumes of ash were seen leaving the volcano and climbing at times to an estimated 10 thousand feet into the air. As a result of the activity, scientists have raised the alert level to Category Four. According to a report ash venting began early on Saturday morning (Dec 23) and continued throughout Sunday on the western side of the dome. Category Four is defined as "large unconfined dome actively growing towards the north or west or, large dome with high levels of pyroclastic flow activity in other directions.



## Political &amp; Civil Unrest

**BRAZIL**

London, Dec 28 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 15 people have been killed in a string of gang attacks on buses and police stations in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro, reports say. In one incident, six passengers were burnt to death when gunmen attacked their bus and set fire to it. The wave of violence across the city started last night and continued into this morning. Officials said the co-ordinated attacks had probably been planned from jail by imprisoned gang leaders. Rio state Security Secretary Roberto Precioso said the gangs were trying to put pressure on the authorities to gain concessions and privileges in the prisons, O Globo Online reported. At least four police stations in different parts of Rio were attacked with grenades and automatic fire. Three buses were set on fire, and gunmen are reported to have stopped emergency workers from getting close to the scene. As military police and gunmen exchanged fire on some of Rio's streets, motorists fled their cars to seek shelter. Two police officers are reported to be among the dead, as well as at least one gang member.

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

Kinshasa, Dec 28 — Rebels in Congo's east took 15 army soldiers hostage and killed or wounded several more during five days of gun battles, UN officials said today. An army commander in the eastern region of Ituri said government troops had quelled the fighting with elements of the Front of Nationalists and Integrationalists (FNI) which broke out in the village of Laudjo. The FNI, one of three Ituri militias which signed peace deals in mid-November, is holding 15 Congolese army soldiers hostage, UN military spokesman Lt Col Didier Rancher said. "We have the situation under control," General Vainqueur Malaya, the Congolese army's commander in Ituri, said. He said four government soldiers had been killed while rebels had sustained heavy losses. Rancher said the army had suffered around 19 casualties, both dead and wounded. He could not provide figures for the FNI, one of several armed groups operating in Ituri. Both sides have denied starting the fighting in villages around 100 km north of Ituri's capital Bunia. The fighting coincided with an increase in violence in neighbouring North Kivu, where renegade General Laurent Nkunda's troops are battling government forces. Five soldiers were injured in clashes with fighters loyal to Nkunda today. — Reuters.

**FRANCE**

Ajaccio, Jan 4 — Bombs damaged banks and a tax office in and near the Corsican capital early today, a day before Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy visits the French island with a history of separatist violence. One man died and one was severely injured by the premature explosion of a bomb they were trying to plant in front of a villa on the east coast, police said. — Reuters.

**INDIA**

London, Dec 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Police in the south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh say they have killed a senior leader of a banned Maoist group. Chandramouli, alias Devanna, one of the most wanted Maoist leaders, carried a reward of one million rupees (£11,500) on his head. He is the second member of the Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-M) leadership council to be killed in the state this year, police say. There has been no comment from the Maoists. Senior police official JG Murali said that Chandramouli and his wife were shot dead in a clash with a special security team, the Greyhound force, in Visakhapatnam district yesterday night.

**IRAQ**

London, Dec 28 — A press report, dated today, states: The US Embassy said today it believes four American security contractors and an Austrian remain in captivity after their kidnapping in southern Iraq six weeks ago. The men went missing on November 16, when a large convoy of trucks being escorted by their Crescent Security Group was hijacked on a highway near Safwan, a city on the border with Kuwait. Suspected militiamen dressed in Iraqi police uniforms ambushed the convoy, taking 14 hostages, including the five security guards, and nine truck drivers who were later released. "At this time, US officials believe the American citizens are still being held by their captors," said Lou Fintor, a spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. A video of the kidnapped Americans reportedly surfaced this week, showing them alive and in good condition. The footage, reported by McClatchy Newspapers, was believed to have been made about a month ago. If authentic, it would be the first proof that all five men survived the ambush. U.S., British and Iraqi forces have all conducted raids in the search for the five men. Raids were carried out in several areas north of Basra.

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A British soldier has been killed by a roadside bomb in Basra, the Ministry of Defence has said. The soldier, from the 2nd Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, was killed while taking part in a routine patrol in Basra City. The Warrior Armoured Fighting Vehicle which he was travelling in was targeted by a roadside bomb. There were no other casualties. The total number of UK troops killed in

operations in Iraq now stands at 127. Of those, 96 died in action. The rest of the deaths were caused by accidents, natural causes or illness, remain unexplained, or are still under investigation.

Baghdad, Dec 30 — Saddam Hussein was hanged for crimes against humanity at dawn today, a dramatic, violent end for a leader who ruled Iraq by fear for three decades before a US invasion toppled him. "It was very quick. He died right away," one of the official Iraqi witnesses told Reuters, saying the former president's face was uncovered, he appeared calm and said a brief prayer as Iraqi policemen walked him to the gallows and put the noose round him. US President George W. Bush, who branded Saddam a tyrant and a threat to global security even though alleged nuclear and other weapons were not found after the 2003 invasion, hailed the execution as a "milestone" on Iraq's path to democracy. The deaths of four troops pushed the American death toll to three short of the emotive 3,000 mark. Bush already faces mounting public dismay at the war as Iraq slides toward all-out civil war between Saddam's fellow Sunnis and majority Shi'ites. As day broke on one of the holiest dates of the Muslim year and the call to prayer echoed out from minarets across a dark and bitterly cold Baghdad, officially backed television channels flashed the news shortly after 0600 hrs (0300 GMT). "He seemed very calm. He did not tremble," a senior official present at the execution told Reuters. Saddam, 69, was bound and shackled but his face was uncovered as he met his death. The former president recited the Muslim profession of faith "There is no God but God and Mohammed is his prophet" but made no other remark after policemen escorted him to the scaffold. The official would not say where the execution took place but said it was not in the fortified Green Zone compound. Another said it was at a facility known to Americans as "Camp Justice" — a former base for Saddam's feared security services and now used regularly for executions by Iraqi's courts. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jan 2 — The number of Iraqi civilians killed in political violence hit a record high in December, according figures compiled by Iraq's Interior Ministry. The Interior Ministry data, almost certain to be an underestimate, showed 12,320 civilians were killed in 2006 in what officials term "terrorist" violence. The ministry figure of 1,930 civilian deaths in December is three-and-a-half times the equivalent of 548 last January, before last year's surge in sectarian killing which followed the destruction of a major Shi'ite shrine in February. The figures also showed 1,231 policemen were killed in 2006 and 602 Iraqi soldiers. US President George W. Bush plans to unveil a new strategy this month after the 3,000th soldier to die in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion was killed just before New Year. At least 112 Americans died in

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December, the deadliest month for them in more than two years. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jan 4 — Two bombs exploded at a petrol station in Baghdad's western Mansour district today, killing 13 people and wounding 22, police and an interior ministry source said. The first blast was a roadside bomb that hit people lining up for fuel at the petrol station, police said. When rescue services arrived on the scene, a car bomb exploded. The interior ministry source said both were car bombs. Mansour is an upscale neighbourhood with a mixed population of Shi'ites and Sunni Arabs. There has been a relative lull in major attacks and violence over the Eid al-Adha holiday, which ended yesterday. — Reuters.

## ISRAEL

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Palestinian militants attacked the Gaza Strip's main cargo crossing with mortar fire early yesterday, lightly wounding an Israeli truck driver in the latest flare-up of violence in the coastal strip. The attack on the Karni crossing came shortly after warring Palestinian factions resumed their violent infighting following a one-week pause, and gunmen abducted a foreign news photographer. The Israeli army said the mortar attack hit a truck that was delivering building materials to Gaza. It said the attack did not disrupt the flow of goods into Gaza. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has pledged to increase the movement of goods in and out of Gaza in an effort to boost the moderate Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, in his power struggle with the Islamic militant group Hamas. There was no claim of responsibility for the attack. Medical officials said the truck's driver was lightly wounded and taken to a hospital. Karni is the main transit point for Gaza's imports and exports, and is critical to the area's fragile economy.

## PAKISTAN

London, Jan 2 — A gas pipeline in southwestern Pakistani district of Dera Bugti was blown up yesterday as explosives planted by unknown persons detonated, according to the website of local newspaper the News. A part of the main gas pipeline in Dera Bugti, some 250 km south-east of Baluchistan provincial capital Qetta, was damaged in the blast, disrupting gas supply to the region, said the report quoting officials. No casualty was reported. Security forces reportedly have cordoned off the area to investigate the incident, and a team has been called to repair the damaged pipeline. Anti-government tribal militants in Baluchistan, demanding more autonomy and more control over local natural resources, have launched many attacks targeting security forces, government installations, and public assets in the province, the report said.

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A bomb explosion in a Pakistani northern town wounded five people today, said police. A time-bomb had been planted in a Chinese-made motorcycle-rickshaw and parked in the busiest place in Dera Ghazi Khan town, a local police official said. He said the explosion wounded five passers-by, adding that one of them was in critical condition.

## SOMALIA

Mogadiscio, Dec 28 — Triumphant Somali government forces and their Ethiopian allies marched into Mogadiscio today after Islamist rivals abandoned the war-scarred city they held for six months. Parts of Mogadiscio shook with the sound of gunfire and there were outbreaks of looting after leaders of the Somalia Islamic Courts Council (SICC) fled its base early in the morning. Some fighters ditched their uniforms to avoid reprisals. Government spokesman Abdirahman Dinari said government forces had secured the main routes into Mogadiscio. "We are taking control of the city and I will confirm when we have established complete control," he said. He said the Islamists had fled to the southern port city of Kismayu and the administration controlled 95% of the Horn of Africa country. Somali Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Gedi flew to a town near the capital this afternoon. The government declared a state of emergency "to control security and stability." — Reuters.

