

# CasualtyWeek

January 7 2005

## Navy kicks out admirals over 'missing' African Pride

**T**WO rear admirals have been dismissed from the Nigerian Navy after being found guilty of involvement in the disappearance of a product tanker arrested by the navy for smuggling.

A court martial at the naval base in Apapa dismissed Rear Admirals Francis Agbiti and Samuel Kolawole, but found a third officer, Rear Admiral Antonio Bob-Manuel, not guilty and discharged him.

The three men had been accused of involvement in the disappearance of the MT African Pride, which was arrested by the Nigerian Navy, off the Niger Delta on October 8, 2003, on suspicion of oil smuggling.

The product tanker's 13-man, mainly Russian crew were subsequently charged with attempting to smuggle 11,300 tonnes of crude oil worth some 2m (\$2.64m).

Their trial, despite many adjournments, is currently in progress.

In August last year, the vessel, which had been brought to Lagos after its arrest, was reported missing.

The navy claimed it had handed the product tanker over to the police, but the police said that the vessel had in fact never been in its possession.

The whereabouts of the vessel are currently unknown, although there are suspicions that it has been brought back into service under another name.

The court heard that it disappeared five days after having been visited by Russian Embassy officials.

Rear Admiral Agbiti, who was the Nigerian Navy's chief of training and operations, was found not guilty of conspiring to cause the disappearance of the African Pride.

However he was found guilty of failing to follow orders to hand over the ship to the police while, at the same time, deliberately giving the impression that it had been handed over.

Rear Admiral Kolawole, who was flag officer commanding, Western Naval Command, was found guilty of conspiring to cause the disappearance of the ship.

He was also found guilty of having allowed Russian Embassy officials to make an unauthorised visit to the ship, of altering service documents and of losing government property.

Rear Admiral Bob-Manuel, deputy commandant, armed forces command and staff college, who was charged with conspiracy and three other offenses, was found not guilty on all four counts and told he could leave the court.

An attempt by a navy lieutenant to strip Rear Admiral Agbiti of his uniform immediately after the judgement was rebuffed, however, by the Admiral and friends who attended the hearing to support him.

Court martial president Rear Admiral Joseph Ajayi said in announcing the sentences: "The desire of government today is to focus on professionalism in the armed forces. In performance of securing the assets of our dear nation, we shall be failing in our duties if we look at the disappearance of the MT African Pride lightly."

He indicated, however, that the court martial's judgement was subject to confirmation by a "higher authority".

The case, which opened in late October 2004, is the first to uncover high-level involvement in the illegal theft of oil in Nigeria, which is Africa's leading producer and seventh biggest in the world.

- The only African Pride listed by the European Union shipping data bank, Equasis, is a 1965-built, 3,536 gt product tanker.

The data bank has no information regarding the ship's flag or owners and has received no new information about the vessel since May 2000.

Andrew Spurrier  
Lloyd's List Correspondent

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>ABG KESHAV</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	In collision with mv <i>Canadian Express</i> and bulk <i>Gem of Tuticorin</i> Dec 26 due tidal wave from South-East Asia earthquake. Efforts under way to separate vessels.
<i>FATHER F.</i>	bulker	CYP	AB	34,991	63,212	1981	Anchored 4.5 nautical miles from Berry Head in lat 50 25N, long 03 22W, Dec 26 due noise in No.4 cylinder. Reported Dec 27 repairs to take 7 days.
<i>JAAMI</i>	general	BGD	GL	9,648	11,455	1979	Struck breakwater at Colombo Outer Anchorage due large tidal wave Dec 26. Towed to outer anchorage, listing heavily. Wijsmuller Salvage contracted.
<i>LOUIE</i>	tug	USA	—	60	—	—	Partially sank in port of Sacramento Dec 27, spilling 50 gallons of red-dyed diesel fuel into the water. Sitting on bottom with helm above water.
<i>LT LLOYDIANA</i>	container	ITA	RI	35,629	40,196	1989	Reported on fire Dec 23 500 miles from Colombo. Serious damage; awaiting tug. Fire extinguished same day by crew. Damage to engine-room. To be towed to port for repairs, possibly Dubai. All 30 crew safe.
<i>MAERSK VIRGINIA</i>	container	USA	(LR)	50,686	51,100	2002	Contacted breakwater on port side below waterline at Salalah Dec 26. Underwater indentations over considerable length. Inspection in hand.
<i>SKANDIA</i>	yacht	—	—	—	—	—	Abandoned and drifting in the Tasman Sea Dec 28. Semi-submerged. To be salvaged.
<i>TEAL</i>	ferry	IND	(IR)	400	40	2004	Capsized at Port Blair due large tidal wave Dec 26.

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## The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



### ABG KESHAV

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes".

### AKBAR (India)

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes".

### AL BOURAIQA (Cambodia)

Hodeidah, Dec 23 — Crude oil tanker Al Bouraiqa arrived at Ras Isa Terminal on Dec 15, from Aden. Vessel departed on Dec 16, destination, Aden. — Lloyd's Agents.

### AL SAMIDOON (Kuwait)

London, Dec 23 — Managers of crude oil tanker Al Samidoon report that technicians utilising specialist pumping equipment on board the vessel, completed the transfer of cargo from No.2 starboard cargo tank to the undamaged No.2 centre tank as planned. The pumping was completed this morning and the vessel sailed at 1930, local time, having been cleared for departure by the relevant authorities. Following a diver's survey, which revealed a number of breaches of the hull below the water line caused by contact with the canal bank, classification society, Det Norske Veritas (DNV), has granted a special certificate of Class to approve the ship for passage to the port of Sidi Kerir. There the entire cargo will be discharged at the oil terminal. The cargo will then be loaded onto an alternative KOTC tanker for delivery to its original destination in Rotterdam. Once discharge has taken place, Al Samidoon will proceed to dry-dock for repair, still under its special certificate of class.

### ALGOL (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Dec 28 — General cargo Algol, Karlshamn for Derince, passed Dover Strait Dec 26.

### ANNAMARIA I (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Dec 30 — General cargo Annamaria I arrived Algiers Dec 21.

### ATHOS I (Cyprus)

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated Dec 29, states: Crude oil tanker Athos I, which fouled the Delaware River with crude oil is headed out of the Philadelphia area today or tomorrow, leaving clean-up crews still coping with tainted shorelines. The ship spilled as much as 473,500 gallons of heavy crude when its hull was slashed by a submerged chunk of metal near Paulsboro, New Jersey, a month ago. "They are doing the final fitting of the patch, and the sealing of it," said Jim Lawrence, a spokesman for the vessel's owners, as divers and welders worked yesterday to complete a

temporary metal patch covering two gashes in the vessel's belly. When that's done, and the work passes inspection, the vessel will head 125 miles down the Delaware to the Atlantic from a terminal near Morrisville, Bucks County, where it was taken for repairs. That's the first leg of a 1,000-mile journey to Mobile, where it will go into dry dock for permanent repairs. Officials have still not figured out how much oil got into the river, since some of the missing 473,500 gallons may still be in two damaged tanks. Those tanks will not be emptied until the vessel gets to Atlantic Marine in Mobile, said Lawrence, who estimated it could take up to 10 days to pump out the mixture of oil and water and separate the two. Also unsolved is the origin of the 15-foot chunk of corroded cast iron, once part of an industrial size pump housing, that damaged the vessel on Nov 26 as it prepared to dock at the Citgo Refinery in Paulsboro. Such pumps could have been used in water treatment plants or refineries, or as anchors for dredge barges or other ships. After the spill, the rest of the crude was offloaded at Citgo. The vessel moved first to an anchorage near Marcus Hook, then sailed 50 miles up the Delaware for repairs at the GROWS Terminal operated by Waste Management. The vessel leaves behind significant damage to shorelines and wildlife, with oil scattered along 57 miles of riverbank from the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge to the Smyrna River in Delaware, and hundreds of dead birds. Although clean-up work will continue through the winter, operations are "expected to be slowed due to weather conditions" out of concern for worker safety, Edwards said.

London, Dec 30 — Crude oil tanker Athos I arrived and sailed Fairless Hills Dec 27.

### BATUR V (Turkey)

London, Dec 30 — Bulk Batur V arrived Skikda about Dec 19.

### BOE SEA (Malta)

London, Dec 27 — Following received from Portland Coastguard MRSC, timed 1745, UTC: General cargo Boe Sea (6425 gt, built 1988), Newport for Gdynia, in lat 50 09.2N, long 02 01.5W, at 1745, UTC, with strange noise from turbo-chargers, engineers checking, not under comand, original estimate for repairs four to five hours, now possibly one hour. Will be making way to Brixham, ETA noon, Dec 28.

London, Dec 27 — Following received from Portland Coastguard MRSC, timed 2006, UTC: General cargo Boe Sea effected repairs and will be making way to Brixham, ETA tomorrow.

London, Dec 28 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 0147, UTC: General cargo Boe Sea reports that vessel still has a problem and is unable to achieve high engine RPM. Vessel has requested tug assistance to sage anchorage, and is currently anchoring in lat 50 30.07N, long 01 49W, while awaiting decision on tug assistance.

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

London, Dec 28 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 0416, UTC: General cargo Boe Sea is currently anchored awaiting the arrival of tug Goliath, which has been tasked and is proceeding from Plymouth, ETA 1530, UTC. Anchor handling tug/supply Neftegaz 57 is also proceeding, ETA 1400, UTC.

London, Dec 28 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 0830, UTC: General cargo Boe Sea remains at anchor awaiting the arrival of tugs Goliath and Neftegaz 57. At present, the vessel is dragging anchor slowly but at this time the rate of drift is slow and south-easterly, away from Anvil Point. At this time there is no danger of vessel grounding on the UK coast, even in the event of anchor failure.

London, Dec 28 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 1815, UTC: General cargo Boe Sea is under tow of tug Goliath and proceeding to Nab Tower and then to anchor at St. Helens Roads, Portsmouth. Tug Neftegaz 57 has returned to its previous duties.

London, Dec 29 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 2355, UTC, Dec 28: General cargo Boe Sea anchored at St. Helens Roads, Portsmouth, at 2330, UTC, and is now investigating the engine problem.

London, Dec 29 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 1120, UTC: General cargo Boe Sea is still anchored in St Helens Roads, Portsmouth.

London, Dec 30 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 1110, UTC: General cargo Boe Sea is still anchored in St Helens Roads, Portsmouth, awaiting parts which are being delivered from Greece.

#### **BRITISH ENTERPRISE (U.K.)**

London, Dec 30 — Chemical/oil carrier British Enterprise, Agioi Theodoroi for Batumi, passed Dardanelles Dec 28.

#### **BUNGA MAS TUJUH (Malaysia)**

London, Dec 24 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0005, UTC: C.c. Bunga Mas Tujuh (8957 gt, built 1997) grounded near Kurushima yesterday. Vessel was refloated 1830, local time, yesterday by three tugs. Vessel is now safely anchored at Imabari port. (Note — Bunga Mas Tujuh sailed Kobe Dec 22 for Xingang.)

Yokohama, Dec 28 — C.c. Bunga Mas Tujuh grounded in shallow water in the Kurushima Strait Dec 23. The vessel refloated with tug assistance and anchored off Imabari at 1930 same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CANADIAN EXPRESS (Liberia)**

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes".

#### **CAPE SYROS (Cyprus)**

Cadiz, Dec 28 — General cargo Cape Syros arrived Cadiz Dec 18 from Algeciras for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CEC PACIFIC (Isle of Man)**

London, Dec 30 — General cargo CEC

Pacific sailed Vigo Dec 22 and subsequently passed Tarifa Dec 24, bound for Bejaia.

#### **CMA CGM TAGE (Panama)**

Zeebrugge, Dec 28 — C.c.ref CMA CGM Tage arrived Antwerp Dec 28 from Montreal and sailed the same day back to Montreal. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **COASTAL CONSTRUCTOR (India)**

London, Dec 28 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: On Dec 26 it was reported that jack-up drilling platform Coastal Constructor, Indian flag, which was abandoned since Dec 20 in lat 25.22.21N, long 53.07E, west of Das Approach Channel in the Persian Gulf, is now in an endangered condition and listing with no lights. Presently it is being monitored by tug/supply Sea Diamond VIII and vessels are being requested to maintain a distance of three cables and navigate with precaution.

#### **CROWN JADE (Panama)**

Zeebrugge, Dec 30 — Ref Crown Jade arrived Zeebrugge Dec 28 from Rio Haina and sailed Dec 29 for Sheerness.

#### **FATHER F. (Cyprus)**

London, Dec 26 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 2144, UTC: Bulk Father F. (34991 gt, built 1981), Muuga for Shanghai with 59,831 tonnes fertiliser, reported anchored 4.5 nautical miles from Berry Head, in lat 50 25N, long 03 22W, at 2100, UTC, to investigate suspicious noise in main engine No 4 cylinder. Vessel's master expects a superintendent to arrive Dec 27, and repairs are expected to take approximately 24 hours.

London, Dec 27 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1052, UTC: Bulk Father F. is currently anchored in Brixham Deepwater Anchorage. A minimum of seven days is expected for repairs.

#### **GEM OF TUTICORIN (India)**

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes".

#### **GLOBAL HARVEST (Panama)**

London, Dec 28 — Ref Global Harvest, Rotterdam for Las Palmas, passed Dover Strait Dec 25.

#### **HANJIN PRETORIA (Liberia)**

Honolulu, Dec 23 — It is reported tug Jimmy Smith has hooked up to c.c. Hanjin Pretoria, with an ETA at Honolulu on Jan 6. — Lloyd's Agents.

Honolulu, Dec 28 — C.c. Hanjin Pretoria is proceeding in tow at 3.4 knots. The tow is expected to arrive off Honolulu on Jan 7. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **HANSEATIC STAR (Gibraltar)**

Arendal, Dec 27 — General cargo Hanseatic Star (1590 gt, built 1985), arrived Arendal Dec 17 with gearbox breakdown. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **HIGH SPIRIT (Liberia)**

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes"

#### **IBUKI (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Dec 28 — A press report, dated Dec 27, states: A federal prosecutor said today that a German shipping company was facing a \$750,000 fine for polluting Hawaii waters while en route to making a delivery to California from Asia. Schlusser Reederei KG has pleaded guilty to two environmental law crimes stemming from not managing oil on the ship and making false statements to the US Coast Guard about how it handles oil waste, said Assistant US Attorney Mike Purpura. The company has agreed to pay the fine and will serve a two-year probation when sentenced Mar 24 in US District Court in Hawaii, Purpura said. "If the probation is violated, they can be hit again with a larger fine," Purpura said. As part of homeland security efforts, the Coast Guard had stopped c.c. Ibuki about six miles off the shore of Oahu in November. When it boarded the vessel, it found oil spilled all over the vessel, Purpura said. The Coast Guard ordered the ship and its crew into Honolulu harbour, where the vessel was instructed to remain until the problem was fixed, authorities said. The company was charged with not keeping an updated oil record book as well as making false statements about how it discharges unprocessed oily bilge wastes. "This prosecution sends the significant message that United States will vigorously enforce the laws designed to protect natural resources and environment," said Edward H. Kubo Jr, the US attorney for the district of Hawaii.

#### **IEVOLI SPLENDOR (Italy)**

Houston, Dec 29 — Chem.tank Ievoli Splendor, transporting a load of solvents, including benzene, from Argentina and Brazil to Houston, was in collision with tank barge Kirby 7500 (774 gt, built 1980) while turning in the Houston Ship Channel on Dec 15. As Ievoli Splendor turned into the docks at Vopak Terminal Deer Park, a large bulk liquid storage facility, about 2100, Dec 15, it struck Kirby 7500, which was docked and empty. US Coast Guard officials estimated that 2,000 gallons of heavy fuel oil leaked from a 16-inch gash in the tanker's steel side, creating a mile-long slick of the tarlike substance that stretched from the Care Terminal east of the Beltway 8 bridge to Carpenters Bayou. — Lloyd's Agents.

Houston, Dec 29 — Collision between chem.tank Ievoli Splendor and tank barge Kirby 7500: Ievoli Splendor is currently in Houston at Kinder Morgan loading cargo after undergoing repairs to damages sustained in the incident. Kirby 7500 sustained no damages in the incident. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **IRMGARD (Malta)**

Santander, Dec 27 — Ref Irmgard (4371 gt, built 1990), Bremen for La Spezia with general cargo, arrived Santander port today with 30-deg list due shifting of cargo in heavy weather during transit. Water reported in hold. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Irmgard sailed Bremen Dec 22 for Benghazi and passed Dover Strait Dec 23.)

**JAAMI (Bangladesh)**

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes".

**JIN MAN HE****(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Moji, Dec 29 — General cargo Jin Man He completed necessary temporary repairs Dec 25 and is now undergoing surveys by class and underwriters for towage of the vessel, after which it will sail, in tow of a tug, for Ningbo, subject to weather conditions. — Lloyd's Agents.

**KATERINA (Malta)**

See under "Pollution."

**KIRBY 7500 (U.S.A.)**

See Ievoli Splendor.

**LOUIE (U.S.A.)**

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated Dec 28, states: Tug Louie (60 gt, built 1946) partially sank in the Port of Sacramento yesterday morning, spilling about 50 gallons of what authorities said was red-dyed diesel fuel into the water before emergency crews cordoned off the area and began an expensive clean-up effort. No one was hurt in the incident. The tug, owned by Gary Burchard of Stockton, was roped to another tug outside of Brusco Tow and Barge's West Sacramento dock when it began to go under shortly after 1000 hrs, said David Mighetto, director of operations for the Port of Sacramento. The vessel hit bottom in the shallow water before it could fully submerge. Its helm, tilting to starboard, was all that remained above water yesterday morning. Officials suspect a hatch may have been left open on the vessel, filling the bilge with water, but a Coast Guard team is investigating the incident. West Sacramento Fire Department crews spent four hours spreading absorbent pads on the water's surface to soak up the iridescent liquid, said Dennis Campanale, a division chief with the department. They collected about half of the estimated 50 gallons of liquid, while the rest dissipated into the port, he said. Although the vessel held about 4,000 gallons of fuel, it had only 500 gallons inside when Campanale's crews arrived on scene. "It's not enough to make a big impact," Campanale said. "There's so much water out there." Still, the cleanup is expensive. "Any spill will go over \$5,000 to \$10,000 in first hour or two, and I suspect they're already in \$20,000," Mighetto said. "When these vessels become obsolete they pretty much become docked vessels, and then it's up to the owner to be careful about them and maintain them." The vessel had not been operated in years, Mighetto said. Burchard will have to pay for a crane on a barge to right the vessel, the Coast Guard's investigation and the environmental cleanup, Mighetto said. California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Fish and Game also will be involved in the clean-up effort. If Burchard is found to have been negligent with maintaining the vessel, he could face

monetary penalties, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Mike Kingsbury. "The ultimate responsibility lies with the owner of the vessel," he said. Authorities said Burchard had agreed to pay for the clean-up.

**LT LLOYDIANA (Italy)**

London, Dec 24 — A press report from Colombo, dated today, states: A Master Divers ship (tug Veritas) was dispatched from Colombo yesterday following information that a ship (c.c. LT Lloydiana, 35629 gt, built 1989) transporting containers from Singapore to Europe had caught fire 500 nautical miles from Colombo, Master Divers Chairman Ariyaseela Wickremanayake said. He said they were informed about the ship catching fire yesterday afternoon and responded promptly by sending their ship on a rescue mission.

London, Dec 23 — Following received from Rome RCC, timed 2320, UTC: C.c. LT Lloydiana had a fire in engine-room, which is now under control, approximately 400 miles from Kochi. Vessel has serious damage and is awaiting the arrival of tug Veritas, from Colombo, which has ETA at vessel in 44 hours from 1150, UTC, today. Vessel has 22 persons on board, three Italian and 19 Russians. There have been no injuries.

London, Dec 23 — Following received from Mumbai MRCC, timed 2330, UTC: C.c. LT Lloydiana is in lat 09 25N, long 69 10E.

London, Dec 24 — Understood the tug proceeding to assist c.c. LT Lloydiana is now salvage tug SmitWijs London.

London, Dec 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: C.c. LT Lloydiana, Singapore to Europe, carrying 4,000 containers caught fire off Sri Lanka but the 30-member crew extinguished the blaze and all aboard were safe, a rescue and salvage company said today. The company, Master Divers, said it sent a rescue vessel to the vessel after it reported that it was on fire 500 nautical miles south of Colombo. Company chairman Ariyaseela Wickremanayake said "The engine-room has suffered damages and the ship will have to be towed either to Dubai or to any other port for repair". It was not immediately clear what started the blaze. The crew members, all Greeks, were safe, Wickremanayake said.

**LUJIN II (North Korea)**

Bucharest, Dec 28 — The fire on general cargo Lujin II actually occurred at the navigation bridge. At present the vessel's diesel generators are reportedly operational, no vital installation being seriously affected. Constantza Port Administration, have advised that an investigation as to the cause of fire will be carried out by local authorities. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MAAN SHYANG**

See Te Maru.

**MAERSK GABARUS (Canada)**

London, Dec 28 — A press report, dated today, states: An offshore supply vessel is being escorted back to Halifax

by a Coast Guard vessel after being damaged in a storm yesterday. Large waves off Sable Island yesterday knocked out windows and power to tug/supply Maersk Gabarus (2259 gt, built 1983). It drifted for about two hours before regaining power. The vessel spent the night tucked behind Sable Island for protection. A spokesperson for Exxon Mobil, Allan Jeffers, says no one was injured. "The vessel had watertight integrity so not any danger in that respect, but out in the North Atlantic without power is a very serious situation obviously, and we wanted to ensure they were well looked after," Jeffers said. The Maersk Gabarus brings supplies to Exxon Mobil's Sable project. The storm also suspended drilling yesterday at the Galaxy 2 Santa Fe natural gas rig off Sable Island.

**MAERSK MANDRAKI (Greece)**

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes."

**MAERSK VIRGINIA (U.S.A.)**

Salalah, Dec 27 — C.c. Maersk Virginia (50686 gt, built 2002), loaded with containers for United States ports, suddenly encountered turbulence while entering Salalah port breakwaters with pilot on board at 2120, local time, Dec 26, resulting in vessel contacting breakwater on port side below water. The Maersk Virginia is understood to have sustained underwater hull indentations over a considerable length. Inspection is in progress. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MASTROGIORGIS (Panama)**

London, Dec 26 — Understand bulk Mastrogiorgis is still aground. Further understand tug Luna A. is to assist. (See issue of Dec 23.)

London, Dec 27 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1048, UTC: There have been several unsuccessful attempts to refloat bulk Mastrogiorgis and an amount of cargo has been lightered, but the vessel still remains aground. It is not currently known when the next refloating attempt will be undertaken.

London, Dec 29 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1020, UTC: Bulk Mastrogiorgis was refloated with the assistance of two tugs at 0700, UTC, today. Vessel is currently on its way to Kalundborg fjord for diver inspection.

