

Jan 19 2007

Greek seafarers threaten strike over home job cuts

By Nigel Lowry in Athens - Thursday 18 January 2007

GREECE'S seafarers look set to be called on strike next month in protest against government changes to crewing complements under the home flag that have been quietly introduced in response to more than a decade of pressure from shipowners.

Captain John Halas, general secretary of umbrella union the Panhellenic Seamen's Federation (PNO) told Lloyd's List that the federation's board had already backed industrial action.

Exact dates

"The only decisions remaining to be taken are the exact dates, although it is sure to be in February, and what type of action – 24 hour, 48 hour or a continuous strike," he said.

Also to be considered was whether the action would be limited to Greek ports or would hit Greek tonnage worldwide, said the seamen's leader.

In the case of most vessels, the new rules – which have come to light in the last few days but may have been mentioned among senior industry figures as much as two months ago – would cut between two and four jobs reserved for Greeks from the roster.

Smaller vessels are now being required to employ four Greeks and – when available – a cadet, while for ships of more than 30,000 gt the obligation is five plus one.

The largest band of vessels – of more than 80,000 gt – must use at least six Greeks and a cadet.

In all cases the Greek quota must include the master, although there is no stipulation as to the ranks of the other Greek jobs.

The nationality requirements remain among the stiffest of any European registry, but many Greek owners are likely to be satisfied with the partial relaxation.

Obligation

The industry has been lobbying for years to abolish the obligation to employ Greek ratings, at least, and most are likely to limit themselves to Greek officers and engineers, especially as there is said to be little cost incentive to lower the Greek officer contingent rather than the lower deck jobs.

Capt Halas criticised minister of merchant marine Manolis Kefaloyiannis for alleged stealth in introducing the changes.

"One of the problems we have, but not the only one, is the way this has been done," said Capt Halas. "He was still talking about something that may be done in the future and we found out ships were

already being registered under the new measures."

He said in the first case to come to the PNO's attention, that of a large ship of more than 80,000 gt, the reduction in Greek personnel in the registration documents was from 10 to six.

Official reaction has not been forthcoming from shipowners' bodies so far, but a number of Greek-flag owners have already registered tonnage under the new manning picture.

They emphasise that the overall manning contingent has not been reduced, except by the loss of the redundant radio officer's position.

Protest

Among the first ships to return to the Greek registry has been the Angelicoussis Group's capesize bulker Anangel Sailor, which was registered in Malta last year purely as a protest against what the industry complained were arcane crewing obligations.

Mr Kefaloyiannis recently gave rise to expectations that the moves will be good for employment of Greek seamen, suggesting that a more flexible national crew quota could inspire a huge influx of ships under the national flag within this year.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>AGIA ZONI</i>	product tanker	GRC	—	916	1,595	1964	Grounded on "Petrokaravo" island, N of Poros Island, Jan 11. Crack noted in forepart above waterline. Coast Guard vessels, tug & tanker proceeding. Investigation under way.
<i>BALDER</i>	crane ship	PAN	LR	75,374	59,404	1978	Reported flooded in Gulf of Mexico Dec 28 after cooling water valve inadvertently left open during maintenance. Expected to resume operations in first half of February.
<i>BITUMEN GLORY</i>	asphalt tanker	SGP	GL	3,932	4,999	1985	Reported on fire in vicinity of lat 06 55.9N, long 97 55.6E, Jan 10. Crew abandoned vessel & rescued.
<i>CEC HUNTER</i>	general	IOM	BV	3,810	5,392	1995	Had steering gear trouble in lat 43 40N, long 09 15.9W, Dec 29. Requested assistance. Taken in tow Dec 30 and towed to Corunna, where berthed same day. Sailed in tow Jan 11, bound Viana do Castelo, for repairs.
<i>DONAU</i>	lpg	BEL	BV	23,508	32,339	1985	Entered Valletta, bound Malta Shipyards, towed by salvage tug <i>Posejdon</i> Jan 2, due to rudder damage. Repairs commenced Jan 2, ETC Jan 15.
<i>ERICARISTINE</i>	trawler	TWN	—	517	—	—	Swept away by storm Jan 8 and grounded off Kamchatka Peninsula. Had been anchored since Aug 2006, under arrest. Salvage to commence Jan 10.
<i>GRACE</i>	general	ANT	BV	1,599	2,500	2005	Sustained main engine crankshaft damage in lat 45 47.5N, long 07 25.3W, Jan 4. Towed to Ferrol, where berthed Jan 5. To be repaired at Ferrol.
<i>JOMI</i>	general	BHS	GL	2,827	4,268	1991	Reported propeller separated from engine in lat 51 26.05N, long 04 21.91W, Jan 11. Drifting. Agents arranging tug.
<i>KASHMIR</i>	chem tanker	MLT	RI	27,611	45,003	1988	Had explosion in turbo & machine-room around Jan 1. Towed to Setubal, where arrived Jan 6.
<i>SCOT TRADER</i>	general	GBR	GL	1,585	2,380	1986	Drifting with engine trouble in lat 57 47N, long 10 32.5E, Jan 4. Tug on scene & towed to Skagen same day. Still under repair Jan 9, ETD Jan 10.
<i>TACOMA</i>	ro-ro	USA	—	4,998	1,838	1997	Taken out of service at Seattle Jan 9 due to rudder malfunction. Repairs expected to take about a week.
<i>TELTALE I</i>	general	GUY	—	1,094	1,577	1978	Sank in Berbice River Jan 10, possibly due to heavy winds & rain. All crew rescued. River traffic not affected. Investigation under way.
<i>UNI HAUL 339</i>	pontoon	SGP	LR	5,809	13,665	2005	Reported Jan 8 salvage services being rendered off China under LOF after towline broke. Under tow to Wenzhou Jan 11, ETA Jan 11-12.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ACACIA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Barcelona, Jan 9 — According to port authorities Roll On Roll Off *Acacia* is still at Costa Quay. — Lloyd's Agents.

ADLER CLIPPER (Germany)

Hamburg, Jan 10 — Kiel port authorities advised that in the course of the contact ferry *Adler Clipper* sustained practically no damage. Only the mooring posts of the bridge sustained minor damage. For this reason the ferry did not undergo repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

AGHIOS MAKARIOS (Greece)

London, Jan 5 — Understand salvage services were rendered to bulker *Aghios Makarios*, cargo iron ore, under Lloyd's Open Form, dated Dec 12, by Five Oceans Salvage Consultants Ltd.

AGIA ZONI (Greece)

Piraeus, Jan 11 — At 0210 hrs, today, product tanker *Agia Zoni* (916 gt, built 1964) ran aground on the rocky island "Petrokaravo", some 3.5 nautical miles north of Poros island, in Saronikos Gulf. The vessel had sailed from the Motor Oil Company premises at Isthmia, bound for Kali Limenes, Crete and was loaded with 1,450 tons of various fuels. All eight crew members are reported well and secure. No pollution was reported. A crack in the vessel's fore above the water line was noted. However, no ingress of water has been reported. Coast guard vessels, the tug *Alexandros Vergos* and product tanker vessel *Konstantinos* have proceeded to the scene. A preliminary investigation is being conducted by the Poros port authorities. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 11 — A press report from Piraeus RCC, timed 1141, UTC, states: Product tanker *Agia Zoni* grounded on rocks between Aiginas and poros Islands in lat 37 36.7N, long 23 28.5E, about 0200 today. Vessel remains aground. Tug due later today.

AQUILA (Netherlands)

Maassluis, Jan 10 — Shipyard at Delfzijl report that the main engine of general cargo *Aquila* is not ready yet and, therefore, she is still under repair at Delfzijl. — Lloyd's Agents.

ARCHANGELGRACHT (Netherlands)

London, Jan 5 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Archangelgracht* (7950 gt, built 1990) entered the harbour of Wilhelmshaven on Jan 4 as emergency harbour due machine damage. Berthed at the Braunschweigquay of the North harbour. Repair workers from the Netherlands ordered.

Zeebrugge, Jan 6 — General cargo *Archangelgracht* arrived Antwerp Jan 4 from Bremen and sailed Jan 5 for Bilbao. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ARCTIC SEA (Malta)

Esbjerg, Jan 11 — General cargo *Arctic Sea* (3988 gt, built 1992) has been forced to dump a great amount of lumber in the sea near the westcoast of Jutland to provide (? prevent) the ship from sinking. The lumber has been driving onto the beach and covering an area of 25 km. The local wreck master is on the job and cleaning up the beach. The vessel is OK and does not require any assistance. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — According to LloydsMIU, *Arctic Sea* in lat 57 41 42N, long 10 37 22E, at 1316, UTC, Jan 11, speed 5 knots.)

ASTRID CORNELIS (Netherlands)

London, Jan 9 — Fishing (general) *Astrid Cornelis*, WR52, (79 gt, built 1965) ran aground close to the Den Oever lock yesterday morning. The vessel was refloated by Coast Guard vessel *Johanna Margareta*.

ATLANTIC DESTINY (Canada)

Halifax, Jan 8 — A diver's survey of fishing (general) *Atlantic Destiny* at Riverport found no damage, and the vessel proceeded on fishing operations Jan 3. — Lloyd's Agents.

BALDER (Panama)

London, Jan 11 — Heerema Marine Contractors has blamed "the inadvertent opening" of a cooling water valve during a maintenance operation for the flooding of its crane ship *Balder* (75374 gt, built 1978). The deep-water construction vessel has been out of action since it was flooded on Dec 28, in the Gulf of Mexico. But the Dutch firm has now said it expected *Balder* to restart its work in the Gulf of Mexico in the first half of February. No one on board was hurt during the incident, which took 90 minutes to control.

BALTIYSK (Russia)

London, Jan 4 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, roll on roll off *Baltiysk* was still at Mukran as of 1456, UTC, today.

BEN MAYE (Isle of Man)

Ramsey, Jan 4 — Main engine repairs to general cargo *Ben Maye* are underway at Ramsey and ETC mid/late January. — Lloyd's Agents.

BITUMEN GLORY (Singapore)

London, Jan 10 — Following navigation warning issued at 0758, UTC, Jan 10: Asphalt tanker *Bitumen Glory* (3932 gt, built 1985) reported on fire in the vicinity of lat 06 55.9N, long 97 55.6E, at 0105, UTC, Jan 10. The crew have abandoned the vessel and have been recovered. Vessels in the vicinity are requested to keep a sharp look-out.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Asphalt tanker *Bitumen Glory*, registered in Singapore, 100 metres in length and

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15 metres wide, was reported by Singapore authorities to the Thai Royal Navy Third Fleet in Phuket, having a fire on board. The ship was on a bearing of 209 degrees, 60 nautical miles from Phuket. All 19 crew had abandoned ship and after drifting for a while were picked up by a Romanian registered bulker *Valeria*, which is understood to be heading for either Penang or Singapore. It is not known yet what the ship was carrying. (Note — *Bitumen Glory* sailed from Singapore at 1800 hrs, Jan 5, bound for Malacca.)

BLUE STAR (Panama)

See *THE 205*.

BOLLE VIII

London, Jan 9 — Understand pontoon *Bolle VIII* was carrying ship sections for Brittany Ferries' newbuilding *Cotentin* and was being towed by tug/icebreaker *Polaris* (256 gt, built 1964) from Aker Yards, Rauma, to Aker Yards, Helsinki, when the tow line broke near Helsinki and they had to call tug *Protector* for assistance. *Polaris*, *Protector*, and *Bolle VIII* arrived Helsinki Jan 8.

CALA PALMA (Italy)

Bremen, Jan 11 — Refrigerated general cargo *Cala Palma* is still moored at Lloyd Werft Bremerhaven awaiting repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

CALUMET (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 8 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1404, UTC: Bulker *Calumet* (8233 gt, built 1929) grounded about 1800, UTC, Jan 6, while manoeuvring in Detroit Basin, River Rouge. Refloated about 1925, UTC, and proceeded. Some rudder damage reported.

CAMILLA DESGAGNES (Barbados)

Halifax, Jan 8 — Roll on roll off *Camilla Desgagnes* is still undergoing an engine re-fit at Halifax. — Lloyd's Agents.

CAPT.NICK (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 7 — A press release, issued by the Coast Guard Houston, dated Jan 6, states: The Coast Guard medevaced a 47-year-old man from supply *Capt.Nick* (326 gt, built 2002) this morning after it reportedly collided with Combined chemical and oil tank *Panam Caribe* (8254 gt, built 2005), yesterday night. A rescue vessel from Coast Guard Station Galveston was dispatched at 0357 hrs, to meet the *Capt.Nick* about 10 miles off shore from Sabine, Texas. The crew arrived at the vessel's location at 0548 hrs, after being slowed by heavy fog and extremely low visibility. The injured crewman was complaining of intense internal pain, believed to be the result of a collision the vessel had with the tanker yesterday night. The *Panam Caribe* reported the incident to the Coast Guard at 1916 hrs. The collision occurred in the ship anchorage in Galveston, Texas, but the vessels were allowed to continue on their transits

because no damage or injuries were reported at that time. The crewman was taken back to Station Galveston and transferred to awaiting emergency medical technicians at 0812 hrs. Coast Guard units in Port Arthur, Texas, and Galveston are investigating the collision and injury.

London, Jan 10 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Panam Caribe* arrived Freeport (Texas) Jan 8.

CEBU ROSA (Panama)

Yokohama, Jan 9 — While leaving Hakozaki quay No.13, Hakata, the bow of vehicle carrier *Cebu Rosa* (7442 gt, built 1986) contacted the bow of general cargo *Meiji Maru*, 199 gt, (built 1988) which was moored at Hakozaki quay No.12, at 1330, Dec 28. *Cebu Rosa* sustained cracking damage to its bow and *Meiji Maru* sustained a broken bow mast. Both vessels could navigate under their own power and there were no injuries reported. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Cebu Rosa* arrived Hakata Dec 28, sailed same day, arrived Nagoya Dec 30 and sailed same day.)

CEC HUNTER (Isle of Man)

Corunna, Jan 5 — General cargo *CEC Hunter* (3810 gt, built 1995) had steering gear trouble in lat 43 40N, long 09 15.9W, pm, Dec 29, and requested assistance, which was granted by salvage tug *Ibaizabal Uno*. Tow made fast early morning of Dec 30 in position lat 43 59.55N, long 08 40.5W, and proceeded to Corunna, where safely berthed at noon. No decision taken yet regarding repairs. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *CEC Hunter* arrived Corunna Jan 4.)

Corunna, Jan 11 — General cargo *CEC Hunter* sailed from La Corunna at 0900 hrs in tow of tug *Charuca Silveira* for Viana do Castelo, where she will be repaired. — Lloyd's Agents.

CHARLESTON (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 5 — A Coast Guard Savannah press release dated Jan 4, states: An administrative law judge has suspended Pilot John C. McCarthy III's license Friday for eight months, with additional 12 months probation, after ruling that the Coast Guard proved its case of negligence and misconduct against him. The judge's decision stemmed from a Mar 14, 2006, incident on the Savannah River where chemical tanker *Charleston* (27669 gt, built 1983), piloted by McCarthy, passed the liquefied natural gas facility on Elba Island at a speed in excess of 14 knots during an LNG transfer. The surge resulting from the vessel's speed caused an emergency dock shutdown, cargo hose separations, the collapse of a gangway, and mooring lines to part. All emergency equipment at the LNG facility functioned as designed and no LNG was released as a result of the damage. Following a comprehensive investigation, the Coast Guard pursued action against McCarthy's license due to concern that his negligence posed a hazard to navigation and based on the pilot's

past history, which included three previous proved charges for negligence. In addition to the action taken against McCarthy, the Coast Guard determined the master of *Charleston* was also negligent in his role and was issued a letter or warning in lieu of suspension or revocation.

CHELYABINSK (Russia)

Taranto, Jan 5 — Bulker with container capacity *Chelyabinsk*: As of yesterday evening, and again this morning, meetings are still ongoing. Damage caused to sea fruit plantations allegedly quite large, it seems requests for Euro 2.5 million presented so far by lawyers acting on behalf of sea farmers. Coast Guard harbour-master requested that prior to starting refloating operations all fuels contained in double bottom tanks be moved to other compartments or transhipped. Many others technical issues are under evaluation. Agreement with towing company seems to be close. Divers inspections under way to identify possibility/direction to tow vessel out of its present position, which is quite swallow to allow tugs to reach close. — Lloyd's Agents.

Taranto, Jan 8 — Bulker with container capacity *Chelyabinsk*: A proposal of IFO transhipment plus refloating/towing plant has been presented to Coast Guard by surveyors. "Registers" will have to approve it then it will be examined by offering salvors. — Lloyd's Agents.

Taranto, Jan 8 — IFO lightening operations from bulker with container capacity *Chelyabinsk* have been under way since early this afternoon and are expected to be completed on or around midnight tonight. Refloating operations are expected to begin tomorrow morning, with the assistance of local tugs. — Lloyd's Agents.

Taranto, Jan 9 — Refloating of bulker with container capacity *Chelyabinsk* has been postponed to tomorrow once final refloating plan has been approved by Harbour Master after having been approved by register/s. A local firm is taking care to heave left anchor off the bottom (on right ship's side at the moment, after getting crossed with right one) and place it on the correct side for the vessel to take it back on board. — Lloyd's Agents.

Taranto, Jan 10 — Bulker with container capacity *Chelyabinsk*: The anchor clearing operation was successfully completed late yesterday afternoon. Refloating operations are under way with assistance by local tugs and all local port technical services. — Lloyd's Agents.

Taranto, Jan 10 — Bulker with container capacity *Chelyabinsk* was refloated at 1307 today, and anchored at Taranto roads. The vessel is expected to moor at No 1 West Merchant berth for inspection. — Lloyd's Agents.

Taranto, Jan 11 — Bulker with container capacity *Chelyabinsk* safely

moored at Pier One West, Taranto, at 1730 hrs, yesterday. The vessel was delivered "NOR" to shippers, who refused acceptance, pending notification of release of proper guarantees to all interested and/or potentially interested parties in order to avoid potential subsequent seizure of vessel prior to sailing, while the cargo is on board. However, unconfirmed reports suggest that inspections by owners' hull and machinery surveyor have produced satisfactory results. — Lloyd's Agents.

Taranto, Jan 11 — Understood that a class surveyor is attending bulker with container capacity *Chelyabinsk* today to assess any possible damage to the vessel's machinery. — Lloyd's Agents.

CHEMTRANS MOON (Liberia)

London, Jan 11 — Information received from kiel, dated today, states: Product tanker *Chemtrans Moon* (40763 gt, built 2004) broke all of her aft wires on Jan 9 while moored at a buoy in Amsterdam due to strong wind and subsequently ran aground. On Jan 10 a underwater inspection showed that the ship sustained no damage in the accident. (Note — *Chemtrans Moon*, which arrived Amsterdam 0617, Jan 3, was in lat 52 25.17N, long 04 48.35E, at 1301, UTC, speed 2.1 knots, according to LloydsMIU.)

CHRESTENA II (Panama)

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: More than six months after running aground near Porbandar general cargo *Chrestena II* remains aground and her fate hangs in balance. While it has not been possible to move the vessel, given the hazardous substances on board and the ship's proximity to residential as well industrial areas, the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) is examining various options, after receiving an application from the owner seeking to break-up the vessel. Local people are however, objecting to the vessel being broken-up. The vessel, which was on its way to Porbandar to take back a cargo of cement to Dubai, is lying near the shore behind Indira Nagar in Chhaya nagarpalika area, hardly 10 km from Porbandar city. After clearance from Coast Guard and Customs, the vessel from a Dubai-based company has now been bought by Alang ship-breaking company Shiv Trading. The 23-member crew, comprising of UAE, Bangladesh and Indian nationals have left, and the new owner is awaiting for GPCB to begin demolition. "The vessel, which is around 5,800 tonnes, was in a good condition when it ran aground. Though its' life span may have been 10 more years, it is stuck in such a way that it cannot be moved," said Rajesh Jadeja, a breaker from Porbandar, who has been taking care of the vessel for Shiv Trading. But the Chhaya nagarpalika and local residents have raised objections, citing environmental and safety issues. "Just a few metres from where the vessel is lying, the protected forest area begins. If permission is given to dismantle the

vessel, it will cause enormous damage to marine and land environment and even raise safety concerns for housing colonies," said Kana Bhoja, president of Chhaya nagarpalika, adding, "We have made representations to the Porbandar collector. The locals will launch an intense agitation if the go-ahead to break the ship is given." "Preliminary reports suggest that there are hazardous substances on board like asbestos. Permission to break the vessel cannot be granted without removal of toxic substances," said GPCB environmental engineer R J Shah.

CITY OF PARIS (Isle of Man)

Portsmouth, UK, Jan 6 — Yesterday at 1150 hrs, a national marine aircraft (Falcon 50) located a hydrocarbon pollution area of 12 kilometres in length by 15 metres wide in the wake of vehicle carrier *City of Paris* (9950 gt, built 1999) in a position approximately 320 kilometres southwest of Penmarc'h Point. French authorities have ordered the vessel to proceed to Brest and it is due at Brest roads at midday today. — Correspondent. (Note — *City of Paris* sailed from Tyne on Jan 2, bound for Setubal.)

London, Jan 8 — The master of the Hoegh group vehicle carrier *City of Paris* has been ordered to pay Euros150,000 (\$195,000) bail for the release of the vessel which was arrested at the weekend on suspicion of causing pollution in the English Channel. The 1999-built vessel was escorted into the port of Brest by a French navy patrol vessel after having been spotted from the air in late morning Friday (Jan 5) at the head of a 12-kilometre long pollution slick 320 kilometres southwest of the tip of the Brittany peninsula. The Isle of Man flagged vessel, which was carrying 834 vehicles, was on its way from Tyne to Setubal, when it was ordered into the port of Brest by the local prosecutor's office.

CLIPPER TOBAGO (Bahamas)

London, Jan 6 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Clipper Tobago* was reported sailing from Montreal on/about Dec 29 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS, at 0627, UTC, today, the vessel was stationary, at Pointe aux Trembles, Canada.

CONDOR (Panama)

Port Moresby, Jan 5 — General cargo *Condor* is at Port Moresby. Vessel ready to sail after repairs, will replenish with bunkers/fresh water, morning Jan 7. *Condor* will then sail, next port, unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Moresby, Jan 10 — General cargo *Condor* sailed from Port Moresby at 2000 hrs, Jan 7, bound for Gizo. — Lloyd's Agents.

DALYAN (Cambodia)

Novorossiysk, Jan 11 — General cargo *Dalyan* left Novorossiysk on Jan 6, after being temporarily repaired by concrete plaster, bound for Kertch, where we understand the Owners will arrange permanent repairs. The vessel

discharged her steel scrap here in Novorossiysk and left for Kertch in ballast. — Lloyd's Agents.

DANIELA (Malta)

London, Jan 5 — General cargo *Daniela* arrived at Haifa on Dec 27 and sailed on Jan 4.

DAWN FRASER (Australia)

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A man's leg has been amputated following a ferry collision in Sydney Harbour. The passenger (cruise) *Dawn Fraser* (41 gt, built 1992) and the man's small fishing boat collided around 0700, AEDT, at Dawes Point, near the southern pylon of the Harbour Bridge. The man, believed to be in his sixties, also suffered a heart attack as a result of the severe trauma to his leg, a NSW Ambulance spokeswoman said. He was taken to St Vincent's Hospital where his right leg has been amputated. He remains in a critical condition. Another male passenger suffered minor injuries. The *RiverCat*, heading to Circular Quay, was not in service at the time. After the collision, the *RiverCat* crew took the injured people on board and transported them to nearby Walsh Bay where ambulance crews arrived. Police are continuing their investigation.

DERYA 2 (North Korea)

London, Jan 4 — Bulker *Derya 2* was reported passing Istanbul, in a westerly direction, at 1950 hrs, Jan 2.

DESPINA (Greece)

See *Rania*.

DONAU (Belgium)

London, Jan 5 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Donau* (23508 gt, built 1985) entered Valletta bound to Malta Shipyards Jan 2, with last port of call as Algeciras, towed by Polish salvage tug *Posejdon*.

Valletta, Jan 10 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Donau* was stopped in the Mediterranean for engine maintenance. When vessel intended to continue its voyage, at 0600, UT, Dec 24, the rudder had apparently shifted about 30 degrees and could only move between about 90 degrees port and 5 degrees port. Master informed immediately the company and a towage contract was negotiated to tow *Donau* to the nearest available dry dock. At the moment dismantling of the rudder is underway to determine the technical defect and the possible reasons. Repairs started Jan 2 and presently estimated to be completed around Jan 15. — Lloyd's Agents.