Mogadishu, Dec 28 — Somali Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Gedi said parliament would declare a period of martial law to maintain control of the country after Ethiopian and government troops wrested the capital from rival Islamists. The fall of Mogadishu came after a 10-day offensive by government and allied forces to reclaim much of the territory seized by the Somalia Islamic Courts Council since June. While Gedi today celebrated a triumphant return to his home village outside Mogadishu for the first time since 2002, he acknowledged the chaotic country was far from stable. "This country has experienced anarchy and in order to restore security we need a strong hand, especially with freelance militias," he said of the country which has not had an effective government since the 1991 ouster of a dictator. Gedi told reporters in Mundul Sharey, a village some 40 km south-west of Mogadishu, parliament would declare martial law on Saturday (Dec 30) for a period of three months. The flight of the Islamists was a dramatic turnaround in the Horn of Africa nation after they had spread across the south imposing sharia rule and confined the interim government to its base in Baidoa until less than two weeks ago. Terrified of yet more violence, some Mogadishu residents took to the streets to cheer government troops, while others hid. Some SICC fighters ditched their uniforms to avoid reprisals. Government spokesman

Abdirahman Dinari said the Islamists had fled to the southern port city of Kismayu and that the administration now controlled 95% of Somalia. But analysts said a government victory was in no way certain and that the conflict could be about to take another turn. "I think we're at a crossroads right now," said Ken Menkhaus, Horn of Africa specialist at Davidson College in Charlotte, North Carolina. He said the government could exploit splits within the SICC and attract some members to join a unity government. "But alternatively this could be the beginning of a new kind of war," Menkhaus said. "One in which the Islamists are going to fight their kind of war, an asymmetrical war involving a combination of hit and run guerrilla attacks, car bombings, assassinations and possibly even selected acts of terrorism on other parts of East Africa." With Eritrea accused of backing the Islamists, many feared the conflict could engulf the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia, like the United States, says the Islamists are supported by al Qaeda. Ethiopian troops and air strikes were critical to the government's assault, experts say, and there is some question what will happen when Addis Ababa finally withdraws its forces. Islamist leader Sheikh Sharif Ahmed said his forces were united and determined to push out Ethiopian forces, but had retreated to avoid more bloodshed. Menkhaus said Ethiopia would probably remain in parts of Somalia for a time but would not want its troops in Mogadishu for long. He said, however, it would only withdraw if the transitional government forces could keep order. While aid flights were suspended temporarily when Somalia closed its border during the latest fighting, plans were now under way for their resumption, the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs said in New York. Thousands of families are reported to have fled their homes for other parts of Somalia to avoid the fighting but there has been no large-scale flow of war-related refugees into neighbouring Kenya, OCHA said. — Reuters.

Mogadiscio, Dec 31 — Ethiopian and Somali government troops moved closer to Kismayu today for a possible attack on the Islamists' last outpost, while a blast in Mogadiscio stirred fears of a guerrilla war. Two days after a joint Ethiopian-government force chased the Islamists out of Somalia's capital, a missile apparently aimed at one of their positions rocked a Mogadiscio neighbourhood overnight as it smashed into a family home. "We heard a big bang behind the Ramadan hotel," a Mogadiscio resident said of the attack in a northern district that had housed the Somalia Islamic Courts Council (SICC) headquarters since it took the capital in June. "When I rushed there, I heard people screaming and I was told a woman is dead and a man and their daughter wounded." The attack seemed to have been aimed at Ethiopian troops, heightening fears the Islamists might

counter-attack with guerrilla strikes. Islamist leaders are trying to rally their forces the southern port of Kismayu. Ethiopian warplanes have been flying over the town and the Islamists may have mined the road to it. As Ethiopian tanks moved towards Kismayu, some 300 km south-west of the capital, the Islamists urged supporters there to resist. Islamist fighters in Jilib said they believed Ethiopian troops had passed Baraawe, about halfway between Mogadiscio and Kismayu. "They are approaching us. People have started fleeing Jilib," said Abdulqadir Yusuf from the front line. — Reuters.

Kismayu, Somalia, Jan 1 — Somali Islamists fled today from their final stronghold towards the Kenyan border in what could mark the end of a nearly two-week war with the Ethiopian-backed government. Several thousand Somalia Islamic Courts Council (SICC) fighters, who had made a last stand north of Kismayu port, melted away overnight after advancing Ethiopian and government troops shelled their front line, witnesses said. The leaders and fighters of the SICC — who were driven from Mogadiscio on Thursday (Dec 28) — fled further south from the Indian Ocean port towards neighbouring Kenya, residents said. Some believed they were moving to the hilly region of Buur Gaabo, just on the Somali side of the border. Diplomats said US boats were believed to be patrolling the sea off Somalia to prevent SICC leaders, or foreign militant supporters, from escaping. Some Islamist fighters may simply have dumped their uniforms and melted into the Somali bush. The Somali government offered an amnesty for fighters who handed over their weapons. Announcing the offer, Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Gedi said that Somali Islamist fighters had been "misled by international terrorists." Witnesses at Jilib, north of Kismayu, said mortar and rocket fire between the two sides stopped late yesterday. The joint Ethiopian-government force was marching into Kismayu early today but troops were slowed by having to clear mines left by Islamists on the road in. "The terrorists have abandoned Kismayu and the federal forces are expected to take over the port city any time," said Ethiopian Information Minister Berhan Hailu in Addis Ababa. — Reuters.

London, Jan 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Somali government troops, backed by Ethiopian soldiers, yesterday, took over Kismayu. To cheering and waving crowds, well-armed troops drove into Kismayu after clearing roads laced with land mines. Earlier, the Islamic fighters had abandoned the city, fleeing a 13-day military onslaught by government troops backed by Ethiopian tanks and MiG fighter jets. "We have entered and captured the city," Major General Ahmad Mousa said, while riding aboard a truck into Kismayu, where an estimated 3,000 hard-line Islamic fighters had vowed

to make a last stand but melted away under artillery fire. Meanwhile, a battalion of Ugandan troops could be ready to deploy as peacekeepers to Somalia within a few days, a military spokesman said.

Kismayu, Jan 2 — Somali residents say the Islamist militia have retreated from the key southern port of Kismayu, surrendering control of their last remaining stronghold in the country, and retreating south towards the Kenyan border. Ethiopian troops, who are backing Somalia's transitional government, are now said to be advancing on the port, after shelling several thousand Somalia Islamic Courts Council (SICC) fighters with mortars and rockets at their frontline in Jilib on Sunday. Somali Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Gedi told reporters in Mogadishu his government had regained control of the port. "Kismayo is already in the hands of the government," he said. "The Islamists have run away, the airport and the seaport are free. "There are still some mopping up operations." It is unclear where the leaders and fighters of the SICC might have gone, analysts speculate they may simply have dumped their uniforms and melted away into the Somali bush. — Reuters

Mogadiscio, Jan 4 — Somali gunmen attacked an oil tanker truck near Mogadiscio today, wounding three people and raising fears of a return to the clan-based violence that had largely stopped during six months of Islamist rule. The Somalia Islamic Courts Council (SICC), which imposed strict sharia law across much of the south, fled the capital a week ago in the face of advancing government troops backed by heavily armed Ethiopian forces. Within hours of their departure, militia loyal to various warlords reappeared at scores of checkpoints in the city where they used to rob, rape and murder civilians. "The militia fired three rocket-propelled grenades. One of them hit us," the truck driver said. "They were bandits who wanted money," he said. Dozens of passengers riding on top of the truck had fled as the gunmen fired automatic rifles before targeting it with grenades. Analysts say the rapid return of warlords showed how easily Mogadiscio could slide back into the anarchy it has suffered since dictator Mohamed Siad Barre was overthrown in 1991. The attack in Galgalato, 25 km north of the city centre, came on the last day of a three-day deadline declared by the interim government for Mogadiscio residents and militia to hand in their guns or be disarmed by force. However, few have been turned in, as locals in one of the world's most dangerous cities waited to see if the government could restore the relative stability they experienced under the Islamists. Interim government troops backed by Ethiopian armour and aircraft hunted Islamist fighters who fled their last stronghold in the southern port of Kismayu on Monday (Jan 1) following a two-week war. The Islamists vowed to fight on. "Our

troops went towards the Kenyan border to get those terrorists," a senior government security official in Kismayu, Abdullahi Sheikh Ismail, said. On the Kenyan side of the border, a local police chief said troops would "crack down" on any Islamists who tried to cross, while the United States deployed warships off the Somali coast. The interim government wants an international peacekeeping force — approved by the UN Security Council before the war — to be deployed immediately to help it restore stability and let Ethiopian forces withdraw. Uganda has provisionally offered a battalion, and its President Yoweri Museveni was due to meet his Ethiopian counterpart Meles Zenawi in Addis Ababa today. Kenya was due to host a meeting of the US-backed International Contact Group on Somalia tomorrow, two days after it met in Brussels to push for peace talks. — Reuters.

## SPAIN

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A car bomb exploded in a parking lot at Madrid's glittery new airport terminal today, following a warning call from the Basque separatist group ETA, officials said. Three people were slightly wounded. The blast halted all air traffic on one of the year's busiest travel days, and brought an end to a nine-month-old ETA ceasefire that had spurred the greatest hopes in a decade of a peaceful end to the conflict. The bomb exploded about 0930 hrs at the airport's new Terminal Four, said Javier Ayuso, a spokesman for the emergency rescue services of the Madrid city government.

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated Jan 2, states: The peace process between the Spanish government and Basque separatists Eta is "finished" following a bombing in Madrid, Spain's interior minister says. Two Ecuadoreans are still missing in the rubble of a multi-storey car park at Barajas airport that was brought down by a bomb on Saturday (Dec 30). The government has blamed Eta, which called a "permanent" ceasefire nine months ago. "ETA has evidently broken off the peace process," Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba said. The process was "broken, liquidated, finished", he said. The huge car bomb on Saturday brought down the five-storey car park at Barajas airport's terminal four. Eta made three warning calls in the hour before the blast, officials said. The Ecuadorean men, who were asleep in their car in the car park, are thought to have been trapped when the bomb exploded. Authorities say it will take several days to clear an estimated 40,000 tons of concrete, under which about 400 cars are thought to be buried.

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Hopes for peace over Spain's troubled Basque region suffered a fresh blow when authorities today confirmed at least one person was killed in Saturday's Madrid airport blast. It was the first lethal



attack by the armed Basque separatist group ETA since 2003. As Madrid and Basque authorities announced a day of mourning, the interior ministry told AFP firefighters had reached the shattered wreck of Carlos Alonso Palate's car and identified the remains of the 35-year-old Ecuadorian construction worker who lived in the southeastern city of Valencia. "Firefighters have found the remains of Carlos Alonso Palate", the ministry said, confirming the first ETA-related death since May 30, 2003. A second Ecuadorian man, 19-year-old Diego Armando Estacio Civizapa, remains missing, presumed dead. The blast also slightly injured 19 people. ETA claimed responsibility in one of three telephone calls ahead of the blast, which ended a nine-month ceasefire, although ETA's banned political wing Batasuna earlier contradicted the Spanish government's view that the peace process was over.

