

# CasualtyWeek

January 28 2005

## Shipping takes lead in tsunami aid effort

**I**T IS one month since the Asian Tsunami wreaked massive devastation on the Indonesian province of Aceh, leaving more than 220,000 dead.

With the region's already basic infrastructure heavily damaged, if not completely destroyed, the commercial shipping industry has found itself playing a crucial role in a relief effort that is set to last for months and possibly years.

Among those who have played a key role are shipping agents such as Inchcape Shipping Services, which had a presence in the disaster area through local sub-agents ISS-Equinox. Inchcape has worked with non-governmental organisations and foreign Navies in helping to co-ordinate relief operations and the logistics of bringing relief supplies into stricken areas.

### Urgent relief

From an initial search and rescue phase during the first week to 10 days, followed by the provision of urgent relief such as tents and tinned food, Terry Gidlow, Inchcape's general manager of Asia-Pacific, now believes the relief operation is at a turning point, going from emergency operations to the start of reconstruction.

As aid has poured in from around the world, it has resulted in severe bottlenecks in Aceh's shattered infrastructure. At ports such as Banda Aceh and Meulaboh, which

were both heavily damaged, vessels have been unable even to berth, and so have to be unloaded at anchorages, resulting in shortages of small craft. This adds to a voyage time already of say six days from Jakarta to Meulaboh for tugs and barges.

At other ports such as Lhokseumawe, where there are berths operational, the facilities open for the discharge of aid were designed to handle fertiliser, not food and heavy equipment.

While sending aid direct to Indonesia would perhaps seem the obvious option, Mr Gidlow recommends using the port of Penang in Malaysia as a staging post.

"Instead of vessels waiting days for a berth and then taking 10 days to discharge, the cargo can be unloaded at Penang and barged over [to Indonesia]," he said.

### Chartered

There is also demand for small craft such as barges and small tankers, which can be cleaned out to carry fresh water, and which are chartered by aid agencies. "It is a lot easier to source these assets in Malaysia," he explained.

As relief turns towards the longer term reconstruction effort, shipping is set to remain in demand as huge quantities of building materials such as cement, steel and timber will have to be shipped in.

"The quantity of goods is only going to increase," Mr Gidlow warned. "The bottlenecks will not be alleviated until the infrastructure can be rebuilt."

Ironically, it will be the need to rebuild the infrastructure that will add to the logistical headaches.

In terms of shipping services, as aid provision becomes a long-term rather than emergency effort, agencies may shift from voyage to period charters for the vessels they require.

### Cessation

- One consequence of the tsunami appears to have been the continued cessation of Malacca Strait piracy, with the International Maritime Bureau's Kuala Lumpur-based Piracy Reporting Centre stating that it still has yet to log an attack since the waves hit.

IMB director Pottengal Mukundan said: "It is true there have not been any attacks in the northern Malacca Straits since December 26, although there have been attacks in the rest of Indonesia.

"There are a number of reasons for this. Some of the pirates may have died. Lots of their equipment will have been seriously damaged.

"But we think this is temporary. Once life begins to return to normal, crime will increase and crime at sea will increase proportionately."

Mr Mukundan reiterated IMB calls for the Indonesian government to take the problem seriously.

Marcus Hand  
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>ATLANTIC SUPERIOR</i>	bulker	CAN	LR	23,955	38,900	1982	Struck bridge at Portland, Maine Jan 14. Subsequently collided with a dredger and barge. Damage estimated at \$100,000. Moored at Portland. Incident under investigation. No apparent damage. At Bayside, NB, 18 Jan.
EMC 423	tank barge	USA	—	1,397	—	1973	Had fire and explosion on board Jan 19 while carrying out pumping operations at Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal. 1 crewman injured, 1 missing, presumed dead. Partially sank. Section of canal ordered closed.
<i>ENI</i>	general	KOR	—	1,596	2,750	1976	Reported listing in lat 35 05N, long 18 02.7E, Jan 16 and requesting assistance. Subsequently sank same day. Crew rescued by general cargo <i>Majestic Pescadores</i> .
<i>FIANDARA</i>	general	COM	—	863	965	1972	Reported Jan 16 sank in Black Sea, in Bulgarian waters, due to bad weather. All crew rescued.
<i>ISOLA AZZURRA</i>	chem tanker	ITA	RI	9,383	13,843	1997	Had explosion and fire in forecastle Jan 15. Fire extinguished by crew. 2 crew killed. Proceeded to Cagliari under own power and anchored in roads. Coast Guard & Class surveyors on board. Investigation under way.
<i>KORIKO 303</i>	general	KOR	—	860	—	—	Grounded off Samchok in heavy weather Jan 16. 4 crew rescued, 3 dead. Broken in two.
<i>LADY O.</i>	general	PRK	—	1,450	1,968	1966	Reported Jan 17 listing 40 deg in lat 38 50N, long 25 40E. Subsequently sank. 3 crew killed, 5 missing and 3 rescued. Search continuing Jan 19. Search terminated Jan 20.
<i>ORFEO</i>	product tanker	MEX	—	944	1,282	1965	Reported Jan 14 vessel had lost engine power and grounded about 50 yards offshore at Coatzacoalcos in high winds. Crew taken off Jan 15. Still aground Jan 19. Inspection salvage expected to begin Jan 19.
<i>PIONEER NAYA</i>	general	KOR	KR	2,826	4,605	1984	Sank about 260 km NE of Goseong, in approximately lat 40 01N, long 131 16E, Jan 20 after encountering heavy weather. 4 crew rescued, 14 missing.
<i>SAKAERU</i>	general	PAN	(BV)	1,563	2,224	1986	Abandoned by crew due to fire in engine-room Jan 14. Reported adrift in lat 28 09N, long 125 36E, and still on fire. Drifting in lat 27 27.5N, long 125 56.4E, Jan 15.
SB 20	barge	USA	—	3,438	—	1969	Overtaken off Point Avisadero, San Francisco Bay, Jan 10, spilling gravel and diesel fuel into the bay. Several pieces of machinery overboard. Salvage in hand Jan 18.
<i>SUSANNE</i>	trawler	DEU	—	425	200	1983	Reported engine trouble in very rough seas Jan 13 while en route to Faroe Island fishing area. Taken in tow by tug <i>Taucher O. Wulf 3</i> for Cuxhaven, where berthed Jan 14.
<i>THOR II</i>	bulker	PAN	—	10,688	16,990	1972	Sustained serious damage 15 Sep 2002 and towed to Piraeus. Declared constructive total loss and sold for scrap.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



## ADVENTURER II (U.K.)

London, Jan 20 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 0147, UTC: Fishing Adventurer II (337 gt, built 2002) reported wheelhouse window smashed, no electrics, 65 nautical miles north of the Butt of Lewis, in lat 59 36N, long 06 17W, at 0020, UTC. A small electric motor is providing some steering and power. No electronic navigation equipment working. Weather: Wind westerly, force 10 (storm). Faroese fishing Nar Aberg proceeding, ETA in six hours. Stornoway Coastguard keeping a 30-minute communications schedule.

London, Jan 20 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 0635, UTC: Fishing Adventurer II was in lat 59 33.4N, long 06 00.4W, at 0540, UTC. Fishing Endurance is currently about one mile away and is proceeding to stand by and possibly connect up a tow after sunrise. However, the weather in the area remains bad at present.

London, Jan 20 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 0926, UTC: Fishing Endurance is escorting fishing Adventurer II to Scrabster.

## AKAMAS (Singapore)

Honolulu, Jan 14 — It is reported that product tanker Akamas (25800 gt, built 1991) has sustained damage to its turbo-charger. The vessel is due to arrive at Barber's Point Deep Draft Harbour on Jan 15, to unload cargo and effect repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

Honolulu, Jan 17 — Product tanker Akamas arrived Honolulu Jan 15. — Lloyd's Agents.

## ALEXANDER THE GREAT (Greece)

Rijeka, Jan 18 — Passenger ro/ro Alexander the Great left Bijela Jan 12 for Aliaga. — Lloyd's Agents.

## ALFA GERMANIA (Bahamas)

London, Jan 16 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC: At 1730, UTC, Jan 16, Humber Coastguard received a Mayday call from 13-metre fishing Aquarius reporting that they were taking water with three persons on board approximately 16 miles east of Amble. Aquarius reported that they had been involved in a collision moments earlier with crude oil tanker Alfa Germania (56115 gt, built 1998), which was in ballast and on passage to Teesport. Humber Coastguard requested the launch of RNLI Amble lifeboat and the rescue helicopter from RAF Boulmer, which is standing by with pumping equipment. A nearby fishing vessel called Rejoice attended the scene and has secured a tow line to Aquarius, which has lost all steering but is not

sinking. Aquarius is now under tow by Rejoice and will return to their home port of Amble under escort of Amble lifeboat and to be met by Amble Coastguard Rescue Team once in harbour. Alfa Germania has been released and is now continuing passage to Teesport. The tanker is reported to be undamaged. The incident has been reported to the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB).

Hull, Jan 19 — Fishing Aquarius is presently at Amble. A survey is due to be carried out Jan 21. Crude oil tanker Alfa Germania is now at Teesport and reports no damage. — Lloyd's Agents.

## ALMAZ (Russia)

Seoul, Jan 17 — Fish factory Almaz arrived at Yosu on Dec 10, for repair works and is still "under checking/inspection" for the damages sustained. Repairs will be carried out at Daehan Ship Build Co Ltd, Yosu. The Donghae Maritime Police assumed that the fire was caused by a "leakage of electricity". — Lloyd's Agents.

## AN HUA JIANG (China)

Maassluis, Jan 17 — General cargo An Hua Jiang ETD 1500 today for Rouen. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Jan 19 — General cargo An Hua Jiang left Flushing 1432, Jan 17 and passed Dover same day for Rouen.

## ANDREW J. BARBERI (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: The former director of the Staten Island ferry is asking for a dismissal of federal homicide charges stemming from the fatal 2003 crash of the ferry Andrew J. Barberi on the grounds that his job was not covered by an obscure law used to bring the indictment. Patrick Ryan also contends that prosecutors improperly charged him with criminal negligence for not enforcing the so-called "two-pilot" rule that required two licensed pilots to be in the ferry pilot house at all times. Because the two-pilot rule is not required by the US Coast Guard and is ambiguous, it can't be used to bring a criminal case, Ryan's attorney stated in court papers filed last month in Brooklyn federal court. The vessel struck a Staten Island dock after ferry pilot Richard Smith passed out from the effects of fatigue and medication. "Although the idea of a second pilot always standing beside the first is certainly attractive in hindsight given what happened aboard the vessel, the same could be said of every school bus or other passenger carrier that operates every day with just one driver," defence attorney Thomas Fitzpatrick said in his papers. Prosecutors will file a response in three weeks. They are likely to take a broader interpretation of the law and accuse Ryan of doing nothing to enforce any rule dealing with incapacity of a ferry pilot. Fitzpatrick quarrelled with the prosecution's use of the more than 160-year-old seaman's manslaughter statute. The maritime manslaughter law makes it a crime for a "captain, engineer, pilot or other person"

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employed on a vessel to cause a person's death through negligence. Since Ryan was not on Andrew J. Barberi when it crashed and killed 11 people, that part of the law doesn't apply to him. The problem, Ryan's attorney argued, is with another phrase in the law that includes "every owner, charterer, inspector, or other public officer" among the group of people who can be held responsible for deaths aboard a vessel. Ryan was neither an "inspector" nor "public officer" within the meaning of the law, according to Fitzpatrick. The attorney said that when the maritime manslaughter law was passed in the 19th century, it referred to customs officers who at the time were given the job of inspecting vessels. Ryan also was not an "owner" or "executive officer" of the ferry owner, Fitzpatrick said. City personnel rules didn't put Ryan's job in the executive tier of the Department of Transportation, according to the court papers. Ryan faces 11 manslaughter charges and one count of giving false statements. A trial is slated for March. (See issue of Nov 15.)

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated Jan 18, states: A supervisor's claims that the city vigorously enforced a key safety rule was undercut by his own masters, according to new documents released today by federal officials probing the crash of Staten Island ferry Andrew J. Barberi which killed 11 people in Oct 2003. Captain Patrick Ryan, the city's director of ferries, insisted repeatedly in an interview with investigators days after the crash that rules clearly required two pilots to be in a ferry's pilot house when docking, barring some unforeseen emergency. The National Transportation Safety Board released transcripts of dozens of interviews about the crash. The investigation has centred on why assistant captain Richard Smith was alone in the wheelhouse when he apparently collapsed at the controls, causing the vessel to slam into a maintenance pier. Smith pleaded guilty in August to 11 counts of manslaughter for his part in the accident. Captain Michael Gansas has struck a deal with prosecutors that a single charge of lying to investigators will be dropped if he co-operates in their case against Ryan, who has pleaded not guilty to manslaughter charges. Prosecutors charge Ryan never told new pilots about a rule that the captain and assistant captain share the wheelhouse during docking. Federal authorities say Ryan also failed to enforce the rule. Eight days after the incident, Ryan told NTSB probers that both the captain and his assistant should be together at the controls at all key times. Later in his testimony, Ryan insisted the rule must be "followed all the time. That's our standard operating procedure." However, masters working under Ryan disagreed. When the NTSB asked Captain Andrew Covella if the two-person policy was always in effect, he answered: "Every trip? Not every trip. No, if I had confidence in the man and I had to do other tasks, inspect

something." Port Captain Joseph Ecock offered a much looser interpretation of the wheel house staffing rules: "If (the master) doesn't want to be in the pilot house, if he has to go do something, he can do it, as long as he knows a qualified person is in the pilot house."

#### **ANNIE HILLINA (Germany)**

London, Jan 14 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1744, UTC: Anchor-handling tug Anglian Sovereign is to proceed at full speed to stand by fishing Annie Hillina (1877 gt, built 1981), anchored in lat 60 10N, long 01 03.7W, 270 deg, 0.3 nautical miles from Loder Head, Bressay. One anchor holding, one dragging in southerly gale force 8, heavy sea and swell, moderate visibility. No cargo on board but has 8,000 litres of gas oil and 500 tonnes of heavy oil.

London, Jan 15 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 0642, UTC: Fishing Annie Hillina is alongside at Lerwick harbour.

London, Jan 17 — Understood salvage services were rendered to fishing Annie Hillina under Lloyd's Open Form by Klyne Tugs (Lowestoft) Ltd.

Sullom Voe, Jan 19 — Fishing Annie Hillina sailed Lerwick Jan 15. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **AQUARIUS (U.K.)**

See Alfa Germania.

#### **AQUARIUS (United Kingdom)**

See Alfa Germania.

#### **ARION (Greece)**

London, Jan 16 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Passenger ro/ro Arion (11152 gt, built 1972), while making manoeuvres to berth stern fast at the port of Mytilene, contacted with the starboard stern against the port bow of passenger ro/ro Panagia Krimniotissa (9021 gt, built 1973) due to strong winds at 1400, Jan 16. Panagia Krimniotissa was already moored stern fast at the quay. Both vessels sustained some hull damages from the collision but there were no injuries to the crew of both vessels. The port authority of Mytilene is performing an investigation into the incident.

Piraeus, Jan 17 — Passenger ro/ro Arion was in collision with passenger ro/ro Panagia Krimniotissa at the port of Mytilene, Jan 16. Arion drifted in strong winds prevailing at that time, Beaufort 9-10 (strong gale/storm) while performing anchorage manoeuvres. Its stern hit the port side of Panagia Krimniotissa's bow. It is noted that only material damages were caused by the collision, no injuries were reported. The authorities of Mytilene port prohibited the departure of both vessels until inspection is completed. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Jan 14 — Understood general cargo Ascension (3972 gt, built 1993) entered Emden as port of refuge Dec 18 after containers shifted in heavy

weather. The vessel had left Gdansk for United States, with containers when it encountered heavy weather north of Texel and proceeded to Emden for safety reasons. According to the port captain altogether 12 containers had shifted of which nine containers, containing explosives, were determined to have been damaged. It was decided that the damaged containers should be taken, using specialised companies, by truck back to Poland. (Note — Ascension sailed Gdansk Dec 11, passed Brunsbuttel Dec 16, arrived Emden Dec 18 and sailed Dec 20 for Wilmington, NC.)

#### **ATHOS I (Cyprus)**

London, Jan 14 — A Delaware River Oil Spill Joint Information Centre report, dated Jan 13, states: Crude oil tanker Athos I, latest updates: Over 1,300 responders are working in the command centre and along the Delaware River, and 115 vessels are deployed in the response effort. Some 84,020 gallons of oil and oily liquid and 1,817 gallons of submerged oil have been recovered, and 7,428 tons of oily solids (cleanup materials and oil) have been collected. Thirty-eight facilities have been grossly decontaminated with seven currently being decontaminated. Experts report 258 birds have been released and 174 birds are reported deceased. Oil has affected approximately 57 miles of shoreline from the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge to south of the Smyrna River in Delaware, mainly light patches of oil and a very light sheen.

London, Jan 15 — A Delaware River Oil Spill Joint Information Centre report, dated Jan 14, states: Crude oil tanker Athos I arrived at the Atlantic Marine Shipyard in Mobile Jan 7 for drydocking to facilitate the Unified Command's continued investigation into the cause of the damage to the cargo and ballast tanks and to undergo repairs. The damaged area of the hull has been removed and is being returned to Philadelphia for further examination and forensic analysis. "Now that the ship is out of the water and the tanks are clean we have an 'accurate estimate' of approximately 265,000 gallons of oil spilled into the Delaware River from Athos I," said Captain Jonathan Sarubbi, US Coast Guard Captain of the Port Philadelphia. "We knew oil had been released from the cargo tank into the ballast tank at the time of the spill, but until now, we didn't know how much." According to Captain Sarubbi, once the ship was drydocked, the amount of remaining oil removed from all the tanks on the ship was measured, including the oil in the damaged ballast and cargo tanks. From this measurement, the amount attributable to the ballast tank was calculated. "An independent marine surveyor completed the calculations and provided the final estimate, so we are confident in the final number," said Captain Sarubbi. "Because of all the variables; evaporation of oil, water in the oil, expansion and contraction of the oil due to temperature changes, we

are satisfied that an 'accurate estimate' is the best we can hope for." Oil recovery operations are continuing, weather permitting, throughout the winter months. Once the gross decontamination is completed, the next step will be a detailed assessment of the contaminated areas to finalise the cleanup plan. The Unified Command anticipates cleanup operations will continue through spring and into the summer. Investigation into the cause of the spill continues. Final results of the investigation are not expected to be released for several months. Latest Updates: Over 1,300 responders are working in the command centre and along the Delaware River, 105 vessels are deployed in the response effort. Some 84,020 gallons of oil and oily liquid and 1,817 gallons of submerged oil have been recovered, 7,812 tons of oily solids (cleanup materials and oil) have been collected. Thirty-eight facilities have been grossly decontaminated with seven currently being decontaminated. Experts report 258 birds have been released and 174 birds are reported deceased.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated Jan 18, states: Crude oil tanker Athos I may have hit a large anchor and a concrete slab in addition to a hunk of metal already considered a possible culprit, Coast Guard officials said today. Officials told a congressional subcommittee meeting in Philadelphia that investigators were inspecting the punctured section of hull taken from Athos I and conducting paint-comparison tests to identify the cause of the Nov 26 accident. The anchor and the 8-by-4-ft concrete slab were found in the tanker's path and the anchor was bent, Coast Guard officials said. Coast Guard officials previously said a 15-ft hunk of metal — apparently part of a huge pump — ripped a hole in the vessel.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: Less than two months after crude oil tanker Athos I leaked about 265,000 gallons of crude oil into the Delaware River, the clean-up cost is nearing \$100 million with months of work and years of restoration to come. At a hearing yesterday in Philadelphia, a congressional subcommittee learned that the 15-ft chunk of metal that probably caused the damage to the vessel and resultant spill eluded sophisticated radar for days. The U-shaped piece of metal was found by a diver who accidentally backed into it. The group also learned that an anchor and concrete slab also may have been involved. Officials said investigators are inspecting the punctured portion of the hull, cut from the tanker during repairs, and are conducting tests to compare paint from the objects with paint from the hull. The anchor and the 8-by-4-ft concrete slab were found in the tanker's path to a refinery dock near Paulsboro, NJ. Coast Guard officials said the anchor was bent but more investigation is needed to determine what role those objects may have played in the Nov 26 accident. "The vessel did indeed pass over these large objects either as she

was coming in or as she was leaving," said Capt Jonathan Sarubbi of the Coast Guard, adding that the exact sequence of events was unclear. Both objects were found more than 40 ft below the surface, Sarubbi said; Athos I draws about 36.5 feet but had been listing deeper after the accident. Rep Frank LoBiondo, R-NJ, chairman of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, and Rep Rob Andrews, D-NJ, led the subcommittee's questioning of Lt Robert Ruch of the US Army Corps of Engineers, focusing on the corps' attempt to find out what caused the spill. Ruch said initial sonar surveys the corps took of the area revealed nothing. However, a side-scan sonar provided by a contractor showed "an area of interest" in the water. While swimming through that area, "the actual pipe was found when a diver backed into it," he said. No one saw the pipe with the sonar equipment, and its source is still unknown. LoBiondo asked Ruch if he was sure no other debris was in the channel. "I can't tell you with absolute certainty that there is nothing," Ruch replied. Ruch told the subcommittee it would cost more than \$3 million to equip the corps with, and provide maintenance for, a more accurate side-scanner sonar. As of Monday (Jan 17), clean-up workers had recovered 79,131 gallons of oil and oily liquid, 1,817 gallons of submerged oil and 8,115 tons of oily solids, or roughly a third of the 265,000 gallons of oil spilled. LoBiondo told officials he is concerned with the amount of oil not recovered. "If warmer temperatures cause the oil to come back up, will it migrate to our beaches?" he asked. "That's a primary concern of mine," said Brad Campbell, commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. "We're already at the \$90 million mark," Campbell said. "That gives you a sense of scale of how much this will cost." The oil spill clean-up had cost \$94.5 million so far and probably would not be completed until the summer, Sarubbi testified. Since the tanker company apparently was not negligent in the spill, it is liable only for \$45.5 million of the damage, according to the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, he said. Sarubbi said the ship's owner, Tsakos of Greece, has paid for all of the clean-up costs so far. However, there is no guarantee the company will continue to pay, he said, and under the law, Tsakos may ask to be reimbursed for any money it pays over the liability amount. That money would have to come from the oil liability trust fund, also set up by the 1990 act, Sarubbi said. Rear Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara testified that the fund, originally at \$1 billion, is now at \$842 million, and may be depleted by 2009. The fund was supported by an oil tax until the tax was discontinued in 1994, she said. LoBiondo said he would push to increase the limited liability amount.

#### **ATLANTIC SUPERIOR (Canada)**

London, Jan 14 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1415,

UTC: Bulk Atlantic Superior (23955 gt, built 1982) contacted a bridge at Portland, Maine, 0013 today. Vessel subsequently collided with a dredge and the barge it was towing. Damage estimated at \$100,000. Incident under investigation. Moored at Sprau, Portland, Maine.

Portland, Maine, Jan 18 — Bulk Atlantic Superior is currently at Bayside, NB, Canada. Divers inspected the bow thrusters of the vessel and determined there was no apparent damage. No repairs were required. The tug/dredge had a survey however, and any required repairs are to be determined. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **AURORA (U.K.)**

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Passengers on passenger Aurora that has only got as far as the Isle of Wight say they are happy to stay aboard while their broken-down liner is fixed. Aurora was due to leave Southampton for a round-the-world cruise on Sunday (Jan 9) but propulsion problems have caused a nine-day delay. But only six of the 1,752 passengers have decided to abandon the P&O voyage. The managing director of P&O, David Dingle, said the trip would now take 95 days instead of 103, and that passengers would be compensated for the loss of days or offered a full refund if they did not want to go. There is a problem with the vessel's propulsion system "It's not a big problem and we are all very comfortable except for the people who are only travelling on the first stage and will miss a few stops as, I think, we are going straight across the Atlantic." The cost of this delay and compensation to passengers is not known but is expected to run into millions.

London, Jan 15 — A press report dated today, states: Passenger Aurora remains in port as engineers try desperately to fix propulsion problems that have delayed its world voyage for a week. The majority of the 1,752 passengers have decided to remain on board the P&O vessel while the repairs are carried out. A P&O spokesman said it was hoped to put to sea tomorrow afternoon for further trials after the engineers had completed their work. Tuesday (Jan 18) was the earliest the vessel could depart, said the spokesman. P&O managing director David Dingle has said passengers would be compensated for the loss of days of the cruise, and those on the first leg would be offered a full refund if they did not want to go. He said because the round-the-world trip would now take 95 days, and this would change the itinerary, passengers would also be compensated for this.

London, Jan 17 — The troubled passenger Aurora, which has been stuck in Southampton because of problems with its propulsion system, has left to undergo sea trials. The vessel left the docks at midnight. Repairs have been carried out and the ship is being tested in the Channel. Most of the 1,752 passengers have remained on board the P&O ship

enjoying free hospitality while they wait to see if they can get underway tomorrow.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger Aurora was expected in port today after trials to test the latest repairs. A P&O spokeswoman said the vessel had been put out to sea again to test the latest repairs. She said Aurora could depart on its Grand Voyage today, depending on the outcome of the latest trial. "The earliest anticipated departure is Jan 18 providing the outcome of the tests are successful," said the spokeswoman. "There may be a requirement for further work. Until we have the results of the test, it is not possible to say when it will be setting off." Aurora has been sailing in the Channel with 1,708 passengers on-board since the early hours of yesterday and was expected to return to Southampton port late last night or in the early hours of this morning. The vessel was anchored in Tor Bay and off Portland yesterday as part of the engine tests in the Channel.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger Aurora will sail today, P&O Cruises said today. A P&O Cruises spokeswoman said: "Final work is being undertaken today but we are confident it will be departing at approximately 1700 this afternoon."

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated Jan 18, states: Passenger Aurora has been left stuck in port for yet another night, despite promises it was about to set sail. P&O said earlier today that, following more work to fix a problem with the propulsion system, it was confident Aurora would set sail this afternoon. However, the repairs were continuing into tonight, with no definite departure date set. "The departure checks including the final checks to repairs on the propulsion motor have revealed that further work needs to be undertaken on the motor," a P&O spokeswoman said. "That work is under way. It is anticipated it will be completed late this evening. The vessel will not be sailing before midnight and I cannot give a timescale after that either." Despite the problems, all but a handful of passengers have remained on board.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: P&O Cruises was facing the cancellation of a £25 million round-the-world cruise today as engineers tried frantically to fix one of two main propulsion motors on passenger Aurora. The ship's captain, Hamish Reid, told increasingly frustrated passengers this morning that a decision would be made at 1700 hrs, on whether the Aurora could set sail today, 10 days late, on its "grand voyage" around South America, Oceania and Asia. A shipping source in Southampton suggested that the prognosis was not good and the ship might have to be sent back to its manufacturers in Germany to have a replacement motor fitted - a task that could take weeks to complete. "It looks like it's all going pear-shaped," the source said. "If they have to replace the whole propulsion unit it will mean

approximately a nine-week wait for a replacement and docking the ship to install it." In preparation for a possible cancellation, passengers were told this morning that they would be offered first refusal on a shorter cruise around South America that P&O Cruises hope to squeeze in before the ship's next scheduled trip if this cruise is called off. So far its passengers, many of them regular cruisers, have been supportive. Less than a fifth of the 1,752 passengers are thought to have taken refunds, and the remainder had been confident that they would set sail yesterday afternoon as promised on a shortened 93-day cruise that would allow the Aurora to start her next trip, due on Apr 22, on time. Then last-minute tests on the repaired starboard motor showed that it was still not ready for the rigours of a round-the-world cruise. A P&O Cruises spokeswoman said the unit would be "rebalanced" today and tested at quayside, and maybe in a short sea test, before the decision was taken on whether to set sail. "This afternoon, we will be in a better position to know exactly whether the ship will be able to undertake her grand voyage," the spokeswoman said.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger Aurora has finally left Southampton after problems with the propulsion system delayed its round-the-world cruise by ten days. A P&O spokeswoman said the vessel left port today at 2045, UTC. The liner was to undergo final tests when it reached open water to make sure repairs had been successful. If Aurora passes the tests it will continue on its revised world cruise, if not it will return once again to Southampton, according to P&O. The P&O spokeswoman said: "We need to test when the ship is at full power, moving through water at a reasonable speed. It is to go to sea to test the durability of the repairs. If the tests are successful it will carry on its voyage." The delays have resulted in more than 350 of the 1,752 passengers leaving the vessel.

London, Jan 20 — Passenger Aurora has been forced to return to dock having managed to set sail 11 days late. Owner P&O said repairs to the £200m vessel's propulsion engine, which had delayed the start of its cruise, were unsuccessful. It is now putting back, to dock in the Solent. The company said tests overnight showed the ship would not be able to reach speeds needed to complete its global voyage. It is expected to dock at Southampton at midnight with passengers being asked to disembark from 0830 hrs, tomorrow. Passengers will be refunded their full fare together with compensation of 25% of the amount paid for their holiday to be used as a future cruise credit on a holiday booked before the end of January 2007.

#### **BARGE BREAKAWAYS, OHIO RIVER, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Three runaway coal barges that broke loose Saturday (Jan

15) came from a Neville Island coke plant as tug Sam S. (74 gt, built 1960) crew was in the process of transporting them a few miles upriver, authorities said yesterday. Two barges, each carrying a 1,500-ton load, remained lodged in the Emsworth and Dashields dams on the Ohio River. A third sank between the two dams. The river was running too swift and deep yesterday for salvage operations to begin. The Coast Guard and lockmasters said the grounded "jumbo barges" do not pose a danger to waterway traffic. "It's stationary; it's not going anywhere," said Ron Johnson, Dashields' lead lock operator. The barges, which were moored at the Shenango Inc. coke plant on Neville Island, were to be transported one by one to a landing three miles upriver by Sam S., said Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Rodney Wert. After one barge had been successfully towed, the remaining three broke free of their moorings about 1220 hrs, said Bob Tomko, a lockmaster at Emsworth, where one barge remained stuck yesterday. Of the two barges that cleared the Emsworth Locks and Dam, one sank and the other drifted 7.1 miles to Dashields Locks and Dam near Glenwillard, on the Ohio close to the Beaver County line. The Coast Guard will investigate how the barges were moored and "if they were safely secured during transportation," Wert said. The barges are 35 feet wide and 200 feet long. Sam S. is registered to Crescent-based River Salvage Co, according to a Coast Guard database.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Plagued by floodwaters only a few days ago, low water conditions were expected to close the Ohio River to barge traffic between Belleville and Willow Island sometime today. The shutdown is expected to last at least four days. The river level at the upper end of the Belleville navigation pool, normally regulated by the Belleville Lock and Dam complex near the Wood-Jackson county line, "is going down pretty quick," said Chuck Minsker, spokesman for the Army Corps of Engineers' Huntington District. "It should be down below the minimum 6-foot level sometime today. When that happens, we'll have to stop all traffic between Belleville and Willow Island, because barges won't be able to lock through." Five of Belleville Dam's eight gates were jammed in the open position on Jan 6, when a runaway tow of barges struck the dam shortly after tug Jon J. Strong locked through during high water. Four partially submerged barges continue to block the dam gates. Salvage operators initially hoped the lodged barges could be pulled free of the dam, but later concluded they would have to be hacked apart with cutting torches, then pulled through the structure. Until yesterday afternoon, water levels were too high to begin the cutting work, Minsker said. "The most optimistic estimates call for three days of work once cutting is able to start, then another 24 hours to raise the pool back up," Minsker said. Loss of the Belleville Pool could also destabilize the banks of

the Ohio between Belleville and Willow Island and shut down public and industrial water supply intakes.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Ohio River traffic was halted along a 42-mile stretch today after water levels fell to critical lows behind a lock and dam that was jammed by the wreckage of a barge accident. Salvage crews worked at the Belleville Lock and Dam to remove twisted barges from control gates that were stuck in the open position. The jammed gates are keeping the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from controlling the water levels from Belleville to the Willow Island Lock and Dam. About 17 towboats, each pushing between 12 and 17 barges, move through the Belleville lock daily. Closing the river costs barge companies \$350 to \$400 an hour in down time, said Ann Adams with Jeffersonville, Ind.-based American Commercial Barge Line. "They are very expensive pieces of equipment to operate," said Adams. American Commercial, one of the nation's largest with about 3,000 barges, had seven tow vessels and barges trapped by the low water. The corps has been notifying businesses along the affected stretch of river that it may be Sunday (Jan 23) before the barges are removed and another day or more after that to refill the stretch of river.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: Salvage crews made little progress today in their attempts to remove the wreckage of three barges and restore traffic on a 42-mile section of the Ohio River. Crews managed to hook onto one of the barges and move it but couldn't remove it, said U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spokesman Chuck Minsker. The barges were among nine loaded coal barges that broke loose Jan 6 (from tug Jon J.Strong) during flooding along the river. The force of the water twisted three of the 175-foot-long steel barges into horseshoe shapes around a dam's gate piers and sank a fourth. With the barges wrapped around the concrete piers, the corps cannot close the dam's water control gates, causing water levels to dip too low for barge traffic to navigate that section of the river. The corps closed the section of river this morning. The closed river is costing barge companies up to \$400 an hour in down time.

#### **BAUMWALL (Gibraltar)**

London, Jan 15 — Ro/ro Baumwall arrived Helsinki Jan 11 and sailed Jan 12 for Hamina.

#### **BELMONTE (Netherlands Antilles)**

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Victoria RCC, timed 1800, UTC: Bulk Belmonte (40160 gt, built 2004) has sustained heavy weather cracking damage one metre long to the keel tunnel in way of a ballast tank. Vessel in lat 44 42N, long 141 43W at 1700, UTC, proceeding at 14 knots to Juan de Fuca. Vessel in no immediate danger. (Note — Belmonte sailed Chiba Jan 8.)

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 1656,

UTC: Bulk Belmonte is proceeding to anchor at the entrance of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, ETA 1900, local time, Jan 21.

Seattle, Jan 19 — Bulk Belmonte ETA pilot station 2000, local time, Jan 19. Vessel arriving to load grain at Tacoma, however, reports of hull cracks have caused the schedule to be adjusted. Vessel to lay berth at Pier 90, Seattle, for requisite surveys etc. ETA 0200, Jan 20. Owners representative reportedly en route from China. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BESACE (France)**

London, Jan 20 — Following navigation warning issued at 2243, UTC, Jan 18: Fishing Besace (50 gt, built 1981) sunk in lat 46 34N, long 02 50W, at 2018, UTC, Jan 18. Three persons missing. Vessels in vicinity requested to keep a sharp lookout, assist if possible. Reports to Etel MRCC.

London, Jan 20 — Following received from Etel MRCC, timed 0850, UTC: Fishing Besace, FULV, had six persons on board when it sank of which three persons are missing, two rescued and there was one fatality.

#### **BIG VALLEY (U.S.A.)**

London, Jan 16 — A press release from the United States Coast Guard, dated yesterday, states: An urgent search is currently underway in the North Pacific for three fishermen from fishing Big Valley (169 gt, built 1968) that presumably sank this morning. There were six people on board, three were recovered already. One crew member is doing well in the Saint Paul clinic, one has been pronounced dead and the condition of the third crewman is unknown at this time. A Coast Guard helicopter crew picked up two of the crewmen at approximately 1100 hrs, one out of the water and the other out of a liferaft, and transported them to Saint Paul. The third crewman was picked up out of the water by crew members of an Alaska State Trooper boat and is still on board. The three recovered crewmen were wearing survival suits. The Coast Guard cutter Sherman, Coast Guard aircraft, the Alaska State Trooper vessel Stimson and numerous fishing vessels are searching an area 70 miles west of Saint Paul Island for the missing crew members. The Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Centre in Juneau picked up an EPIRB shortly after 0700, today. The EPIRB showed to be registered to Big Valley, a 92-foot vessel home ported in Kodiak. The Coast Guard quickly issued an urgent marine information broadcast.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated Jan 16, states: Rescuers searched the turbulent Bering Sea today for three crew members missing from fishing Big Valley, which sank killing two of the other three people on board. Authorities did not find the men after searching all day today but planned to send fresh crews out tomorrow morning, Chief Petty Officer Darrell Wilson said. "We are searching for these people and holding out all hopes

that we'll find them alive," he said. Big Valley sank amid stormy seas and winds of up to 40 mph, 70 miles west of St. Paul Island, or about 750 miles west of Anchorage. The three crewmen found were wearing bulky survival suits, but two of them died. One was recovering at a Saint Paul hospital after he was found floating in a liferaft. Kodiak resident Gary Edwards, the skipper and owner of Big Valley, was among the missing. Today's search took place in 12-foot seas. In the 37-degree water, the survival rate is estimated at slightly more than five hours for people wearing survival gear, according to Wilson.

London, Jan 17 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1730, UTC: Fishing Big Valley, six crew, sank in the Bering Sea in approximately lat 56 59.8N, long 173 10W, at around 1634, UTC, Jan 15. One crew member rescued, two dead, three still missing.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated Jan 17, states: The Bering Sea had calmed slightly today as the Coast Guard resumed its search for three people missing from fishing Big Valley, which sank in stormy weather. Three crew members of the vessel were found after it sank Saturday (Jan 15). All of them were wearing bulky survival suits for the cold weather but only one was alive. The survivor, found in a liferaft, was treated at a hospital and released. A coast guard cutter and helicopter went out at first light today to hunt for the missing crew members, said a Coast Guard spokeswoman. Seas were running about two metres, half the height of waves during yesterday's search.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard suspended its search for three crewmen missing from Kodiak-based fishing Big Valley late yesterday that sank in the Bering Sea early Saturday (Jan 15), and the sole survivor said he doesn't know what happened to his crew mates. Two other crewmen in survival suits were also found Saturday, but neither survived. Three others from the boat, including captain and owner Gary Edwards of Kodiak, remained missing yesterday as the Coast Guard wrapped up the third day of an intensive search. Petty Officer Richard Reichenbach said the Coast Guard was suspending its search for the men, barring any further developments.