Piraeus, Dec 29 — Loucas G. Matsas Salvage and Towage Maritime Company, have successfully refloated bulk Mastrogiorgis, under Lloyd's Open Form 2000, and moved the casualty to a sheltered position in lat 55 42.9N, long 10 57.6E, for diver survey and cargo reloading. Mastrogiorgis was refloated after part cargo lightering operation and after several cautious refloating attempts as the vessel was aground on rock, close to channel buoy Egholm Flak. — Loucas G. Matsas Salvage and Towage Maritime Company.

**MING YUE (Cambodia)**

See Takeko.

**MING ZHOU 12  
(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

See MOL Eternity.

**MISTRAL (Honduras)**

London, Dec 23 — As of Dec 2, product tanker Mistral was still laid up at Bari.

**MOL ETERNITY (Japan)**

Yokohama, Dec 28 — C.c. MOL Eternity (35234 gt, built 1987), arriving at Osaka, and ro/ro/c.c. Ming Zhou 12 (5012 gt, built 1977), which was leaving port, were in collision 331 deg and 730 metres from Osaka Minami breakwater lighthouse at 0707, Dec 13. There were no injuries and no oil spill from either vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Dec 28 — Following the collision, c.c. MOL Eternity sailed Osaka Dec 13, arrived Kobe same day and sailed Dec 14 for Shimizu. Ro/ro/c.c. Ming Zhou 12 sailed Osaka Dec 13 and subsequently arrived Kobe Dec 19 from Ningbo.

**MONTANA SUN (Liberia)**

London, Dec 23 — Chemical/oil carrier Montana Sun arrived at Izmir on Dec 3. Vessel departed on Dec 6, bound for Diliskelesi, arriving on Dec 8. Vessel sailed on Dec 10, destination Algeiras.

**NORDIK EXPRESS (Canada)**

London, Dec 29 — At 1656, Dec 24, passenger Nordik Express (1825 gt, built 1974), lost one of its anchors while weighing anchor, off Natashquan, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in lat 50 10N, long 61 45W.

**OSTRIA BREEZE (Hong Kong)**

London, Dec 29 — Bulk Ostria Breeze sailed Houston Dec 23.

New Orleans, Dec 29 — Bulk Ostria Breeze arrived New Orleans Dec 25 to discharge and load cargo. Vessel is confirmed to have delayed in Houston for three days for "minor repairs." — Lloyd's Agents.

**PALMYRA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Melbourne, Dec 30 — General cargo Palmyra had a replacement rudder fitted at Melbourne and sailed Dec 21 for Bell Bay. The vessel subsequently departed Bell Bay Dec 24 for New Zealand. — Lloyd's Agents.

**POOLGRACHT (Netherlands)**

London, Dec 27 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1442: On Dec 22, general cargo Poolgracht (5998 gt, built 1986), PGUP, reportedly bound for Australia, with ammonium nitrate, reported a listing of 20 degrees, due shifting of cargo in rough seas. Vessel is now off Rhode Island and the listing has been reduced to four degrees. Vessel is seeking permission to enter a port, which will most probably be Wilmington, Delaware. (Note — Poolgracht was last reported arriving at Three Rivers on Dec 10.)

London, Dec 28 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1255, UTC: General cargo Poolgracht is still anchored off Rhode Island. The list has been reduced from

25 deg to 4 deg by a combination of ballasting and repacking. A meeting is scheduled for today, involving the vessel's agents and Coast Guard officials, to discuss the possibility of moving the vessel into either Rhode Island or Wilmington, Del.

London, Dec 29 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1440, UTC: General cargo Poolgracht was given permission yesterday to proceed to Davisville, Rhode Island, and the vessel was reportedly on its way this morning. Permission is still awaited to begin conducting cargo operations, pending an inspection.

**ROYAL KLIPPER (Netherlands)**

Maassluis, Dec 24 — Ref Royal Klipper sailed Antwerp at 0439, Dec 24 for Santa Marta. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**SEA BEACH (Panama)**

London, Dec 23 — Ro/ro Sea Beach arrived Hovensa Dec 5, departing later the same day, with a reported destination of Cristobal.

**SEALTH (U.S.A.)**

London, Dec 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Ro/ro Sealth (2453 gt, built 1982) sailing from Friday Harbor to Anacortes went aground this evening on Reid Rock, about 15 minutes out of Friday Harbor. No injuries were reported. The ferry returned to Friday Harbor and was tied up after the incident at 2015 hrs, said Susan Harris, a spokeswoman for Washington State Ferries. Harris said it didn't immediately appear that damage was extensive, but divers would inspect the vessel tomorrow. The Coast Guard and ferry system both will investigate the incident. It was not immediately known how many people were on board at the time of the grounding. Ferries officials planned to cancel tomorrow's international sailing from Anacortes to Vancouver Island so the ferry on that route, the Elwha, can be used in place of the Sealth.

London, Dec 28 — A press report, dated Dec 27, states: It will cost an estimated \$700,000 to repair damage that occurred to ro/ro Sealth when its hull scraped a rock in the San Juan Islands last week, the state Department of Transportation reported. The Sealth hit Reid Rock near Friday Harbor last Friday evening (Dec 24). An inspection found a scrape on the hull about 100 feet long, four feet wide and two inches deep. The internal framing of the vessel was also damaged and one of the main fuel tanks was breached, spilling some fuel oil into vessel's bilge, a DOT news release said. There was no evidence that any fuel oil spilled outside the vessel, Washington State Ferries officials said. The ferry will be repaired at the Dakota Creek Industries yard in Anacortes beginning Jan 10. Repairs were expected to take four to six weeks. In the meantime, ferry Evergreen State will replace the Sealth. The ferry system and the Coast Guard were both investigating the cause of the grounding.

**SELENDANG AYU (Malaysia)**

London, Dec 24 — Following received from Coast Guard Kodiak, dated Dec 23: Bulk Selendang Ayu, update for Dec 23: More than 120 people from Dutch Harbour received training to help clean up oil from Selendang Ayu. Volunteers attended Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response at the high school auditorium in Unalaska. The volunteers will help remove oiled waste from beaches along the northern coast of Unalaska Island. Weather continues to delay oil removal from wrecked Selendang Ayu. High winds and seas forced the response ships to return to Dutch Harbour earlier this week. Recovery workers hope to return to work later today when the seas are expected to diminish to six feet. The "black box" from the crashed Coast Guard helicopter is reportedly located. Coast Guard investigators received a faint signal from the helicopter's flight data recorder earlier this week. The Coast Guard plans to hire divers to recover the flight data recorder as soon as the weather improves.

London, Dec 24 — A press report, dated Dec 23, states: The bow section of bulk Selendang Ayu has sunk and the 176,473 gallons of oil inside is thought to have already spilled into the Bering Sea. Violent storms and harsh conditions had kept salvage and cleanup crews stuck in Dutch Harbour for days. When skies cleared today, officials found the front section of Selendang Ayu had sunk to the tip of its bow. Salvage crews still plan to attempt unloading more than 80,000 gallons of fuel from two smaller tanks in the stern of the ship. The bow section had earlier been judged unsafe to attempt removing the 176,473 gallons of fuel in the tank there, but response officials had hoped a salvage team could come up with a plan to recover that oil. "It appears that the tank, which we had previously had hope of recovering all its oil from, has probably lost all its contents," said Marti Early of the state Department of Environmental Conservation. Twenty dead birds and a dead sea otter have been recovered so far. Twenty live birds have been found covered with oil. A team from salvors SMIT International was assembling in Dutch Harbour and a special pump was being transported from South Africa to transfer fuel from the two rear tanks to 2,000-gallon containers in an operation that was to begin after the new year. Members of the team planned to board the stern tomorrow and clear the deck with torches so helicopters could access the vessel's remains, Coast Guard Petty Officer Sara Francis said. The weather today gave response officials a brief reprieve, but winds tomorrow were expected to increase again to 35 knots and seas up to 10 feet.

London, Dec 26 — A press report, dated today, states: The Bering Sea's harsh weather has sharply tilted the bow half of bulk Selendang Ayu and almost fully sank it late last week in a swirl of 35-mile-an-hour winds, 16-foot waves and blowing snow. In the process up to 316,000 additional gallons of oil

are thought to have spilled. Petty Officer Sara Francis, a spokeswoman for the Coast Guard, said the weather that sank the bow came up sometime Wednesday afternoon (Dec 22) to midday Thursday and also halted cleanup and salvage efforts. "It chased all of the response vessels back here into port because it was so bad," Petty Officer Francis said, speaking from Dutch Harbour on Unalaska Island, not far from where the vessel ran aground. Those assessing the environmental impact of the spill have so far found one dead otter and 20 dead birds, said Linda Giguere, spokeswoman for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. Another 20 oiled birds have been taken to Anchorage for treatment, Ms. Giguere said. Starting today, the state and Coast Guard plan to start checking water quality in the area. They plan to drop crab pots filled with absorbent material to see how much oil has settled to the bottom of the Bering Sea. Officials will also catch crabs to see how much oil they may have ingested. Depending on the results, officials will decide tomorrow whether crab-fishing season in Makushin Bay will take place in January as planned. Officials worry that, depending on where the newly spilled oil moves, it could interfere with the fishing and crabbing seasons in other areas as well. Petty Officer Francis said flights over the wreck on Friday did not spot any large slicks and that the tumultuous seas might be helping to break down the oil. The stern half of the freighter currently sits upright, only partly submerged, where it grounded. Its fuel tanks still hold close to 90,000 gallons of oil and more than 18,000 gallons of diesel fuel. A team from the salvage company SMIT International was assembling in Dutch Harbour, and a special pump was being transported from South Africa to transfer fuel from the two rear tanks to 2,000-gallon containers in an operation that was to begin after the new year, weather permitting. Cleanup crews and salvage workers, already limited to just five hours of light a day, were hoping for better weather. But the forecast was for worsening conditions this weekend, with the gale-force winds that have been hammering the wreck returning this evening.

London, Dec 28 — A press report, dated Dec 27, states: State regulators have banned commercial fishing in the Bering Sea near the wreckage of bulk Selendang Ayu where fuel oil has been seeping since early this month. The order affects the Makushin Bay and Skan Bay tanner crab fishery, which had been scheduled to open Jan 15. Also closed will be Pacific cod, black rockfish and fisheries for other groundfish that would have opened Saturday (Dec 25). The waters closed by the Division of Commercial Fisheries stretch from Spray Cape to Cape Kovrizhka along the western side of Unalaska Island, about 800 miles south-west of Anchorage. Between the two capes lies the wreckage of the Selendang Ayu, which has been leaking

oil and diesel fuel since it wrecked Dec 8. More than 210,000 gallons is believed to have leaked so far. Denby Lloyd, regional supervisor for the Division of Commercial Fisheries, said 10 of 21 test crab pots retrieved today showed some sign of oil contamination. The state said that the area would remain closed until environmental monitoring showed the threat of contamination was gone. The closure is likely to affect 20-30 fishing vessels, according to Henry Mitchell, executive director of the Bering Sea Fisherman's Association. Mitchell declined to estimate the economic impact on shutting down the fisheries, although he said the eastern Bering Sea is one of the world's most productive habitats for fish and shellfish. IMC Shipping, the Singapore-based operator of the freighter, had hired an adjuster to take claims from commercial fishermen who had planned to participate in the fishery, Lloyd said. Tomorrow spill responders want to begin taking fuel from the freighter's stern. A salvage team has been preparing to remove more than 80,000 gallons of fuel from two tanks near the engine-room. So far, more than 40,000 pounds of oily waste have been collected in bags along the shore of Unalaska Island, according to officials. Forty-one dead birds and a dead sea otter have been recovered so far. Hundreds of other oil-blackened birds have been spotted.

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated Dec 28, states: Salvage experts hope to begin pumping the remaining oil out of bulk Selendang Ayu today, a time-consuming process that could take weeks to complete on the remote north shore of Unalaska Island. However, how much bunker fuel is still on board is a mystery, as is whether crews can empty the tanks before winter storms rolling in off the Bering Sea beat them to it. In the meantime, tests over the weekend (Dec 25-26) confirmed that oil had sunk to the bottom of nearby Makushin Bay, prompting the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to close the spill area to commercial fishing until further notice. Harsh winter weather has made it difficult for spill response officials to judge the extent of damage to the vessel, which split in two on Dec 8 after losing power and drifting for 40 hours. At least 40,000 gallons spilled shortly after the vessel broke in half. Its other two main tanks — one in the bow section containing 176,000 gallons, the other in the aft section with 104,000 gallons — have pounded against the rocky sea floor since the grounding and may already be empty, salvage experts say. Two remaining fuel tanks in the aft section, containing a total of 85,000 gallons, may still be full. Both are thought to contain some water. Also in the aft section are two diesel tanks with a total capacity of 18,000 gallons. SMIT America was contracted to remove whatever oil it can, then haul away the wreckage, but before the bow fuel tank could be pumped, hurricane-force winds sank it. With calm weather expected today, the contractor hopes to start lightering oil from the aft section,

Coast Guard Petty Officer Sara Francis said from the spill response headquarters in Unalaska. Crews prepared for the work by using cutting torches to remove antennas and railings from the top of the vessel's bridge. As soon as a heavy-lift Chinook helicopter was available, they planned to cut off the huge steel funnel that surrounds the exhaust stack. All the scrap was to be deposited in the holds, Francis said. Plans call for a crew of about eight to drop onto the vessel, cut holes in the deck and tanks using an oil field technique known as a "hot tap," then pump the fuel into portable steel tanks. Each tank holds about 10 tons of fuel, or roughly 2,700 gallons. When a tank is full, the Chinook will fly it back to Unalaska for disposal. The work could be slow, according to the operations plan. At full speed, pumps will move the heavy bunker oil at 22 gallons a minute, filling a tank in about two hours. Work will be confined to daylight hours for safety, which is currently a bit more than seven hours a day. It was impossible to say how long the lightering would take, Francis said. "It depends on the weather, how much they can pump, how well the pumps work and how much is actually there," she said. Clean-up workers walking the spill-area beaches have picked up more than 1,300 bags of oily debris, from tarred sticks and kelp to oil patties. They also found 22 bird carcasses yesterday. Commercial divers searched the area for the black box from a Coast Guard helicopter that crashed as it attempted to rescue crewmen off the stricken vessel. Six of the vessel's crew are presumed dead. "They could hear it pinging, but they weren't able to locate it," Francis said. The black box could hold valuable information about the cause of the crash. They will continue to look today, she said. Another winter storm is expected to disrupt work briefly. Winds gusting to more than 50 mph are forecast for Thursday, but by Friday the spill responders hope to be back at the site, Francis said.

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated Dec 29, states: The "black box" data recorder from a Coast Guard rescue helicopter that crashed, killing six people, was recovered today as work got under way to remove fuel from bulk Selendang Ayu, which ran aground three weeks ago off Alaska's coast. The six crew members from the vessel died when the helicopter crashed into the Bering Sea in stormy weather shortly before the vessel grounded and broke in half, spilling some of its fuel. The black box was found near the vessel's wreckage by divers, said Petty Officer Sara Francis. The box and its data will be given to the National Transportation Safety Board, which is investigating the crash. A salvage company spent most of yesterday clearing decks and making other preparations to remove fuel from the vessel, which had an estimated 424,000 gallons of fuel oil and 18,000 gallons of diesel on board when it grounded off Unalaska Island on Dec 8. Salvors know that one of the vessel's fuel tanks is empty. They are working on the premise that two others

are empty as well, meaning that more than three-quarters of the fuel already may be lost, Francis said. Winds were about 25 knots and seas relatively calm today - good weather for the Bering Sea in winter. Rain and snow were forecast for tomorrow. "They will use every available weather window until they're done," Francis said of the operation that could take up to a month because of weather delays. The vessel's owner, Singapore-based IMC Group, is responsible for salvage and cleanup costs. The salvage company, Smit America, will try to offload oil only from the stern section of the ship using pumps, hoses and containers. The bow section, nearly underwater, is inaccessible. So far, 76,000 pounds of oily waste have been collected from the shoreline of Unalaska Island. A dead sea otter and more than 40 dead birds have been recovered. Six rehabilitated birds have been released.

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated today, states: The local crab-fishing season has been cancelled and the estimated number of animals killed or injured by oil has sharply increased as a rare break in rough Bering Sea weather allows officials to gain a better sense of the damage from a large spill in the Aleutian Islands. More than 355,000 gallons of fuel oil are now thought to have spilled from bulk Selendang Ayu, which ran aground and split in two just off Unalaska Island on Dec 8. The island is home to the nation's largest commercial fishing port by volume, and the second-largest by value of annual catch, said Frank Kelty, resource analyst and former mayor of the city of Unalaska, which sits along the port, Dutch Harbour. Unalaska's big commercial operations, which fish at some distance from the port, should be relatively unaffected by the cancellation of the local tanner crab season, which was to have begun on Jan 15. But small-boat fishermen will be badly hurt, Mr. Kelty said, losing nearly \$500,000 in revenue to the oil contamination that has deprived them of the area's biggest catch at this time of year. "That's a sizable part of their annual income," he said. "It's a substantial impact." Roughly 120,000 gallons of fuel and diesel oil remain in the vessel's stern half, which is still upright, and salvage crews hoped to take advantage of the relatively calm weather, which in the Bering Sea in late December means swells close to 10 feet and winds slightly less than gale force, to begin pumping that fuel out before it can spill. But with gales expected to return today, pumping will not begin until tomorrow at the earliest, said Petty Officer Sara Francis, a Coast Guard spokeswoman. Biologists have so far counted 109 bird carcasses and more than 600 birds coated with oil in the area around the wreck. But they expect that many more birds, perhaps thousands, have been killed. "That's just a small inkling of what's actually out there," Petty Officer Francis said of the number counted. "It's a very large area, and the only way to get an accurate number is to walk all of the beach, and that won't happen

until the spring." And by then, she said, the carcasses will most likely have been devoured by the foxes and ravens that have been scavenging the area in large numbers, picking at the dead birds and almost certainly ingesting oil themselves. The spill has brought recollections of the Exxon Valdez spill of 1989 in Prince William Sound. Experts say that if all of Selendang Ayu's remaining oil ultimately leaks, this spill will be the worst for Alaska since then, though it will compare only distantly to the amount of oil lost by Exxon Valdez, nearly 11 million gallons, and to the damage done in the sound. Another recollection of that spill lingers among the fishermen whose livelihood has been affected by Selendang Ayu, and who hope to be reimbursed by claims adjusters representing the vessel's operator, IMC Shipping, based in Singapore. The adjusters have already set up shop in a hotel on Unalaska, Mr. Kelty said, but knowing that it often took a long time for fishermen affected by the Exxon Valdez spill to be reimbursed, the small-boat fishermen here are concerned about how swiftly their money will come. "How this is working and the timeline before they get reimbursed," Mr. Kelty said, "I don't know yet."

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated Dec 29, states: An oil spill in a fragile Alaskan wildlife sanctuary following a shipwreck three weeks ago is far worse than originally feared, an environmental official said. Up to 1.28 million litres of thick fuel oil, more than eight times the original estimate, are believed to have leaked into the Bering Sea since bulk Selendang Ayu ran aground off the Aleutian islands in treacherous weather. Since then more than 600 birds have been coated with oil while 109 others have died, said Lynda Giguere of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. "We have not been able to determine where all that oil has gone, but there are some heavily oiled beaches and marine life," Giguere said. High winds and rough waves have buffeted the area near the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge for days, complicating efforts to assess damage. Area beaches have been coated by a thick layer of oil and tar balls have been seen floating in the frigid waters, Giguere said. The Wildlife Refuge is the nesting haven for 40 million seabirds and numerous marine mammals, including the endangered Steller sea lion and western Alaska sea otter. Officials at first thought only 160,000 litres of fuel oil escaped from the freighters hull. They now believe that fuel oil from two other tanks on board the ship have now spilled. Efforts to siphon out the remaining fuel and to limit the damage have been hampered by bad weather in the area, Giguere said.

#### **SHUN KAI NO.1 (China)**

See Tasman Sea.

#### **SIBOELF (Norway (Int. Register))**

London, Dec 24 — Bulk/oil Siboeff (41189 gt, built 1993) which was

anchored in the River Scheldt in the Put van Terneuzen, dragged its anchor and drifted aground with its bow last night. The vessel was discharging part of its cargo of iron ore to enable it to go through the Terneuzen locks, bound for Sidmar in Zelzate on the Ghent-Terneuzen Canal for further discharging. Alongside were two floating cranes and several barges to lighten the vessel. Due to the strong winds the vessels started drifting. This morning on the incoming tide about 0600, local time, six local tugs — Multratug 5, Multratug 9, Multratug 12, Drado, Zelzate and Braakman — managed to refloat the vessel and returned it to its original anchorage in the Put van Terneuzen. There has been no damage reported to the vessel and there has been no mention of pollution to the environment.

Zeebrugge, Dec 25 — Bulk/oil Siboeff arrived Ghent 1455, local time, Dec 24. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **SKANDIA**

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A recovery tug last night located upside-down 98-foot yacht Skandia which was abandoned by its crew on Tuesday (Dec 28) and left drifting unmanned in the Tasman Sea. Skipper Grant Wharington was confident his prized, but uninsured, \$4-million possession would be recovered. The tug located the yacht at 1945 hrs after an extensive search. "It's a big relief," Wharington said. "We were on location for 90 minutes doing a search pattern before we found the yacht because the EPIRB had broken off and was eight miles away. The yacht was semi-submerged but had not been pushed very far by the wind." Wharington has given himself the task of having the yacht recovered, repaired and shipshape in time for the Skandia Geelong Week regatta in Victoria later this month. It will cost him between \$400,000 and \$500,000 to recover and repair the yacht, which was expected to be tied to the tug overnight. "The guys will have a line on it as soon as they arrive and hold it overnight with divers going down tomorrow," Wharington said. Since the yacht was flipped upside, the recovery will involve an airbag placed around the mast by divers to float it to the surface. The yacht will be towed to Lady Barron on Flinders Island where Wharington will have it lifted by crane on to a barge and transported to Port Welchpool, near Wilsons Promontory, about 240 km east of Melbourne. Wharington said a new bulb and keel fin were being made.

#### **SOULA (North Korea)**

Limassol, Dec 30 — General cargo Soula is still under repair at Limassol and under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SPIRIT II (Honduras)**

Naples, Dec 28 — Product tanker Spirit II (686 gt, built 1974), which has been at Naples since Aug 24 with six crew members on board due lack of pay, broke moorings during bad weather yesterday. The crew members were rescued and the vessel re-moored. The



ports of Naples and Salerno were closed due to the bad weather yesterday but have now reopened. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **STINA (Norway (Int. Register))**

Arendal, Dec 27 — General cargo Stina arrived Arendal Dec 26 from Loch Aline. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **STOLT NTOMBI (Panama)**

Yokohama, Dec 28 — Chem.tank Stolt Ntombi (7916 gt, built 1991), Houston for Kobe, had main engine trouble 210 deg and 5.1 miles from Kihino Misaki lighthouse, Wakayama, at 0020, Dec 21. The vessel was taken in tow and anchored off Wakayama at 1620 same day. The vessel completed repairs at 0800, Dec 24. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Stolt Ntombi arrived Kobe Dec 24 and sailed Dec 26.)