EEMS TRADER (Netherlands)

Maassluis, Jan 7 — General cargo *Eems Trader* sailed Rotterdam Jan 6 for Pasajes. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

EIKO MARU NO.16 (Japan)

See *Katsuragisan*.

EL TORO (Singapore)

Ponta Delgada, Jan 8 — Part containerised general cargo *El Toro*

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still in port under main engine repairs, which expected to be completed by the end of this week. — Lloyd's Agents.

EMSLAND (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 4 — Following received from Coastguard Forth MRSC, timed 1540, UTC: General cargo *Emsland* was towed alongside in Montrose harbour safely at 1400, UTC.

London, Jan 4 — A Maritime and Coastguard Agency press release, dated today, states: General cargo *Emsland*, which ran aground on the Annat Bank in the River South Esk after departing the port of Montrose on Dec 29, has finally been refloated and has now moved back into Montrose harbour. All earlier attempts refloat the vessel had failed and officers of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, including the Secretary of State's Representative (SOSREP), set up a salvage control unit to oversee the salvage of the vessel and minimise the risk of pollution. The salvage control unit included representatives from the Scottish Environment Group. SvitzerWijsmuller were contracted as salvors. Over 40 tonnes of fuel oil were removed from the vessel and a shallow draught landing craft was brought onto site and a crane installed. Coastguard lighting gear was also set up locally and, just after 0200 today, operations began to try and remove the timber cargo. By mid-morning over 500 tons of cargo had been removed and around 1330 hrs the vessel had moved enough to come off the Bank. Hugh Shaw, Deputy to Secretary of State's Representative in Maritime Salvage and Intervention, said at the closure of the salvage control unit: "We are particularly pleased that this incident has drawn to a close with the successful refloating of this vessel without loss of any pollutants to the sea. We thank all those who have been involved closely with the *Emsland* for their efficient manner and dedication to the task."

London, Jan 5 — A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV report, dated Jan 4, states: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV this afternoon succeeded in refloating the heavily grounded casualty (general cargo *Emsland*) off Montrose. The vessel ran aground Dec 29 and, after initially being assisted without dedicated salvage staff, the first LOF-SCOPIC this year was agreed on New Year's day. SvitzerWijsmuller tug *Esvagt Connector*, initially used by owners, was replaced by SvitzerWijsmuller UK operated tug *Remo* and a dedicated salvage team took over control. In the past days preparations to remove bunkers and cargo from the vessel were set in motion where after the non-essential bunkers were removed and the cargo discharge started. This afternoon these operations led to the refloating of the casualty. The operations were executed in accordance with and to the full satisfaction of the UK Authorities in

the person of the SOSREP (Secretary of State Representative) and his organisation

Dundee, Jan 9 — General cargo *Emsland* is still at Montrose, undergoing repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

ERHAN BAYRAKTAR (Turkey)

London, Jan 11 — General cargo *Erhan Bayraktar*, Istanbul for Black Sea, passed Istanbul Jan 10.

ERICARISTINE (Taiwan)

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated Jan 8, states: Arrested Taiwan trawler *Ericaristine* (517 gt) with 28 people onboard has been swept by storm in Russia's Far East and run aground. Russian rescuers said the crew is out of danger. The trawler was arrested in late August for poaching 400 tonnes of salmon for sale in South Korean ports. The vessel remained anchored at Russia's Kamchatka peninsula until it was taken away by storm today. Russian rescuers said the rescue effort was complicated by the continuing storm in the Pacific and would resume tomorrow. They also said contact had been established with the crew, and there was no threat of leak or fuel spill. Hsu Wen Ho, the master of the trawler operated by the Taiwan company P.T.Karya Bitunog Seajati, and Yury Pozdnyakov, a representative of a Cossack squadron of Russia's Sakhalin Island who concluded a bareboat charter agreement with the company have been under investigation since August. Both are suspected of violating Russian law on continental shelf and special economic zones.

ESTATE (Netherlands)

Portsmouth, Jan 4 — Inland general cargo *Estate* (3269 gt, built 2001) collided with the Zwijsdrechtse track bridge yesterday evening. The collision happened at the Dordtse of the track bridge between Zwijsdrecht and Dordrecht. According to the fire department the ship lost five containers lost but there were no casualties. An eyewitness said the containers were loaded too high, hit the bridge and slid off. — Correspondents.

London, Jan 4 — The 110 metre long inland general cargo *Estate*, owned by Estate Shipping BV, proceeding downstream along the Oude Maas yesterday, laden with 100 empty containers. While passing underneath the railway bridge at Dordrecht at about 2030 hrs, the deck cargo of containers was just 20 centimetres too high and she hit the bridge, loosing five containers, which fell into the river. As a result, the train traffic across the bridge between Dordrecht and Rotterdam was stopped. After an inspection of the bridge, finding only slight damage to the bridge, the train traffic was resumed at 2230 hrs. Rijkswaterstaat held up all shipping traffic and ordered a diving team to find the lost, sunken, containers. At about 0445 hrs today, the northern passage on the Zwijsdrecht side was opened again for shipping traffic. After

locating and salving the last container the passage on the Dordrecht side was also cleared for the passage of ships. Nobody was hurt in this accident. The river police is making an inquiry on this shipping accident.

FAIRPESCA 707

Port Moresby, Jan 5 — Fishing (general) *Fairpesca 707* ETA Port Moresby Jan 7. According to operators, Fairwell, it went aground between Rabaul & Solomon Island. Vessel is now returning to Port Moresby for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Moresby, Jan 9 — Fishing (general) *Fairpesca 707* is now at Port Moresby, ready for repairs alongside PNG Dockyard. Duration of repairs will be about 14 days according to operators. Now divers taking photos of damaged hull. — Lloyd's Agents.

FARAH-3 (Jordan)

Colombo, Jan 6 — General cargo *Farah-3* remains grounded off Mullaitivu. The efforts taken by the owners/agents to obtain permission/approval from the LTTE/Government/SLMM to salvage the vessel have not been successful. It would appear that it may take a while for the vessel to be salvaged due to the current situation in the north and east. — Lloyd's Agents.

FERRY FUKUOKA 2 (Japan)

Yokohama, Jan 11 — The midship of passenger ro/ro *Ferry Fukuoka 2* (9730 gt, built 2002), which was manoeuvring to berth at wharf F4, Osaka Minami port, was in contact with the starboard quarter of passenger ro/ro *Ferry Kitakyushu* (9345 gt, built 1992) which was on berth F5, at 0810, Jan 7, due to strong wind. *Ferry Fukuoka 2* sustained cracking/scratching to its port side above the waterline. *Ferry Kitakyushu* sustained scratching to starboard stern. No water ingress or injuries reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

FERRY KITAKYUSHU (Japan)

See *Ferry Fukuoka 2*.

FIONA (Netherlands Antilles)

Falmouth, Jan 11 — Refrigerated general cargo *Fiona* is still under repair. The vessel is expected to sail during Week 3. — Lloyd's Agents.

FRIDBORG (Faroe Islands)

London, Jan 5 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1320, UTC: Fishing *Fridborg* (1833 gt, built 1989) had wheelhouse windows blow out in bad weather in lat 52 29N, long 43 05W, at 2017, UTC, Jan 3. Water entered vessel as a result and communications and steering were lost. Vessel subsequently secured windows with shutters and restored power. It is now proceeding with a sistership to Iceland and reported yesterday that all was well on board.

GOLD RIVER (Hong Kong)

London, Jan 5 — Bulker *Gold River*, 19908 gt, built 1999, which left

Constantza Dec 12 for Douala with a cargo of cement clinker, grounded while approaching berth at Douala Jan 2. Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contract was signed with SMIT Salvage BV Jan 4 and a salvage team is proceeding.

GRACE (Netherlands Antilles)

Ferrol, Jan 8 — General cargo *Grace* (1599 gt, built 2005), Algeciras for Rotterdam, cargo 1,677 tons of stainless steel and 236 tons of wood, sustained main engine crankshaft damage when in lat 45.47.5N, long 07.25.3W, and requested assistance on Jan 4, and as a result tug *Ibaizabal Uno* towed the vessel to Navantia Fene Shipyard, Ferrol port where was safely berthed Jan 5. Vessel is expected to be repaired shortly. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Grace*, Algeciras for Rotterdam, had passed Cape Finisterre Jan 2.)

GRAMPIAN GUARDIAN (U.K.)

London, Jan 10 — Standby safety vessel *Grampian Guardian* sailed Lerwick Jan 8.

GRAND ANEMI (Malta)

Portland, Oreg, Jan 4 — Bulker *Grand Anemi* is still at the repair yard. At this time it is unknown when repairs are expected to be completed. — Lloyd's Agents.

GRETA KOSAN (Isle of Man)

Dover, Jan 9 — Liquid petroleum gas carrier *Greta Kosan* is still under repair at Dover. Hopefully, the vessel should sail in the next 24-48 hours. — Lloyd's Agents.

GUO TONG (Cambodia)

London, Jan 5 — Following navigation warning issued today: Kanmon passage, in vicinity of Ganryushima eastern part, lat 33 55 55.5N, long 130 56 03.1E, sunken wreck (general cargo *Guo Tong*) removal preparatory works, daytime daily from Jan 7 to Feb 11.

HAI JIN (Cambodia)

Yokohama, Jan 9 — General cargo *Hai Jin*, 1488 gt, (built 1991) while trying to dock was in contact with the private berth of Kotobuki Giken, Kure, 0825, Dec 29. *Hai Jin* sustained denting/cracking damage to its bow above the waterline. The berth also sustained damage along with a crane on the berth. Vessel can navigate under own power. No injuries reported. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Hai Jin* was in lat 34 35 37N, long 127 55 54E, at 1130, Jan 5, speed 9.1 knots, course 168.2 degrees.)

HARAPAN JAYA (Indonesia)

Manila, Jan 5 — One crew member was killed when the Indonesian-flagged general cargo *Harapan Jaya* (3114 gt, built 1980) sank off Kupang in East Nusa Tenggara province Indonesia on Tuesday (Jan 2). The vessel with four crew members was carrying a cargo of logs from southeast Sulawesi to Kupang port when it was hit by large waves and sank. A search and rescue team from Kupang rescued the three survivors and

recovered the body of the sole victim yesterday. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

HARWARD 1 (Russia)

London, Jan 9 — General cargo *Harward 1*, Dikili for Varna, passed Dardanelles Jan 5.

HESTIA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 6 — Following received from Sandnes, dated today: At 1430 hrs, Jan 5, general cargo *Hestia* completed repairs and left drydock at Rosenbergs Mek in Stavanger and sailed for Sandnes. The vessel proceeded from Sandnes at 2300 hrs, Jan 5, for eastern Norway.

HOLBERG (Uruguay)

Stanley, Jan 4 — Understand fishing (general) *Holberg* will be taken in tow in the next few days, probably for Montevideo. — Lloyd's Agents.

Stanley, Jan 9 — Fishing (general) *Holberg* departed Port Purvis around noon yesterday in tow to Montevideo. — Lloyd's Agents.

Montevideo, Jan 9 — Fishing (general) *Holberg* was refloated after 18 days by Uruguayan Navy divers, avoiding a massive spillage of fuel and oil and is now being conditioned for the return to Montevideo. She stranded on a rocky ledge while fishing in Purvis Bay and refloating delayed due to "absence of qualified divers" as well as weather conditions. Navy divers reported that the vessel listed over to port side, causing seas to enter on deck through the scuppers and flooding the holds.

HUNTER (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 8 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 2208, UTC: The Coast Guard rescued four fishermen from fishing (general) *Hunter* (80 gt, built 1986), two miles east of Cape Igvak, in lat 57 28.6N, long 155 36.4W, at 1550 hrs, yesterday, after the vessel capsized and sank. The Coast Guard North Pacific Search and Rescue Co-ordination Centre received an electronic distress beacon alert at 1415 hrs, yesterday, and diverted a Coast Guard C-130 aircraft to investigate while simultaneously launching a rescue helicopter from Air Station Kodiak. Shortly after diverting, the C-130 located the remains of the fishing vessel and a life raft with four crewmen near the location of the distress beacon. Within an hour of launching, the crew of the *Hunter* were hoisted to safety by Coast Guard rescue helicopter. All four crew members were taken to Kodiak where they received medical attention. The reason why the vessel capsized is at yet unknown.

JODY F.MILLENNIUM (Panama)

See *Millennium Bright*.

JOMI (Bahamas)

London, Jan 11 — Following received from Coastguard Swansea MRCC, timed 1200, UTC: General cargo *Jomi* (2827 gt, built 1991), Avonmouth for

Raines, in lat 51 26.05N, long 04 21.91W, at 0920, UTC, drifting 070 deg at three knots. Propeller separated from engines. Agent arranging tug assistance.

KANG NAM 5 (North Korea)

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

KASHMIR (Malta)

London, Jan 11 — Understand that around "the new year" when underway to Lisbon tug *Banckert* picked up chemical tanker *Kashmir* (27611 gt, built 1988) which had had an explosion in its turbo and machine chamber fire. *Kashmir* was then towed to Setubal. (Note — *Kashmir* arrived Setubal Jan 6 from Le Havre. *Banckert* had sailed St.Michael's Jan 2.)

KATSURAGISAN (Panama)

Yokohama, Jan 11 — The starboard midship of crude oil tanker *Katsuragisan*, 160292 gt, (built 2005), mooring, was in contact with the bow of general cargo *Eiko Maru No.16*, 749 gt, (built 2006) at the private sea berth of Seibu Oil Co (? at Ube) at 0300, Jan 10. Both vessels sustained denting/cracking damage to their bows resulting in water ingress into their forepeak tanks below the waterline. No oil spill reported. Two crew members were injured. — Lloyd's Agents.

KING EDWARD (Marshall Islands)

Maassluis, Jan — Combined chemical and oil tank *King Edward* arrived Rotterdam Jan 7 from St. Petersburg. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

KIRISHIMA MARU NO.5 (Japan)

Yokohama, Jan 11 — Product tanker *Kirishima Maru No.5*, 699 gt, (built 1989), Mizushima for Yokkaichi, deviated to Shimotsu port 0700, Jan 8 due to water ingress in engine-room. The bottom of the vessel was inspected but no cracking has been found yet. The inspection is in progress. — Lloyd's Agents.

KLEINE FAMILIE (France)

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: One year after the tragedy of trawler *Kleine Familie*, that collided with Maltese registered chemical tanker *Sichem Pandora* that claimed five victims, the families of the victims are still waiting for justice to be done and are urging the Maltese authorities to hurry up with their inquiry. On the morning of Jan 5 2006, the trawler from Cherbourg was returning from a night out fishing at sea when it sank in 73 metres, after being hit by *Sichem Pandora*. One year after the tragedy, the families of the victims are getting impatient. "Since last October," Gildas Rostain, the Parisian lawyer representing the families of the victims, said, "we have heard nothing from Jacqueline Padovani (Grima), the Maltese judge charged with the inquiry. While the civil procedure taken in hand by the tribunal of Dunkirk is moving ahead

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rapidly, the same cannot be said of the penal procedure undertaken by the State of Malta and we await eagerly the experts' reports and the conclusions of the inquiry to be able to determine the precise causes of the shipwreck and the responsibilities involved," the judge said. Following this drama, which took place in international waters and in which there was only one survivor the "families are still stricken by the deaths of their loved ones. They insist that justice must be done and they want to know why the crew and master of the *Sichem Pandora* did not react to the accident." After the collision, the ship, leased by Tesma Holding, continued on its way and entered the port of Dunkirk, where it was consigned to quay for several days while the French investigators did their job. The investigations revealed traces of green paint, the colour of the trawler, on the ship. Some days after the shipwreck, human and robot divers found traces of orange colour, the colour of *Sichem Pandora*, on the trawler remains on the seabed. The cargo ship was authorised to leave Dunkirk on Jan 27 after the payment of euro 1.522 million, as decided by the Dunkirk tribunal.

KOHU RA TUARUA (New Zealand)

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry *Kohu Ra Tuarua* (175 gt) which was slipped from its moorings and grounded has been refloated. The Far North District Council reported this afternoon that the vessel would be returned to service after an inspection found little damage. Hokianga Harbour residents awoke to see their cross-harbour vehicular and passenger ferry high and dry on mudflats well away from its usual overnight berth at Rawene. In an act of what authorities are calling vandalism, the 35-metre, 175 tonne vessel was deliberately set adrift from its night time berth at Rawene wharf some time during last night. The vessel drifted in darkness on an incoming tide into the mouth of the Waima River about three km away where it was left undamaged but stranded when the tide went out. No cars or passengers were on board at the time and the ferry was to be refloated at high tide late this afternoon. Hokianga ferry manager Grant Potter said an inspection of the vessel had shown no damage but it had been "a quite deliberate act" to let the mooring lines go when it was parked up overnight. Security around the ferry would be "ramped up" from now on and police had been told of the incident. Rawene senior constable Jeff Cramp said it was the first time in his nearly 13 years in the town that anything like that had happened. The mooring ropes were not light, he said, and it would have taken several people to cast them off. The ferry company advised travellers through road signs and notices on local radio stations that there would be no

sailings until late today or tomorrow. The vessel usually makes 28 harbour crossings a day each way at this time of the holiday season, taking passengers and vehicles from Rawene to The Narrows at Kohukohu on the north side of the harbour and vice versa. The vessel, operated by Impact Services Ltd under contract to the Far North District Council, normally operates every half-hour, but a passenger service-only has replaced it for the day.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Some Hokianga commuters faced an extra 90-minute drive to work yesterday after vandals set ferry *Kohu Ra Tuarua* adrift, causing it to strand on a mudbank. Commuters who normally use the vehicle ferry to get to and from work were forced to find alternative forms of transport after the vandals set the vessel free from its moorings at Rawene wharf on Tuesday night (Jan 9). The vessel drifted for three km before resting on a mudbank in the Hokianga Harbour. Council spokeswoman Alison Lees said the vandalism followed an unsuccessful break-in attempt on a safe on board the vessel last week. The vessel was refloated at 1430 yesterday and was back in operation after 1500 hrs. A passenger ferry was hired yesterday morning to continue services until *Kohu Ra Tuarua* was back in service, but commuters in vehicles had to make the 90-minute drive around the harbour. *Kohu Ra Tuarua* has the capacity to carry 20 cars depending on their size and 150 passengers and provides the only link across the harbour between Rawene and Kohukohu. Ms Lees said the council believed that it was an act of vandalism, considering the way the ropes were hanging from the vessel. Rawene police constable Edwin van Dijk said no arrests had been made so far.

KOLMANSKOP (Namibia)

Cape Town, Jan 5 — Trawler *Kolmanskop*: The attending surveyor has advised that no movement of the wreck has been made as yet. He further advised that he is unaware of any plans being made in this regard. — Lloyd's Agents.

KONKAR GEORGIOS (Greece)

London, Jan 8 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1430, UTC: Bulker *Konkar Georgios* (27011 gt, built 1997) grounded at Mile 1.5, Lower Mississippi River about 1638, UTC, Jan 7. Refloated same day and awaiting inspection before being allowed to proceed. (Note — *Konkar Georgios* arrived New Orleans 2140, Jan 6, and subsequently reported in lat 29 56 29N, long 89 59 47W, by Lloyd'sMIU AIS at 1433, Jan 8.)

KOSTAS (Honduras)

London, Jan 9 — General cargo *Kostas* is still in port at Skikda as of Jan 5.

KOTOBUKI MARU NO.38 (Japan)

Honolulu, Jan 5 — Fishing (general) *Kotobuki Maru No.38*: It is reported that the reason the vessel was entering Midway at night was that a crew member had a fish hook through his throat and the skipper was trying to get him medicated out. It is confirmed that there were three holes in the starboard double bottom fuel tank, but the spill was addressed and no pollution occurred. Temporary repairs were completed yesterday and the vessel departed Midway for Honolulu. — Lloyd's Agents.

KYOKAI MARU NO.75 (Japan)

Yokohama, Jan 11 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Kyokai Maru No.75*, 749 gt, (built 1997), Ube for Mizushima, had "power shutdown" and ran aground in lat 34 07.5N, long 133 00.7E, at 2215, Jan 9, due to strong wind. Vessel refloated by own means. Cracking damage to forepeak tank with resulting water ingress has been reported. No oil spill or injuries reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Jan 5 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1445, UTC: Supply *L/B Juan* has not yet been salvaged due to very poor weather in the area.

London, Jan 10 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1600, UTC: Supply *L/B Juan* has not yet been salvaged due to very poor weather in the area. Salvage to be attempted Jan 11.

LADY OF GRACE (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 10 — A Coast Guard Woods Hole, Ma, press release, dated Jan 9, states: The Coast Guard towed fishing *Lady of Grace* (153 gt, built 1978) to safety after the vessel became disabled near Nantucket early yesterday morning. *Lady of Grace* with four crew members on board, contacted the Coast Guard Sector Southeastern New England Command Center at 0334 hrs and reported they were without power and drifting approximately 10 miles east of Great Point, Nantucket. A rescue boat crew from Coast Guard Station Brant Point on Nantucket launched a motor life boat to take the vessel in tow. Coast Guard cutter *Sanibel* departed Woods Hole and took over towing operations at 1130 hrs and towed *Lady of Grace* to calmer waters east of Edgartown, where the fishing boat anchored for the evening. *Sanibel* remained on scene throughout the night to ensure the safety of the vessel and crew. At the time of the tow winds were reported to be at gale force strength with 30 to 35 knots and seas were heavy at eight to 10 feet. A commercial towing company is scheduled to tow *Lady of Grace* to New Bedford today.

LEONIS (Panama)

London, Jan 11 — General cargo *Leonis* sailed Hull Jan 9.

LIBERTY A. (Cyprus)

See "Cyprus" under "Port State Control".

LNG RIVER ORASHI (Bermuda)

Marseilles, Jan 9 — Liquid natural gas carrier *LNG River Orashi* is still in dry dock No 8 at Marseilles. Repairs are now expected to be completed on Jan 11. — Lloyd's Agents.

Marseilles, Jan 10 — Repairs to Liquid Natural Gas Carrier *LNG River Orashi* will be completed by 1600, local time, tomorrow at latest. Vessel will then sail immediately for Bonny. — Lloyd's Agents.

LONG HAI (Panama)

See *Vorios Ipiros Hellas*.

LUCKY TRAMP (Ukraine)

London, Jan 4 — General cargo *Lucky Tramp* was reported passing through the Dardanelles on Dec 24, on a reported passage of Aliaga for Kherson.

MAERSK PATRAS (U.K.)

London, Jan 5 — Container Carrier *Maersk Patras* both arrived at and sailed from Montreal on/about Dec 29..

MAERSK SCOTLAND (Venezuela)

London, Jan 4 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Maersk Scotland* was reported arriving at Philadelphia at 2052 hrs, Jan 2. The vessel departed at 2036 hrs, Jan 3, bound for Venezuela.

MARE SALERNUM (Italy)

London, Jan 8 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1425, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Mare Salernum* (59700 gt, built 2003) grounded at Light No.18, Texas City harbour Jan 6. Refloated about 0258, UTC, same day and released/allowed to proceed. (Note — According to Lloyd'sMIU AIS, *Mare Salernum* in lat 29 04 30N, long 94 16 11W, at 0302, Jan 7.)

MARINA ACE (Panama)

Portsmouth, UK, Jan 6 — Yesterday afternoon vehicle carrier *Marina Ace* (54332 gt, built 1987) suffered a black out and had to be towed into Zeebrugge by tug *Union Pearl*. — Correspondent. (Note — *Marina Ace* is on passage from Japan - it loaded in Kasado, Yokkaichi, Toyohashi, Yokohama and Sakai - for Europe.)

Zeebrugge, Jan 9 — Vehicle carrier *Marina Ace* arrived Ghent Jan 7 from Zeebrugge and sailed Jan 8 for Bremerhaven. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MARINE EAGLE (Panama)

Busan, Jan 9 — General cargo *Marine Eagle* is now under repairs at the premises of Dongil Shipyard & Engineering Co., Ltd., Busan, which expected to complete by Feb 12. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MASTER K. (Tuvalu)

Piraeus, Jan 8 — General cargo *Master K.* completed repairs and

sailed Piraeus Jan 5 for Kerch. — Lloyd's Agents.

MEIJI MARU (Japan)

See *Cebu Rosa*.

