

Defiant Malta digs in over EU port state control

By Justin Stares in Brussels — Thursday December 14 2006

MALTA intends to vote against the proposed European Union port state control directive, which attempts to link a new ship inspection regime with flag state performance.

The Mediterranean island, home to one of Europe's largest fleets, says the directive would be "counterproductive" in that it would discourage certain registers from improving quality by banning ships from European waters for an "indefinite" period.

Conclusions from this week's EU council of transport ministers show the Maltese delegation told other EU ministers "it would vote against" the proposal – a relatively rare event in today's Europe of compromise.

Concessions

Malta could technically be outvoted, according to the EU's qualified majority rules, although Brussels legislators are likely to offer the country further concessions in order to achieve widespread agreement for the new inspection regime.

Ministers, who were examining the directive for the first time, nevertheless pushed the directive forward through the EU machine by coming to a "general approach," meaning that the vast majority were in favour.

The directive is designed to introduce a new port state inspection regime which targets all ships rather than a certain percentage. Substandard vessels are due to be targeted more often than quality vessels, with repeat offenders banned completely

from EU waters unless they make drastic changes, including a possible change of flag.

"Ships that on various occasions have proven not to comply with international standards on safety, health and the environment will be refused access to member state ports," the conclusions read.

"As criteria for such a measure the performance of the ship is evaluated in relation to the performance of its flag state, determined on the basis of the black, grey and white lists of flag states established by the Paris Memorandum of Understanding."

Obligation

Ships banned indefinitely could however trade again in the EU after 36 months if they fulfil conditions, including the obligation to fly the flag of a state on the white list, ministers concluded. Vessels must also be managed by a company "with a high performance."

The Paris MOU covers the waters of European coastal states plus the Atlantic basin. The aim of its 25 participating administrations is to eliminate substandard shipping via harmonised port state control.

It assesses flag state performance according to black, grey and white lists, compiled over a rolling three-year period. Malta moved up from the grey list to the white list in July this year.

"We are not opposed to the directive by any means but there is room for more discussion. Perhaps it can be improved," said Lino Vassallo, executive director of the Malta merchant marine.

Banning ships on the grey list would be counterproductive, he said.

"If they [flag states] are working very hard to improve performance and they face the possibility of a ban there will be a lack of inducement."

Malta is also opposed to making inspections of vessels at anchor compulsory, Mr Vassallo said, on both cost and safety grounds.

The shipowning industry is pushing for the new inspection regime to be based on the record of individual ships, not their operating companies or the flags they fly.

This position has received some support in the European parliament.

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

| Vessel | Type | Flag | Class | GT | DWT | Bit | Casualty |
|--------------------|------------------------|------|-------|--------|---------|------|---|
| AVEMAR DOS | ferry | CNI | NV | 5,517 | 340 | 1997 | In collision with passenger ro/ro <i>Atlas</i> in lat 35 53N, long 05 19W, Strait of Gibraltar Nov 28. Stern damage sustained. Proceeded to Ceuta, where repairs will take several days. |
| BRITISH CYGNET | crude oil tanker | IOM | GBR | 63,462 | 113,782 | 2005 | In collision with general cargo <i>Verat</i> in the Great Belt, north of the Isle of Fyn, Dec 2. Several ballast tanks ruptured. Anchored in lat 55 37 57N, long 10 32 04E. Arrived Fredericia. To effect repairs at Gdansk. |
| CEDARGLEN | bulker | CAN | LR | 18,531 | 28,591 | 1959 | Reported losing propulsion, due main engine camshaft failure, in lat 49 13 59N, long 68 07 59W, Dec 3. Towed to Comeau Bay anchorage for repairs. ETC Dec 6. |
| GRAMPIAN GUARDIAN | stand-by safety vessel | GBR | ABS | 1,112 | 951 | 1980 | Reported Dec 4 in lat 59 42N, long 01 40E, taking water to rudder stock problem. Voyage abandoned and awaiting assistance. Taken in tow of tug <i>Knab</i> bound for Lerwick, where alongside Dec 5. |
| GUNEY EM | general | KHM | ABS | 4,744 | 5,500 | 1979 | Moving forklift in No.2 hold punched and holed the hull port side, below the waterline at Novorossiysk Dec 2. |
| HESTIA | passenger/ro-ro | JPN | — | 13,539 | 6,805 | 1993 | Slightly grounded near Feistein Light in lat 58 58N, long 05 44E, Dec 4. Proceeded to Stavanger for inspection. Will probably be towed to Rosenberg Mek for repairs. |
| HYUNDAI PROSPERITY | containers | PAN | KR | 8,689 | 10,832 | 1987 | Auto pilot failed and collided with the outer breakwater at Busan Nov 25. Assisted alongside by tugs. Heavy damage to bow. Reported Dec 6 at Shanghai. |
| JANE ANN IV | tug | CAN | ABS | 877 | — | 1978 | Had steering gear failure while pushing barge <i>Sara Spencer</i> in lat 42 30N, long 82 40W, Nov 29. Held position with engines and bow thruster. To be towed to Windsor. |
| MIRTIDIOTISSA | passenger/ro-ro | GRC | HR | 3,484 | 1,279 | 1975 | Had fire while at Piraeus Dec 1. Fire Brigade on scene. Arrived Kalamata Dec 2. |
| NAUTILUS | dredger | NLD | BV | 3,880 | 6,250 | 1996 | Sank at Pointe Noire Nov 30. Fourteen of 17 crew rescued and 3 died. |
| SENECA | tug | USA | — | 132 | — | 1939 | Had electrical problem at the eastern end of Lake Superior Dec 3. Taken in tow of <i>Susan Hoey</i> , but tow broke in bad weather. Drifted and subsequently grounded on a beach in lat 46 40 42N, long 85 32 24W. Still aground Dec 6. |
| SHOYU MARU | product | JPN | NK | 2,556 | 4,995 | 1992 | Reported Dec 4 adrift with rudder trouble in lat 38 29N, long 139 04.7E. Tug due on scene Dec 5. Removed same day. |
| VERA | general | DEU | GL | 3,999 | 5,207 | 1996 | In collision with crude oil tanker <i>British Cygnet</i> in the Great Belt, north of the Isle of Fyn, Dec 2. Bulbous bow torn off and leaking. Anchored in lat 55 39 46.2N, long 10 39 46.8E. Arrived Fredericia. |
| YIN CHU | general | — | — | 15,000 | — | — | Sank Dec 3 while attempting to berth near Nanpu Bridge, Shanghai. Salvage under way. |

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ABURDEES (Egypt)

Zeebrugge, Dec 6 — Roll On Roll Off *Aburdees* (10022 gt, built 1983), bound Antwerp, reported with engine trouble near the OG19 buoy, River Scheldt, at 1630, local time. Two tugs are underway to assist. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Aburdees* sailed Bremen 2235, Dec 4 for Antwerp, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 51 27 37.07N, long 03 30 09.29E, at 1553, UTC, speed 0.3 knots.)

London, Dec 6 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1823, UTC: Roll on roll off *Aburdees* grounded near Buoy OG19, Flushing area, at 1645, UTC. No damage reported. Tugs are on scene.

London, Dec 7 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS Roll On Roll Off *Aburdees* was still stationary in lat 51 24 58N, long 03 37 06E, at 0824, UTC, today.

Zeebrugge, Dec 7 — Roll On Roll Off *Aburdees* which grounded 1700, local time, yesterday reported afloat at 0125, local time, today. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Dec 7 — Understand salvage services were rendered to Roll On Roll Off *Aburdees* under Lloyd's Open Form by URS and Multraship.

London, Dec 7 — Incoming Roll On Roll Off *Aburdees* ran aground in the Oostgat between Buoy OG 19 and DL12, after having engine troubles yesterday afternoon. At about 1700 hrs the first tug *Schouwenbank* connected a towing line. Also tugs of Multraship and the U.R.S. came to the stranding place, tugs *Multrasalvoe*, *Multraship Responder*, *Multraship 12* and *Walcheren*. The tugs could not refloat the vessel. At the next incoming tide the vessel was being refloated at about 0130, local time, this morning. It has been towed to Flushing Roads and anchored there for inspection by the authorities.

AEGEAN BREEZE (Singapore)

Zeebrugge, Dec 1 — Fishing (general) *Zwerver* is still berthed Ostend. It is not known when repairs will be completed. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

AFRA (Antigua & Barbuda)

See "Belgium" under "Port State Control".

AJAKS (Poland)

London, Dec 7 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 1155, UTC: Tug *Ajaks* (335 gt, built 1974) had cooling system problems in bad weather south of Newhaven late last night. Vessel subsequently lost its tow, an unnamed empty barge, 100 metres in length. *Ajaks* is currently heading for Southampton and was reported in lat 50 31.5N, long 00 38.8W, at 1145, UTC, today. The barge is drifting eastwards and was located

in lat 54 45N, long 00 08E, a short time ago. It is expected to ground on the beach in the next couple of hours if weather/wind conditions remain the same.

London, Dec 7 — Following received from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, dated today: The Coastguard tug *Anglian Monarch* is currently on its way to recover a drifting barge which is one hundred and five metres in length and forty metres wide and is a short way off Hope Point off Seaford, east of Newhaven, in very poor weather. The barge was set adrift after its towing vessel, tug *Ajaks*, had earlier encountered mechanical problems. The nine crew of the *Ajaks* have now been able to fix their problem and are under way to Southampton. The tug was towing the empty oil barge from Dungeness to St Nazaire. Weather in the area: Wind south-westerly, force 7 (near gale), moderate visibility with a heavy swell. The *Anglian Monarch* is due to arrive on scene about 1530 today and will attempt to recover the drifting barge and take it under tow if possible. Mike Greiner, Watch Manager at Solent Coastguard said: "The weather at the moment is creating conditions at sea which makes it unfavourable for anyone on a vessel. Although the barge's anchors have been deployed, the vessel is under terrific pressure in the rough seas. From our Coastguard teams on shore we are monitoring the progress of the barge and it seems to have come to rest about 100 metres offshore. We will have to wait until the weather abates before deciding on the next course of action."

ALAMO (Panama)

See "Miscellaneous".

ALDEBARAN (Argentina)

London, Dec 1 — Following navigation warning issued Nov 30: Fishing *Maria Rita* towing trawler *Aldebaran* (104 gt, built 1967) in lat 42 12S, long 61 48W, line length 400 metres, speed six knots, course 040 degrees, bound for Mar del Plata.

AMAZING D. (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Dec 5 — Container Carrier *Amazing D.* sailed Osaka Dec 3 for Nagoya.

AMBAR

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

AQUA-BOY (Norway)

London, Dec 5 — General cargo *Aqua-Boy* arrived Stornoway Nov 28 and sailed Dec 1.

AREDELTA 1 (Argentina)

Buenos Aires, Dec 4 — General cargo *Aredelta 1* is still lying in the same position. Understand the intention is to refloat the vessel, although no start date for refloating operations is presently known. — Lloyd's Agents.

ATLANTIC PURSUIT (Canada)

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated Dec 5, states: The crew on board

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fishing (general) *Atlantic Pursuit* (1286 gt, built 1976) damaged in heavy weather off Newfoundland was working this evening to make repairs. Rescue officials received a distress call just before noon today from the *Atlantic Pursuit* after a large wave took out the vessel's electronics and wheelhouse windows. The 33 people on board were not injured in the incident about 260 nautical miles southeast of St. John's, said the rescue co-ordination centre in Halifax. A Canadian Forces Hercules aircraft and a coast guard vessel were sent to the area. By this evening, the rescue centre said the weather in the area had subsided, two other ships were alongside the damaged vessel, and the crew of *Atlantic Pursuit* remained on board while making repairs. *Atlantic Pursuit* is a Grand Bank Seafoods factory-freezer clam vessel owned and operated by Clearwater Seafoods Limited Partnership. Clearwater said in a news release *Atlantic Pursuit* will be towed to port once an assessment of the vessel's condition is made by those on the scene. The company also said other commercial vessels in the area were standing by to offer help if needed.

London, Dec 6 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 0830, UTC: Fishing *Atlantic Vigour* and another vessel are alongside fishing (general) *Atlantic Pursuit* which is in lat 44 26N, long 48 33W. A Coast Guard patrol vessel is en route and fish factory *Arctic Endeavour* is also en route and due on scene at approximately 2337, UTC, today. The intention is to await daylight then assess the situation and attempt to get a tow line on board *Atlantic Pursuit*.

London, Dec 7 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 0840, UTC: Fishing (general) *Atlantic Pursuit*: Fish factory *Arctic Endeavour* is now on scene and the intention is for *Arctic Endeavour* to take *Atlantic Pursuit* in tow at daylight.

ATLANTIC TRADER I (Panama)

See "New Zealand" under "Port State Control."

ATLANTICA I (Panama)

Chittagong, Dec 7 — Product tanker *Atlantica I* has completed demolition. — Lloyd's Agents.

ATLAS (Morocco)

See *Avemar Dos*.

AVEMAR DOS (Spain)

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated Nov 28, states: Five people have been injured as a result of the collision between ferry *Avemar Dos* (5517 gt, built 1997) and passenger ro/ro *Atlas* (6767 gt, built 1974) in the Straits of Gibraltar today. The collision took place when coming out of Algeciras port when *Atlas* struck the port side stern of *Avemar Dos*. The collision caused important material damage to the stern of *Avemar Dos* in spite of which, the vessel, which operates between Algeciras and Ceuta, could continue its voyage to Ceuta port. The

Marine Captainship of Algeciras has opened an investigation to clarify the causes of the collision. On arrival at Ceuta five people have had to be transferred to the civil hospital of the National Institute of Gesti n Sanitaria. None of the injuries to the four men and one woman are serious. According to shipping company Buquebes Espana SA *Avemar Dos* will remain out of operation for several days for repairs and while repairs are being carried out they will operate with passenger ro/ro *Patricia Olivia*, although they will remain without covering the five daily rotations that *Avemar Dos* made. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS was at Algeciras at 1937, UTC, today and *Atlas* was in lat 36 08 13N, long 05 24 21W, at 1937, UTC, today, speed 14.7 knots, course 336 degrees.)

BIG 9708B (Canada)

See *Big 9917B*.

BIG 9917B (Canada)

London, Dec 4 — Barges *Big 9917B* (958 gt) and *Big 9708B* (958 gt) broke their moorings in high winds and grounded in the port of Trois Rivieres, in lat 46 21N, long 72 33W, at 1830, EST, Dec 1. No pollution was reported.

Montreal, Dec 4 — Barges *Big 9917B* and *Big 9708B* only sustained superficial damage and are now back in service. — Lloyd's Agents.

BORDER HEATHER (Isle of Man)

London, Dec 3 — Following press release received today from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Aberdeen Coastguard are currently co-ordinating assistance to product tanker *Border Heather* (2200 gt, built 2004), a 75 metre long coastal tanker which is currently drifting about six miles off the coast after its main engines cut out in heavy seas outside the Pentland Firth, off Noss Head, near Wick. The vessel, which is in ballast, is currently drifting at about two knots and has ten crew on board. Engineers are currently working on the problem. They informed the Coastguard that their intention, after getting the engines running, is to head back to Scrabster and Thurso Bay to seek shelter. The MCA's Emergency Towing Vessel *Anglian Prince* was immediately required to steam to her position from its current position in Shetland and stand by the vessel to lend assistance if necessary. Their estimated time of arrival is about 1300 hrs, today. In the meantime the RNLi's all weather lifeboat from Wick was also launched and asked to stand by the vessel. A rescue helicopter is also standing by should any evacuation from the vessel prove necessary. Steve Quinn, Aberdeen Coastguard Watch Manager said "The weather on scene is pretty awful at the moment with force 7 south-easterlies and very heavy seas. We are constantly monitoring their progress using our Automatic Identification System (screen grab available) and we are in regular dialogue with the master of the vessel as to his progress."

London, Dec 3 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 1815, UTC: Product tanker *Border Heather* was taken in tow by tug *Anglian Prince* about 1500, UTC, and is being taken to Sinclair Bay, north of Wick, for shelter, ETA 1900, UTC. Vessel is expected to effect some repairs there. Wind on scene is force 8-9 (gale-strong gale).

London, Dec 4 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 0605, UTC: Product tanker *Border Heather* is currently anchored in Sinclair Bay. Fair Isle inshore lifeboat is attending.

London, Dec 4 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 1244, UTC: Product tanker *Border Heather* completed repairs at 1115, UTC, and sailed for Inverness, where ETA 2300, UTC, today.

London, Dec 5 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, timed 1517, UTC, today, product tanker *Border Heather* is presently at Inverness.

BRITISH CYGNET (Isle of Man)

See *Vera*.

BULOU NI CEVA (Fiji)

Suva, Dec 1 — The situation of passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva* remains unchanged, with no developments. — Lloyd's Agents.

BUNGA PELANGI (Malaysia)

London, Dec 4 — Information received, dated Dec 2, states: Tug *Multrasalvor* has recovered the anchor, weighing 50 tons, near Breskens, which was lost by Container Carrier *Bunga Pelangi*, which had machinery problems (? Feb 27). *Multrasalvor* will leave Breskens between 0800 and 0830 tomorrow for Terneuzen to discharge the anchor there.

CALA PALMA (Italy)

London, Dec 4 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Workers of the Lloyd Yard in Bremerhaven started with the removal of burnt debris on board refrigerated general cargo *Cala Palma* on Dec 1. The amount of damage can only be assessed after having a look behind the burnt isolation so there is no decision of the ship's insurance about the further proceedings yet.

CEDARGLEN (Canada)

London, Dec 4 — Bulker *Cedarglen* (18531 gt, built 1959) reported losing propulsion in lat 49 13 59N, long 68 07 59W, at 0020, EST, Dec 3. The vessel was towed to Baie Comeau anchorage for repairs.

Montreal, Dec 4 — Bulker *Cedarglen* experienced a main engine camshaft failure. Understand a spare length of camshaft will be taken from a sister vessel. Repairs are expected to be completed Dec 6. — Lloyd's Agents.

CELTIC STAR (Cyprus)

London, Dec 5 — Information received, dated Dec 2, states: Adverse conditions on the Irish Sea which prevailed on Thursday (Nov 30)

appear to have caused problems for Roll On Roll Off *Celtic Star* (11086 gt, built 1992) operating the Dublin - Liverpool ro/ro service. It was noted yesterday at Brocklebank Dock, Liverpool, looking somewhat the worse for wear. Three drop trailers appeared to have broken loose, two of which had overturned and a third was sandwiched between. One trailer had broken through the port side rails and could be seen to be in a somewhat precarious position overhanging the side of the ship. This trailer had also apparently damaged other deck fittings. By late yesterday afternoon a crane was at work on the dock side lifting skips on board the vessel which were being filled with the contents of the overturned trailers which were understood to be pizzas. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Celtic Star* was in Dublin port at 0929, UTC, today.)

CORUNA DOS (Spain)

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing (general) *Coruna Dos*, with a crew of 11, which was damaged at the height of yesterday's storm has arrived safely in Castletownbere, Co Cork. The 100-foot long vessel was 60 nautical miles west of the Skelligs rocks when four of its wheelhouse windows were smashed and its communications equipment knocked out when it was hit by a 40-foot wave. The vessel was accompanied into Castletownbere by another Spanish fishing vessel.

COURTNEY L. (Bermuda)

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated Dec 3, states: Dozens of bags of Doritos that washed up on Hatteras Island last week came from one of four cargo containers that was swept off Refrigerated Container Carrier *Courtney L.* (19595 gt, built 1992) during a storm, the Coast Guard says. The container, about 45 feet long, was spotted floating near Diamond Shoals on Wednesday (Nov 29). Apparently charter boat masters spotted the container and opened it. The container appeared to have been filled with about 400 3-foot by 4-foot boxes of Doritos, each holding about 20 individual bags, according to John McCutcheon, Cape Hatteras National Seashore district ranger for Hatteras Island. The National Park Service spent most of Thursday securing the site and using two bulldozers to remove the container, McCutcheon said. Meanwhile, dozens of people roamed the beach with garbage bags to pick up the chips from the tide line. The Coast Guard said Friday that the container was one of four that washed off *Courtney L.* during a storm the night of Nov 22-23 as it sailed somewhere near the Virginia-North Carolina line. The other three have yet to be located. One was filled with another, unknown Frito-Lay product, and the other two held paper products, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Kevin Schneider of the Marine Safety Team in Elizabeth City. The ship is owned by Great White Fleet Ltd, of Cincinnati, a

subsidiary of Chiquita Brands International, and was carrying its cargo from Wilmington, Del, to Costa Rica, Chiquita spokesman Mike Mitchell said. Great White is responsible for cleanup and removal costs, McCutcheon said. But no lasting impact was noted.

DMS HAWK

Portsmouth, UK, Dec 3 — Tug *DMS HAWK* (184 gt) was due to leave Hardinxveld, Netherlands, for sea duty this morning, but this has been postponed due to a tyre entangled in a propeller. — Correspondent.

ELLIDA ACE (Panama)

Yokohama, Dec 1 — After taking the cargo remaining on board, bulker *Ellida Ace* left the shoal on Nov 18, when "landing of the cargo" was commenced at a nearby berth, together with temporary repairs to the vessel. Having completed the cargo discharge and repair, the vessel departed from the port of Kashima for a repair dock on Nov 30. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Dec 6 — Bulker *Ellida Ace* arrived Qingdao Dec 5.

ENCOUNTER (Netherlands)

London, Dec 7 — Following received from Jobourg MRCC, timed 1220, UTC: Container Carrier *Encounter* (7642 gt, built 2004), with a broken piston rod, is in lat 49 53.3N, long 02 22.2W, under tow of tug *Abeille Liberte* bound Cherbourg where due this evening. (Note — *Encounter* was due to arrive Felixstowe 1000 today.)