#### **SUNNY JEWEL (Panama)**

Yokohama, Dec 28 — Chem.tank Sunny Jewel, Kikuma for Oita, had a fire in the cargo tanks at 2230, Dec 15. The fire was extinguished at 0100, Dec 16, but the vessel sank at 1100 same day. Fifteen of the 18 crew were rescued and three are missing. Heavy oil spillage was observed. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SUOMENLINNA II (Finland)**

Helsinki, Dec 23 — According to the press, the Finnish Maritime Administration has issued a temporary ban for passenger Suomenlinna II due to its repeated problems apparently in its steering. FMA intends to have a series of trial runs with the vessel before it returns to its route transporting passengers and maximum of two vehicles from the Helsinki Market Square to the nearby fortress of Suomenlinna. — Lloyd's Agents.

Helsinki, Dec 27 — Trial runs for the steering of passenger Suomenlinna II commenced today. The tests for the vessel's ability to approach pier will be done later on. The Finnish Maritime Administration is in charge of the testing but, in addition, representatives of the Finnish company that had designed the vessel (ILS), the Accident Investigation Board and the ferry lines are on board the Suomenlinna II during the tests. The ferry is expected to return to its service in January. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SWARAJ DEEP**

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes".

#### **SWARAJ DWEEP**

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes".

#### **TAKEKO (Panama)**

Yokohama, Dec 28 — C.c. Takeko (8957 gt, built 1999), which was departing from the X2 pier, Tokyo, came into contact with general cargo Ming Yue (3627 gt, built 1984), which was moored alongside the pier, at 1030, Dec 17, due to strong winds. No serious damage to either vessel was observed. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Ming Yue sailed Tokyo Dec 18.)

London, Dec 28 — C.c. Takeko arrived Yokohama Dec 17 from Tokyo and sailed same day for Shanghai.

#### **TASMAN SEA (Malta)**

London, Dec 28 — A press report, dated Dec 27, states: A Maltese shipping company and its British insurer have been required to pay compensation of about yuan 17 million (US\$2.1 million) to thousands of fishermen in North China's Tianjin Municipality and Hebei Province, a local newspaper in Tianjin reported. The Tianjin maritime court pronounced the verdict on Friday (Dec 24) as part of the result of a series of lawsuits over an oil spill that occurred after crude oil tanker Tasman Sea and a Chinese vessel (vessel Shun Kai No.1) collided in the Bohai Sea near Tianjin in November, 2002. The cases were filed in 2002 by the Tianjin oceanic bureau, the Tianjin fishing supervision and management office, three fishermen's associations including one from Luannan County, North China's Hebei Province, and two from Tianjin's Tanggu District, as well as fishermen from Tianjin's Hangu region. The compensation demanded by the plaintiffs totals yuan 170 million (US\$20.5 million), according to an earlier report by the China Environment News. According to the Tianjin newspaper Metro Express, verdicts in lawsuits filed by the two Tianjin government bodies, who claim the spill caused damage to the ocean ecology and fishing resources, will come out soon. Jiang Jingye, an attorney for the Dagu and Beitang fishermen's associations from Tianjin's Tanggu District, said the compensation to his clients was only yuan 1.7 million (US\$205,000), which was far less than the original demand of more than yuan 8 million (US\$967,000). However, he said that whether or not his clients would appeal to the court remained unknown. He added that only after both the plaintiffs and the defendants show no objection to the verdict can the fishermen receive the compensation. According to the China Environment News report, the Tianjin oceanic bureau's compensation claim is the first one in China made for the ocean environment. The bureau asked for more than yuan 94 million (US\$11.3 million) from the defendants, the report said. The report said a local monitoring centre had said the oil spill caused great damage to the maritime environment there. However, Liu Zuoming, attorney for Infinity Shipping Company Ltd, the owners of Tasman Sea, was quoted as saying that although the company did not object to paying compensation, the amount must be calculated correctly. He told China Environment News that according to a report prepared by experts from the Ocean University of China, the damages were not as severe as described by the plaintiffs.

#### **TE MARU (New Zealand)**

London, Dec 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Squid jigger Maan Shyang involved in the illegal ship-

jumping incident this week at the port of Timaru has struck further problems after being temporarily detained by the Maritime Safety Authority. Maan Shyang was detained until it was checked over after contacting the rear of tug Te Maru (245 gt, built 1984) when it berthed on Tuesday (Dec 21). The contact caused a minor fuel oil spill which required Environment Canterbury to deploy absorbent and fence booms to contain the oil. The spill was estimated to be under 20 litres and was treated and cleared. Both vessels sustained minor damage, with the tug quickly being repaired and put back in service. A spokesperson for the Maritime Safety Authority said Maan Shyang was detained simply to allow a survey to be carried out to ensure the vessel was safe to return to sea.

#### **TENAGA LIMA (Malaysia)**

Yokohama, Dec 28 — Lng Tenaga Lima sailed Yokohama Dec 27 bound "out of bay." — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TIGER III (New Zealand)**

London, Dec 25 — A press report, dated Dec 24, states: Stewart Island Experience Ltd has announced that it has sold its new 23-metre catamaran, the Stewart Islander to Fullers Northland in the Bay of Islands. Fullers Northland, which operates the "Hole in the Rock Cruise," lost its vessel Tiger III last weekend (Dec 18-19) after it ran aground.

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger Tiger III, a A\$2 million tourist boat floundering on rocks at Cape Brett, has become an extra sightseeing attraction on a tour offered by its former owners. Tiger III hit rocks at Cape Brett on Dec 18. Its engines failed and it hit rocks as it was about to negotiate the Hole in the Rock near the Cape Brett lighthouse. Sixty-three people scrambled on to rocks and were ferried back to land by helicopters. Heavy swells ground the catamaran into the rocks and it has been written off. Fullers Bay of Islands chief executive Kit Nixon said Tiger V, a 23-metre catamaran bought by the company to replace Tiger III began taking tours on Tuesday (Dec 28). Tiger III was still on the rocks and was part of the popular Hole in the Rock tour. "It's still out there. It's a fact it's there and we're not trying to hide it. It's part of the tour until it's gone," Mr Nixon said. The accident had not put people off the Hole in the Rock tour. "There's lots of tours going out there, it's very busy. It went very well Tuesday, it was very successful," Mr Nixon said. The salvage of Tiger III was now in the hands of insurance companies. "It's now between the insurance companies and whichever salvage company they employ to salvage it," he said. The new boat Tiger V has been insured for A\$3 million.

#### **TRI ARDHANTO (Indonesia)**

See "Typhoon 'Songda'" under "Weather & Navigation."

#### **UNION JUPITER (Barbados)**

London, Dec 23 — General cargo Union Jupiter sailed Flushing 2150,

Dec 21, bound for Immingham, arriving 1724, Dec 22.

London, Dec 26 — General cargo Union Jupiter arrived Amsterdam Dec 25 from Sunderland.

**VENTURE SEA (Canada)**

London, Dec 29 — At 1945, UTC, Dec 27, anchor handling tug/supply Venture Sea (2235 gt, built 1998) reported heavy weather damage while on station off Sable Island. Minor injuries were sustained as a result of broken glass when several bridge windows failed. Vessel subsequently returned to Halifax under its own power.

**VIARSA I (Panama)**

See under "Miscellaneous."

**VICUNA (Chile)**

Santos, Dec 30 — Following received from sub-agents Paranagua: APPA Tanker outer pier will be interdicted from Dec 30 to Jan 3 on account of removal operations to chemical/oil carrier Vicuna. The salvage company is working hard to remove the vessel from the berth. They will cut the vessels superstructure into parts. Barge Taklift, engaged in the removal operations, will be positioned to remove the forward part of the vessel. As the barge will stay anchored near to APPA Tanker outer pier, for safety reasons, the Harbour Master has decided to interdict the outer pier while the removal operation is effected. In the meantime, all vessels will have to call at the inner pier only, restricted to the draught limit of 33 feet. — Lloyd's Agents.

**VINCENZO FLORIO (Italy)**

Palermo, Dec 29 — Ro/ro Vincenzo Florio is still in the shipyard here and is under arrest by local authorities. — Lloyd's Agents.

**YELLOW ROSE**

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro Yellow Rose (194 gt, built 1951) of Rose Shipping Lines ran aground at 2330 last night around a mile away from the Nalusuan island resort. No one was hurt in the accident. The vessel, which had 76 passengers and an undetermined number of crew left Talibon, Bohol at 2100 hrs and was to have arrived at the port of Cebu at 0030, today. Cebu Coast Guard Commander Elson Hermogino said the passengers were transferred to another Rose Shipping vessel this morning.

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro Yellow Rose of Rose Shipping Lines ran aground at 2330 hrs, yesterday night around a mile away from the Nalusuan island resort. No one was hurt in the accident. The vessel, which had 76 passengers and an undetermined number of crew left Talibon, Bohol at 2100 hrs and was to have arrived at the port of Cebu at 0030 hrs, today. Cebu provincial board member Juan Bolo, who was one of the passengers, said he would file a complaint as he said the captain had allowed an apprentice to take over at the helm,

causing the accident. Cebu Coast Guard Commander Elson Hermogino said the passengers were transferred to another Rose Shipping vessel this morning. He said their rescue vessel could not immediately be deployed as it had an engine defect.

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Coast guard boats and fishermen rescued all 76 passengers from a ferry that ran aground early today on a central Philippine island, officials said. Passenger ro/ro Yellow Rose was en route to Cebu province from nearby Bohol island when it veered off course and ran aground on a small island near its destination, Coast Guard chief Arturo Gosingan said. It was not clear what caused the steel-hulled, 184-ton ferry to stray from its route. Gosingan said investigators were trying to verify complaints from some passengers that some crewmen were drunk, adding the accident happened in good weather.



**GIBRALTAR**

London, Dec 29 — Ore Hera (7864 gt, built 1958), which arrived at Gibraltar at 1200, local time, Dec 28, was inspected by Port Surveyors and detained on deficiencies. The vessel is presently alongside at Detached Mole.

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

See "Gibraltar" under "Port State Control".



**AGIOS SPYRIDON K. (Greece)**

London, Dec 23 — A report in the Dec 23 issue of "Newsfront" states: Ro/ro Agios Spyridon K. has been listed for auction on Jan 26. Lying at Salamina, the vessel carries a reserve price of Euros 350,000.

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

Fredrikstad, Dec 30 — Cement Aukuren is still in port of Borg Harbour. Vessel is under repair at Hafslund Quay at Sarpsborg, ETS mid Jan, 2005. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**DIAGORAS (Greece)**

London, Dec 23 — A report in the Dec 23 issue of "Newsfront" states: Passenger ro/ro Diagoras has been listed for auction on Jan 12. Lying at Drapetzona, the vessel carries a reserve price of Euros 11.7 million.

**FISHING VESSELS SEIZED BY AUSTRALIA**

Fremantle, Dec 29 — Fishing Volga is still at Jervoise Bay. — Lloyd's Agents.

**GEORGIOS 2 (Greece)**

London, Dec 23 — A report in the Dec 23 issue of "Newsfront" states: Ferry Georgios 2 (1612 gt, built 1997), which was seized in early December in pursuit of a Euros 25,958.70 claim against the vessel's owners, has been listed for auction on Jan 19. Lying at Piraeus, the vessel carries a reserve price of Euros 3 million.

**KATERINA (Malta)**

See under "Pollution."

**KAVO MALEAS (Malta)**

Bucharest, Dec 30 — Bulk Kavo Maleas is still in the same position. The vessel was due to carry out repairs in view of Class re-admission to Germanischer Lloyd but these repairs have never been carried out due to the reported dispute between former owners and present owners, still not settled. The dispute is apparently due to inadequate condition of the vessel on delivery/misdescription. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MARGOT (Panama)**

Miami, Dec 23 — General cargo Margot, arrested for smuggling when it arrived in Miami in April, has been sold "free and clear." The name has been changed to MCV Express and is currently docked at 3300 N. River Drive, Miami River. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MAYA V (Uruguay)**

Fremantle, Dec 29 — Fishing Maya V is still at Jervoise Bay. — Lloyd's Agents.

**QUEEN CONSTANTINA (Cyprus)**

Limassol, Dec 23 — Passenger Queen Constantina, under arrest at Limassol, has been sold and new owners are Samarinda Navigation Co Ltd, 36 Vironos Avenue, Nicosia Tower Centre, 8th Floor, Nicosia, Cyprus. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

Venice, Dec 27 — General cargo Talavera is still at Chioggia, under arrest of the Criminal Court. At present there are no prospects for its sailing. — Lloyd's Agents.

**VINCENZO FLORIO (Italy)**

See under "Marine."

**VOLGA**

See "Fishing Vessels Seized by Australia."



**CAMISEA AREA, PERU**

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A pipeline

transporting liquid gas from the controversial Camisea project in southeastern Peru burst and spilled an unknown amount of liquid into a jungle river, officials said. The spill affected the Urubamba river some 400 kilometres east of Lima in the province of Cusco, the Ministry of Energy and Mines said in a statement. The statement did not say how much of the highly volatile liquid spilled, but did say that half of it “evaporated immediately.” The remainder reached the Urubamba river “and dispersed immediately.” The company that operates the pipeline studied the area of the spill and nearby rivers, and determined that “without having detected any effect” on the fish and animals in the region.

**COATZACOALCOS AREA, MEXICO**

London, Dec 24 — A press report, dated Dec 23, states: An oil well and a pumping station exploded and burned, injuring five, in Veracruz state on the Gulf of Mexico, state authorities said yesterday. Preliminary reports had indicated that seven people had been hurt, but the state Health Secretariat later reduced the number, adding that the five injured all had third degree burns and four of them will be transported to a Pemex hospital for treatment. The blast and fire also resulted in the spillage of 10,000 barrels of crude oil into the Coatzacoalcos River, Jose Manuel Olivarez Paez, the director of the environmental protection division of state-owned Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) Refinacion, announced. He said that the spill covered a three-kilometre area, and the crude had washed down the river all the way to the Tepeyac arroyo, some 120 kilometres from the site of the accident. So far, firefighters have been able to control but not extinguish the blaze. The cause of the explosion has not yet been determined. Damaged in the incident was the Masuniapan pumping station belonging to Mexico’s state petroleum firm, Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) in the municipality of Santiago Tuxtla. The spill occurred in Nanchital municipality shortly after Pemex closed the valves on its 30-inch pipeline used for transporting crude from Nuevo Oteapan to Poza Rica, which had been affected by the blast and fire, Olivarez Paez said. He explained that when the valves were shut off, the pressure in the pipeline built up, causing it to burst and releasing the crude. Elements from an infantry battalion based nearby were sent to the scene to assist with emergency measures. Pemex’s Exploracion division announced that a containment team had been sent to the site to prevent any further spillage of fuel into the Coatzacoalcos River. The Veracruz state government officially notified the national water and environmental protection commission (Profepa) of the accident so that a study of the resulting contamination could be carried out.

Coatzacoalcos, Dec 23 — At approximately 1030, Dec 22, an

outburst occurred in Musumiapan Pemex Pumping Station, located about 120 miles north-west of the Coatzacoalcos River. The outburst caused an overpressure on the Crude Oil pipeline in Nanchital, a river port, located in the Coatzacoalcos River, about seven miles south of the port of Coatzacoalcos, which includes Pajaritos Terminals, which resulted in a crude oil spillage of about 10,000 barrels according to the News media, part of which went into the River. At present, the spillage is under control and efforts to recover the crude oil are being carried out. However, last night crude oil was found inside Pajaritos lagoon, where Pemex, Agromex and Inophos Terminals are located, and we understand that the crude oil has reached various vessels. As of now the damage has not been quantified. — Lloyd’s Agents.

London, Dec 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Beaches and wildlife in eastern Mexico were covered with oil after an explosion in a pumping station ruptured a pipeline, dumping 5,000 barrels of crude into a river that flows into the Gulf of Mexico. Ducks, fish and water plants were covered in oil as swimming was barred at some beaches. The accident at the pumping station of the state-owned Pemex oil company occurred on Wednesday (Dec 22) in the eastern coast state of Veracruz, pouring oil into the Coatzacoalcos river. Four people were hurt in the explosion. Strong winds and the river’s current pushed oil into the gulf, 50 km from the scene of the accident. The Mexican navy has begun cleaning up the affected beaches, removing sullied sand and plants, said Lieutenant Jose Guadalupe Mendoza. Environmental protection official Manuel Molina said Pemex should assume responsibility for the cleanup and pay damages to farmers whose land was affected. It will take three months to clean up the area, Molina said, as the pipeline was scheduled to be back in service late today. Floating devices were set in the river to contain the oil. Fishers said they would sue Pemex for damages.



**COATZACOALCOS RIVER, MEXICO**

See “Coatzacoalcos Area, Mexico” under “Pipeline Accidents.”

**DELAWARE RIVER, UNITED STATES**

See Athos I under “Marine.”

**HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL, UNITED STATES**

See Ievoli Splendor under “Marine.”

**KATERINA (Malta)**

London, Dec 25 — A press report, dated Dec 24, states: Thirteen Filipino sailors stranded since the Coast Guard

seized bulk Katerina in September got temporary US work permits and received thousands of dollars in longshoremen donations, donated housing and even a Christmas tree. The homesick seafarers, who are cooperating with federal prosecutors in a case against their employer, got work permits yesterday that allow them to earn income and send money back to families in the Philippines during their detention. They are living in a donated house in the Los Angeles suburb of Carson. Federal authorities want them to stay in the country so they can testify in a trial against the Greek firm DST Shipping Co. “It was tough over the last 12 hours,” said Kathleen Hollingsworth, district director for US Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, a Republican who represents part of Long Beach. “But what else are we going to do? That’s what we’re here for.” Hollingsworth met with the seamen earlier this month and intervened with US immigration officials this week to secure the work permits. International Longshore and Warehouse Union Locals 13 and 63 and other unions presented \$8,000 in donations to the men. The union said \$5,000 of that was wired to the seamen’s families in the Philippines. “In good trade union fashion, members have been putting in \$50, \$100 for their fellow maritime workers,” said Jeff Engles, West Coast director for the International Transport Workers’ Federation. The men have been taken in by local churches and their families for the Christmas weekend. The Coast Guard impounded the Katerina, at the Port of Long Beach on Sep 14 after authorities who boarded the 16,320-ton cargo vessel said they discovered the oil sludge filter had been disconnected, the toilets were broken and the crew was being deprived of food and water. Trial was scheduled for Jan 18 but the vessel owner requested a delay until February, Hollingsworth said.

**UNALASKA ISLAND, ALASKA, UNITED STATES**

See Selendang Ayu under “Marine.”

**URUBAMBA RIVER, PERU**

See “Camisea Area, Peru” under “Pipeline Accidents”.



**CANADA**

London, Dec 28 — A press report, dated Dec 27, states: North-easterly winds, gusting up to 100 kilometres an hour caused white-outs, trapped people in their homes, and shut down shopping centres in Atlantic Canada today. The storm was a sudden shift in the region’s weather. Mild temperatures and trace amounts of snow marked December for the majority of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and parts of southern New

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Brunswick. However, Atlantic Canadians woke today to find blizzards depositing between 20 and 40 centimetres of snow, and winds piling up metre-high snowbanks. The gusts made roads hazardous and created nasty wind chill factors for the few pedestrians. "We're looking at bitterly cold wind chills, between -25 to -30 degrees," said Mike Campbell, a meteorologist with Environment Canada. Environment Canada also issued an afternoon warning for a storm surge that was expected to cause sea levels to rise about 1.5 metres higher than normal during high tide along the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Minor flooding was predicted for areas along the north shores of PEI, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Power outages were scattered through rural areas, and repairs were difficult due to the powerful winds. Forecasters predicted the wind and snowfall would peak by the evening and then decrease to flurries by nightfall. The driving wind closed the Confederation Bridge between New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island to large trucks, and Marine Atlantic reported delays in ferry travel between Cape Breton and Newfoundland. Most Air Canada, Jazz and Continental flights out of Halifax International Airport were cancelled throughout today while the Charlottetown Airport closed by mid-afternoon. Holiday travellers were urged to call the airport to verify if their flights were leaving at scheduled times in the afternoon and evening. The western half of Newfoundland was expecting blizzard conditions in the afternoon, but as the storm moved east to St. John's, NB, the snow was expected to change to rain and freezing rain.

#### FINLAND

London, Dec 24 — A press report, dated Dec 23, states: Tens of thousands of people in Finland face a cold and dark Christmas after severe storms left much of the country without power. Power lines were cut and roofs blew off homes as southern and western Finland were hit by 100km/h winds. Waves up to 14m high forced ports to close, and three people died when high winds blew traffic off the road. At least 20,000 people remained without power today, with some reports claiming up to 40,000 homes were affected. The storm disrupted travel on the Finland-Russia border, where Christmas holidaymakers were forced to queue for up to 30km to reach their destinations. High water flooded Market Square in the Finnish capital, Helsinki, yesterday evening, Finnish newspaper Helsingin Sanomat reported. Weather forecasters predicted that more heavy weather would arrive in Finland and hit the south-western coast this evening. Weather throughout tomorrow was expected to remain "extremely bad", forecasters said.

#### GOLDEN RAY II (Liberia)

See "South East Asia" under "Weather & Navigation".

#### IRAN

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Twenty people have died as a result of floods and heavy rain in Iran's southern provinces of Hormozgan and Sistan-Balouchistan, state television reported today. Four people were found dead in the town of Iranshahr and another 10 were corpses were found in the city of Sarbaz, both in the south-eastern province of Sistan-Balouchistan, after the rivers overflowed due to heavy rains. Another 6 people were also found dead in the southern province of Hormozgan. Five of them were killed after the bridge they were crossing was demolished by floods. The region has been inundated with rain since Saturday (Dec 25).

#### ITALY

London, Dec 30 — The port of Gela in Sicily has been closed following damage caused by bad weather, leaving oil firm Eni with no way to receive or ship oil refined at its nearby 100,000 barrel-per-day refinery. "The port is completely destroyed," Domenico Morello, commander of the Gela port authority, said. The dykes of the port were wiped out by waves, he said, rendering it "unusable". The port was closed three days ago after protective walls were smashed by high waves, forcing all dykes to be evacuated and vessels to re-anchor outside the port, Italian news service Ansa reported on Sunday (Dec 26). The port was closed for four days last month after the Sicilian coast was pummelled by force eight and nine gales, washing away concrete blocks on which the docking platform rests three kilometres out at sea. Most of the oil processed at Gela comes from Eni fields off the coast of Sicily. The refinery produces gasoline as well as heating oil and products for use at a nearby chemicals plant.

#### TROPICAL CYCLONE "CHAMBO"

London, Dec 25 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone "Chambo" near lat 12.9S, long 81.9 at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 225 degrees at eight knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 15 nautical miles all quadrants. Forecast position lat 14.2S, long 80.5E at 1800, today. Maximum sustained winds 80 knots, gusts 100 knots. Forecast position lat 15.4S, long 79.1E at 0600, UTC, Dec 26. Maximum sustained winds 80 knots, gusts 100 knots.