### SRI LANKA

Colombo, Dec 29 — An eastern stronghold of Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels will likely fall to the military soon following weeks of fighting that has forced thousands of civilians to flee, a brigadier said today. Vakarai, the scene of intense artillery battles with the Tigers since November, is the last major rebel-held town on the east coast after the military drove them out of territory near the strategic port of Trincomalee further north. "It's a matter of time now. It could be days, or weeks, but we will get there," Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe, the top military spokesman, said. "The only thing holding us back is the fear of civilian casualties; they are using them as human shields," he said. Analysts said the offensive on Vakarai was a key step in the government's plan to clear the Tigers from the east. Once the rebels are pushed out, the government plans to hold local elections that a faction of renegade rebels opposed to the Tigers and aligned to the military are expected to win. — Reuters.

Colombo, Dec 30 — A breakaway faction of Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers overran three rebel camps in the east of the island today, killing at least 30 guerrillas in one of the biggest attacks in recent months, the group said. About 200 members of the renegade group, which is led by former Tiger eastern commander Karuna Amman, attacked the camps in Toppigala, about 40 km from the town of Batticalao. "Our intelligence reports said there were top LTTE commanders there, 30 cadres were killed on the spot," said Asad Maulana, a spokesman for the Tamileela Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal, the political wing of the Karuna faction. Two members of Karuna were wounded in the attack, he said. There was no immediate comment from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which says the Sri Lankan military is backing the renegade group. — Reuters.

Colombo, Jan 2 — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels said that 15 people,

including four children, were killed in air strikes by government forces in the northwest of the island today, but the military denied it had hit civilians. Four fighter jets dropped bombs in Mannar, destroying dozens of houses in a fishing village, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said. "There are 15 dead bodies and 25 wounded from the bombing," the rebels' military spokesman R. Ilantheirayan told Reuters from the de facto rebel capital of Kilinochchi. Only five houses out of 30 were left standing in the village of Padahuthurai after the bombing, the LTTE said, but the military said no civilian settlements had been targeted in the Mannar area. It said a Tigers' naval base north of Mannar had been hit after intense surveillance and radio intercepts of rebel fighters. "The LTTE is currently spreading false information that the SLAF (Sri Lankan Air Force) has bombed a civilian settlement in an attempt to discredit the security forces and to win the sympathy of the international community," the military said. It said that fighter planes also bombed an LTTE mortar position in Vakarai on the eastern coast, the scene of intense battles in the past few weeks. — Reuters.

Colombo, Jan 3 — Sri Lankan jets bombed Tamil Tiger rebel positions today, the military said, one day after a raid in the northwest of the island which the United Nations and rebels said killed 14 civilians. The military said the latest strikes were aimed at heavy weapons of the Tigers in the eastern Batticalao district, the scene of intense fighting for the past few weeks. It did not give any details and there was no immediate comment from the rebels. The bombing came as the U.N. urged the two sides to stop fighting and protect civilians. "It is imperative that both sides to the conflict take all measures to fulfil their obligations under international law to protect civilians in this conflict, we have too often seen them fall short," the statement on the U.N. Web site said. Today, the Tigers fired artillery and mortar bombs into an army camp in the Vakarai area, wounding four soldiers, the military said. — Reuters.

Colombo, Jan 4 — Sri Lankan jets bombed a Tamil Tiger naval base in the north of the island today in a third consecutive day of air strikes despite United Nations calls for an end to the fighting. The military said the Tiger base in the rebel-controlled Mullaitivu area had been destroyed in the bombardment, which followed a similar raid in the east yesterday. Also today, the Tamil Tigers detonated a mine in the northern town of Vavuniya, killing a soldier and wounding two, a military spokesman said. Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe said troops were clearing a stretch of road in Vavuniya on foot when the blast occurred. Fragmentation mine explosions have increased in recent weeks, as fighting intensifies in the east and north of the island. — Reuters.

### THAILAND

London, Jan 1 — A volley of nine bombs shattered year-end celebrations in Bangkok last night, killing two people and wounding at least 34, including two Britons. Six near-simultaneous bombs at various points across the capital in the early evening were followed by three explosions shortly before midnight at Central World Plaza, a chic shopping mall with designer stores popular with expatriates. The location was close to where the main countdown celebration for New Year had been due to take place before officials called it off.

### TUNISIA

Tunis, Jan 4 — Security forces shot dead 12 criminals and arrested 15 near Tunis after a rare gunbattle in the usually peaceful North African country, a government source said today. "The tracking of members of a criminal group ended yesterday afternoon with security forces killing 12 members of a criminal group and arrested 15 others," the source said. The authorities have said yesterday's clash in a southern Tunis suburb, a rare serious breach of security in the country of 10 million, resulted from a hunt for a gang of criminals who clashed with police in Tunis on Dec 23. In last month's incident, two gang members were killed and two policemen wounded, the authorities said at the time. Newspapers at the time reported that the gang was trafficking in drugs. The government deployed hundreds of paramilitary police and to guard crossroads and search orange groves outside Tunis over the past 13 days, residents said. — Reuters.

## Labour Disputes



### GREECE

London, Jan 1 — More than 2,500 containers remain stranded at the port of Piraeus on Dec 28 as the dockers' overtime ban and go-slow in protest at the privatization of some port services has now entered its seventh week. The Piraeus Port Authority and the dockers have not budged from their positions, with a new meeting scheduled for today. Already many containers risk being offloaded at other ports, adding 25 percent more to the cost through the letters of guarantee required.

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The port of Piraeus is due to open for business today after a 56-day strike by dock workers opposing privatisation plans has been called off. The strike ended after Greece's shipping minister Manolis Kefaloyannis put privatisation plans on ice until the end of April. A number of container lines have diverted vessels away from the port in the past weeks. Piraeus has



sustained damages estimated at around \$16m. Zim Integrated Shipping Services Ltd., Israel's largest shipping company, made an "out of court complaint" to Greece's Piraeus Port Authority for losses incurred during a labour dispute. Piraeus Port Authority management will inform investors of its answer as soon as it has notified Zim, while there is no issue of "non-contractual behavior," the operator of the eastern Mediterranean's largest container port said in a filing to the Athens Exchange Tuesday (Jan 2). Zim is considering legal action against Piraeus Port as a result of the losses, Athens-based newspaper Kathimerini said last week. About 18 of Zim's vessels have been forced to turn away from Piraeus because the port can't load and discharge ships as quickly as its contractual practices stipulate, Kathimerini said, without saying where it got the information. Dock employees at Piraeus had refused to work overtime and weekends since November and are operating at a slower pace on weekdays. They are concerned that they may lose rights and privileges after the planned sale of the country's container operations to private investors.

Piraeus, Jan 3 — Piraeus and Thessaloniki ports labour unions strike finally ceased this morning. The decision was made after a meeting between the Minister of Merchant Marine, the administration of the Ports Organisation and the Federation of Dockworkers and Port Employees. In the meeting it was decided that all parties would discuss the better way for ports growth until the end of April. Discussions will be extended if this is judged necessary. Practically, this means that the port terminals privatisation is postponed indefinitely. Thus the workers in Piraeus and Thessaloniki ports decided to stop the strike from overtime work, which lasted almost two months. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 4 — Greece's two major ports are counting the cost of nearly two months of labour disruption after a deal between the government and unions enabled the ports to resume a semblance of normal working yesterday. Both the Piraeus and Thessaloniki port authorities have told investors that weekend and overtime shifts were expected to be restored as of yesterday, with a weekday go-slow also to be called off. The eight-week crisis has centred on the two ports' container terminals, which the government has been dangling under the noses of major foreign terminal operators for the past year. When moves seemingly designed to put the two terminals under Chinese management sparked controversy last autumn, the government dusted off plans to hold a more orthodox international tender - only for port unions to call their partial strike in opposition to privatisation. This week's agreement represented a minor retreat by the government, minister of merchant

marine Manolis Kefaloyiannis pledging to hold off on any tendering plans until the end of April. Both ports in their statements also made it clear that there could be a further delay if necessary. In the meantime, both sides have committed themselves to a process of dialogue about the future development of the container terminals, with port management accepting that a public sector model for growth would be given equal consideration. With losses at Piraeus unofficially estimated at Euro 1.5m (\$1.9m) per week, the country's largest port may have lost Euro 12m in income, while Thessaloniki sources have put an initial figure of Euro 3.2m on the hole in the northern port's accounts. Management at Thessaloniki has suggested that it may take two weeks for the port to claw back full efficiency and a similar story is likely to apply to Piraeus. There will be worries in the market that the truce has in effect settled nothing so far, with a possibility that the ports may be plunged into chaos later this year if the sides fail to compromise. The government was already facing criticism yesterday from the International Maritime Union of shipping agents, which lashed out at the time taken to arrive merely at a commitment for further discussion. Many carriers have diverted services away from Greece in recent weeks, while Zim Lines has slapped the Piraeus Port Authority with a legal notice it may claim damages it allegedly incurred during the dispute through turning away 18 of its vessels. The authority, however, has told the Athens stock exchange there is no case to answer for "non-contractual conduct."

### ITALY

London, Dec 29 — Successive action this week at the port of Gioia Tauro slowed traffic and prompted significant diversions to other facilities in the region, while in Genoa workers struck at the port's flagship Voltri terminal yesterday. At Gioia Tauro, a one-day strike on Tuesday (Dec 26) called by the Unione Generale del Lavoro was followed a 48-hour stoppage by a newly-formed branch of the Sindacato Unitario Lavoratori Trasporti (SULT). The strikes were called in protest at the terms of a new national labour contract offer already accepted by the three main transport unions. SULT also cited onerous shift schedules as a source of discontent among the workers, a complaint rejected by terminal operator Contship Italia. Contship called for an end to the stoppages, arguing that they threatened significant damage to the Calabrian transshipment facility at a time of rising competition among Mediterranean ports. At Voltri, meanwhile, workers struck at the PSA-Sinport-controlled terminal, claiming that the operator had yet to respond to the union on a number of problematic issues. Talks with Voltri's

management are due to take place in January. The strikes at Gioia Tauro were more significant, slowing operations and prompting a number of shipowners, including Maersk — Gioia Tauro's main customer and a shareholder in the container operating company controlled by Contship Italia — to re-route 30-50% of its Gioia Tauro-bound cargo to other ports. Contship Italia, which runs the port's Medship Container Terminal, issued a statement arguing that transshipment ports run particular risks when service drops below required levels. "A hub is not a normal port," it said. "In the international container trade it is viewed as a public service that must be operational. It suffers badly when it is eliminated from the itineraries of the major shipping companies that control container trade."