EREN C. (Panama)

London, Dec 4 — General cargo *Eren C.* (6114 gt, built 2005) engine out of order around Istinye Point at 2145, Dec 3. Traffic suspended from north to south at 2155, Dec 3 and will be open at noon, today.

London, Dec 4 — General cargo *Eren C.* was exposed to a sea peril due to the engine failure and drifting in front of the Istinye in Istanbul Strait at 2147, Dec 3. As a result of salvage assistance operation *Eren C.* has been anchored "to" Buyukdere at 2345 hrs.

FLESTINA-5 (Russia)

London, Dec 1 — General cargo *Flestina-5* (1408 gt, built 1978), ran aground on river Volga, near Astrakhan, after veering off channel at 0800, local time, Nov 29. Vessel is still aground, waiting for tug.

FRANCESCO GANGITANO (Italy)

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: An Italian fishing boat (*Francesco Gangitano*) sank off the Tunisian coast early today, killing two Italian sailors while two Tunisians were missing, port authorities in Rome said. Four more Italians who were on board were rescued by another fishing boat that was the first vessel to arrive on the scene, said Cmdr. Cosimo Nicastro. Tunisian and Italian port authorities were working together using ships, a helicopter and a plane to search for the two missing crew members about 14 nautical miles from

the coast of Tunisia. Port authorities in Rome received the distress signal at 0630, UTC, while port officials in Palermo received a message from another fishing boat that a boat was sinking, Nicastro said. The fishing boat that sank was from the port town of Mazara del Vallo on Sicily's south-western coast.

London, Dec 6 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1130, UTC: Fishing *Francesco Gangitano*, IKFH, sank in lat 37 10.7N, long 11 20.6E.

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing (general) *Francesco Gangitano* sank following a collision with refrigerated general cargo *Royal Cooler* (9020 gt, built 1979) (in lat 37 10.7N, long 11 20.6E).

London, Dec 6 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1240, UTC: Fishing (general) *Francesco Gangitano* is 198 gt, built 1974. Refrigerated general cargo *Royal Cooler* sustained bow damage port side, and is anchored in area awaiting investigation.

FRI STREAM (Bahamas)

London, Dec 1 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC: Timed 1824, UTC: General cargo *Fri Stream* (2051 gt, built 1995), Kirkwall for Inverness, in ballast, is anchored in lat 58 51.7N, long 02 52.7W, with oil cooler not working properly. Current weather SSE force 7 (near gale). ETV salvage tug *Anglian Prince* tasked at 1814, UTC, to standby while repair works underway.

Timed 1950, UTC: Vessel reported at 1930 hrs the problem is an oil cooler which not assembled properly. Repairs should take one to one and a half hours.

London, Dec 1 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC timed 2115, UTC: General cargo *Fri Stream* has completed repairs and is now underway towards Inverness.

GIANT STEP (Panama)

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The Japan Coast Guard sent files to prosecutors yesterday on the master of bulk ore carrier *Giant Step* that ran aground two months ago off Ibaraki Prefecture in an incident that killed eight crew members and left two others missing. The 49-year-old master, Mascarenhas Melroy, is suspected of professional negligence resulting in death and endangering traffic by stranding *Giant Step* on Oct 6, JCG officials said. An Indian national, the master allegedly failed to deal properly with the ship's broken anchor-hoisting gear and delayed evacuating his vessel as it prepared to set off from near Kashima port amid stormy weather.

GIOVANNA (Russia)

St.Petersburg, Dec 6 — Chemical tanker *Giovanna* is still waiting for utilisation in ship yard Yantar. — Lloyd's Agents.

GOKAY K. (Turkey)

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Gokay K.* (4800 gt, built 1987)

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grounded at Karabiga roads at 0620, local time, today and later reported afloat at 1019, local time, and anchored one mile out from its grounding position. (Note — *Gokay K.* sailed Yuzhnyy Dec 3, and passed Istanbul 1425, Dec 5 with ETA Haifa 0800, Dec 9.)

GOLDEN ALASKA (U.S.A.)

Portsmouth, UK, Dec 6 — A small fire on board fish factory *Golden Alaska* (3706 gt, built 1972) sent smoke into the air over the Seattle waterfront at midday today. Video from Chopper 7 showed heavy smoke drifting from the vessel two decks above where it was docked, at Pier 48. Firefighters quickly controlled a fire in a room near the vessel's wheelhouse. All the vessel's personnel are accounted for.

Seattle, Dec 6 — A small fire on board fish factory *Golden Alaska* is thought to have started in the crew accommodation due to hot work in progress. The actual extent of fire damage has yet to be determined, however the Fire Department have left the scene. — Lloyd's Agents.

GOLDENEYE (Greece)

See *Spar Opal*.

GRAMPIAN GUARDIAN (U.K.)

London, Dec 4 — Following received from Shetland Coastguard MRSC: Timed 0551, UTC: Standby safety vessel *Grampian Guardian* (1112 gt, built 1980), at 0451, UTC, in lat 59 42N, long 01 40E. 91 miles east of Sumburgh Head, taking water due to a rudder stock problem. Situation contained by watertight doors and hatches. Vessel heading for Lerwick on main engines and thruster. Estimated time of arrival; 1800, UTC, today.

Timed 0630, UTC: *Grampian Guardian* has a port steering problem and bow thruster not making much progress. Passage to Shetland has been abandoned. North Star Shipping are currently arranging assistance for the *Grampian Guardian*.

London, Dec 4 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1850, UTC: Standby safety vessel *Grampian Guardian* proceeded under its own power, making 1.5 to two knots, but stopped as it was unable to maintain steerage. The vessel's reported position at 1834, UTC, was lat 59 53N, long 00 43E, drifting north-east at one knot. Tug *Knab* departed Lerwick at 1538, UTC, to take the vessel in tow, ETA on scene 2300, UTC.

London, Dec 5 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 0235, UTC: Tug *Knab* connected tow with standby safety vessel *Grampian Guardian* at 0005, UTC, today. Proceeding to Lerwick, where ETA 1130, UTC.

London, Dec 5 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1320, UTC: Standby safety vessel *Grampian Guardian* is currently in Lerwick harbour but has not yet berthed.

London, Dec 5 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1356, UTC: Standby safety vessel *Grampian Guardian* arrived safely alongside Lerwick harbour at 1351, UTC.

GROTE GUST

London, Dec 1 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Floating crane *Grote Gust* of Baeck en Janssen which capsized Nov 9 in Antwerp, is to be salvaged in the forthcoming week. The exact date is not yet known.

GUNEY EM (Cambodia)

London, Dec 5 — Understand general cargo *Guney Em* (4744 gt, built 1979) was loading steel coils at Novorossiysk port when a forklift in No.2 hold, in a spontaneous move, punched and holed the hull port side, below the waterline on Dec 2. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Guney Em* was still in Novorossiysk port at 0942, UTC, today.)

HERTFORD (U.K.)

London, Dec 5 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1300, UTC: Container Carrier *Hertford* (15698 gt, built 1999) reported electrical problems at 0515 hrs in lat 54 02.18N, long 05 04.78E, and subsequent blackout. Anchored and repaired and now proceeding Hamburg.

HESTIA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Dec 4 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: General cargo *Hestia* (1599 gt, built 1999), Rotterdam to Sandnes, slightly grounded near Feistein Light about 0500, this morning. Vessel proceeded to Aamoyfjorden outside Stavanger for inspections. Tug *Belos* will likely tow the vessel to Rosenberg Mek for repairs. There is some pollution in the area. (Note — *Hestia* sailed Rotterdam Dec 2 for Stavanger and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was stationary in lat 58 59 1.68N, long 05 43 37.81E at 0822, UTC, today.)

London, Dec 7 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: General cargo *Hestia* is now drydocked at Rosenberg Mek in Stavanger, ETC about Dec 13-14. Vessel will then proceed to Sandnes, Hollen, Horten and Fredrikstad.

HOLBERG (Uruguay)

Stanley, Dec 1 — Understand a vessel is due to leave Montevideo shortly to commence salvage operations on fishing (general) *Holberg*. — Lloyd's Agents.

HOPE (U.S.A.)

London, Dec 1 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1245, UTC: Fishing (general) *Hope*, official number 658974, length 78 ft, capsized at pier at Newport, Rhode Island, at 0345, local time, today. There were no crew on board at the time. No tugs on scene at present.

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing (general)

Hope, tied to Long Wharf in Newport, Rhode Island, sank early this morning. Coast Guard officer Alex Drake said that, at about 0335 hrs, they received a report that the vessel sank while it was tied to the pier. There were reports that there were two people on board when it sank but Drake said a dive team from Jamestown searched the boat and found no one. Drake said that there was some fuel leaking from the boat and that the Coast Guard in Woods Hole was co-ordinating clean-up efforts. He said it was not clear yet why the *Hope* sank but added: "It is a really old wooden boat."

HYUNDAI PRIMORSKIY (Panama)

London, Dec 1 — Container Carrier *Hyundai Primorskiy* (8689 gt, built 1987) for Busan with containers, ETA Nov 26, in very rough seas, auto pilot equipment suddenly malfunctioned on Nov 25. Vessel then collided with outer breakwater of Busan. With assistance of harbour tugs, it got alongside on the same day and discharged all containers including ones to the U.S. & Asian countries for transshipment at the port. No injury to crew. No oil pollution. Damage to bow appears very heavy. Vessel said now running to unidentified Chinese yard for drydock repair. Britannia P&I is attending.

London, Dec 6 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, container carrier *Hyundai Primorskiy* was located stationary at Shanghai, in lat 31 06 25.87N, long 121 27 21.59E, at 1251, UTC, Dec 5. (See issue of Dec 4.)

ICE RIVER (Cayman Islands)

London, Dec 4 — Refrigerated general cargo *Ice River* arrived Valparaiso Dec 2.

Valparaiso, Dec 4 — According to the information obtained refrigerated general cargo *Ice River* at the site of Iquique port started to lose speed due to main engine problems. Arrived Valparaiso 0915, Dec 2 and now between the dry dock and becon waiting for the arrival of the technician. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Dec 7 — Refrigerated general cargo *Ice River* sailed Valparaiso Dec 5.

JACKIE II

See *Port Alice*.

JAN VAN GENT (Netherlands)

London, Dec 6 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: On Dec 2, fishing (general) *Jan van Gent* (169 gt, built 1984), TX 53, was on the slip at IJmuiden shipyard, Harlingen, for repairs to considerable hull damage at the port foreship. The vessel, which has a length of 40m, is operated by Lenger Seafoods bv.

JANE ANN IV (Canada)

London, Dec 1 — Anchor handling tug *Jane Ann IV* (877 gt, built 1978) pushing barge *Sara Spencer* had a steering gear failure in lat 42 30N, long 82 40W, near the Crib Lt., Lake St. Clair, at 1046, EST, Nov 29. The

tow held position with engines and bow thruster. Tugs were requested to assist tow to Windsor.

JET RAIDER (Singapore)

Wellington, Dec 1 — On Nov 24, ferry *Jet Raider* (255 gt, built 1991) was stopped off the berth (Half Moon Bay Ferry Pontoon) with bows into the wind and tide, waiting for *Harbour Cat* to sail which had called *Jet Raider* and advised they were moving off. The Master of *Jet Raider* observed *Harbour Cat* moving ahead and so started his turn to port come down onto the dolphin at the end of the berth. When *Jet Raider* was halfway around, the Master saw that *Harbour Cat* was still there and his vessel was being swept down by the wind and tide. The Master of *Jet Raider* immediately spun out to starboard and turned around so he was facing south. By this time, *Jet Raider* was being swept past the dolphin, so the Master went full astern on both main engines, but was swept onto the dolphin. The back support pile on the dolphin gave way and a large steel RSJ punched a hole in the cabin side. The Master then managed to turn onto the berth. — Lloyd's Agents.

JIN FU DA 18 (China)

See *Xin Hua You 18*.

JORO

London, Dec 7 — Understand GPS Marine Services has won the contract for salvage of barge *Joro* at Maasvlakte, Rotterdam. The barge sank in the Mississippihaven in the early hours last Friday (Dec 1) by unknown reasons. Before salvage operations of the barge can start the cargo of about 1,800 tonnes iron ore will be discharged. On completion of discharge, sheerlegs *GPS Ajax* and *GPS Atlas* will attend to redeliver the barge to its owners.

KAIJIN

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated Dec 1, states: The masters of tugs *Kaijin* and *Kaijin No.2* admitted negligence yesterday in a marine accident inquiry into an incident in which a crane on a dredger being pulled by the tugs damaged power lines, resulting in a major blackout in the metropolitan area in August. The inquiry was held at the Yokohama Regional Marine Accidents Inquiry Agency. The crane damaged electric cables over the Kyu-Edogawa river running along the border of Tokyo and Chiba Prefecture, affecting 1.39 million households. The Yokohama Regional Marine Accidents Inquiry Commissioner's Office had called for an investigation by the inquiry agency, claiming Kenji Kibata, master of *Kaijin*, saw the power lines but failed to report it, and Eiji Wada, master of *Kaijin No.2*, knew the power lines were there but did not consider taking any safety measures. At the inquiry, both Kibata, 24, and Wada, 43, admitted to the charges.

KAIJIN NO.2

See *Kaijin*.

KANG NAM 5 (Hong Kong)

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

KARINA DANICA (DIS)

London, Dec 6 — General cargo *Karina Danica* arrived Turku Dec 2 and sailed Dec 4. (See issue of Nov 29.)

KAYE E.BARKER (U.S.A.)

Chicago, Nov 30 — Bulker *Kaye E.Barker* completed repairs and sailed Detroit Nov 28. — Lloyd's Agents.

LAI KING (Hong Kong)

London, Dec 4 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1025, UTC: General cargo *Lai King* was reported Dec 2 in tow of tug *Luna A.* in lat 29 42S, long 00 10E, bound Cape Town where eta Dec 10. At 0855, UTC, today tug and tow were in lat 29 43S, long 05 02E.

London, Dec 7 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1010, UTC: General cargo *Lai King* in tow of tug *Luna A.*: ETA Cape Town now 0800, Dec 11.

LIBERTY A. (Cyprus)

See "Cyprus" under "Port State Control".

LYUBOV ORLOVA (Malta)

Buenos Aires, Dec 5 — According to our Sub-agents at Ushuaia, passenger (cruise) *Lyubov Orlova* ran aground at an iceberg area in Antarctica on Nov 19. It was assisted and towed same day by Spanish Navy tug/icebreaker *Las Palmas*. They arrived at Ushuaia port Nov 21. According to what has been reported, *Lyubov Orlova* did not sustain any damages which prevented it from operating as usual. On Nov 21 it sailed back to Antarctica. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAERSK BENTONVILLE (U.K.)

London, Dec 7 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: Container Carrier *Maersk Bentonville* (48853 gt, built 2006) has been ballasted down with 10,000 tons of water in foreship to carry out propeller shaft repairs while berthed in Rostock sea harbour. This caused the stern to rise completely out of the water until the propeller and the shaft were high and dry. The necessary repair works could now be undertaken with the help of pontoons which were floated beneath the stern. (Note — *Maersk Bentonville* arrived Rostock 0845, Nov 21 from Stralsund and is scheduled to arrive North Sea Terminal, Bremerhaven, 2200, Dec 27 and scheduled to depart 1400, Dec 28.)

MAROULA (Greece)

Piraeus, Nov 30 — Product tanker *Maroula* sailed in tow of tug *Archangelos* at 0220, Nov 30, bound for Perama for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

MELEKHOVO (Russia)

Portsmouth, UK, Dec 4 — Fishing (general) *Melekhovo* (723 gt, built 1985) had a fire on board on the

morning of Dec 3, which was extinguished by the crew. The vessel was moored at Vladivostok sea fish port reports RIA novosti. The fire flared up in the wardroom of vessel, which was completely burned-out. No crew were injured. — Correspondent. (Note — *Melekhovo* arrived Vladivostok Nov 9.)

MERIDIAN (U.K.)

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The search for fishing *Meridian* which went missing in the North Sea with four crew on board has been postponed until next year, officials have said. Bad weather halted the search for *Meridian*, which disappeared during violent storms in October. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch hired seismographic research *Fugro Mercator* from Aberdeen-based Talisman Energy to locate and survey the vessel.

MERRIMACK (U.S.A.)

London, Dec 7 — A Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, press release, dated Dec 6, states: Sport fishing *Snoopy II* sank in the Wicomico River about five miles west of Salisbury, Md., after a diesel barge knocked a piling into it early this morning. The Coast Guard received a report from the master of tug *Merrimack* (132 gt, built 1968) at about 0145 hrs that his diesel barge had hit the piling about half a mile from the Quantico Wharf and struck the port bow of the 46-foot *Snoopy II*. No one was hurt, and the diesel barge did not rupture. About two gallons of *Snoopy II*'s fuel have leaked out, and absorbent boom has been placed around the area. All but the flying bridge of the boat is underwater. The Coast Guard is investigating the incident with the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Wicomico County Sheriff's Office.

MIDLAND 2 (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Dec 2 — Information received today from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Midland 2* (4993 gt, built 1989), cargo of 5,800 tons of steel, contacted with a lock while leaving the Kiel Canal on the Brunsbuttel side during the night of Dec 1 when coming from the Baltic. The machine failed when she was trying to stop. The damage was only slight so that after completion of investigations the ship was allowed to proceed to its destination in the Netherlands.

MIGHTY SERVANT 3 (Netherlands)

London, Dec 6 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1005, UTC: It is reported that semi-sub HL vessel *Mighty Servant 3* (22391 gt, built 1984) has sunk in Luanda harbour today. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Mighty Servant 3* was in lat 08 43 30.35S, long 13 15 57.95E, at 0446, UTC, today. *Mighty Servant 3* had sailed Chaguaramas Nov 17 for Luanda.)

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

London, Dec 6 — Earlier this morning, semi-sub HL vessel *Mighty Servant 3* developed a list and sank after the offloading of the drilling platform *Aleutian Key*. The vessel is resting at the sea bottom in approximately 62 metres of water. The drilling platform did not sustain any damage and is under way to its drilling location. All of the 21 crew of the vessel have been taken off and are on their way to the port of Luanda on board of one of the supporting vessels on stand by during the offloading. The vessel is approximately one mile off the North Angolan coast and very close to the entrance of the port of Luanda. Local authorities have been informed and are assisting in the response effort. The cause of the incident is not known at this time, but is being investigated. Crew members will be repatriated to their home destinations as soon as possible.

London, Dec 7 — Understand salvage services are being rendered to semi-sub HL vessel *Mighty Servant 3* under Lloyd's Open Form by SMIT Salvage BV.

MIRTIDIOTISSA (Greece)

London, Dec 1 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: A fire broke out on board passenger ro/ro *Mirtidiotissa* (3484 gt, built 1975) at the port of Piraeus, afternoon Dec 1. The passengers were disembarked from the vessel while the fire brigade combated the fire.

London, Dec 6 — Passenger ro/ro *Mirtidiotissa* arrived and sailed Kalamata Dec 2.

MISS MELISSA (U.S.A.)

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated Dec 3, states: Amphibious ship *San Antonio* rescued four watermen from fishing *Miss Melissa* (68 gt, built 1978) sinking in rough seas Friday (Dec 1) afternoon off the coast of North Carolina. The four men were battered but unharmed after their failed attempt to save the *Miss Melissa*, said Cmdr. Brad Lee, skipper of *San Antonio*. The Navy received a distress call from *Miss Melissa* about 1430 Friday. The ship reported taking on heavy water in rough seas about 50 miles east of Oregon Inlet, Lee said. *San Antonio* was conducting its exercises nearby, Lee said. A V-22 Osprey flew from the deck of the warship to the ailing vessel and confirmed its location. *San Antonio* steamed toward the watermen. Lee ordered a rescue team into a rigid-hull inflatable boat to approach the vessel. The men had been fishing for a few days and had 7,000 pounds of tuna, mackerel and swordfish on board. The watermen had spent several hours pumping water from their battered ship before the Navy arrived. They were initially reluctant to leave.

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Norfolk based Amphibious ship *San Antonio* rescued four men from sinking fishing *Miss Melissa* on Friday. Despite the efforts to save *Miss Melissa* it sank. Saturday

morning *San Antonio* dropped the fishermen off at Oregon Inlet, North Carolina.

London, Dec 4 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1210, UTC: Fishing *Miss Melissa*, official No.593587, sank in lat 36 31N, long 74 13.9W.

NAUTILUS (Netherlands)

London, Dec 1 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1040, UTC: Hopper dredger *Nautilus* (3880 gt, built 1996) sank at Pointe Noire, Congo, Nov 30. Fourteen of the 17 crew were rescued and three died.

London, Dec 1 — A Royal Boskalis Westminster NV press release, dated today, states: Hopper dredger *Nautilus* capsized during dredging activities for the port of Pointe Noire at around 2130, Dutch time, last night (Nov 30). In the course of last night it became clear that three lives were lost in the accident. This concerns two employees of Boskalis and one local employee of the port of Pointe Noire. Rescue services were quickly on the spot and the other 14 crewmembers were taken to safety. The cause of the accident is not yet known and is being investigated.

London, Dec 1 — Three people died when hopper dredger *Nautilus* capsized while working on routine maintenance work in the Republic of Congo. Royal Boskalis Westminster spokesman, Roel Berends, confirmed that no other vessel was involved and that the weather had not been stormy. Two Boskalis employees, a Dutchman and Filipino, had been killed and a local employee from the port of Pointe Noire. Their families had been notified, said Mr Berends. Rescue services were quickly on the spot and the other 14 crew members were taken to safety. Mr Berends said the vessel was carrying out maintenance work to the access channel to the port. Currently, the cause of the accident is not yet known and the incident is being investigated. A Boskalis team have flown out to the port and the local authorities are helping with the investigations, he added.