London, Dec 27 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Chambo" was located near lat 17.9S, long 78.5E, approximately 725 nautical miles south-south-east of Diego Garcia, and has tracked south-westward, or 215 degrees, at six knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the eye fixed by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 95 knots, gusts 115

knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 30 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 25 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 33 feet. At 0600, UTC, Dec 28, the centre is predicted to be near lat 20.4S, long 76.2E, with maximum sustained winds 90 knots and gusts to 110 knots. During the next 48 hours, "Chambo" will remain on a general southwest track as it continues to move poleward. Thereafter, the system is expected to drift westward and track into a slightly weaker steering environment. The intensity will slowly decrease due to increased vertical wind shear from the midlatitude westerlies.

London, Dec 28 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Chambo" was located near lat 19.3S, long 75.3E. Movement past six hours 255 deg at 11 knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over water.

#### TYPHOON "SONGDA"

Moji, Dec 24 — General cargo Tri Ardhianto: The wreck removal work was completed on Dec 22. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

London, Dec 29 — Ruwais port was closed for berthing at 1200, local time, Dec 25 and reopened for berthing at 2045, Dec 25. Ruwais port/ Jebel Dhanna port were closed for sailing at 1350, local time, Dec 25 and reopened for sailing at 1900, local time, Dec 25. Ruwais port closed for unberthing at 2135, local time, Dec 26 and reopened for unberthing at 0100, local time, Dec 27.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Dec 28 — A press report, dated Dec 27, states: A storm that dumped freezing rain and as much as 18 inches of snow on the US East Coast snarled post-holiday travel today, stranding hundreds of drivers on slick roads and reducing Boston's Logan Airport to a single, major runway. Tens of thousands of customers were left without power and at least three traffic deaths were blamed on the weather, one in Massachusetts and two in North Carolina. The powerful storm had skimmed the East Coast on a north-easterly track starting yesterday, spreading ice and more than nine inches of snow in North Carolina and 14 inches in Virginia, then striking New York City before dropping 18 inches of snow on Massachusetts' Cape Cod. Dozens of flights in Boston were delayed or cancelled, but the runways were back in full operation by mid-morning, airport spokesman Phil Orlandella said. Several Cape Cod towns opened temporary shelters after thousands of people lost power. In all, about 22,000 homes and businesses in Massachusetts were blacked out, but

service was restored to most of them by mid-morning, NStar spokesman John Milton said. The storm's combination of wind, freezing rain and snow snapped tree limbs and power lines yesterday in the Carolinas. About 2,100 customers were still without electricity today in North Carolina, down from a peak of 14,000. More than 16,000 homes and businesses were blacked out yesterday in South Carolina, but that number was down to less than 5,000 this morning. Traffic resumed early today on Interstate 95 in eastern North Carolina after hundreds of travellers spent the night in hotel lobbies and shelters. Some sections of I-95 remained covered with ice and crews elsewhere in North Carolina were still working to clear secondary roads, the state Transportation Department said.

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated Dec 28, states: A powerful storm battered Southern California today with wind up to 60 mph and a threat of up to a foot of rain, causing power outages and highway-blocking mudslides. Meteorologists predicted unstable, wet weather through next week. Residents were ordered to evacuate about 50 homes in one section of the San Bernardino County town of Devore, 60 miles east of Los Angeles. The storm had rolled ashore yesterday in Northern California, and police said it may have contributed to the death of a young man who apparently tried to surf in 10-to-12-foot waves. Highway flooding caused traffic accidents today in Ventura and Los Angeles counties. Rockslides and mudslides littered many canyon roads. Southern California Edison said about 10,000 customers complained of lasting power outages during the morning. "The coastal communities within five miles of the coast are taking quite a pounding," utility spokesman Marlon Walker said. Up to eight inches of rain had fallen by dawn today in Ventura County, and meteorologists said up to 12 inches of rain was possible in the mountains above Santa Barbara. Ten inches of rain was predicted in the mountains and foothills surrounding the Los Angeles Basin. As much as a foot of snow had fallen in the San Bernardino Mountains east of Los Angeles. Farther north, two to four feet of snow was possible at higher elevations of the eastern Sierra Nevada and the Lake Tahoe area.

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful storm battered the West for a third straight day yesterday, forcing dozens of people from their homes, sending recreational vehicles floating down a flooded creek in Arizona and turning Southern California freeways into a virtual demolition derby. The storm spawned a tornado in Southern California and left 140,000 customers without power in the area while making for treacherous driving conditions. The California Highway Patrol logged 220 crashes between Tuesday night (Dec 28) and Wednesday morning, more than three times the normal amount. Authorities also reported hundreds of crashes around Las Vegas, and firefighters

rescued several stranded motorists. The storm dropped 1.58 inches of rain; Las Vegas normally receives 4.43 inches a year. No property damage or serious injuries were reported. Several neighbourhoods were evacuated because of flooding in low-lying areas of Sedona, where Oak Creek rose about 12 feet to about a foot above flood stage. The storm dumped up to two inches of rain there within a few hours early yesterday. Later, as showers decreased, the creek receded to 9 feet and Sedona authorities said the threat of further evacuations had diminished. Some homes had minor flooding and people were stranded in water-logged vehicles in Sedona, large RVs were seen floating down Oak Creek southwest of Sedona. The rain also caused rock slides, authorities said. Sedona fire officials initially said 300 residents were being evacuated, but later yesterday said they were unsure on the number. Sixty miles away in Prescott, authorities searched for two missing college students after their canoe capsized in a flooded creek, said Susan Hampton, a spokeswoman for the city. The California tornado struck two Los Angeles suburbs after midnight, ripping the roof off a house, snapping trees and damaging cars, but causing no injuries. Storm-related deaths since Monday mounted to five in California, and several highways were closed because of flooding and mudslides, officials said. High wind in San Diego County snapped off the top 200 feet of the KSON radio tower in National City. By early yesterday, downtown Los Angeles had logged 6.37 inches of rain since late Sunday. Tuesday's total alone was 5.55 inches, the city's rainiest December day since record-keeping started in 1877. On Monday, San Francisco was hit by more than 3 inches of rain and suburban Marin County got more than 7 inches. In Utah, 19 inches of snow fell at the Brian Head Resort, but skiers couldn't take advantage of it because 70 mph wind prevented the resort from starting its chair lifts. In Colorado, several people were injured and parts of three highways were closed yesterday as the storm moved in. Interstate 70 was closed in two places due to accidents, but was reopened by early yesterday evening.



#### **LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI (India)**

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes".

#### **MACQUARIE ISLANDS, AUSTRALIA**

London, Dec 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An extremely powerful earthquake struck the ocean floor between Australia and Antarctica early today, causing buildings to shake hundreds of miles away on the island of

Tasmania, authorities said. There were no reports of damage or injuries. The magnitude 8.1 quake hit 305 miles north of Macquarie Island just before 0200 hrs, according to the United States Geological Survey's Web site. The earthquake was felt throughout Australia's southern island state of Tasmania, said Cvetan Sinadinovski of Geoscience Australia. Buildings in parts of the state rattled for up to 15 seconds, but no one was injured and structures were in no danger of collapsing, he said.

#### **MAJOR DHAN SINGH THAPA PVC (India)**

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes".

#### **SENTINEL (India)**

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes".

#### **SOUTH-EAST ASIA**

Chennai, Dec 26 — At 0645, local time, today, an earthquake of minor intensity hit the Chennai City. Around 0900 tsunami waves hit the shores of Chennai and surroundings. An estimated 1,400 people, including 1,000 in Tamil Nadu alone, were feared killed and hundreds more were missing when high tsunami tidal waves lashed homes along the coast in south-eastern India after a massive earthquake hit the Sumatra Island in Indonesia this morning. The casualties are more in Nagapatinam and Cuddalore. Tamil Nadu bore the brunt of the attack while neighbouring Andhra Pradesh also reported about 200 deaths mostly in Guntur, Prakasam and Krishna districts. In Pondicherry about 100 people lost their lives. Andaman and Nicobar Islands, whose Car Nicobar Islands are just 115 nautical miles from Sumatra, the epicentre of the quake measuring 8.9 on the Richter scale, were also hit by the tidal waves that claimed 20 lives and damaged property including the airport in Car Nicobar. Campbell Bay, just about 25 nautical miles off the Indonesian coast, suffered extensive damage. In the southern tip, Kerala accounted for a toll of 29 people while one person lost his life in West Bengal. The Chennai Port was cordoned off. Understand that three vessels inside the port were damaged. Extent of damage not known. — Lloyd's Agents.

Colombo, Dec 26 — One of the most powerful earthquakes in history hit southern Asia today, unleashing a tsunami on Sri Lanka and India and swamping tourist isles in Thailand and the Maldives to kill more than 7,100 people. The tsunami, up to 30 ft high, caused death, chaos and devastation across southern Asia. It was triggered by an 8.9 magnitude underwater earthquake off the Indonesian island of Sumatra. "This is one of the largest earthquakes ever on record," Peter Rees, of the International Federation of the Red Cross in Geneva, said, adding: "The situation in Sri Lanka ... is extremely serious." Emergency services were stretched throughout the region. Some areas were totally unprepared. In

Sri Lanka, where the death toll was nearly 2,500, corpses floated in floodwaters, while thousands fled their homes and cars floated out to sea. Idyllic beaches were turned into fields of debris and destruction. The worst-hit area appeared to be the tourist region of the south and east where beach hotels were inundated or swept away. In Indonesia, where 2,437 people were listed as killed, raging waters dragged villagers out to sea. An updated Indonesian death toll brought the total killed in southern Asia to 7,125. Relatives gathered around bodies in the south of India, where the death toll was more than 1,870. Beaches were littered with submerged cars and wrecked boats. Shanties on the coast of Chennai, where 100 died, were under water. "Nothing like this has ever happened in our country before," said Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra of Thailand where the death toll was 257. The earthquake of magnitude 8.9 as measured by the US Geological Survey struck at 0759 hrs off Sumatera and swung north with multiple tremors into the Andaman islands. Sri Lanka appealed to the world for aid, saying that one million people, or 5% of its population, were affected. "I think this is the worst-ever natural disaster in Sri Lanka," said N.D. Hettiarachchi, director of the National Disaster Management Centre. India feared a devastating toll along its south-eastern coast. In the state of Tamil Nadu alone, a government official said at least 1,625 had been killed. Rescuers were searching for hundreds of missing fishermen and thousands were homeless. Television footage showed bodies being thrown into trucks in Chennai, capital of Tamil Nadu state. Hundreds fled to higher ground. People carried bodies in hessian sacks to hospitals where dozens of dead already lined the corridors. In Andhra Pradesh, about 400 fishermen were feared missing and 200 Hindu devotees who had gone to the beach for a holy dip in the morning were feared dead. Almost 500 tourists were stranded on a rock in the sea off India's southernmost tip, witnesses said. Two-thirds of the Maldives capital, Male, was flooded and the international airport, itself lying just a few feet above sea level on an island of its own, was unusable. In popular holiday islands off southern Thailand, emergency workers rescued about 70 Thai and foreign divers from the Emerald Cave and several dozen were found and evacuated from around other islands, officials said. Two Thais were killed at the cave. Officials said more than 600 tourists and residents were being evacuated by air and sea from the island of Ko Phi Phi. The Thai government ordered the evacuation of stricken coastal areas, which included popular beach resorts on the islands of Phuket and Krabi. Thousands were injured in Thailand. In Indonesia, the worst affected area was Banda Aceh, the capital of Aceh province, where 1,400 people had been killed. More than 200 prisoners escaped from a jail when the tsunami knocked down its walls. The earthquake was the world's

biggest since 1964, said Julie Martinez, geophysicist at the U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colorado. — Reuters.

Chennai, Dec 27 — A local press report, dated Dec 26, states: "The lines showing the height of the tides on the graph just went out of the paper," said K. Suresh, Chairman of the Chennai Port Trust, about the tsunami that damaged at least four ships and equipment worth several crores in the harbour today. Estimating the loss due to the huge sea waves, which took away at least six empty containers and brought in tonnes of sediments that might hamper vessel navigation, at Rs.10 crores, he said the graph sheet could accommodate up to three metres, whereas the tides rose over five. The height of the tide at the port under normal circumstances is between one and 1.5 metres. Though the Chennai Port Trust administration said five employees sustained injuries that too because they fell while running to safety, sources in the Coast Guard said one person working on a merchant ship was killed. The tsunami resulted in many parts of the port getting inundated, including the wharf on which cars meant for exports were parked and its privatised container terminal. The rising water level inside the harbour and the repeated bouts of the high tides led to some of the ships rocking violently. The sparking point for the havoc was the snapping of the mooring ropes holding unknown ABG Kesava, a vessel undergoing repairs, which drifted for 200 metres. It reached the inner harbour where a few more vessels were also floating after their moorings came off. There the vessels smashed against one another. One of them hit down two hoppers, which had been created to facilitate unloading sugar, making them crumble down. The vessel also hit the wharf cranes and caused damage to them. Apart from resulting in a loss of 1,500 tonnes of bulk raw sugar cargo, the near pile-up of the vessels saw a gaping hole, measuring a few metres, inflicted on bulk Gem of Tuticorin on its sides. The port officials, who accompanied Mr. Suresh and K. Elangovan, Deputy Chairman, on an inspection, said other vessels that suffered damage included vehicle Golden Ray II (47343 gt, built 1985), with about 750 cars on-board, and general cargo Canadian Express, a ship fully-laden with granite stones. Twelve cars parked on the wharf collided, while a fishing trawler seized by Customs department and berthed in West Quay sunk. A vessel unloading high-speed diesel hit the wharf and destroyed the Dolphin mooring. The marine loading arm at Bharati Dock III was also destroyed. The passenger vessel Swarajdeep, was safe at the port, but would not sail tomorrow. Noting that the port operations were suspended immediately, Mr. Suresh said the emphasis was on sailing out all the ships as there were 18 vessels this morning - to the outer harbour, where there would be little impact on them. While the Rs. 10-crore damage was based on initial estimates, the

exact loss would be known only after a hydro geological survey is conducted to assess the draft. The port would also need to clear the obstructions to make navigation for the vessels safe. The fact that the vessels were able to sail out showed that the entry channels were not affected, said Mr. Elangovan. The port would soon chalk out an action plan, he said normality in the operations would be restored in two days, if there were no more tsunami. — Lloyd's Agents.

Mumbai, Dec 27 — Chennai Port has been seriously affected by the tidal waves that lashed the east coast this morning, with some damage to port installations in Tuticorin and Port Blair as well. Operations at Chennai Port have been suspended for the next two days, as the port trust authorities assess damage to installations. The Surface Transport Ministry has set up a special team to monitor the situation in the affected ports, according to Mr. D.T. Joseph, Secretary of the Surface Transport Ministry. The Director General of Shipping is also monitoring the movement of vessels in the Bay of Bengal. According to Chennai Port Trust chairman, Mr. K. Suresh, three vessels were involved in a collision, a quay crane was damaged and water inundated the wharf, the bay area, the quarters and a hospital. Some Hyundai cars intended for export were damaged. The area has been heavily silted, he said. The three vessels involved in the collision were vessel ABG Keshav, general cargo Canadian Express (12963 gt, built 1986) and bulk Gem of Tuticorin (23635 gt, built 1985). Efforts were under way to separate them, Mr Suresh said. The vessels broke their moorings after two tidal waves hit the area, one at 0900 hrs and another at 1100 hrs. The vessels collided and one of them also hit the West Quay berth at Ambedkar Docks and damaged a quay crane, he said. While the damage is being assessed, initial estimates fix the losses at about rupees 100 million, according to Mr Suresh. Port operations have been suspended for about 40 hours, as more ripples are expected. The authorities have also decided to let vessels move out into open seas. According to them, five or six vessels have moved out and 12 more are in the port and will leave as soon as possible. According to a Hyundai Official, the damage to the cars meant for export was minimal. They had started the process of loading over 1,000 cars onto a vessel when the port was hit by the tidal wave. The vessel had to de-berth. Though 10-12 cars' fenders were damaged when they bumped against each other, the rest only got soaked. Company officials were double-checking them to make sure there was no damage, he said. Capt N.M. Saggi, Nautical Adviser to the Government of India, is monitoring the situation across the country. The worst affected is Chennai Port, where a "minor" oil spill from a tanker has been reported. Five loaded containers on board a Shipping Corporation of India vessel were lost, while a dry bulk cargo carrier belonging to Great Eastern

Shipping Company has also been damaged. Passenger ro/ro Akbar (8279 gt, built 1971) was damaged at Port Blair, but there were no passengers on board. According to Capt. Saggi some port installations at Tuticorin have been damaged, while a vessel loaded with coal lost its moorings. — Lloyd's Agents.

Kolkata, Dec 27 — There was an earthquake in India during the early hours of Dec 26. Due to the earthquake, there were extensive damages in Tamilnadu, Andamans, Kerala, Pandichery and Andhra Pradesh. No casualties were reported in Kolkata and in West Bengal. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bangkok, Dec 27 — Three tidal waves stated to be about five to eight metres high lashed the southern Thailand provinces of Phuket, Phangnga, Krabi, Trang, Satun and Ranong, on Dec 26. According to newspaper reports, as at 2200 hrs, last night, some 289 people had been killed and 3,675 injured. The death toll was mounting as bodies were washed ashore. The waves flattened small buildings on the seashore. Phuket has been declared an emergency area. It was stated that three huge waves struck Phuket island and beach front vendors and tourists on the beaches were sucked into the sea. The Sarasin bridge linking the Phuket Island to the mainland was damaged and closed to traffic. Boats were swept onto the beaches. Theft and looting were also reported as home and shop-owners fled to higher ground. — Lloyd's Agents.

Chennai, Dec 27 — The Tsunami hit at Chennai and surrounding areas on Dec 26. There was no casualty in Ennore Port and the condition is normal there. — Lloyd's Agents.

Cochin, Dec 27 — Due to the tsunami's attack on the east coast of India, Tuticorin port is temporarily closed from Dec 26 until Dec 28. No damage to port installations observed, except for security wall at some places. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Dec 27 — A press report, dated Dec 26, states: The sea surges produced by the earthquake off Indonesia have swept 6,000 kms to hit east Africa and islands off its coast. Waves struck Kenya and Somalia after hitting Mauritius, Reunion and the Seychelles on the way. A number of people were reported drowned on the African coast and nine were missing in the Seychelles. Thousands of tourists and fishermen were urged to flee beaches before the storm waves hit. About 10,000 tourists were evacuated from the Kenyan port of Mombasa. A Kenyan was reported drowned in the nearby town of Malindi, where dozens of fishing boats were damaged. Kenyan Environment Minister Kalonzo Musyoka said: "We have put our navy on top alert." Officials in Somalia reported another 16 people killed, nine in Kabaal in the north-east and seven in Elmaan, north of the capital Mogadishu. But the deaths could not be independently confirmed. Seychelles President James Michel addressed the nation on television, saying: "I am asking people to remain calm and help

those in need." A two-metre surge flooded low-lying areas and disrupted power supplies. Tourists in Mauritius were cleared from beaches, but although Cap Malheureux beach in the north was submerged for almost three hours, no casualties were reported. About 15 fishing boats were damaged in the French territory of Reunion. The British government warned its citizens in Madagascar, Mauritius, the Seychelles, Kenya and Tanzania to be alert for potential danger from the sea surges.

Colombo, Dec 27 — Rescuers today scoured land and sea for survivors in Asia and fears of disease grew as emergency services struggled with rotting bodies from a devastating tsunami that killed more than 23,200 people. Waves that crashed into coastal villages and tourist resorts yesterday destroyed all in their path as they surged inland. Western tourists were killed sunbathing on beaches, poor people drowned in their homes, fishermen died in flimsy boats. The 21-year-old grandson of Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej was killed on a jet-ski. "We have a long way to go in collecting bodies," said Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who expected the 866 death toll in his country to go much higher. One Thai official estimated up to 30% of the dead were foreigners. Hundreds were buried in mass graves in India today while hospitals and morgues in Sri Lanka and Indonesia struggled to cope with the dead and injured. Jan Egeland, head of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said the world body faced its biggest relief task. Recovery would cost "many billions of dollars". Sri Lanka was hardest hit by the tsunami — a wall of water triggered by the world's biggest earthquake in 40 years with a magnitude of 9.0 that erupted off the northern Indonesian coast. The death toll in Sri Lanka nearly doubled today to 10,200 with 200 foreign tourists feared dead. The final toll could be much higher, even double, officials said. Among areas badly affected were southern India, where more than 7,100 were listed dead, northern Indonesia with nearly 5,000 drowned and Thailand's southern tourist isles and beaches. With at least seven Asian nations and one in East Africa counting the human and economic cost of the tragedy, Western nations pledged aid and geologists asked why warning systems that could have saved thousands of lives were not in place. Struggling with destroyed communications, power outages and swamped and debris-strewn roads, emergency workers were shocked by the sheer scale of the catastrophe. "We are used to dealing with disasters in one country. But I think something like this spread across many countries and islands is unprecedented," Yvette Stevens, a UN emergency relief official, said in Geneva. The earthquake triggered a tsunami of up to 10 metres high, sometimes travelling as fast as an airliner, flattening houses, hurling fishing boats onto roads, sending cars

spinning through swirling waters into hotel lobbies and sucking sunbathers, babies and fishermen out to sea. In Sri Lanka alone, 1.5 million people were homeless and authorities in other countries said vast numbers of people had been displaced and had to search for shelter. Deaths were reported in Bangladesh, Malaysia, the Maldives, Myanmar and Somalia where 38 people were killed by swollen seas. Smaller tremors followed yesterday's earthquake, the world's biggest since 1964 and the fourth-largest since 1900. Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla said the death toll could reach 10,000 in Aceh province alone. As night fell, dozens of bodies were still scattered on streets along with masses of debris — mud, mangled trucks and cars and the wreckage of houses — swept up to five miles inland. Leaders of the armed separatist Free Aceh Movement, fighting for independence for the oil- and gas-rich western province since 1976, declared a unilateral cease-fire, saying it did not want to add to chaos and confusion Typhoid, diarrhoea and hepatitis epidemics now pose the gravest threat to survivors, international relief agencies said. Police said at least 3,000 had died and a similar number were missing in the low-lying Andaman and Nicobar islands close to the quake's epicentre off Sumatra. Coast guard crews reported flying over hundreds of bodies off India's east coast. In Sri Lanka, homeless people fearing another wave sheltered in temples, schools and on high ground. Among those killed in Sri Lanka were nine Japanese tourists who were watching elephants in a park when the tsunami hit. "The scale of the tragedy is massive. This is a grave tragedy which we have not been prepared for," Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga said. Thailand evacuated injured survivors from its southern beaches. Britons, Danes, Swedes, Swiss, Australians, Italians and at least one New Zealander and an American were among the dead on Phuket, where at least 130 people were killed. On Phuket's Patong beach, hotels and restaurants were wrecked and speed boats rammed into buildings. Many foreign tourists, some evacuated in bathing costumes, were left destitute, possessions and passports lost to the sea. French hotel group Accor said it had no news so far of about 500 tourists and staff at its Sofitel hotel on Khao Lak beach in southern Thailand. World Bank President James Wolfensohn said he was offering assistance to governments in grappling with reconstruction. "We are only beginning to grasp the magnitude of the disaster in terms of loss of life, material damage and economic impact across the region," he said in a statement. — Reuters.