#### **BRAVE ZHEJIANG (Panama)**

See "Netherlands" under "Port State Control."

#### **CANADIAN TRANSPORT (Canada)**

London, Jan 19 — Bulk Canadian Transport (23399 gt, built 1979) had a fire in the exhaust system from the emergency generator, due to turbo-charger failure while unloading at Lambton Generating Station, on the St.Clair River, in lat 42 47 54N, long 82 28.31W, at 1740, Jan 15. Crew put fire out, minor damage.

#### **CHRISTIAN (Singapore)**

London, Jan 18 — Tug Christian and barge Flora towing through South East

Asian Waters when it was hijacked by pirates has been recovered but the crew are still missing and investigators are fearing for their safety. Acting upon information provided by ICC's International Maritime Bureau (IMB) and the vessel owners, Malaysian authorities located and boarded the hijacked Indonesian vessels on Jan 8. IMB Director Pottengal Mukundan said: "Confidential intelligence from the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre resulted in the recovery of the hijacked tug and barge at Tawau in East Malaysia. As part of this operation, the Royal Malaysian Police have detained three pirates and another individual has been taken into custody. Unfortunately, at this time all nine crew members are still missing." The tug was towing the barge from the Philippines to Kota Baru, Banjarmasin in Indonesia. The last communication the owners had with the tug was Dec 14 when the tug was in lat 05 34N, long 119 22E. The Royal Malaysian Marine Police discovered the two vessels, operating under the false identities Hita and FL2 and flying the Belize flag. At the time of seizure, the vessels were at a local shipyard where staff had been instructed to change the names of the vessels by altering the lettering of their original names.

#### **CIBELES (U.K.)**

London, Jan 13 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 2140, UTC: Fishing Cibeles: Position at 2100, UTC: lat 56 52.4N, long 10 53.8W. Towing vessel, fishing Bruix reports tow broken and repairs underway and master will advise when tow recommenced. Co-ordination of incident now passed to Coastguard Clyde MRCC.

Belfast, Jan 18 — Fishing Cibeles arrived Killybegs at around 0900, Jan 16. Damage to the vessel consists of smashed windows in the wheelhouse caused by a heavy sea, damaging most of the equipment on the bridge. In addition, a rope seems to be entangled around the propeller. Repairs are expected to take around three weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CMA CGM VOLTAIRE (Germany)**

See "Brittany, France" under "Pollution."

#### **DAE BO SAN (North Korea)**

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Dae Bo San (2143 gt, built 1960) is stuck in a fishing net fixed in Iida Bay off the city of Suzu, Ishikawa Prefecture, the Japan Coast Guard said yesterday. All 25 crew members on board the vessel are safe, waiting for rescue, Coast Guard officials said.

#### **DELVINA (St. Vincent & Genadines)**

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

#### **DIYAKAWA (Sri Lanka)**

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

#### **DOROUSSA (Panama)**

London, Jan 17 — Following received from Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC: Timed 1045, UTC: Crude oil tanker Doroussa (31416 gt, built 1982) is reported to have been at anchor in lat 52 24N, long 04 34W, since late last week with engine problems. (Note — Doroussa sailed Rotterdam Jan 9 and passed Dover same day.)

Timed 1100, UTC: Crude oil tanker Doroussa, in ballast, is effecting repairs to a piston problem. Master hopes to complete the repair sometime tomorrow afternoon.

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC: Timed 1320, UTC: Crude oil tanker Doroussa is now underway and proceeding to Falmouth, where ETA 0500, UTC, tomorrow.

Falmouth, Jan 19 — Crude oil tanker Doroussa anchored in Falmouth Bay at approximately 1100, Jan 19, for fresh water. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ECO PRINCESS (Panama)**

London, Jan 14 — Understood salvage services are being rendered by Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd to chemical/oil carrier Eco Princess (ex Eleanna, 4412 gt, built 1990), in ballast, under Lloyd's Open Form, dated Jan 13, following engine breakdown. Also understood salvage tug Leopard is proceeding to assist the vessel. (Note — Eco Princess sailed Algeciras Jan 8, arrived Gibraltar 0250 same day for bunkers, and sailed 1101 same day for Paranagua.)

Piraeus, Jan 18 — Chemical/oil carrier Eco Princess was redelivered to its owners at Dakar on Jan 16. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

#### **ELIZABETH M (U.S.A.)**

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The master of tug Elizabeth M had several chances to cut loose six barges and save the crew before the tug tumbled over a Beaver County dam, killing three men, a survivor's lawyer said yesterday. George "Toby" Zappone, a master pilot with more than 20 years of experience, had been off duty but grabbed control of the vessel and refused to abandon six coal-laden barges caught in a fierce, 12 to 15 mph current, said a lawyer for deckhand Jacob Wilds. "There were multiple times the master could have disengaged from the barges and saved the crew," said Dennis O'Bryan, who represents Wilds and the family of Tom Fisher, a deckhand who drowned. "There were a bunch of different manoeuvres the master made to save the barges." Elizabeth M sustained minor damage to its hull, halfway between the bow and stern on the right side, Dec 31, towboat operator Campbell Transportation Co, of Dunlevy, Washington County, said last night. Crewmen spotted a foot-long, 2-inch gash in the single layer steel hull when they boarded the ship several days before the accident, O'Bryan said. Campbell said the damage was about 18 inches above the waterline, while O'Bryan put it eight inches above. He downplayed the hole as a potential

cause of the tug sinking, but said it raised questions about whether Campbell had followed safety protocols. "Everybody on that boat knew about it. So you had to assume the company did as well," said O'Bryan, who accompanied Wilds at a two-hour interview yesterday with Coast Guard investigators. O'Bryan said the hole could have hindered the boat's progress "when it was fighting with the current." The Coast Guard does not currently inspect river-going towboats, although it is drafting procedures to do so, Cmdr. Wyman Briggs said. Wilds also maintains the boat's crew was advised not to head upstream by deckhands on other ships on the water in Georgetown, Beaver County. O'Bryan said Zappone took control of the ship after Rick Conklin sounded the general alarm at about 0230, Jan 9 as currents began sweeping the two lead barges into the middle of the river, causing them to partially break off from the tow. Wilds was ordered onto the barges to try to secure them but soon retreated to the tug, O'Bryan said. O'Bryan said Scott Stewart, a pilot, and Conklin, who had a provisional license, were likely in the pilot house when the barges drifted into the current, but he did not know which of them was at the controls when the ship came out of the locks. O'Bryan said the boat should not have been attempting to navigate against the current, which was flowing four times faster than normal. Lt. j.g. Justin Covert said the Coast Guard had not been informed of the gash by the company or crew. A formal Coast Guard hearing into the accident is tentatively set to begin Jan 31, Briggs said. The inquiry will determine the cause of the accident. Findings will be forwarded to the Coast Guard's national headquarters and could be used in criminal or civil cases, Briggs said. Tows began crossing the locks yesterday morning, but Coast Guard officials were again hampered in attempts to recover Elizabeth M.

#### **ELIZABETH M. (U.S.A.)**

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Operations to remove coal and six sunken barges from around the Montgomery Locks and Dam in Beaver County, where at least three men died in the tug Elizabeth M. accident Sunday, have been postponed until tomorrow at the earliest because of high waters on the Ohio River. The US Coast Guard announced yesterday that initial salvage operations will concentrate on the sunken barge closest to the dam, which poses the greatest threat to commercial traffic. Removal of that barge is expected to take three days or longer. A channel for commercial traffic has been reopened, so that barge traffic can move through the dam area during daylight hours. No oil or chemical transports are being allowed. The Coast Guard is in the process of interviewing crew members who survived the accident involving Elizabeth M., as part of an ongoing investigation. Separate funeral services were held yesterday for three crew



members who died in the accident. A missing crewman is presumed dead. His body may be on the stranded tug, which is half-sunk, just below the dam. The search for his body has been postponed until river levels fall.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A fatal tug accident 10 days ago and several recent breakaway barge incidents prompted the Coast Guard commander in Pittsburgh to announce yesterday that he will shut down operations of marine companies involved in future accidents until the companies provide detailed reports. Companies found in violation of the regulation can be fined up to \$32,500 per violation. The first company subjected to the new directive was E&G Enterprises, the Neville Island company that owns three coal-filled barges that got loose Saturday (Jan 15) on the Ohio River at the Emsworth Lock and Dam. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation temporarily closed the Sewickley Bridge after one of the barges struck a bridge support. Two other barges are stuck in the Emsworth and Dashields dams. Cmdr. Wyman W. Briggs decided to invoke his authority under the Ports and Waterways Safety Act as a result of the fatal Jan 9 accident of tug Elizabeth M., in which three crew members died and another is missing. The directive requires a company involved in an accident involving a tug or barges to provide the Coast Guard with a report that details the cause of the accident and a plan for corrective action. The Coast Guard would suspend operations of the vessels involved in the accident until it reviews and approves the report, Briggs said. The Coast Guard consulted with local tug companies and the Waterways Association of Pittsburgh, a trade organisation, before Briggs decided to announce the suspension policy, he said. Elizabeth M. remains lodged on an icebreak in the Montgomery Dam, where it landed after it was forced over the dam by the weight of a fierce current and coal-filled barges. Officials believe the body of Rick Conklin, 40, of Crucible, Greene County, may be in the tug's pilot house. The tug is likely to remain in the dam for quite some time, until the river is deemed safe to begin a removal operation. The first priority of the Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers is to put divers in the river to examine the partially submerged tug and try to find Conklin's body, said Richard Lockwood, chief of the operations and readiness division at the Pittsburgh office of the Corps of Engineers. Such an operation will take at least eight hours because of the complicated mechanics involved in manipulating the gates of the dam to raise and lower the water to permit divers to do their job, Lockwood said. Briggs and Lockwood also announced yesterday that the Ohio River near the Montgomery Dam has been opened to all navigation after commercial river traffic was restricted after the accident. Three Campbell Transportation barges that broke away during the accident remain above the dam but are not

obstructing traffic, Lockwood said. Two other barges remain below the dam. A sixth barge is missing and the Coast Guard now believes it is above the dam because a search for the barge for five miles below the dam was unsuccessful, Briggs said. The rash of breakaway barges is partly the result of high water on the river, Briggs said. The Coast Guard, the Corps of Engineers and companies involved with the Waterways Association will establish a task force to make recommendations about safety measures in high water, Briggs said. "It's time to take a second look at the procedures to see if they're adequate," he said.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated Jan 18, states: A gash on the side of tug Elizabeth M. was minor and does not appear to have been a factor in the boat's sinking last week, the Coast Guard said today. Last week, crewman Jacob Wilds told authorities that the boat had a gash, about a foot long and two inches wide, on its side. Wilds' lawyer, Dennis O'Bryan, said the gash may have been an indication that the boat should not have been on the water. In a news release today, the Coast Guard said the boat had been damaged on Dec 31, but the damage was minor and "did not breach the hull or affect the seaworthiness of the vessel." "Final confirmation of the severity of this unreported damage will occur once Elizabeth M. is raised," the Coast Guard said. Also today, the Coast Guard lifted nighttime travel restrictions on barges carrying oil and chemicals near the spot where the towboat sank on the Ohio River. However, boats in the area between miles 31.5 and 35 of the Ohio River still must be accompanied by an assist vessel. Officials have not been able to recover the boat because of unsafe conditions on the swift-moving Ohio. Salvage operations this week were to focus on locating the last of the sunken barges.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard plans new safety measures to protect towboat crews from high water after tug Elizabeth M. sank on the Ohio River last week, killing three of its seven crew members and leaving one presumed dead. A task force will examine whether to impose towing limits, identify dangerous stretches of river and issue safety rules during high water, Coast Guard Cmdr. Wyman W. Briggs said yesterday. Its members will also consider whether an assist vessel should be required in dangerous parts of the Ohio during fast currents. The task force includes members of the Coast Guard, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Waterways Association of Pittsburgh, and a representative of Campbell Transportation Co., which owns the towboat that was carried away by swift currents. The new safety measures will include a requirement that any boat involved in an accident be docked until its owner completes an in-house investigation and a plan for corrective action, Briggs said. Companies found in violation could be fined up to \$32,500 per infraction.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: The U.S. Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers announced yesterday that recovery operations on the wreck of Elizabeth M. would begin early tomorrow morning. The vessel remains stuck below the Montgomery Locks and Dam on the Ohio River, where strong river currents and the weight of six coal barges forced it over the dam on Jan 9. Three crew members were confirmed dead in the accident, and a fourth is missing. On Tuesday night (Jan 18), salvage equipment started removing coal from one of the sunken barges. Officials will attempt to raise the first barge today. But the top priority for the recovery operation is the retrieval of the body of crew member Rick Conklin, believed to be in Elizabeth M.'s pilot house. Six divers have been contracted by Campbell Transportation Co. Inc., owner of the towboat. The main diver, assisted by the others, will enter the vessel through the exposed pilot house on the port side. Officials with the Army Corps of Engineers said public access to the Montgomery Locks and Dam will be prohibited during the search and recovery operation.

#### **EMC 423 (U.S.A.)**

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: A barge (tank barge EMC 423, 1397 gt, built 1973), operated by Egan Marine Corp, carrying "13,000" barrels of clarified slurry oil, partially sank today after it exploded in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. The fire occurred at 44th and Cicero, just north of the Stevenson Expressway. The barge was sitting at a dock pumping a product in or out of a pipeline it was hooked up to when the fire started, according to police. Police searched for survivors in the canal with three boats. One person who was believed to have been on the barge remained missing tonight. Two other people on the barge at the time of the explosion were doing OK tonight. One person was transported to an area hospital around 1820 hrs in good to fair condition, Fire Dept. spokesman Larry Langford said. The other person onboard was the master, who was not injured. When firefighters arrived at scene, the barge was burning in the middle of the canal where firefighters could not reach it, Langford said. A privately owned tug came and pushed the barge closer to the banks of the canal so that firefighters douse the blaze, he said. Thick flames and black smoke, shooting up to 1,000 feet, could be seen from at least 25 miles away. The smoke spread out over the Stevenson Expressway during rush hour, causing traffic to slow to a crawl. Southbound Cicero Avenue was shut down all the way to 31st Street, and northbound from just north of Stevenson Bridge Oil could also be seen in the canal around the barge during the fire. The barge was carrying a type of heavy oil often used in asphalt, but sometimes used as an industrial fuel, according to Langford. Small pieces of debris could also be seen on the Cicero

Avenue bridge. Earlier in the night, red metal piping debris, 15 to 20 feet long, could be seen in the middle Cicero Avenue on the bridge. The piping was later taken away by city workers. About 100 pieces of emergency equipment responded to the scene. A Midway International Airport crash truck also was at the scene, using a hose called a deckgun that is designed to fight airplane fires, Langford said. The barge was so heavily water logged from the deckgun that it sank, he said. The barge was on fire for approximately 45 minutes before the barge sank, extinguishing the flames.

London, Jan 20 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 0845, UTC: Tank barge EMC 423, cargo 14,000 barrels of clarified slurry oil, sank in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal following a fire on board. The vessel is sitting on the bottom with 20 ft of the barge above the waterline. At the moment the canal is closed to shipping.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities searched yesterday for a man believed to be missing after tank barge EMC 423, carrying thousands of gallons of a gooey petroleum byproduct, exploded, caught fire and then sank in a ship canal. The man was believed to have been working on the barge when it burst into flames in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal on the city's south-west side, said Mac Meade, a spokesman for the Coast Guard in Chicago. The search was suspended late last night and was scheduled to resume this morning. A boiler on the barge apparently exploded, igniting the clarified slurry oil, said Illinois Environmental Protection Agency spokeswoman Maggie Carson. IEPA investigators went to the site of the explosion and crews tried last night to determine how much of the substance might have spilled into the canal. Egan Marine Corp., operated the barge and the company would be responsible for cleaning up any environmental damage.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard called off a search late yesterday for a crew member who disappeared after ank barge EMC 423) he was on exploded and caught fire in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. Alex Oliva, who was presumed dead, was on the barge in front of a tug when the blast occurred at 1643 hrs, Coast Guard Petty Officer Michelle Jiminez said. The barge, owned by Egan Marine Corp of Lemont, was shipping 588,000 gallons of clarified slurry oil from an Exxon-Mobil facility in Joliet, where the cargo had been loaded Tuesday, Jiminez said. The tug, Lisa E., managed to stay afloat after the explosion and ensuing fire near 40th Street and Cicero Avenue. But the barge sank about 1720 hrs. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, which sent an official to the scene, will assess the damage and determine whether the sinking poses a threat to public or environmental health, agency spokeswoman Anne Rowan said. Coast

Guard officials have opened an investigation into the cause of the explosion, but they think a malfunctioning boiler caused it, Jiminez said. "There are several questions that have to be answered," said Dennis Egan, a veteran tug pilot and head of Egan Marine, which owns and operates the vessels. "Why that cargo would explode and where was the source of the explosion." The tug and barge were passing beneath a bridge when the explosion occurred, said Egan. The tug and barge had recently made the same trip twice before and there had been no problems, Egan said. Egan faces the prospect of paying for a cleanup, if an investigation finds his company was responsible for the explosion and any spill, according to the Illinois EPA. Maggie Carson, an Illinois EPA official, said that clarified slurry oil thickens in cold water, and therefore might be easier to remove if any of the substance seeped into the canal. The state EPA, Coast Guard and other agencies will meet this morning to discuss further action and any necessary cleanup. Last night, the state EPA did not know how much of the cargo had spilled into the canal, Rowan said. The Coast Guard, which has jurisdiction of the port of Chicago and its waterways, ordered a section of the canal closed. The canal is shut indefinitely to maritime traffic between the Harlem Avenue and Pulaski Road bridges in order to assess if the canal is safe for traffic, Coast Guard spokesman David Mosley said. Although the explosion happened near a Citgo plant, it had nothing to do with the facility.

#### **ENI (North Korea)**

Valletta, Jan 16 — Following received from Malta Radio: General cargo Eni (ex Deniz Kizi, 1596 gt, built 1976), 10 persons on board, requesting immediate assistance in lat 35 05N, long 18 02.7E. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 16 — Following received from Malta Radio, timed 0708, UTC: General cargo Eni, HMWP3, is reported listing.

London, Jan 16 — Following received from Malta Radio, timed 1015, UTC: General cargo Majestic Pescadores has rescued the crew of general cargo Eni.

London, Jan 16 — Following received from Ankara MRCC, timed 1025, UTC: General cargo Eni is ex Deniz Kizi. Understand vessel sank at 0827, UTC.

London, Jan 17 — Understood general cargo Eni was on voyage Egypt for Algeria, cargo approximately 2,800 tonnes bagged cement.

#### **EUROPEAN HIGHLANDER (Bahamas)**

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Ro/ro European Highlander that grounded on the Scottish coast last weekend was back in operation today. The vessel, which ran aground close to the terminal at Cairnryan in gale force winds, has been fixed. A spokeswoman for P&O Irish Ferries said the two-year-old ro-ro ferry had been inspected and repaired at dry dock in Liverpool. "The vessel grounded on a shingle beach and the

damage was very limited," she explained. "After being refloated and discharging its passengers and freight, the ferry went to Liverpool before returning to Larne. "It went back into service on Wednesday night (Jan 12) after the storms subsided."

#### **FIANDARA (Comoros)**

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated Jan 16, states: General cargo Fiandara (863 gt, built 1972), which sailed Varna yesterday for Turkey, cargo timber and steel products, sank in the Black Sea because of bad weather. All the crew, including three Bulgarians and three Ukrainians are in good condition. The incident happened shortly before the ship had left the Bulgarian territorial waters. The sailors managed to lower the rescue boats and leave the ship. They were rescued at the Turkish coast.

Varna, Jan 17 — General cargo Fiandara, sailed Lesport, Varna, 0350, local time, Jan 15 for Gemlik, cargo 870 tonnes industrial wood, with six crew, three Bulgarians and three Ukrainians. At 1526, local time, same day, the Bulgarian Harbour-master Directorate "Search and Rescue" received a distress alert from Fiandara in lat 41 58N, long 28 02E, reporting that the vessel was heavily listed to port. It dropped both anchors and the crew abandoned the vessel with lifeboats and liferafts. All crew members were saved. Reported weather conditions at the time of incident: "wind N5" (? northerly force 5), fresh breeze, sea state: "3 Beaufort". At 0800, Jan 16 salvage tug Mizar approached the area of accident and reported that there are no signs of the abandoned vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **FLORA (Singapore)**

See Christian.

#### **FLYING DOLPHIN XVII (Greece)**

Piraeus, Jan 19 — Hydrofoil Flying Dolphin XVII completed repairs and returned to service on Jan 14. The vessel is performing the Volos/Sporades Islands schedule and is expected to carry out an annual inspection in due course. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GENERAL LEE (Panama)**

See under "Miscellaneous."

#### **GILIAN (Cyprus)**

London, Jan 15 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0625, UTC: C.c. Gilian remains at Eastern Working Anchorage, Singapore.

Singapore, Jan 17 — C.c. Gilian is still at Eastern Working Anchorage, Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GLOBAL CHALLENGER (Singapore)**

Portland, Oreg, Jan 18 — Bulk Global Challenger departed the Columbia River on Jan 13, and was headed for Kashima, Japan. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Jan 19 — C.c. Hanjin Pretoria arrived Long Beach Jan 17.

**HANSEATIC STAR (Gibraltar)**

Arendal, Jan 17 — General cargo Hanseatic Star sailed from Arendal on Jan 16, after completing repairs to gearbox. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**HANYANG GAS (South Korea)**

Busan, Jan 18 — Lpg Hanyang Gas arrived at the premises of Kyung Nam Shipbuilding and Engineering Co Ltd, Busan, on Dec 16. According to the owners of the vessel, it will be scrapped soon but, as yet, there is no schedule fixed for scrapping operations. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**HAVTANK (Cambodia)**

Cuxhaven, Jan 13 — Product tanker Havtank (1083 gt, built 1969), Skagen for Rotterdam, in ballast, in contact with bouy "NL 12" on River Elbe Jan 9. The propeller damaged by the chain from the bouy. Tugs Taucher O.Wulf 3 and Taucher O.Wulf 8 brought the vessel to Cuxhaven where berthed at 1930, Jan 9. Diver inspection found screw damaged and BV surveyor boarded. Vessel has to be drydocked. Vessel sailed under tow of Taucher O.Wulf 3 to Hamburg at 0900, Jan 11, arriving at around 1600, same day. The bouy sunk and has to be removed by the shipping authority. — Correspondent.

Hamburg, Jan 19 — Product tanker Havtank is still at the wharf "Norderwerft GmbH & Co. KG" in Hamburg. For the time being the wharf is waiting for some replacement parts to be provided by the ship's owner, which are expected to arrive by end of next week. After receipt of the needed parts the repair reportedly will take three to four days. — Lloyd's Agents.

**HOO FALCON (U.K.)**

St.Peter Port, Jan 15 — General cargo Hoo Falcon (1382 gt, built 1991) berthed St.Sampson's harbour, Guernsey, at 0845 today with request for partial hull survey following ranging damage sustained while at Silloth between Jan 3 and 9. Survey will be conducted today. — Lloyd's Agents.

St.Peter Port, Jan 17 — A limited hull survey was carried out on general cargo Hoo Falcon and found: Vessel damaged about the port quarter, said to have occurred while berthed at Silloth New Dock. Damage said to be caused by vessel ranging on berth between Jan 3 and 9. Visual internal and external inspection between frames 03 and 08, and no shell or weld fractures sighted. The transverse bulkhead of the port side fuel tank is at frame 8. Tank internal not sighted. Master reports no loss of fuel. Vessel sailed St.Samson 2028, UTC, Jan 15 for Par. — Lloyd's Agents.

**HYUNDAI ADVANCE (Panama)**

Singapore, Jan 17 — C.c. Hyundai Advance remains at Berth 19, Sembawang Shipyard. — Lloyd's Agents.

**IKA NO.7**

Suva, Jan 18 — Vessel Ika No.7 was put on tender by Fiji Customs Oct 29,

however, no tender was accepted as successful and therefore it will be readvertised in due course. — Lloyd's Agents.

**IRMGARD (Malta)**

Santander, Jan 13 — It was reported that the list to ref Irmgard was caused by the entry of water and gasoil as a result of cracks in the top plates of ballast tank 5.2A and bunker tank 4.C. All cargo has been discharged in order that repairs can be carried out. Repairs commenced today. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Bilbao, Jan 20 — Understand that in order to effect repairs ref Irmgard has been unloaded. The repairs can be completed in one or two days. The cargo will be reloaded before sailing. Date of departure and destination port not yet known. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ISOLA AZZURRA (Italy)**

London, Jan 15 — Following received from the managers of chem.tank Isola Azzurra (9383 gt, built 1997), dated Monaco, today: Tekne Sam, managers of Isola Azzurra regret to report that at approximately 0130 this morning a fire broke out on the vessel while it was sailing from Cagliari to Leghorn. The crew on board vessel immediately followed firefighting procedures and extinguished the fire, which was located inside the forecastle. Sadly, two of the vessel's crew, of Indian nationality, lost their lives as a result of the fire and the company has already contacted next of kin. No further injuries are reported and no pollution as a result of this incident. The vessel is currently safely anchored at Cagliari roads where it arrived under its own power. Representatives of the ship manager, Classification Society and Italian Coast Guard are currently attending the vessel. The Company will be carrying out a full investigation, in conjunction with the Port Authority and the Class Society, into the causes of the fire.

London, Jan 17 — Update Statement from Finaval S.p.A, shipowner and Tekne Sam, managers of chem.tank Isola Azzurra, in respect of the incident, which occurred Jan 15: Finaval SpA and Tekne Sam express deep condolence for the lives lost of the two seafarers: Bosun, Mr Maria Thomai Antony Edison, 36 years old and Ordinary Seamen, Mr Umesh Uthaman, 26 years old. Both seafarers who died in this tragic event joined the company in 2001 and were highly regarded as professional and valued members of the team. The Indian Embassy in Rome was duly informed about the incident in order to arrange for repatriation of the two bodies that will be accompanied by a company representative. Families of the two crewmembers have been met by the company's local representatives and will be properly supported. The investigation on board is still in progress by the local authorities and our representatives, in order to establish the root causes of the confined explosion and subsequent fire, which was promptly extinguished by

crew. The result of the investigation, when completed, will be fully disclosed.

London, Jan 18 — The cause of the fire that killed two men on board chem.tank Isola Azzurra on Saturday (Jan 15) was still unknown yesterday as magistrates in Cagliari continued their investigation into the incident. A spokesman for Finaval said representatives of the Italian Coast Guard, classification society Registro Italiano (Rina) and the company were on board, but that "the cause has yet to be ascertained." Further information was unlikely until the magistrates' investigation had been completed. The vessel has been detained by local magistrates in Cagliari pending the results of their investigation into the deaths. Finaval said it had notified the Indian embassy in Rome of the incident in order to return the two crew members to their loved ones as soon as possible. The company had also contacted the families of the victims directly through its Indian agents. Italy's shipowners' association, Confitarma, citing information supplied by its maritime emergency centre in Genoa, stressed that the fire did not appear to have involved the cargo tanks, but broke out in the bow.

**JON J. STRONG (U.S.A.)**

See "Barge Breakaways, Ohio River, United States."

**JON J.STRONG (U.S.A.)**

See "Barge Breakaways, Ohio River, United States"

**KAIWO MARU (Japan)**

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

**KORIKO 303 (South Korea)**

Busan, Jan 17 — General cargo Koriko 303, 860 gt, registered Busan, Busan for Donghae, cargo limestone, grounded off Samchok during heavy weather at approximately 0845, Jan 16. Four crew out of seven on board the vessel were safely rescued by the Marine police boats. One crew member found dead and the remaining two crew are still missing. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Koriko 303, Busan for Donghae, cargo limestone, was struck by a rogue wave and ran onto a rock 200 metres off the coast of Gungchon port in Samcheok City, Gangwon Province, Jan 16, leaving three men dead. The Coast Guard helicopter took two days to rescue four seamen from drowning due to severe weather conditions.

Busan, Jan 19 — General cargo Koriko 303 was completely broken in two after grounding. The missing two crewmen were found dead on board. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**KRISTEN LEE (U.S.A.)**

See M560L.

**LADY O. (North Korea)**

London, Jan 17 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0005, UTC: General cargo Lady O. (1450 gt, built

1966) is listing 40 deg in lat 38 50N, long 25 40E. Assistance is required and crew are abandoning ship.

London, Jan 17 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0615, UTC: General cargo Lady O. sank in lat 38 50N, long 25 40E. Three crewmen have been rescued, two are dead and six remain missing. The search continues for the missing crew.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: "Eight sailors were reported missing and two rescued" early today when general cargo Lady O. sank in the Aegean Sea, the Greek merchant marine ministry said. The ministry said Lady O., carrying 700 tonnes of steel, had sunk 25km north of the north-eastern island of Psara. Seven of the missing sailors were of Egyptian nationality, according to the two survivors, also Egyptians, quoted by the ministry. The eighth missing sailor was Syrian, it said. It was not yet known why the ship, which was bound for Istanbul, sank, the ministry said, although strong winds were blowing in the area. The ship had sent a distress signal today at 0105 hrs and sank an hour later. A helicopter, a rescue boat and a port police patrol boat were rushed to the scene to search for the missing sailors, it said. Four other cargo ships, which were in the area, were also taking part in the search.

London, Jan 17 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: The Central Search and Rescue of the Ministry of Mercantile Marine was advised by VHF that general cargo Lady O. was in a dangerous situation 14 nautical miles north of Psara island at 0105, today. Immediately nearby vessels were notified and tanker Nuevo Leon, cargo vessel Lady Hind, tanker Pride and cargo vessel Carola proceeded to the area to assist. Additionally a Super Puma helicopter was despatched along with one salvage craft and one patrol vessel of the coast guard. Lady O. which had previously departed from Chalkida bound for Istanbul with 732 tons of iron on board, sank at 0210 hrs. At 0355 hrs, Lady Hind located and saved one crew member. Another was saved by the helicopter at 0430 hrs. Efforts continue to find the remainder of the crew who are understood to be in two liferafts. The weather in the area is winds of beaufort 9 (strong gale).

London, Jan 18 — Two seafarers died and another six men were missing yesterday after general cargo Lady O. sank in the eastern Aegean as stormy weather battered Greece. One was reported to have fallen into the sea as a Turkish helicopter tried to rescue him. The Greek Coast Guard continued searching for survivors in the belief that most crew abandoned ship on board two lifeboats or rafts. Three seafarers were reported rescued — two by a Super Puma rescue helicopter and a third by one of a number of cargo vessels that joined in the search. Meanwhile, the bodies of two dead crew members were also discovered. Greece's Ministry of Merchant Marine said the crew of the vessel was initially believed to consist of eight Egyptians and two

Lebanese. However, the authorities were informed the vessel was also carrying an Egyptian passenger. The Coast Guard said that the vessel had been overwhelmed and sank about 14 miles north of Psara island at 0210 hrs.

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0135, UTC: General cargo Lady O.: At the present time, three crew are confirmed dead, three have been rescued and five remain missing. The search for the missing crewmen is still ongoing, with a helicopter due to resume overflying of the area in three hours from now.

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0550, UTC: The search for the five missing crewmen from general cargo Lady O. is still under way. So far, there have been no sightings of the men.

London, Jan 20 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1120, UTC: None of the missing crew from general cargo Lady O. have been located and searches will be terminated later this afternoon.

#### **LEESWIG (Cyprus)**

Pasajes, Jan 18 — General cargo Leeswig (2561 gt, built 1985) is at Pasajes under repair. The vessel sustained main engine gear damage when sailing Jan 14. Last news is that it is still repairing, with no prospect of completion. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — Leeswig arrived Pasajes Jan 11.)

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

San Francisco, Jan 14 — Tug Louie refloated Dec 31. Currently at Cove, Lake Washington, Sacramento. Intentions regarding repairs not presently known. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **LT LLOYDIANA (Italy)**

Singapore, Jan 17 — C.c. LT Lloydiana and tug SmitWijs London arrived Singapore 1040, Jan 16. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **M560L (U.S.A.)**

Miami, Jan 18 — Barge M560L is still aground. Vance Construction Inc have been hired to cut up the barge on the beach and haul away the wreckage. The operation began Dec 12, and the estimated time of completion is Jan 26. Tug Kristen Lee reported no damage and is currently working in the Gulf of Mexico. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MALINDO NO.2 (Malaysia)**

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: An oil spill from a Malaysian barge (barge Malindo No.2, in tow of tug Malindo No.1) has damaged around seven hectares of coral reefs in Busuanga town, Palawan. Palawan provincial board member Arthur Ventura, environmental and natural resources committee chairman, was in the Calamianes Group of Islands in northern Palawan over the weekend to inspect the damage caused by the oil spill from Malaysian registered vessel "Malindo I" that ran aground off Calaut Island in Busuanga last Dec 4. The Busuanga local

government unit has sought 10 million pesos worth of damage from the company that owns the barge.

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

Suva, Jan 18 — Trawler Massachusetts: Situation unchanged. It appears that there are no interested parties to purchase the vessel and the current owners have no intention to have it repaired. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MASTROGIORGIS (Panama)**

London, Jan 18 — Bulk Mastrogiorgis passed Gibraltar 0331, Jan 16.

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

Anchorage, Jan 19 — US Coast Guard Marine Safety Office in Ketchikan advised that passenger ro/ro Matanuska was only in Ketchikan for a brief period. They completed minor repairs to the propeller which involved changing four of the blades. It apparently set sail on Jan 12 and continued its regular route along Alaska's inside passage. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MELDERSKIN (Norway)**

London, Jan 16 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Ro/ro Melderskin (1974 gt, built 1985), on voyage from Halhjem to Vaage, had leakage in the engine-room and the engine stopped at about 1715, local time, Jan 15. Two other ferries arrived and towed Melderskin to quay at Vaage. No injuries to the 104 passengers. Melderskin will be taken out of service and be replaced by ro/ro Ullensvang. Unknown when the ferry will be back in normal service.

London, Jan 18 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Ro/ro Melderskin completed repairs and returned to normal service between Halhjem and Vaage Jan 17.

#### **MEOB BAY (Namibia)**

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: The official inquiry into Namibia's most deadly maritime disaster yet was concluded on Monday (Jan 17) with a finding that neither the skipper of fishing Meob Bay nor its crew could be faulted over their safety training and the way in which they abandoned the vessel before it sank two-and-a-half years ago. A four-member Court of Marine Enquiry, which was tasked to establish answers to a limited number of issues around the sinking of the vessel near Luederitz on Jun 7, 2002, handed down its judgement in Windhoek on Monday afternoon. The court's enquiry mainly focused on establishing whether the crew of the fishing vessel, which belonged to a Luederitz-based company, Marco Fishing, had been properly trained in safety measures, whether life-saving equipment on board the vessel was properly maintained, stored and accessible, if the vessel was abandoned according to proper procedures, and specifically if the loss of 19 lives due to the sinking of the vessel was due to a "wrongful act or default" on the part of the ship's skipper, Jacques de Kock. Both De

Kock and the vessel's crew were exonerated of any blame, it emerged yesterday when the acting Minister of Works, Transport and Communication, Dr Nickey Iyambo, announced the basic thrust of the court's findings. This was that the safety training of the crew and their abandonment of the vessel when it sank within a matter of minutes were done in accordance with the applicable national maritime law. Iyambo did not want to reveal details of recommendations that the court had made to the Minister of Works, Transport and Communications to prevent a possible repeat of the disaster but indicated that these may result in a change of Namibian law and even a proposal from Namibia for the international convention on the safety of fishing vessels to be amended. He said the evidence before the court had indicated that the skipper had done what he could under the circumstances to save the lives of his fellow crew members, that they had indeed received appropriate safety training, and that skipper De Kock could not be held liable as having been negligent or having contributed to the accident that led to the sinking. The court was not asked to determine what had caused the sinking in the first place. It is accepted, though, that the seed of the disaster lay in a piece of rope that was tied to an anchor that was lying on the seabed. The propeller of Meob Bay became entangled in the drifting rope as the vessel was passing over it. That brought the engine to a halt, leaving the vessel powerless and at the mercy of the rough sea. The vessel soon swung around with its stern pointed towards the heavy oncoming swell, starting taking in massive quantities of water and, within about five minutes, it sank. Of the 28 crewmen on board, nine survived after they were rescued from the freezing cold sea, twelve were confirmed to have died and seven are still missing and presumed dead. With such a death toll, it was the worst maritime accident yet in the waters of independent Namibia.

#### **MIYUKI MARU**

London, Jan 13 — Following received from Coastguard Thames MRSC, timed 1730, UTC: Ferry Miyuki Maru is now alongside at Chatham. The fire service has extinguished the fire. The vessel has been boomed off, but no pollution is reported. The vessel has been moved to Collier Dock and the entrance has been boomed.

#### **MSC JADE (Panama)**

London, Jan 15 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0228, UTC: C.c. MSC Jade (36514 gt, built 1986), Antwerp for Bremerhaven, ran aground at Schelde Estuary between buoys 62 and 64 at 2237, UTC, Jan 14. Pilot was on board, visibility poor due to dense fog. No damage sustained. Vessel refloated at 0209, UTC, Jan 15 and continued its voyage. (Note — MSC Jade subsequently arrived Bremerhaven Jan 16 and sailed the same day for Le Havre.)