NAVION HISPANIA (Norway)

Kristiansand, Dec 1 — Crude oil tanker *Navion Hispania*: Teekay Superintendent informs that vessel repairs in Stavanger were completed Nov 29. Vessel sailed to the Varg field in the North Sea. — Lloyd's Agents.

NO.201 MELILLA (South Korea)

Wellington, Dec 1 — On Nov 8, the starboard quarter of trawler (All types) *No.201 Melilla* (1999 gt, built 1966) landed on a pile bollard, causing damage to the bollard, at Lyttelton. It is believed the tug power overcame the rudder thrust whilst coming alongside and caused the accident. — Lloyd's Agents.

NUEVA FORTUNA (Greece)

Buenos Aires, Dec 4 — Bulker *Nueva Fortuna* is still aground. Tugs *Ona Temple* and *Ciclon* are continuing refloating attempts. Tug *Conquistador*

is due on scene at approximately 1130-1200 today to assist in refloating the vessel. Navigation in the area is not obstructed. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Dec 7 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1045, UTC: Bulker *Nueva Fortuna* reported early this morning that it was still aground with two tugs trying to refloat it.

NUMO (Panama)

See under "Miscellaneous".

OCEAN LEADER (U.S.A.)

London, Dec 6 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1530, UTC: Research *Ocean Leader* (299 gt, built 1985) is reported to have sunk in lat 21 28N, long 97 11 W, in 170 ft of water, on Dec 1. All crew were rescued by a Mexican fishing vessel. Two crew members sustained injuries. Owners are arranging divers to assess the situation with a view to salvaging the vessel.

OLIVE L. MOORE (U.S.A.)

Troy, Michigan, Dec 6 — Shipping in the Saginaw River was blocked, early yesterday, as tug *Olive L. Moore* (297 gt, built 1928) and barge *Lewis J. Kuber* combination ran aground while passing through the Lake States Railroad bridge. The tug and barge were backing out to Saginaw Bay when southwesterly winds blowing at some 20-miles an hour created low water levels. The tug and barge had delivered stone to the Sargent Dock in Essexville and Saginaw Rock Products in Zilwaukee. After having bow thruster problems and another ship had trouble turning around at the 6th Street turning basin, the tug's master decided to back down the river to the turning basin, south of Bay City. Low water levels and swift currents prevented the combo from turning around by the James Clements Airport. As the comb passed through the railroad bridge in Essexville, the barge and tug ran aground. The Saginaw-based tug *Gregory Busch* helped free the stuck vessel about 0700 hrs. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News.

OTRADA (Moldova)

London, Dec 6 — General cargo *Otrada* sailed Yeisk Dec 1 for Poti.

OUTSAILING 5 (Panama)

London, Dec 6 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0500, UTC: General cargo *Outsailing 5* (1972 gt, built 2006) reported aground at 0245, UTC, in lat 41 30N, long 140 01E (north coast of Honshu). Japanese Coast Guard making rescue efforts.

London, Dec 7 — Following received from Japanese Coast Guard, Tokyo, at 0525, UTC: General cargo *Outsailing 5* is still aground on Hokkaido Island.

London, Dec 7 — Understand salvage service are being rendered to general cargo *Outsailing 5* under Lloyd's Open Form, SCOPIC invoked, dated today, by Fukada Salvage & Marine Works. Also understand the crew have been taken off the vessel.

PORT ALICE (Panama)

Brisbane, Dec 1 — There was a minor collision in Morton Bay on Nov 28, involving bulker *Port Alice* and fishing vessel *Jackie II*. Matter is under inquiry, with both crews having been interviewed. *Port Alice* has now left, bound for Melbourne. Damage to *Port Alice* is negligible. *Jackie II* is in Brisbane pending repairs, which will be effected in Brisbane. Damage to *Jackie II* is primarily to net boom. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Dec 6 — Bulker *Port Alice* sailed Melbourne Dec 4 for Adelaide.

PROGRES (Netherlands)

Portsmouth, UK, Dec 6 — At 1740, Nov 17, general cargo *Progres* and general cargo *Walhall* in collision on the Danube at Aschach. Both vessels sustained extensive damage. It was dark but visibility was good. *Progres* was heavily damaged; estimated at Euro250,000. *Walhall* almost sank and had to be towed alongside. *Progres* reached the nearest port under its own power. — Correspondent.

RAWSON (Argentina)

London, Dec 4 — Following navigation warning issued Dec 3: Fishing *Rawson* (92 gt) aground in lat 45 42S, long 67 18W.

RIVER PHOENIX (U.K.)

Boston, MA, Nov 30 — Refrigerated general cargo *River Phoenix* sustained vessel appeared to have minor paint scrapes but no significant damage was observed. The vessel was cleared to sail the same evening but was instructed to have a Class survey within 30 days. The New Bedford-Fairhaven Bridge sustained mostly cosmetic damage to the fenders, with some damaged timbers and a shifted walkway. No structural damage was found. The dock at the marina sustained a broken piling, and the electrical and water connections were pulled apart. The US Army Corps of Engineers are looking into the possibility that the dock was inside the Federal Navigation Channel but this has not been confirmed. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Dec 5 — Refrigerated general cargo *River Phoenix* arrived Puerto Limon Nov 26.

ROKIA DELMAS (Panama)

London, Dec 1 — Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Rokia Delmas* which ran aground off the island of RÈ close to the French Atlantic coast port of La Rochelle on Oct 24, has been declared a total loss by its insurers. Confirming the information, CMA CGM said, however, that it had not yet been decided what to do with the vessel, which is still on the site where it ran aground 2.5 km off the island's beaches. "The salvors are in the process of studying the different options available," a spokeswoman said. She said that everything was being done to get the vessel refloated at the earliest opportunity but that the time it would take would depend on weather conditions. The maritime

prefecture in Brest, which is overseeing the salvage operation, indicated some time ago that it did not want to break up the vessel where it is. A spokesman confirmed yesterday that this was still the position, explaining that the prefecture was concerned that any operation undertaken should not have a negative effect in an area which was particularly environmentally sensitive. Apart from being in a prime tourist area, the site of the grounding is also close to oyster farms and sea salt production centres. Principal salvor Les Abeilles International, which is working with SMIT Salvage of the Netherlands, has already emptied the vessel of its fuel and is currently in the process of removing the containers it was carrying. A maritime prefecture spokesman said yesterday that, despite the interruption of work by bad weather during the last two weeks and the vessel's heavy list, 187 containers had already been removed, leaving its upper deck virtually clear. He said that the remaining 190 containers would be removed as soon as whether conditions permitted but that the task promised to be much less difficult than that of removing the containers from the upper deck. The parties involved in the salvage operation were meeting yesterday at the maritime prefecture to discuss how the vessel could best be removed once cargo unloading had been completed, although no definitive decision was expected to be taken. "It is a first stage," said the spokesman, adding that the ideal solution was likely to involve lightening the vessel as much as possible prior to refloating it and then taking it away to a suitable site for demolition.

Nantes, Dec 6 — Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Rokia Delmas* has been declared a total loss. The discharge of cargo is currently interrupted by prevailing weather conditions. The ultimate objective remains the integral removal of the ship, with obligation of result. — Lloyd's Agents.

ROMAIN DELMAS (Gibraltar)

London, Dec 6 — Following received from Etel MRCC, timed 1030, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Romain Delmas* (31007 gt, built 1981) reported at 0300, local time, yesterday that it had lost two loaded 50 ft containers overboard in lat 47 19.2N, long 04 09.6W.

RONAN ROSS (Republic of Ireland)

London, Dec 6 — Following received from Coast Guard Valentia MRSC, timed 0845, UTC: Fishing (general) *Ronan Ross* (447 gt, built 2003), with eight persons on board, reported taking water in forepeak at 0629, UTC, in lat 53 01N, long 10 26W, and requiring a pump. Helicopter R115 was alerted and tasked. R115 on scene and landing pump at 0756, UTC. At 0832, UTC, *Ronan Ross* reported water ingress under control and vessel heading for Fenit with ETA 1130, UTC. No further assistance required.

ROYAL COOLER (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See *Francesco Gangitano*.

RUNNER 4 (Dominica)

Tallinn, Dec 1 — General cargo *Runner 4* is still lying in the same position on the sea bed. The fuel oil has been removed from the vessel. According to a press statement, about 114 cubic metres of oil was removed from the vessel's fuel oil tanks by Frank Mohn Flatoy AS, using supply *Geosund*. The work was completed on Nov 12 for a reported contractual sum of EEK 36.38 million (approximately Euros 2.3 million). — Lloyd's Agents.

RUSAN

London, Dec 7 — Inland general cargo *Rusan* has run aground between the East harbour and the Outer harbour of Terneuzen. Tug *Zeeland* headed for the grounded ship. *Vebo Runner* transported salvage equipment to the *Zeeland*. Divers inspected the hull regarding possible leaks. *Multratug 15* came alongside with pump equipment.

RUTH FIRST (South Africa)

Cape Town, Dec 1 — Patrol ship *Ruth First*: Vessel's managers now indicate that repairs are delayed, with vessel expecting to complete repairs Dec 5. *Ruth First* is a coastal patrol vessel and it will be deployed as required. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAKURAKAWA (Cambodia)

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A crew of eight Chinese have been rescued unhurt after a fire broke out late yesterday on general cargo *Sakurakawa* (1195 gt, built 1985) off Izu-Oshima Island some 120 kilometres south of Tokyo, Japan Coast Guard officials said today. *Sakurakawa* was still ablaze this morning, more than 10 hours after a load of scrap steel caught fire at around 2300 yesterday in waters some 3 km north of Izu-Oshima. The coast guard is facing difficulties putting out the fire quickly because it is pumping water out of the ship to prevent it from sinking, the officials said. (Note — *Sakurakawa* had sailed Tokyo Dec 6 for Haimen.)

SEA FALCON (Bahamas)

St. Vincent, CV, Dec 7 — Repairs to general cargo *Sea Falcon* have not yet commenced. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA HONESTY (Panama)

Portsmouth, UK, Dec 7 — Bulker *Sea Honesty* (17429 gt, built 1997) is on its way to Dutch Harbor for repairs after experiencing engine problems west of the Aleutians. The vessel was carrying a shipment of wheat from Oregon to Japan when it ran into trouble west of Attu Island on Monday (Dec 4), according to Coast Guard Petty Officer Sara Francis. It's on its way to Dutch Harbor under its own power, and is expected to arrive early this afternoon. — Correspondent.

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

**SEA MASTER ONE
(Antigua & Barbuda)**

Chittagong, Dec 7 — General cargo *Sea Master One* (5450 gt, built 1983), after taking load of 1,000 tonnes of cement clinker from mother vessel general cargo *Maris* at Chittagong outer anchorage and while proceeding towards the jetty, grounded at 1500 hrs, today, near the KAFCO jetty at Karnaphully Channel. Consequently the vessel has developed crack/leakage and water entered the vessel's hold. A Naval ship is endeavouring to refloat the lighter vessel, but due to strong current salvage attempts are being hampered. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEEWIND (North Korea)

Istanbul, Dec 6 — Traffic suspended from north to south (1530 hrs, Dec 6) due to salvage operations to Roll On Roll Off *Seewind* (6172 gt, built 1978). — Turkish Straits.com.

SENECA (U.S.A.)

London, Dec 4 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1455, UTC: Tug *Seneca* (132 gt, built 1932) had an electrical problem at the east end of Lake Superior early yesterday morning. *Seneca* was taken in tow by tug *Susan Hoey*. However, the towing line broke in very bad weather. *Susan Hoey* then had to return to port due to the weather conditions leaving *Seneca* adrift. *Seneca* was later found aground on a beach in lat 46 40.7N, long 85 32.4W

Troy, Michigan, Dec 5 — U.S. Coast Guard personnel, today, were helping tug *Susan Hoey* to recover tug *Seneca*, lost in high seas on Lake Superior Dec 2. *Susan Hoey* sought refuge in Grand Marais Harbor Saturday night, after a storm with high seas forced the Minnesota-bound vessel into port. *Susan Hoey* was towing *Seneca*, which was lost in the storm and was drifting toward Crisp Point yesterday. "We located it at 0830 hrs this morning and we are on our way to go get it," the master of *Susan Hoey* said. On Saturday, *Susan Hoey* ran into a sudden storm that blew up on Lake Superior. The storm produced snow squalls and seas as high as 16 feet, causing ice to build up on the tug. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Member Howard Baker of Grand Marais guided the *Susan Hoey* through Grand Marais' harbor, at midnight, due to the poor visibility from the ice-encased shroud of the pilot house. *Seneca* was adrift in the storm. First-mate Ted Wagner said almost an inch of ice built up on both tugs before the *Seneca* broke away. As *Susan Hoey* crested a wave, *Seneca* would plunge, almost completely submerging its tow line. Then the bow of *Susan Hoey* would dip below the waves as *Seneca* would bob up. The seas frightened the crew members, Wagner said. "I was afraid the windows were going to break. I thought we were going to capsize," he said. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

London, Dec 5 — A Coast Guard Grand Marais, Michigan, press release, dated Dec 4, states: Multiple

Coast Guard and state assets responded to the grounding of tug *Seneca* located approximately 18 nautical miles east of Grand Marais. There was no apparent damage to the tug and no apparent danger of pollution. Coast Guard Cutters *Katmai Bay* and *Alder*, Station Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. and Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, Mich., searched for the adrift tug. The tug was being towed from Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. to Grand Marais by tug *Susan Hoey* when the lines between them parted sending the unmanned *Seneca* adrift on the lake. The search was conducted under limited weather conditions throughout the weekend. *Seneca* was discovered by the *Alder*, who was diverted from working aids to navigation missions. There was no apparent pollution or damage to the vessel. Coast Guard crews are working with the Department of Natural Resources and the tug company to ensure the tug makes it to its final destination.

London, Dec 6 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1430, UTC: Tug *Seneca* is still aground. A salvage plan is being worked on at the moment.

SETE CIDADES (Portugal)

Ponta Delgada, Dec 4 — Main engine repairs to main engine of general cargo *Sete Cidades* carried out by crew and vessel left port 2330, local time, Nov 30, for Pico Island. — Lloyd's Agents.

SHAH BADAR-1

Chittagong, Dec 5 — Unknown *Shah Badar-1*: Owners representative reports that subject vessel is presently lying at shore side of Chittagong Sea Beach. The owners of the lighter vessel is awaiting for survey. — Lloyd's Agents.

SHARON SEA (Hong Kong)

See *Shun Feng 278*.

SHOSEI MARU (Japan)

See *Trust Busan*.

SHOYU MARU NO.8 (Japan)

London, Dec 4 — Following navigation warning issued today: Disabled tanker 2556 tons (product tanker *Shoyu Maru No.8*, 2556 gt, built 1992) adrift in lat 38 29.0N, long 139 04.7E, at 0200, UTC, today.

London, Dec 4 — Following received Japan Coast Guard, timed 0850, UTC: Product tanker *Shoyu Maru No.8*, cargo gasoline, creosote and diesel, is still adrift with rudder trouble. A tug is proceeding and due on scene at 1600, JST, tomorrow.

London, Dec 5 — Following notice to mariners issued today: Drifting tanker (product tanker *Shoyu Maru No.8*) removed.

SHUN FENG 278 (China)

Antwerp, Dec 7 — On its first day of maiden voyage, product tanker *Sharon Sea* (41000 gt, built 2006), managed by OMCI, bound Hong Kong for bunkering, no cargo onboard in

collision with self propelled barge *Shun Feng 278* 3,000 dwt, while both vessels were sailing along the Yangtze River near Taicang area at 1630, Dec 4. The *Sharon Sea* was just delivered from the shipyard (Jingjiang New Century Shipyard) five hours before the accident. The *Shun Feng 278* was carrying 3,000MT sand from Jiangxi (inner port of the Yangtze River) to Shanghai. The bow of *Sharon Sea* collided on the stern of *Shun Feng 278* while overtaking in the Yangtze River at Taicang. There is no cargo damage and personal injury, but both vessels sustained structure damages. The starboard bow of *Sharon Sea* was holed in 1,500 x 800mm near the bulbous bow above the water line. Vessel was later to have the hole repaired at Shanghai. The accommodation structure on the stern of *Shun Feng 278* was partly collapsed, and the poop deck, rudder and propeller was damaged. Vessel has to tranship the cargo before repairing. — Teamhead Surveyors Co. Ltd.

SILVER ARROW (Belize)

London, Dec 5 — Following navigation warning issued at 1500, JST, today: Engine troubled cargo vessel (general cargo *Silver Arrow*, 3552 gt, built 1980) adrift in lat 35 20.6N, long 132 04.3E, at 1420, JST, Dec 5.

London, Dec 5 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0820, UTC: General cargo *Silver Arrow*, Busan for Aomori, in ballast, is still adrift and drifting south-west at two knots. A tug and a patrol vessel are en route to assist with ETA on scene 2000, local time.

London, Dec 5 — Following notice to mariners issued today: Engine troubled general cargo *Silver Arrow* removed.

SKIPJACK (U.S.A.)

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Commercial traffic on the Tennessee River near Florence, Ala, is at a standstill for about a week after a backup lock at the Wilson Dam was damaged in a barge (being accident pushed by tug *Skipjack*) Tuesday (Nov 28) afternoon. But there won't be a huge impact on Middle Tennessee maritime commerce, said officials with the Army Corps of Engineers and Ingram Barge, the Nashville-based shipping company. Ingram Barge was contacting its customers yesterday to determine whether any critical shipments should be loaded on trucks for immediate shipment. So far, all of the company's clients are willing to wait a week until the main lock is reopened, said Kaj Shah, Ingram Barge's customer service vice president. "Unless there's really critical cargo, by the time alternative arrangements can be made, and the expense you would lose, you're better off waiting," Shah said. Tuesday's barge accident, which remains under investigation, shut down an auxiliary lock that had been used since Aug 4, when an earlier barge accident shut down the main lock. Repairs to the

main lock are scheduled to be completed Dec 6. Repairs to the auxiliary lock have not been scheduled. About 75 vessels are waiting at or near the lock, said Chief of Operations Mike Ensich of the Army Corps of Engineers. A few more may arrive before the lock reopens next week, he added. Areas most affected include Chattanooga and Decatur, Guntersville, and Huntsville, Ala.

SOCOL 2 (Malta)

Breast, Dec 5 — General cargo *Socol 2* sailed Nov 29 for Casablanca. — Lloyd's Agents.

SPAR GARNET (NIS)

London, Dec 6 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1952, UTC: Bulker *Spar Garnet* (18011 gt, built 1985), Hamburg for Montreal in ballast, anchored 13 nautical miles from Berry Head, in lat 50 27.84N, long 03 09.77W, due to water ingress through the stern gland. The vessel has disengaged its propeller and intends to reduce its draught. Tug/supply *Anglian Princess* is proceeding, ETA on scene approximately 0230, UTC, Dec 7.

London, Dec 6 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 2251, UTC: Tug/supply *Anglian Princess* ETA at bulker *Spar Garnet* 0300, UTC, Dec 7. Intend to connect tow to tow into Torbay. Weather in area, south-westerly force 7 to 9 (near gale to severe gale).

London, Dec 7 — The Maritime and Coastguard Agency reported at 0639, UTC: Coastguard tug/supply *Anglian Princess* has taken bulker *Spar Garnet* under tow, after she had broken down and reported taking water through her stern tube. *Spar Garnet*, which was on passage from Hamburg to Montreal with 28 crew on board, anchored 13 miles north east of Berry Head until the arrival of *Anglian Princess*. *Anglian Princess* now has the vessel in tow and is taking her to Torbay, to await arrival of a commercial tow to take her to a port for repair. The weather at the time was south-westerly gale force 8 to storm force 10, moderate visibility with rough to high seas. Brixham Coastguard are continuing to monitor the tow using their AIS (Automatic Identification System). Andy Huber, Watch Manager, Brixham Coastguard said: "The operation to assist the disabled vessel *Spar Garnet* has been successful and the vessel is currently being towed to Torbay for the owners to assess and make arrangements to have the vessel repaired." — (According to Informa's AIS system, at 0646, UTC, the tow was in lat 50 27 8.64N, long 03 14 41.82 W, nearest port Exmouth, distance 14.3 nautical miles, speed (SOG) 5.2 knots, course (COG) 259 deg.)

London, Dec 7 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1445, UTC: Bulker *Spar Garnet* is now anchored in Torbay. The water ingress has stopped and the situation is stable. Tug/supply *Anglian Princess* remains in the bay. At the moment it

looks likely the vessel will be towed to Falmouth for repairs by a commercial tug when the weather improves.

SPAR OPAL (NIS)

Troy, Michigan, Dec 1 — Wednesday night, bulker *Spar Opal* was moved down through Iroquois Lock to the south east tie wall. This allowed navigation to resume again as ships had to wait at anchor until the divers were out of the water. At 0820 yesterday bulker *Goldeneye* was pulled off the south shore with the combined effort of tugs *Ocean Hercule*, *Ocean Jupiter* and *Ocean Bravo*. Once it was released it went up to the Iroquois Lock and the three tugs have cleared downbound for Montreal. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Goldeneye* was in lat 45 24 13N, long 73 38 38W, speed 7.7 knots, course 290 degrees.)

Montreal, Dec 3 — Bulker *Goldeneye* was refloated, with three tugs, on Nov 30. No damage at all and she proceeded on her regular voyage to Oshawa, where she arrived Dec 2. — Lloyd's Agents.

Montreal Dec 3 — Bulker *Spar Opal* was refloated Nov 29 at Iroquois lock, using two tugs. She is still at the Iroquois lock awaiting completion of repairs to her main engine, which could take several days. — Lloyd's Agents.