### UNITED KINGDOM

London, Dec 31 — Rail passengers are facing two days of travel chaos as train conductors strike in a row over bonus pay and rotas. The two 24-hour strikes on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day will affect the majority of Central Trains' services. A strike on Christmas Eve closed the entire Central network, but the firm said it hoped to run a limited service. The strikes will mainly hit passengers in the West and East Midlands but routes to Norwich, Cardiff, Cleethorpes and Manchester will also be affected. The Rail Maritime and Transport union (RMT) said it expected solid support from 550 of its members and predicted that very few services would actually run. Central Trains bosses have accused the RMT of rejecting a plan that would have allowed services to run as normal. It said senior conductors would have earned about £600 each if they had worked the three strike days.

London, Jan 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A walkout by conductors on Central Trains has continued into New Year's Day disrupting travel for thousands of railway passengers for a second day. The 48-hour strike follows another which took place on Christmas Eve in a row over bonus pay and rotas. The worst affected routes are in the West and East Midlands, but lines to Norwich, Cardiff, Cleethorpes and Manchester are also affected. But there is a reduced service running in some areas. Speaking prior to the start of the strike action, Andy Thomas, Central Trains' operations director, said they would be operating services on popular routes where there were limited alternatives. Tickets bought for travel on Central Trains can be used on Virgin Trains, One Railway, Midland Metro and local bus services during the strike period. Cross country services from the east of England have been hit the hardest and there are no plans to run any trains in Leicestershire, Shropshire and Warwickshire, with many other local routes closed.

## Awards & Settlements



### FRAUD, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated Dec 28, states: A Hong Kong conglomerate won a \$2.8 billion judgment against a Fremont company that provides interactive video technology, possibly the largest legal victory for a Chinese company in an American court. Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Jack Komar awarded the judgment yesterday to New World TMT, a unit of New World Development. Earlier, he ruled that the founder of video technology provider PrediWave, Jianping "Tony" Qu, gave false testimony in depositions and did not appear for a court-ordered deposition and settlement conference. The decision this week included \$2 billion in punitive damages. Dennis Ellis, attorney for New World, said the ruling could be the largest judgment in favour of a Chinese company in the United States over an American corporation. New World accused Qu, PrediWave and its affiliated companies of defrauding it of about \$700 million and providing technology that did not work. The Hong Kong company took a nearly \$300 million equity position in PrediWave and its related companies, and spent about \$400 million on PrediWave technology, Ellis said. The four-year partnership began to unravel in 2004 after PrediWave delivered set-top boxes that did not work, he said. Furthermore, Ellis said, the company "determined that Tony Qu had taken over \$100 million in bonuses during the four years, he leased 30 cars and purchased 19 homes." Ellis said there was other "extravagant" spending, including wine purchases for about \$10,000. The company does not know how much of the judgment it will be able to recover. "We do know that at least \$250 million appears to be obtainable through the bank accounts of PrediWave and its affiliated companies," Ellis said.

### WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 28 — A press report, dated Dec 27, states: A federal judge has thrown out a jury award of more than \$6.5 million to a former policeman who claimed two FBI agents framed him for murder and kidnapping. Steven Manning spent 14 years in prison - eight on death row - before the charges were dropped. In a civil lawsuit against FBI agents Robert Buchan and Gary Miller, he claimed the agents framed him for the crimes after he tried to stop working as an FBI informant. A jury last year (in January 2005) awarded him \$6,581,000 in damages in that case.

Manning was 54 at the time. Since then, Manning has lost a separate civil lawsuit he had filed against the federal government on the same allegations. In a ruling released today, U.S. District Judge Matthew Kennelly cited Manning's failure to win that second lawsuit as the reason for vacating the jury's award for damages. Kennelly concluded the decision against Manning nullified the earlier jury decision in his favour. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan Haile, who represented Buchan and Miller, said the FBI was pleased with the decision. Government attorneys long have claimed the agents acted in good faith in investigating Manning. Manning's attorney said he plans to appeal. "A jury spent a month listening to the evidence and concluded the FBI had framed Manning," Jon Loevy said. "A court shouldn't be so free to just override a jury verdict." Manning had left the Chicago police force and was working as a limousine driver and security guard when he was arrested. He was convicted in 1992 of taking part in the 1984 kidnapping of two reputed Kansas City drug traffickers and was sentenced to two life terms plus 100 years. The next year, he was convicted of the 1990 murder of suburban Chicago trucking company owner Jimmy Pellegrino and was sentenced to death. Miller and Buchan investigated the Illinois case, and Buchan investigated the Missouri case. The murder conviction was reversed and the case dropped in 2000 after the Illinois Supreme Court ruled that prosecutors used improper evidence. The Missouri charges were also dropped after a federal appeals court ruled that Manning's lawyer had been ineffective and the FBI improperly used Manning's girlfriend as a government agent. Miller has retired from the FBI. Buchan was still working for the bureau.

## Railway Accidents



### AURANGABAD AREA, INDIA

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Four passengers on a Secunderabad-bound train were injured after its four bogies derailed at Lasur station, near Aurangabad, around 400 km from Mumbai, yesterday evening. The Ajanta Express, which was travelling from Manmad, reached Lasur station at around 1900 hrs, police said. As it was about to leave the station, the joints holding rail tracks slipped, resulting in the last four bogies being derailed. The passengers who sustained minor injuries were given medical treatment, sources said. Traffic on the line was stopped as a result of the accident, the sources said.

### CUAUTITLAN, MEXICO

London, Dec 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A passenger bus

collided with a freight train in central Mexico today, killing at least 16 people, authorities said. The driver of the bus apparently tried to beat the approaching train at a crossing in the city of Cuautitlan, but was struck and dragged for a distance down the tracks, said Alberto Mena, a spokesman for the Public Safety department in Mexico state. Another department spokesman, Salvador Mercado, said at least 16 people were killed and 12 injured, all of them passengers on the bus. Rescue workers were pulling bodies out of the vehicle's twisted wreckage late this morning at the crash site, which is just north of Mexico City. Authorities said the train was pulling 36 empty wagons at the time, and both the driver and the train conductor were detained for questioning.

### EL CAMPELLO, SPAIN

London, Dec 31 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The so-called Trenet single track railway which runs between Alicante and Denia sustained a derailment at El Campello early yesterday morning. The train, one of the new models to be used on the line, left the track and run into a dozen cars parked along the line. None of the 20 passengers on board suffered any injury.

### LOWER MERION, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated Jan 2, states: A landslide caused a freight train to derail on a track that runs parallel to the Schuylkill Expressway in Lower Merion Township on Tuesday morning (Jan 2), according to officials. Crews were cleaning up all day and trying to collect about 1,600 gallons of spilled diesel fuel from the Norfolk Southern freight train derailment just west of the City Avenue Bridge. "We had a landslide from above a retaining wall that gave way. It came down on the tracks," Lower Merion Fire Department Chief Charles McGarvey said. It was still dark at 0345 when two engines and four empty boxcars derailed in very tight quarters. "It's a 54-car train," McGarvey said. "There are seven full hazmat vehicles, none of them have been punctured." No hazardous materials spilled and no one was injured. Late Tuesday, the twin 220,000-pound diesel locomotives and the boxcars were up-righted. But the track repairs were still under way.

### PIRAK AREA, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jan 1 — Pakistan Railway said its Sibi-bound goods train coming from Karachi derailed in Pirak area in south western area yesterday at 1100 hrs. As a result, rail traffic between Quetta and the rest of the country was remained suspended for quite some time. Officials told media that derailment took place some 25 kilometres off the Sibi Railway Station and added it was not a subversion act and five bogies of goods train derailed due to some technical reason.



However, no casualty was reported in the incident, they said. Soon after the derailment, Pakistan Railways' officials rushed to the site along with a relief train. The engineers and other staff of the PR cleared the main track in five hours, and the traffic was restored at around 1600 hrs. Schedules of Lahore- and Peshawar-bound Chiltan and Quetta trains were affected by the incident, and they left for their destinations after the track was cleared. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**SAGINAW AREA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A train derailment shut down railroad tracks near Saginaw. It happened yesterday morning when three cars loaded with corn tipped over. Railroad workers say recent rains may have weakened the track bed, causing it to become unstable. The rail company is bringing in heavy equipment from Toledo to help clear the mess. The tracks will be closed for at least two days.

**Robberies & Thefts**



**CARGO FROM LAEM CHABANG PORT, THAILAND**

London, Jan 1 — A gang of thieves unknowingly hired as drivers of freight trucks at Laem Chabang port in Chon Buri have made off with millions of baht worth of cargo during delivery rounds, according to the Provincial Police Bureau 2. Police have received numerous complaints about cargo thefts, most recently on plastic pallets worth more than three million baht belonging to the True Transport Company. Pol Lt-Gen Assawin Kwanmuang, the bureau 2 commissioner, said the thieves were part of a well-organised gang. "After being hired as truck drivers by transport firms operating in the port area they steal the goods from the container trucks they are hired to drive," he said. "The trucks are then abandoned somewhere along the way." Sa-ngob Kingthong, head of the Laem Chabang freight operators association, said millions of baht worth of shipments had been stolen.

**Miscellaneous**



**CONSIGNMENT OF WHEAT DELAYED AT CHENNAI, INDIA, DUE QUALITY ISSUE**

London, Dec 30 — Bulker *Astron Spirit* sailed Chennai Dec 18 and arrived Singapore Dec 27.

**GROUNDING OF DOCK GATE, FEHMARN ISLAND, BALTIC SEA**

London, Jan 3 — A dock gate en route from Uddevalla in Sweden to Klaipeda in Lithuania has been stranded in the Baltic Sea over the New Year. According to Germany's Central Maritime Accident Command, the gate had sustained a controlled grounding off the island of Fehmarn after water had broken in during the journey. The gate was towed by the Polish tug *Leopard*. A spokeswoman said that salvage and towage company Otto Wulf was on its way to the scene. Otto Wulf was commissioned by the owner of the gate, which the Command was unable to name.