MELEKHOVO (Russia)

Vladivostok, Jan 9 — Fishing (general) *Melekhovo* is still under repair at Vladivostok, ETC mid-January. Following repairs, the vessel is expected to proceed to the Okhotsk Sea for fishing operations. — Lloyd's Agents.

MILLENNIUM BRIGHT (Panama)

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Millennium Bright* (15071 gt, built 2000), ex *Jody F.Millennium*, ran aground near the port of Nepoui, a town built to cater to the mineral industry, mainly nickel mining, off the west coast of New Caledonia in the latter half of November and two tugs were used to pull it free at high tide. The salvage operation was overseen by the Noumea MRCC. It seems that *Millennium Bright* will be continuing to work in Pacific waters in the near future, as it is booked to berth in the Port of Newcastle, Australia, at the beginning of next month. It arrives there from Noumea and will return to Noumea, presumably carrying nickel ore for processing in Australia. Although the *Jody F.Millennium* is now called *Millennium Bright*, it is still owned by Twin Bright Shipping of Japan, under parent company Soki Kisen. It is operated by Taiyo Sangyo Trading and Marine Service Ltd.. The name change took place after the former logship was repaired at dockyards in Japan. As *Jody F.Millennium*, it stranded on the beach at Gisborne on Feb 6, 2002 and was finally pulled free after an 18-day salvage operation. Court action is still ongoing, with Twin Bright Shipping suing to recover the costs incurred in the salvage. (Note — *Millennium Bright* was last reported to have arrived New Caledonia Nov 8 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 22 13 28S, long 166 18.03E, at 0712. UTC, Jan 7, speed 13.1 knots, course 283 degrees.)

MLC NANCY 3 (Singapore)

London, Jan 4 — Tug *MLC Nancy 3* was reported arriving at Mumbai on Dec 20.

MOGAMIGAWA (Japan)

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A US nuclear-powered submarine has collided with a Japanese tanker near the Straits of Hormuz, Japanese and US government officials have said. The *USS Newport News* did not sustain substantial damage, and there were no injuries to crew, a US Navy spokeswoman told the AFP news agency. There were no oil spills from crude oil tanker *Mogamigawa* (160229 gt, built 2001), and no injuries, a company official said. The tanker will dock in the United Arab Emirates to check the damage. The bow of the

submarine collided with the stern of the oil tanker at 1915, GMT just outside the busy shipping lanes of the Straits of Hormuz. *Mogamigawa* is operated by Kawasaki Kisen Ltd, the Kyodo news agency reported. Japanese oil company Showa Shell Sekiyu K.K. told the agency the ship was en route from the Persian Gulf to Singapore with a crew of eight Japanese and 16 Filipinos. A US Navy spokesman in Bahrain said that there had been a collision. "I can confirm that an incident took place between one of our submarines and a merchant ship," said Commander Kevin Aandahl of the US Fifth Fleet. The 110-metre (360-foot) *USS Newport News* carries a crew of 127. The BBC's Chris Hogg, in Tokyo, says there will be embarrassment for the US navy over the incident but also relief that the collision was not more serious.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: U.S. nuclear submarine *Newport News* and Japanese crude oil tanker *Mogamigawa* collided near the Strait of Hormuz at around 0415, Japan time, today, but no injuries have been reported from either of the vessels, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said. The submarine's bow was in contact with the tanker's stern, the ministry said. The cause of the accident is yet unknown. The submarine is under the command of the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet headquartered in Bahrain, diplomatic sources said. The tanker damaged its port stern in the collision and is heading for a nearby port in the eastern part of the United Arab Emirates for checkups, according to the foreign and transport ministries. Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha Ltd, the operator of the *Mogamigawa*, said the tanker, with a crew of eight Japanese and 16 Filipinos, was en route to Singapore from the Persian Gulf carrying a load of oil. The company officials said that there was a large sound when the collision occurred, the tanker shook twice and then started to suffer water leakage. The submarine contacted the tanker to see if it needed any help, but refused to disclose any other information during the communication except that it is a submarine, the officials said. The tanker has managed to drain the water and is sailing by itself, they said.

London, Jan 10 — Investigations have been launched after a collision between crude oil tanker *Mogamigawa* and the US Navy nuclear powered submarine *USS Newport News* south of the Strait of Hormuz. No oil spill was reported and there were no injuries among the crew of eight Japanese and 16 Filipinos on board the tanker, which is owned by Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha and on time charter to Showa Shell Sekiyu. Japan's transport minister Tetsuzo Fuyushiba said he was very relieved there were no injuries or oil pollution. US Navy Fifth Fleet spokesman Charlie Brown added: "Thankfully no sailors or merchant crewmen were injured." Speaking from fleet

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headquarters in Bahrain he told Reuters: "The damage is still being evaluated but both vessels are seaworthy." K Line and Japan's transport ministry confirmed they had launched separate probes into the accident which occurred at 1915 GMT on Monday. The US Navy had also launched an investigation. Speaking from Tokyo, a K-Line spokesman told Lloyd's List that the tanker was due to arrive at Khor Fakkan yesterday where divers would carry out an underwater inspection to assess the scope of damage to the tanker. The tanker was heading towards the Gulf of Oman and bound for Singapore after loading at Fujairah when the collision occurred. A K Line spokesman said the submarine was submerged at the time. He was unable to comment on the cause of the accident, but said the tanker would continue to Singapore if divers gave the all-clear. The tanker, built by Imabari's Saijo shipyard, is classed by Class NK and insured through Japan Shipowners Mutual Protection & Indemnity Association. *Mogamigawa* is one of eight crude oil tankers operated by K Line and one of three VLCCs chartered by K Line to Showa Shell Sempaku. The incident comes only a few weeks after a similar incident where a Japanese military submarine collided with a chemical tanker while surfacing during exercises off southern Japan on Nov 21, 2006. A Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force submarine captain's error of judgment has been mooted as the cause of this incident, according to a source within the Japan Coastguard.

London, Jan 10 — A press release from the owners of crude oil tanker *Mogamigawa*, dated today, states: *Mogamigawa* arrived Khor Fakkan 1310, local time, Jan 9. Inspection by diver commenced around 1500 hrs. At this moment following damages have been found on bottom of ballast tank No.5 which locates about 70 metres ahead of stern to port: Approximately one metre by five metre of dent, maximum 40 cm in depth. Approximately 10 cm by 35 cm hole. Some scratches. Temporary repair was made to stop sea water inflow into ballast tank. Inspection by diver resumed this morning local time. Repair plan will be determined after this inspection.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Submarine *Newport News* was submerged and leaving the Persian Gulf when crude oil tanker *Mogamigawa* passed overhead at a high speed, creating a sucking effect that made the sub rise and hit the ship, the Navy said today. That is the preliminary finding of yesterday's collision. Both were southbound, crossing the Strait of Hormuz while heading into the Arabian Sea. "As the ship passed over the sub, it ended up sucking the submarine into it," said Lt. Cmdr. Chris Loundermon, a spokesman for Submarine Force in Norfolk. "It is a principle called the venturi effect," he said. "This was a very, very large ship moving at higher speed," Loundermon

said. No one was injured aboard either ship, the Navy said, and damage to both vessels is relatively minor. "The submarine is headed to port right now," Cmdr. Kevin Aandahl, a spokesman for the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command in Bahrain, said late today from Bahrain. Damage to the Norfolk-based *Newport News* appears to be confined to the bow, he said. The mast, and the sub's nuclear reactor were unharmed, he said. Aandahl said he could not discuss details such as the speed or depth of the submarine at the time of the impact. Aandahl emphasized that *Newport News* was not surfacing at the time.

London, Jan 11 — Temporary repairs will be carried out to the K Line crude oil tanker *Mogamigawa* before it can continue its voyage to Singapore. This follows a divers' inspection of the 300,000 dwt ship which showed at least one of the ballast tanks was holed in a collision with the US Navy nuclear powered submarine USS *Newport News* near the Strait of Hormuz on Monday. The US Navy has meanwhile begun to shed some light on what may have caused the collision. According to US press reports the navy's preliminary findings suggest that when *Mogamigawa* passed overhead at a high speed it created a "sucking effect" that made the submarine rise. "As the vessel passed over it ended up sucking the submarine into it," Lt Cmdr Chris Loundermon, a spokesman for the Submarine Force in Norfolk said. "It is a principle called the venturi effect. This was a very, very large vessel moving at higher speed." Cmdr Kevin Aandahl, spokesman for US naval forces in Bahrain, said he could not discuss details such as the speed or depth of the submarine. He did, however, emphasise that *Newport News* was not surfacing at the time. K Line said an initial inspection showed two holes, each about 10 cm by 35 cm, in ballast tank 5 on the port side, about 70 m in front on the stern. There were also a 40 cm deep, 1 m by 5 m dent and some scratches. Speaking from Tokyo, K Line spokesman Masato Yamaguchi said emergency repairs were carried out to prevent further ingress of sea water into the ballast tank. He said the inspection by divers continued yesterday and the divers' findings would be assessed today and a repair plan drawn up. "Some repair work will be needed before *Mogamigawa* continues its navigation," Mr Yamaguchi added. He said that until the full extent of the damage had been properly assessed there was no indication where the repairs would be carried out or when they would start. The divers' inspection was carried out at Khor Fakkan in the United Arab Emirates where the vessel arrived at 1310, local time, on Tuesday (Jan 9). The vessel, which was on time charter to Showa Shell Sekiyu, had loaded about 280,000 tonnes of crude oil and was heading towards the Gulf of Oman bound for Singapore when the collision

occurred. There was no oil spill and none of the 24 crew, eight Japanese and 16 Filipinos, on board the tanker or the submarine crew was hurt. The tanker, built by Imabari's Saijo shipyard, is classed by ClassNK and insured through Japan Shipowners Mutual Protection and Indemnity Association. K Line, Japan's Transport Ministry and the US authorities have all launched investigations into the cause of the collision, which occurred while the submarine was submerged. Japanese chief cabinet secretary Yasuhisa Shiozaki confirmed that the US was probing the collision. He said the Japanese government had been told that the 7,011 tonne submarine sustained damage to its bow but its nuclear reactor, hull and mast were unaffected. The submarine, one of 48 Los Angeles-class attack submarines in the US fleet, has a complement of 13 officers and 121 enlisted personnel.

London, Jan 11 — A press release from the owners of crude oil tanker *Mogamigawa*, dated today, states: Inspection by diver resumed yesterday morning. Finally following damages were found on bottom of ballast tank No.5: Approximately 3.5m by 10m dent with two holes, approximately 20cm by 10cm and 40cm by 20cm respectively, same location as reported yesterday. Approximately 2m by 4m of dent with three holes, approximately 10cm by 5cm, 10cm by 5cm and 20cm by 10cm respectively. Approximately 2m by 10m of dent. Also all propeller blade edges were found missing approximately 8cm from tip. All holes were plugged up by temporary repair and flooding into No.5 ballast tank was stopped. Consequently classification society ClassNK issued recommendations that it should arrive shipyard for permanent repair by Feb 9 after unloading cargo. Vessel sailed Khor Fakkan 2300, Jan. 10 local time for Singapore where due on Jan 20. Shipyard for permanent repair will be selected in due course.

NEHRU-SHATABDI (India)

Kochi, Jan 6 — Hopper dredger *Nehru-Shatabdi* is still in Dry Dock. Work is expected to be completed by the middle of January 2007. — Lloyd's Agents.

NEW CARISSA (Panama)

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Removal of the remaining wreckage of wood-chip carrier *New Carissa* from the beach at Coos Bay has been put off another year, the state said today. Oregon officials had hoped to see the wreckage gone by autumn. But Department of State Lands Director Louise Soliday said there is not enough time to finish negotiations with salvage contractor Titan Maritime Co. of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and the owners of the *New Carissa*, Green Atlas Shipping Co., before the end of the summer period when tides and weather make removal possible. Plans call for bringing in work platforms

that anchor in the sand, then using huge hydraulic jacks to pull the stern section out of the sand.

OCEAN VICTORY (Hong Kong)

London, Jan 8 — Following received from Yokohama RCC, timed 1015, UTC: Bulker *Ocean Victory* broke up in bad weather Dec 27 and as a result salvage contract (Lloyd's Open Form) with Nippon Salvage was terminated Dec 29. A wreck removal contact was signed Jan 6.

London, Jan 9 — Following received from Ince & Co, London, dated Jan 8: Bulker *Ocean Victory*: Vessel's interests advise that no wreck removal contract has yet been agreed or signed with anybody. A formal invitation to tender for wreck removal is presently being prepared on behalf of owners and this will be circulated as soon as is practically possible.

ODISK (Sierra Leone)

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Two members of the crew of general cargo *Odisk* (1696 gt, built 1979), which was carrying chemicals from Kerch to Turkey, have died of poisoning by unidentified chemical substances, the Interfax news agency reported quoting Ukraine's Emergency Situations Ministry. The second, who died yesterday, was a citizen of Ukraine. A Russian crewmember died earlier, the agency said. In all, eight crew members were taken to a hospital in Livadia, Crimea, one of them in serious condition. Earlier reports said that the captain informed the Yalta merchant port on January 5, that five crewmembers had been poisoned by unidentified chemical agents. The vessel, registered at the port of Freetown and sailing under the flag of Sierra Leone, had a ten-member Ukrainian-Russian crew and was carrying 2,000 tonnes of ferrosilicomanganese from the Kerch to Iskenderun, Turkey. The dead Ukrainian sailor was 23 years old. No information is available about what chemical substance caused his poisoning and death, the Crimean Emergency Situations Ministry's press service said. The other victim, a Russian citizen, aged 26, died as he was being evacuated to the coast. The three rescued crew members, all of them Ukrainian citizens, are in a resuscitation ward, one in very serious condition. The remaining five crew members were evacuated to the coast with minor poisoning symptoms and are under medical observation, the Crimean Emergency Situations Ministry said. A team of biochemistry and chemical intelligence experts, dispatched to the ship, detected phosphate vapours in the air and established that the poisoning had been caused by phosphine, a colourless and odourless gas. "Disregard for safety regulations while transporting and loading toxic substances was the most likely cause of the poisoning. It was raining when the cargo was being loaded, which sparked a chemical reaction," Alexander Mazilin, the head

of the Ukrainian Emergency Situations Ministry's Crimea Department, said. "The cargo is no threat to Yalta. The vessel is 700 meters from the coast, and the concentration of the toxic gas is normal outside the vessel," Mazilin said. The vessel will be thoroughly examined later today by experts who have arrived from Odessa. A plan of further measures will be proposed after the checks.

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: The Ukraine naval tug *Kremenets* has towed general cargo *Odisk* from the Yalta port area, a source at the Ukrainian Emergencies Ministry's Crimean department said, adding that the operation led by Emergencies Minister Nestor Shufrich began at 0700 hrs, yesterday. Chemistry specialists were the first to get aboard the *Odisk*, and they conducted water and air chemical examinations. It showed there were no poisonous substances near the ship and onboard it, but a high phosphine gas concentration was detected on the vessel superstructure, and it was 200 times higher near the holds with the cargo. There are 2,000 tonnes of ferrosilicomanganese in the holds. The vessel's five anchors were cut off, because it was a problem to start engines to raise them. The vessel's owner decided to tow the *Odisk* to the port of Kerch where it loaded the cargo. The port has special piers and conditions for poisonous cargo storage. According to the Ukrainian Navy command, it will take 30 hours to tow the vessel to Kerch. Specialists will remain aboard the ship to monitor chemical processes in the holds. Eight crewmembers from the ship remain in hospital. One is in a serious condition. Crimean Deputy Health Minister Oleg Stebly said the cases were diagnosed as poisoning with fumes. According to the preliminary information, the tragedy was caused by "violation of chemical substance loading technologies".

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Odisk* is currently being unloaded in the port of Kerch. Meanwhile, a crewman, hospitalised by the effects of the chemical substances the vessel was carrying, is in a stable condition, Tatyana Agarkova, spokesperson for the mayor of Yalta, Crimea, told Interfax. "The sailor's condition is improving and his life is not in danger," Agarkova said, citing the chief of the Livadia city hospital. She said the patient had been taken off the drip.

ORENBURG (Russia)

London, Jan 5 — General cargo *Orenburg* arrived at Ghent at 1310 hrs, Jan 4.

Zeebrugge, Jan 9 — General cargo *Orenburg* sailed Ghent Jan 8 for Rouen. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

OTM 3072 (Canada)

Montreal, Jan 8 — Understand barge *OTM 3072* has been sold on an "as is, where is" basis, and will be salvaged this summer. — Lloyd's Agents.

PANAM CARIBE (Bahamas)

See *Capt. Nick*.

PERE CHARLES (Republic of Ireland)

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A major search is underway for the crew of Wexford trawler *Pere Charles* (100 gt, built 1982) that sank off the south-east coast yesterday. The vessel, which was based in Dunmore East, sank in heavy seas three miles from Hook Head (lat 52 07.4N, long 06 55.8W) at around 1800 hrs. The vessel had five men on board, four from Kerry and Wexford and one from eastern Europe. Two lifeboats and two coastguard helicopters were sent to the area after a distress signal was picked up yesterday evening, but they found no trace of the missing crew. The search, which also involves a number of local fishing vessels, is due to resume at first light this morning, but is being hampered by bad weather. Rescuers are hoping the crew managed to make it onto a liferaft before the trawler went down.

London, Jan 11 — Following received from Dublin MRCC, timed 1008, UTC: At 1802, Jan 10 a detect only Epirb report was received from UK MRCC on trawler *Pere Charles*, with five persons on board, in lat 52 05.1N, long 06 54.3W. At 1807 hrs fishing *Suzanne G.* advised lost visual and radar contact with *Pere Charles*. Wind south-westerly force 7 (near gale). At 0001 hrs search was suspended until first light.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: An empty life raft has been located off the Wexford coast in the search for five crewmen from a missing trawler. The raft from the 20-metre trawler (All types) *Pere Charles* - which operates out of Dunmore East harbour in Waterford - was found 1.5 miles west of Forlorn Point this morning. The vessel - crewed by five men from Kerry, Wexford and Ukraine - left harbour yesterday morning to fish for herring. A major air and sea search between Carnsore Point and Hook Head has been underway since last night after a distress signal was received from the trawler, but severe storm-force winds are hampering the operation which is being led by three RNLI lifeboats from Kilmore Quay, Rosslare and Dunmore East and an Irish Coastguard helicopter from Waterford. Searchers reported spotting what appears to be debris in the area where the trawler was believed to have been fishing. The lifeboats are being assisted in their search by seven local fishing vessels. An Irish Coastguard helicopter from Dublin - which commenced a search at first light this morning - has now been replaced by a helicopter from Waterford, a Coastguard spokesman said. Several local lifeguards units are also conducting shoreline searches along the coast. The owner of the vessel, Michael Walsh, said today he last spoke with the crew by telephone at 1745 hrs, yesterday and when he rang back at 1805 hrs to check on

something there was no response. "I don't know what happened. Whatever it was happened very quickly," he said. The last contact from the crew was made to the missing trawler's sister ship, the *Suzannah G*, which was nearby. Seconds after the radio message that something was wrong, the *Pere Charles* vanished from the radar. The crew of the *Suzannah G* headed for where the missing trawler was located but could find no trace of it. A spokesman for the Irish Coastguard said: "We picked up an emergency beacon signal around four minutes after 6pm."

PETRA (Netherlands Antilles)

Barrow-in-Furness, Jan 8 — General cargo *Petra* completed repairs and sailed Workington at 1315 today for Dunkirk. — Lloyd's Agents.

POLARIS (Finland)

See *Bolle VIII*.

PRINCE MOUDI (Lebanon)

Beirut, Jan 9 — General cargo *Prince Moudi* is still laid up at Tripoli. — Lloyd's Agents.

PULAU TIGA 3708 (Singapore)

See *PW Kappa*.

PW KAPPA (Singapore)

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated Jan 3, states: Barge *Winbuild 1802* (928 gt, built 2006) and barge *Pulau Tiga 3708* (5380 gt, built 2006), registered with the Singapore Registry of Ships, (under tow of tug *PW Kappa*, 318 gt, built 2006), had gone missing since Dec 21. For 10 days, both the owner and tug operator fretted over their whereabouts, making reports to the maritime and port authorities. Then, on Dec 31 Dec, the barges were found on the Laut Tiga beach near Kampung Pantai Jawa in Rompin, (lat 02 49N, long 103 29E) Pahang. The barges were on their way from Shanghai when they were caught in a storm. Mr Tee Tong Lian, general manager of Pacific Workboat, the company responsible for towing the two barges back to Singapore, said "The master of our tug told us that the waves were as high as 8 metres. The sea was choppy and the tow line, which the barges were tied to, snapped." The tug was somewhere off the coast of Vietnam. When the crew of 10 realised the tow line had snapped, they tried to search for the barges. But choppy seas and poor visibility forced them to abandon the search. The 110m *Pulau Tiga 3708* is estimated to be worth about \$2 million, said Mr Tee. The 55m *Winbuild 1802* is worth about \$500,000. Mr Karim Rahman from Terus Maju Logistics was tasked to salvage the barges. He was initially hired by Pacific Workboat to help look for the barges. Mr Karim, 50, said: 'I've seen the barges and they are in good condition. We will have to make arrangements with the relevant authorities and file the proper documents before we can send them back to Singapore.'

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated Jan 3, states: The two unmanned Singapore-registered barges, found beached on Malaysia's east coast on Sunday (Dec 31), were on their way to Singapore from China when they were hit by bad weather. Owned by Singapore-based company Pacific Ocean Engineering and Trading, the *Winbuild 1802* and *Pulau Tiga 3708* are newly-built and were making their way to Singapore when the tow line snapped in bad weather off the coast of Vietnam on Dec 21 causing them to drift for miles. The tug, on failing to find the vessels, then proceeded to Ho Chi Minh City where crew members reported the incident to the Vietnamese authorities as well as to the Maritime Port Authority of Singapore and the Singapore police. Pacific Ocean said that it also received help from the Vietnamese port authorities to search for the missing barges, by air and sea. However the effort proved futile in rough seas, which saw waves of up to 5 metres high. The company said it suspected the barges had drifted towards Malaysia, but could only confirm this on Tuesday evening. "We thought they must be grounded somewhere. It's a matter of who found it first and it just happened that we got a call from our shipping agent in Malaysia and told us some of the villagers in Kuala Lumpur saw the barges grounded at the beach," said Gary Quah, Manager, Pacific Ocean Engineering and Trading. The company says it is making arrangements to have the vessels towed to Singapore by Thursday.

QUEEN OF ESQUIMALT (Canada)

London, Jan 9 — On Jan 5, Roll On Roll Off *Queen of Esquimalt* (9081 gt, built 1963) struck the dock and sustained damage to its rubbing strake, on approach to Horseshoe Bay Terminal, BC, in lat 49 23N, long 123 16W.

QUINSAM (Canada)

London, Jan 10 — A BC Ferries press release, dated Victoria, BC, Jan 9, states: Roll On Roll Off *Quinsam* (1458 gt, built 1982), which operates on the Nanaimo Harbour to Gabriola Island route, unexpectedly pulled away from the dock at Nanaimo Harbour as the ship was loading vehicles at approximately 1900 this evening. A pick-up truck was on the ramp when the vessel started to move and BC Ferries crew quickly alerted the lone male occupant to exit his vehicle immediately. After the driver exited his truck, the vehicle dropped off the ramp and into the water. There were no injuries in the incident. There were no persons in the water. BC Ferries will be conducting a full investigation into the cause of this incident. Vehicle service between Nanaimo Harbour and Gabriola Island has been temporarily suspended until further notice. Water taxi service is being arranged for foot passengers as necessary.

RANIA (Indonesia)

Jakarta, Jan 5 — Vehicle carrier *Rania*: Discharging completed and awaiting for next departure to Jakarta. No sign of physical damage. Bulker *Despina* is still discharging the cargo (estimated to be five days). No serious damages (small dented at hull area). — Lloyd's Agents.

RAVANDA (Turkey)

Trieste, Jan 4 — General cargo *Ravanda* refloated at 1200 today with the assistance of two tugs. Rudder and propeller damaged. Now moored at an unoperative berth in Porto Nogaro pending owners' decisions. — Lloyd's Agents.

Trieste, Jan 8 — General cargo *Ravanda* still in Porto Nogaro. With damaged rudder and propeller she can not continue her voyage with her means. Owners are actively looking for a suitable shiprepairer. — Lloyd's Agents.

RYUNAN (Japan)

Kobe, Jan 9 — General cargo *Ryunan*, en route from Naha port to Hakata port, had engine trouble at 1530 hrs, on Dec 28, in lat 27 15N, long 128 27E. The vessel was towed to Okinawa Motobu Centre port at 1100 hrs, on Dec 29. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAMUR 4 (Malta)

See *Teymur Ehmedov*.