SPRING AUSTER (Panama)

London, Dec 4 — A Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force submarine master's error in judgment has been mooted as the cause of his vessel hitting combined chemical and oil tank *Spring Auster*, a source within the Japan Coast Guard said. The Japan Coast Guard could pass on its findings to prosecutors by the end of March for possible indictment on charges of professional negligence posing danger to traffic, the source said. The Japanese military submarine collided with a civilian vessel during exercises off southern Japan on Nov 21. The Maritime Self-Defense Forces submarine *Asashio* clipped the chemical tanker during a surfacing operation about 30 miles off the southeastern coast of Miyazaki. None of the 17 crew was hurt, but the ship's master reported that the vessel was taking on water. The Japanese Coast Guard subsequently sent three patrol boats to escort *Spring Auster* into Shibushi Bay, Kagoshima prefecture, for inspection. There were no injuries reported on board *Asashio*, only a dent to the aft fin. Last week Eiji Yoshikawa, chief of the Maritime Staff Office would only say that the accident was caused by human error and detailed investigations would be held to see how operations were coordinated among the crew. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Spring Auster* was last reported in lat 30 31 32N, long 122 01 55E, at 0403, UTC, Nov 26, speed 10.6 knots, course 82 degrees.)

London, Dec 6 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Spring Auster* sailed Shanghai Nov 28.

STAR IKEBANA (Singapore)

Vancouver, Nov 30 — Local agents of part containerised general car *Star Ikebana* (33448 gt, built 1999) have confirmed that the vessel is now in Vancouver Drydock at Pier No.1 for repairs. They would not specify what type of repairs are being effected. However they have advised that she is scheduled to depart from Vancouver on Dec 4, bound for Scotland and then The Netherlands. — Lloyd's Agents.

STEN ODIN (NIS)

London, Dec 5 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1156, UTC: Combined chemical and oil tank *Sten Odin* (8594 gt, built 1998), bound Kalundborg, in ballast, adrift in lat 56 27.4N, long 07 23.9W, at 1024, UTC, with engine failure, damage to the roller guide housing for main engine actuator. Vessel drifting at 1.5 knots, course 45 degrees. Wind south-west 5 (fresh breeze). Coastguard tug *Anglian Sovereign* tasked at 1133, UTC, and proceeding at full speed.

London, Dec 5 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1525, UTC: Combined chemical and oil tank *Sten Odin*: Coastguard tug *Anglian Sovereign* has ETA on scene at 1900, UTC, however, vessel expects to complete repairs by 1730, UTC. (See issue of Dec 6.)

London, Dec 5 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1617, UTC: Combined chemical and oil tank *Sten Odin* completed repairs and restarted engine at 1604, UTC. Now resumed passage to Kalundborg. Tug *Anglian Sovereign* to escort her through The Minch.

TAHOMA REEFER (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Monrovia, Dec 1 — Refrigerated general cargo *Tahoma Reefer* is still lying in the same position. Vessel is still abandoned and no activity is going on. — Lloyd's Agents.

TAIROVA (Ukraine)

London, Dec 6 — Following the collision incident at Yeisk Nov 24, general cargo *Tairova* subsequently passed Istanbul Nov 30, arrived Diliskelesi same day and sailed Dec 2 for Yeisk.

TATIO (Chile)

Santiago, Nov 30 — Bulker *Tatio* (22208 gt, built 1985) when manoeuvring to dock to the four dolphins just off the end of the mole, length 1,950 metres, on the continental side of Otway Sound (lat 52 57S, long 71 12W, Pecket Mine Terminal), the stern of the vessel went between two dolphins and struck the semi-circular structure of the chain transport system of coal erected on the end of the mole, causing considerable damage, at approximately 0500, Nov 26. The vessel sustained some damage to the rear crane that struck the coal transport system. No spillage of fuel has been detected. The vessel is now

at Punta Arenas roads. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Tatio* had sailed San Vicente 0657, Nov 20 for Pecket.)

TAXIARCHIS SIERRA (Cyprus)

Kolkata, Dec 7 — Bulker *Taxiarchis Sierra* is still under arrest and is in Kolkata Port. — Lloyd's Agents.

TROIS ANGES (Panama)

London, Dec 6 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1610, UTC: Vessel *Trois Aranges* (? supply *Trois Anges*, 383 gt, built 1965), Bahamas for the Dominican Republic, ran aground off Haiti in lat 19 47N, long 73 50W, yesterday. The eight crewmen on board are reportedly safe.

TRUST BUSAN (South Korea)

Yokohama, Dec 1 — A collision occurred between the bow of general cargo *Trust Busan* (4690 gt, built 1997), Mizushima for Kobe, and the "port middle" of tanker *Shosei Maru*, Aioi for Hiroshima, at 1745 hrs, Nov 28, in a position 3,500 metres, 30 degrees, from Kurakakebana beacon, Kagawa. It was reported that *Trust Busan* sustained denting and scratching damage to her bow and the shell plating of *Shosei Maru* below sea level "of port mid.", was cracked, resulting in water ingress into the engine room. Oil spilled through the crack and the vessel was unable to navigate under its own power. By the morning of Nov 29, the oil spread over 3.7 kilometres, 20 to 200 metres wide and it partly reached nori cultivating nets. No personal injury has been reported. Clean-up of the spilled oil is in progress. *Shosei Maru* was towed to Tonocho, Kagawa, where the cargo of oil was transhipped onto another vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

VERA (Germany)

London, Dec 2 — At 1239, Danish time, general cargo *Vera* (3999 gt, built 1996), bound Bremerhaven, and crude oil tanker *British Cygnet* (63462 gt, built 2005), bound Fredericia, were in collision in the Great Belt, north of the Isle of Fyn. According to press, the bulbous bow on *Vera* was torn off and *British Cygnet* had several ballast tanks ruptured. Both vessels are in the area. *British Cygnet* anchored in lat 55 39.97N, long 10 32.07E. No persons were injured. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, vessels anchored in following position: *Vera* in lat 55 39 46.2N, long 10 39 46.8E, at 1514, Dec 2, and *British Cygnet* in lat 55 37 57N, long 10 32 04.8E, at 1514, Dec 2.)

London, Dec 2 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Vera*, Aarhus to Bremerhaven, and crude oil tanker *British Cygnet*, without cargo, on the way to Fredericia, in collision off island of Funes today. *Vera* severely damaged.

London, Dec 4 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1125, UTC: General cargo *Vera* is now in Fredericia harbour where it will be detained. Crude oil tanker *British Cygnet* is currently waiting outside Fredericia.

London, Dec 4 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: With leaks in two ballast water tanks, crude oil tanker *British Cygnet* reached the port of Fredericia at 2300 hrs, on Dec 2, after its collision with general cargo *Vera* at 1239 hrs, the same day, off Fyns Hoved in the Baltic. On Dec 3 divers started examinations of the hull in the port. *Vera* remained at anchor off Fyns and was waiting for investigators on Dec 3. It sustained a leak as well and lost parts of its bulbous bow. It was underway from Aarhus to Bremerhaven. *British Cygnet* was in ballast on the way to Fredericia.

London, Dec 5 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS general cargo *Vera* was in lat 55 14 48N, long 11 05 01E, at 0724, UTC, today, speed 8.1 knots, course 154 degrees and crude oil tanker *British Cygnet* was stationary in lat 55 34 31.8N, long 09 53 13.8E, at 0902, UTC, today.

VESTHOLM (Denmark)

London, Dec 1 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1050, UTC: Dredger *Vestholm* remains aground. The salvors have submitted a plan but there is no schedule yet for when the operation will commence.

VILLE DE DUBAI (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 30 — Container Carrier *Ville de Dubai* anchored in front of Bebek in Istanbul Strait because of an engine failure at 1500, Nov 28. Tug *Kurtarma 2* took the vessel in tow with tug *Kurtarma 4* as escort for Ahirkapi anchorage area and the vessel was anchored at 1710 hrs. (See later report in issue of Dec 1.) (Note — *Ville de Dubai* subsequently passed Dardanelles 0310, today.)

VOLGO-BALT 210 (Russia)

London, Dec 5 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Volgo-Balt 210* (2516 gt, built 1978), with 3,000 tons of fertiliser, collided with a quay when entering the harbour of Stade on Dec 4. The vessel sustained a gash to the hull, with damage estimated at 110,000 Euro. The accident was caused by a manoeuvring mistake.

London, Dec 6 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The collision damage to general cargo *Volgo-Balt 210* after it hit the pier in the Elbe-port Stade can be repaired without entering a yard. The upper hull on the starboard side was damaged, which doesn't make the ship unseaworthy. The main damage occurred at the pier, parts of the steel-concrete wall, some installations and a pile were destroyed.

VOLGO-BALT 211 (Russia)

London, Dec 1 — General cargo *Volgo-Balt 211* arrived Kaliningrad Nov 26.

St. Petersburg, Dec 6 — Understand general cargo *Volgo-Balt 211* is still at Kaliningrad. — Lloyd's Agents.

VOLGO-DON 213 (Russia)

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Istanbul's Marmaray project escaped a dangerous situation yesterday when general cargo *Volgo-Don 213*, loaded with wheat, crashed into a platform working on the undersea subway project. The crew of 13 was rescued when water began to leak into the vessel, which was carrying wheat from the Ukraine to the port of Tartous. The vessel was set to take a route north to south without a maritime pilot. The crash caused a traffic jam up and down the Bosphorus. At dawn, the vessel was taken to the Salacak coast and hours of bailing water was necessary. Later, officials said the *Volgo-Don 213* was ready to pursue its journey.

London, Dec 1 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Volgo-Don 213* was located stationary in lat 41 00 58.08N, long 29 00 28.98E, at 1057, UTC, today, nearest port Uskudar, Istanbul, at a distance of 0.5 nautical miles.

VOS REBEL (Liberia)

Maassluis, Dec 1 — Standby safety vessel *VOS Rebel* sailed at 0030, Nov 30, to resume operations. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

VOUTAKOS (Panama)

Hamburg, Dec 1 — Bulker *Voutakos* proceeded to Hamburg after completing repairs at Brunsbuttel, and sailed Hamburg at 0900, Nov 30, bound for sea to await orders. — Lloyd's Agents.

WALHALL (Germany)

See *Progres*.

WILSON CORK (Barbados)

London, Dec 7 — Following received from Corsen MRCC, timed 1055, UTC: General cargo *Wilson Cork* (2999 gt, built 1998) had controllable-pitch propeller problems in lat 48 29.5N, long 05 55.3W, at 1437, UTC, yesterday. Vessel could not repair itself and was subsequently towed to Brest by tug *Abeille Bourbon* where arrived 0448, UTC, today. (Note — *Wilson Cork* sailed Murmansk Nov 24 for Pasajes were it was due to arrive today.)

London, Dec 7 — Understand salvage services were rendered to general cargo *Wilson Cork* under Lloyd's Open Form by Les Abeilles International.

WILSON MAAS (Barbados)

London, Dec 7 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1220, UTC: General cargo *Wilson Maas* (1169 gt, built 1997) is being escorted to Rotterdam by tug *Dutch Partner* following radar and steering problems. (Note — *Wilson Maas* sailed Mo i Rana 0310, Nov 30 for Rotterdam. According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Dutch Partner* was in lat 52 16 23.51N, long 04 04 55.89E, at 1252, UTC, today, speed 6.4 knots, course 211.7 degrees.)

XIN HUA YOU 18 (China)

Antwerp, Dec 7 — Specific tanker *Xin Hua You 18* (2179 gt, built 2003), from Huizhou, in collision with general cargo *Jin Fu Da 18* in lat 23 20N, 117 02E, Dec 1. *Jin Fu Da 18* was seriously damaged and sank. — Teamhead Surveyors Co. Ltd.

YIN CHU

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Dredger *Yin Chu*, former roll-on-roll-off *Yin Chu*, 15,000 tons, sank on Saturday (Dec 2) while trying to berth in the Huangpu River near Nanpu Bridge in Shanghai. Attempts will be made to salvage the *Yin Chu* this week but it will be a complicated operation, according to maritime officials. “No one was injured in the accident and no oil polluted the river,” said Zhou Zhengbao of the Shanghai Maritime Safety Administration. “The work didn’t begin right after the accident because we need some time to work out a salvage plan for such a big ship.” All holes in the ship were blocked soon after the accident to prevent pollution, Zhou said. Two tugs berthed beside the 150-metre former roll-on-roll-off *Yin Chu* to prevent it from floating to the middle of the river. It had been turned into a dredge ship by Ruike Shipping Company and was being tested in the river when the accident occurred about 1230 hrs. The company believes the sinking was probably caused by an unclosed door. Water apparently entered from the door and the ship sank in two hours. But company officials said the exact reason will not be pinpointed until salvage work is completed.

London, Dec 5 — Salvors from the Shanghai Maritime Safety Administration were, yesterday, working to refloat dredger *Yin Chu*, which partially sank on the Huangpu River, in Shanghai on Dec 2. No one was hurt in the incident, according to the local maritime bureau, which is investigating the accident. The vessel was carrying out dredging near the Nanpu bridge when the accident occurred, at about 1300 local time. There was a slight oil spill, but anti-pollution measures were put into place to prevent further contamination. Pictures show the vessel slightly listing to port and the main deck underwater, although the superstructure was clear of the water.

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A funds dispute is holding up salvage operations on dredger *Yin Chu* that sank in the Huangpu River on Saturday (Dec 2). Maritime officials said they were trying to get work started through mediation. Zhou Zhengbao, an official with the Shanghai Maritime Safety Administration, said salvors would probably start raising *Yin Chu* in the next two or three days if negotiations went smoothly. It is expected to cost several million yuan to raise the ship. A maritime authority source said the key was getting the ship owner and

the company working on the vessel at time of the accident to reach a quick agreement over the huge salvage bill. “Since the vessel has such a great tonnage, the salvage work must follow a sophisticated plan,” said Zhou. *Yin Chu* sank in about two hours after it was flooded when berthing about 70 to 80 metres off a dock near the Nanpu Bridge on Saturday, according to the marine authority. It said yesterday investigations so far showed that the accident was probably caused by an unclosed door on board the vessel. The ship was undergoing a refitting program when berthing near the dock. No one was injured and the maritime authority said cabin oil that leaked during the sinking was quickly contained, saving the river from pollution. Two tugs have been anchored beside the shipwreck since Saturday, as part of its mast and driver’s room are still above the water. The tugs will work to stabilize the sunken vessel to prevent it from floating free and blocking the waterway. Five patrol boats are also cruising near the scene to maintain smooth shipping traffic.


Port State Control
BELGIUM

Zeebrugge, Dec 5 — Container carrier *Afra* (7366 gt, built 1991) has been prevented from departing Antwerp due to detentions. — Lloyd’s Sub-agents. (Note — *Afra* arrived Antwerp Nov 29.)

London, Dec 7 — Container carrier *Afra* sailed Antwerp 1547, Dec 6.

CYPRUS

Limassol, Nov 30 — General cargo *Liberty A.* is still under detention. There is no information about her release. — Lloyd’s Agents.

HONG KONG

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Kang Nam 5* has been stuck in Hong Kong for six weeks apparently because its owner cannot afford to pay for repairs required by safety inspectors, the vessel’s local shipping agent said today. A spokeswoman for the ship’s local shipping agent, Topping Enterprises Ltd., said the vessel’s owner apparently had financial difficulties and could not fix the ship.

NEW ZEALAND

Wellington, Dec 6 — Roll on roll off *Atlantic Trader I* is still laid up at Auckland, with no change in its situation. — Lloyd’s Agents.

UNITED STATES

See *Trinity Sierra* under “Seizures & Arrests.”


Seizures & Arrests
A.P.SUNSHINE (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Zeebrugge, Dec 6 — General cargo *A.P.Sunshine* is still under arrest. — Lloyd’s Sub-agents.

ALALAA 1 (North Korea)

Bucharest, Dec 1 — General cargo *Alalaa 1* is still under arrest at Constantza. — Lloyd’s Agents.

ALEXANDER (Georgia)

London, Dec 5 — General cargo *Alexander* arrived Alexandria Dec 2.

ASTRAKHAN (Russia)

Portsmouth, UK, Dec 4 — The boundary police of Georgia have detained Russian general cargo *Astrakhan* (1652 gt, built 1965) for a violation of navigation rules. As reported by the “Pogranpoltitsii”, the vessel, which was transporting building materials from Turkey to the Georgian port of Poti, entered into the closed zone in the Sarpi region. The incident occurred yesterday. At present the vessel is located on Batumi roads. It will be freed after paying a penalty of \$29000. — Correspondent.

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Astrakhan* which was arrested in Georgian territorial waters on Sunday allegedly “for violating the shipping regulations”, has been released after paying the fine of lari 50,000 (US\$ 29,000), sources from the Coastguard Service of Georgia said today. Officials of the Batumi Coastguard Service Department noted that the ship had been arrested “for crossing the zone that is closed to shipping,” 15 kilometres south of Batumi. There were 13 crewmembers on board, all Russian nationals. They were not detained. The ship is now docked at Poti port, where it was heading to deliver plywood from Gemlik.

BIGA (Canary Islands)

Bilbao, Dec 1 — General cargo *Biga* is still under embargo at Bilbao. — Lloyd’s Agents.

BOREAS (Cyprus)

Bilbao, Dec 1 — General cargo *Boreas* is still under embargo at Bilbao. — Lloyd’s Agents.

CARMANIA EXPRESS (Georgia)

London, Dec 7 — Roll On Roll Off *Carmania Express* (22383 gt, built 1986) has been under arrest at the port of Curacao since October 2005.

CGY SVETLANA (St. Kitts-Nevis)

Bari, Dec 5 — General cargo *CGY Svetlana* (906 gt, built 1972) is presently under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd’s Agents. (Note — *CGY Svetlana* arrived Bari Oct 24.)

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

ELWOOD (Panama)

Maassluis, Dec 6 — General cargo *Elwood* is still under detention at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

GREGORIO I (Panama)

Limassol, Nov 30 — General cargo *Gregorio I* is still under detention. No information for prospects of sailing yet. — Lloyd's Agents.

Limassol, Dec 4 — General cargo *Gregorio I*, which is still under detention by the Dept. of Merchant Shipping of Cyprus, sailed from Limassol to Larnaca on Nov 30 under a special permit by the Merchant Shipping, to unload all Syria cargo at Larnaca. — Lloyd's Agents.

IMAN T. (North Korea)

Bucharest, Dec 1 — General cargo *Iman T.* remains under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

NORDLAND (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Bilbao, Dec 1 — General cargo *Nordland* is still under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORESTES (Panama)

Bari, Dec 5 — Passenger ro/ro *Orestes* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

PLAVA (Albania)

Bari, Dec 5 — General cargo *Plava* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

SABA (Malta)

London, Dec 6 — Following received from the Antwerp-based agent of bulker *Saba* (26132 gt, built 1984): Vessel is currently under arrest at Antwerp. Immigration officers will board the vessel today and it is due to depart tomorrow if permitted. (Note — *Saba* arrived Antwerp Nov 7.)

SZAP 5 (Cook Islands)

Wellington, Dec 6 — Trawler *Szap 5* is still laid up at Nelson. Understand the vessel was arrested by Port Nelson Ltd during November for non-payment of berthing fees. — Lloyd's Agents.

TIBER (Albania)

Bari, Dec 5 — General cargo *Tiber* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

TRINITY SIERRA (Cyprus)

Savannah, Dec 5 — Bulker *Trinity Sierra*: Savannah Pilot's Association informed that vessel was still at Savannah, situation unchanged as far as is known. — Lloyd's Agents.

Pipeline Accidents



IJE-ODODO, LAGOS, NIGERIA

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A ruptured fuel pipeline exploded outside

Nigeria's commercial capital, killing at least one person, state-owned radio in the West African country said today. The pipeline burst into flames yesterday after leaking gasoline for days from a rupture apparently caused by thieves trying to steal fuel in Ije-Ododo, a village on the outskirts of Lagos, Radio Nigeria said. The report said at least one person died in the fire, citing residents and witnesses. The pipeline, which is operated by state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corp. and transports imported fuel from Lagos ports to inland depots, was still burning this evening, the report said. Fire trucks had been sent to the area but were having difficulty getting to the site. State oil company officials were not immediately available for comment.

SURABAYA AREA, INDONESIA

Jakarta, Dec 3 — A 43-year-old man died today from injuries sustained after a gas pipeline explosion in Java island last month, taking the toll from the disaster to 13, media reports said. The Nov 22 blast, which disrupted gas operations in the region covered by state oil company Pertamina's East Java Gas Pipeline, occurred in an area where hot mud has been gushing unchecked since the end of May following a drilling accident. The man suffered more than 52% burns to his body after the blast, Metro TV reported. The state Antara news agency said two more people were still missing after the accident. The pipeline was located underneath sand and gravel dikes made to contain the mud. The transmission pipe broke after land subsidence hiked the pressure, igniting some of the gas. Anger has been mounting in the area with the mud pouring out at a rate of 50,000 cubic metres a day from the well despite various attempts to plug the leak. The mudflow has inundated a major toll road, several villages, dozens of factories and swathes of paddy and sugarcane fields, causing an unfolding environmental disaster in Sidoarjo, an industrial suburb of Indonesia's second largest city Surabaya. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono ordered last week the total closure of the 440-ha area affected by the mudflow, saying it was considered a dangerous area. — Reuters.

Anse and Nippes, along the impoverished Caribbean nation's vulnerable south-western peninsula. Flooding has also affected the north-western town of Port-de-Paix. Haitian Red Cross workers have been providing first aid to injured residents and moving flood-stricken villagers to temporary shelters, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said. The Geneva-based group said it has asked donors for \$522,800 to buy hygiene kits, water, blankets and mosquito nets for 17,500 people affected by flooding. The rain began Nov 22, unleashing flash floods that killed livestock, damaged two hospitals and isolated many remote villages in the heavily deforested country.