**Fires & Explosions**



**APARTMENT BUILDING, SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A resort-style condo project under way in Santa Clara caught fire Tuesday (Jan 2), spewing embers over a dense residential area. No other structures caught fire, including four on the same lot also under construction. It's unclear what sparked the fire, Santa Clara fire spokesman Dave Parker said, but crews are investigating. The fire completely destroyed the structure, one of five that comprise a 430-unit condo-and-apartment project owned by Prometheus Real Estate Group. The structure was surrounded by scaffolding, but it was not yet wrapped with drywall or fire-proofing material. By 1630, Tuesday, only the skeleton of the lower floors remained. Wood planks could be seen through the smoke, falling to the ground.

**FACTORY, SUMGAI, AZERBAIJAN**

London, Dec 30 — Two people were killed and five wounded in an explosion yesterday at the Sintezkauchuk plant in Sumgait, a large industrial centre 30 kilometres north of Baku, emergency hospital chief physician Vagif Gakhramanov said. The hospital is giving therapy to the wounded, and two of them are in serious condition. The explosion sparked a fire. It is now localized, and the police are investigating the accident.

**OLD HICKORY MARINA, TENNESSEE, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Crews were on the scene of a fire this morning at the Old Hickory Marina. According to officials, at least three boats caught fire. While the cause of the fire remains unknown, some boating experts believe the blaze was more than likely caused by a heater on one of the boats. Due to the close proximity of the boats

in the marina, boaters are lucky the damage wasn't worse than it was. No injuries were reported.

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated Jan 3, states: A total of four boats were heavily damaged by fire while they were docked at the Old Hickory Marina, Nashville fire officials said. The cause of the 0700 hrs fire is still under investigation, said Charles Shannon, spokesman for the Nashville Fire Department. It appeared that the fire spread from boat to boat as they were closely docked at the marina, located at 2001 Riverside Road in Old Hickory, Shannon said. Now, the marina's crews are preparing to tow the remains of the boats away from the docks, Shannon said. The fires have mostly been extinguished, except for some minor hotspots, Shannon said.

**WAREHOUSE, ROCHFORD, ESSEX, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated Jan 3, states: Firefighters have been called to a huge blaze at a tyre warehouse in Essex. Eight fire engines attended the fire that broke out this morning at the two-storey tyre shop and store in Abingdon Road, Rochford. Essex County Fire and Rescue Service closed the road near the warehouse due to the thick smoke caused by the fire. A fire service spokesman said the fire was extinguished by 1346, UTC, and crews continued damping down the site through the afternoon.

**Aviation**



**5Y-SRK**

London, Dec 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Three crew members survived narrowly yesterday in an aircraft crash which occurred near a Kenyan police training barrack in the outskirts of Nairobi. The Red Cross charter cargo aircraft, a 5Y-SRK, owned by a Kenyan aviation firm, the Sky Relief Services, was ferrying relief supplies to Somalia's Baidoa. Kenyan airport personnel, who responded to the distress call from the pilot, rescued the three crewmen. The Kenyan Civil Aviation Authority, tasked with the regulation of the airspace, has launched investigations into the crash. "The pilot said it was engine trouble, but investigations were still continuing," a Kenyan civil aviation source said. The crash occurred in the early morning yesterday, as light rains and bad weather was reported across Nairobi.

**AIRCRAFT MISSING, PRIMORYE REGION, RUSSIA**

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: No traces of the Mi-2 helicopter, which was reported missing in the Ussuri taiga three days ago, have been found so far. Two Mi-8 helicopters and an An-2

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aircraft took part in the search operation, together with 75 rescue workers who took part in the ground operation. They did not find anything, however. Now all the rescue teams are returning to the city of Arseniev. The search for the helicopter will be resumed tomorrow morning, a representative of the Arseniev office of the department for emergency situations and civil defence told Itar-Tass. Today the rescue workers searched the Ussuri taiga in the Yakovlev and Chuguev Districts. Residents of the village of Medvezhy Kut were the last to see the Mi-2 helicopter in the air at 1800, local time, of Dec 26. Anatoly and Oleg Grigoriev, both test pilots, operated the helicopter. It was not a test flight, however. According to unofficial reports, the Mi-2 was a privately owned helicopter flying by the Arseniev-Yasnoe village-Arseniev route. The helicopter was refuelled in Yasnoe, after which he was to return to Arseniev, but it did not. The weather in the area is clear, but very cold. The temperature in highland areas is minus 33 degrees Centigrade.

#### **AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO TED STEVENS ANCHORAGE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES**

London, Dec 30 — A 747 cargo jet took off Wednesday (Dec 27) from Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport even though, unknown to the crew, it had been damaged by a de-icing machine just before, a spokesperson for the National Transportation Safety Board said. Nobody was injured and the aircraft returned safely to Anchorage. The Southern Air cargo flight received damage to its fuselage when it was parked at the airport in the morning, said Larry Lewis, an air safety investigator with the NTSB. The aircraft took off on its scheduled flight to Dallas and the three crew members onboard immediately realized the plane was not pressurizing properly. Fuel was dumped in the Anchorage area for about an hour before the aircraft could land again, Lewis said. The NTSB is conducting an investigation into the incident.

#### **C-FYPP**

London, Jan 3 — Control of Cessna T182T C-FYPP was lost while departing runway 33, Buttonville, Ont, for local flight, at 1207, EST, Dec 24. Aircraft became airborne momentarily and touched down on the runway with a 30-deg crab angle. Aircraft exited the runway to the west, the nose wheel dug into the soft grass and the aircraft overturned. Aircraft sustained substantial damage.

#### **C-GELN**

London, Jan 3 — Cessna 172R C-GELN, owned by Stratford Air Services Ltd, was parked on the ramp at Stratford, Ont, after the engine started, control of the aircraft was lost, resulting in a high speed taxi at 1130, EST, Dec 21. The aircraft taxied

off the manoeuvring area, through a fence and came to rest in the infield of the aerodrome. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. There were no injuries.

#### **CRASH, CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES**

London, Dec 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people died this morning when a single engine Cessna, in which they were flying, crashed into a yard in west Charlotte's Ashley Park neighbourhood. The names of victims were not immediately released. Charlotte Fire Department Capt. Rob Brisley said the control tower at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport notified fire officials of a crash at 1130 hrs. It was not clear whether the aircraft was taking off or landing. The crash site was about three miles east of the airport. Brisley said the crash damaged four homes and cut power in part of the neighbourhood. A dozen people were temporarily relocated. No injuries to people on the ground were reported. Though the cause of the crash is undetermined, the aircraft came down during a steady drizzle and overcast skies. Officials from the Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board were expected on the scene later today.

#### **CRASH, DAVIESS COUNTY AIRPORT AREA, INDIANA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A pilot died when his aircraft crashed into a farm field near the Daviess County Airport shortly after takeoff yesterday, authorities said. He was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash, which occurred about 1340 hrs, Indiana State Police said. Airport manager Jack Miles said the aircraft was a twin-engine Beechcraft Baron 58. He would not speculate on what caused the plane to crash. Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration were expected to arrive today at the crash site about 50 miles north of Evansville.

#### **CRASH, EL CAJON, SAN DIEGO, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 1 — A small aircraft carrying a banner advertisement for a flyover at a San Diego Chargers game crashed on takeoff yesterday, killing the pilot, authorities said. The victim, a woman in her mid-30s, was the only one aboard, said El Cajon Fire Department spokeswoman Monica Zech. The four-seat Cessna 172 took off from El Cajon's Gillespie Air Field about 1045 hrs on its way to Qualcomm Stadium in downtown San Diego, Zech said. There was no fire and the pilot was likely killed instantly, Zech said.

#### **CRASH, MOORABBIN AIRPORT, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

London, Jan 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A pilot has

suffered minor injuries in a light aircraft crash at Melbourne's Moorabbin Airport. The four-seater Cessna crashed on landing and is extensively damaged. Fire brigade Commander Colin Matheson says crews are working to stop the aircraft's fuel from leaking. "It's been practising various flight manoeuvres and it's gone off the end of the runway and into a very large culvert, or ditch," he said. "It had a fuel leak out of the left-hand wing, which airport staff have assisted us in plugging at the moment, in which we've got a temporary plug in place. "And it's severely bent, sitting in the ditch tilted to one side."

#### **CRASH, MT. GILEAD AREA, OHIO, UNITED STATES**

See N9596M.

#### **CRASH, SAN DIEGO AREA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 3 — A California National Guard helicopter ferrying Border Patrol agents crashed in a rural area near the U.S.-Mexico border yesterday, injuring all nine people aboard, authorities said. Five Border Patrol agents and four members of the Guard were aboard the UH-1 helicopter, said Col. Dave Baldwin, director of planning and operations for the California National Guard. Five people with neck and back injuries were airlifted to hospitals, said Jan Caldwell, spokeswoman for the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. The aircraft went down in the Otay Mountain area east of San Diego, authorities said. The helicopter, one of the older models used by the Guard, was on a routine mission, Baldwin said, taking agents either to or from a remote site along the border. It was not clear how the helicopter crashed. It came to rest on its belly, its top rotor was snapped off and what appeared to be its tail was thrust to the side. California National Guard Capt. Mike Morgan said the UH-1 was on a mission for Operation Jumpstart, taking the border agents to mountainous areas inaccessible by vehicle.

#### **CRASH, ST. SERNIN AREA, FRANCE**

London, Dec 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A small plane crashed today in southern France, killing two people on board, police officials said. The plane took off this morning from the town of Aubenas in the Ardeche region of south-central France. It crashed in woods near the town of St. Sernin and burst into flames, officials said. Police have not yet released the identities of the male victims. The cause of the accident was not immediately known.

#### **CRASH, TYUMEN REGION, RUSSIA**

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Two people were killed in the crash of a private aircraft in the Tyumen region. The four-seat aircraft - SK-Orion-12 - was

on the Tyumen-Nizhnyaya Tavda flight, a source in the Tyumen regional emergencies department told Itar-Tass today. "During the take-off at the suburban airport the plane crashed onto the Plekhanovo car market, two people aboard the plane were killed," chief press officer of the regional emergencies department Yelena Tretyachenko said. According to her, "No victims and destruction sustained on the land." The Federal Service for Supervision of Transport department in the Tyumen region and the transport prosecutor's office are investigating the tragedy. No causes of the air crash have been reported yet. The aircraft belonged to the Tyumen research-and-production aviation centre.