SAN CAYETANO I (Argentina)

London, Jan 8 — Following navigation warning issued Jan 7: Fishing *Don Nicola* towing fishing (general) *San Cayetano I* (109 gt, built 1965) in lat 41 17S, long 64 04W, line length 320 metres, speed six knots, course 300 degrees, bound San Antonio Este.

SCOT TRADER (U.K.)

London, Jan 5 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1155, UTC: General cargo *Scot Trader* (1585 gt, built 1986) (Varberg for Goole) was reported drifting with engine trouble in lat 57 47N, long 10 32.5E, at 0335, UTC, Jan 4. A tug was dispatched and arrived on scene approximately 0725, UTC, same day, and towed vessel into Skagen about two and a half hours later. Vessel remains at Skagen at present.

Aalborg, Jan 5 — General cargo *Scot Trader* was towed into Skagen yesterday due to engine problems. It is currently undergoing repairs, ETC Monday (Jan 8). — Lloyd's Agents.

Aalborg, Jan 9 — General cargo *Scot Trader* is still under repair in Skagen and ETD tomorrow. — Lloyd's Agents.

SENOPATI NUSANTARA (Indonesia)

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: High waves crashing over the car deck of ferry *Senopati Nusantara* board likely caused the ship to capsize, a top Indonesian investigator said today. More than 400 people are dead or missing, while around 220 others were rescued. The captain, who was rescued

yesterday, is being questioned by authorities at an undisclosed location. The ferry sank in the Java Sea just before midnight Friday (Dec 29) after being pounded by waves up to 12 feet high. "I suspect waves entered the car deck over the door and became trapped, making the vessel too heavy and unstable," Ruth Simatupang, a government investigator probing the accident, told The Associated Press. The ferry was not overloaded, she added, citing witness testimony. "Everyone could sit down, sleep and there was space on the car deck," she said. Survivors recalled the horror of the ferry's last minutes and the struggle to stay alive - and at least two said many of the victims were trapped after towering waves flooded the deck. People with something to keep them afloat can survive for days in Indonesia's warm tropical waters, and officials said the search would continue until at least Sunday (Jan 7), but a rescue official said he thought it was unlikely many more would turn up alive. Those rescued in recent days have been found several hundred miles from where the ferry sank.

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Fourteen people on board ferry *Senopati Nusantara*, that sank, were picked up by a passing cargo vessel after spending nine days on a life raft, a rescue official said today. A 15th person died soon after being rescued by the vessel late Sunday (Jan 7), said Ketut Purwa, head of the search and rescue agency on Bali island. The survivors were scheduled to arrive in Makassar, a port city on Sulawesi island, this evening, said Purwa, who spoke to the captain of the cargo ship by radio. They had drifted almost 370 miles before being picked up. The *Senopati Nusantara* was sailing from Borneo Island to the country's main island of Java when it sank just before midnight on Dec 29 after being pounded by waves of up to 12 feet high for several hours. About 245 people have been found alive since the ferry sank, but around 400 are either dead or listed as missing. Only 10 bodies have been recovered. "We presume hundreds of bodies remain trapped on board," Navy spokesman Lt. Col. Tony Syaiful said. Head of the National Search and Rescue Agency Bambang Karnoyudho said authorities plan to locate the wreck and remove the bodies. A government investigator said Thursday she suspected the waves washed into the car deck and became trapped there, causing the vessel to capsize.

SHAH BADAR-I

Chittagong, Jan 8 — Unknown *Shah Badar-i*: Contacted vessel's owner agent M/s. High Shipping, Chittagong, and have spoken with Mr. Mahbubul Alam who informed that vessel is now lying at shore side (Patenga Sea Beach) and presently cleaning works are continuing. Repair works will undertake soon at Karnaphully Pvt. Dry Dock located at opposite beach side of Chittagong Port. — Lloyd's Agents.

SHANTY (Japan)

London, Jan 5 — Following Japan Navigational Warning dated today, states: Promulgation time 0255 JST, today. Seto Naikai, Bisan seto, west coast of Syoudoshima-Island, Kashima, stranded cargo vessel, general cargo *Shanty* (199 gt, built 1987) exists in vicinity of lat 34 28.004N, long 134 08.994E.

London, Jan 5 — Following Japan Navigational Warning dated today, states: Stranded vessel, general cargo *Shanty* removed/sunken wreck at promulgation time 0950, JST, today.

SHARK (Lebanon)

Beirut, Jan 9 — General cargo *Shark* is still lying sunk and under arrest at Beirut. — Lloyd's Agents.

SHIPPING-LAND 6 (South Korea)

Houston, Jan 9 — Repairs to bulker *Shipping-Land 6* have been deferred to the vessel's next scheduled docking. The vessel sailed Houston Jan 7 for New Orleans, to load grain. — Lloyd's Agents.

SIBIRSKIY 2101 (Russia)

London, Jan 10 — General cargo *Sibirskiy 2101*, Volos for Rostov, passed Dardanelles Jan 9.

SICHEM PANDORA (Malta)

See *Kleine Familie*.

SIMPATI (Russia)

London, Jan 10 — General cargo *Simpaty*, Kerch for Durres, passed Istanbul Jan 8, ETA Durres Jan 11.

SOLAR 1 (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 10 — The Philippine Environment Department has asked Petron Corp to return to Guimaras island and redo the clean-up of certain areas which are still contaminated by the oil spill from the sunken non specific tanker *Solar 1*. "Generally the environmental quality of Guimaras had already recovered except in terms of oil and grease content of coastal water in some areas particularly in the hardest hit areas of the municipality of Nueva Valencia and some of its islands and the Municipality of Sibunag," the DENR said in a statement. "Six sites were recommended for immediate physical clean up or removal of floating debris to hasten the natural washing of affected areas," DENR Regional Director Julian Amador said. Amador said that the Department has already requested Petron Corporation to return to these areas. Earlier, Petron had declared that it had completed the clean-up of all oil spilled affected areas in Guimaras island. About 180 kilometers of coastline were affected by the oil spill. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SPAR GARNET (NIS)

Falmouth, Jan 11 — Bulker *Spar Garnet* is still under repair. The vessel is expected to sail during Week 3. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Jan 5 — Passenger ro/ro *Spirit of Ontario I*, which should have been operating in the English Channel last summer, is finally on the move, but only to dry dock for repairs in Nova Scotia. The saga began when British potential cross-Channel competitors vied for the purchase of the 86 m craft from US city authorities in Rochester. Euroferries won the auction with a reported bid of £16.1m (\$30.5m), but the deal was never implemented and Rochester's mayor Bob Duffy admits the craft is still owned by his authority. Now, after months berthed at Rochester, it has left for Nova Scotia. It had to sail before the seaway closed for the winter freeze-up. "A little piece of history is leaving Rochester," said Mr Duffy, whose decision for the craft to leave was approved by Rochester Ferry Board. He is disappointed because he was confident the Euroferries deal was complete. Local journalists say US Coast Guards have checked the ferry's hull and tested the crew on safety drills. The craft made its way through the seven locks of the St Lawrence Seaway but had to stop unexpectedly at Quebec because of the weather. Meanwhile the City of Rochester says there are still talks in progress with four potential buyers.

STEVNS ARCTIC (DIS)

London, Jan 6 — Tug *Stevens Arctic* was reported arriving at Ymuiden at 1141 hrs, Jan 5. It sailed later the same day, at 1445 hrs.

SUNNA (NIS)

London, Jan 8 — General cargo *Sunna* is still in port at Lyness.

London, Jan 10 — Understand general cargo *Hauker* is due to arrive Lyness tomorrow to tranship the cargo from general cargo *Sunna*.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A skipper whose ship ran aground off Orkney was fined £2500 yesterday. Pole Edward Pawlus, 50, of general cargo *Sunna*, appeared at Kirkwall Sheriff Court and admitted failing to provide a look-out as required by international law. The court heard that the chief mate fell asleep on watch duty and the vessel hit rocks on the island of Swona.

Kirkwall, Jan 11 — General cargo *Sunna* is still at Lyness. General cargo *Hauker* has been delayed by bad weather and is expected to arrive at the weekend (Jan 13-14). *Sunna* is not expected to sail before Jan 17-18. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUPERFAST VIII (Estonia)

London, Jan 5 — Information received, dated Kiel Jan 3, states: Passenger ro/ro *Superfast VIII* (30285 gt, built 2001) tore its moorings in Rostock harbour, due to stormy winds, during the night of Dec 31/Jan 1 and turned around into the basin. Thereby it damaged "a bridge of the berth" and the quay. The foreship of the ferry was also damaged. The repair of the berth will take some weeks. It is understood repairs to the ferry will be carried out

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

the next time it is docked. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Superfast VIII* was in lat 57 30 50N long 17 55 31E, at 0648, UTC, today, speed 26.5 knots, course 178 degrees.)

London, Jan 5 — Passenger ro/ro *Superfast VIII* was reported both arriving at and sailing from Helsinki, on Jan 4.

TACOMA (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: A mechanical glitch on roll on roll off *Tacoma* (4998 gt, built 1997) could mean delays tomorrow for commuters who use Seattle's three ferry routes, the Transportation Department reported. A rudder malfunctioned this afternoon on the vessel, which sails between Seattle and Bainbridge Island. Several runs between Seattle and Bainbridge were cancelled or delayed between 1630 and 2100 hrs, Washington State Ferries spokeswoman Susan Harris-Huether said. Ferry officials planned to resume regular service by 2100 hrs by shifting several ferries around to compensate. Roll on roll off *Hyak*, which usually covers the Seattle-Bremerton trip, would fill in for *Tacoma*. *Hyak* then would be replaced by roll on roll off *Issaquah* from the Vashon Island-Southworth route, Harris-Huether said. Roll on roll off *Evergreen State* will sail from the Eagle Harbor shipyard to take over service to Vashon, she said. *Tacoma*, which covers the state's busiest route, could be in dry dock for a week, Harris-Huether said. Since the ferries on each run will hold fewer vehicles, commuters should leave 20-30 minutes earlier or plan to sail as walk-on passengers to ensure they make the sailing of their choice, Harris-Huether said. *Hyak* is slower than *Tacoma*, which could affect trip time, she said.

TAMPA (Norway (Int. Register))

London, Jan 5 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Vehicle carrier *Tampa* (66532 gt, built 1984) contacted a buoy on the river Weser west of Imsum at 1700, Jan 3. She came off her course due to a rudder failure and crashed against buoy 49 which broke lose and sank. She suffered only minor damage. It was stopped by an emergency anchoring and later on towed into the port of Bremerhaven by tugs. (Note — *Tampa* arrived Bremerhaven Dec 31, arrived and sailed Bremerhaven Jan 3 and subsequently arrived Zeebrugge Jan 5.)

Zeebrugge, Jan 8 — Vehicle carrier *Tampa* sailed Zeebrugge Jan 6 for Baltimore. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

TELTALE I (Guyana)

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Teltale I* (1094 gt, built 1978) sunk early yesterday morning in the Berbice River with early reports indicating that the incident may have been the result of heavy winds and rain. There were no injuries or fatalities. A Government Information Agency (GINA) press release said that

the Maritime Administration Department in the Ministry of Public Works and Communications is investigating the circumstances under which *Teltale I* sank around 0430, yesterday when it was transporting fertilizer for the Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) at a weight of 1,552 tonnes. Minister of Public Works and Communication Robeson Benn told GINA that reports indicated that the vessel sunk around 0430 hrs with 11 crewmen onboard. Workers at the bauxite company operating close to where the vessel sunk rendered assistance rescuing all the crewmen who were taken to safety. Benn said yesterday evening that investigations were ongoing, as MARAD officials were dispatched earlier in the day. "My information is that bad weather consisting of gusting winds and rain led to the sinking of the vessel," he said. The minister stated that the vessel was not blocking traffic along the river.

TEYMUR EHMEDOV (Azerbaijan)

London, Jan 11 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: On Jan 9, general cargo *Teymur Ehmədov* (3048 gt, built 1988) was involved in a "bow on" collision in Yeisk port, Azov Sea, with general cargo *Samur 4* (1719 gt, built 1987). *Samur 4*, which was moored at berth 6, in full load, waiting for cargo of paper, was dented - 250x250x70 cm, at the stern. *Teimur Ekhmedov* was in ballast, proceeding to berth with pilot on board & tugs standing by. There were no injuries, no spillage. The wind was three-five metres/second.

THE 205 (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 4, states: Todco has hired a major Houston law firm to help recover damage claims against the owner of the cargo vessel (bulker *Blue Star*) which struck Todco's drill platform *THE 205* last week off Veracruz, Mexico. Todco has retained Royston, Rayzor, Vickery & Williams as its legal representative in matters stemming from the collision. Todco has not yet determined the full extent of the damage, the cost and time to repair the rig or recoveries against the cargo vessel owner. According to Todco, the rig was waiting on weather outside of Veracruz when the vessel slammed into it. The platform was manned at the time, but no injuries have been reported. Some initial hull repairs will be needed just to get the rig ready for tow to a Veracruz shipyard. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Blue Star* was still stationary lat 19 12 22N, long 96 07 38W, at 2342, UTC, Jan 9.)

London, Jan 5 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Blue Star* was still stationary lat 19 12 22N, long 96 07 38W, at 0730, UTC, today.

THOR SENTRY (Faroe Islands)

Aalborg, Jan 9 — Fishing *Thor Sentry* was towed from Hanstholm to Esbjerg on Nov 16. It appears that the

vessel is not sold for scrapping, but is being rebuilt in Esbjerg. — Lloyd's Agents.

TORM ANHOLT (Panama)

London, Jan 10 — Bulker *Torm Anholt* arrived G.B. Shipyard, Freeport, Bahamas, Nov 7, and was reported still in port on Dec 1.

TRANSBORA (Turkey)

Novorossiysk, Jan 11 — The Rescue Centre has reported that preparatory works to facilitate the refloating of bulker *Transbora* commenced about one week ago. — Lloyd's Agents.

TZINI (Malta)

Manila, Jan 06 — Preliminary estimates by Taiwan's environmental authorities indicate that compensation for damage to local fishery resources as well as damage to the marine environment caused by the bulker *Tzini* will amount to at least \$312,500. The *Tzini* caused a serious oil spill when it ran aground off Taiwan's Suao Harbour on Dec 24. Taiwan's Environmental Protection Administration said that the compensation package will cover both the cost of cleaning-up and rehabilitating the environment as well as damage done to the local fishing industry. *Tzini*, P&I Club - Assuranceforeningen Gard of Norway, is now working out a mutually acceptable compensation package with Taiwanese authorities. The compensation claims is over and above the combined fines of \$92,000 that *Tzini's* owners will have to pay for causing the oil spill and for moving the vessel without authorisation after it was refloated on Dec 27. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Jan 10 — Following received from the operators of bulker *Tzini*, dated today: *Tzini* is presently alongside at Suao. No decision has yet been made regarding a repair yard. Once the yard is fixed, the vessel will be towed from Suao.

Taipei, Jan 11 — According to the local Web news, the Suao Fishermen's Association, Taiwan has submitted a claim for compensation, as a result of the pollution caused by the oil spillage from bulker *Tzini* of 11 hundred million Taiwan Dollars (approx. \$34,375,000). A fine of three million Taiwan Dollars (approx. \$93,750) has already been imposed by the Department of Environmental Protection and the vessels' owner has been requested to pay this fine before Feb 15. The vessel is still berthed at pier No.7, Su-Ao port, for repairs. Suao Harbour Bureau have requested that the vessel and her crewmembers should be detained, unless they received financial security from the owners or a letter of undertaking (LOU) from the vessel's protection and indemnity (P&I) club. — Lloyd's Agents.

ULYSSES (U.K.)

London, Jan 10 — A press release from The Maritime Coastguard Agency, timed 1023, UTC, today,

states: Aberdeen Coastguard is coordinating the safe return of trawler (All types) *Ulysses* (92 gt, built 1973) which was taking in water and losing power this morning off the far North West coast of Scotland. The Coastguard Rescue helicopter airlifted Coastguard pumps on board which have kept the vessel afloat. About 0630 hrs Aberdeen Coastguard was contacted by the skipper of *Ulysses* reporting they were suffering a serious ingress of water, were losing power and their pumps could not keep up. Aberdeen Coastguard immediately sent the Coastguard Rescue helicopter Mike Uniform from Stornoway to the scene with pumping equipment and Thurso RNLI all weather lifeboat. Another fishing vessel in the area went to assist the *Ulysses* which was in difficulty seven miles off the mouth of Loch Eriboll. The crew of the fishing vessel prepared for the worst and made ready their emergency equipment; life raft, EPIRB and were wearing life jackets. The Durness Coastguard Rescue Team were keeping a watch on the incident from the shoreline and reporting in to Aberdeen Coastguard. The winchman from the Coastguard Rescue helicopter went down onto the deck of *Ulysses* with the Coastguard pumps which are now working to keep the vessel afloat and the helicopter has returned to Stornoway. Thurso RNLI all weather lifeboat is escorting *Ulysses* along the coast this morning to make repairs at Scrabster. *Ulysses* is a 20m fishing vessel registered in Banff, with four crew and was returning from fishing grounds when she got into difficulty. The weather conditions are winds force 6 with a moderate sea.

London, Jan 10 — Following received from Aberdeen Coastguard MRCC, timed 1150, UTC: Trawler (All types) *Ulysses*, BF833, reported taking water this morning. As of half an hour ago source of ingress unknown. Two pumps put on board and being escorted to Scrabster at eight knots; 30 miles to go, ETA three to four hours.

London, Jan 10 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 1615, UTC: Trawler *Ulysses* was escorted safely alongside Scrabster harbour at 1340, UTC, today.

UNI HAUL 339 (Singapore)

London, Jan 8 — Understand salvage services are being rendered off Chinese to pontoon *Uni Haul 339* (5809 gt, built 2005), loaded, by Chinese salvors under Lloyd's Open Form.

London, Jan 11 — Pontoon *Uni Haul 339*, under tow of support *Dong Hai Jiu 111*, is due Wenzhou at 1400, local time, today. Vessel is expected to be berthed either today or tomorrow.

VAGABOND (Panama)

Tortola, Jan 8 — Roll On Roll Off *Vagabond* is still aground in the same position. Initial salvage operations were unsuccessful and have been temporarily abandoned until May 2007 and the swells drop. — Lloyd's Agents.

VIKING SUNRISE (Canada)

London, Jan 9 — At 0500 hrs, Jan 7, fishing (general) *Viking Sunrise* (91 gt, built 1977) ran aground at Parry Passage near Langara Island, BC, in lat 54 10N, long 132 58W.

London, Jan 9 — Following received from Victoria BC RCC, timed 1940, UTC: Fishing (general) *Viking Sunrise* was reported to have refloated at 0027, UTC, Jan 8. A visual inspection revealed no apparent damage/leakage. The vessel was taken in tow by *Western Investor* who towed her to Port Hardy. From there a sistership *Viking Storm* took over the tow and the vessels are now on passage to Vancouver.

VORIOS IPIROS HELLAS (Panama)

Tianjin, Jan 5 — Understand bulker *Long Hai* is still at Zhoushan, no repairing procedure. Bulker *Vorios Ipiros Hellas* is under arrest of Tianjin Maritime Court, temporary repairs have been performed. The master has been asked to discharge the cargo in holds according to Court's order. — Lloyd's Agents.

WILMA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated today, states: One month after general cargo *Wilma* struck the Levensau bridge, B 76, close to Kiel, the complicated preparations for the repair are almost complete. Workers have built a construction beneath the closed, 42 m high bridge spanning the Kiel Canal. The damaged steel will be welded off and replaced by newly built steel plates, said the authority for street building and traffic in Rendsburg yesterday. When the important bridge can be reopened is not yet clear. (Note — It is understood four steel plates will be removed. Then the hole will be 4.4 by 4 m. The Nobiskrug Yard in Rendsburg is constructing the replacement steel plates. It is important to remove as little steel as possible and to follow an exact welding plan. The first plate, 400 kg each, will be mounted by a crane next week and placed by hand in situ. The crane may not be placed on the damaged East side of the bridge, and there must not be any wind.

London, Jan 9 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: After repair in Hamburg, general cargo *Wilma* presently in Antwerp and after one or two short voyages will return to Norderyard for mounting the repaired crane.

WILSON MUUGA (Cyprus)

Reykjavik, Jan 5 — Forty tonnes of heavy fuel oil have now been pumped from the holds bulker of *Wilson Muuga*. A total of 130 tonnes of oil products have by now been pumped from the vessel. The authorities consider that no more oil is to be pumped and it is now the owner's responsibility to remove the vessel from the grounding site. — Lloyd's Agents.

WILSON TANA (Malta)

Portsmouth, UK, Jan 11 — Bulker *Wilson Tana* (4907 gt, built 1977), Montoir for Rouen, sustained engine damage off Audierne Bay, 1810, Jan 9. As a result of the damage the vessel was towed to Brest by tug *Abeille Bourbon* where it arrived at 1830, UTC, yesterday. — Correspondent. (Note — Understand salvage services were rendered to *Wilson Tana* under Lloyd's Open Form.)

WINBUILD 1802 (Singapore)

See *PW Kappa*.

WR 52 (Netherlands)

London, Jan 9 — Trawler (All types) *WR 52* (78 gt, built 1958) while leaving the port of Den Oever, north of Holland, heading for sea ran on the breakwater at about 0415, local time, yesterday, while rounding the bend too far. Skipper tried to free the ship on her own power but as she hit the stones with her propeller, the skipper stopped and warned the Coast Guard. At 0450, local time, lifeboat *Johanna Margareta* came to assist and two of her crew went over on the fishing vessel to connect a towline. Meanwhile the locks at Den Oever were sluicing out water, so *Johanna Margareta* was pulling *WR 52* against the out flowing water so that the propeller of the *WR 52* came clear of the bank. The towline was replaced to the bow of the fishing vessel and with the help of *Johanna Margareta* the fishing vessel was refloated around 0600, local time, and returned to the harbour of Den Oever for inspection.

XANDRINA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 4 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Xandrina* was located 13.2 nautical miles from Folkestone, in lat 50 53 02.72N, long 01 06 27.07E, at 0632, UTC, today, course 229 deg, speed 7.5 knots.

London, Jan 10 — General cargo *Xandrina* arrived Aveiro Jan 9.

XIBOHE (Panama)

London, Jan 6 — Container Carrier *Xibohe* arrived at Ashdod on Jan 5.

XIN JIN GUI (China)

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Thirteen crew members were rescued yesterday after the coal-loaded general cargo *Xin Jin Gui*, BAEC5, developed engine trouble while sailing in rough waters, 40 nautical miles south of Yangjiang City, in southern Guangdong, yesterday morning. The vessel was pulled to safe waters this morning.

YANG TONG (Cambodia)

Yokohama, Jan 11 — General cargo *Yang Tong* (1106 gt, built 1982), Kashima for Kawasaki, arrived Tateyama Bay 0110, Jan 6 for repair and ran aground in lat 35 00.9N, long 139 51.2E, due to strong wind. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Yang Tong* sailed Kashima Jan 5.)

YERUSLAN (Cambodia)

Portsmouth, UK, Jan 11 — At 2145 hrs, Jan 9, Cambodian general cargo

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Yeruslan (1232 gt, built 1967), with a crew of eight, caught fire, while at Vladivostok moorage N13. The fire was in the superstructure in the crew's living quarters. The fire was extinguished by 12 fire engines and two harbour tugs. — Correspondent.

YIN CHU

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers have managed to affix the first of 26 steel cables to capsized dredger *Yin Chu* in the Huangpu River, making way through its 20-metre-wide deck, the thick silt and stones on the river bed. The cables, each 1.07 metres wide, will link to six pairs of floating buoy canisters. The Shanghai Maritime Safety Administration, which is in charge of the salvage, has increased the number of divers from a dozen to 45 as the mercury has dropped below zero these days in Shanghai, Youth Daily reported today. "Our divers were forced to shorten their operation hours and they have to carry heating sticks to keep warm in the water," an official with the administration said. The salvage is expected to be complete before the Chinese Lunar New Year on Feb 18, said the official. The wreck was scheduled to be pulled out within 30 days when the salvage began on Dec 25, said a previous report. "It continues to incline," said the official with the administration. "The ship now sits at a 14-degree angle in the water, 2.5 degrees more than weeks ago when it began to flood and capsized on Dec 2." An underwater investigation on Dec 10 showed that the vessel's bottom is buried under two metres of silt, while divers found waste, mainly iron scraps and steel wires, entangling the wreck. The divers also discovered 10 holes, ranging from seven to 10 square metres, on the deck, filling the vessel with water and silt. "These all add to the difficulties of salvaging," the official said. "However, we're still lucky that the surface of the river is not frozen." Insiders said the salvage project will cost less than the earlier forecast of 20 million yuan (US\$2.55 million).