#### **MSC RAFAELA (Panama)**

London, Jan 18 — C.c. MSC Rafaela sailed Antwerp 2139, Jan 16 for Felixstowe.

#### **MUIRNEAG (U.K.)**

Glasgow, Jan 17 — Ro/ro Muirneag berthed alongside at Stornoway for assessment and sailed Jan 13 for Birkenhead, for drydocking. — Lloyd's Agents.

Liverpool, Jan 18 — Ro/ro Muirneag arrived at the Cammell Laird dock on Jan 14 and is now under repair. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NEFTEGAZ 57 (Russia)**

Penzance, Jan 13 — Anchor handling tug/supply Neftegaz 57 (2723 gt, built 1987) parted out the pin and shackle holding the anchor cable to the anchor in severe gales Dec 26. This resulted in it dropping its main anchor to stop the drift towards shore. The anchor was subsequently recovered and Neftegaz 57 departed to assist another vessel Dec 28. — "The Cornishman."

#### **NORDIC CAPE (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

London, Jan 20 — Ref Nordic Cape sailed St.Petersburg Jan 15 for Guayaquil.

#### **NORTH VANGUARD (Norway)**

See Taipan Scan.

#### **NORWAY (Bahamas)**

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A federal appeals court has upheld a decision forcing the families of more than two dozen Filipino sailors killed and injured in a cruise ship boiler explosion to pursue their financial claims in the Philippines. The 11th US Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta agreed yesterday with a Miami judge that contracts the sailors signed require that any injury claims be submitted to arbitration in the Philippines. Eight sailors died and 18 were injured after a boiler exploded while passenger Norway was docked in Miami in May 2003. The investigation into the cause of the blast is still under way. Ten Filipino crew members and their survivors sued to pursue their claims in US courts. The decision to send their claims overseas means the difference between potentially millions of dollars in awards from American courts and \$50,000 for each dead sailor in the Philippines. The Norwegian Cruise Lines vessel was towed to Germany after the blast and has retired from the company's fleet. Filipino sailors sign a one-page contract to work for cruise lines and initial other pages explaining their legal rights. Attorneys representing the sailors and families argued that the page printed in English, normally not the sailors' native language, doesn't mention arbitration and is never explained to them. Norwegian cruise Lines contended the content of the agreements are universally known among those who sign them.

#### **ORFEO (Mexico)**

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Product tanker

Orfeo (944 gt, built 1965) that was headed to the oil port of Coatzacoalcos has grounded about 50 yards offshore and officials had failed in efforts today to move it. Veracruz state civil defence officials said the vessel has not spilled any oil or fuel. It had been empty, coming to port to take on cargo. The seven crew members were rescued from the ship early today. The vessel became stuck yesterday as high winds and waves battered the coastal region of the Gulf of Mexico.

Coatzacoalcos, Jan 15 — Product tanker Orfeo, apparently in ballast, ran aground about 1930, Jan 13, while manoeuvring into Coatzacoalcos entrance, during strong northerly winds storm of about 100 kms per hour. First reports mention that the vessel lost engine power and winds pushed the vessel into shallow waters, touching sand bottom, about 50 metres off the coastline. The storm was still blowing strong on Jan 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

Coatzacoalcos, Jan 19 — Product tanker Orfeo is still aground on the beach of Coatzacoalcos. Only weak attempts have been carried out due to the weather. Today the weather is very good so it is expected that the owners will commence to check the vessel's status, its hull, etc, and establish the rescue plan. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **OSIRIS (Netherlands)**

Maassluis, Jan 19 — General cargo Osiris is still under arrest at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **OUR LADY OF DIVINE GRACE (Philippines)**

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Our Lady of Divine Grace, carrying 86 people, ran aground and was stranded for two hours on a shoal off Mactan Channel during the annual fluvial procession held on the eve of the Catholic Feast of Senor Sto Nino in Cebu. Cebu Coast Guard deputy commander Chief Petty Officer Lemuel Alquiza said the incident did not affect the fluvial procession, held at the Mactan Channel from Mandaue City's Ouano wharf to Cebu city's Pier 1 from 0600 to 0900 Saturday (Jan 15). The vessel was among over 100 sea craft that joined the fluvial procession, one of the highlights of the various religious activities held prior to yesterday's celebration of the Feast of the Senor Sto Nino, Cebu's patron saint. Our Lady of Divine Grace, of the Medallion Transport Corp, owned by Maximiano Polache, was at the tail end of the fluvial procession when it ran aground at 0845 hrs off Banilad Shoal, 700 meters away from the F.F.Cruz wharf in Mandaue City. The vessel was refloated at 1050 hrs.

#### **PANAGIA KRIMNIOTISSA (Greece)**

See Arion.

#### **PARTNER (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Maassluis, Jan 12 — General cargo Partner sailed Rotterdam Jan 11 for Gunness. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note

— Partner had main engine breakdown and was towed to Bolnes shipyard around Feb 23.)

#### **PIONEER NAYA (South Korea)**

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Fourteen people were missing after South Korean general cargo Pioneer Naya (2826 gt, built 1984), Vladivostok for Qingdao, cargo 4,150 tonnes iron products, sank off North Korea's east coast, about 260 km north-east of Goseong, early today, police said. The ship had 18 crew members, including eight sailors from Vietnam and China. Only four, two Vietnamese and two Koreans, were rescued by a nearby Russian vessel. Pyongyang allowed a 5000-tonne South Korean vessel carrying helicopters to enter its territorial waters for the rescue operation, a spokesman for the South Korean unification ministry said in Seoul.

Busan, Jan 20 — It was reported that at about 0632, local time, today, general cargo Pioneer Naya, Vladivostok to Qingdao, with some 4,150 tons of steel products, completely sank in approximately lat 40 01N, long 131 16E, in North Korean territorial waters off the eastern coast of Korea. Four out of a total of 18 crew members were rescued by a passing vessel, but the remaining 14 are still missing to this time. The vessel reportedly encountered heavy weather at the time. Rescue operations by a Korean marine police boat and a helicopter are being carried out. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Three Russian vessels continue searching for survivors from general cargo Pioneer Naya in the Sea of Japan. A Vladivostok MRCC spokesperson said that six bodies had been pinpointed at sea. However, a severe storm and chopiness prevent the rescuers from recovering them. Thus, only four sailors have been rescued so far. They survived because they had managed to deploy an inflatable raft and a lifeboat when their ship was going down. The sailors rescued will be brought to Nakhodka on Jan 21.

#### **POINTE DU CORMORAN (French Southern Territories)**

London, Jan 19 — Chem.tank Pointe du Cormoran sailed Rotterdam 0850, Jan 18 for Le Havre. (See issues of Dec 17 and Jan 11.)

#### **POLO M. (Bahamas)**

London, Jan 17 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1300, UTC: Bulk Polo M. has departed Danish waters and is proceeding to Hamburg, ETA this evening. (See issue of Jan 5.)

Hamburg, Jan 19 — Bulk Polo M. is at the dock-yard of Blohm + Voss GmbH at Hamburg. Reportedly the vessel will be taken into the dry dock. For the time being no details concerning extent and/or duration of repairs can be given. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va,

dated Jan 18: A Coast Guard cutter is towing disabled squid fishing Provider (164 gt, built 1978) from the Mid Atlantic off New Jersey to Block Island Sound, RI. The crew of the vessel radioed Coast Guard Station Woods Hole, Mass, for help after a shaft broke and jammed the vessel's rudder about 80 miles off Beach Haven, NJ, at about 0700 yesterday. They reported that they were taking on water, but the four pumps on board were able to keep up with the flooding. An Elizabeth City, NC, based C-130 search and rescue plane found the boat by 0925 hrs, and kept visual contact with the vessel until Coast Guard cutter Mako arrived at 2030 hrs. By this time, Provider had drifted about 40 miles further off shore. Due to 10 to 14-foot seas and 35 mph winds, the crew of Mako was unable to take Provider in tow. Coast Guard cutter Dependable arrived about 0630 today and had Provider in tow by about 0800 hrs. The seas are about 6 to 8 feet, and the vessels are making about 3 mph en route to Rhode Island, where Provider has been based. Their time of arrival is contingent upon the weather.

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 0800, UTC: Fishing Provider, official No.599943, is still in tow enroute Rhode Island where ETA tomorrow.

#### **RAGG (Norway)**

London, Jan 16 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: General cargo Ragg, 463 gt, built 1966, (callsign LJDJ, ? ex Ewos), on voyage from Stavanger to Averoy, grounded in Langenuen near Stord on Jan 14. Vessel refloated by own means and moored to a local quay in the area for inspection. Ro-ro Austevoll was on standby in the area for any problems.

#### **RIVER PRINCESS**

Mormugao, Jan 14 — A local press report, dated Jan 13, states: The Minister for the Environment, Mr. Atanasio Monserrate in a written reply to a question from the Calangute MLA, Mr. Agnelo Fernandes, informed the house that the coastline at Sinquerim-Candolim is changing due to ore River Princess, stranded off the coastline. "Due to additional accretion of sand around the vessel, the width of the beach at its location is about 100 metres and as such it is approximately 25 metres more than the width of the adjoining beach area," the reply says. The latest observation made through the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) on Dec 28, shows that besides the above phenomenon, no change has been observed in the high water line along the Candolim-Sinquerim coastline, it adds. The answer also says that the government has already invited fresh tenders for removal of the said vessel under the Goa Tourist Place (Protection and Maintenance) Act, 2001. The consultant appointed by the Department of Tourism has indicated that the changed beach profile, in the vicinity of the vessel, would revert to its original shape once the vessel is removed. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note —

River Princess drifted from Sinquerim beach in bad weather Jun 6, 2000 and grounded off Mormugao coast.)

#### **SAKAERU (Panama)**

London, Jan 14 — Following navigation warning issued today: Unmanned general cargo Sakaeru (1563 gt, built 1986) adrift in lat 28 09N, long 125 36E, at 0850, UTC, today.

London, Jan 14 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, dated today: General cargo Sakaeru, which sailed Fuzhou at 1500, UTC, Jan 11, for Sodegaura, was abandoned by its crew due fire in engine-room at 0900, UTC, today. The crew are all safe but the vessel is still adrift and on fire.

London, Jan 16 — Following navigation warning issued today: Unmanned general cargo Sakaeru adrift in lat 27 27.5N, long 125 56.4E at 2300, UTC, Jan 15.

London, Jan 17 — Following navigation warning issued today: Drifting general cargo Sakaeru has been removed.

#### **SANDETTIE (Netherlands)**

London, Jan 14 — General cargo Sandettie was reported still moored at Harlingen at 1342, UTC, today.

London, Jan 18 — General cargo Sandettie was reported still moored at Harlingen at 2109, UTC, today.

#### **SANKO ROYAL (Panama)**

London, Jan 19 — Bulk Sanko Royal arrived Vancouver, BC, 0620, Jan 15.

#### **SB 20 (U.S.A.)**

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: Barge SB 20 (3438 gt, built 1969), length 230-foot, overturned off Point Avisadero, San Francisco Bay, Monday night (Jan 10), dumping gravel and diesel fuel into the Bay, according to the U.S. Coast Guard, which investigated the incident yesterday. Reports indicate several pieces of machinery were also sent overboard as the barge capsized. The vessel's two operators escaped without injury. It is not known how much fuel was released from the vessel; the barge had a tank on deck that contains 300 gallons of fuel and a "slight sheen" was seen in the water around the barge, the Coast Guard said. There are no clues yet as to why the barge overturned during loading, the Coast Guard said.

San Francisco, Jan 18 — According to Marine Exchange at San Francisco Bay, salvage operations on barge SB 20 are reportedly ongoing at the yard. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SCHIEBORG (Netherlands)**

London, Jan 14 — The fire-racked ro/ro Schieborg was still lying off the port of Delfzijl (? Eemshaven) last night as gales continued to prevent the vessel reaching a safe haven. It was hoped that a lull in the bad weather would allow the vessel to be brought into port today. Fire broke out on the vessel during last weekend's hurricane conditions. SvitzerWijmsmuller mobilised two emergency anchor-handling tugs, which managed to pick up the 15-

strong crew who had been forced to take to lifeboats following efforts to battle with the wind-fanned flames. A Svitzer/Wijsmuller spokesman said the tug crews managed to get the crew onboard after four hours in atrocious wind force 12 weather conditions. One tug took the crew into Esbjerg and the other vessel managed to secure a towing connection to Schieborg. Four crew members were slightly injured and they were all treated for shock. Poor weather conditions prevented the vessel being towed into Esbjerg and it was too difficult to tow it further north, so the decision was taken to bring the vessel into the Netherlands. At the moment, 11 firefighters, salvage and chemical experts, are onboard. Winching systems had been started as had the ballast system, which will be used in a bid to try and right the 15 to 20 degree list. Firefighters were still attempting to put out smouldering trailers. Though the exact cause of the fire is unknown there is much speculation that a lorry carrying carbide, which reacts with water, shifted and started the blaze. Paper was being carried in the lower holds. The scale of the damage is not yet known but all of the vehicles on the weather deck had been damaged, the spokesman added. Tug Esvagt Gamma was towing Schieborg and Esvagt Omega, which had taken the crew to safety, was on standby. Tug Simson was also in the convoy and a further two tugs Fenja and Frigga were being brought in from Denmark.

London, Jan 14 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0925, UTC: Ro/ro Schieborg is still lying near Eemshaven pilot station. Vessel is expected to enter Eemshaven at 2200, UTC, today.

Ymuiden, Jan 14 — At about 2150 hrs, Wijsmuller Salvage B.V berthed ro/ro Schieborg alongside the quay in Eemshaven, after an extended and demanding salvage operation. The casualty had been abandoned by its crew in the storm on Jan 8. The crew was saved by safety standby vessel Esvagt Omega. The abandoned vessel was connected up by tug Esvagt Gamma in the morning of the next day, about 10 to 15 miles off Esbjerg. A four men salvage boarding party, during the day, secured the condition of the casualty, being lowered down and picked up by helicopter. Schieborg was towed towards Eemshaven. The weather remained bad up to the arrival of the convoy off Eemshaven. An attempt to enter port Tuesday/Wednesday (Jan 11/12) did not succeed because the deteriorating weather conditions, up to force 9 (severe gale). In the meantime the Wijsmuller Salvage team of up to 11 salvage, firefighting and chemical experts, while the convoy was en-route towards Eemshaven, had boarded the casualty by helicopter. This morning, tugs Fenja and Frigga arrived on site and connected up to the casualty, with assistance of tug Simson. The vessel was then towed stern-first. After a four to five hour transit through the entrance channel to Eemshaven, at

around 1600, MET, the holding area was reached, about two miles off the breakwaters of Eemshaven. The casualty then was anchored for some time and Esvagt Gamma released. At about 1900 hrs the convoy set sail again. At about 2100 hrs the convoy entered the port with the casualty being berthed in Eemshaven port at about 2150, MET. The casualty will now be further prepared for delivery, which will include further fire fighting activities. — Wijsmuller Salvage BV.

Maassluis, Jan 19 — Ro/ro Schieborg is still in Eemshaven and it is not yet known what the owner will do. The costs of repairs are estimated at Euro 10 million. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **SEA FOX (Latvia)**

Glasgow, Jan 17 — General cargo Sea Fox is still at Barra. The vessel is expected to sail later today or tomorrow. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SEA TRUST (Lebanon)**

London, Jan 18 — Vehicle Sea Liban (exSea Trust) sailed Antwerp Jan 15 for Beirut.

#### **SELENDANG AYU (Malaysia)**

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: Fuel oil from bulk Selendang Ayu has reached the fishing community of Dutch Harbour, 50 miles from the wreckage of the grounded freighter, prompting new concerns about the effect of last month's spill off the western coast of Unalaska Island. "Obviously the extent of contamination has grown substantially," Leslie Pearson, a spill response official with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, said today. "It makes you wonder what other shoreline impacts there may be." Pearson said DEC workers counted as many as two dozen clumps of oil, some measuring two feet in diameter, along a quarter mile stretch of Captain's Bay at the southern end of Dutch Harbour, a community of 4,000 on Unalaska Island. Pearson said the agency is trying to assess the threat to the local water table as well as seafood processing plants in the area. The oil, first reported to the state yesterday, is about 50 miles from the site where the vessel broke apart Dec 8. Smaller balls of oil have been seen in remote areas since thousands of gallons of fuel spilled from the vessel, which was carrying an estimated 442,000 gallons of fuel oil and diesel, most of it now believed lost. But this is the closest to a populated area, officials said. Another concern is the effect the spreading oil will have on shorebirds, said Greg Siekaniec, manager of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, which oversees public lands on the island in the Aleutian Islands. "There's a significant amount of wildlife that's attracted to areas where humans live," Siekaniec said. "In this area, there are a lot of gulls, eagles and sea ducks." Closer to the vessel, about 600 dead birds have been spotted to date, said Petty Officer Thomas McKenzie of the Coast Guard. So far, salvage crews have recovered nearly 43,000 gallons of

oil and water from the vessel, McKenzie said. Meanwhile, federal officials said their investigation into the grounding could take a year or longer to complete.

London, Jan 15 — A US Coast Guard Anchorage press release, dated Jan 14, states: Weather once again is impacting operations in Dutch Harbour since Wednesday through today as poor conditions prevented lightering oil from the bulk Selendang Ayu wreck and limited shoreline cleanups. Shoreline crews recovered 152 bags of oily waste from Humpback Bay and 578 bags from Portage Bay yesterday. Crews limited to Humpback Bay due to weather Wednesday, collected 280 bags. To date, responders recovered a total of 14,431 bags of oily waste. Also on Wednesday, shoreline cleanup assessment teams found 26 tar balls ranging in diameter from six inches to 26 inches one mile southwest of Dutch Harbour. The crew collected samples and sent them to a laboratory for testing. Boat crews continued water quality sampling in the Akutan area and Unalaska Bay Wednesday. The crews did not detect oil in either area. Crews could not perform lightering operations since Wednesday due to the weather. Tuesday's lightering team removed 7,763 gallons of oil, bringing the total volume lightered to date to 41,531 gallons of intermediate fuel oil and 1,309 gallons of diesel for a total of 42,840 gallons. As of Tuesday, the U.S. Forest Service reported the recovery of 645 dead birds and 29 live oiled birds that they captured and sent for rehabilitation. These figures remained constant since their initial report. Weather conditions in Dutch Harbour consist of an air temperature of 39 degrees, 22 mph winds with gusts up to 31 mph and two and a half miles of visibility with overcast skies. (See issue of Jan 17.)

London, Jan 19 — A US Coast Guard Juneau press release, dated Jan 18, states: Officials and response teams with the bulk Selendang Ayu Unified Command continue to progress with clean up efforts near Unalaska Island. Dependent on the weather, today's response activities will include over flights and shoreline assessment and cleanup in Unalaska, Skan, Portage, Humpback and Captains bays. Also planned are vessel lightering, water quality sampling and wildlife recovery operations. Cleanup crews worked in Humpback, Skan and Portage bays Saturday and Sunday collecting just short of 2,000 bags of oily waste. To date, crews have collected 17,183 bags of oily solid waste. The heavy lift helicopter could not fly due to inclement weather preventing additional lightering during the weekend. However, the lightering team welded additional metal salvaged from Selendang Ayu to the wave deflector/breakwater shield adjacent to the No.4 port cofferdam. This adjustment will protect crews and the cofferdam from waves that surge onto the stern deck of the vessel. The total volume lightered from the wreck remains at 40,193 gallons of intermediate fuel oil and 2,647 gallons

of diesel for a total of 42,840 gallons. U.S. Forest and Wildlife Service reported crews between Wednesday and Saturday recovered 90 dead birds. To date, responders recovered 735 dead birds. Water quality sampling continued Sunday in Akutan and Unalaska areas. Crews found trace amounts of oil during tows conducted in the Unalaska transit zone, three miles offshore, and Captains Bay. Tows conducted in Unalaska and Akutan bays did not produce oil findings. As a result of the tanner crab currently being harvested, the Unified Command implemented an enhanced program to protect seafood quality. To date, seafood inspectors at Dutch Harbour processing plants found all product free of oil contamination. Today's weather in Dutch Harbour consists of an air temperature of 39 degrees, 25 knot winds, 10 foot seas, three miles of visibility and overcast skies with rain.

#### **SEVEN SEAS NAVIGATOR (Bahamas)**

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1620, UTC: Passenger Seven Seas Navigator (28550 gt, built 1999) had a small fire in its engine-room, 18 miles south of the Turks and Caicos Islands, at 0810, UTC, Jan 17. Vessel is proceeding to Fort Lauderdale at a reduced speed, ETA 2030, UTC, today.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire on passenger Seven Seas Navigator early yesterday forced its return to port. Officials said an electrical fire broke out on Seven Seas Navigator around 0100 hrs. The fire was quickly contained. None of the guests on board were injured. The ship arrived at Port Everglades yesterday evening.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: None of the 481 passengers or crew members on board passenger Seven Seas Navigator was injured after an electrical fire in the ship's generator room yesterday morning. The vessel, however, will have to undergo repairs. That forced Fort Lauderdale-based Radisson Seven Seas Cruises to cancel a week-long Caribbean cruise which was to have departed from Port Everglades this morning. Mark Conroy, president of Fort Lauderdale-based Radisson Seven Seas Cruises, said the fire lasted less than five minutes but shut down power to the ship and its engines. The ship operated on emergency power for three hours before main power was restored, he said. The cause of the fire was not known, Conroy said. Radisson has offered passengers from last week's trip a \$1,000 discount for a future cruise. The 470 passengers whose trip today was cancelled will receive full refunds and a \$1,000 discount on a future cruise, Conroy said.

#### **SHURI (Japan)**

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

#### **SIDERACRUX (Italy)**

Taranto, Jan 14 — At about 1730 hrs tonight, one port mobile crane,

belonging to local port workers company, caught fire while operating on board general cargo Sideracrux (4373 gt, built 1983.) Crane virtually destroyed, vessel reported to have not sustained any damage and no persons reported injured. — Lloyd's Agents.

Taranto, Jan 15 — Upon catching fire, the crane had one steel sheet hanging to be loaded on board. The sheet was already touching Sideracrux's hold's bottom when fire developed. Consequently only damage sustained by vessel (very limited) consists in the railings being partly torn by the crane hook, swivel block and cable collapsing once the burn crane's holding systems collapsed. Causes of fire are being investigated but most probable one, at this stage, seems to have been a short-circuit in the electric system. — Lloyd's Agents.

Taranto, Jan 18 — General cargo Sideracrux sailed Taranto Jan 15 for Venice. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Sideracrux subsequently arrived Venice Jan 18.)

#### **SISKIN (U.K.)**

London, Jan 14 — Following received from Coastguard Liverpool MRSC, timed 0112, UTC: At 2307, UTC, yesterday, fishing Siskin (45 gt, built 1969) reported in lat 54 31.93N, long 03 51.96W, taking water and sinking. Vessel subsequently overturned and sank. All crew abandoned to liferaft. Rescue helicopter 177, Workington/Ramsey lifeboats and Whitehaven Coastguard all tasked. Fishing vessels Clasina and George Lewn responded to Mayday broadcast and proceeded. All three crew-members safely airlifted on board R177 and transferred ashore. SAROPS terminated at 0113, UTC, today.

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Coastguard Liverpool MRSC, timed 1201, UTC: The wreck of fishing Siskin has not been located.

#### **SKIATHOS DOLPHIN (Greece)**

London, Jan 14 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Hydrofoil Skiathos Dolphin (142 gt, built 1977), performing the schedule Alonissos-Skopelos-Glossa-Skiathos-Volos, sustained engine damage off Klimatos Skopelos this morning. Following the incident the hydrofoil arrived safely at Glossa at 0830 hrs and later departed without passengers, bound for Volos in order to carry out repairs.

#### **SNOW CRYSTAL (Cayman Islands)**

London, Jan 15 — As of yesterday few Snow Crystal was still at the Dormac repair quay, Durban.

#### **SO GYONG 2 (North Korea)**

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo So Gyong 2 (398 gt, built 1967) came to a standstill after being caught by an anti-pollution net set up in Maizuru port, the local office of the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) said today. Nobody was reported injured in the accident, and fuel oil has not leaked from the vessel,

JCG officers said. At around 0650 hrs, the JCG Maizuru office received a report from a crewmember of a ship that a North Korean ship was at a standstill near a pier construction site in the port of Maizuru. The JCG has confirmed that So Gyong 2 had been caught by an anti-pollution net set up in the port. The vessel was to arrive at the port today.

#### **SONIA (? Bahamas)**

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro Sonia (? 7000 gt, built 2004) remained anchored at the Cruise Ship Complex, Port of Spain, yesterday after the vessel encountered fuel pump problems. Poor quality diesel fuel used by Sonia has damaged the boat's fuel pump, forcing the new inter-island ferry to be taken out of service yesterday, according to a senior Port Authority official. The official said that the fuel pump was being repaired yesterday and was expected to be completed in time for Sonia, which began sailing the inter-island service last month, to resume sailing today. The official explained that the fuel being produced here for the US\$24,000 per day boat was "not as refined as the one produced in North America for use on the boat". The official said that long-term measures would be implemented to ensure that the fuel used by the boat in future was of the highest quality. It is understood that the fast ferry The Cat made an extra sailing yesterday to accommodate travellers, and that passenger ro/ro Panorama also made a trip, carrying more than 100 passengers in addition to cargo. Tomorrow is election day in Tobago, and both Sonia and The Cat are expected to operate the inter-island service.

#### **SONIA (Bahamas)**

Port of Spain, Jan 19 — Passenger ro/ro Sonia is being used for travel on the seabridge between Port of Spain, Trinidad and Scarborough, Tobago, a distance of some 56 miles. According to a press release, the problem has been rectified. However, the vessel has not yet sailed from Port of Spain. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SOUTHERN CROSS (U.S.A.)**

London, Jan 20 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 0130, UTC: Tug Southern Cross (179 gt, built 1949) grounded on Long Island Sound, in lat 40 56.43N, long 73 43.4W, on Tuesday afternoon (Jan 18). Vessel was listing heavily. It was safely refloated with tug assistance at 2000, UTC, Jan 19 and is now tied up in the harbour at Mamaroneck, NY.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Tug Southern Cross that grounded at the mouth of Mamaroneck Harbour on Tuesday (Jan 18) was temporarily patched by a diver yesterday and moved to a dock, the U.S. Coast Guard said. Southern Cross, of Salisbury, Md, grounded just off the Beach Point Club on the southern edge of the harbour, said Petty Officer Mike Lutz, a Coast



Guard spokesman. It sat in five feet of mud, which hampered the diver, Capt. Dale Freeman, from finding the four-inch triangular hole at the base of the boat, Lutz said. The Coast Guard approved a salvage plan prepared by Dolbey Marine, the Maryland-based owner of the tug last night which included one or two other tugs to assist in bringing Southern Cross up to a dry dock in Bridgeport, Conn, where a permanent patch of steel and high density foam can be put on the tug's bottom. About noon yesterday, as the tug listed toward the centre of the harbour, salvage workers turned on several pumps to flush out water in an attempt to help clear the way for Freeman to inspect the damage. The boat held 5,000 gallons of diesel fuel, but only a small amount leaked before it was contained by floating booms, Lutz said. "(Tuesday), they saw a light sheen, but they had boom up pretty fast," Lutz said. "They haven't seen any more sheen today." Mamaroneck Harbour Master Jim Mancusi said the tug was being used to haul loads of silt on flat-bottomed scows from a Larchmont Harbor dredging project to a dumping site in Long Island Sound. The tug was on its way out of the harbour when it grounded about 1345 hrs Tuesday, Coast Guard officials said. Mancusi and Coast Guard workers rushed to the boat just after it struck ground, as it was sinking and beginning to list. The three-member crew tried to pump out the water. Lutz said the Coast Guard is investigating how the accident occurred. Mancusi said the boat has two sets of tanks, one lower and one upper. He said the tanks apparently did not leak, although a small amount of fuel did seep out from the tug. No one was injured in the incident. Three crew members were removed from the tug by a Coast Guard boat from Kings Point and by Mancusi.

#### **SOUTHERN EXPRESS (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Jan 14 — General cargo Southern Express sailed Auckland Jan 13 for Niue.

#### **SPIRIT OF YAVEH (Panama)**

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: High Court Judge (Admiralty) K.S.J. de Abrew issued summons and warrant for the arrest of general cargo Spirit of Yaveh in an action filed by the crew of the vessel claiming Singapore Dollars 140,611 as crew wages (for Dec 2004 and Jan 2005) from the owners of the vessel. The plaintiffs, the 20 member crew, cited Spirit of Yaveh, lying aground off Trincomalee within the territorial waters of Sri Lanka, as defendant. The plaintiffs claim from the defendant crew wages, saving money, compensation hardship allowance and ration money. The plaintiffs stated that they are running dangerously short on food and fresh water and are facing hardships owing to the present situation. They are requesting that the court issue a writ of summons and warrant of arrest against the vessel.

#### **STADIONGRACHT (Netherlands)**

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Bermuda RCC: At 1114, Jan 16, general cargo Stadiongracht (16639 gt, built 2000) contacted Bermuda Harbour Radio via satellite phone reporting vessel had engine problems and was disabled approximately 340 nautical miles south-west of Bermuda. Master advised engineer onboard would attempt to carry out repairs for possible return to Wilmington, NC. The following morning a call was received from the vessel confirming temporary repairs were completed and vessel was underway to the US East coast.

#### **STAR I (Panama)**

Port Said, Jan 17 — General cargo Star I sailed Port Said Jan 12 for Ashdod. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SUN PRINCESS (United Kingdom)**

See "Outbreak of Norovirus on United Kingdom-Flagged Passenger Vessel" under "Miscellaneous."

#### **SUSANNE (Germany)**

Cuxhaven, Jan 14 — Trawler Susanne, DETY, (425 gt, built 1983) reported engine trouble, in very rough sea, waves 4 metres high, on the way to Faroe Island fishing area, at approximately 0300, Jan 13. Tug Taucher O.Wulf 3 reached the vessel around 1100 yesterday connected the towing line and towed it back to Cuxhaven for repairs. Vessel berthed at the Fischereihafen, Cuxhaven, 0130 today. — Correspondent.

#### **SVEAFJELL (Norway)**

Trondheim, Jan 14 — Kvernhusvik Shipyard report general cargo Sveafjell is still at their yard. Vessel is now scheduled to leave at the end of next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TAIPAN SCAN (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Esbjerg, Jan 18 — Ro/ro Taipan Scan sailed Esbjerg Jan 14 for Delfzijl. — Lloyd's Agents.

Esbjerg, Jan 18 — Ro/ro Taipan Scan departed on Jan 14, in tow of tug Boxer, bound Delfzijl, for repairs. Supply North Vanguard was repaired in Esbjerg. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Tug Boxer was subsequently reported arriving at Delfzijl at 1201 hrs, Jan 16, from Esbjerg.)

#### **TASMAN ENDEAVOUR (Hong Kong)**

Singapore, Jan 17 — General cargo Tasman Endeavour is currently at Hitachi Shipyard Quay No 3, Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TERNINGEN II (Norway)**

Trondheim, Jan 14 — At about 2000, Jan 13, general cargo Terningen II grounded again, this time outside Stokksund, Fosen, outside Trondheimsfjord while on passage to Aalesund and Kristiansund. Vessel refloated by own power and escorted by tug Oyvaag, sailed to Hestvika Termina, Hitra, where it arrived at 0300 hrs, today. At Hestvika the cargo of salt fish was transhipped to general

cargo With Junior. Terningen II will arrive Kvernhusvik Shipyard and be set on the slipway today. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **THOR II (Panama)**

London, Jan 19 — Thor Navigation Inc has lost a High Court battle with insurers over the value of bulk Thor II (10688 gt, built 1972), which was sold for scrap after sustaining serious damage in Sep 2002. Thor Navigation had argued that the vessel was valued at \$1.5m in the insurance policies for its fleet provided by leading Russian insurers Ingosstrakh Insurance and its German subsidiary Schwarzmeer Und Ostsee Versicherungs-Aktiengesellschaft. However, top judge Mrs Justice Gloster backed the insurers claim that the \$1.5m figure in the policy referred only to the sum insured and that no express reference was made to an agreed value for the vessel. She went on to rule that the insurable value was \$800,000 — the market value of the vessel at the time of the accident. She said that, now those issues were decided, the parties intended to attempt mediation to resolve the balance of their dispute over Thor's claim. Thor sued under its July 2002 policies, in which 40% of the insurance risk was covered by Ingosstrakh and 60% by SOVAG, after the Thor II sustained a casualty on Sep 15, 2002. The vessel broke its intermediate shaft, causing further damage to the main engine. The vessel was immobilised and had to be towed to Piraeus. At Piraeus, it was inspected and repair specifications were drawn up and sent to three repair yards. The repair yards' quotations indicated that the costs of repairs would exceed \$2m. Thor claimed for a constructive total loss and gave Notice of Abandonment, which was declined. On Nov 12, 2002, the insurers gave notice that they believed that the vessel could be repaired for less than the sum insured but gave no details. However, two days later, Thor sold the vessel for scrap. The matter went to court over whether the insurance policies were valued policies or unvalued policies. However, backing the insurance companies' claim that only a "sum insured" had been set in the policies, she said that, for the policy to be a valued policy, Section 27(1) of the Marine Insurance Act 1906 expressly requires there to be a specification of the agreed value of the subject matter insured. She continued: "The mere specification of a sum insured, without more, cannot amount to a specification of the agreed value of the subject matter insured. It is not enough that the policy remains silent. The parties are required to specify the agreed value." She went on to set the insurable value of the vessel at \$800,000, equivalent to what was the agreed market value at the time and place of the loss. The judge said that expert valuers had now calculated what the vessel's repaired value would have been, for the purposes of ascertaining whether the vessel was a constructive total loss, and set it at \$900,000. (Note — Thor II subsequently arrived Alang Nov 25, 2002.)

**TIAN SHENG HAI (Panama)**

See "Castletown, Esperance, Australia" under "Pollution."

**TITUS**

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated Jan 15, states: With a cold front approaching Nassau and water tank barge Titus still not operating at full capacity, the water shortage woes which began last November will continue throughout the weekend. However, as early as "next week," Cabinet is expected to send out an invitation for bids to construct a five million gallons reverse osmosis plant at Blue Hills, Minister of Works and Utilities, Bradley Roberts, confirmed on Thursday. Meanwhile, almost two weeks into the new year, Deputy General Manager of the Water & Sewerage Corporation, Godfrey Sherman, confirmed on Thursday (Jan 13) that Titus, one of two barges that ship water to the capital from Andros, is still not fully operational. "We thought that Titus would have been repaired, but this was not done. The engine had to be removed once again. We thought we would have been finished, with repairs, but now we are right back to the same situation. "I can't even make a reasonable projection of when the matter would be sorted out. I can only say that the problem would last for about the next week or so and then next week I would be able to say if the barge was repaired or not," Mr Sherman said. W&SC Deputy General Manager also pointed out that a cold front is expected to pass over The Bahamas sometime tonight and this could prevent the daily barging of water from Andros. "There may be slight weather delays and the barge will take longer to get to Andros. It will bring water, but it will not bring as much," he said. According to Mr Sherman, Titus, which needs parts for its engine, is presently being towed back and forth from the capital to Andros, and transports two-and-a-half million gallons of water to the capital every two days. The voyage takes some 30-36 hours. The operational barge, The Dolphin, brings in one-and-half million gallons of water daily. Titus has been experiencing mechanical problems since November. At the time, 50% of the Corporation's storage began to deplete rapidly and only 20% was being shipped to the capital from Andros.

**TRANS-ASIA I (Philippines)**

Manila, Jan 17 — Ro/ro Trans-Asia I resumed operations Dec 5. The vessel is back plying its old Cebu City to Cagayan de Oro City route. The vessel was dry docked for about a month after its auxiliary engine caught fire off Siquijor Island Oct 27. There were no fatalities and the vessel was able to make it to Cebu under its own power after the fire was put out. The vessel underwent repairs as well as its annual survey at Ouano Wharf in Mandaue City in the island of Cebu, company officials said. The fire was caused by a short circuit in the vessel's electrical system. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**TRANSFER (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Belize City, Jan 18 — Belize Port Authority reported today that part c.c. Transfer is still aground. The salvors, 3 D Marine Ltd., have a surveyor on site. Presently there is a vessel from Mexico alongside Transfer, and the exercise of moving the bunker from Transfer to this vessel is in progress. Very rough weather, plus the fact that Transfer has taken in sea water, is making the operation difficult. — Lloyd's Agents.

**URKERLAND (Netherlands)**

London, Jan 18 — General cargo Urkerland sailed Hansweert 1005, Jan 16, arrived Sluiskil 1349 same day and sailed 1814, Jan 17 for Neustadt.

**VERITAS VIKING (Norway)**

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: Veritas DGC Inc is looking into what caused smoke to fill the engine-room of seismographic research Veritas Viking (7886 gt, built 1998), which was acquiring multi-client seismic data in the Gulf of Mexico. Veritas Viking lost propulsion yesterday after its emergency systems shut down the engines because of the smoke. No one was injured during the incident. Veritas Viking, located in the Gulf of Mexico about 120 miles south of Corpus Christi, has regained propulsion and is trying to retrieve its trailing equipment with the help of a support vessel. Veritas, a Houston-based geophysical services company, has yet to determine the extent of the damage or when the vessel will resume operations.