#### **EC-HOL**

London, Dec 29 — Piper PA-34-220T EC-HOL, owned and operated by the pilot, crashed following a loss of control while on final approach to the Jerez de la Frontera Airport, near Cadiz, at 1210, UTC, Dec 15. The pilot and two passengers were fatally injured, while another passenger sustained serious injuries.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, ATHENS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, GREECE**

London, Jan 1 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An Israeli passenger aircraft carrying 230 people landed safely at Athens International Airport today after experiencing technical difficulties, local reports in Athens said. Pilots on board the Israeli 757 Boeing had requested to make an emergency landing, saying they were experiencing technical difficulties in Greek airspace. The aircraft, on its way from Tel Aviv to Paris, had been circling above Athens' Eleftherios Venizelos airport in an attempt to use up its fuel before landing.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, FUKUOKA AIRPORT, JAPAN**

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A Korean Air jetliner originating in Guam and bound for Busan, South Korea, made an emergency landing at Fukuoka airport on early today, citing an unconfirmed fire occurrence in its cargo compartment, airport officials said. The Boeing 737 jet landed around 0647 hrs, after reporting the fire to the Land, Infrastructure and Transport Ministry's Fukuoka air traffic control centre while in-flight near Kagoshima airport around 0625 hrs, the officials said.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC**

See VP-BQS.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, RIYADH AIRPORT, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

Riyadh, Jan 3 — A Dubai-bound Saudi Airways flight carrying over 400 pilgrims made an emergency landing at Riyadh airport one hour after

taking off from Jeddah at around 1615, yesterday. The aircraft is said to have developed a technical snag. No injury was reported and all the passengers and crew are safe. Civil defence teams and ambulances were called in to deal with any emergency situation. The passengers were shifted to another aircraft to resume their flight. — Reuters

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, TAURANGA AREA, NEW ZEALAND**

London, Jan 1 — An aircraft that made an emergency landing in mudflats near Tauranga on Thursday (Dec 28) has been successfully freed. Pilot Paul Ensor was on his way from Tauranga to Hamilton when the aircraft experienced engine failure. He was forced to land his Island Air Charters plane in the shallow waters of Omokoroa Harbour and escaped unhurt. Civil Aviation Authority Spokesman Bill Sommer says a helicopter easily pulled the aircraft out on Friday afternoon. He says mud and water will be cleared out, then safety investigators will give it a thorough check over. Meanwhile, the licences of the pilot and the company that operates the nine-seater aircraft have been suspended. Sommer says the pilot's licence and the air operating certificate of the company has been suspended for 10 working days while the incident is investigated. He says the CAA has had previous concerns about the company's maintenance regime and will be taking the opportunity to investigate it again.

#### **G-BLUN**

London, Dec 28 — A press report, dated today, states: The search for a seventh man missing in a helicopter crash over the Morecambe Bay gas field has been called off. Earlier, six men killed in the crash off the Lancashire coast were named. They were: rig workers Robert Warburton from Heysham, Leslie Ahmed from South Shields, John Shaw from Kirkcaldy and Alfred Neasham from Durham. Pilots Stephen Potton from Blackpool and Simon Foddering from Preston also died. A search for contractor Keith Smith has been called off. A data recorder from the 20-year-old helicopter has not yet been recovered. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency said it had called off the search for Mr Smith, 57, of Stockton-on-Tees, because "all that could be done in terms of search and rescue has been done". The helicopter, which took off from Blackpool Airport, was on a routine flight between rigs for gas firm Centrica when it crashed into the sea 25 miles off the coast yesterday evening. Lancashire Police said the helicopter, a Eurocopter AS365N, had flown to two gas rigs and was on its way to a third when it "veered to the left" and ditched into the sea. It crashed 500 yards away from the third rig. No emergency call was received. The helicopter was flying from the Millom West platform - owned by Burlington Resources Ltd

but operated by Centrica - to the North Morecambe platform on its way to the South Morecambe platform, which is permanently occupied. Police said the weather was normal for the time of year and that the witnesses said they saw nothing unusual with the helicopter. CHC Scotia said that, while the aircraft itself was 20 years old, "most of the components are regularly replaced". Spokesman Keith Mullett said the firm operated five Eurocopter AS365N helicopters - known as the "Dauphin" - in Europe, and the aircraft's safety record and performance in the fleet had been "excellent". "The amount of information we have is extremely limited, the investigation is in its early stages. It is much too early to say or to speculate at all about what could have happened," he said. Both pilots were experienced, he added. The Air Accident Investigations Branch (AAIB) has launched an inquiry into the incident.

Morecambe Bay, Dec 29 — Severe gales will hamper an investigation into the Morecambe Bay helicopter crash (G-BLUN), the coastguard said today. The bodies of six men killed in the accident have been recovered from the sea, but rescue teams have called off the search for a missing seventh man. "The search and rescue part of the incident has been completed," a Liverpool coastguard spokesman said. "It is now for air accident investigators and police to decide on recovery. "The forecast is for severe gales. It's certainly not very conducive for any recovery activity at the moment." The Met Office said storms will bring heavy rain and winds gusting at up to 80 mph over the next two days. — Reuters.

#### **INCIDENT AT BISHKEK AIRPORT, KYRGYZSTAN**

London, Dec 31 — Leadership of an U.S. AF base situated at Kyrgyzian airport Manas has made a Kyrgyzian air traffic controller responsible for the September collision of a Tu-154 passenger jet with refueller KC-135R, with the responsibility being shared also by the aircraft's crew. A U.S. base said in its statement released in Russian, an internal investigation indicated that the air traffic controller had cleared the Tu-154 for takeoff without making sure that the KC-135R left a runway in full. Furthermore, despite the fact that the prime cause of the accident is the air traffic controller's actions, while the U.S. aircraft crew bears responsibility for untimely clearance of the runway after landing. One could have avoided the accident, if everybody more closely looked into the situation, the statement concluded. In November a Kyrgyzian transport minister charged the U.S.A. with violating flight safety rules, and Kyrgyzian chief Kurmanbek Bakiyev some days ago called for the government to deprive the U.S. military of diplomatic immunity after the refueller driver was killed by the AF base security guard at a base check-point.

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**INCIDENT AT HONGQIAO AIRPORT, SHANGHAI, CHINA**

Shanghai, Jan 3 — Shanghai's main domestic airport closed for several hours today after a China Eastern Airlines passenger jet burst four tyres on landing, local media said. No one was injured among the roughly 100 people on board the Boeing 737-300, which was making a domestic flight to Shanghai's Hongqiao Airport from the northern port city of Qingdao. The airport suspended normal operations as the plane was towed away and the runway searched for debris. Some outbound flights were delayed for hours, while 30 to 40 incoming flights were diverted to Shanghai's international airport at Pudong, reported the city's news service. — Reuters.

**N3940R**

London, Jan 4 — Cessna 172, N3940R, crashed under unknown circumstances at Armstrong, Tx at 0233, Jan 3. The three persons on board were fatally injured.

**N5434C**

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated Dec 28, states: A National Transportation Safety Board report indicates that the pilot of a Cessna T210N (Centurion II) (N5434C), which crashed in West Austin on Dec 19 did not follow instructions from Austin air traffic controllers. Private pilot Charlie Griffith was killed in the crash. The report states that Griffith failed to descend to the requested altitude. "At 0814 hrs, the approach controller instructed the pilot to descend to 2,500 feet, and the pilot acknowledged. This was the last transmission received from the pilot," the report says. The report also includes eyewitness reports of the aircraft "revving up" and describes "a series of left and right-hand climbing and descending turns along the localiser course." The report classifies the crash type as an accident.

**N9596M**

London, Dec 29 — Mooney M-20F (Executive 21) N9596M crashed near Mount Gilead, Ohio, at 1955, Dec 27. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were killed.

**N99TH**

London, Dec 30 — Beechcraft 99, N99TH, operated by Alpine Aviation began a missed approach procedure near decision height 16 km south of Rapid City Regional Airport, SD. The right wing tip struck the ground and the aircraft crashed at 0235, Dec 29. Damage is substantial.

London, Dec 31 — A twin-engine aircraft (N99TH) owned by a Provo cargo company crashed Friday (Dec 29) with a load of mail. The Alpine Air pilot was trying to land the Beechcraft 99 about 0230 hrs but missed the runway by seven miles and landed in a pasture, authorities said. The pilot, the only person on board, was taken to a hospital. The aircraft is intact but

the nose is bent upward, said Mason Short, Rapid City Regional Airport manager.

**OH-HCI**

Helsinki, Dec 31 — Finnish helicopter operator Copterline is seeking damages of \$60 million from helicopter maker Sikorsky over a fatal helicopter crash last year, Copterline Chief Executive Kari Ljungberg said today. A twin-engine Sikorsky S-76 helicopter, on a regular commercial flight by Copterline from Tallinn to Helsinki, slammed into the Baltic sea minutes after take-off in August 2005, killing 14 people. At the time, officials called it Estonia's worst aviation accident. Finnish daily Helsingin Sanomat reported today that Copterline was seeking compensation from Sikorsky, a unit of United Technologies Corp, through a US court in New York. Helsingin Sanomat reported Copterline as saying one of the parts in the crashed helicopter had failed while airborne. Copterline had earlier said it was negotiating with Sikorsky on how to resolve the issue of responsibility for the accident. — Reuters.

**PK-KKW**

London, Jan 2 — Boeing B-737-4Q8, PK-KKW, Surabaya to Manado, 102 persons on board, while flying at FL350 the airliner went missing between Surabaya and Manado at 1417, Jan 1 in poor weather conditions after Air Traffic Control received a distress call.

London, Jan 2 — Rescuers found the smoldering wreckage today of an Indonesian jetliner (PK-KKW) that went missing during a storm, and officials said 90 people were killed but 12 survived. The Boeing 737 operated by local carrier Adam Air crashed in a mountainous region of Sulawesi island in the north-east of the sprawling archipelagic nation, said local police Chief Col. Genot Hariyanto. The 17-year-old aircraft carried six crew and 96 passengers, including 11 children. The US Embassy in Jakarta said three Americans were aboard, but there was no immediate word on whether they survived or on their identities. Adam Air spokesman Hartonom, who goes by just one name, said 90 people were killed and that there were 12 survivors. Officials said rescuers were trying to evacuate survivors, but there was no immediate word on their conditions. The aircraft was on a domestic flight from Java island to Sulawesi when it disappeared late yesterday about an hour before it was due to land amid very bad weather. The captain managed to send out two distress signals, said national aviation chief Ichsan Tatang said late yesterday.