ZYGI (Bahamas)

Ponta Delgada, Jan 8 — Product tanker *Zygi* (24731 gt, built 1992), New York for Amsterdam, deviated to Ponta Delgada port on account of main engine cylinder liner damage. Vessel berthed at Ponta Delgada 1020, local time, yesterday and sailed 0800, local time today, resuming its voyage after repairs were completed. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Zygi* sailed New York 0950, Dec 29.)

Port State Control



CYPRUS

Limassol, Dec 31 — General cargo *Liberty A.* is still under detention at Limassol. — Lloyd's Agents.

HONG KONG

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated today, states: *Kang Nam 5* was sailing home today after being stranded in Hong Kong for two months waiting for its cash-strapped country to send money to fix equipment that violated safety regulations. The *Kang Nam 5* left its moorings on Thursday night (Jan 4) after its owners finally paid for the repairs to its lifesaving, communications and emergency lighting equipment, said the vessel's local agent, Topping Enterprises. A Topping spokesman said the vessel was sailing to North Korea's western port of Nampo. It planned to stop to refuel in the port of Lianyungang in the eastern Chinese province of Jiangsu, he said. "It may take up to three or four days to sail to Jiangsu because of bad weather. The vessel is expected to arrive home in about one week," he said.



ALBATROS (Cambodia)

Trieste, Jan 11 — Roll on roll off *Albatros* is still under detention at Trieste, situation unchanged. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANNIE SIERRA (Cyprus)

Karachi, Jan 10 — Bulker *Annie Sierra* (11506 gt, built 1980) was arrested at Port Muhammad Bin Qasim Nov 23 due to a cargo dispute and bethed at MW2, Port Muhammad Bin Qasim. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Annie Sierra* was reported to have arrived Port Muhammad Bin Qasim Nov "24" from Bandar Imam Khomeini, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was still at Port Muhammad Bin Qasim at 1227, UTC, today.)

ARIEL S. (Belize)

Beirut, Jan 9 — General cargo *Ariel S.* is still under arrest at Beirut. — Lloyd's Agents.

DODEKANISIAKI ANONYMOS NAFTILIAKI ETAIRIA

London, Jan 11 — Roll On Roll Off *Rodos*, now renamed *Rod*, arrived Alang Dec 4, to be broken up.

IBN SINA II (Algeria)

Zeebrugge, Jan 6 — General cargo *Ibn Sina II* sailed Antwerp Jan 5 for Algiers. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

JULIANA (Panama)

Beirut, Jan 9 — General cargo *Juliana* is still under arrest at Tripoli by order of the Israeli Boycott Office. — Lloyd's Agents.

KATRINA 2 (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 11 — The Philippine-registered passenger (cruise) *Katrina 2* has been released by Zamboanga police authorities. The vessel is now plying its regular route between

Zamboanga city and Jolo town. *Katrina 2* was released after police found no evidence linking the crew to a woman's decapitated head, found on the ship. The head was discovered by crew members in an ice box underneath one of the passenger bunks after it docked at Zamboanga port on Dec 27. The head was apparently left by one of the ship's passengers, police said. Police detained the vessel and its crew but were released after a few days. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

LAMA (Belize)

Beirut, Jan 9 — General cargo *Lama* is still lying sunk and under arrest at Beirut. — Lloyd's Agents.

PATRICIA (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 8 — The Philippine Coast Guard turned over jurisdiction of non specific tanker *Patricia* to the Bureau of Customs, today. The transfer of jurisdiction will pave the way for the issuance of an arrest and seizure order by Bureau of Customs against the vessel and its cargo of 600,000 liters of diesel fuel. The Bureau of Customs will also now be responsible for prosecuting the case against the crew and shipowner, while the Coast Guard will act as a witness in subsequent administrative and criminal proceedings. *Patricia* was arrested by Coast Guard personnel on Jan 1 for allegedly diverting its cargo of diesel fuel intended for delivery to two foreign vessels docked at the Port of Manila to a Manila depot. Officials allegedly that the tanker was engaged in oil smuggling as ship documents indicated that it's cargo was for transshipment purposes only and could not be unloaded locally. Being a smuggling offense, Coast Guard officials said that jurisdiction had to be transferred to the Bureau of Customs as it is the proper agency to handle the case. Coast Guard and Customs officials are currently discussing if the vessel will remain under custody of the Coast Guard or if responsibility for its detention will be transferred to the Bureau of Customs as well. The tanker and its 10-man crew are still detained at the Coast Guard Pasig River station in Aroceros, Manila. — Lloyd's Agents.

RODOS (Greece)

See "Dodekanisiaki Anonymos Naftiliaki Etairia."

SAOR-2 (Ukraine)

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: The Georgian authorities have detained the Ukrainian fishing (general) *Saor-2* (104 gt, built 1991) near Ochamchira, the Georgian Foreign Affairs Ministry has reported. The vessel has nine crew onboard. The Ministry further reported that the vessel has been ordered to Poti, under escort of a Georgian coastal guard vessel.

YUAN FA NO.16 (Taiwan)

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated Jan 3, states: Fishing *Yuan Fa*

No.16, length 47.5 metres, was arrested by the Argentine Coast Guard accused of fishing inside Argentina's EEZ and is currently en route to Comodoro Rivadavia. According to the official release from the Argentine Coast Guard, dated Jan 1, the fisheries patrol *Mantilla* detected and later arrested the vessel, which was "illegally" fishing 199 nautical miles offshore. Once approached and given the order to stop engines, the Taiwanese crew complied and a boarding party from *Mantilla* went to inspect the *Yuan Fa No.16*. The official report indicates that 370 boxes with 13 kilograms of squid each were found on board. *Yuan Fa No.16* has a crew of 27, from China, Taiwan, Philippines and Vietnam. It is currently being escorted to Comodoro Rivadavia where a federal judge is expected to begin proceedings.

and later fined. It was the first time a Swedish authority acted against foreign citizens for crimes committed in the economic zone of Sweden, and the case was tried in the Supreme Court.



BRAZIL

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated Jan 8, states: Communities across south-eastern Brazil have declared a state of emergency as torrential rain continues to cause extensive damage in the region. At least 50 people are reported to have died, more than half of them in the state of Rio de Janeiro, since the beginning of the year. Tens of thousands have been left homeless by floods and landslides. South-east Brazil has experienced almost continuous heavy downpours and thunderstorms since the new year. The worst affected areas have been the mountainous state of Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro on the coast, where 29 people have reportedly been killed in the past week. Many of the deaths have been caused by mudslides and the collapse of poorly-built homes on the steep hillsides. Brazil's main coastal highway was blocked when a bridge collapsed and at least two people were struck by lightning. The governor of Rio state, Sergio Cabral, is appealing for federal aid to help the worst-affected municipalities, 12 of which have declared an official state of emergency. In Rio alone at least 16,000 people are thought to have been left homeless. The exceptionally heavy rain has been provoked by a combination of tropical air from the Amazon and a cold front on the Atlantic coast. The conditions are expected to continue until at least the end of the week.

Rio de Janeiro, Jan 10 — Heavy rains caused a bauxite mine's rejects dam in the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais to burst and drive 5,000 people from their homes, Brazil's CBN radio station said today. Dozens of people have died and more than 8,000 have been left homeless in southeast Brazil in the past weeks due to mud slides and flooding from heavy rains. Industrias Quimicas Cataguases confirmed that the accident had occurred at its Mineracao Rio Pomba bauxite mine but gave no further details. CBN said Minas Gerais' environmental regulator, Feema, estimated that two million cubic metres of mud used in bauxite washing had overflowed its holding reservoir, but Feema said that no toxic waste was contained in the mud. The newspaper O Globo's Internet page quoted local fire officials saying that the rejects from the mine had entered the Muriae River, which overran its banks and flooded parts of the towns Mirai and Muriae. — Reuters.

GREECE

Piraeus, Jan 8 — The Corinth Canal re-opened on Jan 5, following completion of repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

INDONESIA

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A landslide killed up to 13 people in a western Indonesian village, burying several homes and a small mosque, police said today. The landslide yesterday in Sungai Sariak, a village on Sumatra island, followed days of heavy rain, said district police Lt Col Yadi Prariyadi. "We believe 13 died after they were buried beneath the mud," he said. "Rescuers have not been able to reach them." Flooding and landslides last month killed more than 100 people on Sumatra, the country's westernmost island.

MALAYSIA

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Vessel berthing and unberthing activities at Kerteh Port and Dulang Offshore Terminal have been temporarily suspended due to adverse weather. The Wind & Rough Sea Warning issued by the Malaysian Meteorology Department advises of strong winds and rough seas in coastal waters of east coast peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak and Sabah. Strong northeasterly winds 50-60 kmph and rough seas with waves up to 5.5 metres over the coastal waters off the East Coast of Peninsular are expected to persist until Friday Jan 12. Strong northeasterly winds 50-60 kmph and rough seas with waves up to 4.5 metres over the coastal waters of Sabah and Sarawak are expected to persist until Friday Jan 12. These strong winds and rough seas are dangerous to shipping activities (including fishing activities and ferry services) and coastal activities. Further, widespread thunderstorm activity in coastal waters of Pahang, East Johor and Sulu Sea, Sabah is expected to continue until tomorrow.

PANAMA

Balboa, Jan 6 — General cargo *Perseus V* remains in the same location and undergoes repairs with men working above and below deck. Painting appears to have been completed. General cargo *Liberty V* remains in the same position with the divers flag raised and men are working on board. General cargo *Princess Aviv* remains adjacent to Pier 3 at 5th and Front Street in Colon. No apparent work being done at this time. — Lloyd's Agents.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "ISOBEL"

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The ports of Dampier, Port Walcott and Port Hedland were affected by the passing of tropical cyclone "Isobel". Dampier was officially closed on the evening of Jan 2 and reopened for vessels to anchor at 1040 hrs, Jan 3. East Intercourse Island and Parker Point

Pollution



CAPETAN MICHALIS (GREECE)

Piraeus, Jan 5 — The local port authorities permitted the departure of chemical tanker *Capetan Michalis*. Clean-up operation of the spill was reportedly completed. The tanker sailed the same day, Dec 28. — Lloyd's Agents.

MOBILE, ALABAMA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 9 — A press release issued by the U.S. Coast Guard in Mobile, dated Jan 7, states: A crude-oil storage tank leaked approximately 100 to 300 barrels of oil into a drainage ditch at an oil containment farm here today. The oil in the drainage ditch has been contained. Crews have deployed a containment boom and are working to recover the oil. The oil in the storage container, which holds approximately 300,000 barrels of oil, is currently being transferred to a barge and other storage facilities. The Alabama Bulk Terminal Company notified Coast Guard Sector Mobile of the leak at approximately 1530 hrs, shortly after discovering the leak. The oil released was contained in the spill containment area of the oil farm and heavy rain caused an overflow into the drainage ditch. The cause of the leak is under investigation.

SYLVE (Cyprus)

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated Jan 7, states: The owner of Cyprus- general cargo *Sylve* (1999 gt, built 1990) has been ordered to pay a water pollution charge of SEK 110,000. In November 2004, a surveillance aircraft from the Swedish Coast Guard caught the ship in the act when discharging 6000 litres of diesel oil east of Gotland. The ship was taken to port where the master and chief engineer were placed in custody

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reopened at 0600 hrs today, when wind and swell criteria were met. Port Walcott was closed at 1700 hrs, Jan 2, and reopened for vessels to anchor at 1200 hrs, yesterday. Port Hedland was officially closed to all inbound vessels at 1100 hrs, Jan 2, and subsequently closed to all traffic at 1400 hrs, the same day, with all vessels ordered to sea. The port reopened at 1600 hrs, Jan 3. Significant rainfall was experienced in inland areas as a result of the cyclone. However, the heaviest rainfall was south and east of the major iron ore mining areas of inland Pilbara. Esperance is currently affected by heavy rain. A vessel currently alongside the iron ore berth has had loading suspended due to the weather, but the vessel will remain alongside at this stage. Loading is expected to resume tomorrow. There are no indications at this stage that the rain will affect iron ore production or railing.

Canberra, Jan 5 — A large storm front battering Australia's south-west continued to disrupt mining operations on Friday for the country's two largest nickel producers, BHP Billiton and Minara Resources, as flooding swept local communities. Gale winds and heavy rains, caused by the tail of a tropical cyclone linking up with a powerful Southern Ocean storm, hit the southern coast of Western Australia overnight, causing flood damage to the town of Esperance and surrounding region. Described by authorities as a "once in a generation" storm, the front was easing today after dumping 220 millimetres of rain, but fallen trees and flooding closed many roads. BHP Billiton's workforce at its Ravensthorpe nickel project, scheduled to go into service in 2008, remained at token levels, while mining operations at the Mt. Keith and Leinster nickel mines were closed until the ground dried out. "Given the rain it's not safe for us to operate at the moment," BHP spokeswoman Emma Meade said, adding that the company's concentrators continued to run. "It's just really the mining side that's been impacted due to safety reasons," she said. Large trucks and mining machinery were unable to operate on the drenched ground. The Mt. Keith and Leinster mines produce about 87,000 tonnes of nickel a year, or about 6 percent of world mine output. Nickel prices have been at record highs on the back of demand from China, and were trading around \$34,000 a tonne today on the London Metal Exchange, up from \$13,500 a tonne in last January. Minara, Australia's second biggest nickel producer, had also halted mining operations at its Murrin Murrin site, but expected them to resume within days. "The plant is still operating. They've got about four months stockpile of high-grade ore. They reckon the mine should have dried out enough for mining to start over the weekend again," spokesman Willie Rowe said. "It hasn't affected production at all." Australia's Bureau

of Meteorology said the front would start to weaken as it moved south, away from the coast. — Reuters.

Sydney, Jan 5 — The port of Esperance was without power this morning after a severe storm lashed the Western Australian coast last night. The storm also brought heavy rainfall to mining operations around Kalgoorlie. An intense low pressure system brought storm force winds and unseasonal heavy rainfall of up to 170 mm to the state's southern coast after ex-cyclone "Isobel" - which forced the closure of Pilbara ports on Wednesday (Jan 3) - merged with another low pressure system. Port of Esperance harbour master Ian Harrod said the storm had blown trees and fences over, but had not caused any structural damage. The blackout delayed the resumption today of loading iron ore on the port's only berthed vessel, the 79,000 grt carrier *Coppersmith*. Power is expected to be restored to Esperance and nearby townships by this afternoon. The port of Albany, about 450 km to the west of Esperance, was unaffected by the storm. The heavy rainfall temporarily shut down several Kalgoorlie mining operations, including BHP Billiton's Nickel West mines and rival Minara's Murrin Murrin mine. BHP partially closed its Leinster and Mt Keith mines, but said it had resumed all but its open-cut operations. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Storm force winds have led to disruption on rail and ferry services across the South East. Trees across railway lines near Newington and Chatham, Kent, affected Southeastern services. "Very rough" sea conditions in the English Channel led ferry crossings in Kent and Sussex being suspended. The Met Office said severe weather warnings had been in place in many areas of the UK. In the South East, gusts of more than 60mph were forecast. A large tree fell on the southbound line near Newington in Kent, between Chatham and Sittingbourne, just after 0500 UTC. Nine trains were delayed by at least an hour before the tree was removed at 0640 UTC, a spokesman for Southeastern Railways said. On the roads, the Dartford bridge over the Thames was partially closed because of the high winds. Storm force winds led to Channel ferry crossings being disrupted a Port of Dover spokeswoman said. She said the disruption affected all sailings to Calais by P&O Ferries and SeaFrance, to Dunkerque by Norfolkline, and to Boulogne by SpeedFerries. Ferries were also cancelled at Newhaven port in Sussex.

UNITED STATES

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: National Guard troops headed for snowbound fields in trucks piled high with hay today and prepared their helicopters to resume an emergency haylift that had already

dropped more than 900 bales across Colorado's rangeland in an effort to save stranded and starving cattle. Using smaller helicopters, ranchers landed near frozen streams and used sledgehammers to chop ice from the water for the livestock to drink. The situation on the snowbound plains is getting dire. Typically, cattle can survive only five to 10 days without food or water in good conditions, state veterinarian John Maulsby said. For the cattle in eastern Colorado and on the Kansas and Nebraska plains, it has now been a week since a blizzard dropped up to three feet of snow and whipped up 10-foot-high drifts. "We think there are probably 30,000 head (of cattle) out there that are at risk that we're having to make sure we feed," said Maj. Gen. Mason Whitney of the Colorado Guard. There is no estimate of how many have died. Pilots leading the emergency haylift yesterday were mostly seeing groups of 10 or 20 cows, rather than 100 or more, said Dan Hatlestad, spokesman for the Southeast Area Operations Command, a regional emergency response team. Cattle were already spread thinly across the region before the storm hit because a prolonged drought had left little grass for them to eat. The back-to-back holiday blizzards have since covered fences dividing pastures so the animals have scattered even more. One Lamar-area rancher could find only half of his 600-head herd, said Don Ament, the Colorado agriculture commissioner. Ament said farmers and ranchers have told him it's worse than the 1997 blizzard that killed 30,000 cattle and cost \$28 million in agriculture losses. Colorado health and agriculture officials planned to meet today to discuss what to do with the dead and disabled cattle that are found. Ament said he wants to put the meat to use if possible and will contact rendering operations. One Kansas feedlot owner said he had lost 450 cattle out of the 155,000 he has on feed preparing for slaughter and 20 dairy cows out of his herd of 7,500. Still, Roy Brown, co-owner of Cattle Empire near Satanta, said his insurance would cover his losses, which he estimated at about \$350,000. The storm, blamed for at least 13 deaths, left utility crews in sections of Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado and Oklahoma working around the clock to restore power to tens of thousands of homes and businesses. About 11,000 utility customers were without power statewide in Nebraska, and thousands were in the dark in Kansas. Officials warned that some rural areas could be without electricity for weeks. U.S. Senator Ken Salazar, D-Colo., yesterday sought federal disaster relief for people and livestock in the southeastern part of the state. New Mexico's Governor Bill Richardson and Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman also asked for a disaster declaration, as did the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. A spokeswoman said Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius also planned to ask for federal disaster assistance.

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The third snowstorm in as many weeks hit Colorado yesterday, blanketing the Denver area with up to eight inches of new snow and further hampering efforts to rescue thousands of cattle stranded by last week's blizzard. Crews worked around the clock to clear roads so residents could get to stores for food and medicine. Several school districts cancelled classes because winds gusts up to 30 mph had reduced visibility. In Kansas, an estimated 60,000 people were still without power after more than a week, and the new storm was headed their way after nearly a foot of snow fell in the foothills west of Denver. An estimated 6,000 to 10,000 utility customers were without power yesterday night in Nebraska, the utility company said. In hard-hit southeastern Colorado, no more than one inch of new snow was expected, but the winds made road clearing difficult. Agriculture officials were still trying to determine how to deal with the carcasses of thousands of livestock that were killed in the blizzard or starved afterward. An estimated 3,500 cattle are believed to have died on rangeland in six southeastern Colorado counties alone, said Leonard Pruett, the region's agriculture extension agent for Colorado State University. In a massive effort to save stranded rangeland cattle, the Colorado National Guard conducted a three-day airlift that dropped about 3,000 hay bales to herds spotted on the rangeland. Troops trucked in hay and smashed ice on watering holes for livestock trapped and weakened by the earlier blizzard. While that likely saved livestock, the survivors still face the threat of lung infections from the stress of the storm and dehydration. In Washington, Senator Wayne Allard and Rep. Marilyn Musgrave introduced bills yesterday to help speed financial aid to ranchers who have lost livestock in Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, New Mexico and Oklahoma. Among the many effects of the blizzards, the price of hay has jumped from \$150 a ton to \$210 a ton, and much grazing land was still inaccessible, Pruett said.

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A massive avalanche has hit a major highway in the western US state of Colorado, pushing cars off the road. The avalanche, described by local rescue crews as the largest they had ever seen, struck at the Berthoud Pass, 60 miles west of Denver. The mass of snow pushed at least two cars off the road, burying them with their occupants still inside. Eight people were pulled from the buried vehicles and taken to hospital by helicopter. Bob Wilson, a spokesman for the Colorado Department of Transportation, said one person had been injured. The avalanche was 200ft wide and 15ft deep, and buried at

least two cars along US Highway 40. Most traffic heading to the Winter Park ski area had already passed the site, reports say. Colorado has been hit with three major snow storms in the last few weeks, and Winter Park, one of the largest ski areas in the state, reported 10in of fresh snow in 48 hours.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: Howling winds shut down the Port Townsend-Keystone ferry run and prompted a warning for motorists crossing the Tacoma Narrows Bridge as a long-advertised cold front started its advance into Western Washington this afternoon. The National Weather Service issued a wind advisory for most of the region and a high wind watch for Port Townsend area through this evening. Wind gusts could reach 60 mph or more in the Admiralty Inlet area later today, and the Kitsap Peninsula could experience 45-mph gusts this afternoon. The strong wind is accompanied by sideways rainfall. The Port Townsend ferry run was suspended until the 1715 hrs sailing due to the winds, and strong crosswinds were reported on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. A second weather bulletin warned of plunging temperatures and snowfall through most of the Puget Sound lowlands by tomorrow morning. One to three inches of snow are possible through most of the region, the National Weather Service said, as temperatures drop below freezing and a disturbance moves through the area. With the official weather warnings coming one after another, the Bainbridge Island School District announced contingency plans for tomorrow, which is currently slated to be an early-dismissal day. All school districts advised families to check early tomorrow morning for the latest information about possible school delays or closures. Tomorrow's expected snowfall will be accompanied by falling temperatures. After the snow ends tomorrow night, a second cold wave will move through the area, and temperatures are projected to drop into the teens or lower 20's Fahrenheit at night for two or three days, with clearing conditions. Daytime temperatures may not rise above freezing on Thursday or Friday (Jan 11-12).

YEMEN

London, Jan 5 — At least seven people have been killed and thousands driven from their homes by torrential rains and flooding in Yemen, government officials said today. Rain has been pounding Yemen, one of the poorest countries in the Arab world, for days, causing rockslides that have blocked roads and made it hard to get aid to the affected areas. The western area of Rayma and the southern Dhamar province were among the worst hit. Officials said more than 600 houses had been destroyed or damaged across the country, leaving more than 2,000 people homeless.

Earthquakes



CANADA

Vancouver, British Columbia, Jan 9 — A moderate earthquake rattled northwestern British Columbia and the Alaska Panhandle today, but there were no immediate reports of damage, seismologists said. The temblor at 0749 hrs (1549, UTC) was centered in the mountains of British Columbia about 192 km southwest of Whitehorse, Yukon, in a sparsely populated area prone to earthquakes, according to Natural Resources Canada. Canadian seismologists said the quake was magnitude 6.0, although the Alaska Earthquake Information Center put the strength at magnitude 5.7. — Reuters.

EASTER ISLAND REGION

London, Jan 2 — A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 2248, UTC, Dec 31. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located in the Easter Island region in lat 28.519S, long 112.236W, depth 10 km.

FIJI

London, Jan 9 — A report, dated today, states: A magnitude 6.2 earthquake occurred in lat 18.48S, long 177.91W, depth 407 km at 2052, UTC, Jan 8.

TAIWAN

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Five repair ships have arrived in Taiwanese waters to fix earthquake-damaged undersea cables that have slowed down internet traffic in the region, but the repair work could last two to three weeks, the state-run Chunghwa Telecom Co said today. "The repair ships ... arrived in Taiwan waters yesterday and sailed to the site of the damaged cables today," Chunghwa Telecom said in a statement. "They will check and fix the damaged cables, but the repair will take two to three weeks," the statement said.

