

January 20 2006

France upholds CMA CGM Voltaire convictions

By Andrew Spurrier in Paris- Thursday January 19 2006

The German master and manager of the 6,500 teu container ship CMA CGM Voltaire have failed in their attempt to persuade France's highest appeal court, the Court of Cassation, to overturn their conviction for pollution off the French coast.

Originally fined €100,000 (\$120,000) by a court in Brest in 2003, Captain Peter-Jochen Laudahn had his fine doubled in January last year after losing his appeal against conviction before the appeal court in the city of Rennes.

He was ordered to pay 10% of the fine and the ship's manager, NSB Niederelbe Schiffahrtsgesellschaft, of Buxtehude in Germany, the remaining 90%.

Deliberately

Insisting that they were innocent of the charge of deliberately causing pollution, Captain Laudahn and NSB decided to challenge the appeal court's ruling before France's final appeal court, the Court of Cassation.

Last week, however, the Court of Cassation maintained the appeal court's judgement and fine.

Guillaume Brajeux, the French lawyer who has been representing the master and manager in the case, said yesterday that he could not comment on the court's judgment since he had not received official notification of it.

He said that Capt Laudahn and NSB could take their case to the European Court of Justice but that he thought that they probably would not on the grounds that they were "tired" after their long and so far unsuccessful legal battle.

The CMA CGM Voltaire was photographed by a French navy helicopter with a 1.5 mile- to two-mile-long slick of discoloured water in its wake while it was off the northern coast of Brittany in May 2003.

The ship was diverted into the port of Brest and ordered to provide a €

200,000 bond as the condition of its release.

Capt Laudahn denied causing pollution, however, and his defence suggested without success that the "pollution" could have been the result of wind action on the waves or even have been caused by another ship.

Cyclone halts iron ore and gas production off Australia

Friday January 20 2006

OIL, GAS and iron ore projects stopped in Australia's northwest today after forecasts of destructive winds and flooding as the second tropical cyclone in two weeks bore down on the coast.

Global miners BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto have stopped iron ore exports and sent empty ships from their Western Australian ports out to sea to avoid Tropical Cyclone Daryl.

BHP has also been unable to reconnect an offshore oil and gas vessel moved earlier this month because of Tropical Cyclone Clare, and Woodside Petroleum stopped oil production at its Legendre field as the new cyclone approached.

"We're hearing that the cyclone has slowed, which means it could intensify," a Rio Tinto spokesman said. Daryl is now headed for the town of Karratha in the Pilbara region, near Rio Tinto's ports from where the miner ships millions of tons of iron ore to Asia.

As well as damaging harbors and flooding roads and railways, cyclones in the region can bring massive floods which delay production from Australia's lucrative iron ore fields.

Cyclone Daryl, which was 120 kilometers west of Broome at 0400 GMT, is expected to strengthen Friday night and hit the Western Australian coast Saturday morning local time, bringing "damaging waves and dangerous flooding", Australia's weather bureau said.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>BEETHOVEN</i>	passenger	FRA	—	176	—	2004	Grounded near Einod, River Danube, in lat 49 16N, long 07 20E, Jan 8. Oil tank torn open. Water ingress controlled. Arrived Vilshofen next day.
<i>CAPE BRADLEY</i>	chem/oil carrier	MHL	NV	25,108	35,159	2004	In collision with general cargo <i>Star Herdla</i> , in dense fog, in lat 50 46.5N, long 01 23.6E, Jan 12.
<i>CRYSTAL ORCHID</i>	refrig	MLT	GL	10,530	10,819	1979	Arrived at Balboa Jan 3 with machinery problems. Presently berthed at Rodman for repairs. ETC several days.
<i>DESH RAKSHAK</i>	crude oil tanker	IND	(IR)	61,978	113,918	2003	Made contact with the bottom while approaching Geelong Jan 4. Sustained holing to forepeak tank and port side water ballast tank. Discharged at Geelong and anchored off for temporary repairs.
<i>GREEN LIPARI</i>	ro-ro	ITA	RI	847	540	1967	Struck by passenger ro/ro <i>Palladio</i> while berthed at Lipari Jan 7. Sailed same day to Milazzo for class inspection. Inquiry underway.
<i>HAPPY BRIDE</i>	lpg	IOM	BV	4,693	5,950	1999	In collision Lpg Sigmagas in lat 47 16.2N, long 02 11.1W, while inbound Donges, Jan 4. Holed in port side and lost about 30 tons of fuel. Now at Donges. To drydock at St. Nazaire Jan 12. ETC 2.5 weeks.
<i>PALLADIO</i>	passenger	ITA		10,977	2,267	1989	Struck ro/ro Green Lipari while manoeuvring to berth at Lipari Jan 7. Inquiry underway.
<i>SAUNIERE</i>	bulker	CAN	LR	16,522	24,481	1970	Reported an eight inch crack in ballst tank No. 1 in lat 28 24.6N, long 70 49.54W, Jan 9.
<i>SEASPAN CHIEF</i>	tug	CAN	—	149	—	1967	While being towed by tug <i>Seaspan Chief</i> , grounded in lat 49 08N, long 123 49W, Dodd Narrows, near Ladysmith BC, Jan 6. Tugs on scene.
<i>SIGMAGAS</i>	lpg	ATG	BV	6,051	7,859	1998	While outbound from Donges Jan 4, had a rudder problem and collided with lpg <i>Happy Bride</i> . Holed in bulbous bow. Now at Donges.
<i>SKALVA</i>	general	LTU	LR	5,974	9,500	1985	Had fire in the hold at Gaspe Jan 4 caused by welding operations. CO2 system discharged and hatch covers closed overnight. To remain in Gaspe to refill CO2 system and deal with cargo. Surveyor on site.
<i>STAR HERDLA</i>	general	NIS	NV	32,744	46,580	1994	In collision with chemical/oil carrier Cape Bradley, in dense fog, in lat 50 46.5N, long 01 23.6E, Jan 12. To be towed to Boulogne due to temporary electrical failure.
<i>SUSANN</i>	general	VCT	GL	1,507	1,350	1979	Reported Jan 8 capsized and sank in lat 34 45N, long 11 50E, 80 miles off Sfax. All six crew rescued. Tug en route.
<i>TOR DANIA</i>	ro-ro	NIS	BV	21,481	15,600	1978	In collision with pontoon <i>Emsponton 7</i> being towed by tug <i>Ems Tug</i> , in dense fog, off Cuxhaven Jan 10. Sustained a hole 12 x 3m, two metres above the waterline. Entered Cuxhaven for inspection.

CONTENTS

Reports appear in alphabetical order under the following headings and relevant page number:

Marine, including Overdue & Missing Vessels	1
Seizures & Arrests	13
Pollution	14
Weather & Navigation	15
Earthquakes	21
Volcanic Activity	21
Political & Civil Unrest	22
Kidnappings	25
Labour Disputes	25
Awards & Settlements	27
Railway Accidents	28
Miscellaneous	28
Fires & Explosions	31
Aviation	34
Product Recalls	38
Port Conditions	38
Port Conditions charts	39

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ACBL 3247 (U.S.A.)

Santo Domingo, Jan 11 — Bulk *ACBL 3247*: The Dominican Port Authorities placed a wreck removal order on the sunken vessel. Following unsuccessful salvage attempts it was eventually cut in three parts by salvors Messrs. Resolve and dumped at sea on/around Sep 8. Subsequent to the wreck being removed, the port of San Pedro de Macoris, D.R., was reopened to normal traffic. — Lloyd's Agents.

AEGEAN BREEZE (Singapore)

Zeebrugge, Jan 11 — Fishing *Zwerver* is still at Ostend. Work was started on the vessel at the beginning of this year, however, it is not known at the moment when the work/repairs will be completed. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

AMT EXPLORER (U.K.)

London, Jan 6 — Pontoon *AMT Explorer* arrived Roscoff Dec 31 and sailed Jan 2.

London, Jan 6 — According to LMIU AIS tug *Letojanni* towing pontoon *AMT Explorer* was in lat 51 10 49.04N, long 01 53 49.23E, at 0349, today, speed 6.6 knots.

London, Jan 8 — Tug *Letojanni* towing pontoon *AMT Explorer* arrived Rotterdam Jan 7 from Roscoff.

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

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: The pilot at the helm of the New York Staten Island ferry *Andrew J. Barberi* when it crashed in 2003, killing 11 people, and the city's former ferry director, were given jail terms in New York today. Assistant Captain Richard Smith, who passed out in the pilot's house of the *Andrew J. Barberi* after taking medication with drowsy side effects, was sentenced to 18 months in prison. The former ferry director, Patrick Ryan, was also sentenced to one year and one day in jail on related charges of negligence. A probation official had recommended that the pilot, Richard Smith, get three months in prison and Ryan get six months. Last month, a federal investigator recommended that Smith and Ryan receive sentences of less than one year, far below sentencing guidelines. Victims and relatives of those who died got a chance to speak this afternoon before the sentences were announced. During the court hearing, Smith offered an impassioned apology in a statement to the court. Ryan also apologized to the families before he was given the jail terms. Eleven people died, and more than 70 were injured when the vessel ran into a concrete maintenance pier at full speed at the St. George Terminal in Staten Island in October

of 2003. It was the worst accident in the Manhattan-Staten Island ferry service's 100-year history. Since the crash, more than 200 people have sued the city which, without a cap, could face up to billions of dollars in damages.

ANNA (NIS)

London, Jan 6 — Vehicle *Anna* arrived Nagoya Dec 29 from Gamagori.

ANNTORO (Norway)

Trondheim, Jan 6 — General cargo *Anntoro*: Kvernhusvik Shipyard, at Hitra, inform that there is still no decision regarding possible repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

APL PANAMA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Salvage crews working to float c.c. *APL Panama* are planning their next attempt when bimonthly high tides hit the region around Jan 14. The first step involves lightening the vessel's load by removing more than 10,000 tons of fuel and water from the ballast, according to a salvage plan presented to Ensenada port authorities by salvors Crowley Maritime Corp. Salvage workers yesterday assembled a flexible pipe that will be suspended by cable to the container ship and connected to its bunkers to transfer its viscous fuel to tanker trucks, which will transport the fuel to Ensenada for storage. Yesterday, workers were assembling sections of flexible pipeline that will be stretched to the ship so that the fuel can be removed. The fuel will be placed inside rubber bladders onshore and then hauled away over land, workers said. With high tides, a lighter load, six tugs and two 300-ton pulleys pulling the vessel there is a "good possibility" that *APL Panama* can be refloated, according to the salvage company's report, said Carlos Manuel Jauregui, the Ensenada port director. If that effort fails, the next attempt would be at the end of the month, when tides are higher again, according to the salvage plan. A barge and crane would be brought in to remove containers from the vessel, according to the plan. Ensenada's harbor master, Capt. José Luis Rios Hernandez, said yesterday that he had completed his investigation into the incident and has forwarded his report to the Secretariat of Communications and Transportation in Mexico City. An appointed expert will go over the information and issue an opinion, Rios said. Rios would not discuss his findings, saying the information remains confidential until the opinion is released. The beach alongside the vessel, just south of the port of Ensenada, was a flurry of activity yesterday. Salvage workers have set up a staging area, and a powerful Sikorsky Sky Crane helicopter, carried equipment from National City, where the marine

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contractors, R.E. Staite, have been a logistics centre for the floating effort. "For the past week we've been working two shifts, unloading cargo that's been coming in by truck from various points in the United States," said the company's president, Ray Carpenter.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: C.c. *APL Panama* remained stranded as efforts got underway to pull the ship away from the beach today in Ensenada. Six tugs began pulling on the ship early this morning during a high tide and salvage crews were able to move the front of the vessel about 10 degrees toward the ocean and away from its original position. (See issue of Jan 9.)

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: For the first time since c.c. *APL Panama* ran aground, its bow moved a few feet yesterday as six tugs pulled on it with a combined 40,000 horsepower. Working in predawn darkness, salvage crews from Titan Maritime LLC launched their greatest effort yet to refloat the vessel, taking advantage of lunar high tides, a lightened load and new equipment brought down from the United States. The bow's bulb, which was mostly buried, is now clear. The task promises to be arduous. Yesterday's effort moved the bow 10 degrees toward open water, said Michael Mallin, a London-based attorney working for Titan and its parent company, Crowley Maritime Corp. Two tugs broke lines as they pulled. Crews are expected to continue working over the next couple of days during morning high tides. If the plan fails, salvage workers will consider two other strategies. Tons of machinery and equipment already have been carried down by helicopter from National City, where the marine contractor R.E. Staite Engineering Inc. has been a U.S. staging area for the operation. Powerful hydraulic pullers are ready to be sent down, together with a 470-foot anchor chain that weighs more than 39,000 pounds. The load has been lightened in recent days as more than 2,000 tons of fuel has been removed and taken away by tanker trucks, but an additional 1,000 tons remains in the vessel's fuel tanks, Mallin said. Capt. Jose Luis Rios Hernandez, Ensenada's harbour-master, said government officials are growing increasingly concerned about the strain on the hull and the possibility of a fuel leak. By today, they want all fuel off the vessel, Rios said. The operation is a delicate balancing act. If the effort is successful, the vessel could be afloat by this weekend. But if it fails, the hydraulic pullers will be flown down to augment the power of the tugs later this month. The last resort would involve removing the containers, "but it's not easy discharging the cargo in that surf, and it's something we'd like to avoid if we can," Mallin said.

London, Jan 12 — C.c. *APL Panama* remains stranded as efforts got under way to pull the vessel away from the

beach at Ensenada, Mexico. Six tugs have begun pulling on the vessel at high tide and salvage crews were able to move to bow about 10 degrees toward the ocean and away from its original position on Tuesday (Jan 10).

ARAHURA (New Zealand)

Wellington, Jan 11 — Passenger ro/ro *Arahura* may never have lost power as it neared the narrow Tory Channel entrance if a more qualified engineer had been in the control room, an investigation has found. The vessel suffered a complete lack of propulsion on Apr 24 last year, with 676 people on board, after battling high winds and mountainous seas in the Cook Strait. Emergency services were put on full alert while the it limped into Picton under tug escort more than three hours late. A Transport Accident Investigation Commission report issued today attributed the breakdown to a faulty cylinder head stud, which allowed combustion gas to enter a closed water cooling system for the main diesel generators. All four propulsion motors stalled when power was available from only one diesel generator. When the sole engineer on duty in the engine room realised there was a problem, he alerted the chief engineer and advised the master not to enter the channel. The master acted to prevent the vessel from getting any closer to the rocky shore and called for its sister ship *Aratere* to stand by in case the situation deteriorated. The chief engineer and other crew members followed procedures and worked efficiently to identify the problem and restore power. However, had a more senior or qualified engineer been in the engine room during such a critical phase of the crossing, the signs might have been recognised and the problem rectified or isolated faster, preventing the loss of all four motors. The investigation did not make any safety recommendations as the Interislander had since ordered that the chief engineer be in the engine room when a ship was in pilotage waters and had carried out a number of maintenance procedures.

ARCTIC SUN NO.1

Freeport, Bahamas, Jan 11 — Barge *Arctic Sun No.1* and its tug *Arctic Circle* still remain in Freeport harbour. No repairs have commenced on the barge as far as we know and the owners plans remain unclear. — Lloyd's Agents.

ARCTIC SUNRISE (Netherlands)

See *Nisshin Maru*.

ARKAIM III (Cambodia)

London, Jan 10 — General cargo *Arkaim III* arrived at Sovetskaya Gavan on Jan 8.

ATLANTIS (Germany)

Hamburg, Jan 12 — Ferry *Atlantis* is still undergoing repairs, which are now estimated to be finalised by the end of March / beginning of April. — Lloyd's Agents.

BANGA BORTI (Bangladesh)

Karachi, Jan 10 — C.c. *Banga Borti* (7017 gt, built 1984), with 500 containers, ran aground in the River Karnaphuli, in Bangladesh yesterday, due to silting in the mouth of the river. According to local media reports, it was supposed to enter the Karnaphuli channel from the outer anchorage to dock at the Chittagong port, but failed as it ran aground. *Banga Borti* is waiting for the next high tide in the hope of freeing itself. The area where the ship is marooned was declared a safe zone by the port authorities, the vessel's master said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jan 10 — HRC Shipping Ltd of Bangladesh said this afternoon that its c.c. *Banga Borti* has been successfully refloated from River Karnaphuli channel and berthed at Chittagong port today. — Lloyd's List Correspondent. (See also "Bangladesh" under "Weather & Navigation.")

BARGE SUNK, EAST RIVER, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 10 — A press report, said, the barge would have righted itself after the cargo rolled off. It did not, which, he said, indicated a leak in the air compartment below the deck of the barge that normally keeps it afloat. Jim Cornell, managing director of the New York Cross Harbor Railroad, which owns the barge, said that so far as he knew, the barge, the first one to sink in the company's 50-year history, had been in good repair. "We don't have the authoritative report on what transpired," he said. Even if the worst should occur and the containers should burst as they are being brought up from the bottom, an environmental disaster is still considered unlikely.

London, Jan 10 — Following received from Coast Guard New York, timed 1200, UTC: It is believed that the barge that sank in the East River is not named.

BEETHOVEN (France)

London, Jan 12 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: River Danube passenger *Beethoven* (length 110 metres, launched Apr 29, 2004) ran aground, with 114 British passengers, close to the Bavarian town of Einod (lat 49 16N, long 07 20E) on the River Danube, at 1900, Jan 8. A 75-ton-oil tank was torn open and the machinery threatened to fail. Rescue forces were alerted for an evacuation of passengers and the 34 crew, but the crew succeeded in controlling the water ingress. The vessel reached Vilshofen shortly after midnight.

BERIT (U.K.)

London, Jan 6 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1020, UTC: C.c. *Berit* could not carry out inspection following grounding due weather conditions in area so has vessel proceeded to Rostock to carry out an inspection.

London, Jan 10 — C.c. *Berit* arrived Rotterdam Jan 7.

Berlin, Jan 11 — C.c. *Berit* arrival Rostock 2110, local time, Jan 5 from St.Petersburg. Vessel departed 1000, local time, Jan 6, for Rotterdam. After the vessel ran aground an inspection was carried out by Germanischer Lloyd. — Lloyd's Agents.

BETTY CUTHBERT (Australia)

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The NSW opposition wants an independent safety review of Sydney Ferries after the latest collision involving ferry *Betty Cuthbert* (built 1991) on Sydney Harbour. A ferry that had been taken out of service after losing power to an engine crashed into an unoccupied moored cabin cruiser while en route to a shipyard for mechanical checks. No one was injured but the cabin cruiser was damaged in the accident, which happened as the RiverCat *Betty Cuthbert* was on its way to a Balmain shipyard. At least four Sydney Ferries hit wharves last year and the organisation's chairman and general safety manager resigned after a failure to follow crew drug-testing procedures after one of the accidents. Opposition Leader Peter Debnam said Premier Morris Iemma should commission an independent inquiry into ferry safety. He said the NSW Maritime Authority was failing to ensure ferries were safe and fit for service. "As long as the premier allows Sydney Ferries to continue on its wayward path, passengers' lives are at risk," Mr Debnam said. "It's time for the premier to show some leadership and commission an independent review into Sydney Ferries' disastrous management and dangerous safety record." Transport Minister John Watkins said the owners of the damaged cruiser would be compensated and there would be a full investigation into the accident. Mr Watkins defended Sydney Ferries' safety record, saying safety procedures had been overhauled, the engines of several ferries were being replaced. "There's a \$6.5 million program to improve safety in Sydney Ferries - it's our highest priority," he told reporters.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry *Betty Cuthbert* has struck a moored cabin cruiser shortly after a loss of power to one of its engines. *Betty Cuthbert* was on its way to a shipyard at Balmain for mechanical checks about 0810, AEDT, today when it had more difficulties after an earlier loss of power. It then struck the unoccupied cruiser near Spectacle Island. No one was injured in the incident, which is being investigated by maritime authorities.

BRITISH ENTERPRISE (U.K.)

London, Jan 10 — The grounding of a fully laden British chem./oil carrier *British Enterprise* off Istanbul has been attributed to an undetected shoal in its designated anchorage. The Marine Accident Investigation Report

into the December 2004 grounding of BP Shipping's *British Enterprise* in the anchorage at the western end of the Bosphorus revealed that a "localised reduction in water depth" was responsible for the incident, which delayed the vessel by 12 days but did not materially damage it. The vessel, which was taking a cargo of crude oil from Batumi to Agioi Theodori in Greece, had passed through the Turkish straits but requested an anchorage in order to load bunkers. It was when the vessel was leaving its assigned anchorage position that it grounded on a bank where the chart suggested a more than adequate depth might be found. Cargo and ballast were removed in a lengthy operation to refloat the vessel. The casualty investigators discovered that there had been two recent cases of grounding on this patch, neither of which persuaded the Turkish authorities to investigate the depths more closely. Anecdotal evidence pointed to other vessels having grounded, or at least having been made aware of the shallow patch, which could, it was suggested, have been caused by seismic activity in the area. However, no reports of the existence of the bank had been made to the Turkish authorities before the grounding of the *British Enterprise*. Following this incident, the authorities undertook a survey which confirmed the shallow water and published appropriate notices to mariners shortly afterward. The MAIB expressed concern as to why masters of ships had previously failed to report the discrepancies with their charts in this well-used anchorage.

CANALETTO (Italy)

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1305, UTC: Ro/ro *Canaletto* (482 gt, built 1968), in tow of tug *Facal Veinte*, Brindisi for Aliaga, for scrapping, no one on board, capsized in lat 36 55.1N, long 23 27E, yesterday. Tug remains in above position and *Canaletto* near position; still capsized.

CAPE BRADLEY (Marshall Islands)

See *Star Herdla*.

CARIBBEAN CLIPPER (Honduras)

See "Hurricane "Katrina"" under "Weather & Navigation".

CHEMTRANS RAY (Liberia)

London, Jan 12 — Product tanker *Chemtrans Ray* sailed from Reserve on Jan 7.

CHINA STEEL GROWTH (Taiwan)

See *Pilsum*.

CITY OF GLASGOW (Greece)

Limassol, Jan 5 — C.c. *City of Glasgow* (14050 gt, built 1978) contacted the Cyprus Port Authority Gantry Crane, which sustained damage, during berthing manoeuvre at Limassol port Jan 4. Vessel is due to sail this afternoon for Ashdod. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — According to

LMIU AIS, *City of Glasgow* reported in lat 34 38 36.48N, long 33 03 20.94E, at 1501, UTC, Jan 5, and ETA Ashdod today.)

CONCEL PRIDE (Nigeria)

Cadiz, Jan 5 — No change in the situation of product tanker *Concel Pride*. — Lloyd's Agents.

CORAL GEM (Malta)

London, Jan 12 — Bulk *Coral Gem* arrived Onsan Jan 5.

CP VENTURE (U.K.)

London, Jan 9 — C.c. *CP Venture* (55994 gt, built 2003) reported heavy weather damage to navigation lights and anchor windlass, Cabot Straits approaches, in lat 46 42.06N, long 56 34.11W at 1222, UTC, Jan 8. Vessel is continuing on to Montreal. (Note — *CP Venture* sailed Le Havre Jan 3 for Montreal.)

CRYSTAL ORCHID (Malta)

Balboa, Jan 11 — Ref *Crystal Orchid* (10530 gt, built 1979) arrived at Balboa at 1803 hrs, Jan 3, laden with bananas, reportedly with machinery problems. The vessel is now berthed at Rodman (adjacent to Balboa) for repairs, which are expected take several days. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Crystal Orchid* sailed from Guayaquil on Dec 31, bound for St. Petersburg.)

DAYANA (Cambodia)

London, Jan 10 — General cargo *Dayana* sailed from Vanino on Jan 3 for Masan.

DAYANA (Panama)

Santo Domingo, Jan 11 — Ro/ro *Dayana* was refloated by the local towing company Remolcadores Dominicanos S.A, and taken into the port of Santo Domingo, where it has since laid. Reportedly the vessel sustained only minor bottom damage and is detained pending payment for the refloating operation. — Lloyd's Agents.

DESH RAKSHAK (India)

Sydney, Jan 12 — Port Phillip Bay had "a lucky escape" from a major oil pollution incident last week, according to well placed sources, after a laden oil tanker hit the bottom while sailing under pilotage through the heads inbound for Geelong. Crude oil tanker *Desh Rakshak* (61978 gt, built 2003), owned by the Shipping Corporation of India, sustained holes in its forepeak tank and a water ballast tank on the port side. However, the vessel is double-hulled and none of its cargo tanks were breached. The vessel was drawing 11.6 metres, right on the limits of the shipping channel's depth restrictions. Lloyd's List DCN understands that rocks from the seabed have been found inside the two tanks. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau this morning confirmed that it was investigating the incident, which was understood to have occurred at about 0830 on Wednesday (Jan 4). Senior investigator Kit Filor

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said the investigation was still in its initial stages, but crew on board the vessel had detected water levels rising in the vessel's forepeak tank when the vessel arrived at the Melbourne anchorage. A diver was engaged to inspect the hull and discovered a hole forward of the collision bulkhead in the forepeak tank and another hole in No.6 port wing tank, a tank used for water ballast. The vessel sailed to Geelong on Jan 5 to discharge its cargo and then returned to the anchorage to undergo temporary repairs. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News. (Note — *Desh Rakshak* arrived Geelong Jan 5 and sailed Jan 10.)

DIVYA HEERA

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Cargo vessel *Divya Heera*, Porbandar for Calicut, cargo 350 tonnes soda ash, has sunk off Navi Bandar port near Porbandar. According to reports the ship developed a crack and started sinking in the early hours of Tuesday (Jan 3). However, the 12 crew members were rescued by nearby fishermen. The ship was owned by Dhiren Jasraj Goel, a resident of Porbandar town

DORIA (Germany)

London, Jan 9 — C.c. *Doria* was still at Eldock, Durban, today.

DREAMER I (Panama)

London, Jan 9 — A press release from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated Jan 6, states: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency prosecuted the master of general cargo *Dreamer I* (1999 gt, built 1983) in Plymouth Magistrates Court following an incident in the vicinity of the Sandettie Bank in the Dover Strait on Jan 1. Yuriy Moskalenko, aged 40 from the Ukraine, pleaded guilty to a breach of section 58 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 (conduct endangering ships, structures or persons). He was fined £2,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1,500. The Panamanian registered coaster *Dreamer I* had left Kings Lynn on Dec 31 with a cargo of scrap. The vessel was bound for Plymouth to load bunkers before heading on to Spain. At about 0530 on Jan 1 *Dreamer I* had reported into the Channel Navigation Information Service (CNIS). The vessel then entered the South West lane in the vicinity of the South Falls buoy on a southerly course. However, an expected alteration to follow the lane did not occur. Over the next hour the *Dreamer I* was seen to be making several large alterations of course in the Deep Water Route of the North East lane and the Sandettie Bank separation zone. The vessel then passed very close to the Sandettie Light Vessel on a southerly course. For the next 20 minutes the *Dreamer I* manoeuvred in the NE lane before finally settling on a westerly course. Throughout the incident attempts had been made to contact the *Dreamer I* however difficulties were experienced in understanding the vessel. *Dreamer*

I re-entered the South West lane at 0815 and resumed its passage to Plymouth. The whole incident lasted two and three-quarter hours. Owing to concerns about the *Dreamer I*, the UK Coastguard Emergency Towing Vessel *Anglian Monarch* and a French Coastguard Helicopter were dispatched to the vessel. It was claimed that the vessel had sustained a steering gear failure and that it was "safer" to continue steaming at four to seven knots rather than stopping the vessel while sorting out the problem. It was also claimed that there was a problem with the VHF radio on the *Dreamer I*, however there was a back up and several portable VHF radio available. The *Dreamer I* arrived at Plymouth on the afternoon of Jan 2. An investigation was commenced by the Enforcement Unit of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. In passing sentence the Magistrates said: "Obvious consequences of this incident could have been catastrophic, actions of others and good fortune meant that nothing happened." Spike Hughes, Dover Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre Manager, stated: "By carrying on as he did the Master of the *Dreamer I* placed his own vessel and other shipping at risk. He also nearly damaged a major navigational aid. Mechanical problems on vessels in the Dover Strait are not unknown. The best action in this case would have been to stop the vessel and inform CNIS of the problem."

EIDER (Hong Kong)

Balboa, Jan 11 — Bulk *Eider* remains in port under repair, with completion expected late January 2006. — Lloyd's Agents.

ELWOOD (Panama)

See under "Labour Disputes".

EMS TUG (Madeira)

See *Tor Dania*.

EUGENIA (Honduras)

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated Jan 7, states: After a fortnight of suspense over missing explosive-laden containers from general cargo *Eugenia*, an inspection of two containers revealed that the explosives were intact, news website dnaindia.com reported today. Mumbai Director-General of Police P.S. Pasricha said three out of the four containers were spotted by Navy divers and were brought ashore on Thursday (Jan 5). The containers were opened and inspected in the presence of senior officials from the Intelligence Bureau, Mumbai Customs and the Mumbai police on Friday evening. An inspection by experts confirmed that the containers contained gelatin sticks and other explosives meant for use by Indian Border Roads Organization for road construction in Afghanistan. Additional Commissioner of Police (South) Surinder Kumar said the last container would be inspected later. The search continues for the two remaining containers. The *Eugenia*

had gone missing after it left Mumbai for Afghanistan on Dec 22, with containers laden with explosives. However, the vessel returned after some days, without the explosive-laden containers. The crew said the vessel had run into rough weather. Up to five explosive laden containers were missing from the vessel. It had been reported that the crew said that they had lost the containers in bad weather.

EUGENIO (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Durban, Jan 5 — General cargo *Eugenio* is expected to complete repairs at the end of January. — Lloyd's Agents.

EURO FJORD (Norway)

Trondheim, Jan 6 — Kvernhusvik Yard, Hitra, now estimate to complete repairs to general cargo *Euro Fjord* by the middle next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

Trondheim, Jan 13 — Kvernhusvik Yard, Hitra, now estimate to complete repairs to general cargo *Euro Fjord* by the middle/end of next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

EXCELLENCE (U.S.A.)

Seattle, Jan 9 — Fish factory *Excellence*: Repairs said to be completed Jan 6. Reported to have departed Seattle Pier 91 on same date to return to Alaskan waters to resume trade. — Lloyd's Agents.

FIRST CARRIER (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Dar es Salaam, Jan 10 — General cargo *First Carrier* remains in the same position as to date and no effort has been made to refloat her or save the cargo on board. The government body responsible for sea and land transport have submitted a report to the Transport Minister and the government will then decide on the next step. As for the owners, no indication has been given on what they intend to do. — Lloyd's Agents.

FLINTERZEE (Netherlands)

London, Jan 11 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1022, UTC: General cargo *Flinterzee* (4368 gt, built 1997) experienced a turbo-charger breakdown at 0432, UTC, today and anchored in lat 53 07.6N, long 04 25.2E. A Coast Guard tug is presently proceeding to the vessel.

London, Jan 11 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1427, UTC: General cargo *Flinterzee* is still anchored, awaiting spare parts in order to effect repairs.

London, Jan 12 — General cargo *Flinterzee*, Tornio for Terneuzen, is now underway. According to LMIU AIS, the vessel was in lat 52 14 36N, long 03 31 53.4E, at 0949, UTC, today, course 203 deg, speed 6.4 knots.

FOWAIRET (Qatar)

Maassluis, Jan 10 — C.c. *Fowairet* is still at Schiedam under detention. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

FRYKEN (Netherlands Antilles)

Latvia, Jan 9 — General cargo *Fryken* completed repair works at 0330, local time, Jan 6. Vessel was expected same day to commence loading oil products in Riga with a destination of Western Europe. Repair works were carried out at Mangaly Shipyard. — Lars Krogius Baltic Ltd.

London, Jan 12 — General cargo *Fryken*, Riga for Rouen, passed Brunsbittel Jan 10.

FUNCHAL (Madeira)

London, Jan 6 — Passenger *Funchal* sailed Singapore Jan 2 for Semarang.

GREEN LIPARI (Italy)

Messina, Jan 8 — Ro/ro *Green Lipari* (847 gt, built 1967) while berthed at the port of Lipari at about 1115, local time, Jan 7, was struck by passenger ro/ro *Palladio* (10977 gt, built 1989), carrying passengers and vehicles from Naples, which was manoeuvring to berth in the port. Understand that the impact was quite violent but that no injuries were sustained by passengers of either vessel. Maritime Authorities are carrying out an inquiry into the collision. *Green Lipari* has not incurred any delays and *Palladio* was, a few hours later, allowed to sail to Milazzo to be inspected by class-surveyor. — Lloyd's Agents.