Karachi, Dec 28 — General cargo Jaami (9648 gt, built 1979) was capsized by Sunday's (Dec 26) tsunami at Colombo outer anchorage. The vessel's 22 crew were unharmed. According to media reports, the vessel sailed Chittagong on Dec 21 and called

at Colombo en route for the US and a few European countries to discharge ready-made garments, jute goods, handicrafts and other commodities. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Salalah, Dec 27 — C.c. Maersk Mandraki (52191 gt, built 1988) had all its mooring lines part while alongside at container berth inside Salalah harbour due sudden tidal wave at 1345, local time, Dec 26. The vessel drifted inside the harbour and grounded. About 1740 same day, when there was a rise in the tide, the vessel refloated with tug assistance and was shifted to anchorage. Damage will be assessed by engaging divers. — Lloyd's Agents.

Colombo, Dec 28 — Nations on the Indian Ocean from Indonesia to Sri Lanka searched among the wreckage of a devastating tsunami for bodies to bury today as fears grew the toll would far exceed the 29,000 now reported killed. Two days after the biggest earthquake in 40 years struck the seabed off Indonesia's Sumatra island, triggering waves up to 33 feet high, officials found more death the further they ventured into outlying areas. It was feared the final toll could rise above 55,000. The United Nations said hundreds of relief aircraft packed with emergency goods would arrive in the region from about two dozen countries within the next 48 hours. Searchers in Thailand retrieved 770 bodies, both foreign tourists and Thais, along the Khao Lak beach north of Phuket resort island, a disaster official said. Bodies littered the streets in northern Indonesia, closest to the epicentre. About 1,000 people lay where they were killed when a tsunami struck as they watched a sports event. "The cost of the devastation will be in the billions of dollars," said Jan Egeland, head of the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Sri Lanka appeared to have been the worst hit with more than 12,200 dead. India reported almost 9,500 killed and Indonesia 5,700. Almost 1,500 people are now known to have died in Thailand, many hundreds of them foreign tourists. Dozens perished in Malaysia, Myanmar and the Maldives and in far-away Somalia, 3,600 miles to the west of the epicentre, 38 people were killed. At least 10 people were killed in Tanzania. The death toll was expected to rise. Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kalla said the toll in his country could reach 25,000. Sri Lankan officials said 20,000 people might be dead there, and Thai officials expected their toll to reach 2,000. Indian police said 3,000 people were confirmed dead and 2,000 believed dead in the Andaman and Nicobar island chain, bordering Indonesia and Myanmar. A series of moderate aftershocks have hit the islands. No word has been heard from several of the islands which were home to thousands, including Great Nicobar. Among the dead foreigners were at least 13 Norwegians, 12 Britons, 11 Italians, 10 Swedes, nine Japanese and eight Americans. Unconfirmed reports said hundreds of foreign tourists had been killed in resorts in Sri Lanka and

Thailand. In Sri Lanka about 1.5 million people — or 7.5% of the population — were homeless, many sheltering in Buddhist temples and schools. Throughout the region, people fearing another wave sheltered in public buildings, schools and on high ground. There was a shortage of clean water and provisions. Those not searching for survivors hastened to bury the dead. Survivors faced their greatest danger in coming days with the risk putrefying bodies would contaminate drinking water and spread infection. The United Nations would provide emergency aid to 500,000 people in Indonesia's Aceh province, a UN official said. UN aid workers got the go-ahead from the government to move staff into the province of about four million people on the northern tip of Sumatra. — Reuters.

Colombo, Dec 28 — Following the tsunami impact general cargo Jaami struck the breakwater at the entrance to Colombo port pm, Dec 26. The vessel was towed to outer anchorage with the assistance of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority tugs and is listing. The salvage company Master Divers are standing by for any assistance required by the vessel and understand that surveyors are to carry out a damage assessment. Meanwhile it is reported that a naval vessel also sustained damages in Galle harbour, however, details are not available at this point due to communications being out of order. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Dec 29.)

London, Dec 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) was back in operation yesterday after a short interruption due to the damage caused by the tidal wave that brought disruption to the coastal areas of the island. The navigation unit of the SLPA came to the rescue of general cargo Jaami which collided with the pilot jetty. The vessel was entering the harbour via the main channel at the time the tidal wave entered the shores of Sri Lanka. Immediate action by the SLPA navigation division avoided major disruption to the main shipping channel. The vessel which would have sunk in normal circumstances was moved from the outer harbour to a safe location by Nihal Keppitipola, the Harbour Master and Ravi Jayawickrama, his deputy at SLPA. Sri Lanka Ports Authority is back to normal cargo operations in Colombo. However, ports of Galle, Trincomalee, Kankasanturai and Point Pedro will remain closed for operations until any damage is assessed and staff returns to work. Operations at India's southern ports began picking up gradually today, 24 hours after being hit by the tsunami. Chennai port, which suffered the maximum damage, will become fully operational tomorrow. The other port in the state, Tuticorin, which had to suspend its operations for a day, commenced its activities today. Tuticorin lost business of about 30,000-50,000 tonnes yesterday. Kochi port in Kerala, however, was not gravely affected and apart from minor

disruptions, operations were carried out as before. The total additional expenditure that the Chennai port would have to bear would be to the tune of Rs 33 crore, port chairman K Suresh said. Apart from Rs 10 crore of property being damaged, the port lost Rs 3 crore of business in two days. It would also have to incur Rs 10-20 crore expenditure on the dredging of sediments brought in by the waves. Chennai port, in fact, became partially operational this morning itself with land-side activities like unloading of cargo and containers brought in by trains taking place. Suresh said that full operations would start only when ships that have been berthed at the deep sea to prevent them from being damaged, are brought back. He, however, added that a passenger vessel Swaraj Deep was being brought back to the shore and would leave for rescue operations at Port Blair in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands tomorrow. South Indian ports, which did not suffer as much damage as the badly-hit transshipment terminal of Colombo, expect the traffic normally headed for the Sri Lankan capital to be diverted to Indian shores, which means more business. Among the ship owners, Shipping Corporation of India seemed to be the worst-hit mainly because the company operates some ships owned by the Andaman and Nicobar administration. Ferry Teal (400 gt, built 2004), which was at Port Blair undergoing dry block, was the worst affected as the lock shifted and the ship capsized on one side. Ferry Sentinel (2625 gt, built 1983) and vessel Akbar in Port Blair were also damaged as they banged into the jetty. SCI's own c.c. Lal Bahadur Shastri (21,963 gt, built 1993), which was at the Chennai PNO terminal, and product tanker Suvarna Swarajya (21827 gt, built 1998), suffered minor damages. Crude oil tanker Major Dhan Singh Thapa PVC (37855 gt, built 1984), that was in dry dock in Colombo, was also damaged but since it was undergoing repairs, the Colombo port will take care of it. One Great Eastern Shipping's dry bulk vessel, which was offloading at the Chennai port, suffered some a minor damage. A company spokesperson said: "One dry bulk vessel suffered some small damage. The extent of the damage is not known yet but there was no loss of life and the vessel is afloat now." Varun Shipping official confirmed that none of its vessels were damaged. In Indonesia, the death toll from Sunday's (Dec 26) earthquake and associated tsunamis is reported to have reached 4341 with 378 people still missing. All of the fatalities are reported to have occurred in north and west Sumatra Island and on the associated western offshore islands. Up to 3000 bodies are reported to have been recovered in Bandar Aceh alone. Access to and communications with the west coast of Aceh province are reported to remain very difficult. Relief efforts are being co-ordinated through the north Sumatra city of Medan. Ports in north and east Sumatra and elsewhere in Indonesia are reported to



be operating normally. Oil and gas production and supply has not been affected by the disaster. A flood warning has been issued for the west coast of the island of Lombok due to higher than anticipated tides.

Galle, Dec 28 — The sea and wreckage of coastal towns around the Indian Ocean is yielding up tens of thousands of bodies, pushing the toll from Sunday's (Dec 26) tsunami close to 60,000. The apocalyptic destruction caused by the ocean surge dwarfed the efforts of governments and relief agencies as they recovered countless corpses while trying to treat survivors and take care of millions of homeless, increasingly threatened by disease amid the rotting remains. Thousands more were injured. The United Nations launched what it called an unprecedented relief effort to assist nations hit by a devastating tsunami triggered by a magnitude 9.0 undersea earthquake off the Indonesian island of Sumatra. In a further threat to the region, disease could kill as many people as those killed by the wall of water, a top World Health Organisation official said. In Thailand, where thousands of tourists were enjoying a Christmas break to escape the northern winter, many of the country's paradise resorts were turned into graveyards. In a French-run hotel at Khao Lak on the Thai mainland north of the island of Phuket, up to half the 415 guests were believed killed. A reporter from France's Europe 1 radio said many bodies had been found in their rooms. "The army is still bringing out bodies from the rooms, because most of the tourists and staff of the hotel were trapped by the wave which completely swamped this hotel," reporter Anthony Dufour said. "The enormity of the disaster is unbelievable," said Bekele Geleta, head of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in South-east Asia. In Sri Lanka, hundreds of people were killed when a wave crashed into a train, wrecking eight carriages and uprooting the track it was travelling on. Of the overall death toll so far of 59,186, Indonesia has suffered the biggest number of victims, with its Health Ministry reporting 27,174 dead. Nearly all the deaths in Indonesia were in the north-western province of Aceh at the tip of Sumatra. Rescue crews were still trying to reach cut off areas. Separatist rebels announced a truce while people search for loved ones. The stench of decomposing corpses spread over the provincial capital Banda Aceh, where fresh water, food and fuel were in short supply. One of the worst hit cities was Meulaboh, about 150 km from the quake's epicentre. The mayor Tengku Zulkarnaen said three-quarters of his city had been washed away. About 1,000 people lay on a sports field where they were killed when the three-storey-high wall of water struck. Sri Lanka reported around 19,000 dead. India's toll of 11,500 included at least 7,000 on one archipelago, the Andamans and Nicobar. On one island, the surge of water killed two-thirds of the population. Hundreds of others died

in the Maldives, Myanmar and Malaysia. The arc of water struck as far as Somalia and Kenya. Fishing villages, ports and resorts were devastated, power and communications cut and homes destroyed. The United Nations said the cost of the damage will reach billions of dollars. The tremor, the biggest in 40 years, ripped a chasm in the sea bed which launched the tsunami. Relief teams and rescuers flew into the region from around the globe to help in what the United Nations said will be the biggest and costliest relief effort in its history. Gerhard Berz, a top risk researcher at Munich Re, the world's largest reinsurer, estimated the economic cost of the devastation at more than \$13 billion. More than 20 countries have pledged emergency aid worth more than \$60 million. Several Asian nations have sent naval vessels carrying supplies and doctors to devastated areas. In Geneva, the WHO's Dr David Nabarro said it was vital to rush medicine and fresh water to the worst-hit countries to prevent further catastrophe. "There is certainly a chance that we could have as many dying from communicable diseases as from the tsunami," Nabarro told a news conference. There was a serious risk of an explosion of malaria and dengue fever, already endemic in south-east Asia, he said. Around the ring of devastation, Sweden reported 1,500 citizens missing, the Czech Republic almost 400, Finland 200 and Italy and Germany 100. Around Sri Lanka's southern coasts about 1.5 million people — or one in 12 of the population — were homeless, many sheltering in Buddhist temples and schools. — Reuters.

Mumbai, Dec 29 — The tidal wave that struck the Chennai coast has not caused any significant damage to the Chennai Container Terminal (CCT), according to the CCT operator, P&O Ports Ltd. In a statement, the terminal operator reported that two of the quay cranes at the terminal had sustained "contact damage" when the bow of a vessel came in contact with the crane due to a sudden surge of water. Six empty containers were washed away and are in the process of being recovered. "The Port authorities are in the process of carrying out a sounding survey of the port area to ensure that no excessive siltation has taken place and that the area is free of hazardous submerged objects. We are awaiting clearance from port authorities for regular shipping movements," a spokesperson for P&O Ports said. — Lloyd's Agents.

Mumbai, Dec 29 — Shipping operations at Chennai Port returned to normal yesterday even as efforts were in full swing to restore other operations, two days after the tsunami struck here. The Chennai Port Trust Chairman, Mr. K. Suresh, told United News of India that the administration had assessed the total damage to the port at roughly rupees 100 million. He said as many as 10-12 cargo vessels which had been anchored to unload cargo at the port had been damaged by

the tsunami. Of these, three had been severely damaged. Efforts were on to repair the damaged vessels and bring them out to the berths, he added. He said another ten vessels were waiting outside the operational areas of the port and the port administration was making efforts to bring them into port one by one. The port would levy any demurrage charges on the vessels for the waiting caused by the disruption in operations. — Lloyd's Agents.

Mahe, Dec 29 — The Seychelles, as many countries in the Indian Ocean, has been affected by the tidal wave resulting from the Asia earthquake. The water level in the Port Victoria area and around the southern parts of the Islands of Mahe, suddenly receded to an abnormally low level and within fifteen minutes, the tide rose with subsequent wave force. This caused some of the vessels which were tied up alongside to sit on dry ground. However, they were quickly towed away to deep waters. There was no substantial damage to large vessels. Many small fishing vessels and pleasure craft were, however, pushed aground. Property damage was also substantial. — Lloyd's Agents.

Kochi, Dec 29 — We can confirm Tuticorin Port reopened evening of Dec 27, normality restored. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The train known as the Queen of the Sea had nearly reached its destination Sunday (Dec 26) when the tsunami struck — a wall of water some 30 feet high, enveloping the train and lifting its cars off the track into a thick marsh, killing at least 802 people. The train, which started from the capital, Colombo, Sunday morning had stopped at Telwatta, a village 15 miles from Galle, just before the wave came racing ashore. Many of the dead were local villagers who tried to escape rising waters by climbing on top of the train with the help of the passengers. One thousand tickets were sold in Colombo for the train, and rescuers recovered 802 bodies from the train's cars, said military spokesman Brig. Daya Ratnayake.

London, Dec 29 — Ripples of the powerful under sea tremor off Indonesia was felt in Tanzania for three hours beginning 1400, Dec 26, drowning ten pupils who were swimming, and forcing vessels to pull out of the Dar Es Salaam port. The surging sea, whose waves travelled at a speed of 1,000 km an hour from the epicentre of the tremor in Indonesia, resulted to the rupture of pipelines at a moor jetty in the harbour. The strong waves also disrupted ferry transport across the Magogoni creek. The ferries - Alina and Kigamboni, had to anchor for three hours until the sea became calm again. The unusual tidal surge pushed chem.tank High Spirit (28238 gt, built 1999) - which was discharging oil at the Kurasini Oil Jetty to the south end of Kurasini creek after the mooring ropes broke. This forced the Tanzania Harbours Authority (THA) to suspend operations at the port. No vessels for

containers or general cargo or tankers were allowed into and out of the port for the whole of Dec 26 until Dec 27. The Dar Es Salaam port manager, Mr Jacksonn Rugaihuruzza, said the drifting High Spirit anchor stuck to a submarine oil pipe. The vessel was piloted out of the port Dec 27. The tanker was still at the outer anchorage yesterday, with 18,500 tonnes of fuel, he said. Following the damage caused by the tanker to the pipeline, the Tanzanian and Italian Petroleum Refinery (TIPER) has suspended discharging fuel to oil marketing companies.

London, Dec 29 — Lloyd's Agency update:

**Bangladesh:** Port of Chittagong appears to be operating normally.

**India:** The killer tidal wave that struck the Chennai coast has not caused any significant damage to the Chennai Container Terminal (CCT) at the Chennai Port, according to the CCT operator, P&O Ports Ltd. In a statement, the terminal operator reported that two of the quay cranes at the terminal had sustained "contact damage" when the bow of a vessel came in contact with the crane due to a sudden surge of water. Six empty containers were washed away and are in the process of being recovered. "The port authorities are in the process of carrying out a sounding survey of the port area to ensure that no excessive siltation has taken place and that the area is free of hazardous submerged objects. We are awaiting clearance from port authorities for regular shipping movements," a spokesperson for P&O Ports said. Shipping operations in the Chennai Port became normal yesterday even as efforts were in full swing to restore other operations, two days after the tsunami struck here. The Chennai Port Trust Chairman, Mr K.Suresh, told UNI that the administration had assessed the total damage to the port to be at roughly Rs10 crore. He said as many as 10 to 12 cargo vessels, which had been anchored for unloading cargo at the port here, had been damaged by the tsunami. Of these, three had been severely damaged. Efforts were on to repair the damaged vessels and bring them out to the berths, he added. He said another ten vessels were waiting outside the operational areas of the port and the port administration was making efforts to bring the vessels to the port one by one. The port would levy any demurrage charges on the vessel for the waiting caused by the disruption in operations.

**Indonesia:** The ports of mainland Indonesia are operating normally although the island of Sumatera has been badly affected.

**Kenya:** No major damage reported and all ports operating normally.

**Malaysia:** The ports of Penang and Port Klang ports are operating normally. Lloyd's Agents in Penang report the following: To date, there has not been

any damage reported to Penang port and the report received from the local Fire & Rescue Dept's Deputy Director-General yesterday is that the property damage in Penang is not bad compared to other areas affected by the tsunami. There seems to be no structural damage to buildings, apart from the mess brought about by water, mud and debris. The tsunami had hit at the north to north-west point of Penang Island and these are areas where the beaches, coastal residential areas and fishing villages are located. The industrial areas are located at the south-east side of island and were therefore spared. However, there were some concerns regarding the structural integrity to the Penang Bridge but we were informed that the bridge is safe and checks are being done on daily basis and, after next week, will be on a weekly basis. The General Insurance Association of Malaysia (PIAM) issued the following statement: "In view of the remoteness of earthquake and tidal wave losses in the past, it is unlikely that insurance policies in Malaysia would have been extended to cover earthquake losses. In the light of this disaster, the risk exposure to earthquake and tidal wave losses should be re-examined by everyone." The bad news is that, because the tsunami hit a residential and tourist area, and because it struck on a Sunday afternoon, the loss of life was heavy, with the latest figure being in excess of 65 people with many unaccounted for as yet.

**Myanmar:** No disruption to the port of Yangon, which appears to be operating normally.

**Singapore:** No major damage reported and all ports operating normally.

**Somalia:** No major damage reported and the ports of Berbera and Mogadiscio and the open anchorage at El Maan are operating normally.

**Sri Lanka:** Country very badly affected. However, Colombo port operating.

**Tanzania:** No major damage reported and all ports operating normally.

**Thailand:** Very little port activity in the affected region. The port of Phuket does not get a lot of commercial activity.

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Activity at Chennai port started full fledged operations with the channels opened for vessels to enter. With the exception of the three vessels which were involved in a collision with each other on Sunday (Dec 26) all others were being sailed out. The passenger vessel Swaraj Dweep, which was supposed to sail out to Andaman and Nicobar Islands on Monday (Dec 27) sailed out of Chennai yesterday around 2000 hrs, with 583 passengers. The vessel also carried relief materials to the tsunami affected people in the island. It carried 15 trucks of drinking water and 40 tonnes of essential commodities for the people

there. In addition to the passenger vessel, one car carrier, one ore vessel and one oil ship sailed out. Bulk Gem of Tuticorin, carrying sugar, which was badly damaged, was still at the Port. It would be difficult to carry on the repair activities. The port of Tuticorin has resumed normal shipping operations and berthing/re-berthing of all vessels up to 10.70 metres is now being undertaken. In Indonesia, the death toll from Sunday's earthquake and tsunamis has increased dramatically and reached 27,174 according to local news organisations. An estimated 1,164 people are reported missing. Communities on the west coast of Aceh and North Sumatra provinces and on the offshore islands have still to be reached. It is anticipated that the death toll could rise further once contact is made with these communities. Relief efforts are being co-ordinated through the north Sumatra city of Medan with flights shuttling to/from Bandar Aceh with aid cargoes. Ports in north and east Sumatra and elsewhere in Indonesia continue to operate normally. Oil and gas production and supply remains unaffected by the disaster.

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Most buildings on the Somali island of Hafun were swept away by the deadly Indian Ocean tsunami, an emergency aid relief team has revealed. Roads washed away by the sea are hampering the delivery of food aid to some 4,500 islanders affected. Waves which swept 7,000km from the epicentre left a trail of smashed buildings and boats along the East African coast. More than 130 people in East Africa are known to have died in the floods. Hafun's governor asked for emergency assistance and told aid agencies that he feared up to 8,000 people across the island could be affected by the flooding. Twelve Hafun residents have been confirmed dead and many more are missing. Bodies can still be seen floating in the sea, the governor said. More than 30 tons of food aid is expected to arrive today on the island off the north coast of Somalia by a bridge accessible during low tide, the WFP says. Meanwhile, the UN is planning an aerial assessment of Somalia's coastline tomorrow, where thousands of other people are reported to have lost their homes. Speaking on Kenyan television yesterday night, Somali Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Ghedi said he feared the disaster would cause an outbreak of cholera. He and other members of the government - which is currently based in neighbouring Kenya as Mogadishu is considered too dangerous for ministers - are due to visit the most affected regions of northern Somalia on Saturday (Jan 1). Countries along the East African coast are still trying to assess the total loss of life and damage caused by the tsunami. Ten people drowned in Tanzania and more than 1,000 people have been made homeless in Madagascar. Three people died in the Seychelles, where a bridge linking the main airport and capital, Victoria, was destroyed while a village in

northern Mauritius was submerged for almost three hours following the surges. In Kenya, beaches that were closed on Sunday (Dec 26) reopened, amid government warnings to tourists to take precautions. About 15 fishing boats were damaged in the French territory of Reunion.

Ymuiden, Dec 29 — Wijsmuller Salvage B.V. together with Messrs. Sri Lanka Shipping Co. were contracted today to assist in operations concerning grounded general cargo Jaami. The vessel grounded off Colombo following the disastrous tsunamis of Dec 26. Salvage teams from The Netherlands, Singapore and Sri Lanka are engaged in the initial operations. Further Wijsmuller Salvage team members from the same regions and from South Korea are coming in today, as is initial salvage equipment from Wijsmuller Salvage's warehouse in Singapore. — Wijsmuller Salvage B.V.