OMAN

London, Dec 4 — The port of Mina al Fahal was declared closed for berthing/unberthing operations at 0600, local time, this morning due to high swell and wind. The port had been closed for the same reason from 2130, local time, Dec 2 until it was reopened at 1425, yesterday.

London, Dec 5 — Mina Al Fahal port has been declared open for operations with effect from 0900, local time, this morning. The port had been closed due to high swell and winds.

PAKISTAN

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Heavy rains and strong winds pounded Karachi port for three days, toppling billboards, triggering power outages and leaving six people dead in separate rain-related incidents, police said today. The deaths occurred in various areas of Karachi yesterday and most were caused by electricity cables snapped by the storm, Karachi police chief Tariq Jamil said. Heavy rains also have lashed other areas of Pakistan in recent days. In the rugged mountainous northwest, snow also fell.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A major clean-up is getting underway this morning following damage caused by severe weather conditions over the weekend (Dec 2-3). Flooding hit several towns and villages across the country yesterday following torrential downpours, with Crossmolina, Co Mayo, among the worst-affected areas. High winds toppled trees and knocked down power lines, leaving 15,000 homes around the country without electricity. The weather is expected to ease today, but could worsen again towards the end of the week, with Met Eireann predicting further flooding in some places.

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Flood waters have started to recede across the Republic of Ireland, as the severe weather conditions that affected the country over the weekend (Dec 2-3) have eased. Crossmolina in Co Mayo was one of the towns worst affected by



HAITI

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated Dec 5, states: Floods triggered by nearly two weeks of heavy rain have washed away roads and bridges, wiped out crops and killed at least three people in western Haiti, the International Red Cross said today. The destruction has been most severe in the rural departments of Grande

yesterday's flooding. An estimated Euro one million worth of damage was caused when the river Deel burst its banks. Gardaí say the main road in the town is now passable and a massive clean up operation is expected to get underway today. At Dublin Airport there are some delays, but the majority of flights are operating as normal. Irish Ferries has said that three sailings out of Dublin have been cancelled. The company says there will be a sailing from Dublin to Holyhead at 1100 hrs but others ferry sailings out of Dublin at 0805, 0845 and 1430 hrs have been cancelled. The weekend weather disrupted air travel and knocked out power supplies in places.

TURKEY

London, Dec 7 — Traffic in the Canakkale Strait was suspended between 0600 hrs and 1030, local time, this morning due to poor visibility and dense fog.

TYPHOON "DURIAN"

Manila, Nov 30 — The Philippine Coast Guard has shut down all ports in the southern part of Luzon as well as ports in the islands of Samar and Mindoro today following the entry into Philippine territory of typhoon "Durian." The closure of all ports in the path of the typhoon has stranded at least 3,920 passengers in various terminals. The National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) reported that a total of 1,476 people were stranded in Calapan port in Oriental Mindoro Province, Batangas port in Batangas Province and Dalahican port in Quezon Province. The report also said that some 1,444 people were stranded in Tabaco port in Albay Province, Virac port in Catanduanes Province, Pasacao port in Camarines Sur Province and the ports of Pilar, Bulan and Matnog in Sorsogon Province. At least 571 passengers were also stranded in the port of Allen in Northern Samar Province. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 146 people have been killed in the Philippines by a mudslide triggered by a typhoon, the Red Cross says. Rains caused by Typhoon "Durian" brought mud and rocks down hillsides, burying two villages in the foothills of the Mayon volcano, south-east of Manila. Five other villages were also affected, and as the search for the survivors continues, the death toll may rise. The mudslides hit Albay province, with main casualties occurring in the villages of Daraga, Busay and Santo Domingo. The area affected is near the city of Legaspi, 350km from the capital, Manila.

London, Dec 1 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Typhoon "Durian" near lat 13.6N, long 119.0E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 275 degrees at 10 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots, gusts 110 knots. Forecast position lat 13.8N, long 117.2E AT 1800, UTC,

today. Maximum sustained winds 85 knots, gusts 105 knots. Forecast position lat 13.9N, long 115.6E at 0600, UTC, Dec 2. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots.

Manila, Dec 1 — Typhoon "Durian" may have killed up to 400 people in the central Philippines after heavy rains and winds sent tonnes of mud and boulders the size of cars crashing onto villages, the head of the local Red Cross said today. Durian, which packed winds of up to 225 kph, moved into the South China Sea after lashing the Philippines since early yesterday and was expected to weaken into a tropical storm before hitting Vietnam on Monday (Dec 4). Communities close to Mount Mayon, an active volcano about 320 km south of Manila, were buried after "Durian" dislodged mounds of debris from its slopes. "There are a lot of conflicting reports but, looking at the trend, we could have about 300 to 400 people dead by tonight," Richard Gordon, a senator and head of the Philippine Red Cross, told local television. Around 11,000 people were left homeless and infrastructure damaged, including power lines and phone links knocked out, bridges washed away and roads buried by landslides. "It's a wasteland," said Noel Rosal, a mayor in the central region of Bicol. Disaster reports from other provinces were sketchy. Disaster agencies called for fresh water, medicine and body bags. Thousands of evacuees crammed into schools and churches, while some residents were marooned on roofs. "Durian," one notch below a category 5 "super typhoon", caused havoc across the central and northern Philippines, affecting nearly 22,000 people, grounding aircraft and halting sea travel. Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said farmers had sustained around 500 million pesos (US\$10 million) in losses after "Durian" swept through growing regions for coconuts, rice and hemp. Crop damage from previous typhoons cut third-quarter economic growth. On the island of Marinduque, trees were uprooted, lamp posts wrenched out and roofs swept from most homes. "It's the worst in our history. Almost all houses were damaged by the typhoon in the province," Congressman Edmund Reyes said on local radio. Australia's Lafayette Mining Ltd halted operations at its copper and zinc mine in the central Philippines after the typhoon damaged staff housing and power lines but the company said it hoped to reopen in two weeks. "Durian" skirted Manila, where offices and schools were closed for a national holiday. — Reuters.

Daraga, Dec 2 — Distraught survivors searched piles of bodies for the faces of their loved ones in the central Philippines today, after landslides, triggered by typhoon "Durian" left hundreds dead. Driving rain and winds of up to 225 kph (140 mph) dislodged tonnes of mud and boulders from the slopes of Mount Mayon, about 320 km (200 miles)

south of Manila, on Thursday, smothering nearby villages in a three-hour torrent. The office of civil defence said 208 people had been killed and 261 were missing in the rural Bicol region. Officials said the toll was rising by the minute as rescue workers, some using their bare hands, pulled corpses and body parts from the mud. "It's already in the hundreds just covering four areas," Cedric Daep, head of the provincial disaster coordinating council told Reuters. "Right now we are on retrieval operations. We do not believe there are any survivors." Nearly 30,000 people were left homeless and whole communities were isolated as power lines and telephone links were knocked out, bridges washed away and roads blocked by uprooted coconut trees, twisted metal roofs and tonnes of mud. — Reuters.

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Filipino rescuers shovelled away boulders and mud yesterday, to recover bodies from mudslides that smothered mountainside villages, as officials feared the death toll from typhoon "Durian" could double to 600. Seas of thick black mud made the going tough for rescue workers, who were not believed to have pulled any survivors from the debris since the first hours after the typhoon blasted ashore. The death toll surpassed 300. Another 300 are missing and the prospects of finding any of them alive are dwindling fast. The first funerals took place last night, as bodies rapidly decomposed in the tropical heat. The Disaster Coordinating Council of the worst-hit Albay province reported 236 dead, including 129 in the town of Guinobatan in the Mayon volcano's foothills, which was swamped by floods. Three towns on Mayon's slopes, overwhelmed by mudslides of volcanic ash and boulders, each reported at least 22 dead. Four other provinces reported fatalities, but accurate figures were hard to come by because of damaged power and phone lines. In some places, rescue workers found only body parts. "We need food, tents, water, body bags," said Philippine National Red Cross official Andrew Nocon. Houses along the Yawa River in Padang, seven miles from Legaspi, the capital of Albay province, were buried under five feet of mud, with only roofs protruding. In Padang village, 28 bodies were recovered and photographed for identification by relatives, said Luis Bello, the mayor's aide. Some had been washed out to sea, then swept by currents to the shores of an adjacent town. Silangan Santander, 21, attended funeral services for her brother, Larry. Only his lower torso and legs were found near the sea. Electricity pylons were toppled, and a two-lane highway was scattered with overturned trucks. Volcano "Mayon" erupted in July and has been rumbling since then. Rains from succeeding typhoons may have loosened the materials, officials said.

Daraga, Dec 4 — The Philippines fears up to 1,000 people have been

killed in landslides and flooding triggered by Typhoon "Durian," but officials said today, that many of the bodies might never be retrieved. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo declared a state of national calamity after "Durian", which was set to hit the Vietnamese coast today, killed 425 people and left nearly 600 missing across three central regions. Villages surrounding Mount Mayon bore the brunt, when torrential rains and wind sent walls of mud and boulders as big as cars crashing onto rural communities. Soldiers, miners and a Spanish rescue team with a sniffer dog dug through the sludge, pulling out corpses and body parts. Nearly 60 people were killed after the chapel they were sheltering in was buried in debris. Even the New People's Army, a communist rebel group locked in a decades-old insurgency against the government, ordered its cadres to help relief efforts. Over one million people were affected by the typhoon, which sparked flooding so intense that some people, vainly clinging onto coconut trees, were washed out to sea. At least 100 people were drowned in one village and an Australian and a New Zealander were among the missing. Thousands of people were crammed into schools, churches and town halls after nearly 150,000 homes were damaged, communication lines uprooted and coconut trees, rice paddies and irrigation systems destroyed. — Reuters.

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities in Vietnam have evacuated tens of thousands of people in the country's south, as Typhoon "Durian" heads towards the coast with winds of 130 km per hour. Meteorologists say it is expected to make landfall later tonight. Vietnam barred fishing boats from leaving the harbour several days ago and warned those at sea to avoid the typhoon, which has defied earlier predictions it would weaken as it got closer to the coast.

Ho Chi Minh City, Dec 5 — Typhoon "Durian" swept into southern Vietnam killing at least 38 people, sinking hundreds of fishing vessels and damaging houses, days after it killed hundreds in the Philippines, government officials said today. Weather forecasters said the storm, which has winds up to 120 kph and heavy rains, took an unpredictable turn and hit the low-lying provinces of Vietnam's Mekong Delta rice-basket, raising concerns of severe flooding. "Durian" will remain a typhoon for the next day, forecasters said. The Mekong Delta and Ca Mau peninsula of southern Vietnam rarely experience strong storms. After leaving Vietnam, the storm will push westward toward Thailand, the Malaysian peninsula and into the Andaman Sea, forecasters said. Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Sinh Hung, in charge of co-ordinating storm preparations, warned provincial leaders not to underestimate the strength of the typhoon. Vietnamese media reports today quoted provincial officials as saying the typhoon killed

at least 38 people, 19 were missing and 700 injured in five provinces — Ba Ria Vung Tau, Ben Tre, Binh Thuan, Vinh Long and Tien Giang. Officials said 18,400 houses were damaged and 860 boats sank, Vietnam Television reported. Vietnamese authorities evacuated tens of thousands of people from vulnerable south and central areas before the arrival of "Durian", which slammed into the Philippines one notch below a category 5 super-typhoon last Thursday (Nov 30). Disaster officials today raised the toll to 526 dead and 740 missing in three regions of the Philippines hit by the typhoon, which affected more than one million people in the archipelago. Disaster officials said nearly 300,000 houses were destroyed while agriculture and infrastructure damage were estimated at pesos 608 million (\$12.25 million), devastating large swathe of hemp and coconut farms in the central Bicol region. Winds and torrential rains from the storm sent walls of mud and water crashing onto rural communities surrounding Mount Mayon, an active volcano about 320 km south of Manila. — Reuters.

London, Dec 6 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical depression "Durian," downgraded from tropical storm, near lat 08.3N, long 103.3E, at 1800, UTC, Dec 5. Movement for the past six hours 260 degrees at 11 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 25 knots, gusts 35 knots.

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Vietnam's death toll from tropical storm "Durian" rose to 59 today as authorities began cleaning up the country's south coast where more than 120,000 houses were destroyed, officials said. The worst damage was in Ba Ria-Vung Tau province, where at least 34 people were killed and more than 450 others injured, most of them in collapsed homes. "The death toll could rise," said Pham Nhat Quang, a spokesman for the provincial military command. "Many of the victims are in very bad condition." The government sent air force planes today to search for 29 people still missing. Thousands were evacuated before the storm hit early yesterday, but some of those killed had refused to leave their homes. Before weakening to a tropical storm and hitting Vietnam, "Durian" ravaged the eastern Philippines with a five-hour deluge and 165-mph winds on Nov 30. In Albay province, entire villages disappeared under tons of mud and volcanic debris that cascaded down the slopes of the Mayon volcano. Official figures showed 526 dead, 1,000 injured and 740 missing. Senator Richard Gordon, head of the Philippines national Red Cross, said he believed more than 1,000 died in the thousands of homes buried under volcanic debris, mud and floodwaters. More than one million people in 13 provinces were affected, and about 20,000 have gone to evacuation centres.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated Dec 3, states: Gale-force winds and driving rain have caused major disruption across the South East, with firefighters dealing with numerous reports of fallen trees. Cross-Channel ferries were delayed for four hours when the port of Dover was shut while, also in Kent, drivers were unable to use the Dartford QE2 Bridge. Winds of up to 70mph also saw the A20 near Dover closed in both directions, and caused a 20-ton lorry to blow over. In East Sussex, sea walls were breached at Seaford and Bexhill. Dover Coastguard said conditions for vessels in the English Channel were "horrendous" with boats reduced to "walking speed." Spokeswoman Sue King said the winds had reached at least a storm 10, with gusts of up to 69 knots, the equivalent of about 80mph. Passengers planning to travel with Norfolkline ferries, Speed Ferries, P&O ferries and SeaFrance have been advised to contact the operator before leaving home as services are still subject to disruption.

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Yacht owners are counting the cost of the weekend's (Dec 2-3) gales which could reach more than £1m at one Devon marina. Winds gusting up to 100mph caused chaos at Queen Anne's Battery in Plymouth where boats on land collapsed against each other in a domino effect. In Saltash, on the Cornish side of the River Tamar, more boats were ripped from their moorings. Lifeboatmen described seeing a number of unmanned luxury yachts drifting down the river, helpless against the wind. The winds left more than 50,000 homes in Devon and Cornwall without electricity. Two Plymouth lifeboats were launched at 0300, UTC, when the yacht *Dolcebella's* anchor cable became tangled up in its propellers, leaving it without power. Another boat sank near the crossing, leaving only the top of its mast visible above the water. Plymouth RNLi Coxswain Dave Milford said the damage at Queen Anne's Battery, where 20 to 30 yachts were piled up against each other, would be in millions of pounds. More than 5,000 homes in Cornwall remain without electricity after severe gales at the weekend. Teams from Western Power spent the last few days reconnecting 25,000 homes in the county. Five hundred homes in Devon were still without power this morning after the weekend's storms.

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Suffolk police have warned motorists that they should expect delays on the A14 around Felixstowe today as high winds have led to the periodic closure of the port. The port was shut intermittently this morning as the gales buffeted the region and police said it was likely to close and re-open throughout the day, depending on conditions. They advised motorists that lorries would be stacking up in the port and it was likely to cause congestion on the A14

Felixstowe approach road. The high winds are forecasted to last until tomorrow.

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Six people were injured when a tornado swept through a London street leaving a trail of destruction. Rooftops were ripped off and cars were badly damaged as the freak weather hit Kensal Rise in north-west London. One man suffered a serious head injury and five people with minor injuries were treated at the scene, London Ambulance Service said. A total of 11 fire crews were called to Chamberlayne Road. The road has been closed because of the debris. Witnesses said there was heavy rain and sleet, then debris flying through the air. Emergency services were called at about 1100, GMT to reports of collapsed scaffolding and damage to buildings. Four ambulances and two fast response cars were sent to the scene and the London ambulance helicopter was scrambled. London Ambulance said a man, thought to be in his 50s, was treated for a head injury and five others were treated for shock and minor injuries at the scene. London Fire Brigade said up to 50 firefighters were at the scene and had cordoned off the area.

UNITED STATES

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The National Weather Service says two tornadoes were part of the severe weather that roared through Pennsylvania. Meteorologists confirmed that today, one day after two women died in the storms. Both the tornado that struck the Halifax area of northern Dauphin County and the one that struck the Mountain Top area of Luzerne County were classified as F-One. That means they had winds between 73 mph and 112 mph. The most severe tornadoes are classified on Fujita scale as F-Five. Dauphin County officials say six businesses sustained about one-point-three million dollars in damage from the Halifax tornado. Damages to 70 homes totaled about 700-thousand dollars.

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: While not as severe as in the Lake of the Ozarks, boat and dock damage in St. Charles County is estimated by the Missouri Water Patrol at more than \$15 million. About a dozen marinas lining the Mississippi River in St. Charles County were damaged in Thursday's (Nov 30) storm. None of the marinas in Alton, Godfrey or Grafton reported any problems, apparently because of the track of the storm. Lou Amighetti of the Missouri Water Patrol said more than 250 boats in St. Charles County sustained varying degrees of damage when roofs covering them collapsed under the weight of the ice and snow. Some of the boats had only external damage; others were partly submerged. The docks continue to be unstable, preventing many marina managers and boat owners from getting a true picture of the damage. Two Branch Marina, situated in one of the hardest hit areas, had as many as

50 boats damaged. "I've never seen anything like this," said Diane Krause, office manager. She said repairing and rebuilding the docks would take months to complete.

Earthquakes



GUATEMALA

Guatemala City, Dec 3 — A moderate earthquake struck off the Pacific coast of Guatemala today and was felt strongly in the Central American country's western highlands, although no damage was immediately reported. The U.S. Geological Survey reported on its Web site that a 5.8 magnitude quake struck at 1552, EST, 60 miles south-west of the capital Guatemala City. Eddie Sanchez, director of Guatemalan geological center Insivumeh said there were no reports of damage. — Reuters.

INDONESIA

London, Dec 1 — A strong earthquake measuring 6.3 hit the northern part of Indonesia's Sumatra island today but it was at a depth of 215km. The epicentre of the quake, which struck at 1458, AEDT, was 50km south-east of the city of Medan, the US Geological Survey said.

TONGA

London, Dec 2 — A report, dated today, states: A magnitude 5.7 earthquake occurred in lat 17.701S, long 174.352W, in Tonga at 0952, UTC, today. Depth 137 km.

Volcanic Activity



MOUNT KARYMSKY, RUSSIA

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The Karymsky volcano on the Kamchatka peninsula in Russia's Far East has increased its activity, spewing ash up to an altitude of 6,900 metres (22,637 feet), the local emergencies centre said today. The ash and gas emissions were registered by a local aircraft, the emergencies centre said. The emissions pose no threat to local residents, but there is a danger to aircraft flying near the volcano, the emergencies centre said.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

Kandahar, Afghanistan, Dec 3 — At least eight people were killed in the

southern Afghan city of Kandahar today in a suicide car bombing against NATO troops and subsequent gunfire by soldiers, police and witnesses said. Three civilians died when the bomber struck a military convoy and five more were shot by troops afterwards, they said. NATO said three of its soldiers were wounded in the attack for which the Taliban claimed responsibility. Asked about the accounts of troops shooting civilians, NATO spokesman Major Luke Knittig said: "We will establish the facts. It is still unclear in what way the troops reacted." Britain's Ministry of Defence said the three injured soldiers were British Royal Marines commandoes. It said one was seriously wounded and the others were in stable condition. "The convoy was attacked by a suspected suicide bomber in a vehicle, who attempted to ram the British vehicles. A number of Afghan civilians were also injured in the blast and at least two were killed," the ministry said. — Reuters.

Kabul, Dec 4 — NATO troops killed 70-80 Taliban in a fierce battle in southern Afghanistan, the alliance said today. A reconnaissance patrol hunting Taliban engaged a large group of fighters yesterday about 15 km from the village of Musa Qala in Helmand, a stronghold of the Islamist guerrillas and the main opium-growing province in the world's major supplier. In a four-hour battle backed by attack helicopters and close air support, the ground commander estimated 70-80 guerrillas were killed, a NATO spokesman said. There were no NATO casualties, but three soldiers from NATO's International Security Assistance Force were wounded during another clash earlier in the day. — Reuters.

Kandahar, Dec 5 — A suicide bomber ploughed his car into a convoy of NATO troops in Afghanistan's southern city of Kandahar today, wounding nine civilians and two soldiers, witnesses and officials said. It was the second such attack in three days. The troops immediately cordoned off the site of the attack on the western outskirts of the city and at least two helicopters were seen hovering in the sky, they said. Two NATO soldiers were wounded in the blast and two vehicles damaged, a spokesman for the organisation said. Both NATO and US-led troops are stationed in Kandahar, the main stronghold of Taliban militants who have unleashed a series of suicide attacks against foreign and Afghan forces this year. On Sunday (Dec 3), at least eight Afghan civilians were killed in a suicide car attack against NATO troops and in subsequent firing by the soldiers in Kandahar city. In neighbouring Helmand province, the opium capital of the world's biggest supplier, British Marines today launched an offensive against a Taliban-held valley, backed by Apache attack helicopters and B1 bombers. There were no initial reports of Marine casualties, but British troops said several Taliban were killed as part of

the sweep through wheatfields in Gamsar district the south of the province. — Reuters.