GRIFFON (Canada)

London, Jan 11 — Icebreaker/tender *Griffon* (2212 gt, built 1970) drifted aground in Montreal Harbour while exchanging lighted buoys for winter spars at 1406, EST, Dec 10. Vessel freed itself on first attempt using its bow thruster.

GU DRUN (Germany)

London, Jan 6 — According to LMIU AIS, product tanker *Gudrun* was still at Cuxhaven, in lat 53 51 48N, long 08 42 54E, at 1511, UTC, today.

Hamburg, Jan 9 — Product tanker *Gudrun* is still at the Mutzfeldtwerft dockyard in Cuxhaven. Repairs are expected to be completed within the next few weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

HAIL MARY II (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 9 — A Coast Guard New York press release, timed 1130, Jan 7, states: Salvage operations to raise the capsized fishing *Hail Mary II* from Shinnecock Inlet, Long Island, will commence at 1400 today. The vessel capsized in heavy seas shortly after 1700 Tuesday (Jan 3) while returning to port with 30,000 pounds of fish and 4,000 gallons of diesel fuel. The fuel remains contained and very little sheening has been reported. It remains 95% submerged about 50 feet from Shinnecock Inlet's western jetty. The salvage plan calls for *Hail Mary II* to be towed inshore today, then prepared to be hoisted by a barge-loaded crane tomorrow. It will then be taken to a commercial dock for dewatering. A Unified Command consisting of Coast Guard, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Town of Southampton,

Environmental Conservation Police, Sea Spill, and Sea Tow officials, was established Tuesday to monitor the salvage operations and prepare to recover any potential pollution. Gale force winds and heavy surf have prevented salvaging *Hail Mary II* until today.

HAPPY BRIDE (Isle of Man)

London, Jan 5 — Following received from Etel MRCC, timed 1500, UTC: Lpg *Sigmagas* (6051 gt, built 1998), outbound Donges, in ballast, had a rudder problem and was in collision with Lpg *Happy Bride* (4693 gt, built 1999) bound Donges, cargo 4,856 tons butane, in lat 47 16.2N, long 02 11.1W, at 1920, UTC, yesterday. Lpg *Sigmagas* was holed in bulbous bow and *Happy Bride* was holed on port side and as a result lost approximately 60 tons of fuel. Both vessels are now at Donges port.

London, Jan 6 — The French authorities said last night that a collision between two liquefied petroleum gas carriers, Lpg *Happy Bride* and Lpg *Sigmagas*, at the Donges oil terminal, on the River Loire, at 2020, local time, Jan 4, had produced only "slight pollution." Officials at the sub-prefecture in Nantes said the collision had caused a spill of not more than 30 tonnes of heavy fuel, which had created a slick five or six kilometres long, between the terminal and the estuary of the Loire. They added there was no danger of the pollution worsening, after the launch of an anti-pollution plan by Nantes Saint-Nazaire port authority. The collision occurred after *Sigmagas* experienced steering problems after leaving its berth in front of the Total oil refinery at Donges. It collided with *Happy Bride*, which was coming into port with empty cargo tanks. It is understood one of its fuel tanks was breached by the bulb of *Sigmagas*. A French navy vessel was due on site yesterday, to start pumping the spilled oil, but port activity, which was stopped for a time, had resumed.

Nantes, Jan 10 — Lpg *Happy Bride* is now gas-free and is due to dry-dock at St. Nazaire on Jan 12 for repairs, which are expected to take 2.5 weeks. Lpg *Sigmagas*, which sustained bow damage and has a full cargo of butane on board, is currently awaiting instructions from the authorities. Operations are currently under way to clean up the spilled oil, which is thought to be around 30 cubic metres. — Lloyd's Agents.

HIZZONER (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 6 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1420, UTC: Fishing *Hizzoner* (54 gt, built 1970), official No.525681, was engulfed in flames in lat 41 48.9N, long 70 06.4W, at 1150, UTC, today. The two persons on board were rescued safely. The vessel was last reported to be still on fire.

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated Jan 7, states: Fire broke out in the engine-room of fishing *Hizzoner*,

Jan 6, causing the vessel to sink, said Coast Guard spokeswoman Kelly Turner. The two crew members sent out mayday calls and attempted to fight the fire. The men then put on survival suits and abandoned ship on a life raft at about 0655, Turner said. Neither one was injured. The fire triggered a large explosion and the vessel quickly slipped under the water. The survivors were transferred to a Coast Guard rescue boat shortly after and were taken to the Coast Guard's Cape Cod station. The cause of the fire was unknown. The Coast Guard is investigating the incident, Turner said.

JAGUAR (Poland)

Gdynia, Jan 5 — As of Dec 31, tug *Jaguar* was reported to be still undergoing repairs at Gdynia. — Correspondent.

KAMOE EXPRESS (Panama)

Freeport, Bahamas, Jan 11 — The salvors of general cargo *Kamoe Express* had abandoned their efforts late last year due to weather considerations, but now have advised, as follows: "The salvors have very recently resumed their salvage efforts and have removed some 8,000 concrete blocks from the vessel's cargo hold. They are presently awaiting repairs to a large capacity pump at which time they will commence pumping out the sea-water that has accumulated in the hold. They will also endeavour to get one of the deck cranes running and further lighten the cement block cargo." In summary, therefore, the vessel remains at its stranded location on the beach at Paradise Island, Nassau, apparently abandoned by owners, and being removed by the Nassau pilots, as a civil service. — Lloyd's Agents.

KARIBA (Bahamas)

London, Jan 6 — A US court has ruled that OT Africa Line's c.c. *Kariba* was fully to blame for the collision which sank vehicle *Tricolor*, leaving several thousand luxury cars at the bottom of the English Channel, on Dec 14, 2002. Nevertheless, insurers of the vessel face a long wait before being reimbursed for the loss of *Tricolor* and wreck removal operation. While the US judge decided *Kariba* was at fault, a Belgian court will determine compensation payments. Further delaying final settlement is the prospect of an appeal in the US by the owners of *Kariba*. Lawsuits brought in Antwerp will not proceed until a surveyor appointed by the court, to produce a factual account of the accident, has delivered the report. *Tricolor* was valued at \$22m, while the cost of clearing the wreck from the middle of a busy sea lane is thought to have exceeded \$50m. When taking into account the lost cargo, legal fees, oil pollution clean-up, and other expenses associated with the accident, Wilh Wilhemsens's claims director, Ivar Brynildsen, estimates that the total bill could top \$200m. The US case was brought by the owners of

Kariba and sought to limit liability for the lost cargo. That brought the *Tricolor* and a third vessel, bulk *Clary*, into the frame. In the US District Court for the Southern District of New York, Judge Harold Baer, concluded that the cause of the collision "was the sole and exclusive fault of the 'Kariba'", *Tricolor* and *Clary*, a bulk carrier in the vicinity, "share no portion of liability for the collision." The accident occurred in December 2002, when *Kariba*, *Tricolor* and *Clary* were navigating in the Channel traffic separation scheme, north of Dunkirk. Visibility was restricted by fog. *Tricolor* was in the process of overtaking *Kariba* approximately half a mile off the container vessel's starboard quarter. When *Kariba* and *Clary* were about three miles apart on intersecting courses, *Kariba* made a turn to starboard and hit the port side of *Tricolor*. There were no casualties. Legal counsel for the owner of *Kariba*, Otal Investments, argued that the vessel was boxed in by *Clary* and *Tricolor*, and that the two vessels were at least partly to blame. According to the US court, proof at trial showed that the master of *Kariba* had misread the Automatic Radar Plotting Aid and believed *Clary* was closer than it was. At trial, the master also testified that he could have slowed down and avoided a collision, but ruled out this course of action for fear of another collision if *Clary* turned to starboard astern of *Kariba*. Although the judge found that the second officer of *Clary* had failed to answer a distress call, his actions had no bearing on the inquiry into who was responsible for the collision. The judge said that while it was true *Clary* could have turned to starboard earlier, and *Tricolor* could have given *Kariba* more sea room, "the failure to do these things cannot be said to have caused the collision". He found that "the sole and exclusive cause of the collision was the turn to starboard of *Kariba*". Christen Guddal, vice president of claims at Gard P&I that insured *Tricolor* for liabilities, said the club "had received the judgment and taken due note of it." John Kimball, chairman of Healy & Baillie, which acted for the owners of the *Kariba* said yesterday: "We are dissatisfied by the court's decision, which is based on numerous errors of fact and law. We will be pursuing our client's right to appeal." Although *Kariba* has settled cargo claims, these are continuing in the US against *Clary* and *Tricolor*, and the legal team of *Kariba* is pursuing a claim for damage to the vessel against *Clary*. The operator of *Kariba*, Otal, has just been sold by the Bolloré group to CMA CGM, but liability is thought to stay with the original owner. Lawyers said yesterday it was unclear whether the Belgian courts would accept the US judgment on which vessel was to blame, or hear the facts again before making financial settlements. The fact that Belgium has jurisdiction over the wreck removal is a serious

consideration as shipowners cannot limit liability for the raising of wrecks.

KENTUCKY HIGHWAY (Japan)

London, Jan 10 — Vehicle *Kentucky Highway* arrived Santos Dec 26 and sailed Dec 27.

KLEINE FAMILIE (France)

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Chem.tank *Sichem Pandora* (6544 gt, built 1994) has been impounded and its master questioned following the sinking of French trawler *Kleine Familie* off the Alderney coast. *Sichem Pandora* is thought to have been in the area where *Kleine Familie* disappeared yesterday. The chemical carrier was on its way from Tunisia to the Netherlands with 15 people on board, when it was escorted to Dunkirk by French Maritime Police. The search for five missing fishermen has now been called off. A French naval minesweeper is continuing to look for wreckage on the sea bed, which is 200ft deep in the area near the Casquets reef where the 50ft wooden trawler sank in the early hours of yesterday morning. French authorities had earlier said *Kleine Familie* had probably been involved in a collision. Yesterday's major air and sea search included French coastguards, military craft, lifeboats from Alderney and the Channel Islands Air Search plane. A criminal investigation is now also under way, led by BEAmer, the French marine accident authority. (Note — *Sichem Pandora*, Sfax for Flushing, passed Gibraltar 0331, Jan 1.)

London, Jan 9 — An Eitzen Group products tanker was diverted to the port of Dunkirk by the French judicial authorities at the weekend as part of efforts to trace a vessel they believe collided with a fishing vessel in the English Channel last Thursday (Jan 5), leading to the disappearance of five of its six crew members. Chem.tank *Sichem Pandora*, one of a number of vessels identified as having been in the area at the time, was diverted after investigators discovered it had effected a sharp change of direction at about the time of the accident. The vessel was travelling under ballast from Sfax in Tunisia to Vlissingen in the Netherlands. The Cherbourg prosecutor said the crews of other vessels would be questioned as they arrived in port. Eitzen said on Friday that it had no more information than had been published but had sent a shipping superintendent aboard the vessel. Discovery of debris at the scene led investigators to assume that the 14.4 m trawler *Kleine Familie*, from Cherbourg, had been the victim of a collision. This theory was confirmed by the crew member who was recovered aboard a liferaft. He said he was woken by a loud crash and emerged from below to find the deck already under water and a vessel towering above the vessel "like a mountain". "The cargo ship continued

on its route and we sank in five minutes," he said. The alarm was raised when a Dutch vessel spotted a flare 45 km west of the Cap de la Hague, not far from Cherbourg. A number of vessels and aircraft went to the scene but found only the liferaft with a single crew member on board.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated Jan 8, states: Samples of green paint from chem.tank *Sichem Pandora* are being compared with those from the wreckage of trawler *Kleine Familie*. A mini-submarine found the trawler on the sea bed yesterday, and French officials said that evidence suggested it had suffered a strong impact. *Sichem Pandora* has been held in Dunkirk since Friday. The Cherbourg procureur Michel Garrandaux said the crew of the Maltese cargo ship felt no impact. The investigation into the sinking is being led by BEAmer, the French marine accident authority. The trawler was found on the sea bed near the Casquets reef.

London, Jan 10 — Eitzen Group chief executive Axel C. Eitzen was due in the French port city of Dunkirk yesterday evening to assist investigators who believe that one of the group's products tankers, *Sichem Pandora*, may have been involved in a fatal collision with French trawler *Kleine Familie*. Mr Eitzen was making the journey with Claus Thornberg, managing director of the group's ship management subsidiary, Tesma Holding, which announced on Saturday (Jan 7) that the *Sichem Pandora* had been cleared of involvement in the accident following a thorough inspection of its hull by divers. Its 15 Russian and East European crew were also reported to have told investigators that they had not heard any impact while the vessel was in the area off Cherbourg where the accident occurred. Subsequently, the prosecutor in charge of the investigation into the accident contradicted the company's statement, saying that there was a "presumption" that the vessel had been involved in the accident following the discovery of green paint marks over a ten metre area of its hull below the waterline. Tesma acknowledged yesterday that it had agreed to allow the vessel and its crew to remain in Dunkirk at the request of the French authorities. It said that Mr Eitzen and Capt Thornberg had decided to go to Dunkirk to be "on site to provide whatever assistance is needed to reveal the actual circumstances leading to the unfortunate sinking of the French trawler *Kleine Familie*, including any possible involvement of the *Sichem Pandora*." The Malta Maritime Authority said yesterday that the Maltese Minister of Mommunications, Censu Galea, had ordered a preliminary inquiry into the accident to establish if the *Sichem Pandora* had been involved. It said that the inquiry could lead to a formal investigation by the courts.

London, Jan 10 — Suspicion that the Eitzen Group chem.tank *Sichem Pandora* was involved in a multi-fatality collision last week with trawler *Kleine Familie* intensified yesterday evening after a prosecutor announced that paint on its hull was “chemically” indistinguishable from that used on the fishing vessel. The green paint, comparable in colour to covering the hull of the fishing vessel, was discovered by divers along a 10 metre length of the tanker’s hull in the course of an inspection at Dunkirk last week. It was sent to a police laboratory for analysis, the results of which were announced yesterday evening by Cherbourg public prosecutor Michel Garrandaux, who is in charge of the French judicial investigation. Mr. Garrandaux added that, apart from the green paint on the hull of *Sichem Pandora*, orange paint found on debris from the fishing vessel was undistinguishable from that used on the hull of the tanker. “We have therefore serious elements permitting to establish that the vessel is indeed involved in this collision,” he said, adding that the Maltese authorities had asked the French judicial authorities not to allow the tanker to leave Dunkirk.

London, Jan 11 — Eitzen Group chief executive Axel C Eitzen accepted yesterday that chem.tank *Sichem Pandora* (Malta flag, not Singapore as before reported) had been in “contact” with the sunken French trawler *Kleine Familie*, but said that it was still too early to say what had happened between the two vessels. Speaking from the French port of Dunkirk, where the *Sichem Pandora* is still immobilised. “What we can say is that we have paint marks coming from the *Kleine Familie* so they have been in contact with the vessel somehow. Exactly how, it is still too early to say.” He said that the *Sichem Pandora* had been under the control of the chief officer at the time the fishing vessel is believed to have sunk with the loss of five of its six crew at about 0900 last Thursday (Jan 5), some 45 kms off the port of Cherbourg. All navigational and communication equipment had been working and watch was being kept on the bridge by two crew members. “They did not see an echo or lights,” he said. “They did not notice any impact.” He explained the sudden change of course of the *Sichem Pandora*, which was registered by the French authorities, by the presence of what the crew had taken to be a fishing buoy in front of the vessel. “They moved the navigator to starboard to avoid the light and passed on the port side,” he said. French investigators were continuing to question members of the vessel’s 15-member, mainly Russian, crew yesterday, Mr Eitzen said. He said that the crew had been “devastated” by what had happened and discounted the possibility of a cover-up by them. “It is very much against our policies and against all our routines,” he said. “We try to avoid accidents but, when

they do happen, we participate fully in search and rescue.” Meanwhile, P&I and hull and machinery insurers were on site, he said, as were the company’s lawyers. He added that he himself would be staying in Dunkirk until the situation had been clarified. “We are doing everything we can to assist the investigation and are making everything available to the necessary authorities,” he said. “We are participating with our best efforts to find out what happened.” On Monday evening, Cherbourg prosecutor, Michel Garrandaux, confirmed that green paint marks found below the waterline on a 10 m length of the hull of the *Sichem Pandora* matched samples of paint taken from debris at the site of the sinking of the *Kleine Familie*. He added that orange paint found on the debris also matched that covering the hull of the tanker. “We have serious elements enabling to establish that the Maltese cargo vessel is indeed involved in this collision,” he said. No trace has yet been found of the five missing crew members of the *Kleine Familie* and the maritime prefecture in Cherbourg said yesterday that divers would not be able to search the wreck of the fishing boat, which is lying in 73 m of water, until tomorrow, and then only if weather permitted. In the meantime, the French navy is using a robot submarine to clear the wreck, which is entangled in ropes and fishing line, which made it impossible for divers to approach the vessel on Monday. The Malta Maritime Authority, which has flag state jurisdiction over the *Sichem Pandora*, has sent an enquiring officer to Dunkirk to lead its inquiry into the affair with the assistance of a master mariner. Executive director Lino Vassallo said yesterday that, on the basis of his findings, the Maltese court of magistrates would decide whether or not there was a case for prosecution before the criminal or civil courts.

KLICKITAT (U.S.A.)

Seattle, Jan 9 — Passenger ro/ro *Klickitat* completed repairs and returned to service Dec 26. — Lloyd’s Agents.

LECONTE (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 6 — Ro/ro *Leconte* arrived Angoon Jan 4 and sailed Jan 4.

LENKERAN (Azerbaijan)

See “Aktau, Kazakhstan” under “Pollution”.

LIDER TRABZON (Slovakia)

London, Jan 10 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0745, UTC: General cargo *Lider Trabzon* (2047 gt, built 1979) is reported aground in lat 38 02.55N, long 20 48.34E. Vessel has 11 persons on board. Ships in the vicinity are requested to maintain radio contact in order to render assistance, if necessary, reporting to Piraeus RCC. (Note — *Lider Trabzon*, Constantza for Marina di Carrara, was reported passing Istanbul, in a westerly direction, at 1300 hrs, Jan 6.) Piraeus, Jan 10 — General cargo

Lider Trabzon, Constantza for Italy, with 2,000 tons of steel coils, stranded at “Kakava” sea area, 1.2 nautical miles off Cephalonia island, yesterday. The winds prevailing in the area are reaching 7-8 on the Beaufort scale. All eleven crew members were reportedly healthy and secure. No pollution, damage, or ingress of water was reported. — Lloyd’s Agents.

London, Jan 10 — Lloyd’s Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: General cargo *Lider Trabzon*, Constantza for Italy, cargo 2,000 tonnes steel coils, grounded near Kakaba, Cephalonia, 1.2 nautical miles from the coast, yesterday evening. On board were 11 crewmembers who are in good health. Immediately the Coast Guard and antipollution stations of Zakynthos and Patras were alerted. Cephalonia Coast Guard despatched vehicles, a patrol boat and a Coast Guard salvage craft. The master of the vessel advised that there was no ingress of water as the vessel did not sustain any fractures, neither was pollution caused. Winds in the area are 7 Beaufort (near gale).

London, Jan 10 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1054, UTC: General cargo *Lider Trabzon* is still aground. A tug is proceeding, ETA on scene 1700, local time, today.

London, Jan 11 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0945, UTC: General cargo *Lider Trabzon* refloated by own means at approximately 0200 this morning and resumed voyage for Marina di Carrara.

MAGELLAN PHOENIX (Panama)

See under “Pollution”.

MAISTROS BREEZE (Hong Kong)

Buenos Aires, Jan 10 — Bulk *Maistros Breeze* remains at Tandano Port Terminal under repairs. — Lloyd’s Agents.

MARGARET (Georgia)

See “Italy” under “Weather & Navigation”.

MED INTEGRITY (Panama)

London, Jan 10 — Understand salvage services were rendered to bulk *Med Integrity* (26195 gt, built 1984), cargo 34,000 tonnes wheat, by Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd under Lloyd’s Open Form following grounding in River Parana Jan 5. Further understand the vessel was refloated Jan 6.

(Note — According to LMIU AIS *Med Integrity* was in lat 35 10 08.94S, long 56 42 42.78W, at 1515, Jan 7, speed 10.8 knots.)

piraeus, Jan 11 — Bulk *Med Integrity* is now under way to its destination port in Brazil. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

MICHEL (Netherlands)

London, Jan 11 — General cargo *Michel* sailed Rotterdam Dec 22, arrived St. Malo Dec 23 and sailed Dec 27.

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

MILLICOMA (U.S.A.)

Portland, Oregon, Jan 11 — Tank barge *Millicoma* has been rendered a constructive total loss. — Lloyd's Agents.

MISSISSAGI (Canada)

London, Jan 6 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1435, UTC: Bulk *Mississagi* was last reported underway bound Sarnia.

Troy, Michigan, Jan 7 — Bulk *Mississagi* was towed under the Bluewater Bridges and into the Sarnia Slip around 1930, Friday, (Jan 6). *Mississagi* lost its rudder in the St. Marys River earlier in the week. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News.

Toronto, Jan 11 — Bulk *Mississagi*: Sarnia Harbour-master advises that the vessel is laid up for winter. The vessel was on its way to Sarnia for the winter lay-up. There are no repairs underway at present. The harbour-master relayed the information that when the weather becomes better they will probably go and see if they can locate the rudder they lost and if possible have it fitted at that time, which will not be until Spring. Regardless, vessel is laid up for the winter. — Lloyd's Agents.

MOBBY DICK (Honduras)

Piraeus, Jan 12 — General cargo *Mobby Dick* remains in port at Rhodes, under detention awaiting class inspection. No information on repairs available. — Lloyd's Agents.

MOL RENAISSANCE (Liberia)

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated Jan 4, states: A fire started on c.c. *MOL Renaissance* on Dec 28, as it entered the Red Sea, heading towards the Suez Canal. The crew extinguished the fire which was located in the vessel's cargo hold No.2. The vessel deviated to Aqaba for damage inspections and as of today was awaiting berthing allowance outside Jordan territorial waters. The vessel's owners have declared general average and appointed Stichling, Hahn, Hilbrich of Hamburg as adjusters.

London, Jan 12 — A Senator Lines GmbH release, dated Suez Jan 10, states: C.c. *MOL Renaissance*, voyage 003 W, customer information No.1: To Shippers and Consignees of cargo booked/shipped under Senator Lines Bills of Lading: We were informed by the vessel provider Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL) that *MOL Renaissance* had a fire in its cargo hold No. 2 as the vessel had entered the Red Sea heading to Suez on Dec 28. The ship's crew extinguished the fire by using carbon dioxide and water. The vessel has deviated to Aqaba for damage inspections and is now waiting for berthing allowance outside the Jordan territorial waters. On Jan 3 the shipowners declared General Average. They appointed Stichling, Hahn, Hilbrich of Cyprus as average adjusters. As to our information, received by MOL, it is planned to discharge the damaged containers and

subsequently to resume the present voyage. We regretfully have no information about the damages sustained by the ship and cargo. Due to the uncertain berthing expectation we can presently not exclude further schedule deviations.

NAPOCOR POWER BARGE NO.106 (Philippines)

See "Tropical Storm 'Kajiki' " under "Weather & Navigation."

NISSHIN MARU (Japan)

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The Japanese whaling vessel *Nisshin Maru* (7,575 gt, built 1987) rammed Greenpeace vessel *Arctic Sunrise* (949 gt, built 1974) today in the Antarctic waters where Minke whales are being hunted, a spokesman for the environmental group said. No one was injured. Greenpeace expedition leader Shane Rattenbury said his vessel was carrying 25 people when it was rammed by *Nisshin Maru*, Greenpeace said the whaling ship was watching over activists onboard inflatable rafts as they painted the words "whale meat from sanctuary" on the side of a nearby Japanese supply vessel, shortly before the collision occurred. "At the time, we were over a kilometer from the *Nisshin Maru*," Rattenbury said. "There were no other vessels in the area and there was no reason to head towards the *Arctic Sunrise* was virtually stopped at the time. The Japanese Embassy was not immediately available for comment today. The *Arctic Sunrise* has been chasing Japan's whaling fleet in Antarctic waters for almost two weeks, hampering their hunt for 850 minke whales and 10 fin whales as part of Japan's scientific research programme.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Greenpeace said today it would continue hounding Japan's whaling fleet in Antarctic waters despite a damaging collision between the whalers and a protest ship. Greenpeace claimed a Japanese whaling ship deliberately rammed its yacht *Arctic Sunrise* yesterday, denting the ship's bow but causing no injuries. "No amount of bullying or intimidation will prevent us from defending the whales nor from broadcasting images of the kills to the world," expedition leader Shane Rattenbury said in a message posted on the group's Web site. Japan, however, blamed Greenpeace for the crash. Hiroshi Hatanaka, director-general of Japan's Institute of Cetacean Research, said the *Arctic Sunrise's* bow hit the side of fish factory *Nisshin Maru* twice. He said no crew members were injured, but he called for the environmental group to stop its "dangerous and criminal actions." "Greenpeace knows which part of the ship is strongest and which part of any other vessel is the weakest - we believe they deliberately rammed our vessel to prevent it from transferring cargo," Hatanaka said.

Arctic Sunrise has been chasing Japan's whaling fleet in the region for almost two weeks, hampering their hunt for 850 minke whales and 10 fin whales as part of what Japan says is a scientific research programme. Another environmental group, Sea Shepherd, also is chasing the whalers. The research whaling is permitted under the rules of the International Whaling Commission, but Australia and other anti-whaling countries say it is really commercial whaling in disguise. The ships sell the whale meat in Japan.

NSI NO.1

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry *NSI No.1*, carrying Caneel Bay Resort employees to Red Hook, St. Thomas, crashed into Steven Cay evening of Dec 30 (before reported Dec 31). There were 19 passengers and two crew members on board the vessel when it ran aground on the cay outside of Cruz Bay around 2100 hrs, according to the U.S. Coast Guard's public relations director for Puerto Rico and the U.S.V.I., Ricardo Castrodad. "We received a report from the chief ranger at St. John's National Park that the vessel ran aground at Steven Cay," he said. "It was traveling from St. John to St. Thomas and hit rocks about 30 yards north of the northern tip of Steven Cay." Three of the 19 passengers on board were transported to the Schneider Regional Medical Center on St. Thomas. The other 16 passengers were taken to the Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center, where they were treated for minor injuries. There was no reported pollution as a result of the accident. "The damage to the vessel was forward of the fuel tanks and there were no leaks reported," said Castrodad. "The vessel sustained a 12-ft crack around eight inches wide near the stern, but forward of the tanks." The ferry was refloated and transported by Sea Tow and Huskie Salvage to the Nanny Cay Marina for further assessment of damages. A navigational light on Steven Cay was operational at the time of the grounding and the weather was mild. The captain of the vessel passed field sobriety tests. The Coast Guard is launching an investigation into the accident, and the findings could take weeks, Castrodad added. "Most of the employees that I spoke to suffered from bumps and bruises," said Rik Blyth, managing director of Caneel Bay Resort. "A couple of the employees have to go back for checkups on their injuries, but everyone else seems to be doing fine."

OCEAN JEWEL OF ST. PETERSBURG (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Ocean Jewel of St. Petersburg* (12602 gt, built 1983) was supposed to bring thousands of people to St. Petersburg

every week. But mechanical problems and overwhelming debt forced owners to shut down. Although the vessel didn't have many passengers toward the end because of late schedules that stranded passengers, investors are lining up to purchase the vessel. As many as 20 people are set to participate in the auction today. *Ocean Jewel's* owners filed for bankruptcy Aug 1. But it wasn't until October when its fate would be publicly known. The Coast Guard ordered a safety overhaul, but the owners didn't have the million dollars to comply. Since then, the vessel has been sitting at Tampa's ship repair yard as owners owe \$70 million to more than 200 creditors. In its short time in the Bay area, the vessel gained notoriety for stranding passengers for several hours at a time. The ferry boats often experienced engine trouble, and worse, even collided with the John's Pass Bridge in Treasure Island. The vessel will likely operate in the future, but not in the United States. Some of the 20 bidders want to run the vessel in locations such as Singapore, Brazil or India.

OCEAN SOVEREIGN (U.K.)

London, Jan 6 — Following received from Riga MRCC, timed 0020, UTC: At 2340, UTC, Jan 5, on 2182 kHz, received a MayDay (distress) signal from fishing *Ocean Sovereign* (174 gt, built 1985), port number. BCK15, directed to Shetland Coastguard. Vessel was and still is taking in water in engine-room in lat 59 36N, long 03 37W. Four persons on board. Shetland Coast Guard broadcast a MayDay Relay requesting vessels within two hours of ETA to distress position to contact Shetland Coast Guard. (Note — Shetland Coastguard reported situation under control and *Ocean Sovereign* proceeding to port.)

London, Jan 6 — Following received from Shetland Coastguard MRSC, timed 0540, UTC: Fishing *Ocean Sovereign* is being escorted into Kirkwall harbour by Kirkwall lifeboat. Estimated time of arrival Kirkwall 0700, UTC. Pumps are dealing with the ingress of water.

London, Jan 6 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 0701, UTC: Fishing *Ocean Sovereign* arrived alongside at Kirkwall Harbour at 0658, UTC, today.

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The Buckie registered fishing *Ocean Sovereign*, with four crew on board, was escorted by a lifeboat into Kirkwall harbour this morning after taking in water around 25 miles north west of Noup Head, in Westray. Shetland Coastguard was informed of the incident at just before midnight and the Sumburgh based helicopter was scrambled with two pumps on board. Kirkwall lifeboat was also launched. Two other vessels, the fishing *Shalimar* and crude oil tanker *Petronordic* also offered help after the skipper of the *Ocean Sovereign*

relayed a Mayday signal, but their assistance was not needed. The Coastguard helicopter arrived at the scene at just after 0100 hrs and lowered the pumps on to the deck of the Buckie vessel. The lifeboat arrived 40 minutes later at 0152 hrs. As the pumps started working the Coastguard helicopter was released and the lifeboat started escorting the *Ocean Sovereign* to Kirkwall, where both vessels arrived at around 0700 hrs.

Kirkwall, Jan 10 — Fishing *Ocean Sovereign* sailed Kirkwall under its own power at 1540, Jan 6, bound for Aberdeen to effect repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORBIT (Belize)

See "Alleged Contaminated Cargo on Belize Vessel at Maputo, Mozambique" under "Miscellaneous".

OSTERBOTTEN (Isle of Man)

London, Jan 12 — Following navigation warning issued at 0748, UTC, Jan 11: General cargo *Osterbotten* (4185 gt, built 2002) has lost part of deckload, 25 nautical miles from Sorve peninsula, lat 58 11N, long 21 20E, this morning. (Note — According to LMIU AIS *Osterbotten* was in lat 58 03 37.32N, long 21 26 32.28E, at 0632, Jan 11, speed 10 knots, course 336 degrees.)

OVERSEAS COLMAR (Marshall Islands)

London, Jan 9 — Following received from the managers of crude oil tanker *Overseas Colmar*, dated today: *Overseas Colmar* arrived Changjian Dec 17 and is currently at a shipyard undergoing repairs, ETC mid-March.

OVERSEAS FRAN (Marshall Islands)

London, Jan 9 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1046, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Overseas Fran* is currently anchored in Kalundborg Fjord, and is discharging cargo on to crude oil tanker *Overseas Shirley* before proceeding to dry dock.

London, Jan 10 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1114, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Overseas Fran* has completed discharge and is currently under way to Rotterdam.

PALLADIO (Italy)

See *Green Lipari*.

PILSUM (Liberia)

London, Jan 12 — The Australian Transport Safety Bureau has issued a topical warning to vessels not to anchor too close to each other in the sometimes crowded anchorages off Australia's mineral ports. The warning came in a report on the collision of the German-owned bulk *Pilsum* with the Taiwanese bulk *China Steel Growth* off Newcastle on Jun 24 last year. The vessels were two of nine vessels anchored south of Nobbys Head when a strong southerly weather change of up to force eight passed through. The *Pilsum's* anchor watchkeeper failed to notice for 40

minutes that the vessel was periodically dragging its anchor, and had moved up to 1.5 cables. With the weather worsening, the alerted vessel's master decided to leave the anchorage and move offshore to drift instead. However, manoeuvring with rudder and engine to get the vessel into the wind and lift the anchor more easily brought *Pilsum* to within 40 metres of *China Steel Growth*, which had been lying nine cables north of *Pilsum's* anchored position. But even as *Pilsum* put on full ahead to avoid the collision, the vessel pitched heavily, with the main engine's overspeed trip shutting down the engine as the propeller cleared the water. *Pilsum's* main engine could not be restarted in time to reverse the drift down on to *China Steel Growth*, whose own crew were hurriedly walking out more anchor cable and running slow astern in an effort to make more room. The vessels made contact at 0939 hrs, then again at 0942 hrs. Shortly after, *Pilsum's* anchor cleared the water and the vessel was able to move away. Damage was superficial. The ATSB's report noted that *Pilsum* had arrived first and anchored further away from any neighbouring vessels, with *China Steel Growth* opting to anchor as close as it did. But an earlier response by *Pilsum* to the dragging anchor could have given her crew up to 40 minutes longer to get clear, it said. The vessel was also hampered by having to use the emergency engine controls, when the main controls had failed to work after the engine had been immobilised to draw a piston. The ATSB's main recommendation is that the Australian Pilot should stress that Newcastle does not have an all-weather anchorage, with large swells and conditions that can change very quickly. The port's VTIC noted that 11 other vessels also dragged their anchors off Newcastle the same morning, though none collided with another. "The notes in the Australia Pilot with regard to the anchorage off Newcastle would not necessarily raise any alarms with a master with little experience of the Newcastle anchorage," the ATSB's report said.