Banda Aceh, Dec 29 — Rescuers today scoured remote coastlines around the Indian Ocean for survivors of Sunday's (Dec 26) massive ocean surge triggered by an earthquake that has so far killed tens of thousands of people and may have made the world jolt on its axis. Some five million people lacked necessary food, water and sanitation to survive, world health officials said, as fears grew that cholera and diarrhoea could worsen the death toll. Countries around the world mobilised to send rescue teams, food, medicine and millions of dollars in aid in what the United Nations called the biggest relief operation in its history. "I would not be at all surprised that we will be on 100,000 deaths when we know what has happened on the Andaman and Nicobar islands," Peter Rees of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said. The federation currently puts the death toll at 77,828, making it one of the world's worst natural disasters. With a large proportion of Asia's populations under 18, UN officials have said up to a third of the victims could be children. In many areas, health experts said the relief operation looked woefully inadequate with shortages of coffins, equipment and medicine, while emergency workers struggled with power outages, destroyed communications and badly damaged roads. In parts of India's Tamil Nadu state, officials gave up counting the dead in their hurry to bury them in mass graves. Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and south India faced death tolls of catastrophic proportions. Hundreds of people were also killed in the Maldives, Myanmar and Malaysia and more than 130 died in East Africa. Thousands of tourists enjoying their Christmas holidays at Indian Ocean resorts, principally in Thailand, could be among the victims. Some 1,500 Swedes, 1,200 Swiss, 1,000 Germans, 600 Italians and nearly 450 Norwegians were missing. Norway's government said the tsunami threatened to become one of the worst disasters for its nation in modern times. Relatives and friends in many countries began to blame their

governments for not realising the scale of the disaster sooner and for only now sending rescue teams and aid to stricken areas. US President George W. Bush responded to criticism from one senior UN official of "stinginess" from rich nations by saying the U.S. pledge of \$35 million in aid was just a start. "These past few days have brought loss and grief to the world that is beyond our comprehension," Bush said during a break from his holiday in Crawford, Texas. He spoke to the leaders of India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia to assure them of continued help. Indonesia suffered the biggest number of victims, with 45,268 known dead, although the toll could rise to 80,000 in Aceh alone, the province closest to the quake's epicentre. Troops and rescue crews reached the town of Meulaboh on Aceh's west coast, about 150 km from the epicentre, to find dead bodies and rubble. "Today so far 3,400 bodies have been found in Meulaboh. Eighty percent of the buildings are wrecked," Chief Security Minister Widodo Adi Sutjipto said. A senior UN official in Indonesia said the toll in Meulaboh could reach 40,000. At Khao Lak beach, where officials say up to 3,000 people may have died, Thai and German rescuers searched the wreckage of a half-built luxury hotel today after villagers said they had heard calls for help from people trapped inside. In Washington, one US official said Thailand's death toll was likely to be much higher because rescue teams had yet to reach some areas. Primitive tribes on India's remote Andaman and Nicobar islands were running out of the coconuts they were living on, with whole communities wiped out. Buddhist monks handed out rice and curry to survivors in Sri Lanka and aircraft dropped food to isolated Indonesian towns. — Reuters.

Chennai, Dec 30 — The sea level at Chennai beach has risen. — Lloyd's Agents.

Chennai, Dec 30 — Chennai port is officially closed from 1200, today. — Lloyd's Agents.

Karachi, Dec 30 — According to local media reports, the Sri Lanka fisheries industry is among the most severely hit industries by the tidal wave last Sunday (Dec 26). Nine fisheries harbours have been completely destroyed by the disastrous wave. However, only the Mutwal and Kalpitiya fisheries harbours were not damaged. Three-thousand fishermen in Mullaitivu and 2,100 fishermen in Jaffna have been reported killed while the government has not received any information yet from the South. Meanwhile, Director General Fisheries Department G. Piyasena said that 80 per cent of fishing boats have been completely destroyed due to the incident but there is a stock of 100 tonnes of fish with the Fisheries Department. However, the Fisheries Ministry has decided to refrain from selling them as there is a problem in demand and supply. The stock will be kept only for distribution among hospitals and security forces. He said that nothing can be done to restart the

industry until the debris is cleared and the fishing community resettled. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated Dec 29, states: The ports of Chennai in southern India and Colombo in Sri Lanka were damaged by the Indian Ocean tsunami on Dec 26, but all South Asian ports affected by the waves or flooding have resumed operations, according to industry sources. Maersk Sealand reported today that four out of six gantry cranes at the port of Chennai are now back in operation, and that the terminal is able to handle vessels. "However, due to the reduced amount of operational cranes, only two vessels can be loaded/unloaded simultaneously," the carrier said. The Indian port closed operations on the morning of Dec 26 amid flooding. "No major activity is taking place as the roads outside the port are blocked by traffic and road damages," Maersk Sealand added, commenting on landside port operations at Chennai. The port authorities of Chennai are reportedly carrying out a survey of the channel and berth. In the ports of Cochin and Tuticorin, also in southern India, and Colombo, in Sri Lanka, port operations are back to normal. Maersk Sealand reported that no other ports in West India, Pakistan, Aden, Hodeida, Djibouti and Muscat were affected by the tsunami. Ports are working normally in Malaysia and Thailand, according to shipping line sources. "The earthquake and the resulting tsunami tidal waves did not result in an extended disruption in vessel or terminal services in the areas affected," APL said in a statement. "Vessel movements and loading/discharging of cargo are on schedule and APL's offices remain open across the region, including those in Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Myanmar." The tsunami has created what appears to be minor disruptions to the schedules of liner services. Zim said that one of its vessels bypassed Colombo, but all its vessels continued operations normally. A vessel of the Grand Alliance also cancelled a call at Colombo, while another was delayed in the Sri Lankan port. OOCL reported that a terminal in Colombo was damaged by the feeder Jaami, pushed in by the tsunami. "Berth disruptions and delays/misconnections of transshipments are expected in the coming weeks," it warned. APL said that it does not anticipate "any significant changes" to its operations over the coming weeks due to the tsunami. Several major air carriers operating in Asia and India have confirmed that there have not been significant delays or cancellations of scheduled cargo flights operating from areas affected by the giant tsunami that struck over the weekend. Expeditors International said in a customer bulletin. However, the freight forwarder cautioned that the influx of relief supplies being shipped to the region could cause short-term delays as airports get congested with flights and cargo.

Jakarta, Dec 30 — Following report on the condition of the ports at the Aceh Province area, Indonesia, post tsunami earthquake and ocean waves: The ports which are heavily smashed and unfunctioning: Sabang, at We Island. Malahayati, Olele, Pertamina and Semen Andalas (Lhok Nga Island) at Banda Aceh, the capital city of Aceh Province. Idi Cut Meulaboh, which is very close to the centre of earthquake epicentre, whereas the town is 80% heavily destroyed. Special/Private owned Terminal of SOCFINDO and ASTRA. Singkil, the southernmost port of Aceh Province at the same side with Meulaboh, west side coast. The ports which are still intact and in normal operational condition: Lhok Seumawe, Special port of Arun NGL Co, whereby the last shipment of LNG for 2004 to Korea was conducted on Dec 28, after the tragedy, by vessel Echigo Maru, Kuala Langsa Special/Private owned port of PT Aseab Aceh Fertilizer, (Pupuk Iskandar Muda). The ports at the neighbouring Province and adjacent to Aceh, North Sumatra, are not affected so much and still in good condition, including Belawan (Medan), and Sibolga, the nearest port to Singkil and Meulaboh at south west coast. Blang Bintang airport at Banda Aceh is considered in operational condition and still serving aircraft, but mostly for aid groups such as Hercules, etc. Banda Aceh itself is more than 50% destroyed; buildings smashed down to ground level are houses, schools, hospitals, roads, bridges and other infrastructures. Loss of lives so far estimated more than 40,000, while refugee is reaching more than 100,000. Probable affected area: At the coast of Sunda Strait, at Java side, on Dec 29, 1,820 houses were flooded up to two metres high by the special high tide and high waves causing the high speed ferry boat was stopped from operation, but ordinary ro/ro ferry boat is still in operation. Communication to Aceh area was quite difficult when about 80% of telephones were destroyed and many of Port Administration people affected a lot by this tragedy. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SUVARNA SWARAJYA (India)**

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes".

#### **TEAL (India)**

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes".

### Political & Civil Unrest



#### **BANGLADESH**

London, Dec 27 — A press report, dated Dec 26, states: Normal life was largely affected across Bangladesh today as the youth front of main opposition Awami league enforced a nationwide day-long general strike to protest rise in prices of fuel and other essentials. Armed police in riot gears

patrolled the streets as the Awami Jubo League general strike forced the closure of big shopping complexes and schools. There was a thin movement of private cars and posh buses in the city, though attendance in government offices were largely normal. The Jubo League activists staged protest marches and street rallies, and at least in one case police dispersed a procession of women activists at Bangabandhu Avenue. A Jubo League statement claimed the strike to be successful but alleged that more than 50 of their activists were arrested during the demonstration in the city. The strike, the 21st in the current year, came as Awami League and its allies waged a campaign demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's three-year old four-party alliance government for failure in controlling price hikes and maintaining law and order. The opposition youth front asked the government to reverse the 15 per cent rise in the cost of diesel and kerosene saying the fuel price hike would hurt the economy, especially the agricultural sector of the country. The government said rise was aimed at offsetting high global fuel prices. "We've called the strike to push the government to change the decision to raise the fuel price. We will continue our protest unless the decision is reversed," Jubo League president Jahangir Kabir Nanak told a street rally during the demonstration.

#### **COLOMBIA**

London, Dec 27 — A press report, dated Dec 26, states: Marxist rebels have abducted up to ten holidaymakers celebrating Christmas at a lakeside spa in north-western Colombia, officials said. Fighters of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, raided a cluster of bungalows near San Rafael, 140 miles north-west of Bogot., and herded between eight to ten Colombians into vehicles. The holidaymakers were kidnapped on Friday (Dec 24), but reports of their abduction did not emerge until late on yesterday night. Jorge Mejia, the deputy governor of Antioquia state, said: "Unfortunately, witnesses did not report the kidnapping to authorities until late today, so the guerrillas have had plenty of time to reach their hide-outs deep in the mountains." He said army troops and counter-insurgency police forces, supported by helicopters, have launched a large-scale search and rescue operation. "This is a criminal action, in no way justifiable. The victims were middle-class families enjoying a Christmas break," Mr Mejia said. A security crackdown ordered by president Alvaro Uribe had sharply reduced the number of kidnappings and killings in the past two years.

#### **HONDURAS**

London, Dec 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Assailants claiming to be members of a revolutionary group opposed to the death penalty opened fire on a public bus in northern Honduras, killing at least 23 passengers and escalating an ongoing

battle between gangs and a government dedicated to fighting them. The shooting took place in the northern Atlantic city of Chamelecon, 125 miles north of the capital, Tegucigalpa. A police spokesman said authorities did not yet know how many people were aboard the bus, but the majority of passengers were women and children. Sixteen of the victims died aboard the bus while seven others died after being taken to a hospital in the nearby city of San Pedro Sula. The driver of the bus, Guillermo Salgado, also died in the attack, along with his helper, Victor Ramirez. Police have arrested a suspect who was driving a car similar to that identified by witnesses as having been present at the attack. The suspect is an alleged member of violent gangs that have terrorised residents, mostly in the poor neighbourhoods of Honduras' major cities. The assailants left a large piece of paper taped to the bus's front windshield with a message saying they represented a revolutionary group that opposes the death penalty. The assailants' note warned that "people should take advantage of this Christmas, because the next one will be worse," police spokesman Deputy Commissioner Wilmer Torres said. The attack came just two days after Alvarez announced authorities had uncovered plans by drug traffickers and local criminals to assassinate Honduran President Ricardo Maduro and his family, as well as himself. The president said joint police-military operations had been launched to find the attackers and that the government was offering a 50,000 dollars (£26,000) reward for information that would lead to their capture. Honduran gangs claim more than 100,000 members and control poor neighbourhoods in the country's major cities, where they are known for extorting "protection" money from residents as well as committing crimes. Maduro has waged a zero-tolerance campaign against gang activity. At his bidding, Congress approved a law in August 2003 that sentences gang members to up to 12 years in prison. Gangs have responded with gruesome violent attacks, including the beheading and dismembering of victims whose bodies have been left in public places, accompanied by notes threatening the president.

#### **INDONESIA**

London, Dec 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Indonesian troops killed 18 separatist rebels in a single day in the latest clashes in restive Aceh province. The rebels were killed in four separate clashes yesterday, Aceh military spokesman Ari Mulya Asnawi said. The killings made up one of the highest number of casualties suffered by the Free Aceh Movement in a single day since the Government launched a major offensive to crush the rebels in May 2003.

#### **IRAQ**

Baquba, Dec 24 — Gunmen attacked two police stations today around Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, where

the anti-American insurgency has been strong, witnesses said. Fighting was still going on at the Mafraq police post on the outskirts of the religiously mixed city. Another station south of the town was attacked earlier in the morning. The gunmen used rocket-propelled grenades and mortars to hit the stations, witnesses said. There were no immediate reports of casualties. Witnesses said U.S. troops were also seen fighting near the Mafraq post. — Reuters.

London, Dec 27 — A press report, dated today, states: At least nine people died and 39 were injured when a suicide bomber targeted the home of the leader of Iraq's biggest political party today. Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, head of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, the country's most powerful Shiite political group, was in his home in Baghdad's Jadiriya district when the attack occurred, said his spokesman, Haitham al-Husseini. He said the cleric was not injured. The blast, which shook the district and sent a cloud of smoke high above the area, killed nine people and injured 39, said a police commander. Thirty-two cars on the street and near the gates were destroyed or damaged. It was a suicide attack near the gate leading to the office, al-Husseini said. Hakim also heads the candidate list of the United Iraqi Alliance coalition, which is expected to dominate Iraq's new constitutional assembly following the first free elections next month.

Baiji, Dec 27 — Saboteurs have blown up a pipeline running from Iraq's northern Kirkuk oil fields to a refinery at Baiji, causing a large fire that sent thick black smoke into the sky, witnesses say. The attack occurred near the town of al-Fatha, just northeast of Baiji, near where the pipeline runs into the refinery complex. "There was a huge blast and flames are shooting into the air," one witness said. Supply lines are frequently attacked by criminals and saboteurs determined to disrupt attempts by Iraq's U.S.-backed government to generate revenue from the country's oil reserves. Multiple lines run from the rich Kirkuk fields to Baiji. Baiji is the location of one of Iraq's largest refineries, from where exports are pumped north to the port of Ceyhan in Turkey. However, the northern export line is currently out of commission following a series of sabotage attacks in past weeks. — Reuters.

London, Dec 28 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 28 people were killed in a string of attacks on Iraqi security forces after Osama Bin Laden declared wanted Jordanian Islamist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi his "emir" in the country. In an audiotape purportedly recorded by the Al-Qaeda leader, Bin Laden also said all those who took part in next month's landmark elections would be "infidels," raising the stakes in the run-up to the Jan 30 vote. In one of a series of apparently co-ordinated strikes in Sunni Muslim strongholds north of Baghdad, insurgents stormed a police

station in Dijla between Tikrit and Samarra and gunned down 12 policemen, police said. "Armed men took control of the police station and executed 12 policemen, three of them officers," one police source said, adding that the attackers then dynamited the building. Just outside Tikrit, three policemen were killed in an attack on a checkpoint while another four policeman and a national guardsman were shot dead at a police station in Ishaki, south of the town of Samarra. Another three guardsmen and three civilians were killed in a car bomb attack targeting a US-Iraq military convoy in Samarra, hospital sources said. The US military confirmed a car bombing near a US armoured vehicle but said it had no record of the deaths and that there were no US casualties. In Baghdad a suicide bomber was killed and six people wounded in an attack against the convoy of an Iraqi national guard general Modher Abud as he was leaving his home, the interior ministry said. Another policeman was killed in Balad when insurgents opened fire on security forces guarding a voter registration centre. The latest bout of bloodshed brought to at least 60 the number of people killed in attacks throughout the country since Sunday evening (Dec 26), including two US soldiers. In the latest attack against Shiites and their leaders, a car bomb exploded yesterday outside the headquarters of Abdel Aziz al-Hakim, the chief of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) party. He escaped unscathed but 13 people were killed and scores wounded. No one claimed responsibility for the attack but SCIRI spokesman Haitham al-Husseini blamed Saddam's old Baath party for the attack. The Democratic Party of the Iraqi Nation said the home of its secretary general Mithal Al-Alusi was shelled in what it said was an assassination attempt. In a major blow to US and Iraqi government efforts to attract a strong role of the once-dominant Sunni Muslim minority in the election, the community's main party announced yesterday it would not be taking part. The country's foreign minister had raised the possibility of delaying the vote in trouble spots around central Iraq before the Iraqi Islamic Party dropped its political bombshell. "We are obliged to pull out," party chief Mohsen Abdel Hamid said saying the decision was motivated by the refusal of authorities to postpone elections for six months to ensure broader participation and to better control the security situation.

Baghdad, Dec 29 — Armed men burst into a house in the upscale Baghdad neighbourhood of Mansour today and seized two Lebanese businessmen, police said. Several foreigners have been snatched in Baghdad in recent months. Police say many kidnappings in Baghdad are carried out by criminal gangs seeking a ransom, while others are the work of militants trying to drive U.S.-led forces out of Iraq. — Reuters.

## ISRAEL

Ramallah, Dec 24 — Israeli soldiers killed three Palestinian militants in a refugee camp in the northern West Bank town of Tulkarm today, medics said. The Israeli army said troops opened fire on two gunmen in Tulkarm and saw that both were hit but did not know their condition. The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a militant faction of the Palestinian mainstream Fatah movement, said three of its fighters died in an exchange of gunfire with Israeli soldiers in the town's refugee camp. — Reuters. (See issue of Dec 24.)

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated today, states: About 10 Israeli tanks moved into the Khan Younis refugee camp early today, and two Palestinian gunmen were killed by tank fire, residents said. Military officials said the incursion was aimed at stopping the firing of rockets and mortars by Palestinian militants at nearby Jewish settlements and Israeli army bases. The officials said the air force fired a missile at militants planting explosives, hitting at least one. It was the third such raid in the last two weeks. In the previous ones, Israeli forces knocked down structures Israel said were used by militants as cover for firing rockets and mortars.

## IVORY COAST

London, Dec 27 — A press report, dated Dec 24, states: United Nations report has found proof of torture, mass executions and rape over the past two years in Ivory Coast, according to a French newspaper. Liberation says the unpublished report accuses both sides in the Ivorian civil war of violations of human rights. Rebels fighting President Laurent Gbagbo currently control the northern half of Ivory Coast. The report includes a secret list of 200 people who could face prosecution or UN sanctions, Liberation says. The newspaper said the 100-page report lays out "the nightmare of Ivory Coast in all its horror". Since a failed a coup against President Gbagbo in 2002, the west African country has been wracked by civil conflict and has been left in a state of division. French UN peacekeepers patrol a buffer zone between rebel forces in the north and government-held areas in the south. The international forces are criticised for failing to act to prevent killings in the country, despite having a mandate to do so. Liberation says the UN report documents a catalogue of human rights abuses and violence over more than two years of civil war. The newspaper says that French and UN peacekeepers filmed many of the abuses, and evidence could later be used in war crimes prosecutions. Neighbouring states, including Mali and Burkina Faso, are also implicated in the violence, accused of offering training bases and equipment to the rebels. Other near neighbours Guinea and Angola are listed as offering support to government forces, Liberation says. The report lists a catalogue of killings and abuses, including: The "cold execution" by rebels of 131 civilians in

September 2002 after government forces failed to retake the central Ivorian town of Bouake; One hundred and twenty immigrant workers killed at cocoa and coffee plantations in December 2002 by government troops; Torture including a woman forced to drink blood and urine and a man forced to have sex with his mother. Women of all ages were raped, as were children, the report asserts. "On both sides of the conflict women were used to assuage the bestial appetites of the combatants, some of whom were under the influence of drugs," Liberation quoted the UN report as saying. In their conclusion, the report's five authors said they hoped they could help "progressively to end the impunity and generalised irresponsibility that characterise Ivory Coast".

### NEPAL

London, Dec 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Traffic on two major highways linking Kathmandu with the rest of Nepal has come to a virtual halt on the second day of a rebel-imposed blockade. The Maoist rebels are protesting against alleged human rights abuses by the security forces. Yesterday at least 34 people - mainly rebels, but also some soldiers and civilians - were killed in a clash. There has been no visible presence of rebels on the highways, but fear of reprisals are keeping most vehicles off the road. Earlier this week the rebels torched 18 cargo trucks. Hundreds of people are queuing up outside petrol stations in Kathmandu, fearing fuel shortages in the coming days. However, the authorities insist there is no need for any panic buying. Transport operators also say they will stay off the roads unless they are satisfied of their safety. Nepal's home ministry said security forces had been deployed along the highways. "The situation is expected to significantly improve by late Friday," a ministry spokesman said.

London, Dec 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Nepal's government invoked anti-hoarding and price control laws to stem rises in food and fuel prices as a Maoist blockade of the capital entered a third day, state-run radio announced today. The indefinite blockade, to protest the disappearance of activists in army detention, halted most traffic on Kathmandu's main north and west arteries. In response, the federal cabinet late yesterday appointed a 14-member committee, headed by the prime minister and including the finance and home ministers, to monitor food and fuel supplies at markets in the capital for the next two months to stem a growing black market, state-run radio said.

London, Dec 28 — A press report, dated today, states: The authorities in Nepal say the rebel blockade of roads into the capital, Kathmandu, has eased. This has, they say, allowed a significant increase in the number of vehicles entering and leaving the city. They say freight lorries have been able to enter, raising hopes among residents

of an improvement in essential food supplies. Food prices soared after the blockade was imposed six days ago, and residents began hoarding supplies. Maoist rebels say the blockade is in protest at human rights abuses by the security forces

### SAUDI ARABIA

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Saudi security forces killed three suspected militants in a raid on their hideout in Riyadh today, officials said. After the shootout, police and security forces cordoned off a neighborhood in western Riyadh in a search for other suspects, the officials said on condition of anonymity. None of the three were identified, and it was not known if they were on the kingdom's list of 26 most wanted militants. Saudi Arabia has launched a crackdown on terrorism that has resulted in the killings and arrests of dozens of militants.

### SOMALIA

London, Dec 24 — A press report, dated Dec 23, states: Somalia's parliament has overwhelmingly approved Ali Mohammed Ghedi as prime minister, 12 days after sacking him. The parliament had originally passed a vote of no confidence in him, on the grounds that he and his cabinet had not been endorsed by MPs. He was also accused of not sticking to clan-based quotas in his cabinet, but President Abdullahi Yusuf reappointed him two days later and he was sworn in today. Mr Ghedi now has one month to choose a new cabinet and submit it to parliament for approval. The new Somali parliament and government are based in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, because Mogadishu is still considered too dangerous.

### SUDAN

London, Dec 27 — A press report, dated Dec 25, states: A final peace deal between the Sudanese government and southern rebels should be signed next month, officials say. Talks between the government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) are set to continue into the new year to resolve outstanding differences. But a government spokesman said a signing ceremony would be held in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, on Jan 10. However, others in the Kenyan town of Naivasha, where the talks are being held, said no date had yet been set. Gutbi el-Mahdi, political adviser to President Omar al-Bashir, told the official Sudan Media Centre that the signing ceremony would be celebrated publicly both in the north and the south of Sudan. It is hoped that an end to Africa's longest-running civil war - in which the Muslim north has been pitted against Christians and animists in the south - may also help to resolve the conflict in Sudan's western Darfur region, where separate rebel groups challenge the government.