Kandahar, Dec 6 — A suicide bomber attacked the office of a US-owned security company in southern Afghanistan today killing seven people, including two Americans, a government and company official said. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the blast outside the office of the Houston-based US Protection and Investigations (USPI) in Kandahar city. "The bomber was questioned by a security guard as to where he was going, in front of the office, and he blew himself up among company employees," Kandahar's police chief Esmatullah Alizai said. The employees had gathered for a regular morning briefing outside their office, which is opposite a base of Afghanistan's NATO security force, he said. Two of the victims were Americans working for the company. Five Afghans and the bomber were also killed. The company provides guards to protect foreign companies working on construction and infrastructure projects. It was the third suicide bomb attack in the city this week. Qari Mohammad Yousuf, a spokesman for the Taliban, said that the bomber was a member of the Islamist group which is battling to oust foreign forces. About 105 suicide bomb attacks this year have killed nearly 250 people, most of them civilians, according to the NATO force. More than 40,000 foreign troops, about half of them American, are in Afghanistan battling the Taliban and trying to ensure sufficient security for development to get going. Nearly 4,000 people have been killed in violence since January, including nearly 160 foreign troops. Most of the violence has taken place in the south and east, in areas near the border with Pakistan, from where the insurgents are getting help from militant allies. The level of violence has fallen to some extent in recent weeks since winter began, but the Taliban have vowed to renew their campaign in the spring. — Reuters.

ALBANIA

Bari, Dec 5 — Product tanker *Ambar* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALGERIA

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated Nov 30, states: Ten suspected Islamist militants were killed in clashes with the Algerian army, which was conducting sweeps in remote mountainous regions, the Al Khabar newspaper reported today. The militants were killed in two separate clashes Tuesday (Nov 28) night in the neighbouring Biskra and Batna regions, some 250 miles southeast of the capital, Algiers. According to the report, the army was searching the area for several dozen militants thought to be responsible for the downing of a military helicopter in the Batna region last week - an attack that killed three soldiers and two local guards.

BANGLADESH

Dhaka, Dec 3 — Clashes broke out between rival political activists across Bangladesh again today as the fourth transport blockade in as many weeks gripped the country just weeks ahead of elections. One man was killed and 30 were injured in the latest spate of violence. President Iajuddin Ahmed called his council of advisers to a special meeting to try to resolve the stalemate between longtime rivals Sheikh Hasina, head of the Awami League, and Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). "The meeting has been convened to consider demands of the two major alliances," a spokesman for the presidential palace said. Adviser Mahbubul Alam, head of the information ministry, said "we expect to evolve a deal acceptable to both camps." Hasina and Khaleda met the president and his council of advisers late yesterday but they failed to resolve the stalemate. Hasina's 14-party alliance demands the removal of controversial election officials and says voting lists for the January poll are flawed. Witnesses said road links between the capital Dhaka and the port city of Chittagong, as well as other main cities, were paralysed as the latest blockade took hold early today, a working day in mainly Muslim Bangladesh. Riot police and paramilitary troops patrolled the streets and guarded key buildings in the city of 10 million people. One man was killed and 20 injured in clashes in Biswanath, near Sylhet city 350 km north-east of Dhaka, witnesses said. At least 10 people were hurt when police used clubs to disperse activists attacking vehicles in Dhaka's Paltan area. — Reuters.

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal was killed and over 50 were injured in clashes between rival political activists in Sylhet as the fourth round of country-wide indefinite transport blockade by the 14-party combine began yesterday. The 14-party enforced the blockade demanding President Iajuddin's resignation from the post of chief adviser of the caretaker government and reconstitution of the Election Commission. Chittagong port sources said the loading and unloading of goods inside the port ran as usual but cargo delivery to and from the port remained suspended since the morning due to the disruption of road and rail communications.

CHAD

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated Nov 30, states: French fighter jets bombed a rebel-held town in Central African Republic today, and rebels pulled troops out of another town after fighting with government forces, a rebel official said. Rebel forces withdrew from the northern town of Ouadda after clashes with government troops backed by a small Central African peacekeeping force, Diego Alator Yao, who is in charge of rebel military operations, said by

telephone from an undisclosed location. Elsewhere, French jets and helicopters attacked rebel positions in nearby Ndele, but rebels still held the town, Yao said. There was no immediate confirmation from French officials, but French firepower has put rebels on the run in recent days. A French military spokesman said earlier this week that French Mirage fighters fired on rebel positions in Birao in support of an army operation there, and Yao confirmed rebel troops pulled out of the town Tuesday (Nov 28) after two days of clashes. Yao said rebel forces pulled out of Ouadda fearing a French onslaught. Ouadda, however, was not attacked by French forces, he said. "I asked my men to pull out of Ouadda and leave it to government forces," Yao said. "It is useless to confront them given that the French are intervening with helicopters and jet fighters." After pulling out of Birao and Ouadda, insurgents still hold three towns: Ndele, Ouadda-Djalle and Sam Ouandja.

FIJI

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated Nov 30, states: Fiji's military chief Cmdr Frank Bainimarama has warned he will overthrow the government tomorrow, unless his demands are met. Cmdr Bainimarama accused Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase of stalling on a pledge to scrap controversial legislation. Fiji has been tense for weeks amid a stand-off between the two men. "I think it's about time we end this impasse," Cmdr Bainimarama told a press conference, adding that it would be a "peaceful transition". Prime Minister Qarase had earlier appeared to back down by agreeing to suspend work on the laws, one of which would grant amnesties to those involved in a 2000 coup. He also hinted that possible sedition charges against Cmdr Bainimarama could be dropped, and Fiji's police chief's work contract might not be renewed when it expired, but Cmdr Bainimarama - who wants the police chief removed immediately - appeared to reject the concessions at a press conference. Cmdr Bainimarama reiterated his ultimatum and said that unless the government met all of the army's demands fully, all cabinet ministers and advisers should resign. "I give him until tomorrow afternoon to comply with our demands or I will start the clean-up campaign," he was quoted as saying. Cmdr Bainimarama said the government had until 1200 hrs, tomorrow (0000, UTC) to act. Fijians have been buying emergency supplies of food and withdrawing money from banks, amid fears a military coup could bring chaos and closures.

London, Dec 5 — The BBC reported today: Fiji's president has dissolved the island's parliament, paving the way for the military to take control in a coup. Earlier, armed troops surrounded the home of Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase, who is refusing to resign. Military chief Cmdr

Frank Bainimarama has repeatedly threatened to unseat Mr Qarase over plans to grant amnesty to those behind a coup in 2000. Cmdr Bainimarama is expected to give a television address in the coming hours. This morning, Mr Qarase said that he expected to be taken into custody shortly. The embattled elected leader refuses to step down voluntarily. "I am at home but there are soldiers at the gate negotiating their way to come in," Mr Qarase said from his complex in the centre of the capital, Suva. He said Fiji's powerful Pacific neighbours Australia and New Zealand had "flatly said no" to sending military support after the Fijian police were disarmed on Monday. New Zealand's prime minister has said that she feared military intervention could have made the situation worse. Checkpoints have already been set up across the capital, in what Mr Qarase described as a "strangling of the government of the day". Cmdr Bainimarama is angry at the way Mr Qarase has handled the aftermath of a coup in 2000, offering an amnesty to those responsible. Mr Qarase says that at least 800 of those involved have already been convicted. Australia, Britain and New Zealand have advised their citizens to stay away from the tourism-dependent former British colony. They have also warned of dire social, economic and diplomatic consequences if the military completes its coup. Fiji has seen three coups in the last 20 years.

IRAQ

Baghdad, Dec 3 — US forces attacked insurgent bases in Iraq today as a leaked memo from the man who sent them there revealed that Donald Rumsfeld believes their strategy is not working and it may be better to reduce troop numbers. A day before election defeat cost Rumsfeld his job, the outgoing defence secretary told the White House: "It is time for a major adjustment. Clearly, what US forces are currently doing in Iraq is not working well enough or fast enough." The Pentagon confirmed the contents of the note, published by the New York Times, in which Rumsfeld, a leading planner of the Iraq war, outlined several options but endorsed none. It was sent on Nov 6, a day before voter dismay on Iraq gave control of Congress to President George W. Bush's Democratic opponents. Among options mentioned by Rumsfeld were reductions in US forces and bases and a recasting of the US goals there. He suggested cutting US bases to just five from 55 by mid-2007. Fifty-one people were killed at a busy Baghdad market yesterday by a triple car bomb attack, 10 days after the worst attack of the conflict killed over 200 people in the capital. US troops and Iraqi forces were on the offensive in Baquba, a volatile city 60 km north-east of Baghdad, the military said in a statement. Baquba has seen Sunni insurgents, including al Qaeda Islamist militants, driving out Shi'ite Muslims, while Shi'ite militias have

attacked Sunnis in surrounding areas. Three rebels were killed and 44 detained in the offensive, the military said. In Anbar province, another centre of the Sunni insurgency, a US air strike and ground raid killed six insurgents, as well as two women and a child, the military said. Police in the area said 20 were killed. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Dec 5 — Gunmen and bombers killed 30 people in Baghdad today, including 14 Shi'ite religious workers after a powerful Iraqi Shi'ite leader urged President George Bush to strike harder at Sunni rebels to avert civil war. Gunmen killed the 14 employees of a Shi'ite religious foundation in the capital, while officials said three car bombs killed 16 people and wounded 25 in a separate attack near a fuel station in a religiously mixed area in southern Baghdad. The civilian employees for the Shi'ite Endowment, a foundation that oversees religious sites and mosques, were killed when their bus was ambushed, Salah Abdul Razzaq, a spokesman for the organisation, said. "It's clear that this crime is aimed at stoking sectarian strife among Iraqis. The terrorists are trying to portray these crimes as a sectarian conflict," he said. Razzaq said 14 employees were killed and eight wounded when gunmen forced the bus to stop on a highway in Qahira district. Interior Ministry sources said gunmen first set off a car bomb and then sprayed the bus with bullets. The sources put the toll at 15 employees dead and seven wounded. The attack came a day after Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, a cleric and head of the biggest party in Iraq's government, SCIRI, met Bush in Washington as Iraqi and US officials struggle to contain violence pitching the country towards all-out civil war. Iraq is gripped by tit-for-tat sectarian killings between Shi'ites and Sunnis, and many Iraqis fear their oil-rich nation passed the point of no return into sectarian division after the destruction of a Shi'ite shrine in February. Last month, gunmen attacked a vehicle of the Sunni Endowment near the southern city of Basra, killing one local official and three of his bodyguards. In a clear sign of American alarm at escalating violence, the US ambassador in Baghdad and the commander of US forces implored Iraqis to break a cycle of violence which they said would destroy the country. Last month, more than 200 Shi'ites were killed in the worst bombing since the US invasion. — Reuters.

ISRAEL-LEBANON

Hebron, Dec 1 — Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian in the West Bank today and Palestinian militants in Gaza fired a rocket into the Jewish state, despite a partial truce declared by armed groups in the territory. An Israeli army spokesman said a Palestinian man threw a petrol bomb at Israeli border police manning a security roadblock in the West Bank city of Hebron, lightly wounding one of the officers. Israeli forces shot at him

and killed him. Palestinian hospital officials confirmed the man's death. His family said he had gone out early to pray at a local mosque and that he did not belong to a militant group. The army spokesman said the man was found to have been carrying a knife. Also today, a rocket fired by Palestinian militants in Gaza landed in southern Israel, said the Israeli army and witnesses quoted by Israeli media. There were no reports of casualties or an immediate claim of responsibility. Palestinian militant groups had earlier in the week said they would halt such attacks if Israel stopped targeting Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. After their declaration, Israel ended a massive five-month-long offensive in Gaza. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, visiting the region to try to revive long-stalled peace talks, pushed Israelis and Palestinians yesterday to broaden their fragile Gaza ceasefire. The Palestinians have also been bogged down by internal disputes and some violence, mainly over unpaid government salaries, after Western nations froze funding to the Palestinian Authority after Hamas won a parliamentary election in January. Early today, unknown assailants detonated explosives at the entrance to a Gaza branch of the Arab Bank, causing damage to a part of the building, Palestinian security sources said. The motive for the bombing, the first against a foreign-operated bank in the Palestinian territories, was unclear and there was no claim of responsibility. — Reuters.

NIGERIA

London, Dec 7 — Operations at Brass Terminal have been suspended following an attack by militants. According to local reports, the terminal came under attack and some people were taken hostage in the early hours of this morning. As a result, terminal operations have been suspended. However, the loading of a vessel currently at the SBM has not been affected. It is not yet clear if another 'force majeure' will be declared by the Terminal Operators, in addition to the one still in force from the previous incidents at the terminal this year.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Dec 1 — In a recent terrorist attack on gas infrastructure, a main pipeline supplying gas to the Sui purification plant of Pakistan Petroleum Ltd in Balochistan Province was blown up late last night. A report said suspected militants blew up the pipeline at at least five points. As a result, gas supplies to the main gas plant were suspended from the pipeline, an official said, adding that gas supplies to other areas of the country had not been affected. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, Dec 1 — At least four Philippine soldiers were killed and three were wounded when communist

rebels detonated a landmine on the troubled southern island of Mindanao, said an army general today. Brigadier-General Luini Mirar, military commander in Surigao provinces, said the soldiers were rushing to a detachment under attack by communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Marihatag town in Surigao del Sur when they were attacked. "We lost four men when the rebels set off a landmine in Cagwait town," Mirar said, adding that three soldiers who were wounded managed to fight back and prevented the guerrillas from taking their weapons. The army truck was a wreck and an armoured vehicle was slightly damaged in the attack, Mirar added. Mirar said extra troops were sent to chase the rebels and evacuate the wounded soldiers to the nearest army base. — Reuters.

SOMALIA

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated Nov 30, states: A car bomb has exploded in Baidoa, where Somalia's fragile interim government is based, leaving at least six people dead. A policeman said that a female suicide bomber wearing a veil blew herself up at a check-point. There are fears of widespread conflict breaking out in Somalia between the government and the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC), which controls most of the south of the country, including the capital, Mogadishu. There have been conflicting reports of how many bombs there were. Deputy Defence Minister Salad Ali Jelle told the AP news agency that three car bombs had exploded at police check-points, killing the drivers and three others. A local journalist said he had seen three bodies. Police commander General Ali Hussein told AFP that at least 12 people had died. "There were two suicide cars full of explosives," he said. Mr Salad also told AP that three alleged attackers had been captured. He said they were foreign members of al-Qaeda.

SUDAN

Abuja, Nov 30 — The African Union (AU) today extended the mandate of its peacekeeping force in Sudan's Darfur region for six months, after Sudan rejected proposals for the deployment of a larger U.N. force to replace it. The authorisation of about 7,000 AU troops in the vast desert region had been due to expire at the end of the year. "The (AU) peace and security council decided to renew the mandate for six months," AU peace and security commissioner Said Djinit said after a council meeting in Nigeria's capital Abuja. The council, consisting of five African heads of state, endorsed a proposal for a hybrid AU and United Nations force to replace the poorly equipped and thinly spread AU troops, but conceded some ground to Khartoum by deciding that the UN should have only a supporting role. "By hybrid we mean ... the mission should be essentially African troops, but there might be a case for support elements of the United

Nations in areas where the AU is not in a position to provide those elements," Djinit said. He added that this support would ensure the force had the strength to ensure security in Darfur, deliver humanitarian assistance and protect civilians. The AU decision left unclear how many peacekeepers Khartoum will allow into Darfur. The U.N. Security Council and Secretary-General Kofi Annan have said as many as 22,000 may be needed, compared to the 7,000 AU soldiers now there. The AU peace and security council said force size should be determined by the AU and the United Nations based on the needs on the ground. But U.N. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir wrote Annan earlier today to say that Khartoum also required a voice in the decision-making. Experts estimate that 200,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million uprooted in nearly four years by the violence. — Reuters.

Khartoum, Dec 3 — At least 150 people were killed and 400 to 500 wounded in heavy clashes in south Sudan last week between former rebels and the Sudanese army, a United Nations official said today. Peter Maxwell, head of the UN field office in Malakal, said that most of the dead were combatants but that 20-30 were civilians caught in the crossfire. The fighting that erupted on Nov 28 in the town of Malakal was the heaviest between the northern Khartoum government and the former rebels since a peace deal last year ended Africa's longest-running civil war. "There have been about 150 deaths ... and between 400 and 500 wounded," Maxwell said. A senior officer from the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army had earlier said hundreds of people may have been killed. — Reuters.



Labour Disputes

INDIA

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Normal life came to a grinding halt in Manipur today following a day-long general strike called by various organisations to coincide with Prime Minister's Manmohan Singh's visit here. Officials said markets, shops, business establishments, educational institutions remained closed in view of the general strike called by Action Committee Against Tipaimukh Project (ACATP) and major insurgent outfit Revolutionary People's Front (RPF). They said transport services between Manipur and neighbouring states, and within the state were also cancelled in view of the strike. While ACATP had called the strike in protest against proposal to construct a dam at Tipaimukh in interior Churachandpur

district, RPF called the general strike saying that Singh's visit "was aimed at encouraging the security forces to commit atrocities under Armed Forces Act now in force in the State." Major roads in Imphal wore a deserted look as people preferred to remain indoors in view of the general strike.

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated today, states: The three-day old indefinite strike by tanker lorry operators in Kerala, protesting against the state government's decision to make speed governors mandatory in heavy vehicles, was called off. The strike was called off after the Ernakulam district Collector A P M Mohammed Hanish and other officials met leaders of the Kerala state tanker lorry owners Federation. Hanish later told reporters that the federation's decision followed the request of the government, which said that the strike would hit people hard, especially as the Sabarimala, Haj and Christmas season was on.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, Dec 6 — Cargo operations at the domestic port of Dumaguete in Negros Oriental in central Philippines has been paralysed since Friday (Dec 1) because of an on-going strike by stevedores servicing the port. Some 150 stevedores have stopped work to pressure the state-Philippine Ports Authority to renegotiate their Collective Bargaining Agreement which expired two years ago. The stevedores have refused to load and unload cargo from docked vessels but have allowed passengers board and disembark from passenger ferries. Dumaguete Port is the main port for the province of Negros Oriental. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTH KOREA

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: About 1,600 truck drivers continued to strike for four days in a row today but it did not seriously disrupt cargo transportation in the country, officials said. The Korea Cargo Transport Workers Union said, however, that its members will continue the strike until the National Assembly adopts a bill that calls for a minimum shipping charge and a cap on brokerage fees which will ensure higher income for them. The union claims a membership of 12,000 out of 300,000 truck drivers in the country. Government officials filled the gap by mobilizing as many non-union drivers as possible. But officials are concerned that an increasing number of non-union drivers stayed away, as some of their trucks were set ablaze by apparent arsons by the striking drivers. Overall, container cargo transportation at major ports and inland depots was running at 70% to 90% of the usual level, said officials at the Ministry of Construction and Transportation. The government deployed more police to protect trucks on highways.

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated today, states: South Korean truckers terminated their five-day

strike that has seen outbreaks of arson and agreed to return to work today, their union said. The Korea Cargo Transport Workers Union said the decision was made after the National Assembly's Construction and Transportation Committee agreed to review related legislation that favours the truckers next February. About 1,600 drivers were on a five-day strike starting Friday (Dec 1), demanding that the National Assembly adopt a bill that calls for a minimum shipping charge and a cap on brokerage fees that guarantee them higher income. Police said today they have received reports of 79 incidents, including property damage and injuries, caused by trucks being set ablaze. The truckers allegedly turned to arson to press non-union drivers to stop ferrying cargo between ports and depots, officials said.

Awards & Settlements



THEFT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, GERMANY

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated Dec 5, states: Husky Injection Molding Systems Ltd said today it had won a US\$11-million court award in an intellectual property case in Germany against Mold & Hotrunner Technology, a German competitor founded by former Husky employees. Husky accused Mold & Hotrunner, based in Hochheim, Germany, of illegally using Husky's computer-aided design files to make its pre-form moulds. Husky, founded by German immigrant Robert Schad and headquartered in Bolton, north of Toronto, said the German Appeal Court made the award last week for damages and interest from the theft and illegal use of Husky's technology, ending a case that had gone on for five years. Husky, whose equipment is used to manufacture a wide range of plastic products in packaging, technical and automotive applications, said the court denied the right to appeal the decision, but Mold & Hotrunner may challenge this denial.

Railway Accidents



BHAGALPUR, BIHAR STATE, INDIA

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Twenty-four people were killed when a 150-year-old bridge collapsed on an overcrowded super fast train in Bihar's Bhagalpur district early yesterday. Mammoth slabs of metal and cement thundered over a sleeper class of the Howrah-

Jamalpur train coming from Howrah in West Bengal and on its way to Jamalpur in Bihar, barely 50 km from its destination. The disaster crushed many passengers, many of whom were travelling illegally on the roof of the coaches and hanging on the doors, and seriously wounding many. The aged bridge, "Ultra Pul," was being dismantled when it suddenly came down on the train. According to villagers, a portion of the damaged bridge was hanging loosely but trains continued to run underneath, unaware of the danger lurking overhead. Yesterday, reverberations from the plying of the train apparently caused the bridge to simply come apart. Until now, there are 24 bodies lying in the Bhagalpur government hospital and at the railway station," a district administration official said. However, unconfirmed reports say that 34 people have been killed. Over 30 people were rescued and a dozen injured admitted to the hospital. S.Majumdar, chief spokesman of Eastern Railways, said that rescue workers were struggling to extricate bodies from the mangled coach. "Initially we thought there was only one casualty, because only the toilet part of the S-8 coach was crushed. Now it seems people were sitting on the train roof and also hanging to its sides," he said by telephone from Kolkata. Railway Minister Lalu Prasad ordered a probe into the accident and announced a compensation of Rs100,000 to families of the dead besides promising a job in the government. Thousands of people crowded around the accident site, hampering rescue operations. By late afternoon railway officials had pressed giant cranes to take out the crushed rail carriage and resume rail traffic on the section.