POLANA (Slovakia)

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated Jan 6, states: Tug *Polana*, which sank near the Romanian bank of the Danube River, just opposite Russe, will probably be dragged out of the waters soon. Romanian officials have started work on pulling the sunken *Polana*, which caught fire on Dec 19 last year, local Darik radio informed. The vessel held 42 tons of fuel oil in its tank and Bulgarian river shipping officials are on the alert to help their Romanian colleagues, if asked, at any time.

London, Jan 9 — Tug *Polana*, which sank near the Romanian bank of the Danube River, just opposite Rousse, will be refloated Wednesday (Jan 11). Special ropes are being placed to drag the ship out of the water. Experts say that the operation will be a difficult

one, but underlined that it will most probably be successful, as the ship has recently sunk. The Dutch company Multiship want the ship to be taken out intact. Bulgarian river shipping officials are on the alert to help their Romanian colleagues, if asked, at any time. So far as the vessel sank in Romanian territorial waters, Romania is in charge of securing and pulling out the ship.

Varna, Jan 11 — Reportedly preparations for lifting of tug *Polana* will commence today. The Dutch flagged floating crane *Cormoran* arrived on the scene at the end of last week in order to take part in the salvage operations, which will be directed by the Romanian Port Authorities and representatives of the Dutch insurers of the vessel. Underwater diving survey is presently underway. The port authorities and the Dutch insurers will decide on how to proceed with the matter and if the vessel should be cut in pieces before lifting. The place where *Polana* sank is a transit anchorage area and there is a serious danger of collision with other vessels. Up to now no traces of oil spillage from the vessel's fuel tanks have been observed as 42 tons of bunker diesel oil remain on board the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

RED WING (Liberia)

London, Jan 6 — Chemical/oil carrier *Red Wing* arrived Amsterdam Jan 4 and sailed Jan 5 for Dunkirk.

London, Jan 8 — Chemical/oil carrier *Red Wing* arrived Flushing Jan 6.

Gothenburg, Jan 10 — Prosecutors have decided to charge the master of chemical/oil carrier *Red Wing* with "negligence at sea" or possibly "negligence to assure the vessel was in a seaworthy condition" as it did not have the correct charts on board while passing through The Sound. The master has admitted the circumstances but denies liability. The master claimed he was forced to "take evasive action" to avoid a collision with fishing vessels, and claimed the Russian charts on board were adequate to carry out a safe passage through The Sound. The matter will be taken up in court later, and the vessel has signed a new master until further notice. — Westax Marine Services AB.

REDEEMER (U.K.)

Newhaven, Jan 10 — Salvage *Redeemer* is no longer at Newhaven port. — Newhaven Port & Properties Ltd. (Note — *Redeemer* was towed into Newhaven in September 2004 following engine problems. Vessel was subsequently detained and reportedly abandoned by its owners.)

REINE (Panama)

Santo Domingo, Jan 5 — Ro/ro *Reine*, renamed *Sea Mermaid*, is still in port since the pending payment has not been effected yet. Understand also that the vessel requires additional repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

RICKMERS GENOA (Marshall Islands)

London, Jan 11 — General cargo *Rickmers Dalian*, ex *Rickmers Genoa*, arrived Hamburg Jan 5.

RODSHER (Latvia)

London, Jan 9 — General cargo *Rodsher* sailed from Hansweert on Jan 5 bound for Riga.

SAFE CONCORDIA (Panama)

Melbourne, Jan 11 — Semi-sub HL vessel *Safe Concordia* departed Melbourne Dec 26 stowed on the deck of semi-sub HL vessel *Mighty Servant* bound for Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAUNIÈRE (Canada)

London, Jan 10 — Bulk *Sauniere* (16522 gt, built 1970) reported an eight inch crack in ballast tank number 1 in lat 48 24.06N, long 70 49.54W at 1655, EST, Jan 9.

SEASPAN 529 (Canada)

See *Seaspan Chief*.

SEASPAN CHIEF (Canada)

London, Jan 9 — Following received from Victoria BC RCC, dated Jan 8: A log barge that was being towed by tug *Seaspan Chief* (149 gt, built 1966) was holed by grounding in lat 49 06.88N, long 123 45.37W. The barge has three pumps on board to pump water off it.

London, Jan 10 — Barge *Seaspan 529* (866 gt, built 2004) while being towed by the tug *Seaspan Chief* (149 gt, built 1967) grounded in lat 49 08N, long 123 49W, Dodd Narrows near Ladysmith, BC at 0229, Jan 6.

London, Jan 10 — Following received from Victoria BC, RCC, timed 2045, UTC: *Seaspan 529* grounded Jan 6. Tugs on scene same day, SAROPS closed.

SICHEM PANDORA (Malta)

See *Kleine Familie*.

SIGMAGAS (Antigua & Barbuda)

See *Happy Bride*.

SILVA (Cambodia)

Esbjerg, Jan 5 — General cargo *Silva* is still in port at Esbjerg. — Lloyd's Agents.

SIR MICHAEL (Honduras)

St. Vincent, Cape Verde, Jan 10 — Anchor handling tug *Sir Michael* is still under arrest and we have no information regarding its release. — Lloyd's Agents.

SKALVA (Lithuania)

Montreal, Jan 5 — General cargo *Skalva* (5974 gt, built 1985) was discharging its deck cargo of windmill components and re-securing wood bundles that had shifted during the voyage from Europe, when a fire broke out in the hold. Pad eyes were being welded in the hold on Jan 4 and this was the cause of the fire. The CO2 system has been discharged and the hatch covers were kept closed overnight. The wood was destined for Jacksonville, USA. No details, as to

the damage, if any, to the vessel are available. It will remain in the port of Gaspe for several days to refill the CO2 system and deal with the cargo. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Skalva* arrived Gaspe on Jan 2, from Fredericia.)

Montreal, Jan 11 — Understand that the fire on board general cargo *Skalva* had not been extinguished as of earlier this week. A surveyor is presently on site. — Lloyd's Agents.

SKJOLDBORG (Malta)

London, Jan 11 — General cargo *Skjoldborg*, which lost power and anchored at Mile 51, River Mississippi, Dec 7, sailed New Orleans Dec 24 and is currently at Houston.

SOLIDOR 5 (France)

London, Jan 10 — Passenger *Solidor 5*, St. Nazaire for Lisbon, passed Cape Finisterre on Jan 7.

SONIA (Bahamas)

Port of Spain, Jan 11 — Understand passenger ro/ro *Sonia* has been trading between Port of Spain and Scarborough since Jan 21, 2005. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Sonia* was reported anchored at Port of Spain Jan 15, 2005, due to fuel pump problem caused by poor-quality diesel, and was believed still repairing Jan 21.)

SPERCHIOS (Liberia)

London, Jan 11 — Product tanker *Sperchios* arrived Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 4.

STAR HERDLA (NIS)

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0845, UTC: General cargo *Star Herdla* (32744 gt, built 1994) and chemical/oil carrier *Cape Bradley* (25108 gt, built 2004) were in collision off Boulogne at about 0715 today. *Cape Bradley* sustained a dent in her bow and has resumed voyage to Rotterdam. *Star Herdla* reported taking on water but no injuries on board. Extent of damage not known. Vessel is in lat 50 46.5N, long 01 23.6E. (Note — *Star Herdla* sailed Antwerp 2015, Jan 11 for Boulogne. *Cape Bradley* sailed Tuapse Dec 30 and passed Cape Finisterre Jan 10 bound Rotterdam and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 50 47 30.06N, long 01 25 13.98E, at 0851 hrs.)

London, Jan 12 — Grieg Billabong, managers of general cargo *Star Herdla* report that at approximately 0715, UTC, today, the vessel was in collision with chemical/oil carrier *Cape Bradley*, in dense fog, on its way into Boulogne. No injuries or pollution are reported from *Star Herdla*. Managers confirm that there is no ingress of water. Tug *Anglian Monarch* has been contracted to tow the vessel into Boulogne harbour as it has had a temporary electrical failure due to the collision. All the appropriate authorities have been notified.

STAVTANK (NIS)

London, Jan 6 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: At around 1200 today chemical/oil carrier *Stavtank* was passing Neumuhlen in Hamburg on the river Elbe, after having discharged its cargo, in tow of the tug *Constant*. There are rumours that the ship may be repaired at Norderwerft, Hamburg, but this is not yet confirmed.

London, Jan 9 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Chemical/oil carrier *Stavtank* will be repaired at Norderwerft in the Reiherstieg, Hamburg.

STEEL TRADER (Panama)

Curacao, Jan 9 — General cargo *Steel Trader* will need to go into dry dock for repairs. No date has been set for dry docking, as the vessel is waiting for spare parts to arrive. — Lloyd's Agents.

STEENBORG (Germany)

London, Jan 6 — General cargo *Steenborg* arrived Hamburg Jan 4 and sailed same day.

SUNNY BLOSSOM (Bahamas)

Hamburg, Jan 5 — As of Dec 31, chemical/oil carrier *Sunny Blossom* was still effecting repairs at Hamburg. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUSANN

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jan 8 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1705, UTC: General cargo *Susann* (1507 gt, built 1979) has capsized and sunk in lat 34 45N, long 11 50E. The six crew members that were on board have been rescued and a naval tug is bound for the scene.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Susann*, Spain for Sfax, cargo 1,500 tons of pottery and ceramics, sank off Sfax yesterday, but its six crew members were rescued, the Tunisian news agency reported. Tunisian marines and air force saved two Polish crew members who were briefly transferred to the Sfax hospital. The four other crew members, from Poland, Ukraine, Russia and Indonesia, were "out of danger," TAP reported without providing details. The sea was rough at the time, but the cause of the sinking was not immediately known, port officials said.

Tunis, Jan 9 — General cargo *Susann*, laden with 48 containers containing ceramic products, sank yesterday, 80 miles off Sfax. All six crew members on board were rescued by the Tunisian Navy — Lloyd's Agents.

Valetta, Jan 9 — Following received from Malta MRCC today: General cargo *Susann* sank within the Maltese search and rescue region during the night between Jan 8 and 9. The vessel transmitted an initial mayday at 1035, UTC, Jan 8 reporting that the vessel was in lat 34 45N, long 11 50E, and was listing 30 degrees to port and

had experienced electrical failure. Malta MRCC, Rome MRCC and the Tunisian navy all participated in the rescue operation which saw Tunisian navy assets rescuing all six crew members from a liferaft after they had abandoned ship. It is assumed that the vessel sunk. Weather conditions in the area were bad with force 7 (near gale) winds. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUSUQIAN NO. 498 (China)

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Cargo vessel *Susuqian No. 498* loaded with 260 tons of sulphuric acid capsized and sank in Yangtze River in the early hours of today. The vessel was transporting from Suqian City of east China's Jiangsu Province when it ran into reefs and sank with three people on board around 0340 today. The vessel capsized has not resulted in any deaths or contamination in the water due to a prompt rescue effort, according to the China Maritime Rescue Centre in Beijing. The China Maritime Rescue Centre soon organized a rescue team for rescuing the three people on board and containing pollution. An emergency mechanism has been launched in the locality to cope with the accident. One of the three people has been rescued and sent to hospital, and the two others remain missing. Three vessels from the local maritime affairs department are still searching for them. The sulphuric acid has not been leaked into the river so far, and the rescuing vessels have to brace themselves for lifting the sunken vessel out of the water, the rescue centre said.

SUSUQIAN NO.498 (China)

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated Jan 10, states: Sunken cargo vessel (*Susuqian No. 498*), loaded with 465 tons of sulfuric acids, was salvaged from the Yangtze River in east China's Jiangsu Province yesterday though two are still missing, local sources said today. The cargo vessel set off from Zhangjiagang City of the province on Saturday afternoon (Jan 7) and capsized in the early morning on Sunday near the second water supply plant of the city of Yangzhong. Three people were on board the vessel when it turned over but only one was rescued. The salvaged vessel was dragged to the water area near a garbage disposal place in Yangzhong at the lower reaches of the Yangtze to await neutralization. Little leakage of sulfuric acid was reported by Tuesday evening and an investigation into the cause of the accident is under way.

SUSUQIAN NO.498 (China)

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The sulphuric acids on a sunken cargo vessel (*Susuqian No.498*) in the Yangtze River have been transported safely to a chemical plant, though two people are still missing, rescuers said today. The sulphuric acids were pumped

from the vessel, which was salvaged and dragged to the water area 500 metres away from the accident site in Yangzhong of east China's Jiangsu Province, into two chemical cargo vessels at 1800, local time, Wednesday (Jan 11). The two vessels then sent the acids to a nearby chemical plant, while the sunken one was dragged to a repair shop. Rescuers said that the accident did not cause water pollution and the daily life of residents nearby was not affected. The vessel, with 465 tons of sulphuric acids, set off from Zhangjiagang City of Jiangsu Province on Saturday afternoon (Jan 7) and capsized in the early morning on Sunday near the second water supply plant of the city of Yangzhong. Three people were on board when the vessel sank but only one was rescued.

TAMBORA (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 3 — The Philippine Coast Guard is searching for a crew member who survived a fire that broke out on non specific tanker *Tambora*. The Coast Guard Manila station duty officer Petty Officer E. Disipulo said, we are trying to get hold of the crewman whose testimony could shed light on the mysterious fate of the *Tambora*. The crewman, whose identity is still unknown, was rescued by a fishing boat on Dec 31, 12 nautical miles off Marivelez, Bataan. The crewman, who had survived by clinging to a piece of wood, was suffering from dehydration and exhaustion, but was otherwise in good condition. The fishing boat returned to its home port at Naic, Cavite with the crewman. The crewman did not reveal his name but told his rescuers that his vessel had caught fire off Bataan. He also requested that his rescue not be reported to the Coast Guard. After recovering from his ordeal, the crewman left for his home in Laguna, south of Manila. After his departure, his rescuers reported his rescue to the Coast Guard. Although, the crewman did not identify himself, the circumstances of his rescue have led the Coast Guard to believe that he is one of the missing crewmen of the *Tambora*. Petty Officer Dipasupil said, that efforts to locate the crewman and take him into custody have so far been unsuccessful. The unidentified crewman is the only known survivor of the six-man crew. One body has been recovered but the rest are still missing. Earlier, the vessels owners had reported that the *Tambora* had left port without any authorization. This together with the crewman refusal to have his rescue reported has increased suspicions among authorities that the fire and the disappearance of the vessel was no ordinary accident. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TOR DANIA (NIS)

London, Jan 10 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: A Norwegian cargo vessel (rofro *Tor Dania*, 21481 gt, built 1978)

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

and a tug (tug *Ems Tug*, 159 gt, built 1958) collided in the German Bight off Cuxhaven this morning. The cargo vessel was damaged above the waterline. It was able to enter the port of Cuxhaven. The tug was also able to proceed under its own power. The cause of the collision is not yet known.

London, Jan 10 — Following received from Cuxhaven River Police, timed 0905, UTC, today: Ro/ro *Tor Dania* entered Cuxhaven, its destination, at 0900, local time, where it will be inspected by River Police following collision with tug *Ems Tug*.

London, Jan 10 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states Ro/ro *Tor Dania* in collision with tug *Ems Tug*: *Ems Tug* was carrying sections of a new building to the Meyer Werft in Papenburg, Ems, on a pontoon. One of the sections was pushed into the North Sea and has not been seen since. A research vessel is searching for the missing section. There is dense fog in the area. *Ems Tug* itself appears not to be damaged.

London, Jan 10 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: At 0012 hrs tug *Ems Tug* with pontoon *Emsponton 7* crossed the traffic lane between tons 1 and 3. Ro/ro *Tor Dania* passed between the tug and the pontoon and cut through the wire. The pontoon then collided with *Tor Dania* and tore a hole of 12 x 3 m 2 m above the waterline. The pontoon then lost a section with a length of 32 m and a beam of 16 and a height of 4 m. *Tor Dania* proceeded to Cuxhaven. *Emstug* reconnected to *Emsponton 7* at 0116 hrs and also proceeded to Cuxhaven. *Neuwerk* and the customs boat *Hamburg* secured the position, the wreck search vessel *Mellum* now found an underwater obstruction which could be the lost section.

London, Jan 12 — Information received Kiel, dated today, states: The sunken 70 ton section of the luxury cruise liner *Norwegian Pearl* has now been marked with buoys in lat 53 59.3N, long 08 13.95E. It sank in the Elbe estuary yesterday after the collision between ro/ro *Tor Dania* and pontoon *Emsponton 7*, in tow of tug *Ems Tug*. The owners of *Ems Tug* have been advised to clear the position as soon as possible. The section is lying at a depth of 23 metres, 10 kilometres north-west of Cuxhaven. *Tor Dania* is berthed at the Steubenhof, in Cuxhaven for investigation. It has a hole of 12 metres in length and three metres height, two metres above the waterline on the port side. *Ems Tug* was en route from the Aluship Yard in Gdansk, bound for the Meyerwerft in Papenburg. While crossing the Elbe traffic the towing rope was hit by *Tor Dania* which was on the way from England to Cuxhaven. The drifting *Emsponton 7* was caught by *Ems Tug* one hour after the collision. The multi purpose ships *Mellum* and *Neuwerk* as well as the wreck search vessel *Atair* and police boats were on the scene. —

London, Jan 12 — Sections for the new cruiseship *Norwegian Pearl*, to be built by Meyer Werft, are hindering

shipping on the river Elbe, after they fell off a pontoon following a collision. A train of barges towing the pontoon collided with ro/ro *Tor Dania* off Cuxhaven on early yesterday. The *Tor Dania* sustained a hole of 12 metres by three metres. However, the vessel, which is operated by Goliath Roro from Norway, was able to continue its trip to Cuxhaven. Several ship parts dropped off the pontoon. Hamburg police said that the biggest segment "was an obstruction to passing ships" and added that the reason for the collision was yet unknown. A spokesman for Meyer Werft said the incident would not delay the construction of the *Norwegian Pearl* even if the sunken sections were later found to be no longer usable. "There is always enough time reserve in our schedule," he added.

London, Jan 12 — Information received Kiel, dated today, states: The sunken wreckage of *Norwegian Pearl* is to be raised by order of the Meyer yard with a sheerlegs. The owners of tug *Ems Tug* refused to do so though being ordered by the authorities, as they say the owner is the Meyer Yard.

TRANS ARCTIC (NIS)

See "Brittany, France" under "Pollution."

TRANSFER (Antigua & Barbuda)

Belize City, Jan 11 — Part c.c. *Transfer* is still aground on the reef. The local company, Pinacle Construction & Engineering are still interested in salvaging the vessel. However (to date) they have had no interest expressed by the owners, P&I Club, nor the underwriters. It would also seem that the Company (Waller Marine Belize Ltd.) who had attempted a salvage, has also put the matter on hold. — Lloyd's Agents.

TRANSMODAL (Argentina)

Buenos Aires, Jan 10 — Ro/ro *Transmodal* has not sailed yet. — Lloyd's Agents.

UNO (Denmark (Int. Register))

London, Jan 10 — General cargo *Uno*, Flixborough for Seville, passed Cape Finisterre on Jan 7.

VEGA PIONEER (Panama)

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: BHP Billiton is rushing to negotiate extra coal port access in Queensland following a collision between one of its coal loaders and bulk *Vega Pioneer* (29369 gt, built 2002) at its Hay Point terminal that will cut capacity at the terminal by 30 per cent for two months. BHP has struck deals, at a cost, to divert deliveries for January through the neighbouring Dalrymple Bay terminal and Gladstone port further to the south. However, it still needs to secure additional capacity for February or risk delays to customers. According to industry sources, some spare allocations are likely to be available at Dalrymple Bay in February. The accident comes at a sensitive time, with coal price

negotiations with major Japanese customers resuming in Tokyo following the Christmas break. The problems at Hay Point, 40km south of Mackay in northeastern Queensland, again highlights the vulnerability of Australia's coal export industry to infrastructure constraints in the wake of the commodities boom. The accident occurred on Dec 28 when one of Hay Point's two ship loaders collided with a ship-mounted crane as it moved between holds. While the vessel sustained only minor damage and sailed two days later, the loader suffered cracks, and will now have to be dismantled before being repaired. Advertisement: As a result the loader, which is insured, is not expected to be back in commission until the beginning of March. Loading capacity at the port would be cut by about 30 per cent for those months, which is equivalent to almost 2 million tonnes of coking coal, worth \$US200 million. (Note — *Vega Pioneer* arrived Hay Point Dec 24.)

Sydney, Jan 12 — It is anticipated that capacity at BHP Billiton's Hay Point terminal in Queensland could be cut by up to 30% for two months because of damage sustained to one of the coal loaders when it came into contact with a bulk carrier (bulk *Vega Pioneer*). The delay and capacity reduction equates to almost 2m metric tons of coking coal, worth US\$200m. The Australian reported that BHP had struck deals, at a cost, to divert deliveries for January through the neighbouring Dalrymple Bay terminal and Gladstone port further to the south. However, it still needs to secure additional capacity for February or risk delays to customers. According to industry sources, The Australian said some spare allocations were likely to be available at Dalrymple Bay in February. The accident occurred on Dec 28 when one of Hay Point's two ship loaders collided with a ship-mounted crane as it moved between holds. While the vessel sustained only minor damage and sailed two days later, the loader suffered cracks and will now have to be dismantled before being repaired. The loader is not expected to be back in commission until the beginning of March. Hay Point shipped 35m tonnes last year and BHP Billiton and equal partner Mitsubishi are spending A\$157m to expand capacity to 40m tonnes by the end of the year. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

VERA 777 (Panama)

London, Jan 7 — General cargo *Vera 777* sailed from Hong Kong on Jan 5 for Keelung.

WILSON MAR (Malta)

Gdynia, Jan 5 — As of Dec 31, general cargo *Wilson Mar* was reported to be still undergoing repairs at Gdynia. — Correspondent.

ZIEMIA LODZKA (Liberia)

Gdynia, Jan 5 — As of Dec 31, bulk *Ziemia Lodzka* was undergoing repairs at Gdansk. — Correspondent.

London, Jan 10 — Bulk *Ziemia Lodzka* sailed Gdansk Jan 8 for Riga.

Seizures & Arrests



AFRICAN KALAHARI (Bahamas)

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated Jan 7, states: Bulk *African Kalahari* (16582 gt, built 1986) will remain in custody in Durban harbour until at least Tuesday (Jan 10), while police investigate its crew's treatment of stowaways. The vessel was seized by police on Thursday (Jan 5) after seven Tanzanian stowaways were allegedly forced to jump off the vessel. Two of the stowaways drowned. Four crew members appeared in court yesterday, facing murder and attempted murder charges. The accused were released on bail of R20 000 each and were due to appear again on Tuesday. (Note — *African Kalahari* arrived Durban Jan 4.)

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated Jan 10, states: Bulk *African Kalahari* was released from detention by a Durban court today and is now permitted to sail. This follows another appearance in court of the ship's master and three crew members on two counts of murder and five of attempted murder, which arose from the death of two stowaways in Durban Bay last week. The four men were remanded and will appear again at a later date but have been granted bail subject to reporting daily to the Maydon Wharf police station each day.

AL BIRUNI (Egypt)

Alexandria, Jan 12 — General cargo *Al Biruni* is still under arrest at Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALBATROS (Cambodia)

Trieste, Jan 10 — Ro/ro *Albatros* remains under permanent detention at Trieste. — Lloyd's Agents.

ATLANTIC MERCADO (Antigua & Barbuda)

Durban, Jan 9 — General cargo *Atlantic Mercado* is currently undergoing repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

DA YUAN YU 139 (China)

Durban, Jan 9 — Fishing *Da Yuan Yu 139* sailed Port Elizabeth Dec 22 for high seas. — Lloyd's Agents.

DRAGONIS (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Karachi, Jan 9 — The master of reportedly detained bulk *Dragonis* (11168 gt, built 1978) at Chittagong Port, M Azharul Islam in a letter, requested the secretary of the Bangladesh shipping ministry, to issue the necessary directives for the release of his ship. According to local media report, the vessel was detained on the alleged charge of delay of

offloading of cargo. It arrived six months ago from China laden with over 17,000 tonnes of cement clinker. Its ordeal started with the three merchants, who imported the cement clinker, demanding Tk 50 million from the Singapore based operator, Prominent Shipping Services in compensation for a delay in unloading their cargo. When the ship's operator refused to meet the demand, one of the importers, Premier Cement Ltd, filed a lawsuit with the High Court in November last, claiming Tk 31.7 million compensation and requesting for an arrest of the ship. After hearing the case, the court granted Tk 8 million compensation and ordered immediate unloading of the cargo. As Prominent Shipping submitted a bank guarantee of the amount, the court on Dec 18 ordered the release of the vessel. But, importers have disregarded and asked for at least Tk 5.5 million more of the compensation before they would let the ship go. On the contrary, Zahur Ahmed, a director of Sicom Shipping, the local agent of *Dragonis*, said the matter has already been settled and the entire cargo unloaded, and the ship can sail anytime. According to Zahur, *Dragonis* has stayed at the port for the last half year to do some urgent repairs and maintenance work. — Lloyd's List Correspondent

EMIR (Turkey)

Taranto, Jan 10 — General cargo *Emir* is still under arrest at Taranto, with no change in the vessel's situation. — Lloyd's Agents.

ENI (Albania)

Durres, Jan 11 — General cargo *Eni* still remain under sequestration. There is currently no possibility of the vessel being released. The registered owner is the same: Messrs "Zotaj Shipping & Trading", Durres, Albania. — Lloyd's Agents.

FEDRA (Italy)

Koper, Jan 12 — Vessel *Fedra* is still at Izola. However, she has been shifted from moorings to the shipyard's jetty, alongside. The vessel is now 46 years old and has been at Izola since March 1997. *Fedra* has been purchased by private entrepreneur Mr. Urlic Ive from Opuzen, Croatia and is waiting for documents from the Croatian Registry of Shipping, which is why the vessel remains in the port. Understand that Mr. Urlic intends to exploit the vessel in sand trade out from the mouth of the Neretva river. — Lloyd's Agents.

FRAU NANCY (North Korea)

Koper, Jan 12 — General cargo *Frau Nancy* (1887 gt, built 1972), which arrived at Koper on Dec 28, and reported under arrest in the port, has been released and sailed, with a cargo of pipes and timber, for Oran. ETA 11 Jan. — Lloyd's Agents.

LUBAVA (Belize)

Gothenburg, Jan 6 — General cargo *Lubava* is still in the port of

Uddevalla. The owners declared that they are willing to pay part of the request, and to pay the crew three months salary, but the union stating the ILO contract want considerably higher wages. At 1800 hrs, yesterday, the Russian owners confirmed and accepted the conditions. Even if a settlement does take place the union require the signing of a contract and a new crew to sign on. The vessel intended to load 3000 tons of grain/oats and before the stoppage, was about one third loaded. — Westax Matine Services.

Gothenburg, Jan 10 — General cargo *Lubava*: As of yesterday the owners paid agreed wages according to union proposal and request to fulfill the ILO/ITF request and total SEK 600,000 was paid to the crew, where the cook onboard got the highest amount, around US\$6,000. Today half of the crew will be replaced and the remaining later during the day and vessel expect to complete loading and for departure later tonight. The crew has not been paid since November and now will also get compensation for overtime and extra work carried out onboard. The crew are happy but worried for the future, but union colleagues will follow up their situation as far as possible. — Westax Matine Services.

MEGAMAR (Honduras)

Rio de Janeiro, Jan 12 — General cargo *Megamar* (reported Apr 19, 2004 lying abandoned at Niteroi (Ponta da Areia). Vessel is arrested and is not in condition to return to service) is being scrapped at Niteroi. — Lloyd's Agents.

MERCAN A. (Turkey)

Bahrain, Jan 11 — Bulk *Mercan A.*, under arrest at Bahrain since Jan 2, 2002, is still under arrest and lying at a layup berth at ASRY, Bahrain. — Lloyd's Agents.

MYS TIKHIY (Russia)

Vladivostok, Jan 10 — Fish factory *Mys Tikhii* (2863 gt, built 1977) is currently under detention at Vladivostok, where arrived Nov 11. — Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN JEWEL OF ST. PETERSBURG (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See under "Marine".

PAN YUN BO 1 (China)

London, Jan 6 — General cargo *Pan Yun Bo 1* is still reported at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under detention.

RAVENI (Tonga)

Messina, Jan 10 — C.c. *Raveni* is still in port under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

SENTINEL (Comoros)

Genoa, Jan 9 — General cargo *Sentinel* remains under arrest at Genoa. — Lloyd's Agents.

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YABLONOVSKIY (Russia)

Vladivostok, Jan 10 — Fishing *Yablonovskiy* is still under detention at Vladivostok. — Lloyd's Agents.

YOUSEF (Panama)

Beirut, Jan 12 — Ref *Olympus Reefer*, ex *Yousef*, was sold for scrap in October 2004. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Yousef* was reported under arrest at Beirut May 14, 1998, on behalf of creditors in respect of overdue payments.)

**AKTAU, KAZAKHSTAN**

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated Jan 7, states: By preliminary data, damage caused by one ton of oil spilt in Aktau international port made up KZT 1.5 million, chief executive of environment protection department of Mangistau region Yklas Nagaev informed KZ-today. As it was informed earlier, the accident occurred at 0410, Jan 6. About 1 ton of oil spilt at the mooring line - 8 and 365 kg. in water area of Caspian Sea during oil tanker *Lenkoran* (? product tanker *Lenkeran* (5944 gt, built 1985) filling up. According to Y. Nogaev, the accident area has been fenced and oil gathering is being carried out. The cause of oil spill is not known yet. The tanker is forbidden to leave the port in Aktau till the end of the investigation.

BRITTANY, FRANCE

London, Jan 12 — Norwegian shipping company Seatrans has indicated that it will not appeal against a hefty Nkr2.8m fine (\$414,000) imposed on it by a court in Bergen in a ground-breaking hearing into a pollution offence committed off the French coast in March last year. The company's response to the court's verdict, which was pronounced on Dec 29, was given wide publicity yesterday in France, where environmental organisations had expected that the company would be treated with relative leniency by the Norwegian judiciary. In the event the fine imposed is close to that which could have been expected from the court in Brest which had been preparing to hear the case last October when Norway indicated that it intended to handle the prosecution, using its prerogative as the flag state of the vessel concerned. Norway cited the UN Law of the Sea Convention to justify its decision but French environmental organisations expressed the fear that Norway was simply trying to protect Seatrans and the master of the 1991-built, chemical/oil carrier *Trans Arctic* from what it perceived as the harshness of a series of recent judgments handed down by the French courts in marine pollution

cases. Seatrans said yesterday that it considered the fine was high by Norwegian standards but it would not be appealing against it nevertheless. Finance director Rolf Mikkelsen did not contest that pollution had been caused by the *Trans Arctic* but said that it had been an accident. He added that the company was still not sure what had been the cause of the 38 km pollution slick spotted in the vessel's wake off the island of Oleron near the French Atlantic coast. The vessel was diverted to the port of Brest and ordered to pay E400,000 (\$520,000) bail before it was released. "We have not been able to find out exactly how this happened," said Mr Mikkelsen. "We have just seen the photographs. It should not happen. We do not know how it could have happened but it did. We have therefore accepted the fine and will try not to repeat this in future."

CHIARA DP (Italy)

London, Jan 6 — The court in Brest fined the master of chemical/oil carrier *Chiara DP* (11300 gt, built 2001) E300,000 for causing pollution in the Atlantic, 25 miles off the mouth of the River Gironde, in April last year. Chiara Shipping of Monaco, owner of *Chiara DP*, was ordered to pay 90% of the fine, however. The vessel was spotted with a 22 km pollution slick in its wake, by the crew of a French customs service aircraft.