**VICUNA (Chile)**

Santos, Jan 17 — Following received from Sub-agents Paranagua: Smit Tak is facing unforeseen difficulties to cut and remove the bow of chemical/oil carrier Vicuna. Reported they hope to conclude its removal this week. When poop and bow is removed, they will commence the cutting of the hull section into pieces to remove to the storing place. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 19 — Understand floating crane Taklift 6 has lifted the bow of chemical/oil carrier Vicuna, from the seabed, on barge Superpesa V for further transportation to the scrapyard.

**VIKING II (New Zealand)**

Auckland, Jan 18 — Fishing Viking II, broke moorings in storm and grounded on rocks at entrance to Mangonui Harbour Sep 28, 2003: Vessel was bought as a wreck following the casualty, at which time it was in a severely damaged state. It has been removed from the site but we have no information as to where it went or what was to happen to it. It was understood by passing comment at the time that it would be rebuilt but we have not heard whether this has taken place. — Lloyd's Agents.

**WALLY BLESSEY (U.S.A.)**

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Tug Wally Blessey caught fire while pushing a barge on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway near Port Isabel, Texas, just before midnight Jan 9. Then, after the fire was extinguished and the tug was being

towed back to its home port of Houston, it encountered rough water and wound up beached and partially sunk near Corpus Christi. Walter Blessey, president of Blessey Marine Service, the tug's owner, said the fire itself was "more cosmetic than serious." It apparently started in a drum above a small piece of equipment and caused very little damage, he said.

**YELLOW ROSE (Philippines)**

Manila, Jan 18 — Passenger ro/ro Yellow Rose is now back servicing its regular route between Cebu and Bohol islands after the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) lifted its "cease and desist" order on Jan 4. The MARINA issued the order confining the ship to port after the ferry ran aground on Dec 28. The MARINA prevented the ship from sailing to allow for safety inspections and to investigate reports that some crewmen were drunk when the accident happened. MARINA officials said subsequent investigations showed that the allegations regarding a drunk crew were without basis. Officials also said the ship was allowed to sail after the ship's owners carried out the necessary hull repairs. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**Piracy****SABAH, MALAYSIA**

See Christian under "Marine."

**Port State Control****NETHERLANDS**

Maassluis, Jan 19 — Bulk Brave Zhejiang was released by Port State Control on Jan 10. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Falmouth, Jan 19 — General cargo Delvina has changed to North Korean registry. Vessel remains under detention at Falmouth. — Lloyd's Agents.

**UNITED STATES**

See General Lee under "Miscellaneous."

**Seizures & Arrests****AQUA PIONEER (Malta)**

London, Jan 15 — General cargo Aqua Pioneer sailed Moerdijk Jan 13 for Calais.

**BIGA (Canary Islands)**

Bilbao, Jan 20 — General cargo Biga is still under embargo at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

**BITUMEN ONSAN (South Korea)**

Busan, Jan 17 — Asphalt tanker Bitumen Onsan was sold via court auction Dec 7 and will be delivered to the buyer on or about Jan 20, when all the balance amount has been paid to the court. Understand the vessel will sail from Busan soon after delivery to a port in China for scrapping. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**BOREAS (Cyprus)**

Bilbao, Jan 20 — General cargo Boreas is still under embargo at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CAN GIO (Honduras)**

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated Jan 17, states: Vietnam Prime Minister Phan Van Khai met with relevant ministries, sectors and branches involved in settling the seizure of general cargo Can Gio in Tanzania to devise measures to secure the release of the ship and its crew before the traditional Lunar New Year festival, which will fall on Feb 9. The PM asked the Chief Judge of the Supreme People's Court to send a request to his Tanzanian counterpart urging him to settle the case as soon as possible. He instructed the Foreign Ministry to prepare the necessary documents to support the Chief Judge of the Supreme People's Court. The Vietnam Insurance Corporation was asked to work with the Sea Saigon Shipping (SSS) Company to arrive at the best possible solution to secure the release of the vessel and its crew before the traditional Lunar New Year festival. The Prime Minister also asked the Trade Ministry to examine the legal points of the Thanh Hoa Co., Ltd's contract to sell rice to a Tanzanian partner in order to work out a solution to free the ship. The ship of Vietnam's Sea Saigon Shipping Company has been held by the Tanzanian side since Jul 27, 2004, causing losses estimated at over US\$500,000. The case resulted from a commercial dispute relating to a trading contract of 6,000 tonnes of Vietnamese rice between Tanzania's Mohammed Enterprises and Tien Giang province's Thanh Hoa Co.Ltd. However, under the Mohammed Enterprises company's pressure, Tanzania's Supreme Court ordered the seizure of the ship of the SSS, which had nothing to do with the above-mentioned dispute. Right after Tanzania's seizure of the ship, the Vietnamese embassy in Tanzania met repeatedly with the concerned Tanzanian agencies and the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry sent a diplomatic note to its Tanzanian counterpart about the case. Vietnam's Foreign Minister and Trade Minister also raised the issue while receiving the Tanzanian Trade Minister during his recent visit to Vietnam. Recently, the Prime Minister sent a letter to the Tanzanian President, asking for a satisfactory resolution of the case in

accordance with international law and in the interest of the relationship between the two countries.

**CHINESE FISHING VESSELS SEIZED BY SOUTH KOREA**

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A Chinese fishing boat was seized today after it protested against two South Korean maritime police patrols inspecting the ship, maritime police said. The patrols were in the process of searching the ship, which was operating illegally in South Korea's territorial waters off the southwestern coast, added the police.

**CLEOPATRA SKY**

Brest, Jan 1 — General cargo Cleopatra Sky is still laid up at Brest. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ENDEAVOR II (Greece)**

Karachi, Jan 20 — The Sindh High Court has fixed Feb 15 to receive bids from shipbreakers for the purchase of crude oil tanker Endeavor II, anchored at Bhabha Pool Mooring, Karachi Port, on "as is, where is" basis. The decision was made due to its deteriorating condition at anchor over the last sixteen months. The sale proceedings are expected to be deposited in local court as a guarantee until the compensation case is resolved. The court sets a reserve price of US\$6.85 million and bidder has to deposit 10% of their offer at the time of bidding and balance amount in fifteen days. All offers are subject to confirmation of Sindh High Court, Karachi. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**HERKULES II (Poland)**

Maassluis, Jan 19 — Tug Herkules II is still under arrest in the Rotterdam area. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**INDIAN FISHING VESSELS ARRESTED BY PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Jan 14 — Pakistan's Maritime Security Agency said this afternoon that its ship Vehdat apprehended three Indian fishing boats along with 13 crew members on board on Jan 12 for fishing illegally in Pakistani water. According to a press release of MSA, its ship was on routine patrol in the Eastern Maritime Region when it found these boats illegally fishing about 37 km inside Pakistan's EEZ. The Indian fishermen have been warned time and again not to indulge in illegal fishing but they repeatedly come in to the EEZ to explore the benefit from rich fish resources at the mouth of the Indus Delta. Later, the apprehended fishermen were handed over to Docks Police for further legal action. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**JIHAN (Comoros)**

Limassol, Jan 13 — General cargo Jihan (1494 gt, built 1971), which arrived Limassol Jan 8, from Beirut, is under detention since Jan 10. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MIRNA (Croatia)**

London, Jan 17 — Reported general cargo Mirna (13544 gt, built 1979) has

been under detention at an Indonesian port, possibly Surabaya, for approximately five months. (Note — Mirna was reported arriving at Surabaya on/about Sep 7.)

Jakarta, Jan 20 — General cargo Mirna was arrested (at Surabaya) due to being loaded with a cargo of (timber) logs from illegal logging (no papers provided). Vessel has not been provided with a sailing permit. Vessel's prospects of release are pending, subject to the conclusion of an investigation by the Navy. — Lloyd's Agents.

**OSIRIS (Netherlands)**

See under "Marine."

**OSTWIND (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Maassluis, Jan 19 — General cargo Ostwind is still under arrest at Vlaarding. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**PANLI (Cayman Islands)**

Alexandria, Jan 17 — Bulk/c.c. Panli sailed Alexandria Jan 13 for Gibraltar. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SANTORINI SKY (Greece)**

London, Jan 17 — A report in the Jan 14 issue of "Newsfront" states: After being seized several times, the latest by Hempel Coatings (Hellas) at the end of October 2004 in pursuit of a Euro11,394.98 claim against the registered owners Golden Ferries Maritime, ro/ro Santorini Sky has once again been listed for hammering down, this time on Jan 26. Lying in Eleusis, the vessel carries two start-up prices of Euro17.5m.

**SPIRIT OF YAVEH (Panama)**

See under "Marine."

**STAR I (Panama)**

See under "Marine."

**VOYAGER (Netherlands Antilles)**

Maassluis, Jan 19 — General cargo Voyager is still under arrest at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

## Pipeline Accidents

**BAIJI AREA, IRAQ**

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

**BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: Authorities say a pipeline carrying crude oil at the Kern Oil and Refining Company in Bakersfield broke today, igniting a fire that injured three employees. A Kern County Fire engineer says the blaze started shortly before 0900 hrs. Three workers were treated at the scene for moderate to serious burns and then taken to the hospital. A company spokesman says one worker was

released after being treated for minor burns to his face. The other two workers were en route to the Grossman Burn Center at Sherman Oaks Hospital in Los Angeles. The spokesman says refining operations were not interrupted and that workers extinguished the fire soon after it started. The cause of the pipeline rupture is under investigation.

#### **COLTON AREA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

See "United States" under "Weather & Navigation."

#### **SUI, BALOCHISTAN PROVINCE, PAKISTAN**

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



#### **BAHRAIN**

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Bahrain has been paid BD600,000 compensation for an oil spill which hit the Muharraq coast in March 2003, it was revealed yesterday. Hi-tech detective work by environmentalists in Bahrain proved that the oil was Iraqi and came from a tanker, possibly while it was being smuggled out of the Gulf. The payout is from the UK-based International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPCF). The oil was proven to have been spilled from an unknown tanker near the Al Juaymah oil terminal, off the coast of Saudi Arabia. The claim was filed by the Public Commission for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife. It was able to prove that the oil could not have originated from any offshore oil fields, pipelines or shore based facilities. The IOPCF agreed late last month that the evidence presented by Bahrain pointed overwhelmingly to the source of the pollution having been a tanker. It said that the claim arising from the incident was covered by the 1992 Fund Convention and approved compensating Bahrain for clean-up costs and damage to fisheries. Commission pollution control department head Mirza Khalaf told the GDN that the spill damaged various facilities and fisheries at Al Dair, Samaheej, Qalali, Al Hidd and other neighbouring areas. He said that the compensation would be divided among the commission, a group of fishermen, the Electricity and Water Ministry, Coastguard, Civil Aviation, Agriculture and Municipalities Ministry, Bapco and the Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre (MEMAC). MEMAC, which along with an IOPCF representative, will distribute the compensation amongst the parties concerned, said Mr Khalaf. He said that thanks to the commission's efforts, the compensation was fair. "The public commission was

able to prove its case after it carried out three separate tests at Bapco, Aramco and the IOPCF laboratory in the UK," said Mr Khalaf. "Even though the source has not been identified, we proved that it was Iraqi oil and believe it might have been caused by a ship smuggling oil from Iraq or by another vessel transporting oil for food." Satellite imagery help the commission track where the spill originated and how it reached Bahrain. "Since the source has not been proven, the compensation was financed by levies on certain types of oil carried by sea," said Mr Khalaf. An estimated 5,000 barrels of crude oil hit the shores of Muharraq coastline on Mar 8, 2003. The spill caused extensive damage to fishermen's boats, dhows and traditional fishing traps, Hadra. A cleaning campaign to contain the spread of the oil spill was launched in co-operation with MEMAC, along with groups of volunteers and environmentalists.

#### **BRITTANY, FRANCE**

London, Jan 17 — The German master and owner of c.c. CMA CGM Voltaire are to go to France's highest appeal court, the Court of Cassation, in an attempt to overturn the appeal court judgment Thursday (Jan 13) finding them guilty of deliberately causing pollution off the French coast. Hamburg lawyer Bernd Laudien, who represented both the master and the owner at the appeal court hearing last month alongside his French colleague Guillaume Brajeux, said that they would be taking "one last desperate step" in an attempt to establish their innocence. He admitted, however, that he was "not 100% confident" of the outcome in view of the fact that the Court of Cassation would take no new evidence but would only say whether the judgment of the appeal court in Rennes was well founded in law. "They will check whether the law was properly applied," said Mr Laudien, who indicated that master and owner would be asking the Court of Cassation to say whether the appeal court had properly assessed the evidence which had been laid before it. Mr Laudien professed incomprehension at the judgment of the appeal court in Rennes, which doubled the fine imposed on the master, Captain Peter-Jochen Laudahn, to Euro200,000 and stipulated that 90% of it should be paid by the vessel's owner, Niederelbe Schiffahrtsgesellschaft, on the grounds that the company had civil responsibility for the offence. It had been "beyond imagination" that the court would double the original fine imposed by the lower court in Brest, he said, adding that he had thought after last month's hearing that master and owner had a 60-40 chance of winning their appeal. The appeal court rejected claims from the defence that the helicopter crew who spotted CMA CGM Voltaire off the coast of Brittany on May 22, 2003, made a mistake in identifying the mile-long tail of discoloured water in its wake as a pollution slick caused by the dumping

of waste by the vessel. It noted that the crew's analysis was corroborated by a Customs service pollution expert who examined the photographs they had taken of the vessel and the alleged slick. It refused, however, to accept the opinion of an expert presented by the defence who argued that the phenomenon shown on the photographs was not the result of oil pollution but more probably of wind action on the vessel's wake. It ruled that there was no confusion possible between the silvery sheen of the slick shown in the helicopter crew's photographs and the pictures produced by the expert for the defence showing the effect of wind action on the surface of the sea. Capt Laudahn and NSB have been backed in their stance by the French association of vessel masters, Afcan, which said that it was "scandalised" by the court's decision, arguing that the prosecution had failed to provide full proof that the CMA CGM Voltaire had been guilty of pollution. Vice-chairman Jacques Loiseau pointed to the fact that no samples had been taken of the alleged pollution slick for comparison with the vessel's fuel and claimed that the photographic evidence presented to the court was "really poor."

#### **CASTLETOWN, ESPERANCE, AUSTRALIA**

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: An oil spill from bulk Tian Sheng Hai (85676 gt, built 1997) at Esperance port caused a sticky mess on Castletown beach yesterday. The spilled oil was a small amount - maybe as little as 20 litres, according to the Esperance Port Authority. Harbour master Captain Ian Harrod said the heavy fuel oil emulsified when it hit the sea water and turned into 'tarballs'. The wind and drift sent the matter off in a northerly direction, past the tanker jetty and on to the beach. The sticky tarballs ranged in size from a fingernail to a dinner plate. The port took responsibility for the clean-up but blames Tian Sheng Hai, which arrived on Tuesday (Jan 18) at 1800 hrs, for the spill. Three streaks of oil could be seen on the stern of the vessel yesterday. One trail of oil made it to the water. Captain Harrod said the spill yesterday was at the "bottom end" of spillages, but it was still difficult to deal with and he was disappointed that it happened. The Esperance Port Authority would bill the owners of the vessel for the clean-up. A bobcat was used to scoop up sand on the beach yesterday afternoon and the beach appeared clear this morning. The vessel is due to leave Esperance tomorrow afternoon with 167,000 tonnes of iron ore destined for China.

#### **DELAWARE RIVER, UNITED STATES**

See Athos I under "Marine."

#### **UNALASKA ISLAND, ALASKA, UNITED STATES**

See Selendang Ayu under "Marine."

## Weather &amp; Navigation

**AUSTRALIA**

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Houses were unroofed in cyclone-force winds and thousands of residents were left without power when a line of severe storms swept across southern New South Wales today. Wind gusts of up to 124km/h were recorded at Yanco in the Riverina just before 1300, AEDT, the Bureau of Meteorology said. The storms dumped hail and caused widespread mayhem in the Riverina before moving east and striking the southern tablelands, Illawarra and parts of Sydney. In Griffith, the TAFE college lost part of its roof and there were numerous reports of damage to farmhouses, the State Emergency Service (SES) said. Hailstones up to 3cm in diameter fell in Leeton and there was localised flooding in Captains Flat, near Canberra, weather bureau meteorologist Peter Dunda said. The small town of Culcairn near the Victorian border received roughly its average monthly rainfall when storms dumped 45mm in two-and-a-half hours, Mr Dunda said. About 30,000 homes and businesses across the state were without power tonight as energy crews worked frantically to restore electricity. By 1800, AEDT, the SES had received more than 120 calls for help from distressed residents whose homes had been damaged, spokesman Rick Stone said, adding that the figure was “a conservative estimate”. Flights out of Sydney airport were delayed by 30 minutes because baggage handlers could not go out on the tarmac when there was lightning around, Sydney Airport Corporation said. A spokesman for the ACT Emergency Services Authority said the SES received 19 calls for help around Canberra, mainly in the southern and western suburbs. Sydney train commuters faced delays heading home as the storms took their toll on the city's rail network. CityRail said trains were delayed by up to 30 minutes on the Blue Mountains line after lightning strikes damaged equipment at Blackheath. On the South Coast line, buses were replacing trains between Waterfall and Corrimal, Oak Flats and Kiama, and supplementing trains between Kiama and Bomaderry.

**CANADA**

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Traffic was light on Halifax streets after about 40 centimetres of snow fell on the region, disrupting travel and forcing the cancellation of schools, some flights and a major political visit. Motorists were warned to stay off the highways as snow whipped by winds gusting to 90 kilometres an hour caused whiteouts. Buses in Halifax were pulled off the roads in the morning and municipal

offices stayed closed until noon. Most flights out of Halifax International Airport were on hold as the day began under a white blanket. In Charlottetown, the airport was empty as airlines cancelled all flights in and out of the city for much of the day. Conditions were expected to be further complicated by rain, freezing rain and a drop in temperatures in northern parts of Nova Scotia. In western Newfoundland, blowing snow and high winds led to cancelled classes at several schools. In Corner Brook, Nfld., highway clearing crews worked throughout the day to keep up. Newfoundland's west coast was expecting 30 centimetres, the worst storm so far this winter, but not unusual for the province.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A mother and daughter were missing today and a man was injured after a landslide swept through a residential area as torrential rain pounded the western Canadian city of Vancouver. Rescue teams used helicopters and infra-red equipment in the search and 77 homes were evacuated after two dwellings were flattened by the landslide in the suburb of North Vancouver, officials said. A record 32 centimetres of rain has soaked the city over the last two days, spelling trouble for a homes built on mountain foothills. Emergency measures were in place across British Columbia, said Bob Bugsleg, director of the province's emergency program. “Were seeing combined mid and high level snow melt combined with extraordinary amount of rain,” he said. Heavy rains overwhelmed the city's sewage system and raw waste began flooding into the Fraser River and Burrard Inlet.

**GUYANA**

Georgetown, Jan 18 — Guyana today declared its flood-hit capital Georgetown and surrounding areas disaster zones after the heaviest rains in more than a century killed one person and forced hundreds from their homes, authorities said. The floods swamped streets of the capital, and schools and many offices and stores were closed, witnesses said. In some rural communities, flood waters reached waist height. The body of a 38-year-old man who drowned was recovered today east of Georgetown, residents said. President Bharrat Jagdeo's government declared disaster zones in the Demerara/Mahaica district where the capital is located and in other districts to the east and west on the Atlantic coast, the government information agency said. Jagdeo has appointed government teams to coordinate relief efforts for people displaced by the floods. “If we continue at this rate we will end the month at six times the normal average rainfall for January,” he told reporters. — Reuters.

**HURRICANE “IVAN”**

London, Jan 17 — Insured and economic losses from hurricane “Ivan” in the Gulf of Mexico are continuing to soar, with latest estimates in the

energy market reaching \$2.7bn. London underwriters are believed to be considering important changes in the way they cover the business in response to the size of the loss, the largest the energy market has suffered. Quantum of loss is likely to develop further, having already climbed from an initial rough estimate of well under \$2bn. Much of the damage in the Gulf came from the mudslide caused when the hurricane hit the Mississippi delta. The resulting surge-back created a wall of silt that some have estimated to be as high as 25 ft and which was travelling at considerable speed. Apart from causing severe damage to pipelines, this made it difficult to gain access for repair work.

**IRAQ**

London, Jan 18 — Berthing and sailing of vessels at Basrah Oil Terminal was temporarily suspended at 2100, local time, last night due to rough weather. The terminal's tugs are presently sheltered at Umm Qasr. It will take five to six hours for them to sail back from Umm Qasr to Basrah Oil Terminal, weather permitting.

**ITALY**

Palermo, Jan 19 — Bad weather on Dec 25/26 caused damage to a breakwater in the port of Gela. Repairs were required. Traffic at the main pier should resume this weekend. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MADEIRA ISLAND, PORTUGAL**

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Rough seas led to the cancellation of a regular passenger ferry service which links the two main islands of Portugal's Madeira archipelago in the Atlantic, national news agency Lusa reported today. The vessel which was to make the roughly 40-kilometre trip from the main island of Madeira to Porto Santo remained docked because wind gusts of up to 100 kilometres an hour were whipping up waves of up to four metres, a spokesman for the firm which operates the vessel told the agency. The 40 passengers who were booked for the trip will be able to resume their trip on Wednesday (Jan 19) on the next regularly scheduled ferry to Porto Santo, he added. Firefighters removed fallen tree branches overnight from roads on the archipelago, located off the coast of Morocco, and have warned drivers to stay away from roads in mountainous regions due to the high winds.

**NORTHERN EUROPE**

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A week after a powerful storm killed 14 people across northern Europe, more than 50,000 homes in Sweden, which was hardest hit by the tempest, remain without power, energy providers said today. Electricity company Sydkraft, which sustained the greatest damage, said it expected some customers to remain without electricity for several more weeks. “Our company currently has 45,429 households still lacking power,

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and in the worst cases it will take weeks to bring them back online," Sydkraft spokesman Johan Aspegren told AFP. Including the customers of other electricity companies, about 51,000 households in Sweden remained without power midday today, Swedish news agency TT estimated. "The woods just look terrible. We're going to have to completely rebuild new lines over thousands and thousands of kilometres," Aspegren said. "We usually say that the disturbance is bad when 50 lines are damaged. Now, about 1,000 lines have been damaged. We have never seen anything like this in Sweden before." Complicating the repair work is the fact that Sweden, which counted seven deaths from the hurricane-force winds last weekend, was hit by two smaller storms over the next few days. The mighty gusts of wind also caused huge damage to southern forests. The Federation of Forest Owners, Skogsägarna, estimates that 75 million cubic metres of forest wood had been uprooted or damaged. Sydkraft currently has about 2,000 people working on its power grid repairs, including technical staff called in from Norwegian, Danish, Finnish and German affiliates.

St. Petersburg, Jan 19 — Additional information on last week's flooding in St. Petersburg: According to officials, two people were hospitalised, seven embankments covered with water and six metro stations were closed in St. Petersburg for the sake of safety on Sunday (Jan 9) when the water in the Neva River driven by a strong Atlantic cyclone from the Baltic Sea went as high as 2.39 meters above average. Rescuers evacuated two women from a flooded car on one embankment. The women were hospitalised. According to St. Petersburg Meteorological Centre, the water level was a meter above average last Monday. Vice-Governor Viktor Lobko said last Sunday on St. Petersburg's TV Channel Five that the city was saved from worse flooding by the yet uncompleted flood defence complex to west of the city. Alexander Rodionov, duty meteorologist, said that such high flooding was unusual for January since normally St. Petersburg has floods in autumn and spring. Andrey Alyab'ev, the head of press centre of Emergency Situations Administration of St. Petersburg and Leningrad region, said that the city did not sustain serious damage and there were no victims. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### ROMANIA

Bucharest, Jan 14 — Constantza port was closed due to dense fog, visibility below 0.5 nautical miles, at 0715, Jan 13, and was re-opened at 0220, Jan 14. Constantza port was closed again at 0730, Jan 14, also due to dense fog, visibility below 0.5 nautical miles. Midia port was closed due to the same weather conditions at 0800, Jan 13, and was re-opened at 0600, Jan 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Jan 14 — Constantza port was re-opened at 1230 hrs, today. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Jan 18 — The Sulina Channel was closed at 0700, Jan 17, due to bad weather; winds north-north-easterly force 6-7, (strong breeze - near gale) sea 4-5. The Sulina Channel was re-opened at 0600 hrs, today. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### SOUTH KOREA

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states; Snowstorms today shut down a third of South Korea's local airports with dozens of domestic flights cancelled, officials at the Korea Airport Corp said. Five of the 15 local airports were shut for hours by heavy snow, strong winds and poor visibility with 86 flights cancelled, they said. Affected were the airports of Gimhae, Ulsan, Pohang, Yeosu and Mokpo - mostly in the eastern and southern provinces where up to 100 centimetres of snow fell. "All takeoffs and landings have been prohibited for hours at those five affected airports," said Korea Airport Corp spokesman Ham Young-Ju. But operations at Incheon Airport, the main gateway for South Korea, and other airports remained normal, he said.

#### TROPICAL CYCLONE "KERRY"

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Former cyclone "Kerry" caused havoc on Queensland's Gold Coast with 50 people rescued from the surf in 24 hours. Swells of up to three metres were battering the beaches and strong rips were creating dangerous conditions for swimmers. While surfers enjoyed the bigger waves, Queensland Surf Life Savers had rescued 50 swimmers and boardriders from rough seas at Gold Coast beaches yesterday. Although "Kerry" had weakened into a tropical low, strong wind warnings remained for southern Queensland. The Bureau of Meteorology had issued a strong wind warning of 25 to 30 knots between Burnett Heads and Caloundra. At 1530 hrs ex-Cyclone "Kerry" was located about 500 nautical miles east of Cape Moreton and moving west-southwest at 10 knots. It was expected to weaken as it moved towards the coast to about 60 nautical miles east of Cape Moreton by 2200, tonight. It was forecast to then move south-southwest offshore and would weaken further tomorrow.

#### TROPICAL STORM "KULAP"

London, Jan 17 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Kulap" near lat 15.1N, long 148.8E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 45 degrees at 12 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds 30 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 25 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 20 nautical miles south-west and north-west quadrants. Forecasts position lat 16.7N, long 151.4E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots. Forecast position lat 18.3N, long 154.5E at 0600, Jan 18. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots, gusts 50 knots.

London, Jan 18 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today the centre of tropical storm "Kulap" was located near lat 17.3N, long 152.7E, approximately 420 nautical miles east-north-east of Saipan, and has tracked east-north-eastward, or 60 degs, at 13 knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds are 60 knots, with gusts to 75 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds: 20 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 15 nautical miles south-east and south-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 18 feet. At 0600, UTC, Jan 19, the centre is predicted to be near lat 20.0N, long 157.5E, with maximum sustained winds of 55 knots and gusts to 70 knots.

#### TURKEY

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Traffic in the Strait of Canakkale was again halted due to dense fog at 0030, hrs, this morning. Traffic in the Istanbul Strait remains suspended since yesterday afternoon.

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Around 200 foreign freight vessels and oil tankers have been stranded in the area of the Turkish straits of Bosphorus and Dardanelles because of a heavy fog. The fog, that is particularly dense in the area of the Sea of Marmara, has paralyzed the "sea taxi" service in Istanbul that carries passengers and cargoes to and from the European part of the city to its Asian neighbourhoods, HaberTurk television said today. Around 128 foreign vessels have queued up outside the Bosphorus strait in the Black Sea waiting for the fog to disperse. Seventy other vessels intending to pass into the Black Sea weather permitting have been stranded in the Sea of Marmara. The rules of the navigation in the Turkish straits envisage one-way navigation through the Bosphorus strait if a visibility range falls short of one nautical mile. The navigation in the strait is banned altogether if the visibility range is less than 0.5 nautical miles. Turkey suspended navigation through the Bosphorus-Dardanelles straits on Wednesday (Jan 12) because of a heavy fog that muffled the area of the straits. A visibility range in the area of the Dardanelles strait was less than 100 metres that posed a threat to vessels. All transit vessels had been anchored in the Aegean Sea and in the Sea of Marmara.

#### TYPHOON "TOKAGE"

Moji, Jan 17 — Repairs to passenger ro/ro Shuri were completed on Nov 13 and the vessel returned to normal trading. — Lloyd's Agents.

Yokohama, Jan 17 — Training Kaiwo Maru is still under repair at the dock yard in Toyama. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Heavy overnight

snow has brought blizzards to parts of Scotland's central belt and caused problems on the roads in many areas. Police said Fife and central Scotland were worst affected by the snow, with up to 10 in falling in places. Several roads were closed, including sections of the A93, A81 and A85, and a number of accidents were reported. Two lorries jack-knifed on the M74 and driving conditions on the motorway were said to be treacherous. Strong winds and heavy snow were making driving difficult on the route, and there were also problems for motorists on the M8 in the Harthill area. Drifting snow and icy patches led to the closure of the A93 between Blairgowrie and Braemar, the A81 between Callander and Aberfoyle and the A85 between Killin and Crianlarich, while the A83 is closed five miles north of Furnace. In the west, an earlier accident on the A77 at Fenwick was expected to have a knock-on effect throughout the morning. Some First ScotRail train services have been disrupted, as have a number of flights to and from Scotland's airports.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Bad weather is causing travel chaos and has closed dozens of schools across Northern Ireland. Conditions on the Glenshane Pass in Co Londonderry are said to be dangerous with drivers urged to be cautious. Driving conditions are dangerous on roads right across Northern Ireland. Power lines were brought down near Toomebridge in County Antrim. About 1,000 customers in the area were without electricity for a time.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Local government leaders say the damage estimate after devastating floods swept through Southern Utah this week is sixty million dollars and counting. Clean-up efforts are underway this morning, after days of devastating floodwaters roared through the area. The Washington County Sheriff's Office says there are at least 20 homes in St. George destroyed from the raging waters. Damage is expected to total at least \$37 million in St. George alone. Officials also say more homes were destroyed in Gunlock and Santa Clara. Gunlock residents have been stranded, after floodwaters washed out both roads to the town. Today, the Federal Emergency Management Agency will tour the flood stricken area and deliver a preliminary damage assessment. FEMA officials will then decide whether or not to declare the county a federal disaster area.

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Fuel began flowing through Kinder Morgan's west pipeline early today, ending a three-day shutdown of the line that delivers 70 percent of the Valley's gasoline, diesel and jet fuel. Engineers concluded late yesterday that floods that washed out the ground around portions of the 20-inch pipeline in California did not damage the line. Kinder Morgan Energy Partners said it has stabilised

the ground surrounding the washed out portions of the pipeline and does not anticipate further problems. It could be several days before the line is operating at full capacity, but officials don't expect any fuel shortages.

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: The series of deadly storms that struck California earlier this month probably cost the state more than \$100 million in damage to homes, roads and farms, according to experts still tallying the bill. Preliminary estimates of damage to just the state's highways and interstate system come to about \$50 million, said CalTrans spokesman David Anderson. "As more assessments are made we expect that number to climb," he said today. In unincorporated Los Angeles County, which includes the rapidly growing Antelope and Santa Clarita valleys, officials estimated private property damage at roughly \$1 million, said Minerva Arika, a supervisor at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. When damage to more than 100 flooded or obstructed roadways, bridges and other public property in the area is added on, the estimate rises to more than \$30 million, she said. Authorities in San Bernardino and Riverside counties were still looking at damage there today and did not have any cost estimates. Los Angeles, Riverside, Kern, San Diego and Santa Barbara counties have asked Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to declare them in a state of emergency, which would pave the way for financial assistance from the state, said Greg Renick, a spokesman for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Yesterday, Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency in Ventura County. Twenty-eight people died throughout the state during five days of constant, torrential rain that ended Tuesday (Jan 11). Ten of the victims were killed in Ventura County's La Conchita area when a mudslide buried part of the coastal community. By today, more than 14,500 home and flood insurance claims had been filed by people reporting storm damage, said Candysse Miller, executive director of the Insurance Information Network of California, a trade group that tracks the insurance industry. Excess rainwater turned Southern California farmland into muddy fields, drowning crops and ripping out irrigation systems. Ventura County was hit hardest, according to the California Farm Bureau Federation, where farmers suffered an estimated \$38 million in crop and equipment losses. Flooding and mudslides initially forced Omaha, Neb.-based Union Pacific Railroad to close four of its five main routes in and out of the Los Angeles basin. Two of those routes remained closed today, and were expected to remain shut down for an "extended period," spokesman John Bromley said. The disruption was expected to cause a temporary backlog of cargo containers at port terminals, but officials with the Pacific Maritime Association, which represents the marine terminals at the

ports, said they would be able to manage the extra cargo.

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Powerful storms raked Arkansas, spawning a tornado with winds over 158 mph that killed two people. The tornado hit late Wednesday (Jan 12) south of El Dorado in south-central Arkansas, about 12 miles north of the Louisiana state line. Union County Emergency Management Coordinator Jackie Wiley said the tornado cut a quarter-mile wide, 20-mile-long swath of destruction starting at Junction City and moving south of El Dorado to Lawson. "We've probably got 25-30 homes severely damaged or destroyed, numerous vehicles upside down, just everything," Wiley said. The National Weather Service in Shreveport, La., said the tornado was preliminarily evaluated as an F3 on the Fujita scale, with winds ranging from 158 mph to 206 mph. In Missouri, a moderate-strength tornado associated with a powerful storm touched down in south-central Missouri late Wednesday, leaving a quarter-mile-wide swath of damage about 18 miles long, the weather service said. No injuries were reported. The weather service said the tornado was an F1, with winds of 73 mph to 112 mph.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated Jan 16, states: The recent storms left nine people dead in Los Angeles County and nearly \$90 million in damage to infrastructure and public buildings, Supervisor Mike Antonovich said yesterday. So far, 15 homes have been destroyed and 18 have major damage, he said, but that number is expected to increase. The county Assessor's Office has announced property tax relief for storm damage amounts of \$10,000 or more. The county Department of Public Works reports 101 roads that remain closed. Antonovich said Los Angeles County has submitted a local state of emergency proclamation to the state for approval. Diamond Bar, Glendale, La Canada Flintridge, Los Angeles, Malibu, Monterey Park, Pasadena and Santa Clarita also have submitted declarations of local emergency, he said.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Last week's flooding in the Beaver Dam area of northern Mohave County, in Arizona, caused an estimated \$24 million in damage. The Arizona governor's office issued an official state of emergency for the area after a winter storm dumped rain and snow in southern Nevada, northern Arizona and southern Utah. The state of Arizona applied for a federal national declaration of emergency, which if approved, residents can apply to Federal Emergency Management Agency for loans to rebuild their homes. The area suffered more than \$12.3 million in damage to public property and more than \$11.8 million in damage to private property, Assistant Public Works Director Nick Hont said.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: Riverside County officials' in California, estimate on damage exacted countywide by last week's record-setting rain soared to

\$16.5 million today, as teams of state and federal workers fanned out to inspect storm-ravaged communities. The damage total could climb even higher. "It's a moving target," said Mary Moreland, deputy county fire director for emergency services. "That figure could still go up as we work more on this throughout the rest of this week, trying to put together the information we need in order to get a presidential declaration." Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared the county to be in an emergency Saturday (Jan 15), unleashing state funding for repairs to roads, bridges and other public facilities. Riverside County also is seeking a federal declaration of emergency by President Bush that would open the way for homeowners and business people to obtain government grants or low-cost loans to repair their flooded properties. Moreland said two teams of workers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Small Business Administration and state Office of Emergency Services toured storm-damaged areas in Temecula, Lake Elsinore, Moreno Valley and Rubidoux, an unincorporated community near Riverside. One team inspected the damage to public facilities; the other looked at private-property damage. Moreland said the teams will fan out again today, then return to Sacramento to deliver a report to Schwarzenegger by Friday (Jan 21) night. The governor is expected to rely on the report to determine whether to ask the president to declare Riverside and several other Southern California counties as federal disaster areas. A presidential declaration could come soon after. The county's estimate rose in large part because of fresh reports that farm damage had reached \$5 million. "We found out that we've had significant agricultural damage as well," Moreland said. County officials also revised totals for public facilities upward to \$5.2 million in the unincorporated county, \$3.7 million within cities and \$375,000 in special districts such as water agencies, Moreland said. As for private-property damage, totals reached \$1 million in unincorporated communities and \$1.2 million in cities, she said. Five days of record rainfall, which dumped as much as half a foot of rain on Southwest County, caused extensive damage throughout Southern California. Hardest hit was Ventura County, where the total grew to \$114 million, including \$38 million for agriculture alone. Ventura County was the site of the coastal mudslide at La Conchita that killed 10 people.

## Earthquakes



### JAPAN

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A magnitude 6.3

earthquake hit the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido today. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The quake struck shortly after 2300 hrs. There is no danger of tsunami, or waves caused by seismic activity, the nation's Meteorological Agency said.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Japanese islands are on tsunami alert after a strong undersea earthquake 200 km east of the country. Waves about 50cm high were expected to hit the Izu Islands soon after the 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck at 0611, GMT. Japan's meteorological agency issued the alert to the islands, south of the capital, Tokyo. "The sea level has not risen so far [but] we are urging local residents to be cautious," Mochimaru Koumatsu, an official in the town of Hachijo, near where the quake struck, told Japanese public broadcaster NHK.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A 30-centimetre-high tsunami reached Miyake Island this afternoon after a quake measuring a magnitude of 6.8 occurred in the Pacific, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. The wave reached the island on the Izu island chain south of Tokyo at 1537, the agency said. The agency issued a tsunami warning after the 1511 quake, expecting the height of the tsunamis to be 50 cm and warning they might be higher in some places.