London, Jan 3 — Earlier statements that the crash site of an aircraft with 102 people on board had been found in the mountains of Indonesia's Sulawesi island were wrong, officials said. "The location has not been found. We apologise that the news that we conveyed was not true," said

First Air Marshal Eddy Suyanto, commander of Hasanuddin air base in Makassar.

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Senior Indonesian officials erroneously reported the Boeing 737's (PK-KKW) charred wreckage had been found and that a dozen people may have survived. The Adam Air aircraft, carrying 102, people sent out two distress signals in stormy weather Monday (Jan 1) halfway through its two-hour journey from Indonesia's main island of Java to Manado, on the northern tip of Sulawesi, one of the largest islands in the sprawling archipelago. Vessels and aircraft resumed searching today. Three navy vessels and five air force craft were deployed soon after sunrise over a large section of south and western Sulawesi and nearby waters, Bambang Karnoyudho, the head of the National Search and Rescue Agency, said. The search covered roughly 300 square miles of sea and land, said South Sulawesi Police Chief Maj. Gen. Ariyanto Budiharjo. Karnoyudho said that based on radar and satellite readings he thought it most likely that the aircraft had fallen into the sea. Rescue and search teams hiked slippery forest paths in heavy rain for more than 10 hours Tuesday (Jan 2) but found nothing, calling off their search along Sulawesi's mountainous western coast as darkness fell. Tuesday was a day of hope and anguish for relatives of those on Flight KI-574. Police Chief Col. Genot Hariyanto earlier said rescue teams arrived at the crash site. Setyo Raharjo, head of the National Commission on Transportation Safety, said 90 bodies were found near the wreckage and that the search for the 12 others was continuing. The claims were repeated by everyone from the chief of Adam Air, who extrapolated to say that a dozen people survived, to senior aviation officials, high-ranking military officials and police. Descriptions were vivid, with officials saying corpses and debris from the plane were scattered over a 300-yard area of forests and jagged cliffs, highlighting the often unreliable and chaotic nature of disaster relief efforts in the world's largest archipelagic nation. Eventually, Transport Minister Hatta Radjasa acknowledged the news was based on rumors from villagers, sparking a series of reversals from other officials.

**PK-LIJ**

London, Dec 30 — Boeing 737-4Y0, operated by Lion Airlines, PK-LIJ, 162 occupants, skidded off runway 31 on landing at Ujung Pandang-Hasanudin Airport at 2035, Dec 24. Aircraft sustained serious damages to the right main landing gear, left wing and both engines.

**VP-BQS**

London, Dec 30 — Airbus A 321-211, operated by Aeroflot Russian International Airlines, VP-BQS, Dec 28, a 32-year old Russian male passenger reportedly started a fight

with other passengers. He threatened that he had a bomb and demanded the crew fly to Cairo. He was overpowered and the crew diverted to Prague where the man was arrested.

**XA-TNP**

London, Jan 4 — North American CT-39A-1-NA Sabreliner, operated by Jett Paqueteria, XA-TNP, struck terrain at a sports field and crashed into some vacant buildings near Culiac-n-Fedl de Bachigualato Airport at 1730, Dec 30. Two fatalities.



**HONDA MOTOR VEHICLES, CHINA**

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Dongfeng Honda

Automobile Co Ltd, a 50-50 joint venture between China's Dongfeng Automobile Co and Honda Motor, will recall 49,500 CR-V automobiles in China from Jan 10, the official Xinhua news agency reported. Xinhua quoted a note from the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine as saying that the vehicle's shock absorber design is not suited for Chinese conditions.



**BANGLADESH**

Karachi, Jan 1 — Chittagong Port is once again is facing a containers congestion issue. The problem would aggravate due to weekly holidays

followed by a long holiday on the occasion of the Eid-ul-Azha starting from Jan 1. Port officials said that the long holiday will make the current congestion situation at the port further worse as the pace of cargo delivery will fall during the public holidays. Besides, the shipment of cargoes from port will also decline during the period, port officials added, and told media that vessel waiting times at the port would rise considerably during the period as the port authority will either be forced to suspend or to slow down loading-unloading activities during the holidays. About 18,700 TEUs of containers remained piled up at different port yards. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**Port Delays**

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbott Point	08-Jan-2007	Coal: 2 vessels waiting; 12 vessels due by 1/2.
Brisbane	08-Jan-2007	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 8 vessels due by 1/3.
Dalymple Bay	08-Jan-2007	Coal: DBCT berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 1 vessel due by 8/1; DBCT berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; DBCT berth 3: 5 vessels waiting; 1 vessel due 9/1; other vessels not scheduled: 9 vessels waiting; 26 vessels due by 21/1.
Dampier	08-Jan-2007	Iron ore: Parker Point berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 9 vessels due by 19/1; Parker Point berth 2: a 4 week shutdown will commence 06.00 hrs. 10/1; Parker Point berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 7 vessels due by 19/1; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 6 vessels due by 13/1.
Esperance	08-Jan-2007	Iron ore: 2 vessels due by 25/1.
Geraldton	08-Jan-2007	Iron ore: no vessels; regular maintenance shutdowns are expected at berth No. 4 from January to February 2007 during construction of a new iron ore berth No. 5.
Gladstone	08-Jan-2007	Coal: R.G. Tanna (Clinton) coal terminal: 3 vessels berthed, 12 waiting; 35 vessels due by 8/3; shiploader No. 1 shut down for repairs and maintenance from 5-8/02; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed; 13 vessels due by 19/2.
Hay Point	08-Jan-2007	Coal: Berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 4 vessels due by 10/1; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 1 vessel due 9/1; 5 other vessels due by 20/1, not yet scheduled.
Newcastle	08-Jan-2007	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 3 vessels berthed and loading, 38 waiting; 35 vessels due by 27/1; 18-21 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; approx. 37 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 17 waiting; 15 vessels due by 26/1; 17-21 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 17 vessels off port awaiting coal.
Port Hedland	08-Jan-2007	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 7 vessels due by 18/1; 12 hour shiploader maintenance from 06.00 hrs. - 18.00 hrs. 18/1; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loaded, 3 waiting; 3 vessels due by 17/1; 60 hour shiploader maintenance from 18.00 hrs. 15/1 to 06.00 hrs. 18/1; 5 other vessels due by 21/1, 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, 3 waiting; 4 vessels due by 16/1; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel due 23/1.
Port Kembla	08-Jan-2007	Coal: 13 vessels due by 31/1.
Port Walcott	08-Jan-2007	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 6 waiting; 14 vessels due by 20/1; shippers may experience product shortage which might affect berthing schedules.
Whyalla	08-Jan-2007	Iron ore: 9 vessels due by 23/2.

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## Port Conditions

### Cyprus

Larnaca	09-Jan-2007	Three conventional vessels discharging at berth; 2 conventional vessels due 10/1; no delays expected.
Limassol	09-Jan-2007	Five container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 5 conventional vessel discharging at berth; 3 container vessels, 4 conventional vessels due 10/1; no delays expected.

### Egypt

Adabiya	08-Jan-2007	Four vessels berthed (loading/discharging), all general cargo.
Alexandria	08-Jan-2007	Thirty-six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 24 general cargo, 5 bulk carriers, 2 tankers, 3 container vessels, 2 passenger vessels; 7 vessels at inner anchorage, 6 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	08-Jan-2007	Sixteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 11 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 3 container vessels; 11 vessels at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	08-Jan-2007	Thirteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 6 bulk carriers, 2 tankers, 2 container vessels; 11 vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	08-Jan-2007	Four vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 2 container vessels.
Suez	08-Jan-2007	Five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 3 passenger vessels; 2 tugs, 2 vessels dry-docked.
Suez Canal	08-Jan-2007	Seventeen vessels transiting Northbound, 22 Southbound.

### Estonia

Paljassaare (formerly Kopli)	08-Jan-2007	Two coal vessels loading at berth; no vessels anchored; 2 vessels due, with 8 days berthing delay expected.
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### Georgia

Poti	08-Jan-2007	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, discharging gasoline; 1 vessel due 9/1 to gasoil.
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### India

Kolkata	08-Jan-2007	3 vessels operating at berth discharging ( Pulse, Mech., Edible Oil), 4 vessels working at midstream discharging ( Pules-2, Wheat, Crude), 1 vessel waiting to discharge at midstream Crude; 3 vessels under repair; 2 vessels under arrest; 3 vessels due ( Passenger, Containers-2).
Haldia	08-Jan-2007	11 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading Iron Ore, 7 vessels discharging ( Crude, Coke-2, Fertilizer, Lime, Project Cargo), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load, 1 to load and discharge), 7 vessels waiting berth at anchorage (3 to discharge, 4 to load); 5 vessels due ( POL-2, Crude-2, Iron Ore).
Paradip	08-Jan-2007	9 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading ( Iron Ore-3, Pig Iron), 5 vessels discharging ( Cement Clinker, Coking Coal, Urea, Met Coal, Project Cargo); 5 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (3 to discharge, 2 to load), 1 vessel waiting berth at anchorage to discharge; 27 vessels due.
Visakhapatnam	08-Jan-2007	15 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading ( Iron Ore, POL Product), 12 vessels discharging ( Crude-2, Coking Coal-2, Wheat, Urea-2, DBM & Steel Cargo, Alumina, Timber, Pet Coke, Steam Coal); 14 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (11 to discharge, 3 to load); 36 vessels due ( Iron Ore-10, Thermal Coal, Soya-2, Food Grains, Granite, Product Tankers-2, Sulphur, Rock phosphate-2, DAP, MOP, Coking Coal-3, Containers-2, Timber, Limestone, Anthracite Coal, Caustic Soda, Alumina, Crude & Product Tankers-4).
Chennai	08-Jan-2007	14 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading ( Granite Blocks, Iron Ore, Edible Oil), 8 vessels discharging ( Steel Coil, Steel Plate, Log, Steam Coal-3, Met Coke, LSHS, Furnace Oil, Containers), 3 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 1 vessel due Cars.
Tuticorin	08-Jan-2007	7 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading ( S. Acid, General Cargo-2), 4 vessels discharging ( Logs, Thermal Coal-2, Copper Concentrate); 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load.
Cochin	08-Jan-2007	7 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Steel Pipes, 4 vessels discharging ( Sulphur, Crude, Copra Cake, Zinc), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel under arrest ( Banglar Gourab- under arrest by MMD/Court).
New Mangalore	08-Jan-2007	9 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Iron Ore Fines-2, POL Product), 6 vessels discharging ( Urea, Coal-2, Lime Stone, POL Crude, LPG); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load; 15 vessels due (Iron Ore (Fines), Iron Ore (P), Timber, POL Product-3, Fertilizer, Containers, POL Crude, Granite Stone, Mobile Crane).
Mormugao	08-Jan-2007	2 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Steel Coils, 1 vessel discharging Met Coke, 7 vessels working at midstream and loading Iron Ore; 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 1 vessel under dry docked; 10 vessels due (Met Coke, Coal-2, MOP, Iron Ore-6).
Mumbai	08-Jan-2007	13 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading ( Angles/Accessories/ Project-2, POL-2), 6 vessels discharging ( Palm Oil, Bagged Salt, Rock Phosphate, High/Lift/Steel Pipes-2, POL), 3 vessels loading and discharging (General Cargo/Woodpulp/Containers/Steel/ Project); 1 vessel working at midstream and discharging Lubricant Oil, 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge, 1 vessel awaiting order at anchorage to discharge, 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load; 8