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Internet and telephone users in Asia will have to wait at least another week before systems hit by last month's earthquake off Taiwan are back to normal. Work is getting under way on undersea telecommunications cables which were damaged by the earthquake. A UK firm involved in the work said most repairs should be completed in a week to 10 days. Traffic was switched away from the cables after the quake, but connections have been slower than normal. The magnitude 7.1 earthquake on December 26, badly damaged some eight submarine optic fibre cables on the seafloor of the Bashi channel

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between Taiwan and the Philippines. The cables serve Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, South Korea and Japan - all of whom suffered severe disruption to their internet and telephone networks. UK-based Global Marine Systems is sending three of some six or seven ships that will work on retrieving the cables from the 4,000m deep sea bed and fixing them. The firm's regional director, Ian Douglas, said the earthquake had caused an unprecedented level of damage to the cables. "Twenty-one support cable faults occurred. That's more than we would expect to see across the whole of Asia in 12 months," he said. He said the job would be extremely difficult as some cables had become trapped under the seabed or were tangled up. "The very deep water is beyond the limits of the unmanned subs that we would normally have used," he said. "Instead, we must use a kind of grappling hook - a rope with chains and hooks attached - that can be dragged along the sea bed to try and find the cable." He said, in some cases, up to 100km of cable may have been buried or damaged. Despite the difficulties, Mr Douglas said that by next Monday (Jan 15) "we hope enough cables are restored so that there will not be the current degradation in internet speeds." He predicted it would take a week to 10 days to correct most of the faults. Telecoms operators routed services through other means such as overland cables after the undersea cables were hit, but millions of internet and phone users from South Korea to Hong Kong have continued to encounter problems and delays.

UNITED STATES

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: A moderate earthquake jolted South-east Alaska today and was widely felt throughout the Panhandle. There were no immediate reports of damage, according to the Alaska Earthquake Information Center in Fairbanks. Judy Erickson of Haines said it was one of the biggest temblors she had felt in a long time. The quake, at 0649 hrs, had a magnitude of 5.7, according to preliminary estimates, the center said. It was centered 57 miles west of Haines at a depth of five miles. The earthquake was felt in Haines, Juneau, Sitka and numerous other communities. Haines is about 500 miles south-east of Anchorage.



SOUFRIERE HILLS, MONTSERAT

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of people living at the base of Montserrat's Soufriere Hills volcano

evacuated as a lava dome grew to dangerous levels in the British Caribbean island. Scientists say that the dome could crumble and send blistering gas and volcanic debris down the slopes of the volcano, potentially destroying homes in the low-lying Belham Valley. "Residents in these areas are advised not to panic and to start preparations for moving to safe area," Chief Minister Lowell Lewis said after the first siren sounded yesterday. The volcanic dome had been building rapidly and has topped the highest part of the 3,000-foot volcano, which coughs up ash and bursts its lava cap every few months. Scientists at the Montserrat Volcano Observatory said some pyroclastic flows already have been observed but that they are at a safe distance. However, the observatory warned that the pyroclastic flows could escalate significantly.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated Jan 8, states: The Soufriere Hills volcano that destroyed Montserrat's capital in 1997 shot a cloud of ash more than five miles into the sky today, and one of the island's chief scientists said the blast was "a warning call." The government has advised about 50 families on the north-western side of the volcano's base that their homes were at risk from flows of blistering gas and debris if the dome collapses. Governor Deborah Barnes Jones said she would sign an evacuation order today making it illegal for people to remain in the area. The blast, accompanied by increased seismic rumbling, released gases and steam from inside a lava dome that has grown rapidly over the last week, said Dr Vicky Hards, director of the Montserrat Volcano Observatory. The explosion around sunrise also sent a flow of volcanic material cascading two miles down the northwest flank, but did not immediately threaten any of the British Caribbean island's 5,000 inhabitants, Hards said. Sirens alerted people to listen to the radio for updates. "People in the affected area know who they are and should work urgently on packing up and arranging for alternative accommodations," Barnes Jones said in a radio address. Only "a handful" of residents were believed to still be living in the threatened area, said Mark Twigg, head of the governor's office. The volcano's latest burst of activity began on Dec 24. Glowing streaks of red from the pyroclastic flows have created nighttime spectacles visible across much of the island. The volcano's rising dome remained in place after today's explosion, raising fears of a bigger event soon. The volcano became active in 1995, and more than half the territory's 12,000 inhabitants moved away. An eruption in 1997 buried much of the south, including the capital of Plymouth, and killed 19 people.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Nato says as many as 150 Taliban militants have been killed in a battle in eastern Afghanistan. "The insurgents had been observed gathering in Pakistan and had crossed the border prior to launching an attack," Nato said in a statement. Nato said Pakistan had helped Nato monitor the fighters, who were then hit with artillery and air strikes. The Afghan defence ministry earlier estimated 80 fatalities. There was no independent confirmation of numbers. The battle took place in Afghanistan's Paktika province, close to the Pakistani border. The Nato statement said two groups of Taliban were monitored and tracked as they crossed the border, and then attacked. "Initial battle damage estimates indicate as many as 150 insurgents were killed," it said. While the defence ministry put the death toll at 80, an Afghan commander, General Murad Ali, said only about 10 bodies were recovered. He personally estimated the death toll at about 50. Paktika province borders the Pakistani tribal areas of North and South Waziristan, where Pakistan has signed non-aggression pacts with militants. Afghanistan says this has allowed the Taliban to flourish and given them a base from which to launch an increasing number of attacks on its territory.

BANGLADESH

Dhaka, Jan 7 — Activists and police clashed in Bangladesh today, injuring at least 50 people at the start of a three-day transport blockade aimed at derailing upcoming elections. Witnesses said police were also injured in the clashes in Shyamoli, a residential area of the capital, Dhaka. Police used teargas and rubber bullets against stone-throwing, stick-wielding activists of a multi-party alliance that has boycotted general elections due on January 22. Police have vowed to scuttle the latest stoppage but by early afternoon it had largely taken hold and there was little traffic on the roads in many areas. Police detained about 30 people in Shyamoli and other city areas where protesters scuffled with police as they pushed through barricades, witnesses said. Yesterday, police banned rallies, blockades and other protests to try to maintain order in the run-up to the vote, promising that offenders would be dealt with strictly. But the alliance led by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, head of the Awami League, vowed to go ahead with the transport shutdown. Rail officials said protesters stopped trains at major junctions. At Savar, 25 km from the capital, protesters attacked

vehicles trying to ignore the blockade. Deliveries from the main seaport at Chittagong and at several land ports connecting India and Myanmar were also suspended. The alliance said the blockade was aimed at forcing President Iajuddin Ahmed to step down as head of the interim government and force the election commission to announce new poll schedules. Iajuddin, in a statement late yesterday, said there was no way he or the election commission would delay the ballot because of constitutional constraints. Troops began patrolling Dhaka's streets yesterday while paramilitary soldiers and elite Rapid Action Battalion members fanned out across the country to try to foil the blockade. — Reuters.

Chittagong, Jan 7 — Major political opposition parties have called for a nationwide blockade for 72 hours from today to Jan 9, to press certain demands. Consequently, direct deliveries of cargo from vessels and shed delivery have remained suspended. Similarly loading/stuffing of export cargo has also remained suspended. However, the discharging of containers from vessel and unstuffing of LCL containers at the port transit sheds are continuing. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Police have fired tear gas and used batons to disperse stone-throwing protesters amid a second day of violence in the Bangladeshi capital. A number of people were injured and several arrests were made in Dhaka as a three-day nationwide transport blockade called by opposition parties continued. The Awami League and its allies want elections set for this month postponed, saying they will not be free and fair. Bangladeshi President Iajuddin Ahmed says the elections will go ahead. The BBC's John Sudworth in Dhaka says police fired tear gas to clear the area around the presidential office in the centre of the capital. But he says the violence so far is not on the scale of Sunday, when dozens were reported injured in a number of outbreaks of rioting across the city. Much of the transport system remained paralysed on Monday and most businesses were shut, witnesses said. Opposition activists manned checkpoints to prevent vehicles moving. President Ahmed says the elections will go ahead as planned on Jan 22. He has headed a caretaker government since the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) handed over interim power at the end of October. Late on Sunday, a presidential adviser said the interim administration would consult the opposition to try to end the impasse. Previous agitation over the issue has led to more than 30 deaths countrywide and the opposition parties say the protests will continue until their demands are met. The Awami League said more than 1,000 activists were detained ahead of the protests. Its main demand is that the

government use an updated version of the 2000 voter register, and not one created over the past few years. The political bloc led by the BNP accuses the Awami League of "sensing defeat" and being determined to sabotage the elections.

Dhaka, Jan 8 — Bangladesh's army chief was summoned to the presidential palace today following a day of renewed clashes between police and political activists two weeks before parliamentary elections. At least 50 people were injured and 30 detained on the second day of a transport blockade, called by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's multi-party alliance, which is boycotting the Jan 22 vote. Police used batons and tear gas to disperse Hasina's stone-throwing supporters after they set ablaze several vehicles across the capital Dhaka and its outskirts, witnesses said. As the violence spread, caretaker President Iajuddin Ahmed summoned army chief Lieutenant-General Moiuiddin U.Khan to the presidential palace. Officials said they might discuss the latest developments and possible ways to restore order ahead of the polls. Army troops, who are patrolling the streets of Dhaka, have so far avoided direct confrontation with the activists. About 70 people including police were injured yesterday, the first day of the three-day blockade. Hasina's alliance called for the blockade in protest at what it sees as the interim government's inability to hold a free and fair vote. It says Iajuddin favours Hasina's rival, Begum Khaleda Zia, in the polls. The alliance, which has threatened to block access to the presidential palace tomorrow, wants Iajuddin to resign but he has refused. Today buses and lorries did not operate, deliveries from ports were suspended and most businesses and educational institutions were closed. Rail and ferry services were also disrupted. Some taxis and rickshaws were operating within the capital Dhaka but alliance activists manned strategic points to prevent vehicles entering and leaving the city, they added. — Reuters.

Karachi, Jan 9 — Bangladesh import and export through sea and land ports have been partially suspended for the last three days due to ongoing three-day country-wide blockade program of Awami League-led alliance from Sunday (Jan 7). The Chittagong Port suffered most and huge containers have piled up at port yards and a long waiting list of vessels for berth. It is said premier seaport of Chittagong experienced record container congestion at its different yards mainly due to slow delivery of import cargoes from the port. Delivery of import cargoes became slow over past few days due to Eid vacation followed by this blockade program beginning from Sunday last. Port officials said a total of 20,500 TEUs containers remained stockpiled at different yards against a storage capacity of 14,500 containers at its Chittagong Container Terminal (CCT) and other yards at the

port. Of them, 16,828 containers were with import cargoes, 1,572 export cargoes and the rest 2,100 empty containers. Port officials also said 20-feeder vessels are waiting at the outer anchorage with 11,000 import containers. Besides, nine feeder vessels that took berth a few days back at different port jetties have 9,000 containers to discharge. Separately, like other landports, activities at Hili and Burimari landports also remained suspended, said Azizur Rahman, a presidium member of the Bangla-Hili Customs Clearing and Forwarding Association. He told media that a good number of goods-laden trucks were seen stranded both in the Indian and Bangladesh territories at the Hili landport area carrying different categories of goods. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Jan 10 — Chittagong port has been hit by a fresh three-day nationwide transport blockade in Bangladesh, ahead of the Jan 22 general elections, with some 56 foreign and local vessels being unable to load or unload. This is the third such countrywide transport stir since October last year, when Bangladesh National Party chief Begum Khaleda Zia completed her five-year term as Prime Minister and handed over power to a caretaker government headed by President Iajuddin Ahmed. The interim government has proved to be extremely unpopular, with a 14-party alliance, led by bitter political rival and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Wajed, accusing election commissioners of being biased towards Begum Zia and the BNP. As many as 45 people have been killed and hundreds injured in clashes between supporters of rival factions in the lead-up to the elections. The Hasina-led alliance has enforced the latest blockade since Sunday, Jan 7, in protest at what it says is the interim government's failure to ensure a free and fair vote. "We have suspended loading and unloading of cargo due to the scarcity of space for storage," said Chittagong Port Authority secretary Farhad Hossain. All cargo yards and storage areas have filled up as the transport blockade has prevented goods from leaving the port. Around 21,000 teu has been stockpiled at the port yards, and a further 19,000 teu are waiting to be unloaded from ships. "The situation will not improve if the blockade and other unrest continue along the highways and railway lines," Mr Hossain said. Chittagong port handles 80% of the country's external trade, equivalent to some 22m tonnes of cargo, including around 830,000 teu. It handles some 2,000 ships annually.

Karachi, Jan 10 — Cargo handling at Chittagong port has resumed. The situation was worsened when dockworkers refrained from joining the gang booking from yesterday morning showing solidarity with the ongoing blockade programme. Since the opposition protest is over until next announcement, the dockworkers have also called off their strike at

2000, Jan 9 and loading and unloading resumed, port secretary Syed Farhad Uddin Ahmed told journalists. To clear congestion, port officials would sit late at terminal to provide required assistance to the importers to expedite the delivery of cargoes. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro, Jan 4 — Brazil's president ordered the military to Rio de Janeiro today to help curb a wave of gang violence that has killed about 20 people in the beachside city in about a week. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva issued the order after receiving a request yesterday from Rio de Janeiro state Gov. Sergio Cabral asking for support from the military police and also from the army, navy and air force. "Both requests were attended," a presidential spokeswoman told Reuters. The defense minister and the head of Brazil's national security cabinet are still deciding how many troops will be deployed, when they will go and how long they will stay, she said. Rio de Janeiro, an important tourist and business centre, suffered a wave of gang violence last week in which seven people were burned alive on a bus and two policemen were shot dead. Lula called the attacks "terrorism" that should be treated by the Brazilian state. The city has calmed but scattered episodes of violence have continued. Before dawn today, a van filled with tourists was stopped by armed men on the highway and everyone inside was robbed. — Reuters.

COLOMBIA

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: A Colombian ex-minister held hostage for more than six years by left-wing guerrillas has escaped after a military operation to secure his release. A number of rebels from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc) are said to have been killed. Fernando Araujo was one of 59 high profile hostages held by the Farc as potential bargaining tools for a prisoner exchange with the government. The former development minister escaped from a rebel camp in the north of the country as Farc rebels battled troops, Defence Minister Juan Manuel Santos said. Mr Araujo, he added, was in good health, and the offensive in a rural part of the department of Bolivar was continuing. Mr Araujo said he was the only hostage in the camp and had made a "decision of life and death" to flee when the gunfight began. President Alvaro Uribe said an informant had led troops to the camp. The last time Mr Araujo's family had heard he was alive was in December 2005, when the Farc released a video in which he called on the government to agree to a prisoner exchange. He had been captured in December 2000, while jogging on the beach in Cartagena, his home town. Mr Araujo served under President Andres Pastrana who governed from 1998 to 2002.

INDIA

Guwahati, Jan 6 — Separatist rebels in India's restive northeastern state of Assam killed 43 people, mostly labourers and traders, in a series of coordinated overnight attacks, police said today. Police said heavily armed United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) guerrillas gunned down at least 12 people in one remote village in Tinsukia. "The massacre took place in an inaccessible area and the victims are mostly brick kiln workers and milk sellers," a senior intelligence officer told Reuters in Guwahati, the state's main city. The rebels also gunned down eight traders in a crowded market in Tinsukia's Doomduma town, police said, adding another nine people were killed in separate attacks in the district. A further 13 labourers, including a woman, were killed in two separate strikes in Dibrugarh district. "There were about 10 militants in each group and they attacked the labourers when they were preparing their dinner," V.K. Ramiseti, a senior police official in Dibrugarh, said. Another person was killed when militants triggered a blast in Sivasagar district. "Witnesses told police that attackers came with their faces covered, and they tied the hands and legs of the victims before they were shot dead," a police officer, requesting anonymity, told Reuters. The attacks forced the authorities to step up security across Assam. "Anti-insurgency operations will be intensified," Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi told Reuters. Police said the violence was an attempt to create an atmosphere of fear after an independent opinion poll by a peace group in nine districts of the oil-and-tea rich state showed 90 percent of the people rejected the ULFA's separatist demands. The three districts that witnessed the attacks had not been polled, but were to be included in the second phase of polling by the group, Assam Public Works. The ULFA has described the poll as a conspiracy of Indian intelligence officials. "Such an exercise is meaningless and fruitless," ULFA chairman Arabinda Rajkhowa told Reuters. "No referendum or opinion polls can be conducted without our consent and the supervision of credible international agencies." No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but police and security analysts say the ULFA, which is fighting for an independent homeland for the Assamese people, was behind the killings. The attacks came a day after Indian officials appealed to the ULFA not to disrupt national games next month which the rebels have threatened to disrupt with violence. — Reuters. (See issue of Jan 5.)

Guwahati, Jan 7 — Hundreds of soldiers and policemen raided insurgent hideouts in jungles of India's restive northeastern state of Assam today after separatist rebels killed at least 57 people in two days of coordinated strikes. Police blamed the attacks on the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), which has been fighting for the independence of

Assamese people in an almost three-decade-long insurgency that has killed thousands. "We are going all out against the ULFA," Tarun Gogoi, Assam's chief minister, told Reuters. "Massive combing operations have started and additional troops are being rushed to the affected areas." The wave of violence started late on Friday (Jan 5) with the gunning down of 48 labourers and traders. An explosion yesterday killed seven people, including four policemen. Today, suspected rebels shot dead two supporters of the state's ruling Congress party after calling them out of their homes. Security officials said the attackers had fled to the mountains of neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh state where they are said to have training camps. Troops were in pursuit, a military commander said on condition of anonymity. Security was tightened in areas adjoining the violence-hit eastern districts of Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Golaghat and Sivasagar to prevent a spill-over of violence. Most of the victims were migrant labourers from the eastern state of Bihar, who have been attacked in the past by rebels to gain the federal government's attention, security official said. Today, hundreds of people, carrying bodies of some of the victims, blocked roads in Doomduma town, about 500 km east of Guwahati — Assam's main city — demanding action against the ULFA. Last week the ULFA had warned non-Assamese businessmen and labourers of dire consequences if they continued to live in Assam, accusing New Delhi of flooding the state with outsiders to reduce the indigenous Assamese population to a minority. — Reuters.

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected separatist rebels have carried out more attacks on Hindi-speaking migrants in a fourth day of violence in India's Assam state. Gunmen attacked a roadside colony of brick factory workers and shot dead seven of them at 0230 hrs. Police say 69 people have died in the state's worst violence in a decade. Authorities blame the attacks on the United Liberation Front of Assam (Ulfa) rebels, who are fighting for an independent homeland. In a separate incident, police say the rebels killed a local Congress party leader, Ajit Deuri, giving rise to fears that they may now start targeting supporters of India's main ruling party, that also governs Assam. Hundreds of angry Hindi-speaking settlers have set up road blocks on a national highway, lining up the road with the bodies of some of those killed. They were chanting slogans against Ulfa as well as the Assam government, blaming the former for the murder and the latter for alleged failure to protect them. During his visit to Longsual yesterday, India's junior Home Minister, Sriprakash Jaiswal, tried to reassure the Hindi-speaking settlers. He said said 3,000 additional paramilitary troops were being sent to Assam and more would follow if needed. The minister said a joint

police-military operation would soon be started against the rebels over a vast tract of northern Assam. The operation will also encompass a large forest area of the neighbouring state of Arunachal Pradesh where Ulfa has some bases which, officials say, were used in recent attacks.

IRAQ

Baghdad, Jan 6 — The chief of the Baghdad police, Major General Ali Yasser, survived a car bomb attack on his motorcade in the centre of the Iraqi capital today, sources at police headquarters said. The explosion in a parked car in the commercial Karrada district killed one bystander and wounded three others, as well as wounding three policemen. The police chief, who has been targeted before, was not hurt. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jan 7 — Habib al-Shimiri, a senior Education Ministry official, survived a roadside bomb attack on his car near the al-Shaab football stadium in east central Baghdad, but two of his guards were killed, police said. In addition, a roadside bomb killed two people and wounded two in central Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said and a U.S. soldier was killed by small arms fire in southwest Baghdad yesterday, the U.S. military said today. Elsewhere, a car bomb in a market in the town of Hilla, 100 km south of Baghdad, killed two people and wounded 11, police and Interior Ministry sources said, adding that the death toll could climb. In another incident, several mortar rounds landed on a car warehouse, killing four people and wounding five in Karrada district in central Baghdad, police said. In Mosul, the bodies of two people were found shot dead in the outskirts of the city, 390 km north of Baghdad, a witness said. In Tuz Khurmatu, yesterday, gunmen attacked worshippers coming out of a mosque and wounded four of them, police said. Also yesterday, gunmen killed a policeman in Samarra, police said. In Falluja, a U.S. soldier died on Friday (Jan 5) from wounds suffered in combat in Iraq's western province of Anbar, the military said today. Finally, U.S. and Iraqi troops rounded up 82 suspects in raids north of Yusufiya, 15 km south of Baghdad, on January 2, the U.S. military said in a statement. Thirteen were detained for links to roadside bombs and the rest were released after questioning. — Reuters.

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Two of Saddam Hussein's co-defendants were taken from their cells and told they were going to be hanged on the same day the former dictator was executed, their lawyer said Sunday (Jan 7). But the two condemned men still await death as Iraqi officials decide how to avoid the kind of outcry that followed Saddam's hanging on Dec 30. Also on Sunday, the US military announced the deaths of five more American troops and at least 14 Iraqis died in bombings and shootings. the US military said three airmen were killed in Baghdad Sunday by a car bomb, a

soldier was killed by small arms fire in Baghdad a day earlier, and another soldier died in combat in western Anbar province on Friday. A British soldier also died in a traffic accident. At least 14 Iraqis died Sunday in bombings and shootings, including three Sunni Muslim shopkeepers gunned down in a busy marketplace and a Shiite cleric and his son killed en route to a mosque, police said. Twenty-three bodies turned up in hospitals and morgues around the country, officials said. A new battle for Iraq's capital was under way with Iraqi forces mired in gunfights with insurgents and US helicopters hovering over an area where some 30 people died in fighting the previous night. The fighting is part of a military operation announced Saturday by the prime minister and intended to quell sectarian violence.

Baghdad, Jan 8 — Gunmen ambushed a bus carrying workers to Baghdad airport today. A hospital source said 15 bodies and 15 wounded people had been brought to the hospital after the attack in the Sunni Arab neighbourhood of Amriya in western Baghdad. Police and an Interior Ministry source said four were killed and nine wounded. Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki announced a major security plan for Baghdad on Saturday (Jan 6), vowing to crush illegal armed groups "regardless of sect or politics" — suggesting he may be ready to tackle militias loyal to his fellow Shi'ites, as demanded by Washington and the once dominant Sunni minority. U.S. President George W. Bush is reshuffling his commanders and diplomats in Iraq and preparing to unveil a new strategy this week that officials say may include a proposal to add 20,000 U.S. troops to those already in Baghdad. The New York Times said Bush's new Iraq policy would include "benchmarks" for the Iraqi government to meet to ease sectarian violence and stabilise the country. The newspaper cited senior administration officials as saying that the goals include steps to draw more Sunnis into the Iraqi political process and to finalise a measure on the distribution of oil revenue. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jan 9 — US and Iraqi forces killed 50 people today in raids on a Sunni Arab district they described as riddled with "terrorist hideouts" and a hotbed of insurgent activity by foreign fighters linked to al-Qaeda. As American helicopter gunships and ground attack jets kept up vigil over central Baghdad, Defence Ministry spokesman Major General Ibrahim Shakir said 50 had been killed and 21 people arrested in the operation around Haifa Street, where officials have said more than 130 people have died since Saturday (Jan 6). US and Iraqi forces clashed with gunmen, saying they came under fire from mortars and rocket-propelled grenades. Battling growing sectarian violence, Shi'ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki announced a major security plan for Baghdad on Saturday, vowing

to crack down on violence on all sides, regardless of "sect or political affiliation." It was not clear if the Haifa Street operation marked the start of the implementation of the plan but it was the most sustained action by US and Iraqi troops in recent days. A spokesman for the US military said it had no information on casualties on Haifa Street today. A US military statement said Iraqi and US forces started a joint operation early today aimed at capturing suspected insurgents and restoring Iraqi security forces' control. — Reuters.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A suicide bomber killed four civilians in a crowd outside a police station today in the northern Iraqi city Tal Afar, police said. At least 12 people were also injured by the blast when the bomber walked into a crowd of people gathering outside the building about 90 miles east of the Syrian border, an officer said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. Around the same time, another suicide bomber targeted the convoy of Tal Afar's mayor. A child was killed and four other people were wounded in that attack, including the mayor's driver, said Mosul police Brig. Abdel-Karim Khalaf. The mayor survived, he said. Also today, two bombs exploded almost simultaneously near a gas station in Mahmoudiya, about 20 miles south of Baghdad, killing two civilians and setting several cars on fire, police said. Police also said a bomb went off in Baghdad's central Karradah neighbourhood, wounding a traffic policeman. A parked car bomb also exploded at the center of Kirkuk, 180 miles north of Baghdad, but there was no immediate word on casualties. On Tuesday night (Jan 9), four members of a family died when their house in Baghdad's Sadr City section was destroyed. Police initially said the attack was from two mortar shells, but later a police official and witnesses said the home was fired on by US aircraft. Just south of Baghdad, gunmen shot dead two workers fixing a water pipe damaged by saboteurs a month earlier, a police colonel said. The workers were killed Tuesday in Madain, about 14 miles southeast of Baghdad, and their bodies were removed from the scene today.