FRENCH ATLANTIC COAST

London, Jan 6 — The master of bulk *Kapitanos Kaminskis* has been fined E200,000 (\$260,000), for causing pollution off the French coast, after failing to persuade a court that his case should be dealt with by Lithuania, as his vessel's flag state. The court, in the port city of Brest, refused to grant his lawyer's plea for the case against him to be dropped, on the grounds that the Lithuanian authorities had not given notice of their intention to prosecute on their own account. In two previous cases involving ships under Norwegian and Maltese flag recently, the court delayed hearing the cases on the grounds that the authorities concerned had indicated that they intended to try the case, by virtue of their prerogative as flag states, under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The case against the master of *Kapitanos Kaminskis* was heard on Nov 18, but judgment was suspended until Jan 3. The vessel was spotted, from the air, at the head of a 7.5 km slick of discoloured water off the western tip of Brittany in October, 2004.

HUNAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: A third major toxic spill in China in as many months has threatened water supplies to millions of residents of two central cities, officials and state media said yesterday. A clean-up accident allowed the chemical cadmium, which

can cause neurological disorders and cancer, to flood out of a smelting works and into the Xiangjiang River in Hunan Province on Jan 4, Xinhua news agency said. The river supplies tap water to residents in the provincial capital Changsha, which has about 6 million people, and nearby Xiangtan city, which has 700,000 inhabitants. Officials said they have taken emergency measures and residents were not in danger. Local authorities have blocked off the spill and are trying to neutralize the cadmium slick with different chemicals and dilute it by releasing water from a dam. "Even though this pollution incident is not over, there's no impact on residents' lives," said an officer at the Changsha city government's office. "The water being supplied by the water treatment plants is still up to standard," he added. A spokesman from Xiangtan government also gave similar assurances. Xinhua said the amount of cadmium in the river reached 25.6 times above safe levels at its peak but had dropped to 0.14 times on Saturday (Jan 7). Officials said they did not have to shut off water supplies as measures they took were effective and water treatment plants were able to filter out the pollution. Local residents, including hotels in Xiangtan, also said there was no disruption to their supply. However several residents said they did not know about the spill, which was not reported on Xinhua, the main government mouthpiece, until Saturday night. It was not clear whether local media had reported it earlier. The accident occurred due to human error, the director of Hunan Province's environmental protection bureau was quoted as saying. The Zhuzhou Water Conservancy Investment Co caused the spill while it was trying to clear silt out of Xiawan Harbor in Zhuzhou city, where the smelter is located upstream from Xiangtan and Changsha, he said. The cadmium-contaminated water collected in two lakes which then overflowed into the river.

KAPITONAS KAMINSKAS (Lithuania)

See "French Atlantic Coast - Pollution Kapitanos Kaminskis" under "Pollution".

MAGELLAN PHOENIX (Panama)

London, Jan 10 — Noel Abrogar, Chief Engineer of the ref *Magellan Phoenix* renamed *Saronic Wave* (7326 gt, built 1993) was sentenced to imprisonment for one year and one day, and three years of probation for falsifying records that attempted to conceal repeated overboard discharges of oil waste from the vessel, the Justice Department announced today. Abrogar pleaded guilty on Sep 7, 2005 to violating the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships, based on his role in discharging oil sludge and oil-contaminated bilge waste directly into the ocean from the *Magellan Phoenix* and then falsifying the vessel's

records to cover up the discharges between December 2004 and March 2005. The government's investigation began on Mar 25, 2005 after the United States Coast Guard discovered evidence of the discharges and false records during an inspection of the *Magellan Phoenix* in Gloucester, New Jersey. In the course of their inspection, Coast Guard inspectors learned that the vessel had routinely discharged oil sludge and oil-contaminated bilge water directly overboard into the ocean without using the vessel's oil water separator, and without recording these discharges as required in the vessel's oil record book. International and U.S. law prohibit the discharge of waste oil without treatment by an oil water separator - a required pollution prevention device. Law also requires all overboard discharges be recorded in an oil record book, a required log which is regularly inspected by the Coast Guard. This case was investigated by the U.S. Coast Guard Criminal Investigative Service and the Environmental Protection Agency Criminal Investigations Division, and prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey and the Department of Justice Environmental Crimes Section. The case was initiated by the Marine Inspectors and Marine Investigators from Coast Guard Sector in Philadelphia.



AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Power was cut to more than 100,000 homes and businesses as wild storms rolled across south-east Queensland overnight. Emergency services spent the night repairing homes and property damaged by large hail and heavy rain. Energex reported 17,000 lightning strikes on the network in four hours. Hail pelted homes in Brisbane's south at Beenleigh, Eagleby, Logan City, Beaudesert and Jimboomba. Energex spokesman Graham Metcalfe says crews have had a busy night. "At the peak at about 2130 there was about 40,000 customers without power," he said. "At about 0600 we'd managed to restore power to more than 95 per cent of those customers." The State Emergency Service (SES) responded to 200 calls for help, the damage ranging from shattered roof tiles to flooding. Brian Scottney from the SES says most of the damage happened in areas just south of Brisbane.

BANGLADESH

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: River, road and air communications across the country were disrupted yesterday as dense fog

blanketed the sky drastically reducing the visibility, report agencies. The disruption caused untold sufferings to hundreds of homebound people ahead of the Eid-ul Azha due to the prolonged delay in reaching their destinations. Departures of at least nine international and domestic flights were delayed from the Zia International Airport (ZIA) for the hostile weather, concerned sources said. However, the mild cold wave started sweeping in the northern part of the country since last Monday, has so far claimed 35 lives in different parts of the country. C.c. *Banga Borti* (which see under "Marine") ran aground at the Karnaphuli river mouth on way from the Bay to the container berth at the Chittagong port in the morning amid dense fog. *Banga Borti* got trapped on the shoal as the fog blanketed the route. The port authority was supposed to start the work of salving the ship at night. The Biman Dhaka-Kathmandu and Dhaka-Bangkok-Singapore flights were delayed for several hours. Domestic flights of Biman on Dhaka-Sylhet, Dhaka-Rajshahi-Syedpur and Dhaka-Chittagong were also disrupted due to inclement weather. Movement of ferries at Paturia-Doulatdia and Kazirhat routes was delayed for about nine hours due to poor visibility. The launches that left Dhaka for Patuakhali Sunday night reached their destinations eight hours after the scheduled time. The arrival of the long-distance buses on the Mawa route was also delayed due to heavy fog. Hundreds of vehicles on both sides of the ferry ghats remained stranded inflicting untold sufferings to the thousands of passengers. Hundreds of motor vehicles were seen in long queue on both sides of the ferry ghats to cross the river. The dense fog disrupted movement of river crafts in the rivers Dhaleshwari and Meghna. At least 10 Dhaka-bound launches from southern districts, hundreds of boats and trawlers, 40 speedboats and ships could not move amid dense fog. Ferry movement at Maowa ferry ghat was also disrupted from Sunday midnight to 0700 yesterday. Two ferries got stranded in the midway of the river Padma leaving hundreds of people waiting in two ghats. Another report adds: The country is likely to face a chilly spell after the Eid day with the temperature dropping under 8.0 degree Celsius, a weatherman in Dhaka Met Office said yesterday. He said the present dense fog that shrouded most part of the country and partially disrupted normal life will continue for next two to three days when the sky will remain cloudy. With the clearing of fog, the country might experience a moderate spell of cold wave for two to three days. But if it continues for long, the moderate spell would turn into a severe spell. The Met Office said the intensity of winter this year would be more severe than last year. Meanwhile, bone-chilling cold has claimed 16 lives so far in different parts of Thakurgaon,

Kurigram and Pabna districts. At least 130 children were admitted to different hospitals falling victims to cold diarrhoea in Khulna. In Thakurgaon, at least seven people died of cold wave in the district on Sunday and yesterday as Himalayan breeze lashing the district. In Pabna, at least four people died of severe cold. In Kurigram, at least five people including children died in the district within the last 48 hours as they fell victims to diarrhoea, pneumonia and other cold related diseases.

HURRICANE "KATRINA"

London, Jan 6 — Salvage crews dug a canal through a stretch of Bayou La Batre wetlands in hopes of freeing 179-foot Honduran supply *Caribbean Clipper* (188 gt, built 1972) stranded in mud by hurricane "Katrina" on Aug 29. Tony Hillman, chief operating officer and engineer for the salvage company, Beyel Brothers Crane & Rigging of Cocoa, Fla., said the firm received its emergency permit Dec 13 from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to dig the canal. The company had to buy a \$150,000 bond to ensure the wetlands would be restored and monitored over the next five years, he said. The salvage crew tried to pull *Caribbean Clipper* into the canal for the first time Tuesday (Jan 3) night, but found it was stuck tightly to the ground. On Wednesday, two excavators on floating barges clawed a 50-foot-wide, 15-foot-deep channel into the wetlands. Latham Smith, master of the tug hired to haul *Caribbean Clipper* out of the mud, said he hopes to have it in the water and taken to a shipyard for repairs on Thursday. Meanwhile, 28 vessels, most of them shrimp boats, remain beached along the working bayou. The owners of most of them had no insurance before the storm, which was not the case with the Honduran vessel loaded with vehicles. Gov. Bob Riley has pledged state assistance if necessary to refloat the fishing vessels, a job that could cost \$2 million. The vessel is owned by the Honduran shipping company of David Henson McNab, who was convicted in 2000 of smuggling uninspected, undersized spiny lobster tails from Honduras to the United States and is currently serving an eight-year prison sentence. Before "Katrina" *Caribbean Clipper* would arrive in the bayou every three weeks or so, with a shipment of lobsters. It would leave with diesel fuel, cars, trucks, car parts and other cargo, said Joey Rodriguez, a longtime friend and business associate of McNab. The vessel was preparing for a trip to Honduras when "Katrina" hit, Rodriguez said. Rodriguez Boat Builders actually modified an old oil boat to create *Caribbean Clipper* for McNab, he said. The Honduran crew, foreign nationals, lived on the boat for three weeks after the storm before a boat arrived to take them home, he said.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated Jan 7, states: The Dauphin Island-Fort Morgan ferry is scheduled

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to resume service Jan 14 after it was partially sunk by Hurricane "Katrina," officials said. The upcoming launch comes months sooner than the last time a storm put the ferry out of commission. It took 10 months to restore ferry service after Hurricane "Ivan" hit in September 2004. "Barring any unforeseen catastrophes, we should have several months of uninterrupted operations," Greg Brown, vice president of Hornblower Marine Services, said. Brown's company operates the ferry for the state Department of Transportation. "At the very least, we hope to run more than two months this year," he said. The company took over the ferry contract in June, then only got to run the route for a profitable two months before "Katrina" struck. The Fort Morgan, the shallow-draught vessel that has taken cars and passengers over the mouth of Mobile Bay route for more than two decades, was docked during the storm at Harrison Brothers Dry Dock & Repair Yard Inc. in Mobile. Both the ferry and the dry dock it was tied to were pushed free by the hurricane's storm surge and were left partially aground on the boat yard's property. All repairs and improvements on the ferry were completed by December, and the vessel finished its Coast Guard sea trials yesterday, Brown said.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Refloating a loaded 440 by 136-foot dry dock, partially grounded by storm surges during hurricane "Katrina", was the largest-weight salvage recovery project on inland waters in the storm's wake and the most complicated, said W.A. "Beau" Bisso IV, president and chief operating officer of Bisso Marine Company LLC. Bisso Marine Company was contracted by Bollinger Shipyards to tackle the refloating task. The dry dock is located at Bollinger Shipyards' Gulf Repair Yard on the Industrial Canal in New Orleans East. Flood waters, estimated at 13 feet, covered the yard. The challenge of refloating the dry dock was that it was, in fact, four separate dry dock sections joined together. Making the refloating more complicated was a 120,000-barrel barge on the dry dock. Total light ship displacement of the dry dock and barge was estimated at almost 10,000 tons. Portions of the dry dock were sunk, while other sections were aground.

INDIA

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The Indian capital, Delhi, has seen its first winter frost in 70 years as a cold wave sweeps in from the frigid heights of the Himalayas. Schools in Delhi have been ordered to shut for three days as the mercury for the first time since 1935 plummeted to 0.2 degrees Celsius. White-laced streets greeted early risers in New Delhi. However, any novelty value brought by the cold temperatures soon died as frost on power cables sparked partial power

cuts across large swathes of the crowded city. The toll from the cold wave has risen to 137. The eastern Indian state of Bihar reports that 10 people, mostly homeless, have died of the cold since the beginning of last month. Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous and one of its poorest states, so far accounts for 104 of the deaths. The unrelenting bad weather has also claimed 18 lives in the northern state of Punjab, four in nearby Haryana and one in Rajasthan.

INDONESIA

Sijeruk, Jan 6 — Indonesian rescuers today searched for more bodies buried under tonnes of mud after massive landslides on Java island, while helicopters flew food and medicine to some villagers still cut off. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said he would investigate whether environmental degradation had caused the disasters this week. The combined official death toll stands at 120. Soldiers and police used excavators to clear mud and logs off hundreds of flattened homes after torrential rains sent landslides crashing into several villages. Rescue officials said their efforts were being hampered by a lack of equipment, thousands of onlookers and those who lost their homes converging on the sites. Meteorologists have predicted more heavy rains for the country in the coming days. Officials said they had found 43 bodies so far at Sijeruk village in Central Java province, after a pre-dawn landslide on Wednesday (Jan 4). Arif Sudaryanto, head of the search and rescue agency in nearby Banjarnegara, said based on residents' reports an estimated 40 people were still buried, much less than the hundreds some officials said they feared had died. In neighbouring East Java, rescuers have found 77 bodies from several villages hit by landslides and floods on Sunday. Arifin Muhaji of the Indonesian Red Cross said that helicopters were being used in East Java because some villagers were difficult to reach after bridges were washed away. "We have distributed tents, hygiene kits and food to them. Military helicopters are carrying the injured out," he said. Speaking near the site of the East Java disaster, Yudhoyono promised action. "We will look in-depth at what has caused these landslides and floods, whether it is the stripping of forest or the destruction of forest," Yudhoyono said in remarks carried on El Shinta radio after he visited some villagers made homeless. Floods and landslides are common in Indonesia, especially at this time of the year during the wet season. Many landslides are caused by illegal logging or the clearing of farmland that strips away natural barriers to such disasters. Officials have blamed rains for the Sijeruk landslide as the village lies at the foot of a tree-covered hill. Mud up to six metres high encased the remains of many homes, although not all were hit by the debris. However, logging has come

under the spotlight around the East Java villages. Most residents there lived on coffee plantations and river banks where many trees had been felled. Meteorologists had predicted heavy rain in the coming days, raising fears of more landslides and floods, Red Cross official Muhaji said. The Indonesian Red Cross had put 50,000 volunteers on standby across Indonesia, he added. Flooding and small landslides have damaged roads and bridges this week in other parts of densely populated Java island, where 130 million of Indonesia's 220 million people live. Sijeruk lies about 350 km east of Jakarta, while the East Java landslides occurred around 800 km east of the capital. — Reuters.

London, Jan 7 — A Press report, dated today, states: Rescue workers carried on the grim task of searching for bodies today after pounding rains sent landslides crashing into several Indonesian villages, while the number of people listed as dead or missing fell to about 180. Authorities revised the figure after dozens of survivors were found to be staying with family or friends. Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono promised to investigate the cause of the landslides that hit two mountainous regions of Java Island earlier this week, amid allegations that rampant logging played a role. But he suggested the best way to reduce casualties in the future would be to relocate people living in hilly regions and near fertile flood plains close to rivers. Heavy monsoon rains would likely continue through March, he noted. Bulldozers and excavators shoved aside mountains of mud and shattered wooden houses in the village of Cijeruk in central Java and several hamlets in Jember, hundreds of kilometres to the east. Hundreds of soldiers, police and volunteers also sifted through the mud and rocks. Some environmental groups have said rampant illegal logging was to blame for the landslides and flash floods, but government officials denied that. The number of bodies pulled from the mud in Jember, which was hit by flash floods and landslides on Jan 2, ranged from 78 to 108, according to local officials who had no explanation for the discrepancy. In Cijeruk, 52 bodies have been recovered and 23 other people were feared dead, said Feriyanto, an official at the local Crisis Centre.

ITALY

Genoa, Jan 9 — Local Sub-Agents report that the removal of bunkers from general cargo *Margaret* was completed Jan 6, according to statements made by the vessel's master and crew to the local Port Authority. About 36 cubic metres of hydrocarbons have been recovered since Dec 21 using pontoon *Meloria* and tug *Tito Neri 2*, with the aid of a team of five divers and underwater operations experts. The vessel's starboard double bottom, which reportedly contains 5.5 tons of greasy oil, and starboard bilge tanks, which

reportedly contain about 2.3 tons of bilge water, and the machinery-room tanks have not been inspected and cleared, as the only means of access is presently covered by about 2 metres of sand and clay. The estimated time to clear this is a further five to 10 days. Anti-pollution units *Bonassola*, *Tito*, *San Giacomo* and *Tagis* ceased their activity and returned to their home port, while floating absorbent devices surrounding the wreck have been maintained and the units *Pratelli Neri*, *Jerzy* and *Ecoboat 02* are being kept in port on stand-by in case of loss of any further pollutants. — Lloyd's Agents.

JAPAN

Tokyo, Jan 6 — Japan was bracing for more snow today after some of the heaviest snowfall on record that has left 53 people dead and paralysed transport. Almost 13 ft of snow has piled up in the worst-hit areas of Niigata near the Japan Sea coast, though the snowiest season of the year is yet to come. Television pictures showed drifts burying the ground floors of houses and almost covering street lamps. A 93-year-old woman and her daughter were crushed to death in Ishikawa Prefecture, 186 miles northwest of Tokyo, yesterday when their house collapsed under the weight of the snow. The Fire and Disaster Management Agency said 53 people, including the latest fatalities, have died because of the inclement weather in the past few weeks, many of them elderly people trying to clear snow from their roofs. Akita prefecture in the north of Japan's main island of Honshu, has been hit hard by snow in recent days. Many train passengers were left stranded in the area as services, including the high-speed bullet trains connecting Akita with Tokyo, came to a halt. "If the snow continues to fall, we will have to think about calling in the armed forces to help out," a spokesman for a disaster management center in Akita City told the daily *Asahi Shimbun*. Japan's Meteorological Agency said cold weather and heavier-than-usual snowfall would likely continue through January, caused by cold air flowing over the country from the North Pole. This is a phenomenon that occurs on a regular basis, but has lasted longer than usual this winter, an agency official said. — Reuters.

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Heavy snowfall lashed western and northern Japan yesterday and is expected to continue through tomorrow as record amounts of snow wreaked havoc on transport, claiming 57 lives and injuring hundreds of people since the snow season started in early December, officials said. The Japan Meteorological Agency warned of the possibility of avalanches and other weather-related incidents as well as further traffic disruption from snow and cold weather. Snow has damaged 579 houses, halted train operations in

15 sections of 14 rail lines and shut down traffic in 85 sections of roads across Japan. About 1.38 million houses have had temporary blackout, officials said.

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Heavy snow falls continue to cause chaos along the Sea of Japan coast, with the Hokuriku and Sanin areas in central and western Honshu being worse hit, the Meteorological Agency said. The snow claimed the lives of two people in Niigata Prefecture and one each in Nagano and Toyama prefectures over the past two days, bringing the death toll across the country to 57 since December. By 0600 today, the cold air is estimated to have brought 80 centimetres of snow to Niigata Prefecture, up to 70 centimetres to Nagano and Hokkaido prefectures, and up to 50 centimetres to areas along the Sea of Japan coast in the Tohoku region, Gunma Prefecture, the Hokuriku region and the northern Kinki region. Furthermore, it is expected to bring about 40 centimetres of snow to Gifu Prefecture and the Chugoku region. At the request of the Nagano Prefectural Government, the Ground Self-Defence Force dispatched 113 members to the prefectural city of Iiyama to remove snow from the roofs of elderly people's homes. A snowplow developed trouble while it was removing snow from the tracks of the Joetsu Shinkansen Line at Echigo-Yuzawa Station in Niigata Prefecture, forcing the suspension of services on the line for about an hour and delaying bullet trains by up to two-and-a-half hours. Japan Airlines and All Nippon Airways cancelled 22 flights to and from Niigata Airport by 1030 because of the snow.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from snow-related incidents since the start of the snow season in early December rose to 68 after a 57-year-old man tumbled down into an irrigation ditch when he tried to dispose of snow in Nagai, Yamagata Prefecture, yesterday evening. The Akita prefectural government, meanwhile, requested the Ground Self-Defence Force on the same day to deploy in the city of Akita, which has been hit by its heaviest snow in more than 30 years, to help elderly people living alone to remove the snow from their roofs, its officials said.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from snow-related incidents since the start of the snow season in early December rose to 71 in 16 prefectures after three people were found dead yesterday, according to data compiled by *Kyodo News*. The three apparently died due to accidents that occurred during work to remove snow.

MALAYSIA

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A total of 1,112 people from four districts in Johor have been evacuated to relief centres after their dwellings were inundated

by floodwaters triggered by heavy rain. The worst-hit district is Johor Baharu, with 684 people from several low-lying villages moved to two relief centres, a spokesman of the state police flood operations room said. As of 0900 today, he said 605 villagers of Kampung Laut Skudai in north Johor Baharu area were shifted to the north Johor Baharu City Council hall, while in Johor Baharu south, 79 victims from 18 families in Kampung Maju Jaya were relocated to the village's community hall. In Segamat, 259 people from 40 families have been evacuated to relief centres. They were from Kampung Seding Dua Pagoh, Kampung Gelang Cincin, Jalan Pemuda, Kampung Seberang Batu Badak and Kampung Paya Pulai. They are being sheltered at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Datuk Bentara Dalam, Kampung Gelang Cincin community hall, Kampung Paya Dalam community hall and Kampung Gemereh community hall. The 147 evacuees from Kluang were from Kampung Murni and Kampung Sungai Rawa, he said. In Kota Tinggi, Kampung Sungai Berangan saw the evacuation of 22 villagers from five families. The spokesman also said a 90m stretch at Batu 1 of Jalan Mawai Kota Tinggi-Mersing was still impassable to traffic.

MOZAMBIQUE

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Floods in central Mozambique have killed at least 15 people in two central provinces and left thousands homeless after heavy rains in the southern African country since Christmas, officials said yesterday. "We can confirm that 10 people have died because of the floods and lightning, as well as a small boat that capsized," said central Sofala provincial governor Alberto Vaquina, who had given a figure of 13 deaths on Tuesday (Jan 3). But Vaquina added the toll could still rise as provincial authorities have not yet received information and damage reports from all Sofala's districts. He said Beira and at least three districts had been heavily affected by the torrential rains. Without giving exact numbers, Vaquina estimated that hundreds of families were left homeless and more than 4 000 hectares of crops have been destroyed. "We have also relaunched a provincial emergency committee which will coordinate any help needed in the disaster," he said, adding that the committee will meet with UN officials to "co-ordinate the aid effort." In northern Nampula province, Castro Namuaca, president of the municipal council for the provincial capital, also called Nampula, announced yesterday that three of 12 people taken to hospital had died. "More than 1,700 homes have been destroyed and around 9,000 people have been left homeless and schools destroyed," Namuaca said. Two deaths were earlier reported in Nampula province. The Nampula provincial government had by yesterday put together about

600-million meticals to aid victims. Mozambican meteorologists said a tropical disturbance affecting Sofala and Nampula province was moving toward the south of the country and had already reached Inhambane province.

London, Jan 10 — At least 22 people have been swept to their death in Mozambique and thousands more have fled heavy rains there and in neighbouring South Africa and Malawi. Government officials in Mozambique said the death toll had risen sharply from the initial eight reported on January 3, and heavy rains were expected to continue until March, forcing the government to put the country on a cyclone alert. Rains had fuelled the spread of disease, with 114 cases of cholera reported in the central Sofala region, but Mozambique had contained the crisis well and there were no deaths from cholera, state administration minister Lucas Chomera said. "The death toll stands at 22. Heavy rains continue but there is no cause for alarm yet," a senior emergency official said. Officials said Mozambique's major rivers remained near the 7m flood alarm level but were not a concern at the moment.

NORWAY

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Oil production at the Norne oilfield in the Norwegian Sea has been slashed in half since the beginning of the week due to heavy storms in the area, oilfield operator Statoil said today. "Production has been reduced by 50 percent since Monday (Jan 9) morning. If the weather permits, we will begin producing at full capacity next weekend," Statoil spokesman Harald Schjeldrup said. In normal circumstances, the vessel operating in the field extracts about 100,000 barrels of oil equivalent (boe) per day. A severe storm has been raging along the coast of Troendelage in western Norway, with winds of 67 knots an hour and waves in some places towering 18 metres. Norway, the world's largest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia and Russia, normally produces nearly three million boe per day.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Jan 6 — Constantza port was closed at 1030, yesterday due to bad weather, strong wind north-east 5-7 Bf (fresh breeze - near gale), sea 5-6 feet and dense fog with visibility below 0.5 nautical mile. Constantza port was re-opened at 0100, today. Midia and Mangalia ports were closed at 0945 and 1000, yesterday respectively due to bad weather, wind north-east 5-7 Bf (fresh breeze-near gale) and gusts of 7-8 Bf (near gale-gale), sea 5-7 feet. Mangalia port was re-opened at 0700, this morning. Midia port is still closed at the moment. Sulina channel was closed at 0730, yesterday due to bad weather, north-east 7 Bf (near gale), sea 4-5 feet and it is still closed at present. — Lloyd's Agents.

TANZANIA

Dar es Salaam, Jan 7 — Tanzania could start rationing power this month to cope with shortages resulting from a long drought that is causing famine and threatening east Africa's economies, officials said today. Falling water levels have cut in half the output of hydroelectric generators that power much of the east African nation, said Patrick Rutanzibwa, principal secretary with Tanzania's Ministry of Energy and Minerals. He said two major generating stations run by state-owned Tanzania Electrical Supply Co. will stop running next week. "We can supply reliable power until mid-next week. Power rationing could begin any time this month," Rutanzibwa said. For the past five months, electricity has been erratic in the commercial capital Dar es Salaam, the roar of generators a daily ordeal for its denizens. Even two geothermal power stations that contribute a little less than a third of Tanzania's output are having difficulties and have seen their total production fall off. "This does not help the situation. We have problems in both hydro and thermal power production," Rutanzibwa said. Tanzania's total generation capacity is 953 megawatts (MW), more than two-thirds of which is hydroelectric. Tanzania will be hard-pressed to import power from neighbouring Kenya and Uganda, since Kenya's hydropower plants are facing shortages of their own and Uganda does not have enough power for its own needs. Poor rainfall across much of east Africa and the Horn of Africa over the past year has produced a drought that the United Nations says is putting almost six million people at risk of starvation. Tanzania, a nation of more than 35 million people, was not included in those estimates, but new President Jakaya Kikwete has called the food situation precarious and estimated at least 613,000 Tanzanians would need food aid, and maybe more if the poor rains continue. — Reuters.

THAILAND

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Drought has gripped many parts of Thailand, hitting Ubon Ratchathani, Phichit and Phuket earlier than usual this year. In Ubon Ratchathani, water levels in Lamnam Seibai, a tributary of the Chi river, have fallen rapidly and it has even dried up in some spots. The river bed is partly visible in tambons Nong Bo and Nong Khon of Muang district. The drought, triggered by a shortage of rainfall last year, has been aggravated by the dry weather in the winter season. Over 10 fish farms have been forced to shut while floating restaurants have been relocated to the banks of the dry river. Elsewhere, severe drought has continued to ravage Phichit. Water levels were so low in Pho Prathap Chang district that people could walk across the Yom river. Normally, the Yom river would dry up during March-

April. With drought arriving early this year, farmers were concerned about their paddy and crops, which rely on water from the river. Yields may be low this year as the crops began to wither. Farmers have requested urgent assistance from the authorities. In Phuket, a tap water shortage has forced many hotels to ration water consumption for guests. They have been forced to buy water from private suppliers at steep prices. Yesterday, about 30 hotel operators met with Phuket Governor Udomsak Uswarangura to seek help in easing the tap water shortage. The falling water supply was a pressing problem for businesses and communities in Patong, Kata and Karon beaches. Around 70 hotels on the island buy up to eight million baht of water from private suppliers each month, said Panu Maswongsa, the assistant managing director of the Patong Resort Hotel. The Provincial Waterworks Authority attributed the sharp jump in water demand mainly to the high tourist season, he said. Occupancy rate for hotels in Phuket currently averages 85%. The chief of the Phuket Waterworks Office, said the Bangwad reservoir now held about five million cubic metres of water. It is only able to supply 1,000 cubic metres of water a day compared with the daily demand that tops 1,500 cubic metres. The office is seeking funds to purchase three million cubic metres of fresh water but the amount is still expected to fall short of demand in April and May, the height of summer. The Phuket governor was certain that the water shortage problem was here to stay and he urged the government to step in to help.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "CLARE"

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A tropical cyclone has formed off the Kimberley coast about 430 kilometres north of Broome. The Weather Bureau says Cyclone "Clare" is moving west-south-west at 25 kilometres-per-hour and is expected to move parallel to the coast for the next 24 to 36 hours. A cyclone warning has been issued for areas between the communities of Cape Leveque and Bidadanga. Grant Elliot from the Bureau of Meteorology's Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre says gales with gusts of up to 100 kilometres-an-hour may develop. "There is a possibility of some gale force winds developing on the coastline between Cape Leveque and Bidadanga however we don't actually expect the centre of the system to cross the coast within the next 24 hours," he said. Kimberley residents are being warned to prepare now for the cyclone.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Residents in Western Australia's far north-west are being urged to prepare for a cyclone over the next few days. Tropical Cyclone "Clare" has been upgraded to a category 3 system. At 0200, AWST, "Clare" was 240 kilometres north of

Port Hedland and 325 kilometres north-north-east of Karratha, moving south-west at 20 kilometres-per-hour. A cyclone warning exists for coastal areas between Pardoo and Exmouth, extending inland to include Pannawonica and Tom Price. Forecaster Linda Paterson warns Clare could become a category 4 system as it approaches land. "If the cyclone continues to intensify, as we're expecting, then it's possible very destructive winds, with gusts of up to 260 kilometres-an-hour near the centre, could affect parts of the Pilbara coast line as the system crosses the coast," she said.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The State Emergency Service (SES) is evacuating residents of low-lying areas along Western Australia's north-west coast as Tropical Cyclone "Clare" approaches the region. The category 3 system was about 165 kilometres north-north-east of Karratha and moving south-south-west at 16 kilometres-an-hour at 1100, AWST. The local airport has been shut down and roads in the town are due to close at 1300. The Bureau of Meteorology is warning of a significant storm surge and local flooding. Residents are being evacuated to the West Pilbara TAFE in Karratha, while people in Wickham are being taken to the local primary school. SES spokeswoman Nita Gill says volunteers are doorknocking in low-lying areas. "We are asking people to basically put an emergency kit of essential items together with them, things like food and water to last 48 hours, medicines, clothes and then just important personal documents, such as passports, wills and any other really essential items," she said. She says people in higher areas also need to be wary.

London, Jan 9 — More than 1,500 people were evacuated and ports and oil production platforms were closed today as Western Australia's Pilbara region braced for the arrival of Tropical Cyclone "Clare", officials said. The State Emergency Service (SES) issued a red alert for the towns of Karratha, Dampier, Roebourne, Wickham and Point Samson on the northwest coast, warning of a significant storm surge and local flooding. The cyclone was expected to hit the coast between Dampier and Karratha tonight, forcing the closure of ports, Karratha airport and some mining operations. Strong winds and heavy rain had begun battering several communities as the storm approached. "We've been looking at gusts around the 80-knot mark, which is roughly 150 to 160 kilometres an hour, being reported from the Dampier area," said weather bureau spokesman Neil Bennett. The system is expected to intensify as it approaches the coast and storm tides are expected. SES spokeswoman Neta Gill said 1,500 people had been moved out of low-lying homes at Karratha. "It is a just a precaution because the cyclone looks like crossing at high tide later today and a storm surge is

expected," she said. Dampier port harbourmaster Vic Justice said the harbour had been cleared of boats but the port would be back in operation by the end of the week. "All of the terminals in the port of Dampier were cleared, the vessels all put to sea and they've gone well seaward, clear of the path of the cyclone," he told national radio. Karratha's port had also been shut, said weather bureau spokesman Bennett. BHP Billiton, Santos and Chevron had all closed down offshore oil rigs, and the closure of the ports at Dampier, Cape Lambert and Port Hedland had stopped the flow of iron ore. A spokeswoman for resources giant BHP Billiton, Samantha Evans, said the company's iron ore and mining operations were proceeding as usual but shipments could not get out.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Cyclone "Clare" has battered Western Australia's north-west coast, leaving behind a trail of destruction. The eye of the category 3 cyclone hit the Pilbara coast late last night. Dampier was in its direct path with winds up to 195 kilometres an hour battering the mining town. Joe Courtney from the Bureau of Meteorology says the eye of the cyclone has passed Dampier, leaving the worst of the storm behind. The bureau is predicting heavy rains of up to 400 millimetres in some areas, so residents have been warned of the risk of flash flooding. There is no estimate of property damage. Thousands of homes in Dampier and Karratha lost power as the cyclone passed, with debris bringing down a number of power lines. Western Power crews are continuing to restore electricity supplies this morning. Lynne Nanini from Main Roads's Pilbara office says heavy rain has forced the closure of a number of highways and roads around Karratha.