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## Port Conditions

J.N.P.T.	08-Jan-2007	vessels under repairs/dry docked; 5 vessels under arrest; 1 vessels under laid up ( Berths not required for cargo operations); 52 vessels due ( Containers-9, Oil, Other Dry Bulk, General Cargo-42). 8 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels discharging (Cement, SKO/High Speed Diesel), 6 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage ( 1 to load, 1 to load and discharge); 2 vessels due( Containers, Naphtha).
Kandla	08-Jan-2007	17 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (Soya-2, Coke, Granite Blocks, Rice, Cement, C. Pipe), 9 vessels discharging ( Timber Logs, MOP, High Speed Diesel, SBO, Chemical ), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel working at midstream and discharging St. Logs; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 10 vessels not ready to work at anchorage (7 to load, 3 to discharge).
Ennore	08-Jan-2007	2 vessels operating at berth and discharging Coal, 1 vessel working at inner anchorage loading Iron Ore; 3 vessels due (MV Apj Sri Devi (Coal), MV Ocean Emperor ( Iron Ore), MV, Five Star Pioneer (Coal).
<b>Israel</b>		
Ashdod	09-Jan-2007	No labour problems; One vessel loading general cargo at berth, 9 discharging at berth (5 general cargo, 4 bulk cargo), 5 loading/discharging at berth (3 containers, 2 tankers); 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge general cargo, 1 waiting at anchorage to load/discharge containers; 16 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	09-Jan-2007	No labour problems; One vessel discharging general cargo at berth; 4 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	09-Jan-2007	No labour problems; Five vessels discharging at berth (3 general cargo, 2 bulk cargo), 10 loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 2 car carriers, 2 tankers, 1 passenger vessel); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge bulk cargo, 7 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (6 containers, 1 tanker); 7 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 15 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
<b>Poland</b>		
Gdansk	08-Jan-2007	Four vessels in port operating of which 2 loading bulk cargo at berth, 2 discharging at berth (1 bulk cargo, 1 general cargo); 5 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 23 vessels due.
Gdynia	08-Jan-2007	Fourteen vessels in port operating of which 4 loading at berth (3 general cargo, 1 grain), 8 discharging at berth (1 grain, 1 general cargo, 4 bulk cargo, 2 tankers); 2 grain vessels awaiting orders; 49 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 43 vessels due.
<b>Russia</b>		
Novorossiysk	08-Jan-2007	Twenty-three vessels in port operating of which 18 loading (1 HBI, 1 cement, 1 ammonium sulphate, 1 bulk urea, 1 scrap, 1 steel billets, 1 lead, 3 wheat, 1 coils/steel sheets, 1 pipes, 1 copper, 1 coils, 1 slabs, 1 aluminium, 1 barley, 1 D/O), 4 discharging (2 bulk sugar, 1 vegetable oil, 1 equipment), 1 discharging/loading containers; 15 vessels in roads of which 11 to load (2 copper, 1 slabs, 2 wheat, 1 steel billets, 1 steel sheets, 2 coils, 1 cement, 1 bulk NPK), 4 to discharge (1 meal products, 2 bulk sugar, 1 debars); 39 vessels due of which 33 to load, 5 to discharge (2 debars, 2 bulk sugar, 1 bananas), 1 to load/discharge containers; Oil terminal: 3 tankers loading at berth (2 crude oil, 1 fuel oil); 5 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 8 tankers due, all to load (6 crude oil, 2 diesel oil).
<b>Slovenia</b>		
Koper	08-Jan-2007	Port working normally. Seventeen vessels berthed of which 3 discharging/loading containers, 6 loading sawn timber/general cargo, 4 discharging bulk cargo, 3 loading bulk cargo, 1 car carrier discharging/loading vehicles; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage of which 1 to load sawn timber, 1 to discharge bulk cargo; 16 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 4 to discharge/load containers, 2 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 1 to load vehicles, 1 to discharge vehicles, 3 vessels to load sawn timber / general cargo, 2 to discharge bulk cargo, 3 to load bulk cargo.
<b>Spain</b>		
Bilbao	08-Jan-2007	Thirty-three vessels operating (7 tankers, 26 other vessels) of which 10 loading, 10 discharging, 13 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	08-Jan-2007	Eighteen vessels in port operating of which 4 loading (1 general cargo, 3 bulk fertiliser), 14 discharging (10 steel products, 2 gas, 1 fruit, 1 vehicles); Outside commercial wharf: no vessels; no delays expected.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>		
Colombo	08-Jan-2007	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority berthing at break bulk berths if there is container congestion; conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 & 2 are facing delays in navigation after commissioning of SAGT 1 & 2 berths (former QEQ 1 & 2); conventional cargo vessels at PVQ 2 (inner berth) are facing berthing and unberthing delays after commissioning of new north pier (formerly known as "oil pier"). Nine container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 20 vessels discharging at berth (12 container/feeders, 1 maize, 2 bulk cement, 1 steel cargo, 1 bulk gypsum, 1 bagged soybean meal); 1 container/feeder waiting at anchorage to discharge; 5 vessels dry-docked; 5 vessels due (4 container/feeders, 1 bulk cement), with no delays for general cargo/bagged cargo/containers/feeders expected.



## Port Conditions

Galle	08-Jan-2007	No vessels loading at berth, none discharging at berth, none awaiting berth.
Trincomalee	08-Jan-2007	One vessel loading at berth, 1 discharging at berth; no vessels awaiting berth.
<b>Turkmenistan</b>		
Aladja	08-Jan-2007	Oil products: no vessels; port open.
Okarem	08-Jan-2007	Oil products: 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	08-Jan-2007	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, loading gasoil; 10 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 5 fuel oil, 1 gasoil, 1 HPGO, 3 unknown cargoes.
<b>Ukraine</b>		
Ilichevsk	09-Jan-2007	Three vessels in port operating of which 1 loading sunflower oil, 1 discharging meat, 1 discharging/loading containers; 4 vessels in roads, all to discharge/load containers; 13 vessels due of which 6 to load (4 steel products, 2 sunflower oil), 7 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	09-Jan-2007	Thirteen vessels in port operating, all loading 8 steel, 2 fire-clay, 1 coal, 2 sulphur); 8 vessels in roads of which 7 to load steel, 1 to discharge/load equipment/containers; 46 vessels due of which 41 to load (27 steel, 1 sulphur, 3 fire-clay, 1 coke, 6 coal, 1 sunflower beans, 2 slag), 4 to discharge (1 equipment, 1 feldspar, 1 ferroalloy, 1 equipment/containers), 1 to load /discharge containers/fire-clay.
Odessa	09-Jan-2007	Thirty-three vessels in port operating of which 14 loading (8 metal, 1 scrap, 2 pig iron, 1 metal/pig iron, 1 timber/metal, 1 wheat), 18 discharging (1 ore, 3 citrus, 2 passenger vessels, 2 baggage, 6 general cargo, 3 bananas, 1 sugar), 1 discharging/loading containers; 11 vessels in roads of which 4 to load (3 pig iron, 1 oil), 4 to discharge (1 oil, 1 bananas, 1 citrus, 1 sugar), 3 to load/discharge containers; 68 vessels due of which 22 to load (13 metal, 1 pig iron, 1 scrap, 1 soy, 2 coal, 1 timber, 1 ferroalloy, 1 wheat, 1 general cargo), 6 to discharge (1 metal, 2 citrus, 1 building, 1 equipment, 1 skugar), 40 to load/discharge containers.
<b>United States</b>		
Beaumont, TX	09-Jan-2007	A draft survey has been carried out of the Sabine Bank channel. Sabine pilots are maintaining a 40 ft. 0 ins. f.w. max. deep draft for the Sabine waterway, but may limit draft based on tide and weather considerations. Louis Dreyfus terminal: 2-3 days delay.
Corpus Christi, TX	09-Jan-2007	New restrictions in draft (normal 45 ft. 0 ins. b.w. max. draft enforced). Channel open under normal traffic; Interstate grain terminal: no delays; ADM terminal: 2-3 days delay.
Galveston, TX	09-Jan-2007	No new restriction in draft (normal 39 ft. 6 ins. b.w. max. deep draft enforced - 40 ft. with ideal conditions). Channel open under normal traffic; ADM-Farmland terminal: 2-3 days delay.
Houston, TX	09-Jan-2007	Pilots report normal 45 ft. 0 ins. max. draft up to Shell terminal, 40 ft. 0 ins. max. draft above Shell terminal to 610 bridge area; Cargill terminal - berth 1: no delays, berth 2: no delays; LDC Dreyfus terminal: no delays.
Kalama, WA	09-Jan-2007	Kalama export terminal: 4 days delay; United Harvest terminal: no delays.
New Orleans, LA	09-Jan-2007	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1 day's delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 3-4 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 3 days delay; ADM/Destrehan: 3-4 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 3-4 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Paulina: 3-4 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 2 days delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: 2 days delay expected; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: no delays; Mile 158.0 Myrtle Grove midstream terminal: 5 days delay; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: no delays.
Portland, OR	09-Jan-2007	Columbia Grain terminal: 1 day's delay; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays.
Seattle, WA	09-Jan-2007	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 2 days delay.
Tacoma, WA	09-Jan-2007	Temco terminal: 2 days delay.
Vancouver, WA	09-Jan-2007	United Harvest terminal: 2 days delay.

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