ISRAEL

Ramallah, Jan 4 — Israeli forces mounted a rare raid into the West Bank city of Ramallah today, killing four Palestinians, while a spasm of factional fighting among Palestinians in Gaza left six dead. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, a Hamas leader, held late-night talks in Gaza to try to defuse tensions, Palestinian officials said. It was their first meeting in about two months. The Ramallah operation cast a shadow over a summit Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held a few hours later in Egypt to explore restarting stalled Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking.

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Smoke rose over central Ramallah after Israeli armoured vehicles and bulldozers, slamming aside parked cars near the main Manara Square, pushed into the city to carry out what an Israeli army spokeswoman called "routine arrest activity". She said four wanted men had been detained. The raid was the biggest in Ramallah, the seat of the Palestinian government, since May, when four Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces. Palestinians responded to the latest incursion with gunfire and rocks as pedestrians fled for safety. Hospital officials said three Palestinians were killed outright and a fourth died later in hospital. At least 25 other people wounded before Israeli forces withdrew. In fighting between rival Palestinian groups in the Gaza Strip, a policeman loyal to the governing Hamas movement was killed by gunmen from Abbas's Fatah faction. Blaming the shooting on bodyguards of Colonel Mohammed Ghareeb of the Preventive Security Service, Hamas gunmen then besieged his home, killing the officer and four of his men and wounding his wife, in the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahiya. Clashes also erupted in the nearby Jabalya refugee camp and at least 30 people were wounded, hospital officials said. — Reuters.

Jerusalem, Jan 5 — The Bush administration will provide \$86 million to help security forces loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, expanding U.S. involvement in his struggle with Hamas, according to documents seen today. Fighting between Abbas's Fatah faction and Hamas, the ruling Islamist group, has surged since talks on forming a unity government collapsed and Abbas called for early parliamentary and presidential elections. The U.S. money will be used to "assist the Palestinian Authority presidency in fulfilling PA commitments under the road map (peace plan) to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism and establish law and order in the West Bank and Gaza", according to a U.S. government document. It said Lieutenant-General Keith Dayton, the U.S. security coordinator between Israel and the Palestinians, would implement the programme "to strengthen and reform elements of the Palestinian security sector controlled by the PA presidency". Hamas lawmaker Mushir al-Masri accused Washington of helping to mount a "coup" against the Hamas-led government. "We demand that President Abbas reject this American policy, which feeds the culture of divisions among the Palestinian people," he said. Abbas's office had no immediate comment. The U.S. money, subject to congressional approval, will provide Abbas's presidential guard with training and non-lethal equipment, including vehicles and uniforms, people familiar with the plan said. Israeli officials said Washington had already helped to organise shipments of weaponry to the guard from Egypt and Jordan, and

that the latest was made last week. The money for the presidential guard was initially earmarked for U.S. aid programmes in Gaza and the occupied West Bank, but those programmes were "cancelled or suspended after Hamas took power earlier this year", the U.S. document said. Officials familiar with the plan said the money would not be used to pay the salaries of members of the guard. Abbas's presidential guard currently has about 3,700 members. With aid from the United States and its allies, Abbas hopes to expand it to 4,700 members in 12 to 18 months. Palestinian sources said it could grow to 10,000 members. Hamas says its own "Executive Force" has nearly 6,000 members and will also be expanded. Hamas receives funding from Iran and other Islamist allies. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has allowed arms shipments to reach Abbas's presidential guard in Gaza, and agreed to transfer \$100 million in withheld tax revenues to the Palestinian president. Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni has been talking to U.S. officials about a proposal to declare a Palestinian state with temporary borders within a two-year timeframe, Israeli officials said. Abbas has repeatedly rejected the idea of setting temporary borders for a Palestinian state. Palestinians fear any provisional borders will become final borders, leaving them with a truncated state. — Reuters.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: A Palestinian militant group which captured an Israeli soldier near the Gaza border last June has given fresh details about his condition. "Gilad Shalit is in good health," said a spokesman for the Popular Resistance Committees in a statement quoted by AP. The PRC official added that Cpl Shalit was being treated according to Islamic standards of dealing with PoWs. He was seized by a joint force of militants, who demanded the release of 1,000 Palestinians for his return. "We are ready to keep him for years so long as our demands are not met," the statement, in the name of Abu Mujahid, said. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has offered to release "many" Palestinian detainees, if the Palestinians free Cpl Shalit and set up a national unity government that would recognise Israel and renounce violence. On Sunday (Jan 7), Israel's Maariv daily said the ruling Palestinian Hamas movement - which rejects Israel's conditions - passed a video tape of Cpl Shalit to the Egyptian authorities.

MALAYSIA & THAILAND

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Malaysia has tightened security and increased surveillance at its shared border with Thailand following a grenade attack which injured four soldiers in the northern Kedah state, officials and news reports said today. Army deputy chief Mohamad Ismail Jamaludin said the army has been placed at the

highest level of preparedness following yesterday's pre-dawn incident where two grenades were thrown at the northern army camp. Four soldiers, aged 23 to 34, suffered minor injuries when they were hit by shrapnel. "What we know is that at 0503, local time, two grenades exploded near the patrol. Details are sketchy as to what exactly happened," Mohamad Ismail was quoted as saying by the official Bernama news agency. "We have not determined yet the type of grenades used, but they were certainly not ours. We will know the type of grenades that were used once we identify their splinter code," he said. Mohamad Ismail said Thai army medical personnel had attended to the hurt soldiers before they were airlifted by a Malaysian army helicopter to a hospital. Officials have said that investigations are underway, with authorities from Malaysia and Thailand working together to try and identify the attackers. Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said the government was in the process of gathering more information on the attack, and urged all parties to remain calm before investigations were completed. "We don't know whether a grenade was thrown at them or it was an accident. It's too early to make conclusions. We must know what really happened," he told Malaysian reporters at the Association of South-East Asian Nations summit in the Philippines. Syed Hamid declined to say if he would meet his Thai counterpart, who was also present at the meeting, for talks on the matter.

NEPAL

Kathmandu, Jan 8 — Nepal's Maoist rebels will join an interim parliament next week as a provisional constitution comes into force as part of a peace deal with the multi-party government, party officials said today. The agreement between the Maoists and the ruling alliance came days after rebel chief Prachanda gave the government until January 14 to issue the new constitution and threatened to launch street protests if it was delayed. "The interim constitution will be declared by the present house of representatives on January 15, when the Maoists will be included in a new legislature," Arjun Narsingh K.C., a senior leader of the Nepali Congress party, the country's biggest party, told Reuters. A 330-member interim parliament will be set up on the same day which would include 209 members of the existing parliament, 73 named by the Maoists and 48 members of the public selected by the two sides through consensus. "We will set up an interim legislature which will endorse the constitution the same day," chief rebel negotiator and Maoist spokesman Krishna Bahadur Mahara said. — Reuters.

NIGERIA

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: An Italian oil company has denied reports it tried to

pay ransom money to release four employees being held by militants in Nigeria's oil-rich Delta. Four workers for the Agip oil firm were taken hostage a month ago. Yesterday, militants of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (Mend) said they had seized more than \$500,000 sent by Agip as a ransom, but a spokesperson for Agip's parent-company, ENI, said no money had been sent. He said ENI had no contact with the militants and has been working with the Nigerian authorities and the Italian foreign ministry to ensure the hostages' release. Mend says they are demanding the release of four people in jail, including a regional separatist leader, and are fighting to ensure local people benefit from oil revenues.

Abuja, Jan 9 — At least nine people were killed today in the Ogoni area of Nigeria's southern Niger Delta in two separate local conflicts fuelled by pre-election tensions, residents and human rights activists said. A long-running land dispute between the villages of Biara and B-Dere escalated into a gunbattle when a militia sponsored by a politician from Biara got involved. Eight people including two militia members were shot dead, according to a local activist against small arms proliferation. "Everybody in the community is indoors. The only thing you can hear is gunshots. There are bodies lying on the ground," said the activist. In Bodo, another community in the Ogoni area, an old turf war between two local politicians flared and members of two gangs of paid thugs, Deewell and Deebam, fought in the streets with AK-47 rifles and dynamite, residents said. — Reuters.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: Nigeria has lost \$4.4bn in oil revenue in the past year due to increasing violence in the Niger Delta region. Finance Minister Nenadi Usman blamed cuts in oil exports on the activities of militant groups demanding more control of Nigeria's oil revenue. Mrs Usman told reporters at a news conference in Abuja that crude oil production had fallen by as much as 600,000 barrels per day in the second quarter of last year. Meanwhile five Chinese workers, kidnapped in the volatile Niger Delta last week, are said to be safe. "According to what we know, all five are still safe," Chinese government spokesman Liu Jianchao told reporters. "The Chinese government, relevant departments and our embassy in Nigeria are expending all efforts to find a way to secure their release." The Chinese telecommunications workers were abducted by unidentified armed men early last Friday (Jan 5) in Rivers State.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Nine South Korean oil workers have been taken hostage by armed insurgents in Nigeria, the foreign ministry said. The incident took place overnight at a Daewoo oil facility in the southern

Nigerian oil state of Bayelsa. A Nigerian worker was also abducted. The oil platform was being guarded by about 50 soldiers when the unidentified gunmen stormed the building in the early morning and took the men hostage. "This is one abduction too many. We as a government will do everything humanly possible to secure the release of the men and put a stop to the criminal activities of the militants," government spokesman Welson Ekiyor told AFP news agency. A Daewoo spokesman said the company had set up an emergency task force to rescue the men, who were building pipelines in the south of the country. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack. Militants in the Niger Delta are holding nine other foreign oil workers; five Chinese nationals abducted last Friday (Jan 5) and three Italians and one Lebanese taken hostage on December 7.

PHILIPPINES

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The Philippine military today killed seven members of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group, including two of its sub-commanders, in a firefight off the waters of Panglima Sugala in Tawi-tawi, southwest Philippines, a military spokesman said. Armed Forces public information office chief Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said among those killed were Abu Sayyaf sub-commanders Abu Hubaida and Black Killer on whose head the United States posed \$40,000 bounty, dead or alive. Bacarro said the team of Navy Special Warfare Group, Marines and Scout Rangers caught up with the group of Hubaida and Black Killer at around 0900, UTC, off the waters of a village and a 30-minute firefight ensued. "It's was a firefight at sea. They were completely neutralized," said Bacarro. He said the seven Abu Sayyaf members were aboard a double-engine pump boat from which one M203 grenade launcher and one M16 rifle were recovered.

Manila, Jan 10 — A bomb in a public market killed five people and wounded dozens in the southern Philippines today, days before Asian leaders were due to arrive for a regional summit in the centre of the country. Police said the blast occurred around 1000, UTC, in General Santos city, a trade hub in the restive south, where Muslim and communist insurgents are fighting long-running rebellions. "It is premature to blame the attack on any group. We are still investigating," said regional police chief German Doria, adding the crude bomb was left on the side of a road near a crowded lottery outlet in the market. Doria said they were checking reports of a second bomb at a nearby grocery store. He said the bombing might have been retaliation by local Muslim terror group Abu Sayyaf for recent military killings of some of its senior members. He also said Abu Sayyaf might have planted the bomb to divert the military's focus

on flushing them out of the remote south-western island of Jolo. — Reuters.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Three bomb explosions rocked the southern Philippines on Wednesday, killing at least seven people and wounding 35 others, despite tight security for two high-level Asian summits, officials said. Despite the attacks, organisers of the rescheduled Association of Southeast Asian Nations and East Asian summits in the central province of Cebu said "the show will go on." "Everything is safe and secure here in the Asean and East Asian summits," Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo told reporters after a working dinner with counterparts from the 10-member regional grouping. The first bomb blast occurred at a lottery outlet at the public market of General Santos City, 1,080 kilometres south of Manila, as dozens of people queued to place their bets. Six people were killed and 23 others wounded in the blast, according to Superintendent Alfredo Toroctocon, city police director. More than two hours later, another bomb exploded near a police outpost in nearby Kidapawan City, wounding six people, according to Colonel Julieto Ando, a regional military spokesman. Ando said the bomb was placed in a paper box left behind by unidentified suspects along a road near the police outpost. The type of the explosive has not yet determined. The third bomb exploded some two hours later at a roadside in nearby Cotabato City, where garbage collectors were picking up trash. One person was killed and six others were wounded, according to Senior Superintendent Peraco Macacua, city police chief. Toroctocon said there were no immediate suspects in the General Santos bombing, but investigators were considering terrorism might be behind the attack. "Investigation is still ongoing," he said. Three of the fatalities were killed on the spot, while three died while on the way to hospital, Senior Superintendent Rolando Dalangin, a regional police operations chief, said. One of those killed was a 10-year-old boy. The bombings occurred even as the military and the police stepped up security nationwide for the rescheduled Asean and East Asian summits in Cebu province, 585 kilometres south of Manila. Various foreign governments have warned that terrorist groups were on the final stages of plotting attacks during the summits to be attended by leaders from 16 countries. Chief Superintendent Silverio Alarcio, a regional police director, said he reminded all commanders and forces in Cebu "not to bring down their guard" following the bombings. He, however, did not see a need to bring in additional forces to guard the summits. There are already 6,000 policemen guarding the event. General Hermogenes Esperon, armed forces chief of staff, said increased security was being implemented not just in Cebu but throughout the country for

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the duration of the summits. "Any bombing, whether carried out (in areas outside Cebu) during the summit, would be tantamount to a bombing in Cebu," he said. Earlier, Esperon said troops killed the chief of the urban terrorist unit of the al-Qaeda-linked Muslim Abu Sayyaf group, identified as Binang Sali, in a clash in Patikul town on Jolo island late Tuesday. "As chief of the Abu Sayyaf urban terror group, Sali was largely responsible for the bombings in Jolo," he said. "His neutralisation translates to one bomber less that could carry out an attack on any target during the Asean summit." Preliminary meetings for the leaders' summits already began in Cebu on Wednesday, with senior officials working on ways to boost cooperation in the fight against terrorism and improve trade. Late on Tuesday, police and military bomb experts defused a suspected bomb planted outside a bank in the southern city of Iligan. Senior Superintendent Virgilio Ranes said a loud explosion occurred when bomb experts detonated the object through the use of a "disruptor device." Investigators were still conducting tests on the debris of the object to determine its composition. Security forces have also intensified military operations against Islamic militants who might launch bomb attacks during the summit. On Saturday, one Jemaah Islamiyah operatives and five Abu Sayyaf rebels, including two commanders, were killed in a clash with marines off the southern island of Tawi-Tawi. The Abu Sayyaf is the smallest but most violent Muslim rebel group linked by the United States to the al-Qaeda terrorist network. It has been blamed for some of the worst terrorist attacks in the Philippines, including a ferry bombing that killed more than 100 in February 2004.

SOMALIA

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen attacked Ethiopian troops in Somalia's capital Mogadishu on Sunday, residents said, as Somali and U.S. officials vowed to work together to stabilize the chaotic state. In the second day of violence in Mogadishu directed at Ethiopian troops, Somali gunmen opened fire on the forces backing the interim government. "Fierce fighting went on for 15 minutes. I could hear sounds of heavy machine guns rattling," said a resident, who lives nearby, adding that fighting was so fierce it lit up the area. A witness said a young girl was killed while another resident said he was wounded in the shoot out at the site where just days ago a hand grenade was thrown at Ethiopian soldiers. "The insurgents came with two vehicles and opened fire at government forces holding defences outside a compound where the Ethiopian soldiers are staying," a government source said. "The Ethiopians were inside. Fighting ensued. Heavy fire was exchanged, one anti-tank rocket was launched by the

insurgents." A taxi driver in the area said three trucks carrying Ethiopian soldiers were attacked first: "It was a very heavy exchange. I was forced to lie down to avoid being hit," he said.

Mogadishu, Jan 9 — US warplanes killed between 22 and 27 people in a remote area of southern Somalia during a strike today, an elder from a neighbouring town said. The attack appeared to be a second strike after a US warplane yesterday attacked the village of Hayo in a hunt for al-Qaeda suspects. The elder, who declined to be named, spoke by telephone from the Kenya-Somalia border crossing at Liboi. — Reuters.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: US helicopter gunships today launched new attacks against suspected al-Qaida members, a Somali official said, a day after American forces launched airstrikes in the first offensive in the African country since 18 US troops were killed there in 1993. The latest attacks killed at least 27 civilians in the town of Afmadow in southern Somalia, lawmaker Abdiqadir Daqane said. At least one AC-130 gunship carried out an airstrike yesterday evening against targets in the town, about 220 miles south-west of the capital Mogadishu, Somali officials said. It was not immediately clear how many people died in those attacks, but Somali officials said there were reports that many were killed. The US attacks were targeting Islamic extremists, said a Somali Defence Ministry official. Earlier, Somalia's president had said the US was hunting suspects in the 1998 bombings of the two US embassies in East Africa, and had his support. The aircraft carrier *Dwight D. Eisenhower* arrived off Somalia's coast and launched intelligence-gathering missions over Somalia, the military said. Three other US warships are conducting anti-terror operations off the Somali coast. US warships have been seeking to capture al-Qaida members thought to be fleeing Somalia after Ethiopia invaded on Dec 24 in support of the government and drove the Islamic militia out of the capital and toward the Kenyan border. The Islamic extremists are believed to be sheltering suspects in the embassy bombings, and the raids are designed to keep the militants from posing a new threat to the government. A US government official said at least one AC-130 gunship was used yesterday evening. Witnesses said at least four civilians were killed yesterday 30 miles east of Afmadow, including a small boy. Government spokesman Abdirahman Dinari said it was not known how many people were killed, "but we understand there were a lot of casualties. Most were Islamic fighters." Witnesses said that in today's attack, the helicopters opened fire on the road that leads to the Kenyan border. The US Embassy in Nairobi today reissued a terror warning to Americans living in or visiting the Horn of Africa. Yesterday evening's airstrike came after the

suspects were seen hiding on a remote island on the southern tip of Somalia, close to the Kenyan border, Somali officials said. The island and a site near the village of Hayi, 155 miles to the north, were hit. The main target was Fazul Abdullah Mohammed, who allegedly planned the 1998 attacks on the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam that killed 225 people. He is also suspected of planning the car bombing of a beach resort in Kenya and the near simultaneous attempt to shoot down an Israeli airliner in 2002. Ten Kenyans and three Israelis were killed in the blast at the hotel, 12 miles north of Mombasa. The missiles missed the aircraft.

Mogadishu, Jan 10 — US forces hunting al-Qaeda suspects hit four sites in air strikes in southern Somalia today, a Somali government source said, as international criticism mounted over Washington's military intervention. "As we speak now, the area is being bombarded by the American Air Force," the source said. He said the attacks hit an area close to Ras Kamboni, a coastal village near the Kenyan border where many fugitive Islamists are believed holed-up after being ousted by Ethiopian troops defending Somalia's interim government. Four places were hit — Hayo, Garer, Bankajirow and Badmadowe — the source said. "Bankajirow was the last Islamist holdout. Bankajirow and Badmadowe were hit hardest," he added. Pentagon officials confirmed one air attack on Monday (Jan 8), as part of a wider offensive involving Ethiopian aircraft. Somali officials said many died in Monday's strike — the first overt US military action in Somalia since a disastrous humanitarian mission ended in 1994. A Somali clan elder reported a second US air strike yesterday but that was not confirmed by other sources. In another attack, at least one person was killed today when Somali militiamen fired a rocket-propelled grenade at an Ethiopian truck, missing it but hitting a house, a government source said. — Reuters.

SPAIN

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The Basque separatist group ETA said today a cease-fire it declared in March still stands, even as it claimed responsibility for a Dec 30 car bombing that killed two people in Madrid. ETA made its assertion in a statement sent to the pro-independence newspaper Gara, which often serves as a mouthpiece for ETA communiques. It said it did not mean to cause casualties in the attack, and accused the government of failing to evacuate the parking garage that was targeted at Madrid airport despite three warning calls pointing out where the car bomb was parked. The airport was largely evacuated, but the two people killed happened to be asleep in parked cars. Interior Minister Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba said he had not immediately read the ETA statement,

but his initial impression was that "ETA has only one path left to take, which is to end the violence." ETA blamed the Spanish government and the ruling Socialist party for "placing obstacles endlessly in the democratic process," Gara said in a summary of what it called a long Basque-language statement. ETA and its political supporters had been warning in recent months that continued arrests and trials of suspected members were endangering the peace process launched with its announcement Mar 22 of a "permanent" cease-fire. It had been demanding, and the government refusing, the transfer of ETA prisoners from jails around Spain to prisons in the Basque region. It reiterated a claim that the government was not keeping unspecified promises as part of the process that began with the truce. Gara said ETA wanted to promote the peace process but reserved the right to respond if what it calls government aggression against the pro-independence movement continues. ETA insisted progress must come from a political agreement that includes "the minimum democratic rights owed to the Basque country," an apparent allusion to Basques long-standing demands to be able to decide between independence and remaining part of Spain. It called on the government to halt "police formulas and failed policies that lead nowhere," said Gara. The explosion destroyed a five-story parking garage at Madrid airport, killing two Ecuadorean immigrants and injuring 26 people. Spain's government responded to the bombing by scrapping plans for negotiations with ETA and declaring the once-promising peace process terminated. Until now, ETA had not claimed responsibility for the bombing but a caller warning of the blast said he represented the group. ETA's political wing, Batasuna, has said it was caught off guard by the explosion, suggesting a rift between the two camps, and it yesterday urged ETA to maintain the cease-fire.

SRI LANKA

Colombo, Jan 5 — A claymore mine exploded in northern Sri Lanka today, killing two government agriculture officials, the Tamil Tiger rebels said, as government planes bombed rebel bases for a fourth consecutive day. The Tigers said a Sri Lankan army group had crossed into the rebel-controlled Nedunkeni area, apparently to target rebels but hit government officials by mistake. The military denied any involvement. "It was a deep penetration team, they launched a claymore attack against a vehicle belonging to the department of agriculture ... killing two officials travelling inside and wounding a further three," said Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) military spokesman R. Ilanthurayan. He said government troops began shelling the area soon after the mine explosion, but a military spokesman denied any involvement in the attack, saying troops were not in the area. "It is 20-

25 kms (12-15 miles) inside. We don't have anyone there. We totally deny this," Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe said. The military said Sri Lankan warplanes destroyed another Sea Tiger base in the northern rebel-controlled Mullaittivu area in a fourth consecutive day of air strikes. It did not give any details on casualties. — Reuters.

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated Jan 6, states: A bomb has exploded on a crowded bus in south-western Sri Lanka killing at least 15 people and injuring dozens. Police say the incident took place near the tourist resort of Hikkaduwa, south of the capital Colombo. The attack comes a day after a similar incident which killed six people on a bus north-east of Colombo. Tamil Tigers rebels have been blamed for the attacks, though they deny any responsibility and say they condemn the killing of innocent civilians. Earlier today, three bomb blasts were reported in the north of the country, one of which killed four soldiers and a civilian. The incident occurred when a roadside bomb exploded near a truck transporting troops in the northern district of Vavuniya.