Sydney, Jan 10 — Western Australia's northwest coast has shut down oil production, railway lines, ports and airports, halting mining exports as a result of Tropical Cyclone "Clare", which bore down on the Pilbara region overnight, passing close to the port of Dampier and the town of Karratha. The Pilbara's lucrative iron ore operations remain on high alert today after warnings of heavy rain and flooding associated with the category three cyclone. BHP Billiton, Santos, Woodside and Chevron shut down offshore oil rigs yesterday, and ports at Dampier and Port Hedland were closed. It is being reported that the cyclone has knocked out all telephone services to the Pilbara region. All landline, mobile and internet services to the area had been cut off by the cyclone, with emergency workers using satellite phones and local radio stations to update residents. The cyclone was originally expected to hit Dampier but entered the coast of Western Australia to the southwest of the town and is now moving further inland in a southwesterly direction. No injuries have been reported. Gusts of up to 185 km/h lashed the coast this morning.

The Bureau of Meteorology said "Clare" was moving southwest towards the Pannawonica and Gascoyne regions at 0300, WST, and was expected to ease gradually. Flooding was now the main concern, with severe thunderstorms, flash floods and tidal surges expected. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: The clean-up has begun on Western Australia's Pilbara coast amid new flood warnings as Cyclone "Clare" moves inland. The storm crossed the coast near Karratha and Dampier in the state's northwest overnight, with winds of almost 200kph bringing down phone lines and cutting power. But the damage was relatively minor. Clare has been downgraded from a category three to a category one storm as it heads for the state's Gascoyne region. Bureau of Meteorology forecaster Paul Viviers said the storm was still packing a punch with winds up to 100kph. "People in its path need to be aware that the storm is coming and that it is causing widespread flooding," Mr Viviers said. More than 1500 people evacuated from low lying areas yesterday began returning to their homes in Dampier and Wickham after the all clear was given about 1100, WST. "There were no injuries reported, we were very fortunate that people were extremely well prepared," State Emergency Services (SES) spokeswoman Cheryl Greenough said from Port Hedland. "It is difficult to say when power and phones will be back and only relatively minor damage had been reported." Point Sampson had reported refrigerator damage at its main supermarket that could result in the small community needing fresh food tomorrow, she said. The SES also warned of flash flooding and urged motorists to seek advice about road closures. Flood warnings have been issued for the Ashburton and Fortescue River catchment areas. A cyclone warning is also in place for the towns of Pannawonica and Nanutarra as the storm moves inland. Heavy rains and flash flooding are forecast for coming days. "Clare" had forced the closure of major shipping ports and some mining operations. But iron ore and oil operations in the Pilbara appear to have escaped serious damage. The entire Pilbara coast had been put on red alert, halting shipments of iron ore, and closing oil and gas platforms off the coast. Rio Tinto spokesman Matthew Coomber said early signs were that there had been little damage at Dampier, but communications were still patchy. Mr Coomber said it was too early to say if heavy rainfall could affect operations at Rio Tinto's Pannawonica iron ore mine. BHP Billiton said Port Hedland reopened at 0930, WST, and the miner expected to start loading ships with iron ore again today. At sea off the coast giant oil production vessels were today preparing to sail back to oil fields and resume production. Woodside Petroleum, the operator of the North

West Shelf joint venture, said it was still awaiting details from its production sites off the coast. The oil and gas producer shut down its offshore Cossack Pioneer and Legendre oil fields on Sunday and production vessels are now on their way back to the fields. At all other Woodside projects production had continued through the storm, a spokeswoman said. Chevron Australia shut down its Barrow Island oil operations before "Clare" made landfall and a spokesman today said the early assessment was that there had been no damage to infrastructure. Oil production at the site was expected to restart today, he said.

London, Jan 10 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Clare" near lat 22.5S, long 116.2E, at 0600, UTC, Jan 10. Movement past six hours 190 deg at seven knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots with gusts to 70 knots. Dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over land. forecast for 0600, UTC, Jan 11: Position lat 25.1S, long 115.5E. Maximum sustained winds 30 knots with gusts to 40 knots. Dissipated as a significant tropical cyclone over land.

London, Jan 10 — Tropical Cyclone "Clare" crossed the Western Australian coast, west of Dampier, overnight. Port Hedland, which had closed on Jan 8, reopened for berthing at 0600, local time, today. The ports of Dampier and Port Walcott, however, were much closer to the cyclone's centre and are not expected to reopen this morning. There are reports that power is out across the region.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Towns in Western Australia's north-west are bracing for flash flooding as torrential downpours buffet the coast. A number of towns that bore the brunt of Cyclone "Clare" over the past two days have received hundreds of millimetres of rain. Earlier this morning the weather bureau downgraded the cyclone to a rain bearing depression. The bureau's senior meteorologist, Grant Elliott, says rising flood waters will be a major risk for the rest of the week. Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) spokesman Alan Gale says extra emergency crews will be flown to Karratha this morning to help monitor high flood-risk areas. "Volunteers in Karratha and FESA staff know the area very well," Mr Gale said. "They know where the high risk locations are, those that are susceptible to flooding. Meanwhile, Telstra crews have worked through the night to restore phone services to thousands of homes. Approximately 30,000 customers lost telephone services when the cyclone hit. Additional crews have been brought in from across the region to help cope with the workload. Telstra says power has been restored to its main Karratha exchange and most services should be returned by later this morning.

Sydney, Jan 11 — Damage appears to be light and there are no reports of injury from Cyclone "Clara", which moved inland from the Indian Ocean over northwestern Australia yesterday. Phone and power lines were downed as the storm made landfall near Dampier early yesterday. There have been no reports of damage to infrastructure and work at the mines, offshore installations and ports was likely to resume today, with production forecast to be back to normal by the end of the week. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

London, Jan 11 — Damage assessment is being carried out at Dampier and Port Walcott, after the passage of Tropical Cyclone "Clare" earlier this week. Partial communications have now been restored and the railway line and shiploader terminals are being inspected. The anchorage reopened at 1200, local time, today however, berths are still being assessed for possible damage. Port Hedland, which closed from Jan 8, re-opened at 0600, today. The port suffered no major damage and all shipping operations have returned to normal. There are no cargo shortages as a result of Tropical Cyclone "Clare" as the rail system suffered no damage and is operating as normal.

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Cyclone "Clare" has brought mixed blessings for farmers in the Western Australia's north-west. Torrential downpours in the Pilbara have broken a five-year drought for many communities. Cyclone "Clare" has dumped more than 200 millimetres of rain on many farming communities. But the jubilation is slowly turning to apprehension with the flooding of the Ashburton and Fortescue river catchments. Significant soil erosion is expected in some areas as well as stock losses.

TROPICAL STORM "KAJIKI"

Manila, Jan 10 — *Napocor Power Barge No.106* is still moored at vicinity of Keppel Shipyard, Batangas, with no repairs being effected as yet pending discharge of contaminated oil and gas freeing. — Lloyd's Agents.

TROPICAL STORM "ZETA"

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: Tropical Storm "Zeta" kept its strength today in the eastern Atlantic. "Zeta" had sustained winds near 40 mph tonight, according to the National Hurricane Centre in Miami. "Zeta"'s winds had been 35 mph earlier in the day, briefly making the storm just a tropical depression. "Zeta" posed no threat to land. However, the storm was expected to weaken soon because of strong wind shear, hurricane specialist Stacy Stewart said. "Zeta" is only the second Atlantic storm in recorded history to survive into January, joining Hurricane "Alice" in 1955. At 2200 hrs, "Zeta" was centered about 990

miles east-northeast of the northern Leeward Islands and moving northwest near seven mph.

London, Jan 6 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical depression "Zeta" was located near lat 22.3N, long 49.3W. The position is accurate to within 25 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the west-northwest, or 295 degs, at six knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 1007 mb. The maximum sustained winds: 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. The radius of 34 knot winds: 80 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, 50 nautical miles in the south-east quadrant and zero nautical miles in the south-west and north-west quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Jan 7, the centre is predicted to be near lat 24.6N, long 52.8W, dissipating, with maximum winds of 25 knots and gusts to 30 knots.

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Zeta" fell apart today in the open Atlantic, finally bringing the record-breaking 2005 Atlantic hurricane season to an end. "Zeta", which was never a threat to land, set one last record before strong wind shear and dry air robbed it of its wind speed and other characteristics of a tropical system: No named storm ever endured so long into January. At 1600, EST, "Zeta" was a remnant low pressure system with winds near 30 mph, centred about 900 miles east-northeast of the northern Leeward Islands.

UNITED STATES

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated Jan 10, states: Heavy rain triggered mudslides that halted Amtrak passenger train service between Vancouver, British Columbia, and Portland, Oregon — the second disruption in the area in a week. Mudslides also blocked part of a major highway today and chased residents out of a University of Washington fraternity annex, officials said. No injuries were reported. Passenger rail service was to remain closed for at least 48 hours, said Gus Melonas, a spokesman for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp, which owns and operates the tracks. Mudslides on Friday (Jan 6) knocked out service to both Amtrak and commuter trains. Both services resumed by yesterday but were halted again today. Buses then carried Amtrak passengers around blockages and replaced commuter trains between Seattle and Everett. Crews today also cleared debris from a mudslide that blocked part of Interstate 5 near Nisqually. Traffic was being detoured around a slide that closed another state road in Skagit County, the Transportation Department said. Since Dec 21, the region has experienced the warmest and possibly wettest early winter ever, the weather service said. In Seattle, today was the 23rd consecutive day of measurable rain. More precipitation was predicted. The National Weather Service issued wind

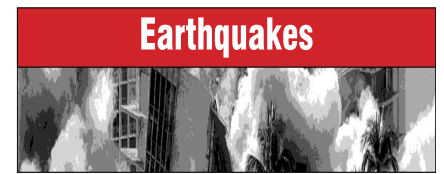
advisories, flood warnings and a winter storm warning for portions of eastern Washington as a warm, moist storm moved through the region.

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated Jan 11, states: Recent floods caused more than \$40 million in damage to farms, ranches and vineyards in California's Sonoma, Napa and Mendocino counties, agricultural officials said. Much of the cost will involve cleaning up tons of debris left in vineyards and repairing damaged irrigation lines and trellis plant support systems. Farm buildings and equipment were also destroyed as fast-moving water washed out vines and eroded property. The vineyards in Napa County alone sustained about \$32.5 million in damage, said Assistant Agricultural Commissioner Greg Clark. About 13,000 of the county's 45,000 acres of vineyards were damaged by floodwaters from the Napa River and local streams that left behind old tyres and propane tanks when the water receded. Growers said there was no damage to grapevines that were submerged for several days because they are dormant and can survive for a week or more under water. Agricultural damage was estimated at \$3 million in Sonoma County and \$6 million in Mendocino County, officials said. The estimates were preliminary and could go higher as more damage is reported.

VENEZUELA

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: The main artery that carries traffic from Caracas to the country's main airport and to one of the country's main ports, La Guaira, had to be closed indefinitely today because one of the artery's bridges was at risk of collapsing. The closure of the freeway will increase the time it takes to get to the airport by at least one hour, using alternate routes through the mountains that separate Caracas from Venezuela's northern coast. Venezuela's Minister of Infrastructure, Ramon Carrizales, made the decision to close the artery today, following several months' efforts to strengthen and readjust one of the freeway's crucial valley bridges. However, with heavy rains falling most of yesterday, the mountainside, which has been slipping by a few centimetres per day, causing one of the valley bridges to buckle in the middle, slipped a full 25 cm in one day. The columns holding up the bridge have now become severely displaced and the bridge could collapse at any time. Slums below the bridge also had to begin evacuation today. According to Minister Carrizales, the damage to the bridge is, "considerable in all of its structure and in the course of the day new fissures have appeared." While there had been speculation that the bridge might be reopened again next week, Carrizales said: "I believe the probability that the closure is definitive is increasing." Vice-President Jose Vicente Rangel,

who visited the bridge today, called the situation a "national emergency," adding, "this means that all government resources will be placed at its service." For weeks, government officials had warned that the bridge and the freeway might have to be closed soon. Fifty thousand vehicles a day cross the bridge which connects Caracas to the country's main international passenger and cargo airport and to its second-most important seaport of La Guaira. Closing the route means that tourists, cargo, and commuters will have to take alternate routes, the shortest of which takes two hours and winds over the mountains in a two-lane road, through some of Venezuela's most crime-ridden slums. Other routes take as long as three to four hours to reach the airport from Caracas. Previously, the 17-km trip between the airport and the city took between 30 and 60 minutes. The freeway is also practically the only efficient route that connects the coastal Vargas state to the rest of the country. Vargas is entirely surrounded by a mountain range, whose slopes are in constant danger of landslides after heavy rains. Engineers say that the collapsing bridge, or Viaduct No 1, as it is known in Venezuela, cannot be saved. Instead, the Chavez government is building a new temporary viaduct, which will be completed in February, and a permanent replacement, which will be completed in 2007. Meanwhile, the government is repairing the alternate routes and is placing National Guard troops along the road, in order to assure travellers' safety. The International Caracas Maiquetia airport will not be closed in the near future, but authorities have said that plans are being considered in which flights would be routed to Valencia, the closest major city with an international airport. Travel from Valencia to Caracas would take about two and a half hours. For the slums below the collapsing viaduct, the government is offering to re-locate 200 families who live in the immediate danger zone and is planning to relocate hundreds more in the near future. The relocated families are to receive new free public housing in the Caracas area. Housing Minister Luis Figueroa spoke directly to the affected community, saying that the evacuation had to begin immediately.



ANDAMAN ISLANDS

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated Jan 6, states: A magnitude 5.6 earthquake in the Andaman Islands, India, occurred in lat 12.20N, long 95.14E, depth 30km, at 0425, UTC, on Jan 6.

AZORES

London, Jan 10 — A magnitude 5.6 earthquake occurred in lat 37 13N, long 14 31W at 0109, UTC, today.

GREECE

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake has struck the Greek capital, Athens, but there are no immediate reports of any casualties. The quake, which measured 6.9 magnitude, shook buildings in the capital and was felt as far away as northern Greece and Egypt. It struck at 1134, GMT, and lasted for several seconds. The quake's epicentre was located about 200km south of Athens, near the island of Kythira, the Athens Geodynamic Institute said. On Saturday, a small earthquake measuring 4.5 magnitude, was registered off the coast of the Greek island of Cephalonia.

London, Jan 9 — A report, dated Jan 8, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 1134, UTC, Jan 8. The magnitude 6.7 event has been located in southern Greece, in lat 36.25N, long 23.49E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 38 km.

PANAMA AREA

London, Jan 6 — A strong earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale was detected late yesterday in the Pacific Ocean 205 kilometres south of Panama, the US Geological Survey reported. The tremor did not generate a tsunami warning. The earthquake struck at 0339, GMT, today at a depth of 10 kilometres, the USG said.



MOUNT AUGUSTINE, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A volcano on an uninhabited island erupted early today, spewing an ash plume about 5 miles into the sky. The ash from Augustine Volcano was expected to steer clear of Anchorage, the state's most populous city nearly 200 miles to the north-east, meteorologists said. Two explosions at 0444 hrs indicated an eruption at the volcano, said geologist Jennifer Adleman of the Alaska Volcano Observatory. Satellite images and radar later confirmed the eruption. Residents on the Kenai Peninsula, east of the volcanic island, confirmed the eruption and reported seeing ash, Adleman said. Air service in south-central Alaska, a main source of transportation, had not been disrupted by the ash cloud, the Federal Aviation Administration said. A weather service flight

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advisory was issued for pilots for an area 20 miles east and west of the volcano and about 50 miles north.

VOLCANO OF FIRE

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Western Mexico's Volcano of Fire sent two towering columns of ash and gas 8,860 feet into the air yesterday, in a pair of internal explosions. Nearby communities were not affected, authorities said. The 12,533-foot volcano sent its first grey mass of ash and gases to the northwest around 1100. A second explosion six minutes later went in the same direction and equally as high, triggering several small landslides, according to a statement released by civil protection authorities in Jalisco state. Officials were monitoring the volcano, but did not plan to order evacuations of surrounding areas, the statement said. The Volcano of Fire is on the border of Jalisco and Colima states, 420 miles west of Mexico City. It has erupted repeatedly in recent years. In September, it sent ash and gas 3 miles into the air.



Political & Civil Unrest

HAITI

See under "Labour Disputes."

INDONESIA

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Three pro-Indonesia militiamen were fatally shot yesterday as they tried to infiltrate into East Timor, a senior police official said. The three were among seven armed militiamen who were intercepted as they tried to cross the border near Tunubibi village in Maliana district. They were shot dead in a gunbattle with authorities, said Col. Paulo de Fatima Martins, commander of the East Timor police. He identified one of the slain militiamen as former militia leader Jose Mausorti, who allegedly has infiltrated several times into Cailaco, a subdistrict in Maliana to meet his wife and children. Martins said East Timor border police were still hunting for the other four militiamen.

IRAQ

Kerbala/Ramadi, Jan 6 — Two suicide bombers killed 120 people and wounded more than 200 in attacks near a Shi'ite holy shrine and a police recruiting centre yesterday, the bloodiest day in Iraq for four months. Seven U.S. soldiers were killed in two roadside bomb attacks, three bombs exploded in Baghdad and insurgents sabotaged an oil pipeline near the northern city of Kirkuk, causing a huge fire. Coming a day after 58 people died in a wave of bombings and

shootings, the latest bloodshed increased tension between Iraq's minority Sunni Arabs and majority Shi'ite Muslims. The suicide bombers struck in Kerbala, one of Shi'ite Islam's holiest cities, and Ramadi, a Sunni Arab stronghold in western Anbar province and a hotbed of the insurgency. The bombings shattered hopes Iraq might start 2006 on a more peaceful footing than in 2005, allowing for a swift withdrawal of some of the 150,000 U.S. troops in the country. In all, violence has killed more than 240 people and wounded more than 280 in the five days since the New Year started, a death toll comparable with some of the nation's bloodiest weeks since the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003. Yesterday's U.S. death toll was the highest for a single day since last month's parliamentary elections, which have yet to produce a government. Final results from the vote are expected soon but it could be months before a new parliament is formed. President Jalal Talabani blamed the attacks on "groups of dark terror" and said they would fail to stop Iraqis forming a national unity government capable of meeting the demands of the country's rival sects and ethnic groups. The Kerbala bomber detonated an explosive belt laced with ball bearings and a grenade, killing 50 and wounding 138 at a market within sight of the golden dome of the Imam Hussein shrine, one of the holiest sites in Shi'ite Islam. On Wednesday (Jan 4), a car bomb wounded three people in the first attack of its kind in Kerbala since December 2004. About an hour after the blast, another bomber blew himself up near police recruits in the western city of Ramadi, killing 70 people and wounding 65, hospital sources said. The U.S. military said the blast ripped through a line of some 1,000 men waiting to be security screened at a glass and ceramics works that was used as a temporary recruiting centre. The deaths of the seven U.S. soldiers took the number of U.S. military fatalities since the March 2003 invasion to 2,189, according to Reuters figures. Five were killed by a roadside bomb in Baghdad and two were killed by a similar device near the southern city of Najaf. Other devices exploded in Baghdad, but with less impact. Three car bombs, two of them suicide attacks, rocked the capital in quick succession, suggesting a level of co-ordination that may be a response by Sunni Arab insurgents to the largely peaceful parliamentary elections. The bombs killed two people. Mistrust between Shi'ites and Sunnis has been heightened by the results of last month's elections, which some Sunni and secular leaders say were rigged to favor the Shi'ites. After a series of bilateral meetings in Kurdistan, political leaders have agreed to meet in Baghdad soon to push their plan for a national unity government able to stem the bloodshed. — Reuters.

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A U.S. Marine and soldier were killed by a suicide bomber who infiltrated a line of police recruits in Ramadi, and two soldiers were killed when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb, the military said today. The latest announcements brought to nine the number of U.S. troops who died in attacks yesterday, including five killed when their convoy was hit by a roadside bomb south of Karbala. The Marine and soldier killed in Ramadi were assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), the military said. No further information was released. Two Task Force Baghdad soldiers were also killed yesterday when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb while on patrol in the Baghdad area, the military said. No further information was released.

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A female Western journalist was kidnapped in Baghdad on Saturday and her translator killed, police said. They said she was on her way to a meeting with a Sunni Arab leader when a car carrying an unknown number of gunmen blocked her vehicle in the Adel district near Malik bin Anas mosque in west Baghdad. The gunmen shot dead her driver, an Iraqi journalist who also worked as her translator, abandoned their car and drove off in hers. There has been a spate of kidnappings of Westerners in Iraq over the past few months after a lull during most of 2005. Four Christian peace activists, a Briton, an American and two Canadians, are still being held captive. A French engineer is also being held.

Baghdad, Jan 8 — A US helicopter crashed in Iraq, killing 12 on board, and five Marines died in a spate of attacks in the west of the country on one of the worst weekends for the US military since the 2003 invasion. The helicopter came down in a sparsely populated area of northern Iraq shortly before midnight, the military said on today. There were four crew and eight passengers on the manifest to take the flight, they said. It was the worst incident of its kind since January last year, when a transport helicopter crashed close to the Jordanian border, killing 30 Marines and one sailor. The reason for the crash was being investigated. The helicopter was a UH-60 Blackhawk, the most frequently used by the military to transport its 150,000 troops around the country. The military also said five Marines were killed in and around the western city of Falluja, a hotbed of the largely Sunni Arab insurgency trying to drive the Americans out of Iraq. Three were killed in three attacks today, all victims of small arms fire. The other two died yesterday in two villages near Falluja when their vehicles were hit by improvised bombs. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jan 9 — Two suicide bombers dressed as senior police officers blew themselves up inside the

Interior Ministry compound in Baghdad today, killing 14 people and wounding 22 as Iraq marked National Police Day. Police said one bomber had been wearing the uniform of a major while the second was dressed as a lieutenant-colonel. Both had difficult-to-obtain security passes which enabled them to enter separately through the main checkpoint. As one of the bombers walked away from the checkpoint, Interior Ministry guards became suspicious because he appeared to be "too fat", police said. They opened fire, shooting him in the back and hitting the bulky explosives belt he was wearing beneath his uniform, causing him to explode. As the guards gathered around the blast site, the second bomber, who had not yet apparently aroused suspicion, detonated his explosives, blowing up policemen and ministry civilian staff. A ceremony celebrating the 84th anniversary of the formation of the Iraqi police force was taking place at the police academy next door to the ministry at the time of the blasts about 500 metres away. Among dignitaries attending were the US ambassador, Zalmay Khalilzad, and the Iraqi defence and interior ministers. US military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Barry Johnson, who was at the ceremony, said the attack on the ministry did not interrupt the parade. — Reuters.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Two attacks on Iraq's Interior Ministry in Baghdad have killed at least 21 people. A suicide car bomb exploded near a rear gate, and less than an hour later two mortar shells landed near the ministry, police said. In other violence, gunmen assassinated an investigative judge in Kirkuk, police Capt Farhad Talabani said. In Baghdad, gunmen fired on three people working on Iraq's de-Baathification commission, killing one, police Capt Qassim Hussein said. Gunmen also killed an Iraqi intelligence officer in western Baghdad, Hussein said. Five bodies, bound and blindfolded, were found shot in Baghdad last night, police said. Elections officials cancelled a news conference where they had hoped to announce more preliminary results, saying officials were still auditing the results from about 50 ballot boxes and wanted to announce all results at the same time.

NEPAL

Kathmandu, Jan 12 — At least seven policemen were missing after a fierce battle with Maoist rebels in Nepal in the biggest clash since a guerrilla ceasefire ended 10 days ago, an army officer said today. The fighting began yesterday evening in the western Nepal town of Dhangadhi after the rebels attacked many government installations. "The policemen went out of contact after the Maoists stormed a post where about 30 policemen were having dinner," the officer said, without giving further details.

Another army officer said reinforcements had been sent and the guerrillas, who wanted to storm a local jail, were repelled. "The situation is under control," he said. However, the independent Kantipur radio said 20 policemen were missing and three people, including a civilian, had been wounded. Dhangadhi, a Maoist stronghold, lies about 660 km west of the capital Kathmandu on the border with India. — Reuters.

NIGERIA

London, Jan 9 — The Force Majeure at Bonny was suspended on Friday (Jan 6), according to the latest information from Shell. This comes after the completion of repairs to damage caused by a pipeline explosion which prompted the declaration of the Force Majeure from Dec 21.

Lagos, Jan 12 — Unidentified armed men have kidnapped four foreign oil workers including an American and a Briton from an offshore oilfield in Nigeria operated by Royal Dutch Shell, authorities said today. The hostages also include a Honduran and Bulgarian and were working on a ship servicing the 120,000 barrels per day E.A. oilfield, located a few miles off the coast of the southern Niger Delta, when the attack occurred yesterday. "A support vessel was invaded by armed men and four persons were abducted," a Shell spokesman said. He declined to say whether output from the field had been curtailed. An industry source said the process of shutting down the field had begun. — Reuters.

PAKISTAN

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Sixteen people, including eight paramilitary soldiers, were killed in Pakistan on Saturday in separate incidents in its restive tribal belt on the Afghan border, officials and residents said. Eight members of the paramilitary Frontier Constabulary were killed when militants attacked their checkpost in the early hours in Mir Ali, about 24 km (15 miles) east of Miranshah, the main town in the North Waziristan tribal area, officials said. "There were eight casualties. There were a few missing soldiers as well, of whom a few have come back. There are a few still missing," said military spokesman Major-General Shaukat Sultan. He said security forces were hunting the gunmen. Residents said helicopters later flew over the area and there had been some firing from them, as well as firing at them from the ground, but Sultan said he could not confirm that and was awaiting more information. In another incident, eight people, including a woman, were killed and nine wounded in what witnesses believed was a helicopter gunship attack on the house of a militant in Dandi Sadhgy, 8 km (5 miles) north of Miranshah. "The house belonged to Maulana Noor Mohammad," one of the wounded said from his hospital bed in Miranshah, referring to a religious scholar who

supported Afghanistan's former Taliban rulers. All those killed in the attack were members of Mohammad's family. The scholar was not among the dead, said the wounded man, who declined to be identified. Sultan said there had been some firing and some civilian casualties in the area but he did not have details. He said authorities were investigating and declined to speculate on a link between the two incidents. Waziristan is part of Pakistan's semi-autonomous tribal belt that stretches through rugged mountains and deserts along the border with Afghanistan. Many al Qaeda members fled to the region from Afghanistan after U.S.-led forces ousted the Taliban in late 2001, and were given shelter by militant sympathisers from conservative Pashtun tribes that inhabit both sides of the border. In early December, villagers in the Mir Ali area said a missile fired from an unidentified aircraft, possibly a U.S. drone, killed five people including Abu Hamza Rabia, who authorities said was an al Qaeda leader. Authorities said Rabia and the four others were killed when bomb-making material stored at their hideout detonated accidentally. His body was not found.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Militants clashed with Pakistani forces in a troubled tribal zone bordering Afghanistan today, leaving seven paramilitary troops and 14 suspected insurgents dead, officials said. The firefight was one of the biggest for months in the area, where soldiers are trying to flush out al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters who fled Afghanistan after the US-led invasion in late 2001. Seven soldiers died but their colleagues immediately returned fire, sparking a gunbattle that lasted for 90 minutes, the official said on condition of anonymity. Fourteen militants were killed in the exchange of fire including a local Taliban commander called Bilal, a military official based in the northwestern city of Peshawar said later. "Some are locals and some are foreigners. We are trying to find out their nationalities and identities," the army official said. The situation in North Waziristan remained tense and gunship helicopters hovered in search of militants, the official and witnesses said.

Quetta, Jan 11 — Two Pakistani soldiers were killed and four wounded today in a landmine blast in a troubled south-western region where militants are fighting for autonomy, an official said. The landmine was planted on a road in the small town of Pir Koh in Baluchistan province. It exploded when the troops' vehicle ran over it, said Abdul Samad Lasi, the senior administration official in the region. Two soldiers died on the spot and four were wounded, two seriously. Baluch militants have been waging a low-level insurgency for decades for greater benefits and control of gas and other natural resources. — Reuters.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today states: Militants attacked a gas field in troubled south-west Pakistan and 12 of them were killed in fighting with security forces, a senior government official says. Three soldiers were killed and three wounded in an earlier landmine blast in the region where separatist tribal fighters have been battling for control of resources for decades. "Up to 40 militants attacked a gas field. During the fighting 12 militants were killed," Abdul Samad Lasi said, the top administration official in the area. Baluch militants have been waging a low-level insurgency for decades for greater benefits and control of gas and other natural resources. The gas field, near the small town of Pir Koh, was not damaged, Mr Lasi says. The landmine was planted on a road in the same area and exploded when the troops' vehicle ran over it, he says. Two soldiers were killed instantly and one died later.

RUSSIA

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven Russian soldiers have been killed and seven others injured in the latest fighting in Chechnya, an official from the war-torn province's pro-Moscow administration said overnight. Four soldiers were killed and five injured in 15 attacks by Chechen separatist rebels on Russian forces' outposts over a 24-hour period, the official said on condition of anonymity. An officer engaged in de-mining activities was killed by a mine blast on Tuesday in a suburb of the Chechen capital Grozny. Yesterday, fighting in the village of Alkhazurovo in southwest Chechnya killed one Russian soldier, injured another and killed three separatist rebels died, the official said. In Bamut, also in south-west Chechnya, one Russian soldier was killed and another injured when their military vehicle came under fire on yesterday.

SOMALIA

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 12 people have died in gun battles between two rival sub-clans in the latest flare-up in Somalia, villagers said today. Nearly 31 others were also wounded in sporadic fighting, apparently motivated by revenge attacks, that has engulfed the central Galgaduud region in recent days.

SRI LANKA

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected Tamil Tiger rebels rammed an explosives-laden fishing boat into a small Sri Lankan navy vessel off the northwestern coast early today, killing at least 15 sailors and leaving three missing, officials said. Navy spokesman Cmdr Jayantha Perera said 15 sailors died and that search and rescue operations were on to find the three missing. Another navy boat, which was at a distance, escaped the impact of the explosion. The pro-rebel Web site, TamilNet, reported the

incident but did not mention casualties or who was responsible for the attack. But Sri Lanka's army blamed the Sea Tigers, the naval wing of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Colombo, Jan 9 — Suspected Tamil Tigers ambushed two patrols in north-east Sri Lanka, killing one soldier but losing two militants, the army said today, as a search continued at sea for 13 sailors missing after a gunboat sank. Attacks on troops have increased markedly since the beginning of December, hammering the stock market and raising fears the island risks sliding back into a two-decade civil war that has already killed more than 64,000 people. "Near a village, troops on foot saw a vehicle parked by the side of the road and went to investigate," an army spokesman said. "Some Tamil Tigers hiding in a bush fired on them. One soldier was killed." The troops returned fire, he said. Initially, the army said one body of a dead Tiger was found but later a spokesman said a second corpse had been discovered, along with three weapons. In a second overnight incident, three soldiers were wounded after rebels fired at an army truck with small arms, he said. Both attacks took place near the north-eastern port of Trincomalee, which is almost encircled by rebel positions. Tensions near the port have been rising after the deaths of five youths a week ago. The military had originally said the young men were rebel sympathizers who accidentally detonated grenades they were carrying, but truce monitors found they had been shot in the head and the government has launched a probe. Diplomats say a 2002 truce is on the brink of collapse, with the two sides unable to even agree on a venue for talks. Norwegian mediator Erik Solheim is due to visit on January 23 to try and resolve the impasse, but analysts expect more attacks. "The LTTE is trying to provoke military confrontation," Jehan Perera of the non-partisan National Peace Council said. "They would like the government to retaliate massively before the Solheim visit so it becomes irrelevant." The navy says one of its Israeli-built Dvora fast attack boats exploded early on Saturday (Jan 7) off Trincomalee. Two survivors said the vessel had been rammed by a Tiger suicide boat. A search has so far failed to find traces of the 13 missing crew. Sri Lanka's stock market has fallen with every attack over fears of a return of a conflict that has previously seen suicide attacks on business districts in the capital Colombo. By 0500, UTC, the Colombo All-Share was down 2.26 percent, largely because of the weekend attack, but traders said they were not expecting a renewed outbreak of hostilities. — Reuters.