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The Commissioner for Railway Safety (Eastern Circle), R.P. Agarwal, today began a probe into Saturday's (Dec 2) train crash in Bhagalpur that claimed 35 lives. Agarwal, accompanied by Eastern Railway General Manager, S S Khurana, and the Divisional Railway Manager (Malda), R K Mishra, visited the accident site this morning and later began taking statements from railway employees and others at Bhagalpur junction, railway sources said. Agarwal, who will hold a statutory inquiry into the accident today and tomorrow, will also take statements from the public in connection with the accident. The Eastern Railway has put up advertisement in prominent newspapers asking members of the public who have knowledge relating to the accident, or related matters, to appear and give evidence at the inquiry. Railway Minister Lalu Prasad ordered the probe to ascertain responsibility for the lapses causing the incident.

CHRISTOPHER AREA, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A Union Pacific

freight train derailed near Christopher, southern Illinois, early today, spilling an unknown chemical and forcing the evacuation of more than 70 homes. There were no reports of injuries, said Union Pacific spokesman James Barnes. "It did result in the release of a chemical," Barnes said. "We're trying to determine what kind of chemical." Two locomotives and 21 cars of the 83-car train left the tracks around 0235 hrs, Barnes said. The train was headed to Chicago from Houston. A hazardous material team was on the scene of the derailment, said John Hampton, a West Frankfort police and fire dispatcher. More than 70 homes in the area of Mitchell Lake were evacuated, Barnes said. The cause of the derailment has not been determined.

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated today, states: An 80-car Union Pacific train transporting hazardous material derailed near Zeigler early yesterday morning sending 21 railroad cars careening off the track and resulting in the evacuation of approximately 100 residents. The derailment also resulted in an extended weekend for approximately 600 students in the Zeigler-Royalton Unit K-12 complex that is less than three miles from the site. Ryan Buckingham, director of Franklin County Emergency Management, said the exact location of the derailment is approximately two miles south of Christopher and two miles east of Illinois 148. The derailment took place near Mitchell Lake, causing additional concern for emergency and hazardous material workers. Approximately 70 homes were evacuated to a temporary shelter set up at the Christopher Community Center. James Barnes, director of media relations with Union Pacific Railroad, said the cause of the derailment is under investigation. Barnes said it may take the company days before the wreckage is removed and the railway repaired for further use. Barnes also confirmed that phenol was spilled in the derailment. Immediately after the derailment Franklin County authorities quickly cordoned off the site. Speaking at a press conference held at the community center, Craig Lemmon, a lieutenant with the West Frankfort Fire Department, said he received the initial call at 0250 hrs and responded to the scene. Lemmon said the force of the derailment had pushed some railroad cars on top of other cars. Lemmon said three of the 21 cars that overturned were carrying hazardous products. There are no fires involved with the derailment and the spilled liquid is confined to a single area, Lemmon said. There is also no danger of any contamination to Mitchell Lake, located only a short distance from the wreckage.

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The clean-up of a chemical spill resulting from the derailment early Monday morning (Dec 4) of a Union Pacific train was well under way today. The derailment of the 80-car train around 0235

Monday in the Mitchell Lake area of rural Franklin County forced the voluntary evacuation of 70 homes and approximately 100 residents living in the affected area. Roads closed immediately after the derailment but were reopened at around 1600 Monday to local residents wishing to return to their homes. Two diesel engines and a couple of dozen cars left the tracks, including three tanker cars containing hazardous chemicals. Two different chemicals leaked from tanker cars, officials said. They were identified as para-nonylphenol, a corrosive detergent used on metal finishes, and lubrizol, a lubricant. Franklin County Sheriff Bill Wilson said the chemicals were contained near the site of the derailment and were not a threat to the water supply. The sheriff said Union Pacific quickly assembled heavy equipment to work on the derailment and also brought in hazardous material and other environmental experts from throughout the country to supervise the clean-up. The sheriff said fewer than a dozen people were treated at area hospitals after complaining of eye, throat, nose and skin irritations. No one was seriously injured, and all were treated and released.

Computer Systems



FAILURE OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated Dec 5, states: A computerised air traffic system experienced a temporary outage in South Florida, forcing controllers to ground some flights and resulting in at least four instances in which aircraft almost came too close together, officials said today. Yesterday's outage affecting the Miami Centre radar complex lasted about an hour, but a back-up system was activated and flights in the air were not in danger, said Kathleen Bergen, a Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman in Atlanta. "There was never a loss of communication with flights and controllers did not lose their radar displays," Bergen said. Still, the outage caused confusion and tension among controllers in Miami, who had trouble establishing and maintaining aircraft identification because enough flight plan information was not available through their computers, said Steven Wallace, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers' Association in Miami. The problem was caused by failure of a telecommunications cable linking high-altitude air traffic control centres in Miami and San Juan, Puerto Rico, Bergen said. Bergen said that as a precaution the FAA grounded about 60

flights controlled by Miami Centre at airports in Florida and at Nassau, Bahamas. The average delay was about 30 minutes, he said. Wallace said there were four cases in which aircraft almost violated FAA rules that flights at high altitudes must remain at least five miles apart horizontally and 1,000 feet vertically.

Miscellaneous



ALAMO (Panama)

London, Dec 1 — Bulker *Alamo* (11751 gt, built 1971), situation as Nov 6: *Alamo* has been at anchor at Malabo with 15 Indian crew on board for 1.5 months. The crew are surviving on rice and lentils, last supply was two weeks ago when the owners sent \$1,500 of which \$400 was spent for boat hire. No fresh water on board. No more diesel oil for the generators with daily black out. Crew are desperate to go home, EC expired. Three crew are sick, one of them, the second engineer, was recently rushed to the hospital due to malaria. Crew are paying for the cost. The crew have not been paid for 13 months and are owed an outstanding payment of approximately \$110,000.

FREEDOM OF THE SEAS (Bahamas)

See "Outbreak Of Virus On Bahamas Vessel - Misc" under "Miscellaneous".

NUMO (Panama)

London, Dec 1 — Salvage tug *Numo* (363 gt, built 1967) was reported at Aden Sep 22 with 11 Indian crew not having been paid for nine and a half months. The owner was contacted by ITF. He continues to promise that he will pay, but nothing delivered. Later, a call was received from the crew that the owner had stopped supplying food and water. In addition the vessel is in poor condition. On Oct 31 the owner paid 95% of crews wages. Apparently the rest will be paid next week and crew are to receive tickets to fly home.

OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON BAHAMAS VESSEL

Miami, dec 3 — Royal Caribbean Cruises said, today, that 338 out of 3,823 passengers and 46 out of 1,402 crew on their passenger (cruise) *Freedom of the Seas* (154407 gt, built 2006) came down with what was believed to be a norovirus, a gastrointestinal ailment, brought on board by a passenger. The vessel returned to Miami, today, after completing a seven-day cruise to Mexico, the Cayman Islands, Jamaica and Haiti. Royal Caribbean said those affected were treated with an over-the-counter medication and responded well. — Reuters.

Fires & Explosions



BUSH, AUSTRALIA

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Wildlife rescuers fear for a large koala population in the Pilliga Nature Reserve, in central NSW, where bushfires continue to rage out of control. The Pilliga koala colony is one of Australia's most genetically diverse, spread across a vast tract of bushland. The fire is burning across a 30-kilometre front and more than 100,000 hectares of scrub have been burnt. Victorian and Queensland crews joined thousands of firefighters and the aircraft struggling to contain 24 uncontrolled fires across the state. The worst continue to burn around Mudgee and Coonabarabran, the largest threatening a large koala population in the Pilliga Nature Reserve. The Rural Fire Service is not hopeful of containing the central western fires by the end of the weekend. A southerly change late tomorrow is expected to bring some relief to tinderbox conditions in the drought-stricken area. A total 70 fires are smouldering across NSW, including large contained blazes in the Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains.

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Australia is seeking 100 New Zealand firefighters to help battle 50 out of control bushfires. Australian firefighters fear dozens of bushfires, in remote mountains in the south-east, could join up to form major fire-fronts, driven by hot weather in the drought-plagued region. Nearly 2000 firefighters are battling the fires, which are being driven by strong winds. New Zealand National Rural Fire Officer Murray Dudfield said it was likely between 40 and 50 would be able to go in the first deployment to Australia. The out of control fires have been sweeping across Victoria, with bushfires scorching 12,000 hectares in remote state forest and the Alpine National Park in Gippsland. Nearly 2,000 firefighters battled more than 50 blazes in rugged, inaccessible mountains of Victoria state, as temperatures rose above 30C (86 Fahrenheit). "We are headed for probably the worst fire summer period we have ever had in Victoria. We don't expect these fires to go out," state Premier Steve Bracks said. Tourists were urged not to visit the popular Victorian Alps, where blazes have already destroyed more than 12,000 hectares (30,000 acres) of bushland. As authorities moved to scramble more heavy water-bombing helicopters, firefighters said strong winds and high temperatures over coming days could fan the fronts and push fires more than 20 kilometres (12 miles) from current positions. "It's

expected in the next couple of days some of these fires will join together and form larger fires," environment department spokesman Kevin Monk said. In neighbouring New South Wales, fire crews were fighting blazes threatening to wipe out one of the last remaining outposts of healthy koalas. The fires are burning in the Pilliga scrub nature reserve, 350 km northwest of Sydney. The Pilliga fire closed a 118 kilometre stretch of one of Australia's major arterial roads, the Newell Highway, between Narrabri and Coonabarabran. In the tinder-dry South Australian riverland, more than 170 firefighters were still struggling to control a blaze sparked by lightning, which has burnt more than 115,000 hectares of scrub. (See issue of Dec 5.)

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Wildlife rescuers said one of Australia's largest and most important koala colonies has survived a huge bushfire that swept through its habitat in central western NSW. Thousands of koalas came under threat from the blaze, which broke out in the Pilliga Nature Reserve, near Coonabarabran, three weeks ago. The fire already has scorched more than 82,600 hectares and firefighters are still days away from containing it. Firefighters still battling the blaze and performing clean-up duties will notify local wildlife rescue services of any injured koalas. Warmer weather was expected for NSW over the next few days, but the Rural Fire Service did not expect it to worsen current fire conditions. Hot and windy weather moving through Victoria has fanned more than 40 bushfires there. That weather pattern had affected parts of southern NSW and was expected to move east towards the Tasman Sea.

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Army tankers and bulldozers will be brought in to support crews fighting bushfires across Victoria's north-east. The federal government would help the Victorian government in controlling major bushfires in the state. The assistance includes army fuel tankers to supply diesel for water tankers and bulldozers in the Mansfield-Whitfield region. Because of the difficult terrain and road conditions in the area, army tankers and their crews will provide fuel supply support through the next few days and until the fires are under control. Up to 50 fires have ripped through 90,000 hectares. The fires are being tackled by 2,000 firefighters bolstered by bulldozers and aircraft. At least two houses and a shed have been destroyed in the bushfires that have gripped the state's north-east and Gippsland since Friday (Dec 1). Yesterday, an unoccupied house was burnt to the ground at Rose River, near Abbeyard, when two fires merged into a 1,600-hectare blaze. An unoccupied holiday house burnt near a containment line of the Black Range fire on Tuesday. A shed in Jamieson was also razed on Monday. Towns in north-eastern Victoria and Gippsland remain on high alert as separate bushfires threaten to join and create

giant blazes. The fires would continue burning in an easterly direction today, with fire crews focused on protecting property and life. The biggest fire is in the Heyfield district, east of Howitt Plains, which has scorched almost 27,000 hectares of national parkland. There had been no further reports of property damage overnight, although a plantation had burnt near the Black Range fire. A deployment of 40 firefighters from New Zealand was expected to arrive this evening to support the firefighting effort. The fires are expected to worsen over the next few days and into the weekend with the temperature to reach 37 degrees on Saturday (Dec 9).

BUSH, TASMANIA

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The Tasmania Fire Service said light rain, which fell on a fire burning close to Bream Creek, east of Hobart, has had little impact. The fire started late yesterday and has burnt out about 800 hectares of bushland. There are several road closures in the area and residents are again being urged to activate their bushfire plan. The fire is burning in rugged country in thick bush, crossing the Wielangta Road at the Marion Bay Lookout. District fire officer Gerald Crawford said the fire threat is very real. "It has burnt over 2,000 hectares and there is a small amount of rain there this morning, but not enough to be of any significance," he said. "We anticipate being able to get some dozer lines in on one of the sectors today to start back-burning operations, maybe this evening, depending on the weather." Meanwhile a fire burning near Elderslie, in the Derwent Valley, has burnt out 900 hectares of bush.

FIREWORKS FACTORY, SHORTGATE, SUSSEX, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Dec 3 — Two firefighters were killed and 12 other people injured when a fireworks warehouse in southern England caught fire and exploded today, officials said. Witnesses said a series of blasts shook the warehouse at Shortgate, East Sussex, as the fire raged and cascades of fireworks exploded in the night sky hours afterwards. Two firemen were killed in a large explosion about an hour after the fire began, Jeremy Paine, assistant chief constable of Sussex police, said. Another 12 people were hurt, including nine firefighters, two members of the public and a police sergeant, he said. All were taken to hospital where some were later released. — Reuters.

London, Dec 4 — Bomb disposal experts have joined the search for potentially deadly gas cylinders at a fireworks depot destroyed in a blaze that killed two firemen. Police and fire chiefs said it was too early to say what caused the explosion and blaze at the warehouse near Lewes, East Sussex, yesterday. Investigators fear cylinders in the smouldering debris may still explode. A bomb disposal team is using a remote controlled vehicle to

look for cylinders within a 200-metre exclusion zone. "The scene is still potentially very dangerous," Chief Fire Officer Des Prichard, of East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, told a news conference. "We are taking a cautious approach." Nine firefighters, two members of the public and a police officer were injured in the blaze at Festival Fireworks in the village of Shortgate. The explosion and fire destroyed several buildings. Local people said they thought a bomb had gone off. Smoke and flames could be seen for miles around. Witnesses said a series of blasts shook the warehouse as the fire raged and cascades of fireworks exploded in the night sky for hours afterwards. Police and fire chiefs said an investigation would start once the depot is safe to enter. — Reuters.

PLANT, MEMONONEE VALLEY, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 7 — a press report, dated Dec 6, states: An explosion at about 0815, this morning, levelled a building on Falk Corp's property, in the Menomonee Valley, Wisconsin, and killed at least three workers. The blast, which is being blamed on a propane leak, also injured 46 workers. Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett announced, in a press conference at 1700 hrs, that all workers had been accounted for. Milwaukee Police said there would have been more fatalities if Falk employees had not reported the propane leak prior to the explosion. The plant was being evacuated when the explosion occurred. Buildings on Falk's 61-acre site in the valley are still being searched. The Falk business occupies more than 1.5 million square feet on the site. The blast could be felt at various points throughout the city of Milwaukee and shook buildings in the Menomonee Valley and the south side of Milwaukee. Black smoke and flames could be seen shooting from the buildings near 30th and Canal streets earlier in the day. More than 120 firefighters and emergency medical personnel responded to the scene. West Milwaukee-based Rexnord Corp. owns and operates the plant. Rexnord purchased Falk in May, 2005. Falk provides power transmission components and systems to various heavy industries. About 700 employees across three shifts work at the Falk plant, 3001 W. Canal St. It remains unclear how many were on the site at the time the 50,000-square-foot building was destroyed in the explosion, Falk president David Doerr said. Early reports indicated that the blast occurred as work was being done on a large propane tank outside the plant. Fire officials said the cause of the blast remains under investigation and would not confirm that propane played a role in the explosion at the 1300hrs press conference. Milwaukee Health Commissioner Bevan Baker said air quality tests showed that the explosion and fire created no human health hazard. Larry Deuchers, a Falk employee, said the building that exploded was used as a storage

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warehouse for tooling used in Falk's manufacturing operations. The police investigation is expected to take a week to complete. Investigators from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration are also investigating.

WAREHOUSE, ISANTI, MINNESOTA, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The state Fire Marshal is investigating what sparked a fire that destroyed a warehouse full of home remodeling materials in Isanti. The warehouse in the town about 35 miles north of Minneapolis housed building materials for GMT Construction Company. The son of the firm's owner estimated the loss to the company at around one million dollars. Authorities say the warehouse did not have a sprinkler system, and there was an absence of water main fed fire hydrants outside as well. They say those were contributing factors in the building's loss.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of homes were threatened early today by a brush fire driven by powerful Santa Ana winds that destroyed five homes while sweeping through this Southern California bedroom community. The 15-square-mile fire also razed a storage building, said Ventura County Fire Capt. Barry Parker. Hundreds of residents packed valuables and fled after authorities called for evacuations, while dozens of trailers used to transport livestock lined up along a road. Some residents stayed put despite 35-foot flames nearby. In one neighbourhood, the fire came within 100 yards of homes. The blaze began around 0230, Sunday (Dec 3) on the northwestern edge of Moorpark, a one-time farm town about 29 miles northwest of Los Angeles that has transformed into a bedroom community. It quickly burned through 9,700 acres of heavy brush and chaparral in hills dotted with horse ranches, tract homes, and eucalyptus, avocado and citrus groves on the city's outskirts. Flames sprung up again around 0700 near Moorpark, but fire officials later classified both fires as a single blaze known as the Shekell incident, although they were a couple of miles apart. A third fire burned south of Camarillo and was expected to be contained at 30 acres, authorities said. Hampered by 70-mph gusts, more than 1,000 firefighters aided by water-dropping helicopters focused more on protecting homes than containing the flames. Crews were bracing for winds up to 30 mph and gusts as high as 50 mph combined with low humidity today. A massive packaging plant was engulfed in flames and burnt for hours, occasionally letting off small explosions. In Riverside County, firefighters gained control of a wildfire that burned 100 acres of hillside brush. The fire, which began late

Saturday near a high school in Norco, was fanned by strong winds and caused one minor injury to a firefighter. The causes of the fires were under investigation.

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated Dec 4, states: The desert winds that stoked a destructive wildfire diminished today, easing the threat from flames in this Southern California city where the blaze gutted five homes. The fire blackened about 15 square miles after erupting early yesterday, but the remaining homes in hilly Ventura County north-west of Los Angeles were safe, fire officials said. "It seems to be dying down, but we're not taking any chances," said Michael Jarvis, spokesman for the California Department of Forestry. The Santa Ana winds had earlier gusted as high as 50 mph. The improving weather allowed aircraft, including water-dropping helicopters, to join more than 1,500 firefighters battling the flames. "We're expecting to hit it hard from the air and from the ground," fire Capt Barry Parker said. The fire was 35% contained. With winds still gusting to 40 mph atop ridges, fire officials remained concerned about 500 properties, including citrus and avocado farms and cattle ranches. Firefighters sought to keep the fire boxed in a canyon. If the flames advanced south, they could move toward the small city of Camarillo. If they spread northwards, the blaze could threaten the city of Fillmore. The cause of the fire had not been determined. The fire fed on heavy brush and spread quickly across hills and canyons dotted with horse ranches and eucalyptus, avocado and citrus groves. No one has been injured. Piles of compost continued to burn at Peach Hill Soils, an organic recycling facility overrun last night by the fire. The owner estimated \$500,000 in losses. Two other fires also erupted early today about 90 miles to the east in the dangerously windy conditions, but those blazes were tackled by firefighters. In San Bernardino County, some firefighting equipment was being released from a 525-acre fire in Fontana, but fire crews planned to keep an eye on the site for several hours.

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated Dec 5, states: Firefighters took advantage of calm weather today to douse smouldering hot spots and corralled a 13,600-acre wildfire that burned five homes in Ventura County. Ferocious weekend (Dec 2-3) winds had died to gentle breezes, allowing firefighters to douse smouldering hot spots left. There were no active flames by late afternoon today, Ventura County fire Capt Barry Parker said. The fire area was about 21 square miles with orchards, ranches and housing tracts. The area, north-west of Los Angeles, was expected to be fully controlled by Friday. A "red flag" warning of extreme fire conditions remained in place because of low humidity - less than 2% by dusk - that made brush extremely dry. The fire began early Sunday near a huge egg

production facility that is now defunct. The cause was still being investigated. Residents who had fled were allowed to return and all roads were open today, fire officials said.



C-FEXS

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A report into a fatal aircraft crash near downtown Winnipeg said that icing was the main factor in the accident. The pilot, Nancy Chase-Allan, of Moncton, New Brunswick, died instantly but no one on the ground was hurt. Her Morningstar Air Express Cessna 208B (Grand Caravan) (C-FEXS) crashed shortly after take-off on Oct 6, 2005, after she radioed air traffic controllers that she needed to turn back because the aircraft was icing up. Icing conditions that day were considered moderate. The Transportation Safety Board report said Transport Canada should ban all Cessna 208 pilots from taking off or continuing to fly in anything more than light icing. The pilot's family is suing Cessna, alleging negligence.

CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS, BRAZIL

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Virtually all takeoffs from three major airports in Brazil were cancelled last night after an air traffic communications system broke down, making it difficult for controllers to communicate with pilots and creating air travel chaos. Brazil's Civil Aviation Authority said in a statement that takeoffs were banned at the airport in the capital of Brasilia and in the large central city of Belo Horizonte. Many takeoffs were also cancelled at the airport in Sao Paulo that handles domestic flights, though the authority allowed flights to continue on the busy Sao Paulo-Rio de Janeiro shuttle route. Authorities were still allowing aircraft to land at the three airports and almost all international flights departing Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest city, take off from a separate airport unaffected by the government order. But the Belo Horizonte and Brasilia airports also serve some international destinations, and all takeoffs were prohibited from those airports. The problem emerged when a communications system in Brasilia inexplicably broke down, reducing the number of radio frequencies and making it hard for controllers to reach pilots flying commercial jets in some of Brazil's busiest air traffic corridors, the government's Agencia Brasil news agency reported. Federal police discounted the possibility of sabotage, saying the problem appeared to be technical and that they would only

investigate if asked by Brazil's military, which runs the air traffic control system in Latin America's largest country, Brazil's Agencia Estado news agency reported. The breakdown initially caused huge delays yesterday morning, prompting passengers to sleep on airport floors. Authorities decided later to cancel the takeoffs at the three airports until the communications system is repaired. The aviation authority said the system could be repaired by today, but warned travelers to check on flights with airlines and acknowledged that the incident was Brazil's most disruptive air traffic communications failure in history.

D-CGSP

London, Nov 30 — Grob SPn D-CGSP, operator Grob Aerospace, the second prototype of the Grob SPn business jet took off from the manufacturer's base at Mattsies Airport, Germany for a demonstration flight. The aircraft crashed after a fly-by at 1315, Nov 29., killing the test pilot.

London, Dec 1 — Grob SPN, operated by Grob Aerospace, D-CGSP, took off from the manufacturer's base at Mattsies Airport for a demonstration flight at 1315, Nov 29. The aircraft crashed after a fly-by, killing the test pilot.

FLIGHTS SUSPENDED AT SHANGHAI AIRPORT, CHINA

London, Dec 1 — China suspended flights at Shanghai's international airport for at least several hours today "to control air traffic volume," the city government said, refusing to elaborate. The abrupt disruption of air traffic prompted speculation that military exercises were being conducted in the area, since the Pudong International Airport is on the city's waterfront. The military exercises broad authority over China's airspace, and flights along the southeastern coast are occasionally diverted, delayed or cancelled due to military movements in the region, which faces Taiwan. But such activities have rarely caused the outright closure of a major airport like Pudong, which serves China's biggest city. Flights to and from Pudong, to the east of the city, stopped at about 1400, local time, said a city government spokesman, who spoke on customary condition of anonymity. Nearly five hours later, staff at some airline counters said some flights were beginning to board. But they said there could be more disruptions over the weekend.

I-EVER

London, Dec 6 — Robinson R-44 helicopter, I-EVER, was destroyed when it crashed in a lagoon near Venice, Italy, at 1715, UTC, Nov 26. One of the helicopter's occupants was fatally injured, while the other

occupant was seriously injured. The local flight departed from Crevan Island.

N665CD

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated Nov 30, states: A small plane crashed this evening near Charlotte Douglas International Airport, killing the pilot, authorities said. The pilot, whose name has not been released, was the only person aboard the Cirrus SR22, according to the Mecklenburg Emergency Medical Services Agency. The single-engine, four-seat plane was on its way to Charlotte after taking off from Dekalb-Peachtree Airport in Atlanta, said Kathleen Bergen, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration. The plane crashed about seven miles north of the Charlotte airport around 1945 hrs, she said. The plane was registered to Auala, LCC in Atlanta according to the FAA. Other listed owners were Satsysenger, LCC; McKinney Phillip; Thompson Roy Alan; Wright Allen; and Vrana George.

London, Dec 4 — Cirrus SR22 N665CD crashed near Charlotte, North Carolina, at 0044, Dec 1, while on a flight from Atlanta, Georgia, to Charlotte. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N9797Q

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The pilot of a twin-engine aircraft was killed when it crashed near the Mount Snow airport sometime over the weekend (Dec 2-3), according to police. Wilmington Police Chief Joseph Szarejko said the pilot would not be identified until his family had been notified. There was no one else in the aircraft, which was reported was a private aircraft. According to a police report, the aircraft was found in a heavily wooded area south of the runway of Mount Snow Airport around 0900, on Sunday. Szarejko said rescue personnel began searching for the aircraft around 1800 on Saturday because it was overdue. The aircraft left West Chester, N.Y., around noon and was scheduled to arrive at Mount Snow around 1400 according to police. Police did not release any information about what time the aircraft may have crashed. The Dover Police Department, Vermont State Police Search and Rescue, the Civil Air Patrol, the Vermont Army National Guard, Deerfield Valley Rescue, New England K-9 and fire departments from Wilmington and West Dover took part in the search. The Federal Aviation Agency will investigate the cause of the crash. According to the National Weather Service, there was no precipitation on Saturday afternoon and the cloud ceiling was not particularly low. However, winds were gusting at up to 30 mph and may have been even stronger at higher elevations.

London, Dec 4 — Aerostar 601P N9797Q crashed near West Dover,

Vermont, at 1745, Dec 2. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N9850G

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities say an Illinois man has died early this morning in an aircraft crash in Crookston, Minnesota. The Sheriff's Office in Polk County, Minnesota, says a single engine Cessna crashed just after 0130 today into a farm field near the Crookston Municipal Airport. Two male passengers were found dead in the aircraft at the crash site. The Ramsey County Medical Examiner will perform an autopsy on both men. Authorities in Crookston say the men were University of North Dakota students. The sheriff's department says the FAA will investigate the crash.

London, Dec 4 — Cessna 172L (Skyhawk) N9850G crashed near Crookston, Minnesota, at 0123, Dec 2, while on a local flight from Crookston. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were killed.

Product Recalls



SUZUKI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Dec 6 — Suzuki Motor Corp said yesterday it would recall nearly 120,000 cars across five models because of faulty airbag systems. The minivehicle maker reported the plan to recall 119,718 units of Swift, Wagon R, Solio, Cruise and MW models produced between March 2003 and September this year, to the ministry of land, infrastructure and transport.

Port Conditions



PANAMA CANAL

Balboa, Dec 7 — Present backlog stands at 60 ships and the Canal is showing projected backlog in the next 24 hours at 57 ships. High level of arrivals during the last few days have limited the ability to reduce backlog and delays remain two to three days. Conditions are likely to worsen with the outages scheduled for Dec 13-15 and Dec 20-22. The booking system remains at full level of utilization and the auction continues to attract significant premiums. The slot for Dec 8 was awarded to a dry bulk carrier for U\$ 60,100. — 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 | 11-Dec-2006 | Coal: One vessel loading; 7 vessels arrived; 10 vessels due by 30/1; no shiploading from 07:00 25/12 until 07:00 26/12. |
| Brisbane | 11-Dec-2006 | Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth; Fourteen vessels due by 3/1; loading terminal closed from 17:00 24/12 until 07:00 26/12. |
| Dalymple Bay | 11-Dec-2006 | Coal: Two vessels loading at berth; 13 vessels arrived; 21 vessels due by 24/12. |
| Dampier | 11-Dec-2006 | Coal: Parker Point: Two vessels loading at berth; 10 vessels arrived; 17 vessels due by 27/12; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel loading at berth; 4 vessels arrived; 7 vessels due by 23/12. |
| Esperance | 11-Dec-2006 | Iron ore: Two vessels due by 21/12. |
| Geraldton | 11-Dec-2006 | Iron ore: Four vessels due by 20/12. |
| Gladstone | 11-Dec-2006 | Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Three vessels at berth, 5 vessels arrived; 39 vessels due by 19/2; Barney Point: 1 vessel at berth; 2 vessels arrived; 11 vessels due by 19/2; terminals closed from 18:00 24/12 until 06:00 26/12; some vessels will be sailed/berthed during this period as required. |
| Hay Point | 11-Dec-2006 | Coal: Two vessels loading at berth; 1 vessel arrived; 14 vessels due by 29/12. |
| Newcastle | 11-Dec-2006 | Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: Two vessels loading at berth; 30 vessels arrived; 39 vessels due by 28/12; 17-20 days delay expected; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels loading at berth; 18 vessels arrived; 17 vessels due by 28/12; 16-20 days delay expected. |
| Port Hedland | 11-Dec-2006 | Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: One vessel loading at berth; 2 vessels arrived; 6 vessels due by 21/12; "B" berth: 4 vessels arrived; 6 vessels due by 20/12; 4 other vessels due by 25/12 at A or B berth 2/4; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island "C" berth): berth closed for refurbishment; (Finucane Island "D" berth): 1 vessel loading at berth; 7 vessels due by 16/12; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel arrived; 1 vessel due 17/12. |
| Port Kembla | 11-Dec-2006 | Coal: One vessel loading at berth; 1 vessel at anchor; 8 vessels due by 28/12. |
| Port Walcott | 11-Dec-2006 | Iron ore: One vessel loading at berth; 13 vessels arrived; 11 vessels due by 25/12; several days delay expected due to conveyor breakdown. |
| Whyalla | 11-Dec-2006 | Iron ore: Six vessels due by 31/12. |
| Azerbaijan | | |
| Apsheron | 8-Dec-2006 | Oil products: Four vessels at berth of which 1 loading HPGO, 3 discharging (1 crude oil, 1 kerosene, 1 empty). |
| Baku | 8-Dec-2006 | Oil products: Azertrans terminal: Nobel Avenue: No vessels; Sangachal District: port open; no vessels. |
| Bulgaria | | |
| Bourgas | 11-Dec-2006 | Eight vessels in port of which 2 loading (1 barite concentrate, 1 ferrosilici), 6 discharging (1 scrap, 2 coal, 1 coke, 1 gasoil, 1 copper concentrate); 5 vessel in roads of which 3 to load (2 coils, 1 ammonium nitrate), 2 to discharge (1 iron ore, 1 copper concentrate); 14 vessels due of which 9 to load (1 equipment, 2 coils, 1 copper anodes, 1 steel sheets, 1 pig iron, 1 silicomangane, 1 machines, 1 containers), 5 to discharge (1 salt, 1 schrot, 1 metal, 1 coal, 1 coke). |
| Varna | 11-Dec-2006 | Varna East, Varna West, Balchik: Twenty-seven vessels in port operating of which 16 loading (6 soda, 2 sunflower seeds, 2 bulk clinker, 2 bulk sulphuric acid, 2 chamote/kaolin, 1 kaolin, 1 containers), 5 discharging (3 containers, 1 scrap, 1 bulk gypsim), 6 discharging/loading (5 containers, 1 rapeseeds/sunflower seeds); no vessels waiting in roads. |
| Cyprus | | |
| Larnaca | 12-Dec-2006 | Two conventional vessels discharging at berth; 1 conventional vessel due 13/12; no delays expected. |
| Limassol | 12-Dec-2006 | Four container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 2 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 9 vessels due 13/12 of which 8 containers, 1 passenger vessel; no delays expected. |
| Estonia | | |
| Tallinn | 11-Dec-2006 | No labour problems. City port: No vessels at berth, none at anchorage; no vessels due, with no delays expected; Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 1 vessel loading sawn timber at berth; 1 vessel due, with 10 days delay expected; Muuga: no vessels at berth, none at anchorage; no vessels due, with no delays expected. |
| Georgia | | |
| Batumi | 11-Dec-2006 | Oil products: One vessel loading crude oil at berth; 3 vessels in roads, all to load (1 gasoil, 1 crude oil, 1 gasoline); 4 vessels due by 23/12, all to load (2 crude oil, 1 gasoline, 1 gasoil). |
| Poti | 11-Dec-2006 | Oil products: One vessel in due 12/12 to load kerosene. |
| Supsa | 11-Dec-2006 | Oil products: Port open; no vessels. |

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Port Conditions

| India | | |
|-------------------|-------------|--|
| Kolkata | 11-Dec-2006 | 4 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading Containers, General Cargo, 1 vessel discharging Containers, 3 vessels working at midstream and discharging (Puls-2, Crude), 1 vessel waiting to discharge at midstream Crude; 2 vessels under repair, 1 vessel under dry docked; 3 vessels waiting to sail; 3 vessels due (Containers-2, Liquid). |
| Haldia | 11-Dec-2006 | 14 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Iron Ore, Steel-2), 8 vessels discharging (Crude, POL-2, Coke, M. Coke-2, Palm, Lime), 3 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (2 to load, 2 to discharge), 2 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load); 7 vessels due (Crude, LPG, Coke, Containers, P. Acid, Thermal Coal, POL). |
| Paradip | 11-Dec-2006 | 10 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Iron Ore-2, Thermal Coal-2), 6 vessels discharging (A. Coal, CP Coke, NC Coal, Cement Clinker, MOP, Ammonia); 3 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 27 vessels due. |
| Visakhapatnam | 11-Dec-2006 | 9 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Iron Ore-3, Steel Cargo), 5 vessels discharging (Passengers, Urea, Phosphoric Acid, Wheat, Coking Coal) ; 12 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (7 to discharge, 5 to load); 31 vessels due (Iron Ore-4, Steel Cargo-2, Feid Spar, B. F. Slarg, Soya-2, Product Tankers-2, MOP-3, Rock Phosphate, DAP-2, Urea-2, Moltent Sulphur, Liquid Ammonia, Coking Coal-5, Crude Oil & POL Tankers-4). |
| Chennai | 11-Dec-2006 | 7 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Granite Blocks, 5 vessels discharging (Lubricant Oil, Urea, Steam Coal, Furance Oil, LSHS/ Furance Oil), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge; 8 vessels due (Coking Oil, Iron Ore, Containers-2, Supply, F. Traw-3). |
| Tuticorin | 11-Dec-2006 | 10 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (General Cargo-2, Granite), 6 vessels discharging (Peas, Logs, Urea, Co. Contrate, Wheat, Thermal Coal), 1 vessel waiting for bunkering; 8 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (1 to load, 7 to discharge), 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load (2 to load, 2 to discharge). |
| Cochin | 11-Dec-2006 | 4 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels discharging (Crude, POL), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers, 1 vessel waiting to discharge Soda Ash; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel under arrest (Banglar Gourab (Under arrest by MMD/Court). |
| New Mangalore | 11-Dec-2006 | 7 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Iron Ore Fines-2, POL Product-2), 3 vessels discharging (Timber, POL Crude, LPG); 5 vessels waiting at anchorage (3 to load, 2 to discharge); 8 vessels due (POL Product-2, POL Crude-2, Ammonia, Fertiliser-2, Coal). |
| Mormugao | 11-Dec-2006 | 4 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Iron Ore, C.P. Coke), 2 vessels discharging (Containers, CPS & PFAD); 4 vessels working at midstream and loading Iron Ore; 2 vessels waiting berth at anchorage(1 to load, 1 to discharge), 3 vessels waiting and working at anchorage to load; 6 vessels due (Steel Slabs, Coking Coal, Iron Ore-4). |
| Mumbai | 11-Dec-2006 | 21 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Steel/Project, Bagged SBM, POL), 10 vessels discharging (Palm Oil Products, DAP, Peas in Bulk-2, Wheat in Bulk, Steel/General Cargo-3, POL-2), 7 vessels loading and discharging (Steel, General Cargo, Containers, Heavy Lifts, Project Cargo, Vehicle); 1 vessel working at midstream and loading Steel Cargo; 2 vessels not ready to work at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load), 3 vessels waiting berth at anchorage to discharge, 1 vessel waiting and working at anchorage to discharge ; 10 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 7 vessels under arrest; 1 vessel under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 37 vessels due (Contaners-5, Oil-2, General Cargo-30). |
| J.N.P.T. | 11-Dec-2006 | 10 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Naphtha, 2 vessels discharging (MEG, Otyrinc), 7 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels waiting berth at anchorage to load and discharge, 2 vessels not ready to work at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge); 2 vessels due Containers. |
| Kandla | 11-Dec-2006 | 15 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Agriculture Product-2), 10 vessels discharging (PFA, Chemical-2, CPO, Timber Logs-2, Urea, Wheat-2, Copper), 2 vessels loading and discharging; 1 vessel working at midstream and loading SBM; 4 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (2 to discharge, 2 to load), 13 vessels not ready to work at anchorage (6 to load, 7 to discharge). |
| Ennore | 11-Dec-2006 | 1 vessel operating at berth discharging Thermal Coal, 1 vessel waiting to discharging Thermal Coal; 3 vessels due (MV Achilleus (Iron Ore), MV Gem of Ennore (Coal), MV Tamil Anna (Coal). |
| Israel | | |
| Ashdod | 12-Dec-2006 | No labour problems; One vessel loading general cargo at berth, 10 discharging at berth (6 general cargo, 4 bulk cargo), 6 loading/discharging containers at berth; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge containers; 19 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected. |
| Eilat | 12-Dec-2006 | No labour problems; One vessel discharging general cargo at berth, 1 car carrier loading/discharging at berth; 2 vessels due, with no delays expected. |
| Haifa | 12-Dec-2006 | No labour problems; Nine vessels discharging at berth (5 general cargo, 4 bulk cargo), 8 loading/discharging at berth (3 containers, 1 car carrier, 3 tankers, 1 passenger vessel); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge containers; 6 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 17 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected. |
| Kazakhstan | | |
| Aktau | 11-Dec-2006 | Oil products: Three vessels loading crude oil at berth; 8 vessels in roads, all to load; 2 vessels due by 13/12, both to load. |

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Port Conditions

Pakistan

| | | |
|------------|-------------|--|
| Karachi | 11-Dec-2006 | One vessel loading clinker at berth, 6 vessels discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 coal, 2 general cargo, 2 DAP), 4 loading/discharging containers at berth; 1 reefer vessel waiting at anchorage to load; 2 vessels due (1 container, 1 palm oil), with no delays expected. |
| Port Qasim | 11-Dec-2006 | Two vessels loading rice at berth, 3 discharging at berth (1 sunflower seeds, 1 iron ore, 1 fuel oil); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 rice, 2 containers), 4 waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 sunflower seeds, 2 containers, 1 HSP); QICT berth: 1 vessel loading/discharging containers at QICT berth. |

Russia

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|--------------|--------------|---|
| Novorossiysk | 11-Dec -2006 | Eighteen vessels in port operating of which 13 loading (1 bulk cement, 1 bulk urea, 2 scrap, 2 wheat, 1 pig iron, 2 coils, 1 steel billets, 1 slabs, 1 vegetable oil, 1 barley), 4 discharging (2 bulk sugar, 1 debars, 1 vegetable oil), 1 discharging/loading containers; 9 vessels in roads of which 7 to load (2 wheat, 3 vegetable oil, 1 bulk cement, 1 steel billets), 2 to discharge (1 vegetable oil, 1 coils); 91 vessels due of which 81 to load, 8 to discharge (2 bulk sugar, 1 vegetable oil, 1 meal products, 2 debars, 1 cattle, 1 citrus), 2 to load/discharge containers; Oil terminal: 3 tankers loading at berth (2 crude, 1 diesel oil); 3 tanker in roads of which 2 to load crude, 1 diesel oil; 4 tankers due, all to load (3 crude oil, 1 diesel oil). |
|--------------|--------------|---|

Slovenia

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| Koper | 11-Dec-2006 | Port working normally; Twelve vessels at berth of which 6 loading general cargo, 3 discharging bulk cargo, 2 discharging/loading containers, 1 car carrier discharging/loading vehicles.; 19 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 9 to load (5 sawn timber/general cargo, 4 bulk cargo), 5 to discharge (2 general cargo, 2 bulk cargo, 1 car carrier to discharge vehicles), 2 to discharge/load containers, 3 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles). |
|-------|-------------|--|

Spain

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|--------|-------------|---|
| Bilbao | 11-Dec-2006 | Thirty-five vessels in port operating (8 tankers, 27 others), of which 5 loading, 16 discharging, 14 loading/discharging. |
|--------|-------------|---|

Turkmenistan

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|--------------|------------|--|
| Aladja | 8-Dec-2006 | Oil products: Port open; no vessels. |
| Okarem | 8-Dec-2006 | Oil products: Port open; no vessels. |
| Turkmenbashi | 8-Dec-2006 | Oil products: Port open; Two vessel at berth, both loading (1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil); 8 vessels in roads, all to load (3 gasoil, 3 fuel oil, 1 heating oil, 1 gasoline). |

Ukraine

| | | |
|------------|-------------|---|
| Illichevsk | 11-Dec-2006 | Six vessels in port operating of which 3 loading (2 steel products, 1 steel products/wood), 2 discharging manganese ore, 1 discharging/loading containers; 4 vessels in roads of which 2 to load (1 project, 1 clinker), 2 to discharge/load containers; 11 vessels due of which 9 to load (6 steel products, 1 pig iron, 1 sulphur, 1 concentrate), 2 to discharge/load (1 container, 1 ore). |
| Mariupol | 11-Dec-2006 | Seven vessels in port operating of which 6 loading (2 steel, 2 fire-clay, 1 coal, 1 sulphur), 1 discharging/loading bauxite/bran; 3 vessels in roads, all to load steel; 73 vessels due of which 70 to load (45 steel, 9 coal, 7 fire-clay, 1 fire-clay/containers, 2 coke, 1 sunflower beans, 1 kaolin, 2 slag, 2 sulphur), 1 to discharge ferroalloy, 2 to discharge/load (1 feldspar/fire-clay, 1 heavy lifts/steel). |
| Odessa | 11-Dec-2006 | Sixteen vessels in port operating of which 5 loading (3 metal, 1 scrap, 1 ore), 9 discharging (1 passenger vessel, 3 baggage, 2 citrus, 3 general cargo), 2 discharging/loading containers; 8 vessels in roads of which 5 to load (2 metal, 1 scrap, 1 soy, 1 coal), 2 to discharge (1 bananas, 1 citrus), 1 to discharge/load containers; 89 vessels due of which 25 to load (16 metal, 4 pig iron, 1 scrap, 1 ferroalloy, 1 oil, 1 equipment, 1 ore), 17 to discharge (4 metal, 2 general cargo, 5 citrus, 1 sugar, 1 equipment, 3 bananas, 1 oil). |

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