### MICRONESIA

London, Jan 17 — An earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale has been detected off the Pacific island group of Micronesia, the Hong Kong observatory said today. "The epicentre was initially determined to be over the seas of the western part of Micronesia, about 330km east-northeast of (the island of) Yap," the observatory said. The quake, classified in Hong Kong as "severe", was recorded at 0424 hrs, it said. There were no immediate reports of tsunamis or damage on nearby islands.

### SOUTH-EAST ASIA

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Marine experts have reported that the killer tsunami two weeks ago has temporarily damaged some of Thailand's coral reefs. Scuba divers have been scouring the depths of the Andaman Sea, in some of Thailand's favourite dive spots. They are clearing away debris littering the seabed - all carried by the killer tsunami two weeks ago. Charoen Nitithamyong, a marine biologist at Thailand's Chulalongkorn University, explained how debris - such as furniture and vehicles - dragged off land by the giant waves caused the damage. "Coral is an animal but they have algae living inside the coral and those algae need the light to photosynthesize," he explained. "So when the corals are covered by these things the coral couldn't survive." The Thai government says its initial assessment shows overall about five percent of coral reefs have been harmed. The damage is most extensive

around South Patong Beach - with 20 percent devastation - and Koh Pai and Rana Bay off Phi Phi Island, which lost almost half the reef. Ukkrit Satatoomin, of the Phuket Marine Biological Center, says the situation is not that bad given the catastrophe. "I think the effect of the tsunami to coral is very minor. The damage is restricted only to specific sites in Phuket," he said. "But the major reef areas are still in good condition, some places have been untouched by the tsunami." The United Nations has sent some equipment to help divers clean up the Andaman Sea. Mr. Ukkrit is optimistic. "Coral can heal itself. Even the coral that get damaged like breaking off or even turned over, some parts of it is still alive. I'm sure within three or five years that we can see the coral in good condition again," he said. Elsewhere in Asia, Indian marine experts are also examining marine life off the coast of Kerala, which was also hit by the tsunami. It is feared that the killer waves may have killed or displaced rare sea turtles in the Indian Ocean.

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The Port of Galle is now operating and two vessels have been berthed. However, the maximum draft is currently restricted to 6.2 metres, compared to the previous 7.3 metres. Dredging is underway to revert to the draft of 7.3 metres. Work is progressing slowly, however, as an old dredger is being used. The new dredger (suction hopper dredger Diyakawa) was washed ashore when the tsunami struck the port on Dec 26 and is currently lying on the pier. The Sri Lankan Government and Ports Authority are seeking the assistance of a private party to get the new dredger back to water.

Karachi, Jan 14 — The Sri Lanka government said it will start reconstruction of all fisheries harbours that were affected by the tsunami and may built eight new fisheries harbours in Chilaw, Ambalangoda, and Dikovita from tomorrow. Sri Lanka Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Minister Chandrasena Wijesinhe told local journalists at a press briefing recently, that the fisheries industry needs Rs.16.5 billion for its reconstructing process. The estimated losses incurred to the other institutes related to the ministry are about Rs.3,058 million and the damage to machinery and equipment was Rs.11,449 million, the Minister said. "We hope to get the assistance of the boat manufacturers in Sri Lanka for repairing and manufacturing boats. The ministry will recruit 400 youth from fishing families in the affected areas as team leaders. These team leaders will provide reliable information on the damage incurred by each fisherman. We have planned to set up fisheries villages for affected fishermen and we are now looking for suitable plots of land for the project. The Ministry has already built 50 temporary houses for fishing families in Kirindagama. "We will also promote that fish consumption is safe among our consumers", he said. Chairman of the National Aquatic



Resources, Research and Development Agency (NARA) Kapila Perera said the tsunami has caused Rs. 384 million damage to its allied bodies. Our research laboratory where we used to examine the quality of fish for export has been affected. Aquatic breeding centres have also been destroyed". — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A survey of the port at Chennai since the devastating tsunamis shows that the port was "dredged" by the action of the currents and is now the deepest in India. According to the survey 450,000m<sup>3</sup> of sediment were removed Dec 26, leaving an average increase of 1 - 2 metres.

Galle, Sri Lanka, Jan 17 — Sri Lanka's tsunami death toll increased today as officials said the more they cleared up, the more bodies they found. The island added another 7,275 victims to its list of the dead, taking the national toll over 38,000 and the overall toll around Indian Ocean nations to 175,458. "We are coming across dead bodies on a daily basis as we clear the rubble," said Tilak Ranavirajah, a senior public security ministry official. Hardest-hit Indonesia has steadily raised its total, but Sri Lanka's body count had stabilised around 30,000 until today. Sri Lanka said it would begin its tsunami reconstruction phase on Wednesday (Jan 19) in the obliterated town of Hambantota. Sri Lankans have now begun rebuilding tsunami-hit homes and hotels close to the shore, in defiance of a government ban. — Reuters.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Cruise liners are expected to resume their weekly calls at Patong Bay (Phuket) from Monday (Jan 24). The Port of Phuket was not affected by the tsunami that hit the west coast of Phuket Island and South of Thailand from Ranong to Satul. On Phuket Island, only the west coast beaches were affected - up to 200 metres from the beach in some places. Most beach areas have now been cleaned up. One land tour operator says that normal activities and tours (city tour and Phangnga Tour) for cruise passengers will proceed as usual and will not pass areas in a state of disrepair. Sanitation on Phuket is fully up to standard and there are no diseases or epidemics.

Banda Aceh, Indonesia, Jan 19 — The global death toll from the Asian tsunami shot above 226,000 today after Indonesia's Health Ministry confirmed the deaths of tens of thousands of people previously listed as missing. The ministry raised the country's death toll to 166,320. It had previously given a figure of 95,450 while Indonesia's Ministry of Social Affairs had put the death toll at around 115,000 before it stopped counting. Dodi Indrasanto, a director at the health ministry's department of health affairs, said the new death total reflected the latest reports from the provinces of Aceh and North Sumatra, which were directly in the path of the killer tsunami. The new figure lifted the total global death toll

from the tsunami disaster to 226,566, although the number continues to rise as more deaths are reported around the region. Indrasanto said the health ministry report, which had just 6,245 people still listed as missing, had been sent to Yudhoyono late Wednesday. The ministry's figures said 617,159 people were still homeless in northern Sumatra more than three weeks after the killer wave struck. Across Aceh's ravaged west coast, survivors were few and many villages were virtual ghost towns. In others, a mosque was the only building left standing. In the province's second city Meulaboh, almost sliced in half by the killer wave, mountains of rubble smoldered and electricity was intermittent, but some shops and markets were busy, and food appeared to be available. Daniel Augstburger, head of United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the coastal city of Meulaboh, said not enough help was reaching people outside of major urban areas. "The French are starting to move food, of course the Americans....are moving food out, but this has to increase ten-fold, I would say," Augstburger told Reuters, adding that tsunami victims also needed items such as clothes and cooking utensils. In Sri Lanka, residents of a tsunami-ravaged town packed up and left — ready to re-establish their community 1.5 km inland as a precaution against any other surprises from the sea. The International Monetary Fund said it hoped to approve Sri Lanka's emergency request for up to \$160 million in assistance, while Indonesian officials told donors that the tsunami would likely cost the country around \$4.5 billion. Governments, aid groups, individuals, corporations and international agencies have pledged more than \$7 billion in aid to Asia's tsunami victims, but donors have to date promised just \$739 million of the \$977 million the U.N. system says is needed in emergency aid to meet the basic needs of victims over the next six months, according to Kevin Kennedy, a senior official of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. — Reuters.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Asia's earthquake and tsunami chaos has swept away about 1 million jobs in Indonesia and Sri Lanka alone, sending the unemployment rate soaring in the worst affected areas, the UN's labour agency says. In a strategy paper, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) advises that quick action is vital to cushion the blow and get people back to work. "The ILO today urged that employment-intensive job creation strategies be integrated into the humanitarian and reconstruction response to the earthquake and tsunami disaster in Asia that destroyed the livelihoods of an estimated one million persons in Indonesia and Sri Lanka alone," it said. The paper is due to be presented at a five-day United Nations conference on disaster reduction that opened in Kobe, Japan

yesterday. The agency says that in addition to death and injury, the earthquake and floods on Dec 26 has cost Indonesia 600,000 jobs, in particular in the Aceh province and the island of Nias. "The majority of job losses are in fishing, small-scale and plantation agriculture and unregistered small businesses," it said. The ILO says as a result, the jobless rate in the affected areas may have increased to 30 per cent from about 6.8 per cent before the disaster. The country's total number of unemployed is likely to have risen by 6 per cent from around 9.7 million people. In Sri Lanka, the catastrophe has robbed the country of more than 400,000 jobs in the affected districts in the eastern, southern and western coasts. "The majority of job losses in Sri Lanka have occurred in the fisheries, hotel and tourism industry - including ecotourism, which was starting to expand - and the informal economy," the ILO said. It estimates that the unemployment rate in the areas battered by the disaster has probably risen to more than 20 per cent from 9.2 per cent beforehand. At the same time, the aid that is sweeping into the countries will help to provide new sources of income for the locals. The ILO predicts work to reconstruct and repair buildings and infrastructure could enable between 50 per cent to 60 per cent of those who saw their livelihood washed away by the mayhem to earn a living again by the end of the year. That number could grow to around 85 per cent by the end of 2006.

## Political & Civil Unrest



### AFGHANISTAN

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: Six government soldiers have been shot dead by suspected Taleban gunmen in the southern Afghan province of Helmand. The soldiers' bullet-riddled bodies were discovered near a canal, local official Mohammed Wali said. A spokesman for the ousted Taleban militia said they were responsible for the attack. The latest attack - which brought the highest death toll for months - took place when a military vehicle carrying the government soldiers was ambushed in Helmand's Washare district, Mr Wali said.

Kabul, Jan 20 — A suicide bomber blew himself up at a mosque in northern Afghanistan today wounding two people, but the apparent target of the attack, ethnic Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum, was unhurt, Dostum's spokesman said. The suicide bomber approached worshippers as they left the mosque in Shiberghan, Dostum's hometown and headquarters. — Reuters.

### GUINEA

Conakry, Jan 19 — Guinea's ailing leader Lansana Conte survived an assassination attempt this morning, his

security minister said, after unidentified men in military uniform were reported to have fired on his convoy. Conte himself appeared on state television late today, sitting in an armchair and looking well despite a long illness. "Those who have put people on the street to fire on me are irresponsible. They must know that my end has not come," Conte said in a declaration on the main evening news programme. Military sources said Conte's bodyguards — known as the Red Berets — returned fire and foiled the attack, although several were wounded in the shootout. A police source said rocket launchers were found at the scene and that some of the attackers had escaped. Guinea has been shaken by riots in several towns in recent months over price rises for rice and other items. The United Nations has also been investigating reports that young soldiers who fought in Liberia's civil war have been recruited to fight in neighbouring Guinea as mercenaries. — Reuters.

### INDIA

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated Jan 16, states: A 25-hour siege in Indian-administered Kashmir has ended after two militants were killed by security forces. Two Indian soldiers were also killed in the stand-off, which developed after two heavily armed men stormed a federal complex in Srinagar. "We have killed both the militants. The standoff is over," said deputy inspector general of police SS Singh. The bodies of the two soldiers were recovered from a burnt-out building that caught fire during the battle. The authorities are unable to explain how the militants entered the complex yesterday. The men, from a pro-Pakistan group, split up inside the complex, which is used by India's central reserve police force. Hundreds of paramilitaries deployed at the complex exchanged heavy fire with the men before the stand-off was declared over, officials said. At least five security personnel were injured in fierce gun battles. The complex, built around a sports stadium, houses a number of federal government buildings, and is scheduled to host an Indian Republic Day parade on Jan 26. The day is traditionally a target for Kashmiri separatist group and rebels, and security had been stepped up. The al-Mansurin militant group claimed responsibility for the attack.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Four suspected militants have been shot dead along the Kashmiri Line of Control, Indian security forces say. The gun battle happened in Poonch district, near the line that divides the Indian and Pakistani-administered parts of Kashmir. A senior official of India's paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF), Bansi Dhar Sharma, said that today's incident was the first major attempt by militants to sneak into India this year. "The infiltrating militants were asked to surrender. They instead opened fire that was promptly returned," a police spokesman told a news agency.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: India accused Pakistani soldiers today of firing mortar shells across the dividing line in Kashmir in the first violation of a 14-month cease-fire between the South Asian nuclear-armed rivals. A senior army official said there were no casualties on the Indian side, and Indian troops had not retaliated. "It certainly is a violation of the cease-fire. This is the first time this has happened. We have exercised full restraint," Maj. Gen. Deepak Summanwar said. "Seven to eight rounds of mortars were fired. All our patrols have been alerted." The reports of firing came hours after another setback to the ties between the traditional South Asian rivals, which are now pursuing peace. Islamabad accused New Delhi of deliberately scuttling talks on a disputed dam that India is building on its side of Kashmir and appealed to the World Bank to help resolve the issue. Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan said the dispute will cast a "bad light" on the peace dialogue. Indian military officials in Kashmir said today's firing may have been carried out to provide cover to a batch of Islamic militants crossing into the Indian side of Kashmir from the Pakistan-controlled part of the Himalayan region. Rebels based in Pakistan routinely cross over to India to wage attacks as part of their campaign to carve out a separate homeland or merge the Indian-controlled area into Pakistan. Five such rebels were killed yesterday night in the mountainous Achhar sector, said B.D. Sharma, inspector general of the Border Security Force. India accuses Pakistan of allowing militants to train in camps on its territory and supporting attacks that kill civilians, police and soldiers. Pakistan denies the allegations.

Hyderabad, Jan 20 — Life ground to a near halt in large parts of India's southern state of Andhra Pradesh today after a strike call by a Maoist group following the collapse of peace talks and a seven-month ceasefire. Streets were deserted as buses stayed off the road and schools and businesses were closed on fears of renewed attacks from Communist Party of India (Maoist) rebels who have been waging a low-intensity insurgency for more than three decades over the rights of peasants and landless labourers. "Schools have declared a holiday, government offices are running at 40 percent attendance and shops have closed down mostly in towns and villages," said police official Swati Lakra. Cities were relatively unaffected by the strike but the closure was felt more in vast stretches of the countryside, particularly in 13 Maoist-dominated districts. Panic has gripped Andhra Pradesh since the Maoists called off talks with the state government this week leading, to an exodus of government officials and politicians from the countryside. The talks collapsed after nine rebels were killed in clashes with the police at the weekend. Rebels say that was a

violation of the ceasefire, although the government says it was only conducting normal police operations. Violence continued today when three rebels were killed in a clash with security forces in Karimnagar district, about 210 km northeast of the state capital, Hyderabad. Authorities have tightened security across the state, particularly at airports, railway stations, key government installations and commercial complexes. Police are combing border areas in search of rebel hideouts. Officials say the rebels number around 2,000 and operate in the dense forests of Andhra Pradesh's Telengana region, roughly 170 km north of Hyderabad, a growing hub for the software and outsourcing industries. They said the rebels had earlier asked all elected representatives from their strongholds to resign from their posts, accusing the government of failing to live up to promises made during the first round of peace talks last October. During those talks rebels had asked for a written truce, the release of prisoners and redistribution of land to the poor. — Reuters.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Separatist rebels set off bombs and blew up an oil pipeline in northeast India ahead of national day celebrations next week, killing two people and wounding 10, police said today. The guerrillas also threw hand grenades at two police stations in Assam state last night, but there were no casualties, said Khagen Sharma, inspector-general of state police. "Rebels carried out a string of explosions in different parts of Assam state to demonstrate their strike potential. Our security forces are on a high alert," Sharma said. He blamed the United Liberation Front of Asom, or ULFA, for the attacks, but no one has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

### INDONESIA

Banda Aceh, Jan 14 — Indonesia wants a lasting truce with separatists in Aceh province, Vice President Jusuf Kalla said today, as both sides expressed a willingness for talks to end the 28-year rebellion. Kalla, speaking to reporters in Banda Aceh, said Jakarta wanted more than just a ceasefire. "Ceasefire means you stop now, and fight another day. No, we're making (it) permanent," he said in brief remarks in English after Friday prayers in Aceh's provincial capital. The rebel prime minister-in-exile Malik Mahmud said in a statement from Stockholm on Wednesday his Free Aceh Movement, better known by its initials GAM, repeated their ceasefire offer to help efforts to rebuild the region. "Under the present situation, this is a good chance for both sides to sit down and try to discuss a settlement to the political situation," Malik said. Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda said yesterday Indonesia was seeking a deal with the GAM rebels. "There have been gentlemen's agreements reached between Indonesian forces and the Free Aceh

Movement," he said at a news conference in Berlin with his German counterpart Joschka Fischer. "But we are also in the midst of exploring the possibility of making reconciliation between the two sides of the conflict in Banda Aceh." Peace talks between the two sides broke down in Tokyo more than two years ago, after which Jakarta clamped martial law on the province and launched an offensive to crush a rebellion that has killed 12,000 people, mostly civilians, since 1976. Jakarta replaced martial law with a civil emergency that was extended another six months in October, but then was lifted after the Dec 26 tsunami to allow a massive aid effort to operate. Before the disaster, authorities tightly restricted access to the province. But now Australia, the United States, Singapore, Malaysia, Germany, China, Spain, Pakistan, Japan and Switzerland all have military forces aiding the relief efforts in Aceh. The huge international presence and the utter devastation in the province offers a short window of opportunity for Jakarta and the rebels to work out a political solution and help rehabilitate shattered Aceh, analysts have said. — Reuters.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Accelerating hostilities in the tsunami-devastated Indonesian province of Aceh have killed as many as 110 people since the Boxing Day disaster, separatist rebels claim, including more than 80 unarmed civilians. The continuing clashes have prompted claim and counter-claim from the Indonesian military and the rebels, each blaming the other for the fighting. Indonesian military spokesman Edyana Sulistiadi said yesterday there had been "many small incidents" between the military or TNI and the Free Aceh Movement, or GAM, and confirmed there had been about 34 clashes. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has said he ordered the military to go "into defensive mode" the day after the tsunami hit. "I do not see any disobedience from the TNI towards my instructions as President," he said last Friday (Jan 14). "There has been no offensive operation since the disaster." Lieutenant-Colonel Sulistiadi said no Indonesian soldiers had been killed in the battles and only one had been wounded. As for rebel casualties, he said no strict count had been kept. GAM leader Sofyan Dawood said yesterday that many of the so-called firefights were in fact the Indonesian military firing on civilians. "They consider them to be firefights and the victims have been recorded as GAM casualties," he said. "The TNI said in total 110 GAM members had been killed but according to our records it is 20, and the rest are civilians. If an Acehnese is shot dead, they say they were GAM." The rebel leader claimed only five of the 20 rebels shot dead were armed.)

#### IRAQ

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A Turkish businessman was kidnapped outside

his Baghdad hotel by men who machine-gunned a minibus full of his employees, killing all seven aboard, a hotel employee told AFP. "At 0600 hrs, like every morning, seven employees of the (Turkish construction company) arrived to pick up their boss, a Turk named Abdel Kader Tam," the hotel employee said today. "Today, 10 armed men in two cars were waiting for them. They machine-gunned the bus, killing all seven occupants, and kidnapped the Turk." (See issue of Jan 14.)

Paris, Jan 13 — Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawar said today a French journalist missing in Iraq had been kidnapped. Yawar, on a two-day visit to Paris, said Iraqi authorities were doing all they could to secure the release of Florence Aubenat and her Iraqi interpreter Hussein Hanoun Al Saadi, who disappeared after they left a Baghdad hotel on Jan 5. He did not make clear how he knew the 43-year-old journalist had been kidnapped. French authorities have previously said they did not know whether Aubenat had been abducted. French daily Liberation, where she worked, said it still had no news from her. Diplomatic sources have said a search yesterday in hospitals and morgues in and around Baghdad had not yielded any results. — Reuters.

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A representative of Iraq's top Shia Muslim cleric has been assassinated along with his son and four bodyguards. The attack against Sheikh Mahmoud al-Madaini came after evening prayers today in the town of Salman Pak. He headed the office of Ayatollah Ali Sistani in the mainly Sunni Muslim town in the lawless zone south of Baghdad. Elsewhere, an Egyptian oil company manager was kidnapped in the northern city of Kirkuk. He was named as Sayed Abdel Khalek. Gunmen kidnapped four young Kurds in a separate incident in Kirkuk, which lies about 250km north of Baghdad.

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Saboteurs have fired a Katyusha rocket on an oil pipeline complex in northern Iraq, setting off a fire that will take days to control, witnesses and oil officials said. It was not immediately known whether the attack yesterday night in the Fatha area near the refining centre of Baiji had damaged the Iraq-Turkey export pipeline, which passes through the area, as do 24 oil crude and product pipelines feeding refineries and power stations. Northern oil exports have been idle since Dec 18, when saboteurs hit the Iraq-Turkey pipeline. It has been sabotaged several times since. Another pipeline running from the Kirkuk oilfields to the 350,000 barrel per day (bpd) Baiji refinery was also hit today in the Safra area, officials said. Dhiaa al-Bakka, head of the State Oil Marketing Organisation, said this week exports through Turkey could flow at 250,000 barrels per day if the sabotage stops, compared to 800,000 bpd before the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq. Officials say repairs to pipelines continue despite risks to workers' lives,

but acknowledge that they are facing insurgents determined to disrupt the economy.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 15 Iraqis have been killed in two separate attacks less than two weeks before the country's election. At least seven people died in a suicide car bomb in front of a police station in the northern town of Baiji. In central Iraq, eight people, including seven soldiers, were killed when insurgents fired on a checkpoint near the Sunni Muslim town of Baquba. The violence comes as Iraqis living abroad begin registering to vote in the elections scheduled for Jan 30. Iraqi security forces, who will provide the bulk of the protection for the polls, have come under increasing attack from insurgents trying to derail the election. Baquba, 65km north of the capital Baghdad, has seen frequent attacks.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated Jan 16, states: Almost a month after saboteurs shut down a northern Iraqi oil pipeline, the government said today it should resume pumping crude from northern fields to an export terminal in southeastern Turkey by month's end. A Dec 18 explosion caused by saboteurs halted the flow of oil through the northern pipeline, which was carrying about 400,000 barrels a day before the attack. "Repair work on the damaged export pipeline that carries crude oil from Kirkuk oil fields to the Turkish port of Ceyhan is expected to finish in 10 days time from now," the Oil Ministry statement said. "Exports via the pipeline to Turkey's Ceyhan port are expected to resume immediately after completing repair work." The statement also said a damaged feeder pipeline that carries crude oil from Kirkuk oil fields to the Beiji refinery, in northern Iraq, has been repaired and has started resupplying the refinery with 300,000 barrels a day. Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organization last week informed customers it would reduce southern term export contracts by about 10 percent, or 160,000-170,000 barrels a day, for five months due to insurgent attacks, bad weather hampering the southern export terminals' operations and demurrage costs. The organization's chief, Dhiaa al-Bakka, said last month that exports averaged 1.55 million barrels a day in 2004, with 1.43 million barrels coming from the south and 120,000 from the north. The annual average export level fell below the target of 1.85 million barrels a day because of the country's deteriorating security situation.

Baghdad, Jan 18 — Iraq will close its land borders from Jan 29 to 31 and impose a curfew banning all non-official vehicles from the roads over the same period to try to prevent attacks on election day, officials said today. A statement from the election commission said land border crossings would be closed to bolster security for the Jan 30 election. It said only vehicles with official permission would be allowed on roads. — Reuters.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated Jan 18, states: The Vatican have condemned the abduction of one of Iraq's most senior Christian clergymen, Syrian Catholic Archbishop of Mosul Basile Georges Casmoussa. A Vatican spokesman described it as an "act of terrorism", and demanded the archbishop's immediate release. The 66-year-old cleric was seized outside his church in the northern city of Mosul yesterday, at about 1700 hrs (1400, UTC) as he was about to enter his car, a local priest said. The abduction comes despite reinforced security in Mosul, where US and Iraqi forces have been trying to tackle rebels who have vowed to disrupt the Jan 30 elections.

Vatican City, Jan 18 — The Iraqi Catholic archbishop of Mosul who was kidnapped at gunpoint yesterday was freed this morning without a ransom being paid, the Vatican said. — Reuters.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Eight Chinese nationals have been abducted in Iraq, the Chinese embassy in Baghdad has said. Iraqi insurgents released a video showing the men and said they were employed by a construction company working with US troops. A group calling itself the Numan Brigade said it had abducted the men, who were shown holding their passports. Two news agencies reported that the abductors were threatening to shoot their hostages within 48 hours unless Beijing "clarifies its role" in Iraq, but the Associated Press news agency said that the group's statement suggested the men could be freed, as long as they did not return to work for "occupation forces" in Iraq. The workers were from Fujian province in south-eastern China and had been rebuilding an Iraqi plant, Xinhua said. "Embassy diplomats said they were making all efforts to rescue the eight hostages," the agency reported.

Baghdad, Jan 19 — A suicide car bomber launched an attack close to the Australian embassy in central Baghdad today, killing at least one Iraqi and wounding seven, police and witnesses said. The incident occurred about 0700, local time. Shortly afterwards, a second suicide car bomber targeted a police headquarters building in the capital, causing several casualties, police said. Insurgents have mounted a series of suicide bombings in Iraq before elections scheduled for Jan 30. — Reuters.

London, Jan 19 — A press report dated today, states: A third suicide car bomb has exploded in Baghdad, killing two people and wounding five outside an Iraqi army base, police and hospital sources said. The vehicle drove up to the gates of an Iraqi army base in an old airport in western Baghdad and exploded 0830 hrs. The attack happened after two other suicide car bombs near the Australian embassy and a police headquarters in Baghdad killed eight people.

Baghdad, Jan 20 — Insurgents detonated a suicide truck bomb outside Australia's embassy in Baghdad yesterday and hit Iraqi security targets

with at least three car bombs, killing 26 people less than two weeks before Jan 30 elections. A British security worker and an Iraqi colleague were killed in an ambush by Iraqi insurgents. A third worker, also a foreign national, is missing. They were in a convoy near a power station they were protecting south of the central Iraqi city of Beiji. The deadliest bombing of the day was a blast near a police headquarters and hospital in eastern Baghdad. The US military said the bomb killed 18 people, including five Iraqi police, and wounded 21. Half an hour earlier a suicide truck bomb rammed into the security barriers outside the Australian embassy, witnesses said. Two Iraqis were killed and two Australian soldiers were among several people wounded, officials said. A third vehicle bomb killed two Iraqi security guards near Baghdad's international airport and a fourth bomb killed two civilians and two Iraqi soldiers at a military complex in Baghdad, the US military said. A police source said another bomb exploded at a Baghdad bank, targeting police as they collected their salaries. Witnesses said at least one person was killed. Australian ambassador Howard Brown said the truck bomb that exploded near his embassy was close to accommodation for diplomatic security personnel. "It was a car bomb aimed at the building where the security people are based. It was quite a substantial explosion," he said. The al Qaeda-linked insurgent group led by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi said it had carried out three suicide bombings in Baghdad, including the Australian embassy. Insurgents have repeatedly targeted Iraqi soldiers and police in the run-up to the elections. Iraqi forces are due to provide protection at polling stations on election day. Militants yesterday posted an Internet video showing the killing of two Iraqis who were working for a US communications firm involved in the country's election. On Tuesday (Jan 18), Iraq's US-backed interim government announced measures to try to prevent bloodshed during the ballot, with land borders to be closed for three days and vehicles barred from getting close to polling stations. — Reuters.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A sabotage attack on Iraq's northern pipeline is expected to keep oil exports through Turkey at a standstill for another two-three weeks, an oil official said today. A bomb blew off a section of the Iraq-Turkey pipeline in the Fatha area near Baiji on Monday (Jan 17), soon after crews had finished repairing damage to the line in the same area from a previous blast, the official said. "We don't see hope of resuming northern exports for another 15-20 days," said the official, who is familiar with repairs to the line. Iraqi oil officials were hoping to restart the line, which has been idle since a sabotage attack on Dec 18, after the end of a main Muslim holiday next week. Senior oil official Dhiaa al-Bakkaa has said Iraq could

export 250,000 barrels per day from the north if the attacks stopped, but sabotage has been relentless.

## ISRAEL

Gaza, Jan 14 — Palestinian militants killed six Israelis in a bombing and shooting attack at the main commercial crossing into Gaza, mounting their strongest challenge yet to President-elect Mahmoud Abbas and his call for non-violence. Israeli troops killed three gunmen in an ensuing exchange of fire at the Karni border terminal between Israel and Gaza, the army said. Militants said the men blew themselves up after infiltrating the heavily guarded compound late on Thursday. Three militant groups claimed the attack, including al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed wing of Abbas's Fatah movement. Hours after the incident, there was still no comment from Abbas, while Israel signaled it would weigh its response to the operation carefully to avoid weakening a leader it has said it could do business with after years of shunning Yasser Arafat. Israeli Transport Minister Meir Sheerit said on Israel Radio today the terminal, a major lifeline for supplies to 1.3 million Palestinians in Gaza, would remain closed until further notice as a result of the attack. "The attack was a continuation of resistance," said Abu Abir of the Popular Resistance Committees, one of the three factions which issued a joint claim of responsibility. It called the operation a response to Israel's killing of a West Bank militant and other Palestinians in recent days. Hamas Islamic militants were also involved and said they had hoped to kidnap Israeli soldiers in order to swap them for Palestinians held in Israeli jails. In a statement, the Israeli army said that militants had planted a large explosive at a door separating the Israeli and Palestinian sides of the terminal, blasting a hole through which three gunmen infiltrated the Israeli side. "As a result of the explosion and during exchanges of fire which evolved at the scene, six Israeli civilians and three Palestinians were killed," the army said. Shortly after the blast, Israeli helicopters fired missiles at a clinic in a Gaza refugee camp run by a charity allied with militants, injuring one passerby, the army and witnesses said. — Reuters.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Israeli troops have killed two Palestinian gunmen who attacked vehicles on a road used by Jewish settlers in the Gaza Strip today, Islamic Jihad militants say. The Israeli Army said soldiers fired at two attackers and hit one of them. Violence in the Gaza Strip has increased despite calls from new President Mahmoud Abbas for a halt to attacks in a four-year-old uprising to allow new talks with Israel on Palestinian statehood. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon gave the army free rein and cut contacts with the Palestinians after militants killed six Israelis in an attack on a crossing point from Gaza last week. Soldiers have killed 12

Palestinians since then. Islamic Jihad said its two gunmen had attacked vehicles on the Kissufim Road leading from Israel to the main Gush Katif settlement bloc, which Israel plans to quit with the rest of the settlements in occupied Gaza before the end of the year. "Forces opened fire on two figures and identified hitting one of them," the Israeli army said. (See issue of Jan 17.)

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Palestinian militants today continued firing mortar shells at Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip as Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas prepared to head to the area to direct his security forces to act against the militants. A Palestinian youth was reported wounded by Israel Defense Forces gunfire in Gaza following the shelling attacks. The newly elected chairman was due in Gaza today to seek a halt to militant attacks on Israeli targets. Abbas said a special PA intervention force would deploy to act against militants firing mortar shells and Qassam rockets at Israeli targets. Palestinians fired four mortar shells at Kfar Darom this morning, causing neither casualties nor damage. Palestinians this morning also fired three Qassam rockets at targets inside Israel proper. There were no casualties or damage caused in any of the attacks. In addition, Palestinians fired an anti-tank missile at an Israel Defense Forces outpost in the Gush Katif settlement area. There were no casualties reported. A bomb also exploded in the morning hours adjacent to the Sufa crossing between Israel and Gaza Strip causing no casualties. In the West Bank, IDF troops arrested 12 suspected Palestinian militants in overnight raids. Israel is giving Abbas a limited amount of time to fight terror, but if the attacks continue, Boim said "radical solutions" could be employed against

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself near a major road used by Israeli settlers and soldiers in the southern Gaza Strip today, wounding at least six Israelis. A Palestinian bystander also was hurt, according to Palestinian rescue officials. The Hamas militant group claimed responsibility in an electronic message sent to The Associated Press, identifying the bomber as Omar Tabach, 21, from a village outside the nearby Khan Younis refugee camp. The attack occurred shortly after Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas arrived in Gaza in a bid to persuade Palestinian militants to halt their attacks on Israelis. Israeli rescue workers who responded to the attack said six people were wounded, two seriously.

Gaza, Jan 19 — Palestinian security forces will deploy to the Gaza Strip's borders with Israel within days to enforce President Mahmoud Abbas's order to halt militant attacks, their top commander said today. Abbas met security chiefs and leaders of Hamas militants overnight. After meeting Abbas in Gaza City, public security

chief Major-General Abdel-Razek al-Majaydeh said an "arrangement is under way to deploy national security forces on the borders within two days to prevent violations." Islamist militants signaled continued defiance by firing two mortar bombs into a northern Gaza settlement today, causing damage but no casualties. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was to convene his security cabinet today to consider tougher military action in Gaza if Abbas does not subdue militants soon. — Reuters.

#### IVORY COAST

United Nations, Jan 19 — The Ivory Coast today urged the U.N. Security Council to blame rebel groups holding the country's north, and not the government, for an impasse in the peace process in country. Under a peace calendar set out by South African President Thabo Mbeki, who is mediating in the crisis on behalf of the African Union, the rebels were to have begun disarming by last Saturday (Jan 15) but have not yet done so, Ivory Coast U.N. Ambassador Philippe Djangone-Bi said. "One cannot ask warlords, who grow richer as the crisis lasts, to disarm with enthusiasm. They need a dose of persuasion on the part of the international community," Djangone-Bi told a news conference. A peace agreement brokered in 2003 by France, the former colonial power, has yet to be fully implemented, and Mbeki is leading an African Union initiative to convince both sides to fulfill their commitments under the accord. The rebels have refused to begin disarming until the country's election laws are changed, in line with the agreement, to allow a top opposition leader to run for president in elections tentatively set for October. While the parliament has approved the change, President Laurent Gbagbo insists the amendment must now go to a national referendum. An African Union summit in Libreville earlier this month angered the rebels by concluding that a referendum was one option for ending the impasse. At his news conference at U.N. headquarters, Djangone-Bi complained about a draft Security Council resolution circulated by France that would tighten an arms embargo imposed on both sides in November. His government accuses Paris of being biased in favour of the rebels since France destroyed most of Ivory Coast's air force in November. — Reuters.

#### KUWAIT

Umm Al-Haiman, Jan 15 — A Saudi gunman was killed and two Kuwaiti policemen wounded when security forces clashed with militants in southern Kuwait today, security sources said. One gunman was captured during the firefight in Umm al-Haiman as security forces surrounded suspected Islamist militants, the Interior Ministry said. Security sources said two others were arrested later. "A big cache of weapons, explosives and munitions was also seized with the gunmen," a ministry statement said. Security forces were on

alert across the tiny oil-rich nation, which controls 10 percent of global petroleum reserves, the security sources said. Up to six militants got away and police were searching for them, they said. One source told Reuters the dead gunman was identified as Saudi national Hamada al-Enezi. The ministry statement did not give his nationality. An Internet statement from a previously unknown group — Kuwait Mujahideen — said the firefight broke out after its men attacked a base in Umm al-Haiman. It said militants killed several Kuwaiti soldiers, three U.S. troops and a Korean. The statement's authenticity could not be verified and officials were not available to comment. A Kuwaiti security source said police had seized maps and sketches of what seemed to be buildings in Kuwait, but there was no official confirmation of this. The prime minister and other officials visited the scene. Energy Minister Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahd al-Sabah said the security forces must sort out the problem of Islamist militants. "Extremist militant groups have started appearing in Kuwait. This is natural when we see that these sorts of groups are active in more than one neighbouring state," he told reporters. He was referring to Saudi Arabia where at least 170 people have been killed in violence blamed on al Qaeda. — Reuters.

#### NEPAL

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A deadline set by Nepal's government for Maoist rebels to resume peace talks has passed with no response. The government has not announced its next move, but officials have hinted that security spending will now be increased for anti-Maoist offensives. The authorities want to clear the way for parliamentary elections despite threats by the rebels to disrupt them. Clashes ahead of the deadline continued, raising the death toll in the insurgency to more than 10,000. Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba is threatening to go ahead with plans to hold parliamentary elections now the deadline has expired, but correspondents say that with significant parts of the country in rebel hands, that objective will be difficult. "We oppose parliamentary polls and if elections are declared, there will be bloodshed and the government will be responsible for it," the Maoist leader, Prachanda said last month. Nepal now seems to be heading towards an escalation in violence instead of a resumption of talks to end it.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 13 troops and policemen have been killed in fresh clashes between security forces and Maoist rebels in eastern Nepal, the army says. Authorities said they had not been in contact with 50 more security personnel since the fighting in Ilam district. The rebels claimed that 20 security men and six rebels died in the clashes. The fresh clashes followed a rebel ambush on a military contingent that was returning after

clearing a roadblock near Puwa river in Ilam. An unnamed army official told the AFP news agency that the clashes took place "while the army was trying to remove landmines planted by the rebels" along a highway in the area. The incident came a week after the Nepalese government's deadline to the rebels to resume peace talks passed without a response. The authorities want to clear the way for parliamentary elections despite threats by the rebels to disrupt them.

#### PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jan 13 — Pakistan Petroleum Ltd has started repairing work at the Sui gas field in Balochistan Province, Pakistan, under the supervision of heavily armed security forces with air vigilances. Officials of the provincial home department of the Balochistan government expressed hope that within two days normal supply would be restored to Sui Northern Gas Pipelines and Sui Southern systems. The plant of gas purification and other gas pipelines were heavily damaged due to an exchange of heavy gunfire between armed men and law-enforcement agencies, between Friday (Jan 7) and Tuesday. Following closure of the gas purification plant the Pakistan industrial sector was affected. The Karachi Stock Exchange today felt the affect of the Sui gas field unrest and lost over 225 points. The plant was attacked by armed men earlier this week and caused huge damage to the plant and other installations. The area plunged into darkness and communication systems were paralyzed as well. PPL officials said the temporary closure of the plant had led to a decrease of 460 MMCFD of gas to Sui Northern Gas Pipeline's distribution network and 110 MMCFD to Sui Southern Gas Pipelines. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jan 14 — Pakistan Petroleum Ltd. this afternoon has clarified that repairs to gas pipeline network and to the gas purification Plant at Sui Gas field in Balochistan will be delayed due to wants of some critical equipment at site. A spokesman of the state-owned largest gas producer, PPL, in a statement pointed out that after detailed assessment of the damages, it has been found that the extent of the damage is greater than assessed after shutdown of the plant. There is also a need to replace some critical instruments which have been found damaged. The required instruments are being sourced on top priority. It may, therefore, take some time before the repair work is completed and gas supplies from Sui recommenced, he added. However, he did not disclose any final time frame for completion of work and restoration of gas supply to local gas utilities. Earlier, top official of Pakistan Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Resources told journalists (Jan 13) that gas purification plant would be resumed supply of about 600 mmscf within 24-hours. It may be mentioned here that the plant and other

installations were damaged during heavy armed fight between security forces and anti-state terrorists earlier this week. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jan 14 — Pakistan's industrial and domestic sectors, including house hold consumers for the first time in the history, will face hardship as gas utilities have announced gas load shading, from tomorrow, until the gas purification plant at largest Sui gas field, in Balochistan, resumes supply of gas. Sui Southern Company Ltd. (SSGC) said this afternoon that the protracted closure of the Sui Purification Plant of Pakistan Petroleum Ltd (PPL) has resulted in a significant reduction in the supply of gas across the country. A spokesman of the company, in a statement, pointed out although SSGC has endeavored to manage the distribution of gas, to its customers in Sindh and Balochistan, the pipeline stock or line pack is now getting depleted. This has necessitated the adoption of urgent measures to restrict the supply of gas to Domestic, as well as Industrial, customers. SSGC announced that effective Jan 15, the supply of gas will either be reduced or remain suspended daily for about 14-hours, with different intervals, while Sui Northern Gas Pipelines (SNGPL), already curtailing supply to all power, fertilizer and cement sector and for domestic it announced evening schedules. The "Gas Load Management Programme" of the SSGC will affect the Sindh & Balochistan, and their adjoining areas: Karachi, Hyderabad, Kotri, Nawabshah, Sukkur, Larkana, Quetta, Pishin, Mastung and Ziarat. The supply from SNGPL will affect areas in Punjab and Northern areas. Earlier, today Pakistan Petroleum has clarified that repairs to gas pipeline network and to the gas purification Plant at Sui Gas field in Balochistan will be delayed, due to want of some critical equipment at the site. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jan 17 — Pakistan Petroleum Ltd (PPL) said that repair works to Sui gas purification plant and other related gas pipelines is going steadily and hopefully it would resume production in a few days. A spokesman of largest gas producer and oil and gas exploration of PPL told journalists that some critical equipments have already been imported by company to repair this badly damaged gas strategic oldest gas infrastructure in Balochistan Province of Pakistan. The facility ran out of order following terrorist attack who reportedly used heavy immunizations and rocket. As a result, more than 4 million consumers are experiencing first ever gas load shedding program of gas utilities across the country. Meanwhile, Sui Southern Gas Co said this afternoon said that the "Gas Load Management" directive, necessitated by the closure of the Sui Purification Plant, across selected cities in Sindh & Balochistan, has resulted in an equitable distribution of gas to its customers. Contrary to the speculation in certain quarters that the

supply of gas to the Industrial & Power sectors has been suspended altogether, by SSGC, the company has successfully managed to maintain its supply, although at reduced pressure, during peak hours as well. — Lloyd's List Correspondent. (See Issue of Jan 17)

Karachi, Jan 19 — Petroleum Limited (PPL) is making efforts to restart the Sui Purification Plant in the next 48 to 72 hours after spending millions of rupees in acquiring damaged parts. A PPL spokesman told journalists that the company was working day and night for the repair of the plant and hoped that it would start supplying gas before Eid-ul-Azha ( Muslim Annual Sacrifice Festival from Friday (Jan 21). He said it was not possible to give exact assessment of the loss incurred due to attacks on the plant, but it definitely runs in millions of rupees. The spokesman said the plant has two huge units that would be first tested and then after getting satisfactory functioning they would be fully operative hopefully before Eid. Once the plant is operative then both the gas distribution companies - Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) and Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) - would have to get their system aligned with the plant. — Lloyd's List Correspondent

#### RUSSIA

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Four police and security officers were killed today in clashes with armed militants in southern Russia, officials said. Gunmen shot and killed three police officers as authorities stormed a house in Kaspiisk, a port on the Caspian Sea in the Russian province of Dagestan, which borders Chechnya, said Abdul Musayev, a regional police spokesman. Among the dead was the chief of a local riot police unit. Musayev said one suspect was killed and another captured. A third suspect escaped. The gunmen belonged to illegal armed groups and were suspected in terror attacks, he said. Also, riot police and other security forces besieged a house in the provincial capital, Makhachkala, where gunmen were hiding. In the ensuing gun battle, two officers of an elite anti-terror commando unit were wounded and one later died, Musayev said. Police and security forces, backed by armoured vehicles, burned the house, but the gunmen remained in the concrete basement tonight, still firing at officers. The gunmen were suspected in attacks against police in Dagestan.

#### SPAIN

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A car bomb exploded today near the main Basque city of Bilbao after a warning call from the armed separatist group ETA, and a policeman was slightly wounded, the Interior Ministry said. The bomb exploded in Getxo, a wealthy town nine miles north of Bilbao, a ministry official in Madrid said. The explosion occurred after a person claiming to represent ETA called the Basque newspaper Gara. One policeman was

slightly injured while helping cordon off the area identified by the caller as the target, the Interior Ministry office in Bilbao said. The bomb destroyed the car carrying it and shattered many nearby windows, TV station Telecinco said, quoting witnesses. The explosion came amid growing speculation that ETA might call a cease-fire. On Sunday (Jan 16), ETA issued a statement appealing to the Spanish government to start peace talks with its banned political wing Batasuna.

#### SUDAN

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: At least six Darfur rebels and a civilian were killed in clashes after a group of Darfur rebels attacked the livestock market of Jarrar in South Darfur State, the police press office said today. A group of rebels arriving in off-road vehicles and trucks launched the attack yesterday morning, looting three pick-up trucks before police and armed tribal horsemen responded. Two civilians were also wounded in the ensuing firefight. The rebels fled with the three looted trucks, and the police and horsemen pursued them, the report said.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated Jan 17, states: The Sudan government has signed a preliminary peace agreement with the main opposition umbrella group, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The signing of the accord marks another key step in efforts to bring peace to the country. A final deal due to be signed in February should end 16 years of low-intensity conflict, mainly in the north and east of the country. A peace deal with the southern-based SPLA rebels was signed this month. Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail said yesterday that, as part of their strategy, they were considering releasing all political prisoners. The main Islamist opposition leader Hassan al-Turabi is currently in prison.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated Jan 18, states: An international force of almost 10,000 could be deployed in southern Sudan by August after last week's peace deal. The head of the United Nations in Sudan says he hopes they will start arriving in March once the UN Security Council approves the mission. "We are going to propose 9,000 troops, plus military observers, to be spread throughout south Sudan," he said. Their task will be to monitor a ceasefire, but he did not indicate where troops might come from. Speaking on his first visit to what is likely to be the new southern capital, Rumbek, Jan Pronk said the challenge to secure peace and develop the south was huge. The African Union has agreed to deploy up to 4,000 troops there with a limited mandate, but so far only one-third that number have arrived. They have proved unable to stem the violence which has seen some two million people displaced.

#### THAILAND

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: One man was killed

and 47 people were injured when a bomb triggered by a mobile phone exploded at a noodle shop in Yala municipality yesterday afternoon. The bomb, hidden in a briefcase, went off at 1313 hrs at Kaokuok noodle shop on Thesaban 3 road. Shop owner Ket Rattanason, 40, died on the way to hospital. Eight customers were seriously hurt and the shop was badly damaged. The injured were sent to Yala provincial hospital and Siror hospital. Police arriving at the scene found another bomb planted near a motorcycle in front of the shop. A bomb disposal team was called in to defuse it. According to police, two men had eaten noodles in the shop. After eating, they left a briefcase under a table. The owner, Ket, saw the briefcase and thought the two men had forgotten it. The bomb exploded as the shop owner picked it up. Police said it was likely the bomb targeted police and officials who were regular customers at the shop. They said the explosion might be the work of Muslim separatists. This follows reports that separatists planned 20 bomb attacks on government offices, shops, railway stations and bus terminals in the three southern border provinces, to take revenge for the arrest of eight Muslim religious teachers in Pattani and Yala. Meanwhile, owners of food shops where police and soldiers are regular customers have asked security officers not to visit their businesses, fearing they might be targeted by bombers. Security officers had decided to not eat at these shops, citing concerns for public safety, a source said. The source added that Muslim separatists had threatened to take the lives of 17 defence volunteers in Yala province if they don't withdraw support for police. Police have launched a manhunt for 21 religious teachers accused of treason. Most of the teachers are from Thamwittaya and Islamic Witthaya schools in Yala's Muang district. The Department of Special Investigation has also been investigating about 100 foreign religious teachers who taught Islam in the deep South. A source said about 20 of the teachers, from Indonesia, Jordan, Syria and Libya, are thought to have urged Muslim youths to carry out violent acts.

#### UGANDA

Kampala, Jan 19 — Uganda's government has held a meeting with Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels, officials said today, boosting peace hopes after talks to end their 18-year-old war stalled almost three weeks ago. Top government negotiator Betty Bigombe kept up contacts with the elusive group after fighting resumed on Jan 1, and Monday's (Jan 17) discussions in a remote part of Gulu district were the third tentative meeting since then. "The peace process is ongoing and it is on track," Uganda's interior minister Ruhakana Rugunda told Reuters. "We are consulting (the LRA) to find a peaceful solution, and I believe the situation is developing very positively." Clashes broke out again after the LRA asked for more time to

study a memorandum of understanding both sides were due to sign on Dec 31. — Reuters.

## Kidnappings



#### IRAQ

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

#### PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jan 14 — Pakistan state owned water/power utility, Water and Power Development Authority said that efforts are being made to recover its kidnapped employees. Tariq Hamid, chairman of authority has expressed hope that they will be recovered in shortest possible time. Meanwhile, around 400 personnel of law enforcement agencies are engaged in Kacha area (mud area) for the recovery operation of 12 Wapda men who were kidnapped on Jan 12 by the Mazari tribe gangsters of Punjab Province of Pakistan. They were kidnapped while conducting a survey of the Rainy Canal in the limits of the last police station of Punjab near the Sindh border, some 180 km from Dera Ghazi Khan. As per local media reports, personnel from the Punjab Constabulary and other agencies are looking for the Cchotu-Buga gang, notorious for the kidnap for ransom and other heinous crimes. The operation is under way in the Kacha area known as "New Karachi" in the Rajanpur district to apprehend the culprits and for the safe recovery of hostages - Amanullah, Khalid, Akhtar, Haq Nawaz (engineers), linemen Feth Muhammad, Saeed, Aslam Mazari, Taju, Anwar, Elahi Bakhsh and driver. —Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jan 15 — Punjab Police officials said employees of Pakistan state owned water/power utility, Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda), who had been kidnapped earlier this week from the Shahwali area in Punjab Province of Pakistan, were safely recovered yesterday evening. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

## Labour Disputes



#### AUSTRALIA

Sydney, Jan 17 — A long-standing industrial dispute may force Bluescope Steel's Western Port manufacturing mill to be shut down. The steel company said yesterday that it was within days of completely running down some product line stockpiles. Strikes by members of the Victorian branch of the Electrical Trades Union (ETU) have prevented essential repair work and the completion of a \$9m maintenance programme, leaving parts

of the plant inoperable since Dec 20. The Western Port plant has been losing \$3m a day in revenue since Dec 20, the company said. Bluescope said if it did not resume full production immediately, manufacturing industries dependent on its products, including automotive, whitegoods and construction, would also have to consider shutting down. The mill produces about 1.2m tonnes a year of hot-rolled steel coil and coated and painted flat steel products. Spokesman David Goodwin said Bluescope had built up a stockpile of steel before Christmas, but this was mostly gone. The ETU has rejected an agreement that would deliver a 13.5% wage rise over three years. The union is pushing for working hours to be reduced to 36 hours per week, but the company said this would create an "unacceptable financial burden". — "Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News."

#### **BANGLADESH/INDIA**

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Export-import trade between Bangladesh and India through Benapole land port came to a halt again due to an indefinite strike enforced by the Indian truckers on Wednesday (Jan 12). Indian Truck Workers' Union began the strike protesting the assault on one of their leaders by the Border Security Force (BSF) at Bongaon on the day. Over one thousand trucks laden with goods remained stranded on both sides of the border. Transport workers brought out a procession and later held a rally at Bongaon yesterday demanding exemplary punishment to the BSF men responsible for the incident. Meanwhile, Bangladesh government incurred a revenue loss of Tk 35 crore due to a seven-day strike called by five trade organisations at Benapole port from January 1 in protest against abnormal rise in service charges.

#### **CANADA**

London, Jan 17 — Container and other cargo backlogs at Canadian ports, especially on the west coast, could soon worsen should current deadlocked labour negotiations result in threatened strike action by nearly 5,000 brakemen, conductors, locomotive engineers and electrical workers at Canadian National railway. The Montreal-based railroad is training managers to keep freight trains rolling in the event a strike is called — a tactic used during a strike last year — but marine industry officials expressed scepticism that such a procedure could work relatively smoothly this time because of the special skills required. "This is too big," Rick Bryant, president of the Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia, said. Morley Strachan, vice president of business development and strategic planning at TSI Terminal Systems, operator of two of Vancouver's three container terminals, expressed concern that new labour disruption would compound persistent congestion problems at Canada's largest port. "We are almost at gridlock now, and we think it is unrealistic that CN could

train enough managers under a contingency plan to keep the same level of trains running," Mr Strachan said. A similar message came from the Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association, which raised the prospect of "serious consequences on performance and service reliability." Some shipping lines are delivering cargo from China via a longer route to Montreal and Halifax as well as US east coast ports. Mr Strachan said "we are already losing business" and estimated that TSI's terminals are presently handling 5% fewer containers bound for the US Midwest. Surging imports from China propelled container traffic to a new record at the Port of Vancouver in 2004, with box throughput rising by 8% to 1,664,906 teu, according to just-released figures. CN spokesman Mark Hallman said the "railway remains optimistic settlements can be reached without labour disruption."

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: A four-hour wildcat strike by Air Canada ground crew last night at Toronto's Pearson International Airport stranded thousands of passengers, delaying or cancelling dozens of flights and disrupting schedules across Canada. The walkout by unionized baggage handlers and ramp employees will lead to further headaches today for passengers hoping to catch flights at Canada's largest airport or those headed there from other parts of the country. The backlog of aircraft at Pearson quickly mounted last night. Arrivals and departures were thrown off schedule as pilots ran out of room to land and park, and didn't have the runway space for takeoff. More than 60 flights operated by Air Canada and its regional Jazz subsidiary were delayed or cancelled. The trouble started when members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers walked off the job to protest against a disciplinary letter from Air Canada management. After four hours, from about 1700 hrs to 2100, local time, workers returned to their duties. But the damage had been done. "Air Canada ground-handling employees have returned to work in Toronto," Air Canada spokeswoman Laura Cooke said last night. Air Canada passengers seeking to travel today have the option of rebooking their flights without penalty, although the airline said last night that it would do its best to clear as much of the backlog as possible.

#### **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A strike has brought the Democratic Republic of Congo capital, Kinshasa, to a standstill, with shops closed and bus drivers not working. The strike was called to commemorate the deaths of four people killed in protests at hints that elections due in June might be postponed. Pamphlets have been circulated, calling the dead "martyrs of democracy". A 2002 deal to end five

years of war set June as the deadline for elections, while allowing for limited delays. However, elections chief Apollinaire Malu Malu last week indicated the poll will probably take place in October, before heavy rains make parts of the country inaccessible.

#### **FRANCE**

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: France is bracing for three days of strikes expected to cause widespread disruption across the public sector. Postal staff today will be followed by rail and electricity workers tomorrow and teachers and other civil servants on Thursday (Jan 20). They will be protesting against the government's economic policies. The strikes are being seen as an important test both for the centre-right government of President Jacques Chirac and the unions. There has been a year of relative social calm in France but now the unions are testing the waters with a series of strikes. The unions say the government's economic policies are a threat both to the public sector and to the purchasing power of working men and women. Postal staff kick off the action on a day when parliament starts debate on a bill to open the state-owned service to competition in line with European directives. Tomorrow, there will be widespread cancellations on the railway system with commuters into Paris hard hit as ever. And on Thursday, teachers will lead off a day of strikes by millions of government employees in pursuit of pay rises.

Paris, Jan 19 — French railway workers severely reduced train traffic today due to a strike over working conditions, and the country geared up for separate protests by energy workers and hospital surgeons. It was the second of three days of industrial unrest which put the spotlight on discontent with President Jacques Chirac's conservative government as it prepares to relax the 35-hour work week introduced by the previous Socialist-led government. Commuters were left with just one intercity train running in four, one high-speed TGV in three and only 16-30 percent of suburban trains in the Paris area, railway operator SNCF said. The Eurostar link with Britain was not affected. For the first time, SNCF posted lists in national newspapers ahead of the strike detailing the trains it expected to run in a bid to minimise the disruption to commuters. The railway operator said that by 0800 hrs, all the trains advertised had run. Unions were protesting against the SNCF's 2005 budget, due to be approved today, which includes plans to lay off 3,600 members of staff. They are also worried about government plans to guarantee a minimum service during transport strikes. Gas and electricity workers were due to march through Paris this morning while hospital surgeons were expected to perform only emergency operations as part of the public sector protests over job cuts and wages. The government wants more flexible working practices to help cut



unemployment from almost 10 percent and make the euro zone's second largest economy more competitive. Unions fear the changes will lead to a longer working week without pay rises. Opinion polls this week showed about two thirds of the French sympathised with the postal and rail workers. — Reuters.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A 36-hour strike by French railway workers that started late yesterday is causing major disruptions in rail traffic throughout the country, the state-run rail network SNCF said today. Only about one in three scheduled high-speed long-distance TGV trains and one in four regional and inter-regional trains were operating today throughout France. The Eurostar connecting Paris and London was operating according to schedule, but other international lines were affected to varying degrees by the action, SNCF said. Seven trade unions representing France's 168,000 rail workers called the walkout to protest the government's 2005 budget for SNCF, which foresees the loss of more than 3,500 jobs. Postal workers kicked off a three-day period of labour unrest in France yesterday with a 24-hour work stoppage accompanied by numerous street demonstrations to protest the government's plans to privatize the mail delivery sector. Tomorrow, a one-day job action has been called by unions representing France's 5 million public sector workers after negotiations with the government on wages broke down. In addition, French teachers will strike to pressure the government into abandoning a new education-reform law.

London, Jan 20 — French trade unions are calling five million civil servants out on strike today in the latest stage of public sector protests over job cuts. Stoppages over the past two days severely disrupted the rail services and cut France's power output by 10%. The conservative government of the French Prime Minister, Jean-Pierre Raffarin, insists it will not back down from its programme of economic reforms. Teachers are also set to strike over a planned new education law. A number of schools are expected to close as a result of their action today. Trade unions said that support for strike action yesterday was more widespread than on the first day, Tuesday (Jan 18). Action by rail workers widely disrupted commuter services in Paris and left only one-in-three high speed trains running. Gas and electricity workers marched in the capital, while surgeons in many hospitals across France refused to perform non-emergency operations. The unions are demanding higher wages and an end to moves to relax the 35-hour working week.

#### INDIA

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: Vessel and yard operations in Chennai Container Terminal Ltd have come to a standstill owing to stoppage of work by employees from yesterday. The workers are demanding compensation for an

employee who died on Jan 12 outside the port premises and insurance cover for all of them. The port users and chambers of commerce and industry held discussions with CCTL officials and offered them full support for all legitimate actions they would take to restore normalcy in the port. Port users said CCTL has promised to work out contingency plans and resume operations by tomorrow evening, if necessary with outside help. Meanwhile, the CCTL management has reportedly served an ultimatum to the workers asking them to resume operations in 24 hours or face consequences.

#### ITALY

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Trains were halted across Italy today as railway workers went on strike to call for better safety measures following a crash that left 17 people dead earlier this month. The 24-hour strike began at 2000, GMT, yesterday. State railway Trenitalia said a minimum service would be provided, especially for local trains during morning and evening rush hours. In a statement released early today, transport workers' union SULT said more than 90% of railway staff were taking part in the strike. Railway employees are demanding improved safety measures after a passenger train and freight train collided near the northern Italian city of Bologna on Jan 7, killing 17 people, including five train workers.

#### NEPAL

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Students and opposition political parties disrupted business in the Nepalese capital today in a protest against recent increases in the price of petroleum products. Protestors burned tyres in several parts of the city, and clashed with police in at least two areas. Most businesses in the main commercial districts were shuttered. Police said at least one vehicle was vandalised by the students and eye witnesses said protestors forcibly took away motorcycle keys from their owners who tried to defy the strike. The strike against the 20 per cent increase in prices announced by the government last week forced many employees to walk to work as no transport was available.

#### SERBIAN AIRLINE PERSONNEL

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Reuters, dated Jan 17: Serbia's flag carrier, JAT Airways, resumed flights this afternoon after pilots ended a three day strike. The Serbian government said it had agreed with representatives of the 220 pilots to set up a joint body to address their demands. The pilots went on strike on Friday (Jan 14) saying they had not been paid for two months. They are also demanding the dismissal of JAT's senior management, among other measures including full compliance with international standards of efficiency and safety.

## Awards & Settlements



#### BREACH OF AGREEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Spider-Man creator Stan Lee is to get a multi-million dollar windfall after winning a court battle with comic book company Marvel. A judge has upheld Lee's demand for 10% of Marvel's profits from the hugely successful Spider-Man films. Spider-Man and its sequel made \$1.6 billion (£857 million) at box offices worldwide. Of the cut now due to Lee, 82, who created Spider-Man in 1962, his lawyer said: "It could be tens of millions of dollars, that's no exaggeration." US District Court Judge Robert W Sweet ruled Lee should get a tenth of profits generated since November, 1998, by Marvel TV and movie productions involving the company's characters. Lee took legal action in 2002, saying Marvel shut him out of "jackpot" profits from the first blockbuster film. He said the company — where he worked for more than 60 years — had gone back on an agreement to give him the 10%. The ruling also means he is entitled to a slice of profits from DVD sales and certain merchandise. Marvel said it would appeal and did not expect the decision to impact on financial forecasts for 2004 and beyond. The New York court did not rule on Lee's claims to a share of profits from some Spider-Man and Hulk movie merchandise, which will be decided at a future trial, Marvel said.

#### DISCRIMINATION, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated Jan 18, states: A former Inglewood police officer who was fired for punching a black teenager and slamming him against a patrol car was awarded \$1.6 million today by the jury in a discrimination lawsuit he and his partner brought against the city. The jury voted 11-1 in favor of the verdict for Jeremy Morse, said defence attorney Gregory Smith. He said the jury was unanimous in awarding \$810,000 to Morse's partner, Bijan Darvish, who had been disciplined in connection with the 2002 incident. "This is not the first time police officers have been trapped in race situations where they suffered unfairly," Smith said in a phone interview after the verdict was read. "This will have an impact in police departments across the country." Morse said he was very happy with the verdict. He had previously faced a charge of assault, but a judge dismissed it in February 2004 after two juries deadlocked. A jury acquitted Darvish of filing a false report. A bystander videotaped Morse in July 2002 punching handcuffed Donovan Jackson in the head and slamming him

onto a patrol car in Inglewood, just south of Los Angeles. Morse, who is white, said he reacted to Jackson grabbing his testicles. The videotape does not show whether the grabbing occurred. Morse was fired two months later, and Darvish was suspended for 10 days for filing a police report that failed to mention his partner's conduct. The two filed the discrimination suit against Inglewood in February 2003, alleging reverse discrimination, Smith said. The city has not decided whether to appeal the verdict.

#### ROAD ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: A jury awarded \$75 million in punitive damages today to the family of a seven-year-old girl paralyzed in a car wreck caused by a drunken football fan. A day earlier, the family was awarded \$60 million in compensatory damages. Ronald and Fazila Verni were headed home from a pumpkin-picking trip in 1999 with their two-year-old daughter, Antonia, when their car was hit by a truck driven by Daniel Lanzaro, 34. Antonia was paralysed from the neck down. The compensatory damages were assessed equally against Lanzaro and Aramark Corp, the Giants Stadium concessionaire that sold beers to him at the game. The jury ruled today that Aramark was liable for the additional \$75 million. The family sued Aramark, claiming vendors sold beers to Lanzaro even though he was clearly drunk and that Aramark fostered an atmosphere in which intoxicated patrons were served. An Aramark lawyer, Brian Harris, suggested during the trial that the vendors were not irresponsible because Lanzaro is an admitted alcoholic who did not show signs of intoxication or was able to fool the servers.

#### VIOLATION OF HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: A health supplement company agreed to pay \$3.6 million to settle civil charges it misled consumers by marketing a product it claimed helps prevent and treat cancer and AIDS. As far back as April 2000, Body Wise International Inc. fraudulently advertised its AG-Immune dietary supplement as a remedy for many serious ailments, including heart disease, investigators for the Orange County district attorney's office said. The company's ads on the Internet and product promotion at seminars violated California's Health and Safety Code provisions on product claims, investigators said. The settlement, announced yesterday, is part of an agreement between Body Wise and local, state and federal authorities. No one could be reached for comment at Body Wise after hours today. A company spokeswoman told the Orange County Register yesterday that the firm had reformed its practices.

#### WRONGFUL DEATH, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: The family of an Albany attorney who was struck and killed by a delivery van on her way to work seven years ago has been awarded nearly four million dollars for her wrongful death. Forty-six-year-old Beverly Mitchell was walking to work in February 1998 when she was hit by a van in downtown Albany. Mitchell's husband, Robert Mitchell, brought a wrongful death lawsuit against the driver and the delivery truck company.



#### Railway Accidents

#### BANGKOK, THAILAND

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Two trains on Bangkok's five-month-old subway system crashed during the morning rush hour, injuring around 100 people and forcing authorities to suspend services, officials and witnesses said. "The accident happened around 0930 hrs when the train heading to Hua Lam Pong left Thailand's cultural centre station and was hit from behind by another train that was empty," police Major General Dusitsan Teraphat, Bangkok's deputy police commissioner, told Thai television. "Initial reports said almost 100 people were injured. Police and authorities rescued all passengers from the train," Dusitsan said. The head of Bangkok's subway system, Prapat Chongsanguan, told Thai television that the empty train had just left a maintenance station where it received repairs when it slammed into the crowded rush-hour train carrying some 700 people. He said officials were investigating the cause of the accident. Prapat said that the driver of the empty train had been hospitalised with serious injuries.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 130 people were injured today when an empty subway train crashed into another one carrying passengers, according to radio and other reports. Bangkok Gov Apirak Kosayothin told local radio that the empty train from a maintenance station slid into the parked one with about 700 passengers aboard. He said the accident, which occurred at Cultural Centre Station in northern part of the Thai capital around 0930, was possibly due to a computer control system error.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Yesterday's accident has called into question the safety of Bangkok's state-of-the-art subway system which has been in operation for less than a year. Before the system was test-run in April last year, the Mass Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand (MRTA), which owns the system, and Bangkok Metro Co Ltd (BMCL), the operator, repeatedly gave strong assurances to the public about

its safety preparedness in the event of accidents. Passengers could easily leave the carriages and be back on the surface within six minutes through regular and emergency exits, they said. However, some riders yesterday complained about unsuccessful attempts to open the carriages' emergency doors, forcing them to wait for well over 10 minutes before they could get out. Had there been a fire, they would have been dead, other passengers said. Even after yesterday's accident, MRTA governor Prapat Chongsanguan and BMCL managing director Sombat Kitjalaksana still insisted the system was safe. Mr Prapat pointed out the emergency doors could be opened only by the train driver. However, Vibhuti Jantapalin, who drove the train that was hit, was injured in the accident, he said. In spite of the apparent shortcomings, Mr Sombat expressed confidence in the safety of the system, saying it was up to international standards and had been tested for three months and certified by independent engineers before the soft-launch of operations during Songkhran last year and its official opening in August. In response to passengers' complaints that they were trapped for more than 10 minutes inside the damaged train, Mr Sombat said the operator would inquire about the exact duration. "In such circumstances, a minute would seem to be longer than it actually was," he said. Mr Sombat also said the quick arrival of rescue workers and ambulances yesterday morning proved the effectiveness of the safety system. Transport Minister Suriya Jungrungreangkit said he had witnessed the rapid transfer of the injured to hospitals and that proved the system's accident response plan was effective. Yesterday's subway accident prompted the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration to reassure the public of the safety of the BTS skytrain system that comes under its jurisdiction. Bangkok Governor Apirak Kosayodhin said the BTS system was completely computer-controlled and operated under a three-tier safety system which limited the speed of trains, prevented the trains from changing directions and stopped them when they came within 200 metres of each other.

Bangkok, Jan 18 — According to newspaper reports there was a collision between a subway train packed with about 700 passengers and an empty train at about 0915, local time, yesterday. It was stated that the brake of the empty train waiting on a slope was released while it was not yet fully connected with another train that was sent to tow it to a depot. Over 130 passengers were injured, 61 of them seriously. The subway system which is operated by the Mass Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand will be closed for seven days for safety inspection. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Bangkok Metro Co Ltd (BMCL), the subway service operator, must retrain all staff in safety

procedures, including drivers and control room officials, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said yesterday. German experts would help with the training, which would emphasise discipline and strict adherence to safety regulations, Mr Thaksin said. Psychologists would check whether staff were mentally fit and whether any should be relieved temporarily, he said. Mr Thaksin denied the subway would be closed indefinitely but said the system would not reopen unless the operator could ensure safety. He declined to comment on reports that restoring confidence in the subway could take up to six months. The service has been suspended for seven days for safety inspections. "I can assure that nothing is wrong with the computer control system. The accident was caused by human error," he said. Meanwhile, three people, including the driver of an empty train involved in the crash, are likely to be charged with carelessness causing serious injuries to others. Pol Maj Wongsakorn Meunkhiew, a Huay Kwang police investigator, said the driver, Thanapol Nithichotiyanon, admitted releasing the handbrake of the train waiting to connect to another train that would have hauled it to the Rama IX depot. Mr Thanapol told police he acted on the orders of a control centre official but he could not identify which one. Thawatchai Panya, driver of the tow train, and Rangsan Sawasdimongkol, a control-room official, would face a similar charge, which carries a jail term of up to three years and a fine of up to 60,000 baht, he said. Pol Maj Wongsakorn said police would listen to a tape-recording of communications between the control centre, Mr Thanapol and the tow train before deciding if Mr Rangsan was really the person who ordered the brake released. The empty train rolled down the track after the brake was disengaged and hit another train at the Thailand Cultural Centre station, causing about 200 injuries.

**BELLOWS FALLS, VERMONT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Crews have pulled four train cars upright and repaired a length of destroyed track, following Sunday's (Jan 16) train wreck in Bellows Falls, Vermont. It's still not known what caused the accident, or when the track that is used by the Amtrak Vermonter will be put back into operation. Amtrak passengers yesterday were being bused between Bellows Falls and Springfield, Massachusetts. Clean-up efforts were set back yesterday when a car carrying rolls of paper caught on fire. Firefighters fought the blaze for three hours, but the contents and car were labeled a total loss.

**GALLATIN, TENNESSEE, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A Norfolk Southern train derailment dumped tons of coal into an adjacent street and made a

mess of train and vehicle traffic but caused no injuries, officials said. Eleven cars of a 113-car Norfolk Southern train heading from Memphis to Georgia derailed at the intersection of Highland Street and Southern Avenue yesterday morning. Six of the cars overturned, spilling tons of coal into the street and rerouting auto traffic. The cause was under investigation, Norfolk Southern spokesman Susan Terpay said. CSX Railroad was investigating the derailment in Gallatin that sent nine of a train's 55 cars off the tracks Saturday evening (Jan 15). The train carrying new vehicles was travelling from Louisville to Atlanta, CSX spokesman Bob Sullivan said. Mangled new Chrysler minivans were hanging from one of the rail cars as cleanup continued yesterday. The wreck displaced one family that lives in a house at the derailment site.

**GARELOCHHEAD, ARGYLL AND BUTE, SCOTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: An investigation has been launched after a train with more than 30 people on board derailed. Officials said the Mallaig to Glasgow service was almost at a standstill when the accident happened just outside Garelochhead Station. No injuries were reported among the passengers and crew after the incident on Saturday evening (Jan 15), operator First ScotRail said. A joint investigation has been launched into the cause of the accident.

**GRANITEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: A week after chlorine gas leaked from a train wreck and killed nine people in Graniteville, officials will let about half the 5,400 residents displaced by the accident return home tomorrow morning. Air quality tests show chlorine has returned to normal levels on the edges of the evacuation area, which extended a mile from the crash site, according to the Aiken County Sheriff's Office. Conditions remain too dangerous to allow people back into homes and businesses closer to the crash site, near the Georgia line and about 60 miles south-west of Columbia. "Common sense and briefings tell us at ground zero it will take folks longer to get back home, but not because of contamination — it's because of the process," Sheriff Michael Hunt said. Nearby residents have not been allowed to return home since hours after a Norfolk Southern train slammed into a parked train on a side track early Jan 6. The crash punched a fist-sized hole in a tanker carrying chlorine gas. The deadliest train wreck involving hazardous material in nearly three decades, it also injured more than 250 people. Six of the dead worked at a nearby textile mill; some of their co-workers survived by climbing up to the roof. Any residents worried about returning home can arrange to have

environmental officials inspect their homes, deputies said. Workers unloaded the last of the chlorine today from two undamaged tankers and placed a steel patch over the hole in the damaged car. Next, crews will clean the tankers so they can be removed from the crash site, officials said. Governor Mark Sanford asked President Bush and the US Small Business Administration to make Aiken County eligible for federal financial assistance and low-interest loans. State environmental officials, meanwhile, were assessing reported fish kills in a nearby pond. The railroad company was continuing to operate an assistance centre in Aiken to help residents who were displaced. The company said today that more than 2,500 people had received payments.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven hundred to 800 more people moved back into their homes yesterday, nine days after a train derailment loosed a poisonous cloud of chlorine gas that killed nine people and sickened hundreds. The one-mile evacuation zone was shrunk to a tight, 20-block area around the crash site, where Norfolk Southern railroad workers still were trying to empty a tanker car that ruptured, releasing the toxic plume. Two other, undamaged tankers have been emptied and removed. Aiken County Sheriff's Department spokesman Lt. Michael Frank said 20 air quality monitors around the site have shown no signs of lingering gas. The remaining evacuation zone is in place until the third car is emptied. Aiken County Medical Services reports a total of 550 people, far higher than the previously reported number of 234, sought treatment at area hospitals because of the accident. Twenty-two people remain hospitalized. U.S. 1 is now completely open. Officials are dismantling their command post west of Aiken, opening the roadway there. The highway remains one lane in the east-bound direction through sections of Graniteville. Beginning next week, Norfolk Southern will be moving its local assistance centre from Aiken to the former Graniteville Community Services building. More than 3,000 people have submitted claims and received assistance so far, the railroad reports.

**HAJIGANJ AREA, BANGLADESH**

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated Jan 16, states: At least 200 passengers were injured, 10 of them seriously, when 10 bogies of Chittagong-bound inter-city express train "Meghna" derailed at Kongaish village between Hajiganj and Waruk railway stations about 0545 today. Sources said the train was carrying some 800 passengers, most of whom were from Barisal and other southern districts, said an injured passenger. The train with 19 bogies left Chandpur railway station about 0500 hrs and met with the accident at 0545 hrs just after leaving Hajiganj railway station. Of the ten bogies, seven were badly damaged and went off the railway track. Villagers rescued the injured passengers and sent them to local

clinics and government health complexes at Hajiganj, Shahrasti and Mehar. Some 300 feet of railway track was uprooted due to the accident. The guard of the train Nurul Islam Chowdhury said, "The train was running at a normal speed but suddenly it abruptly stopped making a big sound." He said he had seen a piece of railway track broken into three pieces. "Probably the track could not bear the weight of the bogies as there is acute shortage of stones in the track for a long time," he said.