Jaffna, Jan 12 — Four policemen and a soldier were injured in a grenade attack and a youth was shot today in Sri Lanka's tense, army-held northern enclave of Jaffna as escalating violence stokes fears of

renewed civil war. Heavily armed troops blamed the attack on Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels and conducted spot checks on streets still scarred by years of past shelling. Shopkeepers closed their stores and residents stayed indoors. "It was the LTTE that threw a grenade at our sentry point and we fired in the air," one army corporal involved in the incident said. — Reuters.

SUDAN

Khartoum, Jan 11 — Sudanese armed forces attacked eastern rebel areas early today, a week before negotiations were expected to begin to resolve the protracted conflict, rebel officials said. Sudanese army officials could not immediately confirm the attack during the Muslim holiday week of Eid al-Adha but one army source said there had been tension between the army and the eastern rebels in recent weeks. "From the early morning the government troops attacked," said Amna Dirar, secretary-general of the eastern Beja Congress political party. A spokesman for the Eastern Front, which combines the two eastern rebel groups and their political parties, said the armed forces had not yet entered Hamesh Koreb, an area held by the rebels bordering Eritrea. "Our people are defending their garrisons. The army haven't entered Hamesh Koreb yet," Ali el-Safi said, adding he had no information on casualties as the fighting was ongoing. — Reuters.

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Rebels in eastern Sudan have been attacked by government forces in their main stronghold, they say. Eastern Front rebels said at least two children had been killed in the aircraft and artillery attacks. Neither Sudanese officials nor independent sources have confirmed the fighting near the town of Hamesh Koreb. Peace talks are due to start in Libya next week between the government and rebels, who complain of discrimination by central government. The rebels later said that the government forces had withdrawn from the town. Two international aid agencies have withdrawn from the region, citing fears of instability. Sudan says the rebels are backed by Eritrea, whose border is 50km from Hamesh Koreb, which is a mixture of mud huts, set in dirt tracks, palm trees and dry river-beds. Former rebels from the southern SPLA have been ordered to leave the town by the soldiers, reports the AFP news agency. The SPLA signed a power-sharing deal with the government a year ago and a spokesman for the group said the eviction order by was an "act of aggression" by heavily armed men backed up by four tanks. "It is a violation of the peace agreement and it is very dangerous," Major General Elias Waya Nyipuocs told AFP. The SPLA troops were due to leave the town this week and the International Crisis Group think-tank has warned that their withdrawal could lead to a dangerous power

vacuum. Eastern Front rebels complain that the region's Beja and Rashaida communities have been marginalised in favour of Arab groups and want a fair share of resources. The area is home to Sudan's main port, Port Sudan. Attempting to defuse the rebellion, Khartoum said last year it would give about \$88m to develop east Sudan.

THAILAND

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated Jan 7, states: Two Thai police officers and a farmer have been shot dead in separate attacks by suspected Islamic militants in Thailand's troubled south, police say. The police officers were killed in a food market in the Raman district of Yala, one of the three restive Muslim-majority southern provinces bordering Malaysia, police say. In a separate attack, suspected Islamic militants killed a 47-year-old pig farmer, in a drive-by shooting in Pattani province, police say. Meanwhile, two Thai women and a Malaysian man were slightly injured early today when a bomb exploded at a tea shop in Narathiwat province.

UGANDA

Kampala, Jan 10 — Ugandan rebels shot dead four teenagers at a wedding party in the remote north of the country, a local official said today. About 15 gunmen from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) attacked as revellers danced at a bar in Adjumani district in the early hours of Sunday (Jan 8). The army confirmed the incident. It said it had killed nine rebels in separate clashes over the past few days, including the leader of the group that carried out the raid. — Reuters.

YEMEN

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Six people were killed in Yemen today, including two soldiers, in separate clashes between the authorities and Islamic militants. The Islamic Reform Party said that four supporters of a pro-government tribal group, al-Oujeri, were killed and two others were injured in a mortar rocket attack carried out by the supporters of slain religious rebel leader Badreddine al-Houthi. Al-Houthi was killed in clashes with the authorities last year. Local sources in Saadah province were saying two hours of clashes erupted between the two sides after the mortar attack yesterday, but did not report any casualties in these confrontations.



YEMEN

Aden, Jan 6 — Yemeni tribesmen freed five Italian tourists today after

holding them for five days to press authorities to release jailed family members, Yemeni officials said. "The meditation efforts worked. They were freed unharmed," one official told Reuters. Security officials said the kidnappers, from the Zaidi tribe, had surrendered to the authorities after five days of negotiations backed by a huge security siege of their hideout, but it was not clear if the government had agreed to part of the kidnappers' demands as previous negotiations with hostage takers in Yemen have often been resolved through compromise. The kidnappers had threatened to kill their captives if an attempt was made to free them by force. The police said they were still hunting down two tribesmen linked to the kidnapping, which occurred in the largely lawless Marib province, unharmed. Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh has vowed to crack down on abductions, and vowed kidnappers will be prosecuted. Yemen has put to death two convicted hostage-takers since Tuesday (Jan 3) and a state-run Web site said the country had decided to execute all kidnappers of Westerners on death row to serve as a deterrent. — Reuters.

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated Jan 7, states: Five Italian hostages freed after being held by Yemeni kidnappers returned to Italy today, Italian news agencies reported, following a six-day ordeal during which they said they were terrified and humiliated, but treated well. The aircraft carrying the former hostages landed at Rome's Fiumicino airport at 1433, local time, the Apcom news agency reported. The three women and two men were freed yesterday after Yemeni security forces on foot and in helicopters surrounded the tribal kidnappers' hideout and forced them to surrender. Yemen had promised not to use force to free the five, who were kidnapped last Sunday (Jan 1) in northern Yemen in a bid to force the government to release detained members of the al-Zaydi tribe.

Labour Disputes



CHILE

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Copper futures rose to a record in Shanghai on speculation a strike at Chile's Codelco, the world's biggest producer of the metal, may worsen a forecast shortfall in global supplies. Copper supply from mines and recycled scrap will lag behind demand this year by 200,000 tons, according to Credit Suisse First Boston. A shortfall last year helped drive prices 40 percent higher. Codelco said on January 6, a three-day walkout by contractors' employees at its mines failed to affect production. "Although it would appear

that production has not been affected so far, the slightest possibility that it could will hold the market in thrall," said Angus MacMillan, an analyst in London at Bache Financial. Copper for March 2006 delivery gained as much as 520 yuan, or 1.2 percent, to 43,420 yuan (\$5,385) a metric ton on the Shanghai Futures Exchange today. At Codelco's El Teniente and Andina mines — the hubs of protests against the company by contractors' employees demanding bonuses — strikers let through buses carrying workers to the mine in contrast to the roadblocks set up in prior days, Jorge Sanhueza and Tito Palacios, spokesmen for the mines, said on January 6. Dozens of protesters were arrested last week in a city near El Teniente for blocking buses. Contract employees at state-owned Codelco, which last year produced about 10 percent of the world's supply, began the stoppage on January 4. Workers are asking for a 500,000 peso (\$964) bonus to reflect the surge in the price of the metal last year.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Copper climbed to a record as a strike by thousands of contract workers at Chile's Codelco, the world's largest producer of the metal, entered its seventh day. The labour action at the Santiago-based company is starting to hurt operations, protest leaders said. The strike hasn't affected production and 50 percent to 60 percent of workers employed by Codelco's contractors to provide maintenance and services at its El Teniente mine are at their posts today, the most since the strike began Jan 4, company spokesman Jorge Sanhueza said. Copper for March delivery rose 0.9 cent, or 0.4 percent, to \$2.106 a pound at 1300 hrs on the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange. Earlier, the price reached a record \$2.122. On the London Metal Exchange, copper for delivery in three months was little changed at \$4,582 a metric ton after reaching \$4,630, the highest ever.

ELWOOD (Panama)

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The crew of the general cargo *Elwood* are still at Dublin Port tonight, after the Department of the Marine detained the tug due to tow the it to Rotterdam. The Department believes that the tug itself is seriously deficient. The men have now spent over a month in Ireland after the *Elwood* was detained over concerns regarding its seaworthiness. The eleven crewmen were due to fly to the Philippines on Friday (Jan 6), but their tickets have now been cancelled indefinitely due to the detention of the tug. The International Transport Workers' Federation has demanded that a relief crew be sent to Dublin immediately to allow the men to be repatriated.

EUROPE

London, Jan 10 — A nation-wide port strike will take place tomorrow

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in Finland. A press report states: All of Finland's ports will shut down for half a day tomorrow as a result of strike action by the Transport Workers' Union. The union is participating in a European Union-wide protest against a new port directive. The directive would allow shipping companies to handle much of the work currently done by dock workers. Europe's dock workers are vehemently opposing the proposal, fearing that this will result in mass layoffs. The same directive was defeated in the European Parliament in 2003. The Finnish Shipowners' Association has condemned the strike even though they also want to defeat the directive. Managing Director Mika Nyk%onen told YLE Radio news that the work stoppage unfairly targets ports and shipping companies. He feels that the EU proposal would also weaken the position of Finnish shipping companies in the European market.

London, Jan 11 — Some of Europe's leading ports suffered serious disruption today as thousands of dock workers went on strike to protest at plans to liberalise port services. The co-ordinated strike action, which particularly affected Germany's biggest ports, set the scene for a tense vote next week in the European parliament about whether to allow more competition in cargo handling and piloting services in European ports. The legislation, which was first proposed by the European Commission in February 2001, has been the subject of a heated battle between trade unions representing dock workers, which have argued that liberalisation would trigger massive job cuts and operators looking to reduce cargo handling charges. In November 2003, dock workers won a victory when the European parliament rejected plans to allow outside operators to handle cargo in European ports. But the Commission has since returned with an amended version of the legislation, arguing for a more transparent and competitive environment in a sector that has been largely sheltered from reform and has continued to benefit from high levels of aid for state-owned ports. Dock workers are hoping for another legislative veto by members of the European parliament next week, but the vote is expected to be very tight. Two months ago, when the legislation was reviewed by its members (MEPs) at committee level, the outcome was a 24-23 voting split. MEPs had until tonight to table final amendments for next week's vote in Strasbourg. The European transport workers' federation said today about 40,000 people were involved in the strike across 12 countries, including 4,500 port workers in Germany. The strike paralysed activity at Hamburg's container terminals, where between 2,000 and 3,000 workers took part in a 24-hour protest. But it left Europe's other major container ports relatively

unscathed, including Antwerp, where the strike lasted a few hours, and Rotterdam, where only 600 workers walked out. However, a second strike is planned in Rotterdam on January 16. The proposed legislation has come under attack from dock workers, who claim that liberalisation would lower safety standards.

London, Jan 11 — Over 1,000 dock workers in Hamburg have gone out on strike in protest against European Union plans to liberalise port industry services, trade union Verdi said today. The strike started late yesterday and would last until 2400, UTC, today, the trade union said. The move is part of Europe-wide strikes against the EU's Port Package II programme of reforms called for today by the European Transport Workers' Federation, Verdi said. Verdi especially opposes EU proposals to end monopolies on cargo handling by terminal companies and to permit shipping firms to appoint independent contractors to load and unload vessels. "The plans endanger thousands of high-quality port jobs and would lead to a loss of knowhow among both companies and personnel and will also endanger safety," Verdi said. Workers in the ports of Bremerhaven, Luebeck, Rostock, Nordenham and Emden would also stage strikes later today, Verdi said.

Valletta, Jan 12 — A local press report, dated today, states: Maltese port workers stopped working for eight hours yesterday and will do so again for another four hours early this morning to protest against the proposed Ports Services Directive on which the European Parliament will vote on Wednesday. The secretary of the General Workers' Union's ports and transport workers' section, Manuel Zammit said the ports in Malta were closed between 1200 hrs and 1600 hrs and from 2000 hrs till 2400 yesterday and will be closed again from 0400 hrs to 0800 this morning. Asked if the action made sense considering that all Maltese MEPs would be showing a united front against the directive, Mr Zammit said it did because the union had been preparing for action with other unions. Action was being taken in all ports across Europe and apart from the message to Malta's five MEPs, the GWU wanted to pass a message to the whole European Parliament. Asked how many ships would be affected by the GWU's action, Mr Zammit said he would only know after the action was taken. However, a spokesman for the Communications Ministry said three vessels experienced a slight delay yesterday; others had been informed about the action and adjusted their timetable accordingly. The section, together with a number of port workers, making up a delegation of 22, will be taking part in a demonstration by port workers from all over Europe in Strasbourg on Monday. Mr Zammit said the European Commission had never

declared why it was after the directive. It was clear the Commission did not give ports the necessary importance, he said, adding that port transport was not the same as train or air transport. The GWU, he said, was the only union in Malta speaking on the directive although it was also affecting members of other unions. The union had attended discussions on both this and the previous proposed ports directive which was similar to this one but which had been rejected. Yet, the directive had again been put up for discussion in less than a year with former Transport Commissioner Loyola de Palacio arguing that it created competition and opportunities. Mr Zammit said European ports were the cheapest and most efficient in the world. This, he said, could be confirmed by agents and ship owners. The directive, he went on, strangled debate between the governments, unions and operators and it was an attack on workers. The most offensive part of the directive was that of self-handling, which, if approved, would stifle opportunities for Maltese workers. Through self-handling, shipping companies would be able to replace port workers with their own sea faring or land-based crew. The competition the Commission wanted was unjust because it would place European workers in competition with those who worked under inferior conditions. The GWU, Mr Zammit said, was satisfied that Malta's MEPs were all voting against the directive. — Lloyd's Agents.

HAITI

London, Jan 9 — Businesses ground to a halt today in a general strike called to protest a wave of kidnappings that has terrified people and cast a shadow over already troubled efforts to restore democracy in Haiti. The Haitian Chamber of Commerce and Industry called the strike to pressure U.N. peacekeepers to move against gangs - allegedly loyal to ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who have carried out many of the kidnappings. The one-day strike left people sitting idly on street corners or waiting hopelessly for a bus, an economic blow in a country where most people are unemployed. Gas stations, supermarkets and banks all closed.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: The Haitian capital was paralysed yesterday by a general strike called to protest about a wave of kidnappings and what some Haitians see as United Nations inaction in the face of out-of-control crime. Organised by business leaders who have been urging the UN force to be more muscular in cracking down on slum gangs as the country struggles to organise elections, the strike emptied shops and streets in the usually chaotic and bustling city. Police sources say 1900 people have been kidnapped in Port-au-Prince in the past 10 months, despite the presence of 9000 UN troops and police

sent to keep the peace after the February 2004 ouster of then-president Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The impoverished Caribbean country's business sector and rich elite blame the violence on gangs affiliated with Mr Aristide's Lavalas Family party and want the UN to be more aggressive against them. The UN mission, rocked over the weekend by the apparent suicide of its Brazilian commander, has angrily rejected charges of complacency. The violence is one reason Haiti has repeatedly postponed its first presidential election since Mr Aristide was chased into exile by an armed revolt. Originally scheduled in November, the ballot is now set for Feb 7. Police said they had arrested several people in the upscale Petionville suburb of the capital who had been throwing bottles at commuters queuing at a bus stop, presumably to try to get to work. Gunmen also fired some rounds in other parts of the capital in what police said was an apparent attempt to persuade any dissenters to remain at home and observe the strike. The interim government, appointed after Mr Aristide fled, issued no statement on the strike. The UN force, known by its acronym MINUSTAH, said that together with Haitian police, it had conducted an operation on Sunday and freed three kidnap victims. UN mission chief Juan Gabriel Valdes on Sunday denounced what he described as a campaign of hatred against MINUSTAH, led principally by privately owned radio stations that accuse the UN force of being in cohorts with kidnappers.

INDIA

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated Jan 8, states: Toyota Motor Corp. today declared an indefinite lockout at its factory near the city of Bangalore after a strike by workers entered the third day, a company spokesman said. Workers at the Toyota Kirloskar plant in Bidadi went on strike on Friday (Jan 6) following the dismissal of three workers the previous day. Ten other workers were also suspended, pending investigation into acts of misconduct, including an assault on a supervisor in 2004, the spokesman said. On Saturday, 300 to 400 striking workers blocked the road leading to the factory, demanding revocation of the dismissal, the spokesman said. About 1,550 of the factory's 2,350 workers are affiliated with the union. Company officials will meet union leaders on Monday.

PORTUGAL

Lisbon, Jan 6 — More than 48 flights were cancelled today after airport emergency workers went on strike at six airports in Portugal. About 200 emergency personnel held a one-day strike over fears that their jobs would be outsourced, said the Portuguese airport management company, ANA. An ANA spokesman, Rui Oliveira, said 53 percent of flights had been affected, with 20 cancelled at the airport in Porto, 15 in Faro and 13 at

the Azores' four airports. Emergency services at Lisbon and in Madeira are provided by the local fire brigades, so flights at these airports were not affected.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A strike by thousands of London Underground workers went ahead yesterday, threatening station closures and disruption to millions of travellers during today's rush hour. Members of the Rail Maritime and Transport Union staged their second walk-out in a row over staffing levels and new rosters, with the threat of an escalation in the industrial action. The 24-hour strike, following an earlier stoppage on New Year's Eve, started at 1830 and immediately led to the closure of an underground station at Upminster Bridge in East London. Further station closures are expected, especially this morning when a full return to work after the festive break is expected in the capital. London's Mayor Ken Livingstone said the only effect of the industrial action was to inconvenience the public and lose pay for those among the 4,000 station staff who joined the strike. Mr Livingstone said a deal was reached more than a year ago to give station staff a 35-hour week and 52 days leave adding that he was totally committed to implementing it. He said the "clear agreement" was that the reduction in hours would be covered by redeploying staff, particularly from ticket offices where cash sales have been falling following the introduction of prepaid cards. The union said a peace formula had been agreed during talks on Friday evening but claimed it was "scuppered" because of a disagreement between London Underground managers. General Secretary Bob Crow warned that the dispute could be escalated, with all RMT Tube members being balloted for industrial action from the end of January which the union said could lead to a complete closure of the network which is used by up to three million people a day. During the previous strike, from noon on New Year's Eve, LU said only around 35 of its 275 stations were closed.



CLASS-ACTION SETTLEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 7, states: America Online yesterday announced that it will pay up to \$25 million to customers in a proposed settlement of a class-action lawsuit in St. Clair County that alleged unauthorized billing for some computer services. If approved, the settlement will provide cash refunds

to customers who believe they were charged for features or products they didn't order, such as call-alert features or AOL desk calendars, or billed for additional accounts they hadn't ordered. Customers may receive refunds between \$25 and \$80, depending on how much documentation they have and whether they lodged complaints with AOL. To receive more than those amounts, the settlement includes an arbitration procedure. Or, if customers want, they can receive credit or free time on new accounts. AOL, part of Time Warner Inc., also will donate \$1 million worth of services to charities. Many of those eligible for the cash refunds already may have received mailed notices. Richard Burke, a lawyer for the customers, said mailings went to more than 200,000 customers. "Under this settlement, people can recover all of the money they're entitled to," he said. The company has denied any wrongdoing and said it is settling the suit to avoid the "time and expense of defending against such lawsuits." The proposed settlement is set for a final approval hearing before Judge Michael O'Malley on Feb 22. It was given preliminary approval in November. If the settlement is approved, customers must submit claim forms by April 24. The company agreed to pay an additional \$8 million in attorneys fees to the plaintiffs' lawyers. The Lakin Law Firm of Wood River and Freed & Weiss of Chicago will share \$4.5 million of that, while the remainder will go to California firms that pursued the suit in that state, Burke said.

LEAKAGE OF CHEMICALS, CINCINNATI, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Companies linked to the chemical leak in Cincinnati's East End last year have agreed to pay at least \$2 million in compensation to residents and businesses, including \$28,000 to Cincinnati Public Schools. The payments resolve some of the legal claims from a leaking railroad car that spewed styrene into the air for several days in August, prompting the evacuation of about 800 properties. But settlement talks have failed to resolve several pending lawsuits that contend as many as 30,000 residents and businesses should be paid damages. A Hamilton County judge met with lawyers on both sides yesterday and gave them until Jan 31 to resolve the remaining claims. "I want to give them every opportunity to see if they have the means of settling this," said Common Pleas Judge Melba Marsh, who plans to set a trial date if the two sides fail to reach agreement. Joe Callow, a lawyer for the residents, said an offer was made to settle the cases, but he would not say how much money is being sought. "It's up to them to decide if they want to settle or if they want to litigate," he said. The leak began Aug 28, when a chemical cloud emerged from a rail car that had been sitting for months on a Linwood siding.

Residents have accused three companies, Ohio Railway Corp., Westlake Chemical Corp. and Kinder Morgan Liquid Terminals, of negligence in their handling of the rail car or the chemical. Residents' lawyers have asked to combine their lawsuits into a single class-action complaint, but Marsh has delayed a decision until after Jan 31. The companies continue to offer individual settlements to residents and businesses. James Brockman, a lawyer for the railroad, said the companies have settled with more than 1,000 people. "They are still settling cases, even as we speak," he said. The most recent settlement, and one of the largest, is the deal to pay Cincinnati Public Schools about \$28,000. School officials said the money covers the cost of closing McKinley School, which was near the leaking rail car, and transporting students and staff to Kilgour School for one week. "It's what we needed to cover our expenses," school spokeswoman Chris Wolff said. A separate lawsuit filed by the city of Cincinnati also is pending. A final meeting with a mediator in that case ended in November without a settlement.

WRONGFUL DEATH, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated Jan 7, states: The family of a Louisa teenager killed in a bus crash has reached a settlement in their \$10 million lawsuit against Louisa County school officials. It's related to a deadly bus accident in February 2004 that claimed the life of 16 year-old Thomas Cameron. The accident happened when bus driver Lorrie Ann Batten swerved off Route 618 and hit a tree. Batten was convicted of reckless driving.

WRONGFUL DEATH, NORTH CAROLINA UNITED STATES

See N421LL under "Aviation".

Railway Accidents



ALEXANDRIA, INDIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated Jan 8, states: Crews have moved a derailed 85-car freight train out of an intersection in northern Madison County, but the road remained closed today. About seven cars, including four tankers, derailed yesterday, blocking intersections in downtown Alexandria, about 20 miles northwest of Muncie in eastern Indiana. The train's contents, mostly grain and cargo boxes, were not hazardous. No injuries were reported. Alexandria police dispatcher Chrissy Rasmussen said today that the derailed cars had been removed, but the intersection remained closed

because the tracks still required repair. Rudy Husband, a spokesman with Norfolk Southern Corp., said the train was travelling to Chicago from Macon, Ga.

HATTIESBURG, MISSOURI, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated Jan 7, states: A busy Hattiesburg intersection was closed to traffic for several hours today after a half-dozen cars in a coal train derailed late last night. Six cars in a Canadian-National freight train left the track at the Highway 42 Bypass around 2200. The train was loaded with coal and was headed south to Moss Point when the derailment occurred. No one was injured. Company officials tell us the train was going about 11 miles-per-hour when the accident happened, causing two of the cars to spill a large amount of coal around the intersection. By 0900 the derailed cars had been removed and about a dozen workers from Port Allen, Louisiana spent the rest of the day removing coal and making minor repairs to the rails. Company officials say the incident is still being investigated.

MUGHALSARAI AREA, INDIA

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated Jan 11, states: Normal traffic on the busy Mughalsarai junction was affected following the derailment of a goods train near Mughalsarai railway station in the neighbouring Chandauli district this morning. Railway sources said here traffic on the route was affected following the derailment. Normal traffic, however, resumed by afternoon following necessary track repairs, sources added. Earlier, seven people including two drivers and four engine staff were hurt, after Neelanchal Express collided with a shunting engine near the same railway station yesterday. A departmental probe had been ordered into that accident.

QUANTICO AREA, VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: A commuter train carrying 400 passengers toward Washington derailed during this morning's rush hour, injuring at least four people and tying up rail travel. The National Transportation Safety Board was investigating what caused the engine and the last three cars of the Virginia Railway Express train to jump off the tracks just north of Quantico. Three passengers and the conductor were injured, said Mark Roeber, a VRE spokesman. All were treated and released from hospitals. Passenger and freight rail service, including Amtrak and CSX routes, were disrupted in both directions. About 15 Amtrak trains were delayed or canceled, and about 3,000 passengers were affected, Amtrak spokesman Cliff Black said. The line, owned by CSX, also carries 30 to 35 freight trains daily. CSX spokesman Gary Cease said workers

and heavy equipment were being brought to the site to repair the tracks and get the trains back on the rails.

RURAL HALL, NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: Seven cars of a train derailed this morning in Rural Hall, according to authorities. The train derailed just before 9 a.m. near the intersection of Broad and Depot streets. Yadkin Valley Railroad said several of the 83 cars were empty and that nothing hazardous was aboard. There were no injuries, but traffic was tied up in the area. The company and the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department are investigating the cause.

Miscellaneous



ALLEGED CONTAMINATED CARGO ON BELIZE VESSEL AT MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: According to a news agency report general cargo *Orbit* (13436 gt, built 1976) at Maputo harbour has been detained because of fears that its cargo of rice is contaminated with asbestos dust. Authorities are investigating. It is thought the reason why authorities are concerned over contamination is that the ship called at Maputo in November to load a cargo of asbestos fibre which was shipped to Iran. There are concerns that any hazardous and dangerous dust still present in the ship may be able to contaminate its food cargo. Some 10,000 tonnes of rice were due to be discharged at Maputo before the ship sailed to Beira to discharge the balance of 7,500 tonnes.

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: General cargo *Orbit* docked at Maputo port, and carrying 17,500 tonnes of rice, is under investigation by the Mozambican authorities who fear that the rice may be contaminated. *Orbit*, entered the port yesterday morning, and was immediately seized so that its cargo could be properly inspected. The problem is *Orbit* was in Maputo in November, when it picked up a cargo of asbestos exported from Zimbabwe to Iran. The vessel's cargo will be investigated by a team chaired by Ana Charles, head of the Environmental Hygiene department in the Health Ministry. The Ministry's spokesperson, Martinho Djedje, confirmed *Orbit* had been seized. He said that the investigations are already under way. Laboratory analyses would be made, and Djedje promised that as soon as this work is concluded the results will be publicly announced. Fifteen thousand tonnes of the rice belongs to the Mozambican company Delta Trading, which had

intended to unload 10,000 tonnes in Maputo, and the rest in Beira. The remaining 2,500 tonnes belongs to a second company, Africom.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated Jan 6, states: Traces of asbestos have been found in the holds of general cargo *Orbit* currently docked in Maputo port and carrying 17,500 tonnes of rice. *Orbit* is known to have carried a cargo of asbestos exported from Zimbabwe to Iran last November. Now it has turned up in Maputo again, but this time laden with rice from Pakistan, belonging to the companies Delta Trading and Africom, intended for sale in Maputo and Beira. Thus the Mozambican health authorities have banned the unloading of the *Orbit's* cargo until a thorough investigation has been undertaken to see whether or not the rice is contaminated. According to "Mediafax", Delta Trading had claimed that, before the rice was loaded the ship's holds were cleaned and checked. However, sources within the health inspection team said that traces of asbestos had indeed been found on top of the sacks of rice. This must increase fears that microscopic asbestos fibres have found their way inside the sacks. It seems that the vessel does have a certificate claiming that it was cleaned.

ALLEGED CONTAMINATED CARGO ON BELIZE VESSEL AT MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated Jan 10, states: A press report, dated Jan 10, states: Mozambique health officials have given all clear to a cargo of rice on board general cargo *Orbit*, after conducting analysis of the ship and its cargo. The discharging of the cargo was suspended in Maputo harbour after fears of contamination by way of a previous cargo of asbestos carried by the vessel. *Orbit* has 10,000 tonnes of rice to discharge in Maputo after which it sails to Beira to discharge another 7,500 tonnes.

COLLAPSE OF CONSTRUCTION SITE CRANE, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: The widows of the three ironworkers who died in the July 1999 collapse of the Big Blue crane at Miller Park will receive about \$30 million under the terms of an out-of-court agreement, according to sources familiar with the settlement. Coupled with the \$27 million that has been paid to the widows of Jeffrey A. Wischer, William R. DeGrave and Jerome W. Starr, the final agreement in principle means that the women will receive far less than what a Milwaukee County Circuit Court jury awarded them during a trial in December 2000. In the court case, the jury returned a verdict and attributed 97% of the liability to Mitsubishi Heavy Industries of America and 3% to Lampson International, which leased the 45-storey crane. The jury awarded \$5.25 million in compensatory damages and \$94 million in punitive

damages. According to the sources, Mitsubishi did not have to pay any money under the terms of the settlement. Instead, three insurance companies, Federal Insurance Co., Travelers Indemnity Co. of Illinois, and Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Co., are to make the payments. Of the three companies, Federal was the most exposed under a layered insurance plan that governed any claims filed in connection with accidents or mishaps on the Miller Park construction site. The accident delayed the opening of the baseball stadium by a year and caused \$100 million in property damage that insurance covered. The ballpark opened in March 2001. The Milwaukee Brewers received \$20.5 million in compensation for loss of income.

COLLAPSE OF ICE RINK ROOF, BAD REICHENHALL, GERMANY

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: Rescuers in the town of Bad Reichenhall today recovered the body of the last victim of the collapse of a skating rink. Local officials scrambled to defuse the rage of residents suspicious the building had been neglected. The rink's snow-covered roof collapsed suddenly Monday afternoon (Jan 2), crushing and burying the mostly youthful skaters beneath splintered beams and twisted metal. Twelve children and three adults died, and 18 people were hospitalised. The last fatality — a 40-year-old woman — was carried from the scene early this morning. All 15 died instantly, said Edith Tutsch-Bauer, head of the nearby Salzburg medical examiner's office, which conducted the autopsies. The 15 victims were all local residents. Police spokesman Hubertus Andrae said officers confiscated 40 piles of documents from the sports hall and city offices as part of prosecutors' investigation into possible negligent homicide. Samples of materials from the building were sent to labs for testing, although a report was not expected before April, Andrae said. Many residents say the fact that the arena's roof had leaked for years was warning enough that it was deteriorating, and that officials should have found the funds to fix it rather than spending on new thermal baths and a shopping street popular with tourists.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

Dogubayazit, Turkey, Jan 6 — A third Turkish child from the same family died of bird flu today as the virus which has killed 74 people in east Asia reached the threshold of Europe. Hulya Kocyigit, 11, was the sister of Mehmet Ali, a 14-year-old boy who died last weekend, and of Fatma, 15, a girl who died yesterday. The children lived in a remote rural district of eastern Turkey near the Armenian border. Their six-year-old brother is also being treated for the same disease in the hospital. Huseyin Avni Sahin, the head doctor at Van

hospital where the children died, told CNN Turk 23 people were now being treated at his hospital for suspected bird flu. The authorities said yesterday that the victims being treated came from more than one province in eastern Turkey. "Fifteen of them are in bed, one in a critical condition. Eight are able to move about. Most of the patients are children," he said. In the dead children's home town of Dogubayazit, near the Iranian and Armenian borders, an anxious crowd gathered outside the state agricultural offices to dump sackfuls of dead poultry or to ask for their poultry to be culled. Agriculture officials wearing face masks and protective white suits carried the sacks away to be culled and dumped in the municipal rubbish tip outside the town, where they are buried in a deep pit and covered with lime. One official said 3,500 poultry had been culled in the district so far and this figure was expected to reach 5,000 by the time the operation was completed tomorrow. However, officials said some families were trying to conceal some of their poultry. Rauf Ulusoy, the state's representative in the town, said 14 people had been sent from the town for treatment in neighboring Van since the outbreak first emerged at the end of December. He said the authorities had prepared a leaflet for locals detailing the precautionary measures which they should take against the spread of bird flu and this was being distributed in the town. Authorities have sent extra supplies of the Tamiflu medicine used against the disease to Van, which is about 500 miles east of the capital Ankara. The World Health Organization (WHO) has provisionally backed the diagnosis that the children died of the H5N1 strain of bird flu but has said that more tests need to be carried out. The WHO sent a team of experts to Turkey to help investigate the deaths at Ankara's request and the European Commission said it had sent a veterinary expert to help tackle the outbreak. Samples from Turkish patients were being analyzed in Britain. — Reuters.