### UGANDA

London, Dec 28 — A press report, dated today, states: MPs and religious leaders are to meet Lord's Resistance Army commanders for talks in Kitgum in northern Uganda. A Christmas ceasefire is in force in parts of the north. A lack of trust between the LRA and government has so far prevented direct talks. The government wants a deal by the end of the year and a minister is waiting to join the talks if progress is made. Despite the truce, the army recently attacked a rebel base, saying the rebels were outside the ceasefire zone. Since the latest peace efforts last month, LRA commanders have held face-to-face meetings with traditional Acholi leaders in the presence of international observers. A former Ugandan minister is acting as a mediator in the peace process.

### UKRAINE

Kiev, Dec 27 — Western-leaning opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko took an unbeatable lead today in Ukraine's re-run presidential election, claiming victory and hailing the beginning of a new era in the former Soviet republic. Yushchenko has pledged to align Ukraine, poorly managed for years but bearing huge economic potential, with central and western Europe, fanning fears in neighboring Russia that its "Little Brother" will move out of its traditional influence. With more than 90 percent of yesterday's ballot counted, the Central Election Commission said Yushchenko had an unassailable lead with almost 54 percent of the votes against just above 42 percent for Moscow-backed Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. About 12,000 foreign observers monitored the vote in the country of 47 million people. — Reuters.

## Kidnappings



### IRAQ

Ankara, Dec 25 — Kidnappers have abducted a Turkish shipping magnate and three others in southern Iraq and demanded a \$25 million ransom, the Turkish private NTV television channel said today. It said Kahraman Sadikoglu had been seized in the southern Iraqi port of Umm Qasr alongside a boat captain and a driver, both Turks, and an unnamed bodyguard working for his company. Lifter, which retrieves sunken vessels. Sadikoglu's family had contacted the Turkish Foreign Ministry saying they had not heard from him in 10 days and that kidnappers had demanded a ransom of \$25 million. The channel quoted the Foreign Ministry as saying the group had been abducted as they travelled from Iran to Iraq and that U.S. authorities had been alerted and British forces in the area had set up roadblocks around Umm Qasr. — Reuters.

## Labour Disputes



### BANGLADESH

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

### INDIA

London, Dec 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Normal life was today affected in most parts of India's Jammu division as metadors and buses remained off the roads in reponse to the strike called by All Jammu and Kashmir Transporters Joint Action Committee (AJKTJAC). "Today's strike has been called to wake up the government to fulfill the demand of transporters to increase the fare by 20 per cent as the transporters have been facing hardships due to increase in the prices of diesel, petrol and spare parts", AJKTJAC chairman T S Wazir said. Metadors and passenger buses were off the roads in Jammu city and its suburbs, official reports said, adding, however, buses of State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) were plying on a number of routes to cater to the needs of citizens. Inter-district traffic was also scanty as only some SRTC buses were plying. Two wheelers and government vehicles were also plying in the city. Attendance in government offices and public sector undertakings was also thin due the strike, reports said. Wazir said that transporters were forced to go on strike as government has not come with any proposal on our demand so far despite several meetings with the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu. Today's strike will be followed by mass hunger strike by the transporters to draw the attention of the government to accept our long pending demands, he added.

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Normal life continued to remain paralysed in several parts of Jammu division with private buses and matadors keeping off the roads in response to the strike call by All Jammu and Kashmir Transporters Joint Action Committee (AJKTJAC) which entered the third day today. Commuters in the city and outlying areas had to face a lot of hardships due to the strike, official sources said. Normal life in districts of Doda, Udhampur, Rajouri, Poonch and Kathua was also hit due to non-availability of buses and matadors, they said. Although the government had deployed 180 additional buses on various routes including the city and Jammu-Katra, Vaishno Devi pilgrims continued to face difficulty and were stranded for hours at the railway station here and at Katra. State transport minister Raman Bhalla said the government had constituted a committee to consider the demands of private transporters including an increase in passenger fares. The committee has finalised its report and

the final decision by the government is expected in a day or two, he said. Meanwhile, AJKTJAC Chairman T S Wazir said the committee had decided to hold a rally today to press for their demands. "Despite our efforts, the government is not serious in resolving the issue. If they will not respond, we will be force to intensify our stir", he said.

## Awards & Settlements



### FRAUD, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 28 — A press report, dated Dec 27, states: In one of the largest awards of its type in the history of California's workers' compensation system, State Fund has won a \$14.6 million judgment against two Rancho Cucamonga businesses that used an elaborate "shell game" to avoid paying correct workers' compensation premiums and payroll taxes. San Bernadino County Superior Court Judge Ben Kayashima awarded the judgment against Ideal Payroll Plus, Ltd. and Ideal Management LP — both Professional Employer Organisations (PEOs) formerly insured by State Fund. San Bernadino County resident David W. Clancy Jr. formed the PEOs, which under-reported payroll to the State Fund, the Internal Revenue Service and the State Franchise Tax Board. Under the scheme, Clancy enrolled workers in an alleged "K-1 Dividend Distribution Plan" in which employees received two cheques — one for what Clancy called "W-2 wages" and another referred to as a "dividend." Clancy, the general partner of Ideal entities, claimed that he could reduce premiums by 50% and provide complete workers' compensation coverage through State Fund. As part of the scheme, Clancy failed to disclose the amount of the so-called K-1 dividend paid to each employee, which usually amounted to more than half of the employee's income and thereby avoided paying correct premiums to State Fund. State Fund uncovered Clancy's scheme during an audit. State Fund then cancelled his policy and filed suit for damages. The judgment represents an estimated \$1.3 million in unpaid premium owed to State Fund — as well as interest and costs — and 10 times the premium amount pursuant to Insurance Code 756. That code section authorises State Fund to pursue a civil action for 10 times the difference between the lower premium paid and the premium properly payable against an employer who knowingly procures a lower premium by willfully misrepresenting the amount or segregation of payroll. "We hope that this judgment will send a strong message and serve as a deterrent against other companies who are considering defrauding California's workers' compensation insurance system," said State Fund Vice

President and General Counsel Charles Savage. The judgment is against two of four defendants in the case. State Fund will continue to pursue legal action against the non-defaulting defendants: David Clancy Jr. and San Bernadino County resident Telma Moguel who is the trustee of the Ideal Alliance Trust established to pay the alleged "K-1 dividends" to employees.

### INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 24 — A press report, dated Dec 23, states: A worker severely burned in 1998 when coal dust ignited at a lakefront power plant on the Illinois-Indiana border has won a \$13.7 million settlement from the plant's operator and other companies, his attorneys said today. The settlement comes after years of wrangling over whether the personal injury lawsuit filed by Paul Danielson of south suburban Posen should be heard in Illinois or Indiana, according to attorneys in the case. The issue went to the Illinois Supreme Court, which upheld efforts by Danielson — who still hasn't been able to return to work — to have the civil case heard in Illinois. Mediation in Illinois produced the settlement, which was approved Tuesday (Dec 21) by a federal bankruptcy judge in Texas, where one of the companies named as a defendant has its headquarters, according to attorneys at the Clifford Law Offices, which represented Danielson. Danielson, 36, was part of a cleaning crew hired to vacuum coal dust that had accumulated at the State Line Energy Co. generating station. Danielson and others were working there on July 28, 1998, when the volatile dust ignited, touching off a massive explosion and fireball. The blast injured 17 workers, including Danielson, who was burned over 50 percent of his body, said one of his attorneys, Michael Krzak. He spent more than four months in the hospital, underwent more than two dozen surgeries and is permanently scarred, Krzak said. Danielson's personal injury lawsuit contended that the plant owner had negligently allowed the coal dust to accumulate to dangerous levels and hadn't warned workers of the risk. "There was an excessive amount of coal dust," Krzak said, adding that an electrical spark caused by a conveyor belt starting up apparently triggered the fire. Jurisdiction became an issue because the plant is in Indiana, but so close to the border that workers had to go into Illinois to reach an entrance, Krzak said. Danielson lived in Indiana at the time of the fire, but he was an Illinois native and wanted the case heard here, Krzak said.

### SEXUAL ABUSE, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A Roman Catholic religious order has agreed to pay \$6.3 million to settle lawsuits brought by three former students who were sexually abused by counselors and teachers at an elite private school in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The

largest of the three settlements, at \$4 million, would be one of the biggest in California for a plaintiff in a clergy sexual abuse case, attorneys and victims advocates said yesterday. The abuse occurred when the plaintiffs, now in their 30s and 40s, attended the Concord school operated by the Christian Brothers religious order. One man said a teacher molested him on a school-sponsored ski trip, and another said a counselor molested him at a retreat in Napa. The third man says another counselor repeatedly molested him during off-campus sessions. The order had transferred the abuser to Concord even though he was known to have had relationships with "sexual overtones" at another school, according to a 1968 letter from a Christian Brothers provincial leader that the order turned over as part of the lawsuit. Paul Gaspari, a lawyer representing the Christian Brothers' Western province, the De La Salle Institute, said the order was "pleased to be able to reach a settlement and put this matter behind us." troubled by what happened 20 years ago. The institute has, for many years, cooperated with law enforcement." The lawsuits are among roughly 900 filed in California by alleged victims of abuse by Catholic clergymen and lay people. The state decided in 2002 to lift for a year the statute of limitations on sexual abuse cases involving clergy. The Diocese of Orange County reached a settlement earlier this month with 87 people who were abused by priests and lay employees. The diocese agreed to pay at least \$100 million, more than \$1 million for each plaintiff. The Christian Brothers settlement may encourage other victims as they await resolution of their suits, said David Clohessy, national director of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, a support and advocacy group. As part of the settlement, the Christian Brothers agreed to disclose what happened, although it has not released the names of the faculty members involved. The counselor who molested Barbour has left the order, and another of the abusers is in a Catholic church facility that works with pedophiles. The whereabouts of the third are unknown, said Laurence Drivon, an attorney for the plaintiffs.

**Railway Accidents**



**ANURADHAPURA DISTRICT, SRI LANKA**

London, Dec 24 — A press report, dated Dec 23, states: An express train has collided with a herd of wild elephants in Sri Lanka. One elephant was killed and two others badly injured in the accident in Anuradhapura district, about 160km (100 miles) north of the capital Colombo. The train's engine was derailed in the collision, but none of the 500 passengers was hurt.

**BETWEEN ULUNDI AND VRYHEID, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Dec 24 — A press report, dated Dec 23, states: Coal deliveries to the Richards Bay Coal Terminal (RBCT) were disrupted yesterday following a massive derailment involving more than 40 fully loaded rail wagons. The accident occurred at an isolated spot on the railway line between Ulundi and Vryheid and has closed one of the twin lines to all traffic. A spokesman for rail operator Spoornet said yesterday the line would remain closed until the spilled coal and damaged wagons have been cleared and removed.

**CHICO AREA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Nord Cargo and passenger trains ground to a halt for dozens of miles north and south of Chico yesterday after a freight car broke an axle and derailed near Nord. The car was part of a southbound train mostly carrying lumber and on the last leg of a Portland-to-Roseville run when the accident occurred at about 1030 hrs. It had just cleared a switching area between Anita and Bennett roads and was traveling at about 10 mph. Engineers were able to stop almost immediately, minimising damage to the tracks. Randy Anderson, a special agent with the Union Pacific Railroad Police, said some of the remaining cars in the train were blocking tracks beyond the switch, making it necessary to halt trains in both directions for part of the afternoon. The cars were eventually pulled back and limited traffic resumed, but trains as far north as Redding were already being impacted.

**MUHURIGONJ AREA, BANGLADESH**

Karachi, Dec 29 — Bangladesh Railway said train services to and from Chittagong of Bangladesh remained suspended for 12 hours Dec 27, following derailment of a freight train at Muhurigonj of Feni district in Southern Bangladesh at 0100 hrs. No train could depart from Chittagong Railway Station for Dhaka, Sylhet and other destinations until rail services resumed after 1300, yesterday when the derailed bogies were salvaged. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**TELWATTA AREA, SRI LANKA**

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes".

**Robberies & Thefts**



**CASH, BANK, BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND**

London, Dec 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Police have raided properties in two Irish Republican Army strongholds of Belfast in search of the £22 million stolen from an Australian-owned bank. Teams of

uniformed officers were called to a series of homes and commercial properties to search for clues. Police have refused to rule out the possibility that a paramilitary gang was behind what officers described as a meticulously planned crime. Elements linked to both Catholic groups such as the IRA and Protestant gangs are heavily involved in organised crime in Northern Ireland, despite the end of most sectarian violence since the 1998 Good Friday peace deal. The loot was snatched from the Northern Bank branch in downtown Belfast on Monday (Dec 20) night, a day after two senior bank employees were taken hostage at their homes outside the city. The gang, posing as policemen bringing news that a relative had been killed in a road accident, took over the homes of bank employees on the outskirts of Belfast. The families were taken hostage elsewhere while the men, both senior bank managers, were ordered to go back to work on Monday and act as if nothing unusual was happening. At the close of business on Monday, they gave the thieves access to the bank's vault. The bank is now considering the drastic move of taking all the types of notes seized out of circulation to prevent the criminals enjoying the spoils. A source at the Northern Bank said it was considering whether to make all notes of the denominations seized in Monday night's audacious raid illegal tender, rendering the proceeds useless. The robbery is believed to be one of the biggest ever staged in Britain. Regular British notes issued by the Bank of England also circulate in Northern Ireland, and could be used in place of the Northern Bank notes for the time being. According to a source with the Treasury in Northern Ireland, if Northern Bank's parent, the National Australian Bank group, decided against a withdrawal of the notes, the government might act instead. Authorities in the British-rule region might even pass legislation ordering the notes to be withdrawn from circulation, a Treasury official said.

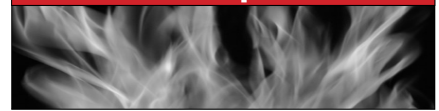
**Miscellaneous**



**VIARSA I (Panama)**

Fremantle, Dec 29 — Fishing Viarsa I is still at Jervoise Bay. — Lloyd's Agents.

**Fires & Explosions**



**FACTORY, CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH**

Karachi, Dec 26 — A huge fire broke out at Abul Khair Condensed Milk and



Beverage Limited at Chittagong Port city's Biazyd area in Bangladesh in the early hours of Saturday (Dec 25). As a result, six units of factory were fully burnt and that altogether caused a loss of million of dollars. Fifteen fire vehicles of Chittagong city's different fire control department rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control at about 1000. However, the devastating fire burnt down raw material, machinery and products. The factory produces Juice, milk powder, condensed milk, tea and other food items. An inquiry committee has been formed to investigate the cause of the fire, the fire-service sources said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **MILL, MELBOURNE AREA, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA**

London, Dec 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire has damaged a Visyboard paper mill at Campbellfield in Melbourne's north today, causing up to Aus\$3 million (£1.2 million) in equipment damage. Melbourne Fire Brigade Commander Ian Yates said the build up of paper dust appeared to have caused a fire in the duct work. "Fire crews arrived in less than three minutes, following the activation of the automatic fire alarm," Commander Yates said. "The fire took 25 minutes to bring under control and the damage was confined to the No. 4 paper mill, during plant and associated duct work." About 40 firefighters on 14 appliances attended the Visyboard fire around midday.

#### **PREMISES, MULHOUSE, FRANCE**

London, Dec 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A gas explosion tore through a five storey apartment building, killing 10 people and injuring another 12 in eastern France. Rescue workers, who originally found two bodies, discovered eight more bodies overnight after the explosion yesterday afternoon in the eastern city of Mulhouse. Most of the deaths were caused by the collapse of three floors, officials said. The victims ranged in age from 15 to 60.

#### **SCRAP METAL PLANT, OKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES**

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: scrap metal plant in eastern Oklahoma exploded yesterday evening, sending fiery debris into the air and blowing out windows of nearby homes. Two of the four people working at the Yaffe Iron and Metals plant at the time remained unaccounted for, and at least 14 people were injured, four seriously, officials said. Debris from the plant was tossed up to 10 blocks away and a nearby shopping centre was damaged, said Michelann Ooten, a spokeswoman for the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management. Witnesses said the explosion at about 2000 hrs sounded like a bomb and the blast could be felt in the next county, about 30 miles away. Nearly an hour after the blast, the fire continued and heavy black smoke poured from the plant.



#### **ACCIDENT AT KABUL AIRPORT, AFGHANISTAN**

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated Dec 28, states: A Russian-built cargo aircraft brought the airport in Afghanistan's capital Kabul to a standstill today after it failed to lower its landing gear and bellyflopped onto the runway, airport officials said. The Antonov aircraft, operated by a company called Golf, mistakenly failed to deploy its wheels and skidded to a halt on the tarmac, Ghulam Ali Timor, director of Kabul Airport, said. "None of the six crew members was hurt but the aircraft has been damaged and airport workers are working to take it off the runway. The airport is closed temporarily," he said. NATO-led peacekeeping troops were helping to remove the aircraft, which was lying on the runway. "Just after 0930 hrs the aircraft came in without its landing gear down. The firefighters saw the landing gear wasn't down, even though the aircraft did not radio to tell the tower, and rushed onto the runway," Lieutenant Commander Ken MacKillop of the International Security Assistance Force said.

#### **CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS, KIRKWALL, SCOTLAND**

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Engineers have been called in to repair a lighting mast at Kirkwall Airport in Orkney which was damaged by a "serious lightning strike". Navigation systems, runway lighting and communications were all affected and scheduled flights were cancelled or delayed yesterday. A daylight only service was in operation today as technicians worked on the repairs. Management were hopeful the damage would be repaired quickly. About 10 inbound and outbound flights were affected following the strike yesterday morning. Paul Clarkson, general manager for airport operator Highlands and Islands Airports, said: "The situation is that yesterday morning we had a serious lightning strike which hit a lighting mast. As a result there was a back surge of electrical current which meant we were without the lighting system and navigational aids. We had to close the airport at official darkness. We advised the airlines as soon as we knew we wouldn't get the systems up and running in daylight. Hopefully given the time of year not that many people will have been affected." Mr Clarkson said experts from National Air Traffic Systems would work on the navigational problems, with electrical contractors from Wick and Inverness called in to deal with the lighting system.

#### **CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS, UNITED STATES**

London, Dec 27 — A press report, dated Dec 26, states: Flight cancellations stranded thousands of Christmas weekend airline passengers in the United States again today as two airlines wrestled with computer and staffing headaches. Financially troubled U.S. Airways scratched 29 flights systemwide after a continued "unusually high level of sick calls" from baggage handlers and flight attendants, said Amy Kudwa, a spokeswoman. Separately, Comair, a Delta Air Lines unit, resumed a "limited" flight schedule after grounding all of its 1,100 flights to 119 cities yesterday because of a computer system crash, said Tracey Bowden, a Delta spokeswoman. Comair mainly flies routes in the eastern half of the United States, including to New York, Boston and Washington, and serves Delta's major hubs in Atlanta, Cincinnati and Salt Lake City, Utah. The Federal Aviation Administration was set to help the two airlines reposition aircraft and crews for normal operations, said Greg Martin, a spokesman. But "the problem is exclusive to their operations," not a federal air traffic control matter, he said, adding this would be of scant consolation to the thousands being inconvenienced. The problems began on Wednesday (Dec 22) and Thursday (Dec 23), when a winter storm buffeted the middle swath of the United States and continued through until yesterday. U.S. Airways canceled 65 flights on Thursday, 176 on Friday (Dec 24) and 143 yesterday. The airline said that flight attendants across its network and baggage carriers in Philadelphia had called in sick in unusually high numbers, but union representatives for both sets of workers denied any job action had been authorised. Yesterday, the travel plans of 30,000 passengers in 119 cities were disrupted when Comair, a subsidiary of Delta Air Lines, canceled all of its 1,100 flights after its computer system crashed. In Philadelphia, the problems, including a pileup of an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 luggage items, were so severe that the U.S. transportation secretary intervened.

#### **CRASH, ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, ALASKA, UNITED STATES**

See Selendang Ayu under "Marine."

#### **CRASH, GALLUP AREA, NEW MEXICO, UNITED STATES**

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A twin-engine airplane that crashed just south of Gallup this morning reported engine problems shortly before it went down. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Roland Herwig says it appears the only person aboard the 1974 Piper PA-31 was killed. The registered owner is Ronald L. Patton of Surprise, Arizona. Herwig says the airplane was flying from Glendale, Arizona, to Newton, Kansas, when the pilot reported engine problems. It was being diverted to Gallup's airport when

it went down. When authorities arrived at the crash site, the airplane was fully engulfed in flames. The National Transportation Safety Board and the FAA are investigating.

#### **CRASH, KAGOSHIMA AREA, JAPAN**

London, Dec 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Three Japanese airline employees are missing after their helicopter crashed into the sea on its way home from offering Christmas flights in a mainly Christian area of Japan, the coast guard has said. The Robinson R44 Raven helicopter went missing in a bad weather late yesterday after leaving the southern city of Nagasaki for its home airport in Saga about 70km away. "We have not found the three," a coast guard spokesman said. The charter flight company employees were veteran pilot Hiroyuki Ubukata, 48, Sachiko Fujimitsu, 33, and Yuki Morita, 33. Coast-guard ships, navy vessels and fishing boats had found debris from the helicopter in the sea off the southern city of Kagoshima, the spokesman said. The charter flight company, SGC Saga Koku, had been offering Christmas season helicopter flights over Nagasaki.