Karachi, Jan 18 — Bangladesh Railway Authorities of (BR) has formed a four-member committee to investigate the accident of the inter-city train Meghna at the Laksham-Chandpur crossing on Jan 16. Over 200 passengers were injured when 10 bogies of Chittagong-bound inter-city express train "Meghna" derailed at Kongaish village between Hajiganj and Waruk railway stations in Southeast Bangladesh at about 0545 hrs. It was reported that the train with 19 bogies left Chandpur railway station at about 0500 hrs and met with the accident just after leaving Hajiganj railway station. Of the ten bogies, seven were badly damaged and went off the railway track. Some 300 feet of railway track was uprooted due to the accident. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**KNOXVILLE AREA, TENNESSEE, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Norfolk Southern Railway is investigating the cause of a train derailment in east Knoxville that dumped nearly 2,000 tons of coal early yesterday morning. A massive cleanup effort was underway yesterday by the RJ Corman Company, specialists in derailment services. Crews were hauling off the coal. Officials said the derailment happened around 0345 hrs. A total of 19 cars derailed, spilling coal on both sides of the track. Each car carries 100 tons of coal. The derailed cars destroyed a storage shed belonging to the George W. Reagan Company. Cleanup crews said a few cars may be salvaged but most will become scrap metal. Claims adjusters with Norfolk Southern are investigating the crash.

**MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: The Australian Transport Safety Bureau is investigating an overnight crash involving an XPT train and a freight train. Two-hundred-and-twenty passengers travelling from Sydney to Melbourne, escaped injury when the XPT hit the freight train along Dynon Road, just outside Spencer Street Station, in Melbourne last night. Scott McIntyre from RailCorp, which operates the XPT, says investigators are now trying to piece together what happened. "We believe there was some shunting going on in a yard, at a freight yard at Dynon nearby, which caused some of the wagons to impede on our running line, which then caused the incident," he said.

**SCHOOLCRAFT AREA, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES**

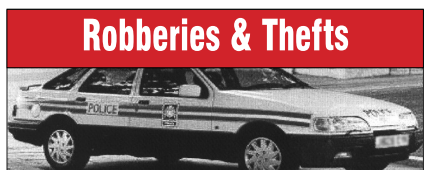
London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Seventeen cars from the middle of a CN freight train derailed at a rail crossing near the St. Joseph and Kalamazoo county line, spilling nonflammable lubricant oil from one tanker car. No injuries were reported. Most of the cars were empty at the time of the yesterday night derailment south of the southwestern Michigan community of Schoolcraft, state police said in a statement. The train was heading southwest toward South Bend, Ind., at the time of the derailment, police said. Clean-up efforts were expected to take several days, and the cause of the derailment was under investigation.

**SUKKUR CITY AREA, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Jan 19 — Pakistan Railway said one of its cargo/parcel trains bound for Lahore/Punjab from Karachi was derailed at Rohri Railway Station, near Sukkur City in Sindh Province, Pakistan, yesterday. The initial report says four bogies were derailed. As a result traffic was suspended for north bound trains. A large portion of track was also damaged. A rescue team reached the accident spot site and carried out repair, maintenance and traffic restoration process. Further investigation is going on. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**WALLER COUNTY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A 26-car train derailment in rural Waller County early today caused a minor, non-threatening spill of methanol. No one was injured in the derailment, which blocked traffic along a two mile stretch of Old Highway 290 between FM 362 and GH Bettis Industrial Park Road. The Union Pacific train was enroute to Fort Worth from Houston when it ran off the track at 0355, today, said Waller County Sheriff's Office Investigator Brian Nichols. One of two rail cars carrying methanol leaked about 20 gallons of the hazardous material but was cleaned up quickly and posed no threat, said Union Pacific spokesman Mark Davis. Four rail cars were empty and the remaining cars were transporting plastic pellets and koke, a product used to make steel, Davis said. The site was expected to be cleared by early tomorrow. Union Pacific, which will replace about 1,100 feet of the track, is investigating the cause of the derailment.



**Robberies & Thefts**

**CASH, BANK, RAMADI, IRAQ**

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Armed men robbed an Iraqi bank in Ramadi, the troubled

capital of western al-Anbar province, stealing about \$US13.5 million worth of Iraqi dinars. "At 1100 hrs, a group broke into the Rashid bank and locked all the employees in a room and took all the money from the bank before escaping," a police captain said.



**Miscellaneous**

**GENERAL LEE (Panama)**

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo General Lee, detained at sea this week because its master was inebriated, has had multiple run-ins with the Coast Guard during its latest voyage. On Tuesday (Jan 11), during a routine law enforcement boarding of General Lee about 10 miles off Virginia Beach, a Coast Guard crew smelled alcohol on the breath of the master. The man failed a field sobriety test, then refused to submit to a blood alcohol content reading. According to Coast Guard rules, the ship had to stop for 24 hours and was cleared to enter the channel only after a chemical test of the master's breath proved he was sober. But yesterday, 48 hours after the original boarding, the Coast Guard discovered another problem. According to Jerry Crooks, chief investigator for the Coast Guard's Hampton Roads marine safety office, the 10-man crew of the ship failed a fire drill, delaying its passage again. After practicing the drill and executing it to the Coast Guard's satisfaction, it was allowed to proceed yesterday afternoon. Late yesterday afternoon, Crooks was unsure what consequences awaited the master in port. Tuesday, the Coast Guard said it planned to pursue penalties for the master's actions. General Lee had problems last month in another port. It failed a safety inspection in Savannah on Dec 23, Crooks said. It was detained there until its life saving equipment was brought up to standard. Petty Officer Robert Abbott, of the local marine safety office, said the ship unloaded its cargo of tree stumps in Georgia, and was carrying only ballast to Virginia. The ship is operated by Deep South Shipping, which is owned by Oahu Maritime Corp, according to Coast Guard records. Crooks said even though the ship was empty it was a threat in the hands of an intoxicated master.

Baltimore, Jan 17 — From local sources we can confirm that general cargo General Lee is due to arrive at the port of Hopewell, VA, later this morning to load fertilizer. The vessel is expected to sail early tomorrow. It was boarded by the US Coast Guard (USCG) when it arrived at the entrance of the Chesapeake Bay on Jan 11, now a routine procedure. The USCG noted that the ship's master appeared to be under the influence of alcohol during that boarding, but he refused to be

tested. The vessel was therefore refused entry into the Bay. The USCG returned to the ship the next day at which time the Master appeared to be sober. The crew was asked to perform several on-board tests when they failed the fire-drill. Again the vessel was refused entry into the Bay. The next day, the crew passed the fire-drill and the vessel was permitted to enter the Bay and to make its way to Sewell's Point where the master was relieved. Apparently he was released into the custody of the ship owners and is set to appear in Federal Court at some point. The ship then made its way to the Port of Hopewell for loading. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: The Hungarian master of general cargo General Lee was convicted today of operating a commercial vessel while under the influence of alcohol and was fined \$3,000. Janos Gyori, 52, also was ordered not to operate a vessel in US waters for one year. Immigration officials are processing him for deportation and the Coast Guard would probably never let him near the shoreline again, said his attorney Larry Dash. Gyori was arrested last week after Coast Guard sea marshals smelled alcohol on his breath while he manned the General Lee. Gyori failed six field sobriety tests but refused to take a breath test, all factors that led to his conviction. Gyori testified during an all-day trial that he consumed four light beers plus part of a fifth the night of Jan 10 and then took the helm of General Lee at 0400, Jan 11. He said he did not feel intoxicated but was angered at the way armed Coast Guard officers treated him and his crew. The Coast Guard first became suspicious of General Lee when it failed to stop 12 miles offshore for a security check. Gyori had taken the vessel as close as six or seven miles. Then, when Coast Guard officers tried contacting Gyori on three different radio channels, he responded once and then failed to answer any questions. The officers, deployed to guard the ports and shoreline of Hampton Roads, believed they might have been dealing with terrorists. "Our main concern was anti-terrorism," Petty Officer Eric Warren, a sea marshal, testified. They found Gyori at the helm. He seemed confused, his eyes were bloodshot, his face was flushed, his hands were shaking and he was pacing back and forth, Warren said. During questioning, Warren and another marshal smelled alcohol on Gyori's breath. They conducted six sobriety tests, including reciting the alphabet, counting backward from 25 and touching his nose with his eyes closed. All were done while Gyori was sitting. Warren said they cannot perform standing tests because of vessel movements. After failing those, Gyori at first said he would blow into an alcohol sensor but he would only puff his cheeks and not blow, Warren said. Gyori then refused to continue. Dash tried to show that the Hungarian with limited knowledge of written English

would not perform those tests well. He argued that four beers over a four-hour period the night before the incident was hardly enough to prove impairment. Magistrate James E. Bradberry said the totality of the evidence showed that Gyori must have been above the federal legal limit — 0.04% — for operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol.

#### **INFESTATION OF LOCUSTS, NORTH AND WEST AFRICA**

Bissau, Jan 19 — Five pick-up trucks equipped with spraying gear and pesticides arrived in Guinea-Bissau from Senegal today to help control swarms of locusts which are damaging cassava fields and cashew nut trees in the north and east of the country. Agriculture Minister Joa de Carvalho said. He told IRIN that the Senegalese control teams would start work tomorrow. Portugal, the former colonial power, has announced that it will fund the campaign to rid Guinea-Bissau of the voracious insects. Locusts began to invade the country from southern Senegal on Dec 19 and have now spread as far west as the Bijagos islands on the country's Atlantic coast. Portuguese ambassador Jose Manuel Paes Moreira said yesterday that Portugal would give an immediate donation of US \$331,000 to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to pay the entire cost of the FAO's emergency locust control operations in Guinea-Bissau. However, Norbert Dazogbo, the FAO representative in Guinea-Bissau, cautioned that more money would be needed from other donors if the insects started to breed. Swarms of locusts have already attacked the cashew nut trees which provide Guinea-Bissau's main export and a vital cash income for two thirds of the country's peasant farmers. The cashew trees are currently in flower and Agriculture Ministry officials fear that locust damage at this stage could sharply reduce this year's crop of nuts. The country of 1.3 million people earned US \$61 million from exporting 93,000 tonnes of cashew nuts in 2004. Reports from the interior say the locusts have also attacked fields of cassava and vegetables, and mango trees. — Reuters.

#### **OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"**

Hanoi, Jan 17 — One man died of suspected bird flu in Vietnam over the weekend and three people were hospitalised as news reports showed the virus has spread across the entire country. In neighbouring Thailand, health workers have been put on alert and ordered to conduct stringent surveillance measures but it is Vietnam that has emerged as the epicenter for the deadly H5N1 virus. A 48-year-old man, his younger brother and a 62-year-old man were hospitalised on Saturday (Jan 15) with acute pneumonia, which doctors in Hanoi suspected could be caused by bird flu, the Quan Doi Nhan Dan daily reported today. The 48-year-old man

died and the other two patients were in critical condition. If the cause of the man's death is confirmed as bird flu it would be the first fatality in the country's north from the poultry virus that has killed 37 people in Asia — 25 in Vietnam and 12 in Thailand. A fourth patient, a 14-year-old boy, was taken to a Ho Chi Minh hospital with high fever and coughing yesterday from the southern province of Tra Vinh, according to the Laborer newspaper. Government officials were not immediately available for comment. The human victims are believed to have caught the virus from contact with sick poultry but the World Health Organisation has warned that the virus could mutate and spread out of control among people, killing millions. The Agriculture Ministry said bird flu had spread to ducks and chickens in the Ninh Thuan and Quang Nam provinces in Vietnam's central region. The virus has emerged in all of the country's three regions. Officials said some 234,000 chickens, ducks and birds have died or have been slaughtered because of the virus since the beginning of the year. Vietnamese researchers will soon start testing a vaccine on monkeys, chickens and mice with the hope of using it on humans and poultry, the Laborer newspaper said. It quoted Pham Ngoc Dinh, deputy head of the Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, as saying the vaccine has been under research since April. — Reuters.

Hanoi, Jan 18 — Vietnam has imposed a temporary ban on the import of poultry and poultry products from neighbouring countries in a series of measures to fight the spread of bird flu which has killed 37 people in Asia, 25 of them in Vietnam. A directive from Prime Minister Phan Van Khai said any imported poultry would be seized and destroyed. Importers would not be compensated and would have to pay for the destruction of the goods, state-run Voice of Vietnam radio said today. Khai did not identify any country in the directive but Vietnam mainly imports chickens and eggs from China and state media said border guards have not been able to check all the cargoes which could fuel the spread of the virus. Outbreaks of the lethal H5N1 strain often go undetected in China's poultry population, microbiologist Guan Yi of the University of Hong Kong told Reuters last month. The H5N1 virus has emerged in all of Vietnam's three regions, but southern provinces have been affected the most. The virus has also killed 12 people in Thailand. Vietnam's media said today tests on the three bird flu suspect cases in Hanoi showed they did not have the H5N1 virus, but doctors suspected bird flu has killed another patient in the south. Doctors in Hanoi said tests of samples from three people admitted to a Hanoi hospital on Jan 15 for acute pneumonia showed they were not infected by bird flu, reported the Saigon Giai Phong (Liberation Saigon) daily. — Reuters.

Hanoi, Jan 20 — The bird flu virus that has killed six people in Vietnam since its recurrence late last year has not mutated but experts are investigating if it is jumping between humans, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on today. "We have no evidence that the virus has mutated or changed. That is the good news. The pattern is similar to last year," Hans Troedsson, Vietnam representative of the U.N. agency, told Reuters Television in an interview in Hanoi. What the WHO fears most is that the virus, known as the H5N1 strain, could mutate if — and there is no evidence it has — it got into an animal capable of hosting a human flu virus. That would probably be a pig, and if the highly virulent strain were to merge with a human flu virus, it could produce a strain capable of sweeping through a human population without immunity, the WHO says. "At the moment, bird flu is in its serious and urgent stage," Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung was quoted as telling a government meeting in Ho Chi Minh City. Vietnamese scientists have alerted animal health authorities about the risks of the virus infecting pigs, and then humans. "It's lucky that so far we have not seen any sign of bird flu infection on the swine stock in our country," professor Hoang Thuy Long, ex-head of the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, wrote in an article published today. An Agriculture Ministry report said more than 330,000 chickens, ducks and birds had died of the virus or been slaughtered in Vietnam since the beginning of this year, and the government is treating the virus as a top priority. — Reuters.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Thailand has found cases of bird flu in two provinces, prompting authorities to issue an alert to poultry farmers. In contrast to the last outbreak, this time the Thai government wasted no time in announcing the new cases. They were found amongst fighting cocks and poultry birds in two separate provinces, and were the first to be discovered this year. All infected birds have been culled, and the movement of livestock from both areas has been stopped. Health experts have warned that the cooler winter conditions are allowing latent reserves of the virus to spread amongst poultry stocks with weakened resistance.

#### **OUTBREAK OF NOROVIRUS ON UNITED KINGDOM-FLAGGED PASSENGER VESSEL**

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: Passenger Sun Princess (77441 gt, built 1995) had an outbreak of the norovirus on a Caribbean cruise recently. The master announced to the passengers that there had been an outbreak of the virus, which affects the stomach and intestines, two days into the cruise. (Note — Sun Princess sailed Port Everglades Dec 29, arrived and sailed Grenada Jan 2, arrived and sailed

Castries Jan 3, arrived and sailed St. Thomas Jan 5, arrived and sailed Nassau Jan 7 and subsequently arrived back at Port Everglades Jan 8.

## **Fires & Explosions**



#### **APPLIANCE PLANT, ANNVILLE, KENTUCKY, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire destroyed a factory building housing Jackson County's largest employer late Saturday night (Jan 15), leaving more than 700 of the county's 13,500 residents without work. No one was injured in the blaze that gutted Mid-South Electronics, which manufactures refrigerator components. The fire began shortly after 2300 hrs, Saturday, but low orange flames continued sending clouds of smoke into chilly air late last night. Firefighters said they expected to stay at the site throughout the night. Despite the devastation, Mid-South Electronics Chairman and CEO Harold Weaver vowed to rebuild. Officials shut down nearby Ky. 30 and evacuated people who live within a mile of the plant. The road reopened and the residents returned after 1800 hrs, yesterday. Gay said residents were cleared from the area because of possible chemical releases from the fire. The company won't know how long its workers will be idled until Mid-South officials are allowed into the building to inspect the remains, Weaver said. He has high hopes that a critical piece of equipment — tooling for plastic injection molds — will be salvageable. "If we are able to retrieve those, that will be a much better situation for us," Weaver said. "If we have to get those made, then you're talking weeks and months." The Annville plant assembles printed circuit boards and performs plastic injection molding, both of which are part of systems that dispense ice and water in home refrigerators, said Weaver.

#### **CHEMICAL PLANT, BEIJING, CHINA**

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion in a Beijing chemical plant in the early hours of this morning has slightly injured seven people at work, according to local sources. The seven workers have been sent to hospital for treatment, said Meng Fankui, deputy manager of the plant, Beijing Hua'er Co. Ltd of the Beijing Dongfang Petro Chemical Corporation. Meng said all of them were injured by glass or because of bumping with hard materials. Meng also said that the fire caused by the blast was under control. The blast happened at 0015 hrs, today at the polyvinyl chloride (PVC) polymeric equipment. The equipment has been

destroyed during the accident. Currently rescue workers are dealing with the remaining PVC at the spot and trying to cool down the surrounding equipment to prevent a new blast. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

#### **CHURCH, JAMAICA PLAIN, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A five-alarm fire tore through a historic church in Jamaica Plain last night, leaving congregants heart-broken and injuring one firefighter, who slipped on ice, fire officials said. By 1900 hrs, much of the Centre Street church's roof was gone, leaving a handful of beams silhouetted against the flames. A fire official at the scene said the fire started in the basement about 1730 hrs and quickly spread up the walls and to the roof. A bus was brought in to help firefighters warm up as they battled an arctic chill along with the stubborn blaze. Early estimates put damage to the building at around \$2.5 million, Salman said.

#### **CONVEYOR BELT, SHIPYARD, BLAKELEY ISLAND, ALABAMA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated Jan 18, states: The conveyor belt on a large, crane-like structure at the rear of barge Mary Turner, being worked on at a Bender Shipbuilding & Repair facility on Blakeley Island, caught fire yesterday morning, pouring black smoke into the sky. No one was injured in the late-morning blaze that smoldered throughout the afternoon, said Steve Huffman, Mobile Fire-Rescue Department spokesman. The fire was reported about 1145 hrs. A fire department dispatcher said the Mobile County Emergency Management Agency was notified, but because the smoke was not considered hazardous the sirens downtown were not sounded. A couple of privately owned tugs equipped with water cannons helped fight the fire, Huffman said. The fire did not extend to the drydocked Mary Turner, which normally hauls coal but was empty, the spokesman said. Huffman said the fire apparently was started by a spark from a welding torch being used by a worker. US Coast Guard officials said they would conduct an investigation into the cause of the blaze.

#### **FACTORY, CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH**

Karachi, Jan 18 — A huge fire broke out in a privately owned mosquito coil factory of Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh Limited at Nasirabad Industrial Area in Chittagong port city in Bangladesh during the night of Jan 16/17. As a result, properties worth more than one hundred million Taka (\$1.6 million) were gutted. The fire broke out at 0300 hrs, Jan 17, and was brought under control at about 0630 hrs, by seven fire fighting vans from different fire stations. However, all manufactured coils, dryers, trolleys and all kinds of fittings of the factory, one

godown and raw materials were gutted. Huge products and raw materials were stocked at the go-down at the factory area. All machines and products and raw materials were gutted. The fire brigade have formed an investigation committee to establish the origin of fire and estimate the loss. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **FACTORY, COUNTY LONDONDERRY, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 60 firefighters are tackling a blaze at a factory in County Londonderry. It was discovered at SDC Trailers on the Deerpark Road, Castledawson, at about 0845, GMT. A nearby primary school has been evacuated as a precaution as firefighters try to get the blaze under control. Fire Officer Graham Cosset said they faced a difficult job, because of acetylene cylinders in the building. "Currently we have 13 fire appliances and eight officers attending the building which is 200 m by 200 m," he said. "We have a slight complication in the building by the fact that there are an unknown number of acetylene cylinders in the building which makes the firefighting operation very dangerous for our crews."

#### **FACTORY, KARUNAMOYEE, KOLKATA, INDIA**

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: A fire broke out at a packing box factory at Karunamoyee in northern part of the metropolis this morning, fire brigade sources said. Six fire tenders were pressed into service to douse the flames. There was no casualty from the incident, they said, adding the cause of the fire and extent of damage were yet to be ascertained.

#### **FURNITURE WAREHOUSE, PHOENIX, ARIZONA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A three-alarm fire ripped through a south Phoenix warehouse yesterday night, authorities said. The fire started about 2115 hrs at Len Ronson Computer Furniture, a large warehouse near 38th Street and Broadway Road, Phoenix Assistant Fire Chief Bob Khan said. More than 90 firefighters battled the blaze, which was expected to cause more than \$1 million in damage, Khan said. Witnesses reported hearing a loud explosion and seeing flames shooting 60 feet into the air from the warehouse's roof. No one was believed to be inside the building when the blaze started, and no firefighters were injured during the incident. The cause of the fire was undetermined, Khan said. Firefighters managed to save two buildings near the warehouse from being damaged, but the warehouse was destroyed.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: There is still no word on what caused the fire that destroyed a south Phoenix furniture warehouse Sunday night (Jan 16),

resulting in a loss of more \$1 million. Assistant Phoenix fire chief Bob Khan said It will take at least two days to sort through the debris as investigators try to find the point of origin and determine what triggered the blaze. More than 100 firefighters battled the blaze at Len Ronson Computer Furniture, a warehouse near 38th Street and Broadway Road. Khan said no toxic materials figured in the blaze.

#### **GAS FIELD, DOARABAZAR, BANGLADESH**

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Tengratila gas field in Sunamganj started erupting fire at yet another point yesterday afternoon. The flames are 15 to 20 feet high, witnesses said. Meanwhile, the older fire spewing points kept alive while gas continued to leak in bubbles from 30 points in and around the gas field till yesterday afternoon. However, it seems to be dying down with the flames leaping less than five feet from Wednesday (Jan 12). The authorities yesterday shifted 54,000 litres diesel stored in five oil containers in the gas field area. The fuel remained safe even after the huge fire, an official said. The payment of compensation for the worst affected inhabitants of the two villages adjacent to the gas field would be made within the next week, said an official. Earlier on Wednesday 446 families had been listed to receive the compensation. Each of the families will get Tk 5,000 as committed by the Niko officials.

#### **OIL PLANT, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated Jan 17, states: Workers returned to their jobs while residents in a south Oklahoma City neighbourhood woke up to the lingering smell of smoke today after a massive fire at an oil plant. Huge fireballs shot into the sky early Saturday morning (Jan 15) near Southeast 30th Street and Lindsay Avenue after a fire ignited at the B&M Oil Co. plant. Firefighters said the blaze was fuelled by 55-gallon barrels of oil products. Employees who returned for business this morning said they were simply trying to make the best of the situation. One of the managers said the company has rented out some office space so that employees would have a temporary place to work. The fire caused more than \$4.5 million in damage and sent plumes of toxic smoke into the air. More than 30 homes were evacuated, and some residents did not return home until Saturday night. By yesterday morning, the massive flames and toxic smoke were gone. Although piles of smoldering metal were all that remained of the damaged portion of the plant, the fire danger continued. General Manager Kevin Carpenter said he is relieved that the five-alarm fire happened before his workers started their day on Saturday. Fire investigators were still working today to determine the cause of the blaze. Officials said it probably started in the

office area, where a furnace was located. Carpenter said that the fire did not destroy the company's tanks and trucks. He said that fact led to the plant's reopening today.

#### **PREMISES, THREE RIVERS, QUEBEC, CANADA**

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: At least six people have been injured after explosions and fire triggered by a natural gas leak destroyed about a dozen buildings in Canada's Quebec Province this morning. According to reports, the fire in the city of Trois-Rivieres, about 200 kilometres north-east of Montreal, seems to have started in a pizzeria after 0300 hrs, destroying several homes. "There was a gas leak, but we don't know right now if this gas leak was because of the fire or if this gas leak caused the fire," a local official said. According to the official, fire crews are still searching through the rubble, looking for bodies. One person has died as a result of the explosion.

#### **RECYCLING PLANT, ANDERSON, INDIANA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A magnesium fire at a recycling plant that forced thousands to evacuate their homes may take days to burn itself out since firefighters have given up trying to extinguish the blaze themselves. The fire erupted at the Advanced Magnesium Alloys Corp plant around 1700 yesterday, but explosions forced firefighters out less than three hours later, said police Detective Terry Sollars. No injuries were reported. At mid-morning today, several dozen fire and police officers remained posted around the plant, keeping watch on the fire that had grown considerably smaller overnight but continued to smoulder, Sollars said. Representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency were at the scene. "They're taking tests of the air quality before they let anyone back in. We're not sure when that might happen," Sollars said. Magnesium is a silvery-white, highly flammable metal. Burning magnesium produces irritating or toxic fumes and is typically extinguished using dry sand since water can cause a flare-up or explosion. Authorities evacuated 3,000 to 5,000 people from an area about two kilometres wide and three kilometres long that fell in the path of the smoke, Sollars said. He said the fire began in an estimated 1,800 to 2,700 kilograms of magnesium in one section of the plant. "We're not sure yet on what the start of it was," he said. Twelve to 18 of the plant's approximately 70 workers were inside at the time, he said.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of people evacuated because of a magnesium fire at a recycling plant were allowed to return home yesterday, but the blaze could take days to burn itself out. The toxic fire erupted at the Advanced Magnesium Alloys Corp

plant on Friday (Jan 14), but explosions forced out firefighters less than three hours later, police said. No injuries were reported. Authorities evacuated 3,000 to 5,000 people who were in the path of the smoke. The US Environmental Protection Agency tested the air and determined that it was safe for residents to return home.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators today will begin sifting through debris at an Anderson magnesium recycling plant to help determine the cause of a spectacular fire that began Friday evening (Jan 15) and burned for three days. About a dozen employees of Advanced Magnesium Alloys Corp., as well as some residents, have been interviewed by the city Fire Department and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, said James Rose, resident agent in charge of the Indianapolis ATF office. The investigation was ready to move forward. Heavy equipment will be used to move the collapsed roof and unstable walls, Rose said, allowing inspectors to search for the cause and to exclude causes. Meanwhile, an Anderson attorney sued the company in Madison Superior Court on Tuesday, seeking compensation for costs incurred by residents evacuated during the fire. Attorney Thomas Hamer will seek to have the lawsuit, filed on behalf of resident Alton Brown, certified as a class action. That potentially could allow thousands of people to seek compensation for such things as hotel rooms, cleanup costs and buying replacement prescription medication after some were forced to leave medications behind, he said. About 8,000 people were evacuated, city officials have said. The fire began in a warehouse on the west side of the factory, Fire Chief J.R. Rosencrans said. Although Fire Department officials said Saturday that the fire began in a scrap bin, Rosencrans would not confirm that yesterday. The fire became an inferno after coming into contact with water from some source. Rosencrans and city spokeswoman Connie Smith said yesterday they were unsure whether the Fire Department had recommended that the company cap sprinklers in the part of the building that caught fire and were searching for records. However, Smith said Saturday the recommendation was made after an inspection 18 months ago. Fire officials backed off early statements that sprinklers caused the fire to explode. Rosencrans said that water could have come from another source, and that company officials said the sprinklers were capped. The company's chief executive officer, Jan A. Guy, said the company would issue a statement soon but was concentrating on co-operating with investigators and getting the plant back into operation.

#### **REFINERY, DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated Jan 18, states: A huge fire at an oil refinery in Durban has led to the evacuation of residents in the area,

SABC radio news reported tonight. Metro rescue services said a tank at the refinery exploded during maintenance work, causing concern for nearby residents of Wentworth. Firefighters managed to bring the blaze under control and officials said there was no danger of the fire spreading to other tanks. No one was injured in what a refinery official described as an industrial accident. Residents were slowly making their way back to their homes, SABC reported.

#### **WAREHOUSE, PURFLEET, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters have left the scene of a factory blaze that caused severe disruption on the M25 - a week after it first began. The fire started on Jan 9, at the Eagle Global Logistics warehouse on the Dolphin industrial estate in Purfleet, Essex. In total, 120 crews dealt with the fire over a seven-day period. The cause of the blaze at the warehouse, which stored goods ranging from perfume to game consoles, is still being investigated.

#### **WAREHOUSE, SHARJAH, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A massive fire gutted a furniture warehouse in the industrial area of Sharjah yesterday evening. No casualties were reported. Sharjah Civil Defence personnel received a report about the fire at around 2000 hrs and rushed firefighting units to the scene. Support units from the UAE Armed Forces and both Dubai and Ajman civil defence were sent to assist firefighting operations. Colonel Ghareeb Shaaban, Director of Sharjah Civil Defence, told Khaleej Times that the fire was brought under control within two hours and that firefighters managed to prevent the fire from spreading to other structures. Flames could still be seen as late as 2230 hrs as firefighters continued to pour water over the rubble of the gutted structure. The metal frame of the ceiling could be seen clearly.

#### **WILDFIRES, AUSTRALIA**

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Efforts to contain a large bushfire in Victoria's west are continuing. More than 12,000 hectares have been destroyed in the blaze at Fullham Reserve, near the Grampians. Back-burning operations are expected to finish soon and it is hoped the fire will be contained this evening. Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) state coordinator Andrew Graystone says operations are progressing well. "We won't say it's safe until we have substantial rain on the fire so we're confident that it is out," he said. "We'll continue to patrol the fire even after it's been contained and controlled, for days or weeks until we do get good rain." (See issue of Jan 14.)

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters were battling to control two deliberately lit fires that have converged in the state

forest at Karragullen on the outskirts of Perth, WA. Residents had been told to either evacuate the area or be prepared to stay and defend their homes, said Nigel Higgs of the Department of Conservation and Land Management. He said the two blazes were among six deliberately lit fires that had kept more than 250 staff busy defending property at Pickering Brook and Karragullen, south-east of Perth, yesterday. Mr Higgs said 20 earthmoving units were clearing fire breaks and four fixed-wing aircraft from Perth and Bunbury were dropping water on the flames. Helicopters had earlier been involved in the water bombing as well. He said houses at Pickering Brook and Karragullen were not currently under threat but there was a potential for damage if the fires were not controlled. Mr Higgs said about 3,000 hectares had been burnt by the two merged fires. Four other deliberately lit fires had been contained and there were no reports of death or injury, he said. Kevin Archer of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of WA said a fire at Boya had burnt one side of a timber clad house before being extinguished by volunteer firefighters.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: One house is on fire and a further four are under threat as bushfires continue to wreak havoc through suburban Perth, emergency services said today. WA Department of Conservation and Land Management spokesman Nigel Higgs said a south-westerly breeze had pushed the northern part of the fire towards Merrivale Road, Pickering Brook, where one house was on fire. Mr Higgs said a further four houses were under threat in Carinyah Road to the west. A section of the fire east of Ashendon Road was out of control but hazard reduction over the past three years had reduced the amount of fuel in the area. The fire, the result of two deliberately-lit blazes converging, has so far burned through 8,000 hectares of state forest and national park near Karragullen, 35 km south-east of Perth. The spokesman said water bombers were helping fire crews and while cooler temperatures were expected tomorrow, fears were held the fire could spread to 20,000 hectares before it was contained. CALM was bringing in further crews from the north-west, Shark Bay, Geraldton, the Wheatbelt and the southern forest areas. The Fire and Emergency Services Authority was also forming strike teams to help. Another four fires, also deliberately lit, were extinguished yesterday.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 250 firefighters are battling a bushfire on Perth's outskirts which continues to threaten two townships. The Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) says the deliberately-lit blaze has burned more than 10,000 hectares, and firefighters are preparing for the arrival of a south-westerly wind this morning. FESA fire service manager John Truswell said the townships of Karragullen and Pickering Brook were still under threat, but so far the



damage to property had been minimal. "There has been some property damage, they've lost sheds and cool rooms, but we haven't lost any residences yet," he said. Mr Truswell said a wind change yesterday had allowed one flank of the fire to break out of control, but so far this morning conditions were still and the fire was largely contained. "The eastern flank of the fire is still not secure at the moment and we are trying to divert resources onto that eastern flank," he said. Firefighters were prepared for a light south-westerly wind to arrive, but the risk would be tempered by moderate temperatures, he said.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters say rugged slopes and heavy smoke are obstructing efforts to contain a 13,000-hectare bushfire on Perth's south-eastern outskirts. The blaze is still ripping through bushland, forest and pine plantations between Mount Dale and Mundaring Weir almost three days after it began. The rough terrain is keeping heavy equipment from moving in to create firebreaks. The Department of Conservation and Land Management's Kevin Pollack says the thick smoke is rendering water bombers largely useless. "They have been useful in some areas, but generally overall it's difficult for them to get in because of the smoke," he said. "They just can't see where they are and it's a safety risk that we have to take into account." Firefighters are concentrating on holding back the flames on the north-western front, to prevent them from threatening residents around Mundaring Weir and Helena Valley.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: More than 300 emergency services personnel continue to battle fires in Perth's east and south-eastern suburbs. One of the two fires has been burning since Saturday (Jan 15). The other fire, which was started by a lightning strike, is burning in state forest and a pine plantation. The fires are not posing an immediate threat to property but residents in a number of suburbs are being asked to be prepared in the event the fires move to their area. The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) says the suburbs of Mundaring, Sawyers Valley, Chidlow, Beechina and Mount Helena could be threatened in the next 24 hours. The Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) says residents should turn off air conditioners, close doors and windows, and remain in their homes. Fire crews are using bulldozers to cut firebreaks and six water bombers have been used throughout the day to stop the fire spreading. It is currently burning on a five-kilometre front. (See issue of Jan 19.)

London, Jan 19 — Firefighters are battling to control a large bushfire threatening homes in the hills east of Perth. More than 200 firefighters are trying to extinguish the blaze which began Saturday afternoon (Jan 15) and has burnt out more than 14,000 hectares of bushland. Driven by strong

winds, the fire flared again this morning and is threatening the townships of Mundaring, Chidlow, Mount Helena, Mahogany Creek, Hovea, Parkerville and Sawyers Valley. Fire and Emergency Services Authority's Kevin Archer said people in those towns were being asked to evacuate or prepare to protect their homes. "There is a lot of smoke in the area and the terrain and fuel load is hampering firefighters efforts," he said. "Strong winds have now sprung from up the east and south-east which is pushing the blaze towards these towns." He said aerial fire bombers and firefighter strike teams would be used to try to control the blaze today.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Favourable weather conditions have reduced the threat to residents in Perth's hills from a large bushfire that has been raging for days. This morning residents and firefighters were preparing for the worst as the blaze, which has burned out 15,500 hectares in five days, flared up again. However, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority says the fire has now been contained at Mundaring Weir.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Favourable weather conditions have reduced the threat to residents in Perth's hills from a large bushfire that has been raging for days. This morning residents and firefighters were preparing for the worst as the blaze, which has burned out 15,500 hectares in five days, flared up again. However, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) says the fire has now been contained at Mundaring Weir. FESA spokesman Frank Terry says assisting crews from other parts of the state have been sent home. Most residents in the hills near the blaze opted to stay and protect their homes but Steve Harding from Mundaring said others fled as the fire danger climbed. This afternoon's seabreeze has cleared a dense cloud of smoke which had blanketed much of metropolitan Perth.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Insured losses from last week's bushfire on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula are expected to top A\$26 million, with millions of dollars more of uninsured damage. As authorities said today the danger from the huge blaze on the lower peninsula had passed, insurers continued to assess the damage. Four children were among nine people killed in the bushfire, which broke containment lines nine days ago and razed more than 80,000ha of land. The Country Fire Service (CFS) said today there were no flare-ups despite hot and windy conditions yesterday on the peninsula. "The fire danger is virtually gone now, we will be starting to stand down crews," CFS regional commander Neil Ellis said. The Insurance Disaster Response Organisation said insured losses from the bushfire were expected to be more than \$26m. Organisation spokesman Chris Newland said insurers had summoned extra staff to cope with the numerous claims, but

were having trouble finding tradesmen to repair the damage because of the high demand.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: The South Australian Country Fire Service says the danger from the fires which devastated Eyre Peninsula, and killed nine people, is all but over. It is 9 days since the fires jumped containment lines causing at least \$50 million damage to houses and stock, and blackening more than 80,000 hectares. CFS regional commander Neil Ellis says after dangerous conditions yesterday favourable weather conditions have all but put an end to the danger. "The fire danger is virtually gone now, we will be starting to stand down crews," he said. "We must also remember there's still another two to three months of fire danger season and we can still get those hot north windy days that can make for extreme fire weather."

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Country Fire Service crews are finally moving out of Eyre Peninsula's fire disaster zone, as the fire danger in the region returns to normal. The focus is now shifting to the massive relief effort needed to cope with the region's fires, which killed 9 people and blackened more than 80,000 hectares. Already about 700 people have registered at the disaster relief centre, with relief workers saying both their material and emotional lives will need rebuilding. Fire relief crews from other parts of South Australia are returning home, leaving locals to monitor hot spots in the fire zone.