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Tests carried out by Indonesian authorities showed that a man who died this week had bird flu, health authorities said yesterday. Further tests will be carried out at a Hong Kong laboratory accredited by the World Health Organization (WHO) to confirm the finding, said senior health ministry official Hariyadi Wibisono. "Local test results show that the man died of bird flu," he said. If confirmed by the Hong Kong laboratory, the man would be Indonesia's 12th fatality from the H5N1 virus, which has killed at least 70 people across Asia since 2003. Results are expected next week, he said. The man died Monday (Jan 2) after being treated for a day at Jakarta's Sulianti Saroso hospital, Indonesia's main bird flu treatment centre. Indonesia needs nearly \$1

billion over two years to fight bird flu, which has killed 11 people in the world's fourth most populous nation, chief social welfare minister Aburizal Bakrie said yesterday. Officials also said the government planned to set up surveillance posts at every village across the sprawling archipelago to detect any signs of the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus among humans and poultry. "We estimate we will need around 9 trillion rupiah (\$940 million) and the funds will not necessarily come from Indonesia, but from donor countries," Bakrie told reporters.

Istanbul, Jan 9 — Twenty-one people in the Istanbul area are in hospital amid fears they have bird flu, newspapers said today, raising concern the deadly disease has spread to Turkey's commercial hub of 12 million people. Health authorities expect to receive test results on the 21 people today, the *Milliyet* daily said. Istanbul province deputy health director Mehmet Bakar said initial tests on two dead chickens in the Istanbul district of Kucukcekmece indicated they were infected by the bird flu virus, the reports said. A third test was being carried out to determine the definitive diagnosis. "Twenty-one people under suspicion (of having bird flu) have been kept in hospital under observation. Samples have been taken from these people and sent to the laboratory for examination," Bakar was quoted as saying in *Star* newspaper. — Reuters.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: China has confirmed its eighth human case of the deadly form of bird flu. The official news agency, Xinhua, cites the Health Ministry as saying a six-year-old boy from central Hunan province has contracted the H5N1 virus. He is being treated in hospital.

Ankara, Jan 10 — Turkey reported another human case of bird flu today as authorities sealed off areas around major cities Ankara and Istanbul while they culled poultry to halt the advance of the deadly virus. Three children have already died in eastern Turkey, the first reported deaths from the bird virus flu outside China and South-east Asia. Dozens of worried Turks have rushed to hospitals for tests for the virus across the country of 72 million. Turkey has reported that a dozen more people are infected with the virus, with confirmed cases as far west as the central region around Ankara sparking fears the disease could spread to people in mainland Europe. Snow and freezing temperatures in the east of the country are also hampering efforts to tackle the virus and may be allowing it to survive for longer. Four people were taken to hospital with suspected bird flu in the town of Aydin near the Aegean coast, one of Turkey's most important tourism centres, adding to concerns the outbreak would harm the country's important tourist trade. Authorities in neighbouring countries sprayed cars crossing from Turkey with disinfectant and checked luggage as they tried to stem the spread of

bird flu. Health experts say there is no evidence so far of human-to-human transmission of the virus, but fear the H5N1 strain could mutate enough to allow it to pass easily from person to person and spark a pandemic. "The transmission is clearly from the infected birds to people in close contact with them," Denis Coulombier, from the European centre for disease prevention and control in Stockholm, said. "At this juncture there is absolutely no evidence of any human-to-human transmission." Health experts say the outbreak in Turkey is the worst since one in Hong Kong in 1997 when 18 people were infected and six died before it was brought under control. Bird flu has killed at least 76 people since it reemerged in late 2003. The latest victim confirmed with bird flu was from the central province of Sivas, Anatolian news agency said. The authorities have sent teams of veterinarians to a number of regions to cull poultry, seen as the best method of checking the disease. The mayor of the eastern village of Dogubayazit, home to the three children who died, said many people were hiding their poultry because they did not believe government promises that they would be fully compensated. Parts of suburbs of the capital Ankara and the business hub Istanbul have been sealed off for the culling of poultry. Inhabitants leaving the areas have been disinfected. Istanbul provincial agriculture chief Ahmet Kavak said almost 3,000 birds had been destroyed. Authorities said 12 of 23 people undergoing tests for bird flu in Istanbul had tested negative. There is concern the deadly virus could hit the teeming city of 12 million which is the country's commercial hub and gateway to Europe from Asia. Turkey has stepped up an information campaign on how to deal with birds and called on locals to comply with culling regulations, particularly in the poor mainly-Kurdish south-east. — Reuters.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated Jan 10, states: Up to 77 people in Japan, most of them chicken farm workers, may have been infected with a mild form of bird flu, a news report said today, citing government officials. The sufferers came from two prefectures, Saitama and Ibaraki, outside of Tokyo, Kyodo News agency reported. Officials at the Health Ministry refused to immediately confirm the report. Kyodo said the 77 showed evidence of antibodies to the H5N2 virus, which is weaker than the deadly H5N1 form. None of them showed signs of the disease and there was no danger that they would, the report said. Japan so far has suffered one case of human infection of the more deadly virus, but no deaths.

Ankara, Jan 11 — Turkey today stepped up efforts to halt an outbreak of deadly bird flu that has spread to a third of the country's provinces, killed at least two children and infected more than a dozen people. Two more people in China have died from H5N1

strain of bird flu, bringing the death toll there to five, as the country announced another outbreak in poultry. Scientists fear H5N1, which is known to have killed 78 people since late 2003 and is endemic in poultry across parts of Asia, could mutate into a form that can spread easily between people, leading to a pandemic. The virus has infected birds in some 30 out of 81 provinces, including Turkey's key tourism region near the Aegean coast, Ankara and the business hub Istanbul. Authorities have stepped up the culling of poultry, with more than 300,000 killed since Dec 26. The authorities say they have the situation under control, but stress that Turkey will remain at risk as it lies in the path of migratory birds believed to carry the virus. Health experts have said there is no evidence so far of human-to-human transmission, but fear the H5N1 strain could mutate into a version that can be transmitted easily from person to person and spark a pandemic. More than 70 people are suspected of having bird flu and are being tested. In eastern city of Van, where some 40 people are being treated for suspected bird flu, locals complained that officials had failed to take away chickens running freely in the roads where children play. A crisis centre has been set up in Ankara to deal with the outbreak and the Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan will meet officials today to discuss the crisis. The authorities have ordered doctors from large cities to be sent to eastern Turkey, which has been worst hit by the virus and where there are not enough doctors. To reduce the risk of the spread of the virus patients will be carried in different ambulances from other family members, and the clothes of health workers and their vehicles will be disinfected regularly. Two teenagers died last week from bird flu in eastern Turkey — the first reported deaths from the virus outside China and South-east Asia. Their dead sister is also a suspected victim and hundreds of Turks have rushed to hospitals for bird flu tests. The World Health Organisation has said it was not clear why so many people had been infected in Turkey so quickly. "It is an open question if we are seeing a more efficient transmission from animals to humans," said Guenaël Rodier, heading the WHO's mission to Turkey. There was also no answer yet to why the fatality rate was relatively low — just two confirmed deaths so far — against a rate in east Asia of roughly one death in every second case. Snow and freezing temperatures in the east of Turkey are also hampering efforts to tackle the virus and may be allowing it to survive for longer. Authorities in neighbouring countries sprayed cars crossing from Turkey with disinfectant and checked luggage as they tried to stem the spread of bird flu. — Reuters.

Bucharest, Jan 11 — Romania has found new suspected cases of bird flu

in poultry in a region west of the Danube delta, where the deadly strain of the virus was first detected in October, the farm ministry said today. The Balkan country has found the highly pathogenic avian flu in 26 villages in and outside the Danube delta, Europe's largest wetlands and a major migratory route for wild birds. "Preliminary tests taken from domestic birds in the villages of Ciresu and Dudesti in Braila county showed potential signs of the H5 type," the Agriculture Ministry said in a statement. It said the villages would be quarantined and all domestic birds will be culled. Romania has not recorded any bird flu cases in humans so far but two people have died and more than a dozen have been infected with the virus in Turkey. Authorities in the Bulgarian capital Sofia have banned the sale of livestock as a precaution against bird flu. Sofia municipality spokeswoman Tsveti Krasteva said the city would close its four livestock markets. Police, veterinarians and city officials would ensure the ban is observed. Speaking to parliament, Agriculture Minister Nihat Kabil said the virus had not yet been detected in Bulgaria but the risk of its emerging remained high due to the outbreaks in neighbours Romania and Turkey. — Reuters.

Fires & Explosions



BANK, JEBEL ALI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Karachi, Jan 11 — A major fire broke out in the Jebel Ali branch of the Emirates Bank of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Dubai, overnight Jan 8/9. As a result office equipment, furniture and other materials worth Dh6 million were completely destroyed. According to a local media report, the fire, which broke out around 1230, local time, was first noticed by the security guards when they saw smoke billowing out of the bank. They immediately alerted the police, who rushed to the scene before the arrival of the Civil Defence team from Jebel Ali. It took three hours for the Civil Defence to bring the fire under control. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

BUSH, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews battling a bushfire in the Weddin Mountains National Park in central western New South Wales have managed to keep the blaze within containment lines. Tony Place from the Rural Fire Service (RFS) says there were fears that overnight winds of up to 60 kilometres an hour could have spread the blaze. "Firefighters had a testing night with erratic winds

conditions but backburning did continue on the eastern side of the Weddin mountain," he said. "We hope to get the containment line nearing the divisional boundary backburning on the western side of the mountain due to the wind conditions." The RFS is warning residents the fire could continue for some weeks and locals must be prepared for the possibility the blaze could break containment lines.

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Crews hope to bring a fire burning in the New South Wales central-west under control today. The bushfire near Grenfell has blackened more than 5,500 hectares in the Weddin National Park. Yesterday's windy conditions prevented firefighters from backburning and setting up containment lines. But Meeka Bailey from the Rural Fire Service (RFS) says less wind and higher humidity today should make their job easier. Meanwhile, it is hoped the cooler weather will help the recovery process of farms damaged by the recent bushfire at June in the state's south-west. The fire burnt tens of thousands of hectares and affected more than 100 families. Graham Eggleston of the Department of Primary Industries says the fire could not have happened at a worse time, when farmers are just starting to recover from the drought.

CHURCH, CHICAGO, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated Jan 7, states: A historic Chicago church has been consumed in a blaze thought to be caused by accident. The Pilgrim Baptist Church at 3301 S. Indiana Ave. became a major-alarm fire yesterday afternoon as construction workers were repairing the roof. The Chicago Tribune reports. Fire media affairs spokesman Larry Langford said there were no injuries. He said by 1530 hrs the fire was declared a 4-11 alarm, which calls for 16 engines, 10 trucks and 145 firefighters to be on the scene. Built in 1890 as a synagogue, it became Pilgrim Baptist Church in 1922 and declared a Chicago landmark in 1981.

COAL MINE, WEST VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Federal investigators today swarmed the coal mine where an explosion left 12 workers dead, supervising the drilling of ventilation holes to allow safe inspections of the tunnel where the miners died. The work to rid Sago Mine of enough potential explosives and noxious gases may take several days, said Ben Hatfield, chief executive of the International Coal Group. "The foremost concern throughout this process has been that there are so many things we don't know about what went wrong," Hatfield said. "We don't want to put any more people at risk until we know

answers." The Mine Safety and Health Administration has appointed an eight-person team to investigate Monday's (Jan 2) blast that killed one miner immediately and left a dozen more trapped more than two miles inside the mine. Only one was alive when they were found 41 hours later behind a plastic curtain erected to block deadly carbon monoxide. In addition to investigating possible causes, including lightning that may have ignited naturally occurring methane or coal dust, MSHA said the probe will also look into the mistaken communication from rescue teams that had anxious relatives believing for three hours that 12 of the trapped miners had survived. The lone survivor, 26-year-old Randal McCloy Jr, was blinking his eyes and showing other hopeful signs today at the Pittsburgh hospital where he was moved a day earlier to receive intense hyperbaric oxygen treatments. However, doctors cautioned he was still critically ill from extensive carbon monoxide poisoning and remained in a medically induced coma. ICG's Hatfield said the Sago Mine would remain closed during the investigation, and the company was trying to find temporary jobs elsewhere for the site's 145 employees. The federal mine agency said it cited the Sago mine for 208 violations in 2005, a number an agency official said was higher than normal for a mine of its size. The violations included 18 orders shutting parts of the mine until alleged violations were corrected. None was deemed serious enough to close the entire operation.

FACTORY, DANDENONG, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: An overnight fire has caused an estimated Aus\$1.5 million damage to a printing factory in Dandenong in Victoria. Firefighters were called to the blaze in Hart Street shortly before midnight, AEDT. It took them around one-and-a-half hours to control the fire. Police will investigate the cause this morning.

FACTORY, GLEN ROCK, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: People living within three miles of a factory rocked by an explosion yesterday night were told to stay inside and keep windows and doors shut as authorities feared harmful chemicals could be released into the air by the resulting fire. Dozens of firefighters, including crews from Maryland, battled the blaze after the explosions at the Adhesives Research Incorporated factory in Glen Rock. Troopers also shut down a portion of Interstate 83 in the area. A York County emergency dispatcher said there were no immediate reports of injuries in the second explosion. Tuesday night's (Jan 10) blast came after an explosion blew out a wall of the factory Tuesday morning. No one was hurt in the morning explosion,

and a fire was quickly brought under control. The company produces pressure-sensitive tapes, coatings and laminates.

FACTORY, WEST MIDLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 6 — At least 75 firefighters are tackling a major chemical blaze at a factory in the West Midlands. The fire broke out yesterday afternoon at the Pargat factory in Colliery Road, close to West Bromwich Albion's football ground. A West Midlands Fire and Rescue spokeswoman said at least 20 tonnes of the chemical resorcinol was ablaze. Smoke and fumes are said to be travelling in a large cloud across the M5 motorway. The spokeswoman said the cloud contained elements of sulphur and nitrogen and was heading westwards towards Dudley. Residents are advised to keep doors and windows closed and motorists are advised that visibility on the motorway will be poor. The fire service said part of the fire-damaged building had collapsed. Divisional officer John Rees, of West Midlands Fire and Rescue, said fire had engulfed the entire building. "The company makes non-stick coatings and uses about 30 chemicals in the process. "We have to be quite careful about how the residue is going to be disposed off, we don't want it all flushing away." Environment Agency experts are also at the scene. Fire crews are expected to remain there well into Friday morning. The blaze broke out on an industrial estate meaning homes in the area did not have to be evacuated.

FOREST, NEW ZEALAND

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters are trying to control the site of last Sunday's (Jan 8) forest fire in north-east Christchurch before predicted north-west winds cause havoc. About 50 rural firefighters have been dampening the 30ha at Bottle Lake, north of Parklands, and 21 worked through last night. On Monday, about 40 firefighters worked to contain a 20m to 30m ring around the burnt area. Yesterday, they pushed further into the centre. Principal rural fire officer Keith Marshall said crews would widen existing firebreaks (20m gaps in vegetation) and create new ones to lessen the likelihood of fire spreading to surrounding forest.

FOREST, TIBET, CHINA

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated Jan 8, states: China has deployed about 1,300 people, including fire-fighters and armed police in Tibet to stamp out a major forest fire at the foot of Mount Everest that has been raging for over a week, media reports said here. Bush forest fires in Tingri, a small Tibetan county are still not controlled by Friday (Jan 6) after the fires broke out six days ago, Xinhua news agency reported from Lhasa, the Tibetan capital. Strong winds, dangerous

mountain landscapes and no water sources within two kilometres made the rescue work especially difficult, local officials said. About 1,300 fire fighters, armed police and locals are working jointly to put out the fires and investigate cause of the fires, they said. The fires broke out last Sunday in bushes of Tingri county in Xigaze, at the foot of Mount Everest. Fire flames could be spotted when fire fighters arrived at the site, and the fire flames were basically put out on Thursday after two days of fighting, but thick smokes and flying sparkles still could be seen on Friday, officials said. The gales were strong enough to revive any sparkles in the forests, they said. The fires were dispersed at the steep mountain peaks and valleys embedded in snow-covered mountains. The fires occurred about 50 km from Mt. Everest. The fires are about four kilometres away from the virgin forests in a natural reserve around Mt. Everest.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated Jan 8, states: A big blaze which went rampant for seven full days in the county of Dingri, at the foot of Mount Qomolangma, known in the West as Mt. Everest, has finally been reined in this morning, said a source with local fire brigade. The blaze was caught on Jan 1 in a canyon in the county's Tuolonggou Natural Reserve, which is about 50 km away from the Mount Qomolangma, said Ouzhu, deputy director of the public security section of Xigaze prefecture. More than 1,300 locals, soldiers and armed police were aroused to fight against the fire and eventually brought it under control thanks to strenuous efforts of more than 160 hours, said the official. Gale-force winds in the canyon and distant water sources, among other factors, had brought great difficulties to the fire quenching work. The investigation into the cause of the fire is underway.

HOSTEL, MECCA, SAUDI ARABIA

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Saudi authorities have given up the hunt for survivors from the collapse of a hostel in the holy city of Mecca that killed 76 people, the latest tragedy to strike the Muslim Hajj or pilgrimage. Interior minister Prince Nayef Bin Abdel Aziz was due to discuss the tragedy in an emergency meeting today, the eve of the start of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, the holiest site in Islam. Ministry spokesman General Mansour Al Turki said 76 people were killed and 62 others wounded when the aging and overcrowded multistorey building collapsed on Jan 5. He said the dead consisted of 48 men and 28 women. "Saudis, French nationals of Arab origin and Yemenis are among the dead," he said, adding that 40 bodies had yet to be identified. Health ministry spokesman Khaled Al Mirghalani said that "one or two at most [of the identified dead] are French citizens," adding that Malaysians were also among the dead.

Jordan said five of its nationals had died and officials in France said seven Algerians living in France were among the victims. The United Arab Emirates announced also the death of three of its nationals, while two remain missing. The death toll has not changed since late yesterday, senior health official in Mecca Khaled Al Samiri said. He also boasted that the 9,600-strong ministry's mobilised staff of doctors and medics were ready for any arising emergency. Emergency teams armed with sound-detecting gear had worked frantically since Jan 5 to try to locate survivors in the wreckage of the building which an official charged was overcrowded. "Through our inspection of the site, there was a clear indication that the building was overloaded," regional civil defence director General Adel Zamzami said. Turki also cast doubt on the soundness of the structure, claiming that some additions to the Luluat Al Kheir hostel might have been made illegally. A planning engineer who worked on installing mobile telecommunication towers in the area said it was an "additional structure that caved in, leading to the complete collapse of the building. Survivors recounted the horror of the tragedy as they lay in the city's hospitals.

MEAT PROCESSING PLANT, PUKEURI, NEW ZEALAND

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Parts of the Alliance Group's Pukeuri meatworks are seriously damaged after a major fire at the North Otago plant yesterday. Alliance Group production manager John Brader said this morning an initial assessment early today showed serious damage to two of the four boning rooms, with the other two mainly affected by smoke and water damage. Other parts of the plant appeared unaffected by the huge blaze that raged from 0930, yesterday until late into last night. "We're not sure where it started yet," Mr Brader said. "The experts are there at the moment carrying out assessments." Alliance engineering staff were on site to gauge what repairs were required to get production underway again. The fire is believed to have started in one of the boning rooms and the Fire Service said difficult access and intense heat made the fire hard to fight. It struck at a busy time for the Pukeuri plant, which has been processing about 10,500 sheep and lambs a day, about 90 per cent of capacity. Stock are being redirected to other Alliance plants in the South Island. "We will have a better idea tomorrow what it means in terms of the plant being able to get going again," Mr Brader said. "At this stage it's much too early to make a determination on that." While parts of the plant appeared unaffected by the fire, Mr Brader said it was a case of some departments being dependent on others. "We're still assessing it." Mr Brader said some areas of the plant, such as the rendering and freezing

departments, were expected to be operating today. Pukeuri, just north of Oamaru, is North Otago's largest employer, with more than 900 employees on the payroll. Meat Workers Union national secretary Dave Eastlake said today the union was adopting a wait-and-see stance on when the plant was likely to reopen fully. Worst affected staff would be covered by "minimum payments" this week if the company was unable to resume operations in the next few days, he said. "Long term, I'm not too sure," Mr Eastlake said. "Some of the reports coming out of there today aren't too good." He said he understood two of the boning rooms had been "totally destroyed", but that should not affect killing operations. "I've also heard the slaughter board is in pretty reasonable shape, but I dare say they'll have to assess what actually works and what doesn't."

**PETROCHEMICAL PLANT,
JILIN PROVINCE, CHINA**

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: Local authorities in Harbin have launched an aggressive public relations campaign, assuring residents and visitors that the city has rebounded from the benzene spill in November in the Songhua River. They want to keep the disaster from ruining the city's winter festival, which usually attracts millions of visitors to the region's most popular event of the season. Du Yuxin, Harbin's Communist Party secretary, said this week that water quality had improved since the spill and assured visitors that there was "no need to change travel itineraries because of the water pollution." He said the festival used only ice from tributaries of the Songhua, which did not have any toxic chemicals. While the government says benzene levels in the river fell back to safe levels in early December, experts are watching to see whether any chemicals are released when the ice melts in the spring. Paul Johnston, a Greenpeace researcher based in Britain, said it was hard to predict what would happen because there has been very little study on how benzene behaves in cold weather. "There are a huge number of questions that still need to be answered about the fate of the material both in the short-term and long-term," Johnston said.

**PREMISES, CARSON,
UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: Seventy firefighters battled a blaze at a Carson plastics manufacturing plant that began with an explosion shortly after noon today. "We responded to a report of an explosion with an outdoor fire," said Los Angeles County Fire Department Capt. Mark Savage. "There were secondary explosions going off involving 55-gallon drums launching into the air." Three people were injured at the plant, Savage said. They were treated and taken to hospitals.

Firefighters quickly contained the fire. The fire was reported at 1203 hrs at in the 16000 block of South Maple Avenue in Carson, according to a spokesman.

**PREMISES, LUTTERWORTH,
UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jan 11 — The cause of a blaze that wiped out half the stock of a top UK clothing retailer may never be known. Fire destroyed the Primark warehouse in Leicestershire in November, gutting the 440,000sq ft complex. Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service said the results were inconclusive after several months of investigation. Investigator Jim Baker said: "We have tried to imagine what could have set fire to the building - but we have now exhausted all the possibilities." On the night of the blaze, the sprinkler system was not working properly because of problems with the water supply, investigators discovered. He said the fire service had liaised with police forensic experts and assessors from the insurance company throughout the investigation. The file on the fire will soon be closed and the results sent to the deputy prime minister's office, he said. Some 15 fire engines from Warwickshire and Leicestershire went to the site, next to the A5. No-one was injured in the fire.

**REFINERY, MISSISSAUGA,
CANADA**

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated Jan 7, states: Peel Regional Police say no one was injured in a blaze that broke out just after lunch at the Petro Canada refinery on Southdown Rd. in Clarkson. Mississauga firefighters and emergency crews were on the scene just after 1230 hrs as large clouds of smoke could be seen billowing through the air. Approximately 40 firefighters arrived on 10 trucks to battle a two-alarm blaze for two hours before the situation was deemed to be under control by Mississauga Fire Chief Garry Morrden. Hazardous materials crews were on scene and Ministry of Environment officials were called in. There were unconfirmed reports that a chemical leak in the Lubricants Centre led to an explosion and fire.

**SHOPPING CENTRE,
UTRECHT, NETHERLANDS**

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Four people were injured in a gas explosion at a shopping centre in the Dutch city of Utrecht this afternoon, the Dutch news agency, ANP, reported. One person was reportedly in a serious condition. At least two shops were seriously damaged by the blast. Employees of a local energy company were working in the shopping centre when the blast occurred. But it is not clear if this had anything to do with the explosion, said the ANP.

**TOWN HALL, GRISWOLD,
CONNECTICUT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: A fire yesterday

destroyed the town of Griswold, Conn.'s historic former Town Hall, which led to the discovery that the \$2.1 million insurance policy on the building expired in October. The fire reduced the structure to a smoldering brick skeleton. First Selectman Anne Hatfield told the Norwich Bulletin said the insurance problem was the result of "gross negligence" by town officials. Hatfield replaced Paul Brycki in November. Hatfield summoned selectmen Bill Stetson and Brycki to an emergency Board of Selectmen meeting yesterday afternoon to question them about the insurance policy. Brycki said it was difficult to find a carrier to insure the vacant 100-year-old building, and the insurance was moved to a separate policy from other town properties. William Donovan, the town's finance director, said a three-month, \$14,000 extension policy was added in July when the previous policy expired, but he said the extension policy with Webster Insurance was never renewed. Donovan said town officials likely thought the 18,116-square-foot building would change hands within that 90-day period. Hatfield hoped state and federal funding would be available to cover cleanup costs. The cause of the fire, which was reported at about 0400 hrs, remained under investigation.

**VETERINARY CLINIC,
LAWNDALE, CALIFORNIA,
UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: An accidental fire caused \$5 million damage to a veterinary clinic in Lawndale, firefighters said today. The blaze broke out about 1730 hrs, yesterday, firefighters said. No people or animals were hurt. The fire began in an equipment area, firefighters said.

**WAREHOUSE, CARTAGENA,
SPAIN**

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated Jan 4, states: Firemen in Cartagena have managed to extinguish a fire which destroyed part of a warehouse on the Cabezo Beaza industrial estate, where thousands of kilos of highly inflammable plastic advertising banners were stored. The warehouse also housed other inflammable promotional items, such as pens, lighters and keyrings. One of the warehouse employees had to be treated for the effects of smoke inhalation. Experts from the fire brigade believe that the blaze, which broke out this morning, was probably caused accidentally. It took 30 firemen and a Proteccion Civil helicopter to extinguish the flames.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Wind-whipped wildfires destroyed at least five houses in southern Colorado and forced the evacuation of several hundred residents today, authorities said. Two fires had burned over 5,400 acres in Huerfano and Las Animas

counties, not far from the New Mexico line. One of them had started as a controlled burn earlier in the week that flared up again despite efforts to keep it down. Wind gusting up to 50 mph prevented authorities from using airplanes to drop slurry on the fires, said Pam Martinez of the Huerfano County Sheriff's office. Firefighters were investigating the extent of the damage, and watching for more flareups. The land around Aguilar, a town of about 1,000 residents, is covered with sagebrush and grass, and the nearby hills are dotted with pinon and ponderosa pine. Drought conditions and gusting wind have spread dozens of wildfires across Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico over the past two weeks. At least 475 homes have been destroyed by the winter blazes and five people have been killed. In Oklahoma, high wind and unseasonably warm temperatures created prime conditions again Sunday for grass fires. Firefighters in southern Oklahoma were trying to tame one wildfire that had already charred about 900 acres near Coalgate, said Richard Reuse, a spokesman for a state command centre. In Texas, more than 60 wildfires were reported across the state, but most were only a few dozen acres in size. Burn bans and more firefighting resources, such as aircraft and equipment, have helped firefighters get the blazes under control, said Forest Service fire information officer Jim Caldwell.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The wildfire danger that has been menacing the parched southern plains spread to Arkansas and Colorado yesterday, where wind-whipped blazes destroyed at least nine homes and forced hundreds of people to evacuate, authorities said. Fires in southern Colorado destroyed five homes, burned at least 6,000 acres. In Arkansas, a 3,000-acre wildfire destroyed four homes yesterday east of Hamburg and chased nearby residents from their houses. Four volunteer fire departments were battling the blaze, and Deputy State Forester Larry Nance said it likely would be today before they could gain control. The cause of the fire, one of at least 43 reported in the state yesterday, was under investigation. Arson was blamed in Oklahoma City for two small grass fires less than a mile apart yesterday that damaged two homes on the city's northeast side, said battalion chief Kirk Wright. In Colorado, fire officials believe human activity sparked the large fires near Aguilar, though they declined to provide further details. Aguilar's 1,000 residents were warned to be prepared to evacuate in case the flames moved closer. Another wildfire broke out in northern Colorado, forcing three to four dozen residents to evacuate homes near Carter Lake. Across Oklahoma, fire crews responded to more than 30 fires during the day, including a large blaze

in southeast Oklahoma that scorched about 6,000 acres, according to the state's incident command centre in Shawnee.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Snowfall helped crews battling a wind-driven, 5,000-acre wildfire today that had destroyed at least three homes and forced 40 people to evacuate in a southern Colorado town. About a dozen people were allowed to return to their homes in Aguilar, not far from the New Mexico line, by midday today. Six inches of snow fell overnight and more fell this morning before giving way to sunny skies. The fire in the Spanish Peaks area, about 160 miles south of Denver, was roughly 5 percent contained, authorities said. Wind gusts of up to 74 mph were reported yesterday. That blaze, and at least 43 wildfires in Arkansas, followed fires on the drought-parched southern Plains that have ravaged parts of Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. At least 475 homes have been destroyed and five people have been killed. Among the Arkansas wildfires, a 3,000-acre fire in Ashley County was still burning today but was mostly surrounded by fire lines. It had destroyed four homes and four other buildings, but no injuries had been reported. Arkansas Forestry Commission spokeswoman Tonja Kelly said today the big fire in Ashley County and a smaller one nearby were arson, and county and state officials would investigate. Arson also was blamed for two small grass fires less than a mile apart in Oklahoma City yesterday. The fires destroyed one home and damaged another. Oklahoma fire crews responded to more than 30 fires yesterday, including one that charred about 6,000 acres, according to the state's incident command centre in Shawnee. Despite heavy snowfall this winter in parts of the Colorado mountains, the region of forests, brush and grass just east of the peaks has been dry and the Forest Service rates the fire danger as very high to extreme.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: About 130 homes outside suburban Denver were evacuated early this morning after a wildfire whipped by wind gusts of up to 60 mph grew to more than 2,000 acres, officials said. Authorities used a reverse 911 system to call residents to evacuate, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Jacki Kelley said. Places also were being set up for evacuated pets and livestock. Kelley called the evacuations a precaution and said no homes were immediately threatened. No injuries were reported. The fire started at about 1830 yesterday, and high winds helped the blaze rapidly increase in size. More than 100 firefighters from 10 agencies were working the fire, Kelley said. No cause had been determined.

Aviation



AIRCRAFT STRUCK BY LIGHTNING ON A FLIGHT FROM GREENSBORO TO CINCINNATI, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A Comair aircraft headed to Cincinnati was hit by lightning on its way from Greensboro, North Carolina. The pilot was able to land safely at CVG just after midnight, this morning. None of the 42 passengers on board were hurt. A Comair spokesperson says the aircraft is undergoing repairs.

C-FIAO

London, Jan 11 — The owner of the Cessna 180, C-FIAO, was landing southbound at Butler Field, the aircraft's home base, which is a 1000 foot grass strip at 1300, Jan 6. The aircraft main wheels struck a small embankment short of the runway threshold as the pilot flared for touchdown. The impact tore the main gear off of the aircraft and the aircraft skidded to a stop on the runway on its belly but remained upright. There was no fire, no injuries, the aircraft was substantially damaged.

C-GLJZ

London, Jan 11 — Jazz Air Bombardier CL-600-2D15, C-GLJZ, operating as JZA8102, was overhead Great Falls, Montana, en route from Calgary to Houston, when the flight crew observed a red "Rev" indication in the right N1 gauge at 0850, Jan 6. There was no yaw and no auto power reduction to idle, and no other EICAS messages were displayed. The emergency checklist for "R Rev Deployed" was completed, the right engine was shut down as a precaution. An emergency was declared and the flight returned to Calgary and landed without further incident, with ARFF standing by. Maintenance and FDR examination confirmed that the thrust reverser had not deployed. The thrust reverser has been locked out, and the aircraft will be operating under the thrust reverser MEL until Jan 16.

C-GXKN

London, Jan 11 — The Buffalo Airways Ltd. Douglas C54G-DC, C-GXKN, operating as flight BFL1405, had departed Norman Wells at 1652, MST, Jan 5. Six minutes later, on climb-out, the crew declared an emergency due to a fire in the number 2 engine. At the time the fire was discovered, the no 2 engine stopped due to internal damage. The fire bottles were discharged with little result. Coincident with the feathering of no 2 propeller, the no 1 propeller auto-feathered while the engine was at climb power. The crew were

planning an emergency off-field landing when the fire extinguished, and the flight returned to Norman Wells for an uneventful two engine landing at 1704 hrs. Normal braking was not available during the landing roll and emergency braking was applied. The aircraft departed the runway surface and came to a full stop in deep snow approximately 60 feet from the edge of the runway. The aircraft sustained substantial fire damage but there were no injuries to the four crew members on board.