#### **CRASH, UNGURS LAKE AREA, LATVIA**

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated Dec 28, states: A small aircraft crashed in the vicinity of Ungurs Lake in Cesis District this afternoon. Two people were killed, medics from Cesis told the LETA news agency. Cesis District Police Headquarters Chief Janis Kalnins said the downed aircraft was intended for pulling a glider. The aircraft was gutted, and the charred bodies of the deceased had not yet been identified. The crash occurred at around 1600 hrs, when the aircraft went down into a meadow. The police have not yet clarified which airfield the aircraft had taken off from.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, ISTANBUL AIRPORT, TURKEY**

London, Dec 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A passenger aircraft operated by a private Turkish charter airline made an emergency landing at Istanbul airport yesterday after a fall in cabin pressure, but there were no injuries, an airline spokesman said. The McDonnell Douglas MD82, operated by MNG airlines, was on its way from the popular tourist resort of Antalya in southern Turkey to port city of Hamburg in northern Germany at the time of the incident, the spokesman told AFP. There were 160 passengers on board, most of whom were foreign, he said. "Six passengers who said they did not feel well were examined by doctors and will be flown to Hamburg later in the day by a different carrier after some rest," the MNG spokesman said.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, KANSAS CITY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES**

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An American

Airlines flight with 134 people aboard had to make an emergency landing at Kansas City International Airport shortly after takeoff this morning. The aircraft landed safely and no one was injured. The crew reported smoke in the cockpit of the MD-80 jet, said KCI spokesman Joe McBride. The flight, which was heading to Dallas, took off at 1100 hrs, he said. Passengers are expected to be accommodated.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, TRIBHUVAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KATHMANDU, NEPAL**

Karachi, Dec 30 — An Airbus 300 of Qatar Airways en route from Kathmandu to Doha-Qatar was forced to make an emergency landing at the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA), Kathmandu, in Nepal this morning after the captain reported fire on one of the engines soon after take-off. According to local media reports, the flight then returned to Kathmandu and landed safely on one engine, as the fire services were on standby at the airport. Officials have said that all the 10 crew members and 203 passengers on board are safe. According to TIA officials, the aircraft, QR 352, took off at 0930 this morning but made emergency landing at the airport at 1025. Officials have informed that the aircraft will be allowed to fly only after a complete investigation into the matter. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA**

London, Dec 25 — A press report, dated Dec 24, states: A fuel leak prompted a Toronto-bound plane to make an emergency landing at Winnipeg International Airport yesterday. Jetsgo Flight 041, with approximately 80 passengers on board, was 20 minutes into a flight from Winnipeg to Toronto when crew reported a fuel leak in a portside engine, said airport spokesman Kelly Langevin. With just one engine working, pilots were forced to turn the plane around and land it again in Winnipeg, he said.

#### **FLIGHTS CANCELLED, UNITED STATES**

London, Dec 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Days of bad weather, a computer malfunction and sick airline employees put tens of thousands of travelers in holiday limbo yesterday, with Comair cancelling all its flights and US Airways trying to reconnect thousands of pieces of luggage with their owners. Throngs of waiting passengers milled about at Comair's hub at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Regional Airport. At Philadelphia International Airport, several hundred people stood in long lines at sparsely staffed US Airways check-in counters and piles of suitcases were scattered throughout the baggage claim area. Comair, a Delta Air Lines subsidiary, cancelled all its 1,100 flights yesterday because computer problems knocked out its system that manages flight assignments, company spokesman Nick Miller said. The

cancellations affected 30,000 travelers in 118 cities, he said. Miller said the company was trying to put travelers on Delta flights. Crews were working to see how many flights Comair could handle today, but nothing was definite. "It's been a very busy holiday season and we deeply regret this problem for our customers," Miller said. Miller said the problem was triggered in part by flights cancelled Thursday (Dec 23) and Friday because of a winter storm that hit Ohio particularly hard. The airline had cancelled most of its Thursday flights after it ran critically low on de-icer fluid. "There was a cumulative effect with the cancelled flights and trying to get crew assigned that caused the system to be overwhelmed," he said. "It just stopped operating." US Airways, meanwhile, had passengers and thousands of pieces of luggage stranded at Philadelphia International Airport for the third day in a row. The airline blamed the cancelled flights and baggage backups on severe weather Thursday compounded by record numbers of employees calling in sick, according to a company statement. Systemwide, the airline canceled 80 flights yesterday and 100 flights Friday, airline spokeswoman Amy Kudwa said. Spokespeople for the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, which represents US Airways baggage handlers, and the Association of Flight Attendants said they had not organized any job actions. "There is no union action. It's poor management planning, that's my opinion. We have sick calls every single year around the holiday," said Teddy Xidas, president of Association of Flight Attendants Local 40 in Pittsburgh. US Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta has directed senior officials to talk with US Airways management about problems at the airport, Transportation Department spokesman Robert Johnson said Saturday. Philadelphia is a US Airways hub, but the baggage backups extended to other East Coast airports. In Virginia, hundreds of unclaimed bags from US Airways flights were piled at Richmond International Airport and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Extra flights carrying nothing but luggage were scheduled to fly from Philadelphia to the airline's bag processing facility in Charlotte, N.C., where workers could help process bags more quickly, Kudwa said. In Tampa and Miami, baggage delays on Delta flights were also reported. The airline did not immediately return a call seeking comment. Struggling US Airways, bankrupt for the second time in two years, says it needs to drastically cut labour costs if it is to survive beyond mid-January, when its interim financing arrangement with the federal government's Air Transportation Stabilization Board is set to expire. US Airways reservations and gate agents approved a new contract Thursday that cut pay by 13 percent. The airline still needs deals from its flight attendants and its machinists' union.

**INCIDENT AT GUERNSEY AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A passenger aircraft became stuck in mud at the end of the runway at Guernsey Airport, forcing the airport's temporary closure. No one was hurt in the incident, which involved an Aurigny passenger flight from Stansted, via Jersey, yesterday. The aircraft landed safely at 1615 hrs, but when the pilot tried to turn it, the wheel sank into a patch of mud. While fire crews helped free the craft, no other aircrafts were allowed to land since fire cover was not available. Some flights were delayed or diverted to Jersey as a result. The airport was reopened within an hour.

**INCIDENT AT RICHMOND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Dec 25 — A press report, dated Dec 24, states: An aborted U-turn by an American Airlines pilot sent a Dallas-bound jet sliding into a muddy field at Richmond International Airport yesterday, creating delays and cancellations for at least 100 other flights. No one was injured in the low-speed accident at 0820 hrs, as American Eagle Flight 1239 was taxiing before takeoff at the north end of a main runway. The problem occurred as the twin-engine MD-80 aircraft began turning toward the airport's second main runway. As it pivoted, the pilot "misjudged the radius of his aircraft and got stuck in the mud," said Arlene Salac, regional spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration. The entire plane was about eight feet off the runway, stuck in up to six inches of mud, according to witnesses. The mishap occurred at a strategic intersection between the two major runways. Salac said such incidents are "pretty rare," and that the FAA would try to determine why the pilot "somehow was lined up on the wrong runway" in the first place. Airport spokesman Troy Bell called it a "low-speed taxiing incident" with no apparent damage to the aircraft. The National Transportation Safety Board will not investigate the incident, said public affairs director Ted Lopatkiewicz. Airline crews, working with airport fire and rescue personnel, worked through the rainy day to extricate the plane. A local tow truck with dual-winchers finally pulled it out around 1630 hrs. The MD-80, a narrow large-body aircraft, weighs 123,000 pounds and is about 135 feet long. About 5,000 pounds of fuel had been removed by the time Broyles arrived on the scene. By midmorning, the 129 stranded passengers were led down steps at the rear of the plane and driven back to the terminal in airport shuttle vans and buses. The mishap disrupted Richmond International's operations most of the day. The airport had to limit landings and takeoffs to smaller jets able to use a third, shorter runway. One of the main runways was brought back into service by midafternoon, and by 1900 hrs, the airport was returning to normal

operations. Out of 200 flights scheduled yesterday, he said, "Very conservatively at least half of them were impacted by delays or flat-out cancellations." American diverted several aircraft to Norfolk International Airport, said deputy executive director Wayne Shank. The aftermath of the Richmond incident could continue today because some airplanes may not have been able to land here last night to prepare for this morning's flights.

**N5398M**

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated Dec 28, states: A small plane crashed Tuesday near the airport in Ironwood Township, Michigan, killing all five people on board, authorities said. The victims in the crash of the twin-engine Piper were the pilot, his wife and three children, Deputy Sheriff Jay Kangas said. The weather was clear at the time of the crash, and the pilot was apparently trying to land, officials said. "The pilot reported an engine problem followed by a landing gear problem, and was circling the airport at the time of the crash," said Ted Lopatkiewicz, a spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board. Mike Ruotsala said he heard the crash and looked out the window of his parents' home. The plane was nose down amid trees between the house and a nearby pond, he said.

London, Dec 30 — Piper PA-23-250 (Apache), N5398M, crashed near Ironwood, Michigan, at 1800, Dec 28, while on a flight from Menominee, MI, to Ironwood. The aircraft was destroyed. The five persons on board were killed. (See "Crash, Ironwood Township Area, Michigan, United States" in issue of Dec 30.)

**N5631K**

London, Dec 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A single-engine plane whose pilot reported smoke in the cockpit crashed today in a hay field, killing two people on board, investigators said. The pilot was trying to make an emergency landing when the plane crashed at 1020 hrs, in the field near Howards Grove about three miles from the Sheboygan County airport, said Sgt. Doug Tuttle of the sheriff's department. Witnesses told investigators the plane's engine wasn't running when the plane struck the top of some trees, flipped and crashed on its back, Tuttle said. The two victims were the only ones on board the 1964 Beech Bonanza. The pilot had taken off from Manitowoc and was heading to Lockport in northern Illinois, said Tony Molinaro, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration. The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board were investigating the crash.

London, Dec 28 — Beechcraft Bonanza S35 N5631K crashed near Sheboygan, Wisconsin, Dec 25 while on a flight from Manitowoc, WI, to Chicago, Illinois. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

**N849SP**

London, Dec 29 — Cessna 172S (Skyhawk SP) N849SP crashed near

Roswell, New Mexico, at 0123, Dec 27, while on a local flight from Roswell. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

**PLANE GROUNDED AT INDORE, INDIA**

London, Dec 27 — A press report, dated Dec 25, states: A Delhi-bound Alliance Air flight was grounded at Indore tonight following a technical snag in its auxiliary power unit, Air Traffic Control (ATC) sources said. The snag was noticed during an inspection after the plane landed here, they said. The plane was on its way from Mumbai to Delhi via Indore and Bhopal, the sources said adding another aircraft would take the stranded passengers to their onward journey.

**Product Recalls****AIR PISTOLS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Dec 22 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Umarex, of Arnsburg, Germany, today announced a voluntary recall of about 24,000 Walther CP Sport, CP99, and Nighthawk CO2 Air Pistols. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Distributor Crosman Corporation, of East Bloomfield, NY. The air pistols' safety might move from the engaged or "safe" position to the disengaged or "fire" position when the trigger is pulled once or more and then released. This poses a risk of serious injury if the air pistol is loaded and unintentionally fired. No incidents/injuries reported. The recalled air pistols include the Walther models CP Sport, CP99, and Nighthawk manufactured throughout 2003. The recalled models have a serial number of "J3," which is located on the right side of the air pistol. The Walther CP Sport and CP99 CO2 air pistols capture the look and feel of a Walther firearm. The Nighthawk air pistol is outfitted with a compensator, red dot sight, flashlight and a mounting system. If there is an asterisk inscribed next to the serial number, the air pistol is not part of the recall. Sold at sporting goods stores and gun shops nation-wide sold the CP Sports and CP 99s from February 2003 through July 2004 and the Nighthawks from October 2003 through July 2004 for between \$85 and \$300. Manufactured in Germany. Consumers should stop using these air pistols immediately and contact the company to receive a free inspection and repair or replacement unit. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**FORD MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE**

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Ford Motor Co.

is recalling 262,113 Ford Escape sport utility vehicles to repair a defect in the rear gate. The recall is the second of the vehicles this month. Yesterday's recall covers 2001-2005 models whose rear lift gate could open during a crash, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said on its Web site. Earlier this month, Ford recalled 470,245 SUVs from the 2002-2004 model years because of a possible accelerator problem that could result in elevated engine speeds.

**GAS CONTROL VALVES, UNITED STATES**

London, Dec 23 — A press report, dated Dec 22, states: A California company is recalling about 425,000 gas control valves used in a variety of appliances, heaters and fireplaces amid reports flash fires burned several people after valves stuck in the open position. The gas control valve can remain open if the pilot light goes out, which permits gas to continue to flow and can result in a gas explosion and fire, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said today. Three reports of flash fires and injuries have been received, the CPSC said. The recalled valves were made by the Robertshaw Controls Co of Long Beach, CA, and are from the company's 7000 Series — though not all valves in the series are included. They were manufactured from February, 2003, to September, 2004, with production dates beginning with code 0306 and ending with 0436. The valves, assembled in Mexico, are installed in a variety of residential heaters and furnaces, boilers, pool heaters, commercial cooking appliances, water heaters and poultry brooders. They were sold through gas appliance retailers, distributors and service providers; food service equipment manufacturers and dealers; specialty retailers, such as fireplace, pool and spa dealers; and poultry equipment manufacturers.

**GENERAL MOTORS CORP. MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES AND CANADA**

London, Dec 24 — A press report, dated Dec 23, states: General Motors Corp. is recalling 717,302 minivans because passengers could injure their wrists or arms on the power sliding door, the automaker and federal government said today. The vehicles affected are 1997-2005 model Chevrolet Venture, 1997-1999 Pontiac Transport/Montana, 2000-2005 Pontiac Montana and 1997-2004 Oldsmobile Silhouette. The defect involves the interior power sliding door handle on the passenger's side. A person's wrist or arm can be injured if the handle is held while the door is opening. The recall comes more than three months after the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it received 21 complaints about the sliding doors, including 19 reports of arm or wrist injuries and 13 broken bones. After a review, GM said it identified 91 injuries for vehicles built in model years 1997-2004. GM also is recalling 133,425 Opel Sintra minivans sold internationally, mostly in Canada, according Alan Adler, a GM spokesman in Detroit. The vehicle years affected are 1998 and 1999. Owners will be notified of the recall by the manufacturer beginning in March. GM said it will replace the original interior sliding door handle on the passenger side with handles that can't be gripped in a way that could cause injury. The company also will replace the handle on the driver's side door to maintain a consistent appearance.

**KIA MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Dec 21 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Kia Motors (UK) Limited is contacting Sorento owners concerning two safety related issues affecting a total of 4,650 cars. The largest number of Sorento customers, 3,500, are being contacted

regarding the possibility of the alternator pulley seizing and causing the alternator drive belt to be displaced. This can result in increased steering and braking effort being required. In all cases the pulley will be replaced at no cost to the customer. There have been no recorded instances of the alternator pulley seizing on vehicles in the UK. In the second case, 1,152 Sorento customers are being contacted for their automatic transmissions to be replaced because a retaining ring inside the transmission may come loose. Although no cases have been reported amongst UK customers, Kia are taking the action because it would be possible for a vehicle to roll forward whilst in reverse gear. The automatic transmissions are being replaced free of charge.



**ITALY**

Genoa, Dec 27 — Port situation Dec 27: Genoa: Three vessels waiting for berths, average berthing delay is between half and one day. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. Savona: One vessel waiting for normal berth and two vessels waiting for special berth, average berthing delay one day. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Nov 23.)

**KENYA**

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes."

**SOMALIA**

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes."

**TANZANIA**

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes."

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Albany	28-29-Dec-2004	Grain: 2 vessels due by 6/1, 1 to load sand, 1 wheat; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Brisbane	28-29-Dec-2004	Grain: 2 vessels due by 8/1, both to load wheat; no delays expected.
Dampier	28-29-Dec-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 8 vessels due by 14/1; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 anchored; 9 vessels due by 9/1; up to 10 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shippers will always consider a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels awaiting HW; cargo shortages are evident, delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn.
Esperance	28-29-Dec-2004	Grain: 3 vessels due by 13/1, 1 to load wheat, 2 unknown cargoes; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Geelong	28-29-Dec-2004	Grain: 1 vessel berthed to load wood-chips; 2 vessels due by 14/1, both to load wood-chips; no delays expected.
Geraldton	28-29-Dec-2004	Grain: 8 vessels due by 14/1, 6 to load wheat, 2 barley; up to 16 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.

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## Port Conditions

Kwinana	28-29-Dec-2004	Grain: 10 vessels due by 19/1, 8 to load wheat, 2 unknown cargoes; 1-29 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Melbourne	28-29-Dec-2004	One vessel waiting to discharge SBM; 1 vessel due 6/1 to load wheat; no delays expected.
Newcastle	28-29-Dec-2004	Grain: Ten vessels due by 18/1, all to load wheat; 1-8 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Adelaide	28-29-Dec-2004	Grain: No. 27 berth: 4 vessels due by 6/1, 3 to load barley, 1 wheat; up to 18 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Giles	28-29-Dec-2004	Grain: 2 vessels due by 13/1, 1 to load barley, 1 wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Hedland	28-29-Dec-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 3 vessels due by 4/1; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 4 vessels due by 6/1; 1-2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 1 vessel due 6/1; no delays expected; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 4 vessels due by 6/1; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion, maintenance shutdown and cargo availability.
Port Kembla	28-29-Dec-2004	Grain: 4 vessels due by 14/1, 3 to load wheat, 1 barley; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability
Port Lincoln	28-29-Dec-2004	Grain: 3 vessels due by 17/1, 2 to load wheat, 1 barley; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability
Port Walcott	28-29-Dec-2004	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 6 anchored; 14 vessels due by 14/1; up to 7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Every effort will be made to ensure that vessels berth in order of arrival; however, due to product constraints, this may not be possible. Shippers advise that stores, air freight and crew baggage can no longer be delivered to vessels or taken off at berth. With immediate effect, all stores, airfreight and bags must be delivered/removed by launch.
Azerbaijan		
Baku	24-Dec-2004	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 3 vessels berthed, all discharging crude oil.
Brazil		
Paranagua	28-Dec-2004	Fifteen vessels berthed of which 4 fertiliser dischargers, 1 container discharger, 3 reefer loaders, 3 pellets loaders, 4 other loaders/dischargers; 9 vessels waiting in roads, of which 8 to load (1 pellets, 2 soya, 5 others), 1 to discharge fertiliser; 44 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	28-Dec-2004	Three vessels berthed of which 1 wheat discharger, 1 potassium chloride discharger, 1 soya bean loader; 3 vessels waiting in roads; 24 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	28-Dec-2004	Twenty-two vessels berthed of which 2 bulk fertiliser dischargers, 4 chemical products loaders/dischargers, 2 bulk pellets loaders, 1 bulk wheat discharger, 2 full container loaders/dischargers, 7 sugar loaders, 1 bulk fuel oil loader, 2 paper coils loaders, 1 other loader; 25 vessels waiting in roads; 94 vessels due over the next 7 days;
Sao Sebastiao	28-Dec-2004	Seven vessels berthed, 1 waiting in roads; 6 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vit6ira	28-Dec-2004	One cellulose loader berthed; Terminal Vila Velha: 1 container loader/discharger, 1 pig-iron loader, 1 wheat discharger, 1 granite loader, 1 malt discharger; Tubarao: 2 iron ore loaders, 1 soya bean loader; Praia Mole: 1 coal discharger, 3 steel products loaders; Portocel: 2 cellulose loaders; Ubu: 1 iron ore loaders; 26 vessels waiting in roads; 15 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	27-Dec-2004	Thirteen vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (2 bagged ammonium nitrate, 1 containers, 2 sugar, 1 barley, 1 coils, 1 trucks), 5 discharging (1 containers, 3 sugar, 1 billets); 9 vessels waiting in roads, of which 7 to load (1 cigarettes, 1 steel sheets, 1 equipment, 1 copper cathodes, 3 empty), 2 to discharge (1 metals, 1 sugar); 17 vessels due, of which 9 to load (2 coils, 1 containers, 2 steel sheets, 1 profiles, 1 scrap, 1 transformers, 1 barley), 8 to discharge (1 copper concentrate, 1 lead concentrate, 1 billets, 1 containers, 1 iron ore, 3 coal).
Chile		
Valparaiso	27-Dec-2004	Two vessels berthed, 6 berthS vacant; 4 vessels anchored; 14 vessels due this week.
Egypt		
Alexandria	27-Dec-2004	Thirty-seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 30 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 passen ger vessel, 3 containers; 31 vessels at inner anchorage, 2 at outer anchorage.

**Port Conditions**

Damietta	27-Dec-2004	Nineteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 12 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 4 containers; 3 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Suez Canal	27-Dec-2004	Twenty vessels transiting Northbound, 18 Southbound
<b>Israel</b>		
Ashdod	28-Dec-2004	Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 6 vessels discharging at berth (4 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (3 general cargo, 1 bulker); 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 22 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	28-Dec-2004	Two vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 9 vessels loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 1 car carrier, 3 tankers); 2 general cargo vessels waiting at anchor to discharge, 6 vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge (4 containers, 2 tankers); 2 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 15 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
<b>Nigeria</b>		
Bonny offshore	28-Dec-2004	No vessels berthed, 3 anchored, 1 due.
Qua-Iboe terminal	28-Dec-2004	Production at Oso platform remains low. One vessel loading at berth, 3 anchored, 5 due.
<b>Pakistan</b>		
Karachi	03-Jan-2005	Four rice vessels loading at berth, 6 vessels discharging at berth (1 MOP, 1 wheat, 1 general cargo, 1 SBM, 1 crude oil, 1 phosphate), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 crude oil vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 2 vessels due (1 ethanol, 1 HSD), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	03-Jan-2005	One project cargo vessel loading at berth, 2 vessels discharging at berth (1 wheat, 1 palm oil), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 rape seed, 1 HSD).
<b>Russia</b>		
Novorossiysk	27-Dec-2004	Eighteen vessels in port operating, of which 14 loading, 3 discharging; 10 vessels waiting in roads, of which 1 to discharge bulk sugar, 9 to load (3 bulk urea, 1 pig-iron, 1 nitro phosphate, 1 UAN solution, 1 steel billets, 1 cellulose, 1 equipment); 74 vessels due. Oil terminal: no tankers berthed; 6 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 9 tankers due, all to load.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>		
Colombo	03-Jan-2005	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Occasional rains being experienced at present. Five vessels loading at berth, 13 vessels discharging at berth; 1 container/feeder vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 5 vessels dry-docked, 1 at new tanker berth, 1 grounded after tidal wave; 8 vessels due.
<b>Ukraine</b>		
Ilichevsk	27-Dec2004	Ten vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (8 steel products, 1 oil), 1 discharging/loading containers; 1 vessels in roads, to load steel products; 32 vessels due, of which 20 to load.
Mariupol	27-Dec2004	Sixteen vessels in port operating, of which 13 loading, 3 discharging; 9 vessels in roads, of which 8 to load (4 steel, 2 fire-clay, 1 sulphur, 1 kaolin), 1 to discharge foodstuffs; 45 vessels due, of which 42 to load.
Odessa	27-Dec2004	Twenty vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading, 8 discharging, 1 loading/discharging containers, 1 passenger vessel; 8 vessels in roads, of which 4 to load (2 metal, 2 wheat), 2 to discharge citrus, 2 to load/discharge containers; 69 vessels due.
<b>United States Dec 28</b>		
Galveston	28-Dec-2004	ADM-Farmland terminal: 1-2 days delay expected.
Houston	28-Dec-2004	Cargill terminal: 1-2 days delay expected.

## Port Conditions

New Orleans	28-Dec-2004	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 3 days delay expected. Cargill-Westwego: 1-2 days delay expected. ADM/Ama: 6-8 days delay expected. Bunge/Destrehan: 5 days delay expected. ADM/ Destrehan: 6-8 days delay expected. ADM/Reserve: 6-8 days delay expected. Cargill/Reserve: 3 days delay expected. Peavey/Paulina: 3 days delay expected. Zen-Noh/Convent: 3-4 days delay expected. Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays 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: 2 days delay expected; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 2 days delay expected.
Portland, Oreg	28-Dec-2004	Columbia Grain terminal: 4 days delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays expected.

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