#### **WILDFIRES, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A sea of flames, fanned by a strong south-easter, engulfed houses, razed buildings and destroyed vegetation in the southern Cape Peninsula yesterday evening. At least five people have been treated for burns, smoke inhalation and asthma. The fire started in the Pecks Valley area at about 1200 hrs. By late evening, flames were heading towards Hout Bay after burning over and around Table Mountain. Several homes in Lakeside and Steenberg were evacuated. The co-ordinator of Working on Fire, Val Charlton, said the flames had destroyed at least 300ha of fynbos and other plants. She added that a decision on whether to call in firefighters and other assistance from surrounding areas and even countrywide, would be taken this morning. Emergency services spokesperson Johan Minnie said six helicopters had been waterbombing the flames until nightfall. He added that 300 firefighters and volunteers were still battling the flames last night.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: It took more than 50 people, two helicopters and about a dozen fire engines to bring a fire in the Mostertsdrift area of Stellenbosh in the Western Cape under control on yesterday, after they had battled the blaze for nearly two days. While no one was injured in the fire, a large tract of

fynbos was destroyed and the blaze at one stage moved close to the Lanzerac Manor Hotel. The fire seems to be under control now. Assistant operational fire chief Tasso Steyn said: "The fire was reported at 1700, Monday, (Jan 17) near Lanzerac Manor Hotel and then spread rapidly because of the wind. "The fire was believed to be under control at one stage but then flared up again early yesterday morning. The fire seems to be under control now. However, we are keeping our platoons on alert in case something unexpected happens." The Helderberg fire department also responded to a blaze that broke out just after 1300 yesterday in the dunes at Macassar. A heavy blanket of smoke covered the dunes and lingered over a section of Macassar Road. Assistant chief officer Michael Brand said: "A water tanker and three pumps were dispatched to the scene along with 22 firefighters. It's quite a large fire and the wind keeps moving it about. At one stage we thought it could move to Baden Powell Drive and then the next it could've moved over the dunes to the other side and maybe hit the shacks. Luckily it's been contained thus far.



#### C-GWMV

London, Jan 18 — At approximately 1545 PST, Jan 6, a privately operated Cessna 182P (C-GWMV) made a forced landing into a swamp about three nautical miles north-west of the Nanaimo, BC airport. The pilot was conducting a missed approach after diverting due to airframe icing. The flight departed Qualicum Beach, BC at 1520, PST, on an IFR pleasure flight to Boundary Bay, BC and return with the pilot and one (non-pilot) passenger on board. Weather information was obtained via the internet approximately 1.5 hours prior to the flight. At the time of departure, the weather at Nanaimo was lower than the terminal forecast but was in accordance with the graphic area forecast. After departing the aircraft began accumulating airframe ice at a rate that concerned the pilot before reaching the flight planned altitude of 3,000 feet. A request to maintain 2,000 feet was made to ATC but could not be accommodated immediately. It was subsequently approved and the pilot then requested lower, which could not be approved because it was below the minimum IFR altitude. At the controller's suggestion, the flight diverted to Nanaimo for the RNAV RWY 16 approach. At the missed approach point, ground contact was established but ice on the windshield restricted forward visibility and a missed approach was initiated. During the left turn, the aircraft stalled but a recovery was made. By this time the windshield was clearing and a treed

hill appeared ahead. In the attempt to clear the terrain, a second stall was induced resulting in contact with the trees. The aircraft continued beyond the hill and a forced landing was made into a soft marsh/field. The aircraft was substantially damaged however all occupants were restrained by lap belts with shoulder straps and were not injured. There was no post impact fire.

#### CRASH, CINCINNATI, OHIO, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Officials reported a small engine aircraft crashed on Reading Road at Sunnybrook Drive in Roselawn, Cincinnati, this afternoon, WLWT reported. A witness said it appeared that the motor went out on the aircraft, causing the pilot to make an emergency landing. While attempting to land, a witness said the aircraft hit a telephone pole. Police said all occupants are out of the aircraft and unharmed. A portion of Reading Road was closed after the crash. "It was an all white, very small aircraft basically missing a wing," said a witness. The aircraft landed in a commercial area in the north-east part of Cincinnati, less than half a mile from Interstate 75. Witnesses said two people got out of the aircraft.

#### CRASH, COCONUT CREEK, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

See N889JB.

#### CRASH, CORNELIA AREA, FREE STATE, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A US-registered light aircraft carrying four people has disappeared over the northern Free State, South Africa, on a flight from Pretoria to Harrismith, the Civil Aviation Authority confirmed today. The Aerostar left the Wonderboom aerodrome at about 1630 hrs, 1430, GMT, yesterday and was due to land at Harrismith at 1730 hrs, 1530, GMT, CAA spokesman Moses Seate said, quoted by the SAPA news agency. About 20 minutes before landing, a passenger on the aircraft told a family member through cellphone to collect them at the airport. But that was the last word from the group and the aircraft never landed, Seate said. A search and rescue team had been activated and were searching the area. Charles Norval of the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination center said that there was a strict and disciplined protocol to be followed for flying and landing, so the center knew the plane's flight plans and were currently trying to establish what had happened to the group.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Two of South Africa's "most promising" young cyclists were among the five people who died in a plane crash in the Free State yesterday, the manager of South Africa's national cycling team said today. The two cyclists and three others were on board an Aerostar light aircraft which left Wonderboom

aerodrome at about 1630 hrs, yesterday. It was due to have landed at Harrismith at 1730 hrs. When they did not land as expected a search was launched, which continued through the night. The wreckage was found just outside Cornelia at noon today. Bethlehem emergency services spokesperson Fred Slippers confirmed that the aircraft had been found and that all five occupants were dead. They were believed to be returning to Harrismith after a building contract. Harrismith businessman Theunis Bekker earlier said that his brother Gerhard Bekker was on the plane. Bekker also named the pilot as Dirk de Vos and said an engineer from Durban was also on the plane. Police were en-route to the crash site which could only be reached by four wheel drive vehicle.

#### CRASH, EL CAJON, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: A small plane approaching Gillespie Field brushed a tree, clipped a fence and flipped upside down today at the end of a runway, killing one of the occupants and seriously injuring the other, authorities said. Emergency crews had to free the plane's occupants, said Monica Zech, El Cajon Fire Department spokeswoman. Medics took a man to UCSD Medical Centre by Mercy Air helicopter and a woman to Sharp Memorial Hospital by ambulance. One of the injured later died, but information on which one and on the victims' identities was not immediately available, Zech said. The single-engine Lancair 235, registered in Washington state, crashed shortly before 1445 hrs at the east end of Gillespie's 27R runway, authorities said. Investigators from the National Transportation and Safety Board were called to the scene. Although the plane did not burn when it crashed, the wreckage was preventing use of the runway and could not be removed until the investigators were finished, said Bill Polick, spokesman for San Diego County's public works department. A second runway remained open for use.

#### CRASH, LAKELAND LINDER REGIONAL AIRPORT, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A small aircraft crashed and caught fire, killing the two occupants, while trying to take off at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport today. The two-seat Cessna 337 Skymaster was totally engulfed in flames when rescue crews arrived, Lakeland Fire Department spokeswoman Cheryl Edwards said. "We have confirmed two fatalities," Edwards said. An investigator from the National Transportation Safety Board was to arrive tomorrow to begin the process of determining the cause of the crash.

#### CRASH, LAKELAND LINDER REGIONAL AIRPORT, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

See N42WA.

**CRASH, PUERTO GALERA, PHILIPPINES**

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A civilian sea aircraft crashed near the beach in front of the el Galleon resort in the town of Puerto Galera early yesterday morning, and rescue drivers responded immediately but were too late to save the two onboard, an Air Force statement said. A German Embassy officer who answered the embassy's emergency number confirmed the crash, but said he could not give details such as the names of the victims or their hometowns. The aircraft reportedly took off from the nearby town of Talisay in Batangas, but the cause of the crash was not immediately known, the Air Force statement said.

**CRASH, TURA AREA, SIBERIA, RUSSIA**

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: All nine people aboard a Russian aircraft that went missing yesterday have been killed, an Emergencies Ministry spokesman said today. Rescuers found the aircraft's seven passengers and two crew members dead, 10 kilometres from the town of Tura, where the aircraft had been bound, after leaving the town of Vanavara, officials said. Russian news agencies reported that local administration officials had been travelling on the Antonov-2, a small Russian-built passenger aircraft. Yesterday, the Emergencies Ministry said an aircraft with 10 people aboard disappeared from controllers' radar screens in Siberia. It was not clear what caused the aircraft to crash, but officials said there would be an investigation. "Already today a special commission will begin determining the reason for the catastrophe," a local administration official told Interfax news agency. "The black box flight recorder has been found."

**CRASH, VAPI AREA, GUJARAT, INDIA**

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A private helicopter crashed today at a cricket stadium in Vapi town of Gujarat's Valsad district today injuring five persons, including four foreigners, official sources here said. The helicopter owned by Balikhia Holdings Pvt Ltd was trying to land in the cricket ground when it crashed injuring the occupants, including the pilot and four passengers. The cause of the crash was not yet known, officials said. The pilot identified as captain Rana and one of the four persons of Philippines nationality received fractures and were moved to Mumbai for treatment, Valsad District Collector Vatsala Vasudeva told PTI.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, AUCKLAND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NEW ZEALAND**

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: An Air New Zealand flight bound for Japan was forced to turn back today after it developed a wing flap problem a few

minutes into the 11 hour flight, airline officials said. The Boeing 767 with 84 people on board was headed for Kansai Airport at Osaka when its computer system alerted pilots to a problem with a wing flap, said corporate communications manager Mike Tod. The pilots immediately turned back, making an emergency landing without incident at Auckland International Airport after dumping the aircraft's fuel load off the coast. No injuries were reported. "The engineers inspected (the plane) and found that the (wing) sensor was faulty and replaced it," Tod said. The wing flap is still operational and the aircraft has already returned to service, he said. Passengers were transferred to another aircraft which departed Auckland early afternoon for Japan, he added.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Virgin aircraft bound for Nice was forced to make an emergency landing back at Brussels with just one engine, it was reported today. Yesterday's flight 304 took off at around 1100 hrs carrying 85 passengers. A Virgin spokesperson said that less than 15 minutes into its journey "the pilot saw a signal showing him there was a problem with an engine. He decided therefore to cut that engine and to turn round and return to Brussels. It was a hydraulic problem."

**EMERGENCY LANDING, CARNARVON AIRPORT, WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A light aircraft has made an emergency landing at Carnarvon airport in Western Australia's Gascoyne region, after its undercarriage became jammed. Four people were on board the Cessna 310 when its pilot called for assistance about 0930, WST. Six police officers, four ambulance staff, a doctor and the fire brigade were at the airport when the aircraft landed.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, GATWICK AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A Boeing 737 with 177 passengers on board has had to make an emergency landing at Gatwick Airport after losing a wheel. The Thomas Cook aircraft was flying from Gatwick to the Bulgarian capital Sofia when the front wheel fell off early in the flight. The pilot reported the fault and turned back to Gatwick, where the aircraft landed after about two hours in the air at about 1630, UTC. There were no reports of any injuries, but 22 ambulances were on standby. The ambulances were sent to the airport as a precaution, as were several fire engines. A spokeswoman for Gatwick said the aircraft had landed safely despite the missing wheel. It is thought the aircraft was otherwise undamaged.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, TAIPEI, TAIWAN**

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd said an aircraft carrying 220 passengers to Hong Kong from Los Angeles made an emergency landing in Taipei Jan 12 because of an engine problem, the latest in a series of malfunctions. "Our crew shut down one of the four engines of the plane after an indicator showed the engine's temperature was a bit high," said Maria Yu, a spokeswoman for the Hong Kong-based carrier. The passengers boarded another aircraft in Taipei and arrived in Hong Kong two hours later than scheduled, she said. Cathay Pacific is investigating the cause of the incident, Yu said in a telephone interview.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, WINNIPEG, CANADA**

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An Air Canada flight carrying more than 90 people made an unexpected stop in Winnipeg yesterday. One of the Airbus A319's two engines is believed to have stopped working while the aircraft was on its way to Toronto from Regina, said Winnipeg Airports Authority spokesman Kelly Langevin. The aircraft, carrying 93 passengers and five crew, landed safely shortly before 0900 hrs, he said. Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service and the airport's emergency team were on standby until the aircraft touched ground. Air Canada spokesman Laura Cooke said the aircraft can fly safely on one engine but the pilot chose to land in Winnipeg.

**MID-AIR COLLISION, FREDERICK AREA, OKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated Jan 18, states: An Air Force training jet and a small plane collided today over southwestern Oklahoma, killing the plane's pilot, authorities said. Both military pilots parachuted to safety. The T-37 training jet from Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas, struck the private plane over a rural area southeast of Frederick, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman John Clabes said. The burning wreckage fell into a field. By mid-afternoon, the crash site had been cordoned off by military personnel. The two military pilots suffered only minor injuries after parachuting to the ground. Officials at the Air Force base said a nearby land owner picked them up and helped them get medical care. A base spokesman said he did not know what caused the collision, which happened at about 5,000 feet. The National Transportation Safety Board was to investigate. The private plane was a crop-duster being flown from its manufacturer to its new owner in South Dakota, said a spokesman for the Texas manufacturer, Air Tractor.

**N10EL**

London, Jan 13 — Beechcraft Bonanza K35, N10EL, operated by Ronald J. Latimer, with one person on

board, on landing on a private strip at West Arkansas, Eureka Springs, Arkansas, slid into a tree and burst into flames at 2259, UTC, Jan 12. The aircraft was destroyed and the pilot was killed.

#### **N16732**

London, Jan 19 — Boeing 737-724, N16732, operated by Continental Airlines Inc, was substantially damaged when it was struck by a snowplow while it was stopped on the taxiway at Gunnison County Airport, Gunnison, Colorado, at 1333, MST, Jan 8. The impact resulted in a 10-foot gash, running forward from the point of initial contact along the keel beam between the main landing gear wheel wells.

#### **N24218**

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft made an emergency landing yesterday in Nashville. The Cessna 152, a two-seater, landed near woods around noon southeast of Nashville about a mile from Hickory Hollow mall. The aircraft carrying an instructor and a student pilot, landed near an apartment complex. Flight instructor Judd Phillips said the engine lost power as he flew from Smyrna to Nashville. The national transportation safety board is investigating.

London, Jan 19 — Cessna 152 N24218 made a forced landing in a residential area near Nashville, Tennessee, at 1757, Jan 17, while on a flight from Smyrna, TN, to Nashville. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. One of the two persons on board suffered minor injuries.

#### **N2467X**

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: A helicopter lifted the wreckage of a small private plane out of a swamp this afternoon where it crashed Tuesday (Jan 11), killing two brothers. The plane parts, set on a trailer bed by a Sikorsky helicopter, were then trucked to nearby Huntsville International Airport, where investigators will try to discern the cause of the crash. "All of the parts were recovered, and we'll start putting it back together tomorrow," said Cathy Gagne, an air safety investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board in Atlanta. Gagne said the T206H Cessna was in four or five large pieces. The crash site was heavily wooded and chest-deep in water in places, which caused a delay in retrieval. Frank Barker, the helicopter pilot with Decatur-based Solley Airways who salvaged the plane, said the main fuselage was intact except for the wings. Gagne said investigators would be checking the aircraft, weather data and maintenance history of the plane to determine cause. A full report could take six months to a year, she said.

#### **N311DL**

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: A Delta Air Lines jet ran off a runway at Hartsfield-

Jackson Atlanta International Airport this afternoon. No injuries have been reported, but an official of the Federal Aviation Administration says the nose wheel of the Boeing 737 is mired in the mud and the runway has been closed. The FAA's Christopher White says that with delays already caused by foggy conditions at the airport, the runway closure is leading to delays in arrivals of about an hour and 40 minutes. He says the delays are likely to last for several more hours. White says the aircraft had departed for St. Louis but turned around because of mechanical problems and went off the runway after it landed. There is no word yet on the nature of the mechanical problems of the aircraft or the number of passengers aboard the aircraft.

London, Jan 14 — Boeing 737-232, N311DL, operated by Wilmington Trust Company Trustee, while on a flight from Atlanta, Georgia, to St. Louis, Missouri, with 109 persons on board, after departure runway 8R, declared an emergency, due to an engine failure, at 2139, UTC, Jan 13. Aircraft returned and landed on runway 8R. The nosewheel stopped in the mud off the end of the runway.

#### **N42WA**

London, Jan 19 — Cessna T337G (Skymaster) N42WA crashed on take-off from Lakeland, Florida, at 2037, Jan 14. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

#### **N49BA**

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The pilot of a cargo plane was killed when his aircraft crashed in heavy fog at Dillant-Hopkins Airport, after being diverted there because of bad weather in Concord, his original destination, police said. He was believed to be the only person on board. The identity of the pilot was being withheld until notification of his family. Swanzey police said a report came in at 2218 hrs, yesterday that the plane crashed upon landing. They said the plane, owned by Business Air, Inc., of Bennington, Vt., caught fire after impact, but the flames were quickly put out by the Swanzey Fire Department. Authorities said after the twin-engine turbo prop departed Bangor, Maine, it was diverted from its scheduled landing in Concord to Dillant Hopkins. Investigators for the Federal Aviation Administration the National Transportation Safety Board were expected at the crash scene this morning.

London, Jan 14 — Embraer EMB-110P1 (Bandeirante), N49BA, operated by Business Air Inc, while on a flight from Concord, New Hampshire, to Burlington, Vermont, with one person on board, crashed on approach to Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Keene, New Hampshire, at 0315, UTC, Jan 14. The aircraft reportedly burned and destroyed and the pilot was killed.

#### **N49J**

London, Jan 19 — Rockwell Commander 200D N49J crashed near

Hatch, Utah, at 0001, Jan 19, while on a flight from Hatch. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. Two of the three persons on board were killed and the third was seriously injured.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Two people died and a third was critically injured in an aircraft crash near Hatch, police reported today. The single engine Aero Commander 200D (N49J) went down about 0512, yesterday just south of Hatch. Pilot George Gautier and passenger Michael Hansen, were believed to have died on impact. A second passenger, Alexander Walton, was taken to Garfield Memorial Hospital then flown by helicopter to LDS Hospital, where he was in critical condition today.

#### **N7912R**

London, Jan 19 — Beechcraft Baron B55 N7912R crashed near Patterson, Louisiana, at 1600, Jan 14. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

#### **N889JB**

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: When a small aircraft hit a home in Coconut Creek in wet weather Saturday afternoon (Jan 15), the crash killed the pilot, a prominent developer from Gainesville, Ga., who had a commercial licence proving he was qualified to fly in the rain. Police identified the pilot yesterday as Gerald Ballard, 57. Crews yesterday removed his body and the wreckage of his four-seat Cirrus SR22 from the 2300 block of Northwest 37th Way, where the fiery crash damaged two homes but did not hurt anyone on the ground. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating. Ballard was flying from Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport to Naples. He had filed an instrument rules flight plan before he took off, according to Kathleen Bergen, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration. Bergen said she did not know of any distress radio calls from the aircraft before Ballard crashed at about 1220. Ballard had a pilot's licence that qualified him to fly with instruments when visibility isn't good enough to fly by sight. Saturday was rainy, and visibility was about 3 miles. The crash shook Centura Parc, a gated development one block south of Copans Road, just west of Florida's Turnpike. Residents heard an odd sound and saw the aircraft pull up before plummeting into their neighbourhood.

London, Jan 19 — Cirrus SR22 N889JB crashed near Coconut Grove, Florida, at 1729, Jan 15, while on a local flight from Fort Lauderdale, FL. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

#### **N90772**

London, Jan 13 — Air Tractor AT-402, N90772, operated by Stephen B. Brock, while on an aerial application flight from Bainbridge, Georgia, with one

person on board, lost power and crashed into pine trees at Brock Airpark, Bainbridge, 2030, UTC, Jan 12.

#### ZK-SWT

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A Tauranga pilot whose floatplane crashed on Lake Taupo yesterday died of his injuries today. The amphibious plane carrying the pilot and his wife crashed during an attempted take-off from Lake Taupo about 8pm about 200m offshore from Two Mile Bay. The couple were taken to Taupo Hospital but the pilot was later airlifted to Waikato Hospital. His wife suffered minor injuries to her face. The Civil Aviation Authority had completed its initial inspection of the aircraft and would continue with investigations to determine the cause of the crash, he said in a statement. Witness accounts suggested the plane had hit a wave before nose-diving into the lake and flipping over.

London, Jan 19 — Seawind 3000, ZK-SWT, operated by J.H. Borman, crashed into Lake Taupo on Jan 16. One of the two persons on board was killed.



#### FAILURE OF SATELLITE, SOUTH PACIFIC

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Large parts of the South Pacific have been cut off from the outside world after the failure of a telecommunications satellite. Telecom New Zealand says the satellite moved out of alignment and was then lost on Saturday (Jan 15). Its loss has isolated nearly a dozen Pacific territories, including Tonga, Kiribati, Niue, Tokelau and Tuvalu. Telecom New Zealand says communications have been restored to Rarotonga in the Cook Islands, Western Samoa and the Solomon Islands through alternative satellite options. Most of the other islands have local phone services but will be without international calling and data access until alternative arrangements can be made.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: The reported loss of a communications satellite owned by a Bermuda-based company has left 10 South Pacific nations and territories and part of Antarctica without telephone contact with the outside world. A further five Pacific states and three Asian territories were affected but had back-ups available, according to Telecom New Zealand, which rents capacity on the lost satellite. In what global satellite operator Intelsat calls "an extremely rare event," its \$100million (\$131 million) IS-804 orbiting spacecraft moved out of its programmed alignment and was lost on Saturday (Jan 15). The loss left the

Pacific Island nations of Cook Islands, Western Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Niue, Vanuatu, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Tonga and the US territory of American Samoa without communications links to other states, Telecom NZ said yesterday. Other countries, including New Caledonia, Tahiti, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, East Timor, Vietnam, Korea and Saipan were also affected but could plug into back-up systems. The New Zealand territories of Scott Base in Antarctica and Chatham Islands, 500 km to the east, also lost all phone links. "The loss of a satellite is an extremely rare event for us, and our first priority must be restoration of service to our customers," Intelsat chief executive Conny Kulman said in a statement. The problem cannot be repaired, prompting the company to announce plans to take a non-cash charge of \$US73million. The satellite was uninsured, the company said in its statement. The problems threaten to derail the planned \$US5billion sale of Intelsat to another Bermuda-based company, Zues Holdings. Telecom NZ spokeswoman Sarah Berry said last night communications had been restored through alternative satellite options to the Cook Islands, Western Samoa and the Solomon Islands. Most of the islands still without satellite services would have local phone and data services but would be without international calling and data access until alternative arrangements could be made, she said. "Bank services, electronic cash services ... and airline data circuits have also been impacted and this could lead to some flight delays to and from these locations," Ms Berry said. "Some services out of New Zealand and Australia may also be partially affected to east Asian locations such as Vietnam and Beijing. "All necessary effort and assets will be allocated to ensure Intelsat satellite coverage throughout the Asia-Pacific region," she said.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated Jan 18, states: A \$3 billion deal to sell Intelsat Ltd. could be in jeopardy after the company lost a telecommunications satellite over the weekend (Jan 15-16). The Bermuda-based company detected electrical problems Friday with the satellite, which provided communications for countries in the South Pacific. Intelsat later concluded that the satellite could not be repaired and was a total loss. Intelsat and the satellite's maker, Lockheed Martin Corp., said today that the cause of the failure had not been determined. The satellite malfunction could scuttle plans announced in August to sell the satellite operator to Zeus Holdings, a Bermuda company made up of four private equity firms. Under the terms of the deal, Zeus now has the right to back out. Intelsat said the spacecraft was not insured because it was worth less than \$150 million. The company expects to take a one-time charge of \$73 million from the loss.

## Product Recalls

#### COMPUTER MONITORS, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: More than 15,000 flat panel monitors from Hewlett-Packard and made by Phillips are being recalled. The Consumer Product Safety Commission says a ground clip inside the back plastic panel of the I-2035 monitors can be incorrectly installed and can pose the risk of electric shock.

#### DINING CHAIRS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Jan 13 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of about 32,000 Residential Dining Chairs in voluntary co-operation with Poundex Associates Corp., of City of Industry, Calif. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The welds on the chair's rear legs can crack and break apart, posing a fall hazard to consumers. Poundex Associates Corp. has received one report of a chair breaking, involving one report of a minor injury. The recalled dining chair has a dark bronze metallic frame, birch colored wooden back and gold colored upholstered seat. The front and rear legs have a curved shape. The label under the seat reads in part "Imported by Poundex Associates Corp." The recalled dining chair is approximately 42-inches high and 17-inches wide. Sold at independent furniture stores nationwide from January 2004 through September 2004 for about \$50 each. The recalled chairs were mainly sold as part of a 5-piece dining set with a table for about \$400 per set. Manufactured in China. Consumers should stop using the chairs immediately and contact Poundex to receive a free rear leg replacement kit. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

#### RENAULT LOGAN MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: More than 15,000 cars made by a Romanian manufacturer owned by France's Renault have been recalled due to technical problems, a spokesman for the company said today. Dacia's no-frills Logan, which went on sale for the first time in Romania last year was designed as a low-cost sedan aimed primarily at fast-growing emerging markets where it will eventually retail for as little as US\$6,090. "We recalled 15,169 cars," said Silviu Sepciu, spokesman for Dacia. Most of them were recalled due to problems with the jack. Others were recalled to have the engine cable system rechecked, and others need to

be checked to determine whether the computer needs to be reprogrammed, he said. Most of the cars were sold in Romania, where Dacia has already sold more than 2,100 Logan cars this year and more than 20,000 in 2004. "The recall is a preventive measure to show respect to our clients," Sepciu said, adding that the company would pay for the costs of the recheck. Renault bought the state-owned Romanian car company Dacia in 1999.

**SLOW COOKERS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Jan 13 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 600,000 GE Oval and Double Dish Slow Cookers imported by Hamilton Beach/Proctor-Silex Inc., of Glen Allen, Va. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Distributed by Wal-Mart Stores Inc., of Bentonville, Ark. The handles on the base of the slow cookers can break, posing a risk of burns from hot food spilling onto consumers. Hamilton Beach and Wal-Mart have received 531 reports of

handles breaking, including four reports of consumers who were burned by hot food. The recalled slow cookers include the 4.5-Quart Oval and 6-Quart Double Dish models sold under the General Electric (GE) brand name. The model name is printed on the front of the units. The 4.5-quart unit has model number 106661 and the 6-quart unit has model number 106851. Both models have series codes A through D, which are printed on the bottom along with the model number. The base of the slow cookers is white with an olive or honeysuckle graphic. Sold exclusively at Wal-Mart stores nation-wide from August 2000 through December 2002 for about \$25 (4.5-quart model) and \$35 (6-quart model). Consumers should stop using the product immediately and contact Wal-Mart to receive a replacement slow cooker base. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.



**CANADA**

See under "Labour Disputes."

**INDIA**

See under "Labour Disputes."

**ITALY**

Genoa, Jan 11 — Port situation Jan 11: Genoa: Three container vessels and three tankers waiting for berths, average berthing delay is between one and two days. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. Savona: No vessels waiting for normal berth. One vessel waiting for special berth. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SRI LANKA**

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

**Port Delays**

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbott Point	17-19-Jan-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed; 11 vessels due by 10/2; 2-3 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion.
Albany	17-19-Jan-2005	Grain: 4 vessels due by 31/1, 3 to load barley, 1 wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Brisbane	17-19-Jan-2005	Grain: 1 vessel due 21/1 to load wheat; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	17-19-Jan-2005	Coal: 3 vessels berthed, 37 anchored; 41 vessels due by 25/2; up to 20 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion.
Dampier	17-19-Jan-2005	Iron ore: Parker Point: 2 vessels anchored; 4 vessels due by 25/1; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 12 vessels due by 30/1; up to 2 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	17-19-Jan-2005	Grain: 2 vessels due by 30/1, both to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Geraldton	17-19-Jan-2005	Grain: 7 vessels due by 28/1, 4 to load wheat, 1 lupins, 2 barley; 2-8 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Gladstone	17-19-Jan-2005	Grain: no vessels; no delays expected.
Hay Point	17-19-Jan-2005	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 7 anchored; 4 vessels due by 24/1; up to 5 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion.
Kwinana	17-19-Jan-2005	Grain: 10 vessels due by 29/1, 6 to load wheat, 1 barley, 1 wheat/barley, 1 barley, 1 oats; 1-17 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Melbourne	17-19-Jan-2005	Grain: One vessel waiting to discharge soda ash; 2 vessels due by 24/1, both to load wheat; no delays expected.
Newcastle	17-19-Jan-2005	Grain: Nine vessels due by 4/2, 7 to load wheat, 1 barley, 1 canola; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Adelaide	17-19-Jan-2005	Grain: No. 27 berth: 4 vessels due by 1/2, 2 to load barley, 2 wheat; up to 2 days delay due to berth congestion.
Port Hedland	17-19-Jan-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 7 vessels due by 25/1; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 5 vessels due by 25/1; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel due 22/1; no delays expected; Westyard "D" berth: 1

**Port Conditions**

		vessel berthed and loading; 7 vessels due by 27/1; 1-2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; there will be a 24 hour maintenance shutdown starting ca. 22/1.
Port Kembla	17-19-Jan-2005	Grain: 5 vessels due by 4/2, 2 to load wheat, 3 canola; up to 1 day's delay expected.
Port Lincoln	17-19-Jan-2005	Grain: 6 vessels due by 1/2, 4 to load wheat, 1 barley, 1 canola; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion.
Port Walcott	17-19-Jan-2005	Iron ore: 1 vessels berthed and loading, 1 anchored and loading; 8 vessels anchored; 11 vessels due by 29/1; 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.
Portland	17-19-Jan-2005	With immediate effect, all stores, airfreight and bags must be delivered/removed by launch. One vessel berthed to load wood-chips, 1 anchored to load barley; 1 vessel due 3/2 to load wood-chips; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
<b>Brazil</b>		
Rio Grande	18-Jan-2005	Five vessels berthed of which 1 rice loader, 2 potassium chloride loaders/dischargers, 1 soya meal loader, 1 wood-chip loader; 1 vessel waiting in roads; 24 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	18-Jan-2005	Eighteen vessels berthed of which 1 bulk fuel oil loader, 4 chemical products loaders/dischargers, 5 sugar dischargers, 1 bulk wheat discharger, 1 miscellaneous cargo loader, 1 paper coils loader, 1 steel products loader, 1 full container loader/discharger, 1 bulk pellets loader, 2 bulk fertiliser dischargers; 18 vessels waiting in roads; 79 vessels due over the next 7 days; Private terminals: Terminal 37: 1 full container loader/discharger; Tecondi: no vessels; Termares: no vessels; Rodrimar: 1 full container ader/discharger; Cosipa: no vessels; Ultrafertil: 1 bulk fertiliser discharger; Cargill: 1 bulk sugar loader, 1 bulk pellets loader; Santos Brasil: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Cutrale: 1 bulk pellets loader; Dow: no vessels.
Sao Sebastiao	18-Jan-2005	Three vessels berthed, 4 waiting in roads; 8 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitorea	18-Jan-2005	No vessels berthed; Terminal Vila Velha: 2 malt dischargers, 1 general cargo loader/discharger, 1 pig-iron loader; Tubarao: 2 iron ore loaders, 1 fertiliser discharger; Praia Mole: 2 coal dischargers, 1 steel products loader; Portocel: no vessels; Ubu: 1 iron ore loader; 13 vessels waiting in roads; 15 vessels due over the next 7 days.
<b>Bulgaria</b>		
Bourgas	18-Jan-2005	Ten vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (4 coils, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate), 5 discharging (2 sugar, 1 billets, 2 coal); 5 vessels waiting in roads, of which 4 to load (1 cigarettes, 1 coils, 2 empty), 1 to discharge coal; 16 vessels due, of which 13 to load (1 scrap, 1 copper concentrate, 2 concrete/iron, 2 coils, 1 containers, 1 bars, 1 baryte concentrate, 1 steel sheets, 1 sunflower seeds, 1 sulphur, 1 barley), 3 to discharge (1 containers, 1 magnetite, 1 wheat).
<b>Chile</b>		
Valparaiso	17-Jan-2005	Four vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 2 vessels anchored; 12 vessels due this week.
<b>Egypt</b>		
Alexandria	17-Jan-2005	Fifty-two vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 45 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier, 4 tankers, 2 containers; 12 vessels dry-docked; 6 vessels at inner anchorage, 3 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	17-Jan-2005	Nineteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 14 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 3 containers; 5 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Suez Canal	17-Jan-2005	Twenty-three vessels transiting Northbound, 29 Southbound.
<b>Israel</b>		
Ashdod	17-Jan-2005	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 13 vessels discharging at berth (8 general cargo, 5 bulkers), 1 car carrier loading/discharging at berth; 7 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (5 general cargo, 2 bulkers); 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 6 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	17-Jan-2005	No labour problems. Seven vessels discharging at berth (6 general cargo, 1 bulker), 10 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 1 car carrier, 6 tankers); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (1 containers, 3 tankers); 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 22 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.

## Port Conditions

### Pakistan

Karachi	17-Jan-2005	Two vessels loading at berth (1 rice, 1 naphtha), 7 vessels discharging at berth (2 crude oil, 2 coal, 2 steel coils, 1 scrap), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 crude oil); no vessels bunkering; none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 4 vessels due (3 containers, 1 urea), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	17-Jan-2005	Two vessels discharging at berth (1 HSD, 1 coal), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge.

### Poland

Gdansk	17-Jan-2005	Seven vessels loading at berth (3 coal, 2 bulkers, 2 tankers), 4 discharging at berth (2 bulkers, 1 coal, 1 grain); 9 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 24 vessels due.
Gdynia	17-Jan-2005	Six vessels loading at berth (4 general cargo, 2 coal), 6 vessels discharging at berth (4 general cargo, 1 grain, 1 tanker); 15 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 30 vessels due.

### Russia

Novorossiysk	17-Jan-2005	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (1 steel billets/steel sheets/pipes, 1 steel billets, 1 DRI, 1 scrap, 1 bulk NPK, 1 slabs/coils/steel sheets), 3 discharging bulk sugar; 8 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 1 scrap, 1 bulk urea, 1 WRIC/coils, 1 copper, 1 pig-iron, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 WRIC/construction materials, 1 onions; 76 vessels due, of which 69 to load (2 pipes, 3 HBI, 4 bulk ammonium nitrate, 6 aluminium, 1 pipes/equipment, 2 DRI, 10 coils, 5 slabs, 1 steel sheets/coils, 3 copper, 1 slabs/steel billets, 1 paper, 1 pig-iron/steel billets/iron, 2 pig-iron, 1 scrap, 4 steel billets, 1 steel billets/pig-iron, 2 UAN solution, 1 WRIC, 2 bulk cement, 1 bulk urea, 1 onions, 1 wheat, 1 tin plate/ steel sheets/coils/steel billets, 3 diesel oil, 1 equipment, 2 barley, 1 bulk NPK, 2 steel sheets, 2 vehicles, 1 zinc), 4 to discharge (1 construction materials, 1 aluminium fluoride, 1 bulk sugar, 1 citrus), 3 to discharge/load containers. Oil terminal: 1 tanker berthed loading crude oil; 5 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 8 tankers due, (7 crude oil, 1 fuel oil), all to load.
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### Spain

Cadiz	18-Jan-2005	Seventeen vessels in port of which 8 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 1 wheat, 1 containers, 1 cereals, 1 semolina, 1 sand), 9 vessels under repair; no delays.
Sagunto	18-Jan-2005	Twenty-four vessels in port operating of which 15 discharging (13 steel products, 1 anhydrous ammonia, 1 machinery), 1 loading bulk fertiliser, 1 vessel discharging/loading steel products, 1 charging/loading vehicles, 6 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays.

### Ukraine

Illichevsk	17-Jan-2005	Four vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 oil, 2 wheat), 1 discharging/loading containers; 1 vessels in roads, 1 to load steel products, 1 to discharge/load containers; 12 vessels due, all to load, of which 9 steel products, 1 wheat, 1 sulphur, 1 equipment.
Mariupol	17-Jan-2005	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (1 steel, 2 fire-clay, 2 coal, 2 sulphur), 1 discharging/loading containers; 3 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 steel, 1 ferrous metals, 1 sulphur; 41 vessels due, of which 40 to load (16 steel, 1 pig-iron, 10 coal, 5 fire-clay, 1 pitch, 2 sulphur, 2 barley, 1 sunflower seeds, 2 ammonium saltpetre, 1 fire-clay/kaolin), 1 to discharge chrome ore.
Odessa	17-Jan-2005	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (4 metal, 1 barley), 3 discharging (1 citrus, 1 luggage, 1 building materials), 1 passenger vessel; 1 vessel in roads to load wood; 68 vessels due, of which 32 to load (23 metal, 1 pig-iron, 2 ferro alloy, 1 scrap, 2 wheat, 2 corn, 1 wood), 6 to discharge (1 citrus, 2 bananas, 1 sugar, 1 general cargo, 1 oil), 30 to discharge/load container.

### United States

Houston	18-Jan-2005	Channel open under normal traffic. Pilots report normal 40 ft. 0 ins. max. draft in Houston ship channel; Cargill terminal: no delays; LDC Dreyfus terminal: no delays.
Kalama, WA	18-Jan-2005	Kalama export terminal: 6 days delay; United Harvest terminal: no delays.
New Orleans	18-Jan-2005	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 3-4 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 3 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 10-12 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 5 days delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 10-12 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 10-12 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected; Peavey/Paulina: 3 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 4 days delay expected;



## Port Conditions

		Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; 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: 3 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 2 days delay expected. Fifteen-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to increase to 16.7 ft. by 4/2. Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: SW Pass to New Orleans (Mile 090.0) - 47 ft. for all vessels; New Orleans (Mile 090) to Baton Rouge (Mile 233.5) - 45 ft. for all vessels; vessels with drafts up to 47 ft. have been handled up to Mile 180 in the past, but are approved by pilots on a case by case basis, based on current river conditions; Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 31ft. bw.
Portland, OR	18-Jan-2005	Grain terminal: 1 day's delay; CLD Irving terminal: 3 days delay; CLD, O Dock terminals: 2 days delay.
Tacoma, WA	18-Jan-2005	Temco terminal: 2 days delay.

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