CRASH, IASI, ROMANIA

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Four people died in a helicopter crash near the north-eastern Romanian city of Iasi, authorities said today. The helicopter, which belonged to the Interior Ministry, was carrying a medical team when it crashed a few minutes after taking off from Iasi airport, officials said. "It happened during a routine flight which takes place every morning," Radu Prisacaru, head of the county of Iasi, told Realitatea TV private television station. Authorities launched an investigation into the accident, in which everyone on board, a doctor, nurse, pilot and co-pilot, were killed.

CRASH, MAUI, HAWAII

London, Jan 11 — A press report dated today, states: Maui fire officials say a tour helicopter pilot broke his ankle earlier today after a hard landing on Maui. The helicopter carrying two couples from the mainland crash-landed on a thick forest in Kaupo near Haleakala just before 0900 hrs. Russ Scott is owner and president of Sunshine Helicopters. He says the four passengers escaped serious injury. The helicopter was destroyed but there was no fire. All five people were taken to Maui Memorial Hospital for treatment. It is unclear what caused the accident.

London, Jan 12 — A Sunshine Helicopters Aerospatiale AS350 rotorcraft, registration unknown, left Kahului and made a hard landing under unknown circumstances near Kaupo, Maui, Hawaii, at 1000, local time, Jan 10. There were five persons on board and one sustained a serious injury. Damage to aircraft unknown.

CRASH, PAYSON AREA, ARIZONA, UNITED STATES

See N182GV.

CRASH, TVER REGION, RUSSIA

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: Three people have been killed as a light helicopter crashed in Russia today, the Emergency Situations Ministry was quoted by Interfax as saying. A preliminary investigation of the accident, which occurred in Tver region, central Russia, suggested that the Robinson helicopter, belonging to the Russky Ugol (Russian Coal) company, "crashed due to a violation of the piloting rules, hitting an

electricity transmission line," a ministry spokesman said. "There were three people on board the helicopter, the pilot and two passengers", the spokesman said. The aircraft fell into an icebound river near a village, he said.

EC-GAT

London, Jan 10 — A tyre of the left hand main undercarriage of a Spanair MD-83, EC-GAT, burst on landing at Barcelona Airport, Jan 9. A small fire erupted and the 90 passengers and six crew members were evacuated on the runway. Five passengers were slightly injured.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BORISPOL AIRPORT, KIEV, UKRAINE

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An Aerosvit Airlines Boeing-737 passenger liner, en route to Baku, made an emergency landing at Kiev's Borispol airport yesterday. No one was hurt, Ukraine's Emergency Situations Ministry reported today. The incident is believed to have been caused by loss of cabin pressure. There were 105 passengers and six crew on board.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A Boeing 767-319 belonging to Papua New Guinea's national airline has been grounded after a hail storm damaged a wing on flight to Australia, Radio Australia reports. Air Niugini engineers say the airline's only Boeing 767 was damaged while trying to land at Sydney on Sunday (Jan 1), forcing the pilot to make an emergency landing in Brisbane. It has forced the airline to temporarily suspend service to Manila, and downgrade flights to Brisbane. The airline's operations controller, Steven Goru, says engineers will work over the weekend to repair the damage.

EMERGENCY LANDING, EL PRAT AIRPORT, BARCELONA, SPAIN

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: The 90 passengers on the Spanair morning flight from Bilbao had to be evacuated via the emergency exits today, when the aircraft experienced problems with its landing gear as it was coming in to land at Barcelona's El Prat airport. Flight number JK6513 left Loiu airport in Bilbao at 0900 hrs but, for reasons which are being investigated, was unable to fully lower the landing gear as it was approaching its destination. The 90 passengers and six crew members were evacuated via the emergency ramps, with emergency services on standby on the ground. Two of the passengers received slight injuries as they were coming down the ramp. The aircraft was brought in to land away from the terminal as a precautionary measure.

EMERGENCY LANDING, GRAZ, AUSTRIA

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: An Austrian aircraft flying from the Libyan capital of Tripoli to Vienna made an emergency landing at the Austrian city of Graz, authorities said today. The Austrian Airlines jet, which was flying in snowy weather, lost power in one of its engines, airline spokesman Johann Jurceka said. The Fokker-70 jet, with 78 passengers and five crew members on board, made the landing at around 1830 hrs (1730, UTC) yesterday at Graz airport, about 200 km south of Vienna, he said. No one was injured in the incident.

EMERGENCY LANDING, KARACHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jan 6 — Malaysian Airline's Airbus A 330 has made an emergency landing at Karachi International Airport, Pakistan, yesterday at 1737 hrs due to flattened rear tyres. According to Civil Aviation and airports sources, the captain of flight MH-160 with 159 passengers on board, bound for Karachi from Kuala Lumpur, has requested the control tower for an emergency landing owing to tyre problems. Subsequently, all emergency services were provided and aircraft landed safely. Later tyre were replaced and it departed at night. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

EMERGENCY LANDING, NORFOLK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated Jan 8, states: The pilot of a private aircraft is forced to make an emergency landing last night. The aircraft's landing gear wasn't working properly. The distress call came in around 2130 last night. Norfolk Fire and EMS rushed to the runway, watching and waiting to respond. The pilot radioed in with a problem, the landing gear indicator was acting up, and he didn't know if his landing gear was stuck. They said the aircraft circled above the runway, so crews on the ground could see if the gear was down. Then, the pilot was able to make a safe landing.

EMERGENCY LANDING, YEMELYANOV AIRPORT, RUSSIA

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A Tu-154 with five crew members and 101 passengers aboard has made a forced landing at the airport Yemelyanovo in Krasnoyarsk, this morning. The liner belonging to the air company KrasAir was on the Krasnoyarsk - Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky flight, the Siberian regional emergencies centre said. Right after the take-off the undercarriage of the liner failed. It was decided that the liner Tu-154 would land in Krasnoyarsk. After three hours of flying over the airport to run out of fuel the liner landed successfully. All emergency services

rushed to the incident site. A special committee will investigate the incident.

G-CFAE

London, Jan 11 — Edinburgh Airport authorities launched an investigation after 86 passengers were evacuated when an engine fire was reported on a flight from Edinburgh to London. British Airways City Express Avro RJ100 (G-CFAE) flight BA8703 from Edinburgh to London City was preparing to taxi to the runway when passengers reported seeing smoke billowing from one of the engines of the Avro RJ100 regional jet. Other passengers reported a power failure in the middle of the safety briefing. The captain immediately evacuated the passengers down an emergency chute after a member of the ground crew spotted reported the engine fire. There were no serious injuries. A British Airways spokesman said “Eighty-six people were evacuated from a plane at Edinburgh Airport after a member of ground crew spotted something which gave cause for concern. “The captain acted in the most appropriate manner by immediately shutting off the engines and evacuating the passengers. We are investigating whether this was caused by an engine fire.”

HC-BNI

London, Jan 9 — Bell 206L1 helicopter, HC-BNI, owned by Bird Helicopters and being operated by Aeromasters Airways, was destroyed upon impact with trees and terrain during a forced landing following a loss of engine power during cruise flight near Cantagallo, Ecuador, at 1630, EST, Dec 26. The pilot, the sole occupant, was seriously injured.

INCIDENT AT BOISE AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A fuel truck crashed into a United Airlines aircraft yesterday afternoon at the Boise Airport, causing millions of dollars in damage but no injuries. A Western Aircraft fuel truck was approaching United Flight 352 bound for Denver, when the vehicle failed to stop and hit the aircraft's engine around 1530 hrs, airport police Sgt. Bruce Gard said. The crash grounded the aircraft and also damaged the fuel truck, he said. “Any time you bump a plane, it costs lots of money,” Gard said. The crash appeared to be caused by a mechanical failure, he said, but the investigation is ongoing. The Federal Aviation Administration was also investigating. The fuel-truck driver was immediately sent for a drug test, Gard said, although there was no evidence the driver was intoxicated. Just more than 100 passengers were on board the aircraft, which is now grounded, said United Airlines spokeswoman Robin Urbanski. The Boeing 737 was parked at Gate 11. Urbanski confirmed damage was in the millions, but said it was too soon to calculate a specific amount. The

passengers were taken off the full Boeing 737 aircraft, Urbanski said. Some passengers were rerouted to Denver on other Sunday night flights while others will be flying out this morning, she said.

INCIDENT AT EDINBURGH AIRPORT, SCOTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Passengers on board a flight from Edinburgh to London City Airport have had to make an emergency exit following a fire in an engine. The British Airways aircraft had 86 people on board and was taxiing for take-off when the alarm was raised. There were no injuries. One passenger described the situation as chaotic and said he left the aircraft via an emergency chute. An investigation has been launched into the alert on flight BA8703. The 0800, UTC, flight to London had been taxiing to the main runway at Edinburgh for take off when the emergency happened. Businessman Alasdair Morton said there was a power failure in the middle of the safety briefing. “As it came back on the second time I noticed some flames coming from the right-hand engine,” he said. “I wasn't for hanging around so I got up straight away and went through the evacuation procedure down the chute. I was the first one off the plane.” Mr Morton said he was concerned that some passengers did not realise it was a real emergency. A British Airways spokesman said: “Eighty-six people were evacuated from a plane at Edinburgh Airport after a member of ground crew spotted something which gave cause for concern. The captain acted in the most appropriate manner by immediately shutting off the engines and evacuating the passengers. We are investigating whether this was caused by an engine fire.” Alternative travel arrangements were being made for the passengers while checks were carried out on the BAe/Avro RJ100 aircraft.

INCIDENT ON A FLIGHT FROM OSAKA TO KAGOSHIMA, JAPAN

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A Japan Airlines passenger aircraft flew from Osaka to Kagoshima on Saturday (Jan 7) with its engine thrust reverser locked, the company said yesterday. While the 181 crew members and passengers were unhurt, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport gave a verbal warning to the company for improper maintenance, as a mechanic forgot to remove the safety pin locking the engine thrust reverser during maintenance operations on Friday evening.

N11QD

London, Jan 6 — Eurocopter EC 130 N11QD made an emergency landing near Nakalele Point, Kahului, Hawaii, at 2105, Jan 5, while on a local flight from Kahului. The aircraft sustained

substantial damage. Two of the six persons on board suffered minor injuries.

N182GV

London, Jan 5 — Cessna 182D N182GV crashed near Overgaard, Arizona, at 1815, Dec 31, while on a flight from Gunnison, Colorado, to Scottsdale, AZ. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N2233Y

London, Jan 12 — Cessna 177, N2233Y, on approach, made an emergency landing, ran out of fuel, and crashed, north of Antlers, Oklahoma, at 1445, local time, Jan 10. Minor injuries to the one person on board. The aircraft was destroyed.

N27ER

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: A pilot was killed today when a small plane crashed in Washington County. The pilot, whose name was not immediately released, called the tower to report trouble. He was trying to land on an air strip just before 1100 hrs, when he crashed into a filbert orchard near North Plains. Officials say the man died on impact. At noon, fire crews were on scene.

London, Jan 6 — Mooney M-20K (Turbo Mooney 231) N27ER crashed near Hillsboro, Oregon, at 1855, Jan 5, while on a local flight from Hillsboro. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N2969

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: Although the right wing ripped off the doomed Chalks seaplane (N2969) last month, the left one also had metal fatigue cracks, a preliminary National Transportation Safety Board report said today. That bolsters evidence that the wear and tear of 58 years of flying might have played a major role in the Dec 19 crash that killed all 20 on board, experts said. “It's probably just a matter of age and not thorough enough inspections,” said Robert E. Breiling, an aviation accident analyst, based in Boca Raton. The safety board found the right wing broke off at its “root,” or where it was attached to fuselage, and the wing's support beam had fatigue cracks. The Federal Aviation Administration on Dec 30 grounded all 37 Mallards operating in the United States, including the four Chalk's was flying, requiring a thorough inspection of the aircraft's wings.

N36107

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated Jan 7, states: The wreckage of a twin-engine Piper aircraft, with the pilot's body inside, was found today near Skagit Regional Airport, the Skagit County sheriff's department said. The pilot, Eric Anthony Beard, 47, of Auburn, was alone in the aircraft. His name was released today by Bob Clark, Skagit County's deputy coroner. The aircraft, flying for

Seattle-based Airpack Airlines, left Bellingham yesterday evening bound for Skagit County, said Mike Fergus with the Federal Aviation Administration. At about 1950, Whidbey Naval Air Station cleared the aircraft for landing at Skagit, there is no tower at the airport, and there was no communication after that, Fergus said. A state Aviation Division search aircraft and a Coast Guard helicopter mounted a brief search yesterday night but made little headway in darkness and fog. The aircraft was found in a wooded area near the airport early today. The pilot's body was in the wreckage. The FAA was investigating the accident.

London, Jan 9 — Piper PA-34-200T (Seneca II) N36107 crashed near Burlington, Washington, at 0355, Jan 7, while on a flight from Bellingham, WA, to Burlington. The one person on board was killed.

N421LL

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: A \$26 million settlement has been reached in a wrongful death lawsuit of a Concord couple who died in a 1999 plane crash, court documents show. The settlement in the deaths of David and Ann Drye, paid by four companies, is believed to be the largest in a wrongful death lawsuit in North Carolina history, said Ertel Berry, legal editor for N.C. Lawyers Weekly. The lawsuit claimed the engine failure caused the Dryes' Cessna 421 to crash into a wooded area in Mecklenburg County (on June 14, 1999), about three miles from the airport. The Dryes survived the initial crash but died after the plane caught fire, Robb said. Pilot Kelly Ward and Mark Carlson, a vice president in David Drye's Concord development firm, also died. The Dryes' children sued Teledyne Continental Motors, which made the airplane's engines; Vibratex Inc., maker of an engine component; Stevens Aviation, which had provided services to the aircraft; and RAM Aircraft, which had overhauled it. A settlement was reached in October, but it took until now for attorneys to prepare the paperwork to make the announcement, Robb said. Court documents show Teledyne Continental Motors paid \$20 million; RAM Aircraft, \$3 million; Vibratex Inc., \$2.8 million; and Stevens Aviation, \$250,000.

N442DH

London, Jan 5 — Robinson R44 Astro N442DH crashed near Grand Ridge, Florida, at 0001, Jan 1. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were killed.

N526CD

London, Jan 10 — Cirrus SR20 N526CD crashed near Lancaster, California, at 2134, Jan 9, while on a local flight from Lancaster. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N5328W

London, Jan 12 — Piper PA-28, N5328W, shortly after departure, developed engine problems and made an emergency landing a quarter of a mile north of the airport at Lincoln Park, New Jersey, at 2100, local time, Jan 10. The aircraft was destroyed.

N625AS

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: A company responsible for Alaska Airlines ramp services at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is bringing in a team of safety experts for a 90-day "top-to-bottom" review of its operations there after another of the airline's jets was damaged in a ground incident today. It was the second such incident by an employee of Menzies Aviation in 10 days. Passengers were boarding the 737-700 about 1130 hrs, for Dallas-Forth Worth International Airport when the plane was moved by a tow tug, causing the jet to strike a baggage loading machine and the open passenger door to hit the jetway. No one was hurt, but the plane was immediately taken out of service. A spokeswoman for Alaska Airlines said the tow truck, operated by an employee of Menzies Aviation, accidentally pulled the plane forward about three feet. That means the tow truck would have been put into reverse. Only four passengers had boarded Flight 808, said spokeswoman Amanda Tobin. The jet's right engine cowling hit the baggage loading machine, she said, and the passenger entry door on the left side of the plane hit the jetway. An inspection determined that the damage was "minor," Tobin said. But passengers were put on another Alaska plane for the flight to Texas about two hours later. The Menzies worker was suspended pending an investigation, Tobin said. Alaska hired the British firm Menzies Aviation to provide baggage handling and other ramp services at Sea-Tac Airport in May 2005 after laying off nearly 500 unionized ramp workers. Alaska said the move would save it about \$13 million a year, but since then, a series of ramp incidents have focused attention on the work being done by those Menzies employees at Sea-Tac. The most serious mishap occurred Dec 26. That day, an Alaska Airlines MD-80 headed for Burbank, Calif., experienced a sudden loss of cabin pressure at 26,000 feet. After an emergency dive to lower altitude, the jet returned to Sea-Tac Airport, where a foot-long hole was found in its fuselage. The next day, a Menzies employee admitted that he accidentally hit the jet with a baggage loading machine and did not report the incident immediately because he believed the jet was not seriously damaged. That incident is under investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board. In a statement late today, Menzies Aviation said it has had a team of senior executives at Sea-Tac Airport since that incident, including the

company's safety chief, who is heading the investigation of the December 26 accident and the one that happened today. "Menzies will also be carrying out a full and immediate review of its operations in Seattle," the company said in a statement. "A task force, including Menzies top safety experts, will shortly arrive and will work closely with Alaska Airlines and the Port of Seattle." Tobin said that review by Menzies' safety experts of the ramp services provided to Alaska Airlines is expected to take about 90 days. She said Alaska has also taken a series of actions, including putting more Alaska supervisors on its Sea-Tac ramp and providing additional safety briefings for the more than 400 Menzies workers there.

London, Jan 6 — Boeing 737-790 N625AS, operated by Alaska Airlines, was pulled forward by a tug at 2030, Jan 5, while parked at the gate at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Washington, resulting in a scratched fuselage.

N6398V

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: A pilot was forced to make a dangerous landing at New Bedford Municipal Airport, when the aircraft's landing gear started having problems. While the aircraft circled the airport to burn off fuel, emergency crews rushed to the tarmac to be ready for any trouble when the aircraft landed. The pilot shut the aircraft down just before he touched and came to a stop. No leaks. The incident is being investigated.

London, Jan 10 — Cessna 172RG (Cutlass) N6398V landed at New Bedford, Massachusetts, at 1547, Jan 9, after experiencing gear problems while on a local flight from New Bedford. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were not injured.

N9124W

London, Jan 9 — Piper PA-28-235 (Cherokee) N9124W crashed near Mammoth Lakes, California, at 2243, Jan 8, following take-off from Mammoth Lakes. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. Two of the three persons on board were killed and the third was injured.

PT-OJN

London, Jan 9 — Cessna 172RG PT-OJN, crashed about 12 nautical miles west of Mendoza, Argentina, at approximately 1326, UTC, Jan 3. The aircraft was destroyed and the pilot and three passengers were killed.

TI-BAF

London, Jan 11 — De Havilland Canada DHC-6 Vista Liner 300, TI-BAF, operator NatureAir, with two crew and 11 passengers on board, had a tyre failure on take-off from Puerto Jimenez Airport, Costa Rica, at 1145, Jan 10. The aircraft overran the runway and struck a post and the starboard wing separated completely. There were no fatalities.

YV-1612P

London, Jan 12 — Beechcraft 98B55, YV-1612P, on a flight from Paraguana for Merida, was destroyed after crashing near Piedras Negras, State of Merida, Venezuela, at 1700, EST, Jan 5. The pilot and his passenger were killed


Product Recalls
DAIMLERCHRYSLER MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated Jan 6, states: DaimlerChrysler AG's Chrysler Group said today it would recall about 265,000 sedans after receiving dozens of complaints of engine fires. The recall involves 1999-2000 Dodge Stratus, Plymouth Breeze and Chrysler Cirrus sedans equipped with the 2.4-liter engine. Chrysler has received 168 reports of fires through November 2005, DaimlerChrysler spokesman Max Gates said. The automaker said the high-pressure power steering hose may experience premature aging because of heat and could leak power steering fluid, creating the potential of a fire in the engine compartment. Gates said one minor injury has been reported; details were not immediately available.

PORSCHE MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Porsche is

recalling more than 18,000 of its 911 Carrera series sportscars to replace the exhaust pipes. The German company says the cars being recalled are part of the Carrera S and Four-S lines and were produced between April 2004 and October of last year. Porsche says welding on the exhaust pipe could weaken, causing it to ultimately fall off. The company says there are about 30 known cases of the problem, but there are no injuries reported.

SAAB MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated Jan 3, states: General Motors is recalling more than 17,000 Saabs because a defect at the fuel pump connection may lead to vehicle fires, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. General Motors says plastic fuel pump retaining tabs holding the fuel lines were damaged during manufacturing 17,400 Saab 9-3 vehicles at a Finland plant between May 2000 and July 2002. Over time, GM says that could cause the fuel lines to loosen from the pump resulting in fuel leakage. If the leak happens while in the presence of an ignition source, there could be a fire.

SNOWMOBILES, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 6 — The following press release, dated Jan 5, states: A recall of approximately 10,400 certain model year 2006 Ski-Doo REV, RT, and RF Snowmobiles was voluntarily conducted by Bombardier Recreational Products Inc., of Valcourt, Quebec, in co-operation with

the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). The steering columns on these snowmobiles could have a missing weld, which could allow a steering component to become loose. This could lead to a loss of control or possible collision causing serious injury or even death. No injuries or incidents have been reported. The snowmobiles were sold by Ski-Doo dealers nationwide from June 7, 2005 through to November 9, 2005 for between \$4,000 and \$12,300.


Port Conditions
ITALY

Genoa, Jan 10 — Port situation: Genoa: One general cargo and one tanker awaiting berths. Average berthing delay one to two days. Savona: No vessels awaiting normal berths. One vessel awaiting special berth. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

SYRIA

Lattakia, Dec 24 — Waiting period for Lattakia port 24 hours and for Tartous four days. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbott Point	09-Jan-2006	Coal: 2 vessels waiting to load; 10 vessels due by 24/1; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Brisbane	09-Jan-2006	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 5 vessels due by 28/1; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Dalrymple Bay	09-Jan-2006	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 12 waiting; 29 vessels due by 21/1; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Dampier	09-Jan-2006	Iron ore: Parker Point A berth: 7 vessels waiting; 4 vessels due by 13/1; Parker Point B berth: 1 vessel waiting; 43 vessels due by 15/1; Parker Point C berth: 1 vessel waiting; 4-9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability East Intercourse Island: 3 vessels waiting; 8 vessels due by 11/1; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Geraldton	09-Jan-2006	Iron ore: 1 vessel anchored waiting to load; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Gladstone	09-Jan-2006	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed and loading; 51 vessels due by 29/3; up to 13 days berthing delay expected due to port congestion and cargo availability; Barney Point: 10 vessels due by 13/3; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shiploader shut down for maintenance from 27/2 to 4/3.
Hay Point	09-Jan-2006	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; 11 vessels due by 20/1; due to an accident on 28/12, shiploader 1 has sustained damage and is expected to be out of action for at least 4 weeks; 1-9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Newcastle	09-Jan-2006	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 3 vessels berthed and loading; 48 vessels due by 28/2; up to 8 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 10 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 24 vessels due by 27/1; 2-7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 7 vessels off port awaiting coal.
Port Hedland	09-Jan-2006	Port closed at present due to cyclone warning.
Port Kembla	09-Jan-2006	Coal: 13 vessels due by 16/2; no delays expected.
Port Walcott	09-Jan-2006	Iron ore: 6 vessels waiting; 13 vessels due by 23/1; 4-9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Whyalla	09-Jan-2006	Iron ore: 6 vessels due by 29/1; no delays expected.
Azerbaijan		
Apscheron	06-Jan-2006	Oil products: One vessel loading fuel oil at berth, 1 discharging at berth.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	09-Jan-2006	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 coils, 1 steel sheets), 5 discharging (2 billets, 1 reinforced concrete, 1 gasoline, 1 equipment); 6 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 coils, 1 metals, 1 baryte concentrate, 3 empty vessels; 21 vessels due, of which 11 to load (1 steel sheets, 1 general cargo, 1 scrap, 2 containers, 4 coils, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 copper anodes), 10 to discharge (2 containers, 1 salt, 2 metals, 1 coils, 2 coke, 1 coals, 1 equipment).
Varna	09-Jan-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 2-8 January: Thirty-one vessels in port operating of which 22 loading (2 scrap, 1 packed hardboard, 1 containers, 3 wheat, 1 bulk maize/spare parts, 5 soda, 2 sulphuric acid, 1 bulk silica sand, 1 kaolin in large bags, 1 TSP, 1 kaolin/chamotte, 1 sunflower seed meal, 2 bulk maize), 5 discharging (3 bulk coal, 2 containers), 4 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.
Chile		
Antofagasta	09-Jan-2006	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 21 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Arica	09-Jan-2006	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 22 vessels due this week.
Iquique	09-Jan-2006	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 20 vessels due this week.
Lirquen	09-Jan-2006	Four vessels at terminal, 2 berths vacant; 20 vessels due this week.
Puerto Montt	09-Jan-2006	Two vessels at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 8 vessels due this week.
Punta Arenas	09-Jan-2006	Five vessels at terminal, 2 berths vacant; 12 vessels due this week.
San Antonio	09-Jan-2006	Eight vessels berthed, 1 berth vacant; 19 vessels due this week.
San Vicente	09-Jan-2006	Two vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 19 vessels due during the week; Steel pier: 1 vessel at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 2 vessels due this week; Coronel pier: 2 vessels at terminal, 2 berths vacant; 6 vessels due this week; Oil terminal: 1 tanker at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 1 tanker due this week.
Valparaiso	09-Jan-2006	Four vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 5 vessels anchored; 20 vessels due this week.

A complete online archive covering the last 10 years of Lloyd's Casualty Week. For further information please call +44 (0) 20 7017 4779.

Port Conditions

Egypt

Adabiya	09-Jan-2006	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 2 containers.
Alexandria	09-Jan-2006	Forty-five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 30 general cargo, 9 bulk carriers, 4 container vessels, 2 tankers; 31 vessels dry-docked; 11 vessels at inner anchorage, 14 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	09-Jan-2006	Twenty-three vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 16 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 1 Ro/Ro, 2 containers; 5 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	09-Jan-2006	Nine vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 5 bulk carriers, 1 container vessel; 3 vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	09-Jan-2006	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 5 containers.
Suez	09-Jan-2006	Eleven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 1 tanker, 3 reefers, 4 passenger vessels; 3 tugs, 1 vessel dry-docked.
Suez Canal	09-Jan-2006	Twenty-six vessels transiting Northbound, 24 Southbound.

Estonia

Tallinn	09-Jan-2006	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 1 fish vessel discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 1 vessel due, with 4 days berthing delay expected.
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Israel

Ashdod	10-Jan-2006	Three general cargo vessels loading at berth, 14 vessels discharging at berth (10 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 23 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	10-Jan-2006	Five vessels discharging at berth (3 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 9 vessels loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 4 tankers); 4 general cargo vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (1 containers, 1 tanker); 5 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 17 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.

Kazakhstan

Aktau	06-Jan-2006	Oil products: Four vessel loading crude oil at berth; 9 vessels in roads, all to load; 5 vessels due by 6/1, all to load.
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Mozambique

Maputo	09-Jan-2006	Twenty-four hour berthing/sailing. There are some restrictions to berthing at certain badly lit wharves. Vessels have to be geared for general cargo berths as shore cranes are very few and unreliable. The Port is working normally and is expected to remain so, hence vessels should berth on arrival, daylight, draft and weather permitting. No berthing delays envisaged. A shortage of equipment is being experienced (except at the Container terminal). Shed space is currently available. Safe draft for transiting the channel is 9.1 metres plus the tide of the day. Density of water varies from 1.020 to 1.023. Vessels with ramps on starboard side can berth with the ebbing tide. Should ramps be portside, vessels to berth with the flowing tide. Pilot launch is operational. Both tugs are operational. Leading lights are lit. One container gantry is operational, the second is under repairs. Matola coal terminal is operational. Ressano Garcia, Goba and Limpopo railway lines are all operational. Eight vessels are currently in port berthed, of which 1 loading bulk coal, 5 discharging (1 bagged rice, 1 bulk maize, 1 oil, 1 petcoke, 1 bulk wheat), 1 discharging/loading containers/steel coils, 1 other vessel; 4 vessels due to berth 9/1 of which 1 to load ferro chrome, 1 to discharge bulk alumina, 2 to discharge/load containers; 18 vessels due by 31/1 of which 9 to load (2 bulk coal, 2 aluminium ingots, 1 bulk sugar, 1 scrap, 2 bagged sugar, 1 unknown cargo), 4 to discharge (1 petcoke/aluminium, 1 frozen fish, 1 petcoke, 1 bulk alumina), 2 to discharge/load containers, 3 passenger vessels.
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Pakistan

Karachi	09-Jan-2006	One rice vessel loading at berth, 10 discharging at berth (1 chemicals, 3 general cargo, 2 scrap, 1 coils, 1 steel coils, 2 urea), 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 coal, 1 crude oil); no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 8 vessels due (4 containers, 1 urea, 1 vehicles, 1 chemicals, 1 ethanol), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	09-Jan-2006	Two rice vessels loading at berth, 3 vessels discharging at berth (1 jute, 1 iron ore, 1 paraxylene); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 rice, 1 containers), 4 waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 palm oil, 1 VCM, 1 canola, 1 containers).

Poland

Gdansk	09-Jan-2006	Seven vessels loading at berth (3 coal, 1 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 3 discharging at berth (2 general cargo, 1 grain); 10 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 21 vessels due.
Gdynia	09-Jan-2006	Five vessels loading at berth (2 bulkers, 1 general cargo, 2 grain), 6 vessels discharging at berth (3 general cargo, 2 grain, 1 bulker); 19 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 48 vessels due.

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Port Conditions

Slovenia

Koper	09-Jan-2006	Twelve vessels berthed of which 1 discharging/loading containers, 6 bulk carriers discharging ore/coal/minerals/scrap, 2 bulk carriers loading coal/grain, 2 vessels loading steel products, 1 car carrier discharging/loading cars; 1 bulk carrier waiting at anchorage to load coal; 18 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 3 to discharge/load containers, 4 bulk carriers to discharge cement/minerals/ ore/fertiliser, 4 bulk carriers to load coal, 2 vessels to load sawn timber, 3 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 1 vessel to load livestock, 1 tanker to discharge mineral oils.
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Spain

Bilbao	10-Jan-2006	Forty-eight vessels operating (11 tankers, 37 other vessels), of which 7 loading, 32 discharging, 9 loading/discharging.
Cadiz	10-Jan-2006	Eighteen vessels in port of which 9 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 1 containers, 1 semolina, (Jan 10)1 cereals, 1 coke, 1 sand, 1 oil), 9 vessels under repair; no delays.
Sagunto	10-Jan-2006	Twenty-three vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 steel products, 2 bulk fertiliser), 16 discharging (13 steel products, 1 anhydrous ammonia, 2 timber/logs), 4 loading/discharging (1 steel products, 3 general cargo); no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

Sri Lanka

Colombo	09-Jan-2006	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Eight vessels loading at berth (7 container/feeders, 1 cement blocks), 15 discharging at berth (10 containers/feeders, 1 steel cargo, 1 bagged fertiliser, 1 bulk fertiliser, 1 bulk cement); 1 container/feeder vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 5 vessels dry-docked, 1 at dolphin tanker berth; 5 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.
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Turkmenistan

Aladja	06-Jan-2006	Oil products: One vessel loading crude oil at berth; 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil.
Okarem	06-Jan-2006	Oil products: One vessel in roads to load crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	06-Jan-2006	Oil products: One vessel discharging crude oil at berth; 5 vessels in roads, all to load (1 gasoil, 1 gasoline, 3 others).

Ukraine

Ilichevsk	09-Jan-2006	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (2 steel products, 1 trucks, 1 containers, 1 ferro nickel, 1 gasoil), 2 discharging ore, 1 discharging/loading containers; 1 vessels in roads to discharge/load containers; 23 vessels due, of which 13 to load (10 steel products, 2 sunflower oil, 1 barley), 2 to discharge ore, 8 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	09-Jan-2006	Eleven vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 6 steel, 2 sulphur, 1 barley, 1 coal, 1 sunflower beans; 5 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 3 steel, 1 coke, 1 bran; 47 vessels due, of which 39 to load (22 steel, 9 coal, 1 sulphur, 1 luggage, 1 pitch, 2 sunflower beans/husks, 3 fire-clay), 5 to discharge (1 citrus, 1 containers, 3 equipment), 3 to discharge/load (1 containers/fire-clay, 2 containers.
Odessa	09-Jan-2006	Sixteen vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (2 metal, 1 pig-iron, 1 timber, 2 oil, 1 LNG), 6 discharging (2 luggage, 1 bananas, 2 citrus, 1 oil, 1 sand), 1 loading/discharging containers, 1 passenger vessel; 5 vessels in roads, of which 4 to load (2 oil, 1 metal/timber, 1 LPG), 1 to load/discharge containers; 70 vessels due, of which 41 to load (25 metal, 3 pig-iron, 2 corn, 2 timber, 2 lubricants, 5 oil, 2 gas), 3 to discharge (1 ore, 1 vegetable oil, 1 sugar), 26 to discharge/load containers.

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