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Sri Lankan military and Tamil Tiger rebels clashed in eastern Sri Lanka, leaving one soldier dead and another wounded, the Defence Ministry said today. Brig. Prasad Samarasinghe, the military's spokesman, said rebels also suffered casualties in the late Sunday incident in Batticaloa District. He had no other details. A rebel spokesman confirmed the clash but denied that rebels suffered injuries or losses. "It was a clash between two patrols. They fired, and we fired," said Rasiah Ilanthirayan from insurgent headquarters in Kilinochchi. Eastern Batticaloa has become a hotbed of violence between the military and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which is fighting to create a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's 3.1 million ethnic Tamil minority because of discrimination Tamils suffer at the hands of the majority-Sinhalese government. Police recovered two bodies with gunshot wounds to their heads in a house under construction near the garrison town of Vavuniya, said Police Chief E.M. Dharmadasa. The victims were ethnic Tamils. It was unclear, however, if they were associated with the separatist Tamil rebels or their opponents. The bodies of two other men, also found Sunday, were found with ropes around their necks on the bank of a lake elsewhere in Vavuniya, the last government-held town before Tiger-held territory, Dharmadasa said. He said the two men of unknown ethnicity appeared to have been strangled. The latest incidents came as the government said three more people had been detained for questioning over two bus blasts that killed at least 21 people and wounded dozens more Friday and Saturday. The military blamed the rebels for the blasts, which the

insurgents have denied. On Saturday, a suspected Tamil Tiger suicide bomber triggered an explosion on a bus in the coastal town of Meetiyagoda, 95 kilometres (60 miles) south of the capital, Colombo, killing 15 people and wounding 40 more. A day earlier, a bus bomb also blamed on the Tigers killed at least six people just north-east of Colombo. Still, the government Sunday reaffirmed its commitment to a negotiated settlement with the separatists, and urged them to resume peace talks. At least 10 people were detained for questioning after the first blast, but some have been released, said military spokesman Samarasinghe. Under Sri Lanka's present emergency regulations, suspects can be held indefinitely without charge.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The Sri Lankan military says three soldiers were wounded when Tamil Tiger rebels fired mortars at its camp in the eastern Batticaloa district. Defence ministry spokesman, Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe said the soldiers fired back at the rebels. He said two more soldiers were injured in a mine explosion in Jaffna. Brigadier Samarasinghe said rebels fired mortar rounds at the Vavunativu military camp yesterday night. "We fired back and the rebels retreated, but we don't know if they suffered any casualties," he said. The defence spokesman said in another incident two soldiers were injured when a claymore mine exploded in Jaffna this morning.

SUDAN

Khartoum, Jan 10 — Sudan's government and Darfur rebels have agreed to a 60-day ceasefire and a peace summit sponsored by the African Union and the United Nations as steps towards stopping the violence in west Sudan, a visiting U.S. official said today. Sudan has also agreed to let foreign journalists visit Darfur after a two-month ban and to remove a requirement for exit visas for aid workers, one of the biggest bureaucratic obstacles to the world's largest aid operation in Darfur. "President (Omar Hassan al-)Bashir agreed to the start of a peace process that includes a 60-day cessation of hostilities," said U.S. New Mexico governor Bill Richardson, visiting Sudan. The AU-U.N. peace summit is to be held no later than March 15. Richardson said rebel commanders he had met in Darfur had also agreed to the ceasefire, which would begin on a date to be set by the United Nations and the African Union, which are jointly mediating Darfur peace efforts. A joint statement by the Sudanese government and Richardson also said Sudan would not use military aircraft painted in white colours, usually reserved for humanitarians, and that Darfur rebel commanders could safely call a conference in the field monitored by the United Nations and the AU. Richardson said that while no agreement had been reached yet to let in U.N. fighting troops, Bashir was not

as hardline in the latest discussions as he had been last year. "I note flexibility in his position," he said. "When I first was here five months ago he was dead set against any U.N. troops. Now there's some flexibility as ... there are technical U.N. blue-helmeted troops that will be permitted." Richardson said details of a "third phase" of that hybrid operation were still unclear. Annan described it as a hybrid AU-U.N. force deploying up to 10,000 U.N. peacekeepers, but Khartoum insists it is just giving stronger support to the AU. "Phase three is something that is still being negotiated or there are still details to be worked out," Richardson said. But the political process to maintain a ceasefire is more important, he added. — Reuters.

Labour Disputes



BELGIUM

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers at Volkswagen AG's Belgian plant returned to work today after a seven-week strike to protest the decision to lay off almost 3,000 of the carmaker's employees. Workers last week narrowly voted to return to the plant today, but it will likely take several more days before output recommences. Volkswagen took the decision in November to phase out production of its Golf model at the plant near Brussels. Instead of fully closing down the plant, the German company said that up to 3,000 workers would be able to produce the latest Audi model as of 2009, partly compensating for the job cuts.

FRIGATE (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The Russian crew of general cargo *Frigate* (3038 gt, built 1976) who have not received their wages for three months, went on strike today at the Iraqi port of Um Al-Kasr (? Umm Qasr). An appropriate report was received by the Far Eastern regional division of the Russian seamen trade union (RPSM). The vessel's master and 12 other crewmembers said that "the crew declines further cooperation with the ship's operator, the Future Company of Nakhodka, demanding a replacement and repatriation home." *Frigate* flies the flag of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The ship is owned by the Frigate Marine Company, registered in Belize, but the ship is administered by the Future Company of Nakhodka. The ship's captain V. Verevkin wrote in a telegram sent to Nakhodka that the employer, replying to the demand on payment of wages for October, November and December, issued an order "depriving the

crewmembers of wages for the previous months, motivating this decision by excessive consumption of fuel and a loss of the parade gangway in stormy weather." Chairman of the RPSM Far Eastern division Nikolai Sukhanov reported that he would inform the International Transport Workers Federation today in London of the disquieting situation onboard the ship. The vessel's operator had delayed wages to crewmembers in the past as well. This problem had been examined by the Nakhodka transport prosecutor's office. But it could not institute a criminal case, since the ship's owner is in Belize, the vessel is registered in Kingstown and is administered from Nakhodka.

GUINEA

Conakry, Jan 10 — Schools, shops and markets in Guinea were shut today as a nationwide general strike got under way but the volatile West African country's key bauxite industry did not immediately appear to be seriously affected. Additional police and army patrols deployed around the streets of the capital Conakry on the first day of the indefinite strike, called by unions to protest against the increasingly erratic rule of President Lansana Conte. Union leaders have cited Conte's personal intervention last month to release two former allies arrested in a corruption probe as well as the constant reshuffling of his cabinet which they say undermines his credibility. "We have presented our conditions to the government, including the return to prison of the two men freed by the president, the dismissal of certain ministers, and the lowering of fuel prices," said Ousmane Souare, a main union negotiator. "We have been in touch with the various districts around the country and according to the information we have so far, the strike action has been widely followed," Souare said. — Reuters.

NEPAL

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Traffic movement in various districts came to a halt and hundreds of passengers stranded after transport workers unions called for an indefinite strike. The vehicular movement in the capital also affected due to the chakka jam (traffic movement halt) around the ring road called by the transport workers. Vehicles bound to and from various parts of the country remained stranded in Nagdhunga check post, the main entrance of the capital due to the strike. Workers' Union, All Nepal Transport Workers' Union, Nepal Transport Workers' Union and Nepal Transport Drivers' Union called for an indefinite transport strike in the Mechi, Koshi and Sagarmatha of eastern region and Narayani Transport Entrepreneurs' Association called an indefinite strike in Narayani zone of central development region. The transport workers have been

staging a protest stating that the police "forcefully made the driver Hem Narayan Uraw sign a false affidavit" which says the driver reversed his bus to kill a cyclist, Ram Dev Yadav, 59, after he ran over him on Dec 18 last year. Similarly normal life of Narayangarh, Birgunj, Hetauda, Bara and Parsa also affected due to chakka jam called by the Narayani Transport Entrepreneurs' Association (NTEA). The Association called for transport strike soon after meeting of security officials held in Mid Western Regional Administration Office on Friday decided to annul syndicate system. Similarly, a report from Itahari said, transport workers vandalized four vehicles in Itahari this morning. They had also vandalized an ambulance ferrying the sick people to the hospital. Drivers of ambulance also obstructed the road for an hour protesting the attack. Meanwhile, a meeting between transport workers, local administration, district leaders of political parties and representatives of all the organizations in Koshi zone are undergoing meeting in Itahari of Sunsari district to end the impasse. In Dhading, transport workers staged demonstration at Baireni along Prithvi Highway.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The Narayani Transport Entrepreneurs' Association today called off the traffic strike it had launched since Monday following an all-side talk in Hetauda today. The strike was called off following the talks since this morning between representatives of the transport entrepreneurs, transport workers, security bodies, political parties and local administration. Gokarna Parajuli, chairman of the Narayani Transport Entrepreneurs' Association, said transport services will resume normally from tomorrow. He said the association agreed to call of the strike mind the civil society's and the public's calls to withdraw it and country's transitional phase. Given the transitional phase of the country, he said all of their demands could be addressed only by a new government following elections to constituent assembly. The association had put forward six-point demand. During today's talks, the administration and police agreed not to put pressure on transport entrepreneurs for excessive compensation to accident victims and facilitate for compensation as per existing laws. Earlier today, transport workers disrupted traffic in main chowks of Narayangarh and Hetauda by burning tyres. Revenue collection at Birgunj customs had also been affected due to the strike. The strike affected life in Bara and Rautahat too. Transport workers had placed stones in Mukundapur road along Mahendra Highway of Nawalparasi to block the traffic.

UNITED STATES & CANADA

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Goodyear Tyre &

Rubber Co. lost more than US\$350 million during a three-month strike by some 14,000 union workers in Canada and the United States, the world's third-largest tyre maker said today. "Despite the financial impact, it is clear the strike achieved our required outcome," Goodyear's chief financial officer Richard Kramer told investors and the media during a conference call today. Kramer said the Akron, Ohio-based company estimates the strike by the United Steelworkers union representing workers at 12 plants in 10 states and in Canada drained between \$30 million and \$35 million a week, mostly because of lower production and lost sales. At 12 weeks long, that means the work stoppage could cost Goodyear between US\$360 million and \$420 million. Most of that hit will be absorbed in the fourth quarter, which ended December 31, Kramer said. He warned that "we will see an additional strike impact in the first half of 2007." Annual earnings were predicted to be down 35 per cent at 92 cents a share on about US\$20 billion in sales. Kramer and Goodyear chief executive Robert Keegan cushioned the news by saying the company plans to save \$610 million over three years because of the agreement reached with the union two weeks ago and annual savings of about \$300 million after that. Most of the savings will be through job cuts, lower wages and benefits and more efficient tyre production in North America, the executives said. The strike that began Oct. 5 ended last week when USW workers returned to plants after overwhelmingly approving the three-year labor deal that includes plans to close a Texas tyre factory and creates a \$1 billion health care fund for retirees. The contract allows the Tyler, Tex., plant to be closed by the end of 2007 and provides for buyouts to about 1,100 workers there who make unprofitable wholesale private label tyres. The company also plans to shut down its tyre making plant in Valleyfield, Que., reducing the workforce there to 200 from about 1,000. The move is another blow to Quebec's battered industrial economy, which has already seen major cuts in the forestry and manufacturing sectors. The Goodyear deal with its union also requires the tyre maker to put \$1 billion in cash and stock into the fund for retired union workers' medical benefits, which was higher than the company's previous \$660 million offer but less than the union's call for roughly double that amount. During the strike, Goodyear made tyres at some of its North American plants with non-union and temporary workers as well as some managers. The company counted on production at its international plants to help supply North American customers but some dealers said there was a shortage of some specialty Goodyear tyres. Keegan said Goodyear lost no customers during the strike and has already got production levels back on track since union workers returned last week.

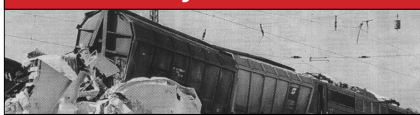
Awards & Settlements



SEXUAL ABUSE, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The Spokane Roman Catholic Diocese has agreed to pay at least \$48 million to victims of clergy sexual abuse to settle its long-running bankruptcy case. The settlement will be paid through sales of diocese's assets, contributions of more than \$20 million from insurance companies, and money from various Catholic entities in the diocese, according to a news release issued by U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Gregg Zive, mediator in the case. In addition, parishes in the diocese will be responsible for raising \$10 million. The plan also includes non-monetary provisions that "are as critical as the monetary provisions," Zive said in the release. "It is hoped that the resolution of this case will help provide the survivors with some measure of closure and allow them to move forward and continue the healing process." The settlement still needs to be confirmed by the U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, and then voted on by creditors. The Spokane Diocese filed for bankruptcy in December 2004, at that time listing assets of \$11 million against liabilities of at least \$81.3 million, most from sex abuse claims. Since then, there has been bitter wrangling over issues such as whether parish churches and schools can be sold to pay for settlements and how to determine how much compensation each group of creditors would receive. The Spokane settlement follows the \$50 million settlement in the bankruptcy case of the Portland Archdiocese last month, which was the first U.S. diocese to file for bankruptcy protection after the nationwide sex-abuse scandals broke several years ago.

Railway Accidents



CROFTON AREA, KENTUCKY, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated Dec 28, states: The cause of a train derailment in Christian County, Kentucky remains under investigation today. According to authorities, the train derailed at about 12 midnight near the Crofton community. The train was carrying coal, en route to an Alabama power plant.

DHANDI, SINDH PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jan 11 — Pakistan Railway said up rail traffic between Karachi

and Punjab remained suspended for six hours, due to derailment of few bogies of Karachi-bound 38 down Farid Express at Dhandi railway station near Daharki in Sindh province of Pakistan between Tuesday (Jan 9) and Wednesday night. The derailment has caused damage to the railway track and also suspended up and down rail traffic for six hours. Later, relief trains from Rohri and Khanpur were sent to the scene, which cleared the up-track. An inquiry is being ordered. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

GRANITEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Residents and workers injured by chlorine exposure from the 2005 Graniteville train wreck each would receive a lump-sum payment ranging from \$9,375 to \$22,500 under a proposed class-action settlement. The payments would be in addition to approved medical costs and lost wages paid by Norfolk Southern Railway Co. An estimated 700-800 people are expected to be covered by the settlement, which was given preliminary approval yesterday by a federal judge. The group would include residents, Avondale Mills workers and emergency responders. The total amount of the proposed lump-sum payments is unknown, though it is expected to be in the millions of dollars. Mount Pleasant attorney Joe Rice, one of the lawyers for the injured, said afterward that the settlement will allow residents to get paid more quickly than if they had filed individual lawsuits. Under the proposal, residents suing the railroad would have until Mar 20 to opt out of the settlement. Under the proposed settlement, lawyers representing the injured would receive up to a third of the paid claims. Rice said attorney fees would not be deducted from lump-sum payments. U.S. District Judge Margaret Seymour gave preliminary approval to the settlement and set a hearing for Apr 27 to consider final approval. Meanwhile, a claims center in Graniteville likely will begin processing claims later this month, said Columbia lawyer Carl Solomon, one of the plaintiffs' lawyers. The settlement would cover those who sought treatment from a licensed physician or health-care provider following the Jan 6, 2005, accident that killed nine, injured hundreds and forced the evacuation of about 5,400. Since the accident, Norfolk Southern has paid about \$41 million in legal claims, medical bills, cleanup costs and other expenses not covered by the railroad's insurance, said Norfolk Southern spokesman Robin Chapman. The latest proposed settlement doesn't include wrongful-death claims. Of nine wrongful-death cases, seven have been settled, White said. The amount of the payments would depend upon when the medical treatment was done, the proximity to the wreck site, and other factors, such as whether the injured was a resident, Avondale Mills worker or emergency responder.

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

VRYHEID AREA, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A major derailment on the Richards Bay coal line saw about 30 wagons loaded with export coal for the port of Richards Bay being spilled last Friday (Jan 5). The accident which occurred near Vryheid left the wagons piled up against and on top of each other and thousands of tonnes of coal thrown over the line and adjacent countryside. It took labourers about 24 hours, working through the night, the clear the line for other trains to pass. No reasons for the accident have been provided but it is estimated it will have cost millions of rand. Of more importance is that it indicates the spate of accidents along this economic highway is not yet over. The latest derailment is not expected to adversely affect exports at the port as RBCCT carries an adequate back-up stock and a delay of one day is unlikely to have much effect. The cost in terms of wagons and possibly locomotives taken out of service is much greater.

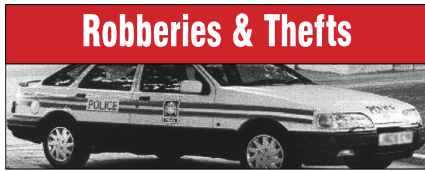
London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Following last Friday's (Jan 5) derailment of a fully loaded coal train on the Richards Bay coal line near Vryheid, in which about 30 wagons came off the tracks spilling coal, Spoornet has succeeded in clearing and reopening both directions to traffic. According to Spoornet the line was fully reopened on Monday (Jan 8) after one set of tracks was cleared during the weekend. The accident has not impacted on loading operations at the Richards Bay Coal Terminal thanks to a healthy stockpile of coal maintained at the port.

WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A subway train derailed Sunday (Jan 7) near downtown Washington, sending 20 people to the hospital and prompting the rescue of 60 people from a tunnel, officials said. The accident happened at about 1545 near the underground Mount Vernon Square station, which serves two lines beneath the Washington Convention Centre, Metro spokeswoman Cathy Asato said. There were about 150 people on the train. One person had a serious but not life-threatening injury, Asato said. The other injuries were mostly "bumps and bruises," and one of those with minor injuries was pregnant. Part of the six-car train had pulled into the station when the fifth car left the track and hit the tunnel wall, Asato said. All the cars remained upright. The fifth car had significant damage, said Metro spokeswoman Lisa Farbstein. The concrete tunnel wall also appeared to be damaged, but it was unclear how significant the wall damage was or whether the track was damaged. About 60 people in the last two cars had to wait about 45 minutes for firefighters to reach them and escort

them through the tunnel on a catwalk. Passengers in the first four cars were able to exit on their own through the front two cars, which were already at the station platform, Asato said. There was no fire, Asato said. An investigation was under way.

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The National Transportation Safety Board today was investigating what caused a subway train to derail near downtown Washington, injuring at least 20 people, one seriously. After NTSB investigators examined the scene, Metro workers began removing the train. The Mount Vernon station opened on time this morning, but speed restrictions were in place through the area. Part of the six-car train had pulled into the station when the fifth car left the track and hit the tunnel wall. All the train cars remained upright, but part of the fifth car was ripped apart. The concrete tunnel wall also appeared to be damaged, though the extent of the damage wasn't immediately clear. Investigators also planned to examine information from the train's data recorders to determine how fast the train was going and when the brakes were applied.



RARE COINS, ORLANDO, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated Jan 10, states: Robbers in surgical masks pulled off a \$4 million coin heist at knife-point outside a coin dealers convention in Orlando, getting away with gold, silver and a rare 1843 set of currency once owned by President Tyler, authorities said. It was the second time in two years that the Florida United Numismatists' annual coin show had been hit, and this year's loss was much larger. On Saturday (Jan 6), a Minnesota coin dealer's employee was unloading an SUV outside a luxury hotel when a robber in a surgical mask and a hooded sweater grabbed him from behind and held a knife to his throat, witnesses and the victim told authorities. Two other masked men grabbed a suitcase from the SUV, according to authorities. Sheriff's Deputy Carlos Padilla said the coins were extremely rare, which could make it difficult for a thief to sell them. Last year, thieves stole about \$450,000 worth of coins by breaking into cars, most of them while dealers ate in restaurants. This year, the convention's organizers had increased security with more off-duty sheriff's deputies and a 24-hour secured room where dealers could store their coins, convention co-ordinator Cindy Wibker said.



OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

Jakarta, Jan 7 — A 14-year-old boy has tested positive for bird flu in Indonesia, the country's first case of the virus in almost two months, a Health Ministry official said today. The boy, from Tangerang in West Java, was hospitalised in Jakarta after he suffered from bird-flu-like symptoms on January 1, the director-general of communicable disease control, Nyoman Kandun, told Reuters. He said the boy had been in contact with ducks but officials were still investigating the case. Sick poultry is the usual mode of transmission of the H5N1 bird flu virus. Indonesia, which has the world's highest bird flu death toll, has not reported any new human infections of the virus since Nov. 28. The government has announced plans to ramp up its fight against the virus and hopes to beat it by the end of 2007, but critics say public ignorance, official ineptitude and lack of money are hampering efforts to stamp out the disease that has killed 57 people in Indonesia. According to the World Health Organisation, the virus has killed 157 people since 2003 and has spread from Asia to Europe, the Middle East and Africa. — Reuters.

Jakarta, Jan 10 — A 14-year-old Indonesian boy has died of bird flu, taking the country's human death toll to 58, a health ministry official said yesterday. The boy, from Tangerang in West Java, near Jakarta, was hospitalised in the capital last week. Runizar Ruesin, head of the Indonesian health ministry's bird flu centre, said the boy died at 1155, local time. — Reuters.



BUSH, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: One of two fires has been brought under control in Victoria's south-west, but fire crews are continuing to battle a large blaze east of Warrnambool. The fire has burnt out around 75 per cent of the Framlingham Forest. A fire east of Purnim is under control but a second fire that has burnt more 800 hectares of the Framlingham Forest is continuing. The Country Fire Association says a wind change has fanned the flames easterly towards the Hopkins River, and falling embers are likely in Garvoc and Purnim. The change in weather has slowed the flames moving towards the Framlingham Aboriginal Trust.

Additional crews are on their way to Tank Hill Reserve where the fire remains active. Powercor says powerlines are in the path of the fire and it is possible electricity will be cut to some areas.

KINGS POINT MARINA, LAKE NORMAN, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Eight boats were damaged in a fire at a Lake Norman marina this week and the mayor of a nearby town says the blaze highlights the need for a bigger fire fighting vessel. The fire started early yesterday in one boat and spread to seven others at Kings Point Marina, which has about 400 boat slips on the lake. Investigators are searching for the cause of the fire. Mayor Gary Knox of Cornelius said the fire shows the need for a better fire and rescue boat. A fire boat from a nearby fire department helped keep the blaze from spreading.

MEAT FACTORY, FRISOYTHE, GERMANY

Bremen, Jan 5 — Local press reports state that a huge fire occurred in the night from Jan 3 to Jan 4 in a meat factory at Frisoythe which is close to Cloppenburg. The meat factory has been completely destroyed and the claim is estimated to be several million Euros. A member of the staff detected the fire. It is assumed that the fire started in the smokehouse and extended into the production rooms. The fire was under control but not yet extinguished during the evening of Jan 4. As per information of the fire brigade it could still take days until the fire is finally put out. — Lloyd's Agents.

WAREHOUSE, HOUSTON, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Houston firefighters were called to the scene of a northeast Houston warehouse this morning. The blaze at the warehouse on North Wayside near Palestine broke out around 1030 hrs. At one point, firefighters were ordered out of the building because of fears the roof might collapse. The blaze grew to three alarms forcing them to call for more manpower before fire crews tapped it out just before noon. There were people in the big warehouse when the fire started but everyone made it out safely. The building is divided into three sections and houses three businesses. The flames were fueled by chemicals and wood used for furniture refinishing, according to fire investigators. The cause of the blaze is under investigation.

WAREHOUSE, KHULNA, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Jan 5 — A huge fire broke out in six warehouses of exportable jute in Khulna in south western Bangladesh yesterday. Initial loss is estimated at Taka 80 million (\$1.15 million) by local media. According to Assistant Director of Fire Services Golam Rahman, the incident was

mysterious and he is yet to find out how the fire originated. The fire broke out at around 1100 and was brought under control after four hours by eleven units of fire service and the Navy. It said the fire might have started in the warehouse belonging to Eastern Jute Traders, and then engulfed neighbouring warehouses owned by Golden Jute Supply, Uttara Jute Corporation and Reza Jute Traders.— Lloyd's List Correspondent.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A wind-driven wildfire destroyed four homes in the exclusive seaside California community of Malibu yesterday and damaged five others before it was contained three hours later, fire officials said. The blaze broke out in brush along the Pacific Coast Highway across from the ocean and quickly consumed coveted properties in Malibu, a 26-mile stretch of coastline north of Los Angeles dotted with pricey beachfront estates. Some residents were forced to evacuate ahead of the flames. There were no reports of injuries from the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Around 300 firefighters, aided by water-dropping aircraft, battled the flames. Driven by hot Santa Ana winds and low humidity, the fire blackened about 20 acres near Pepperdine University. There was no official word on the cause of the blaze.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters in Malibu watched for flareups today in an exclusive seaside neighbourhood after a fast-moving wildfire swept through multimillion-dollar homes, destroying four and a guest house. Four other houses were significantly damaged by the wind-driven fire yesterday, and one resident was hospitalised because of smoke inhalation. Properties were still smouldering early today and about 150 firefighters and arson investigators were on the scene. "Right now we cannot speculate about how this happened," Inspector Rick Dominguez said early today. The blaze was fanned by Santa Ana wind as it raced through the celebrity enclave near Pepperdine University. "Red flag" fire danger warnings posted by the National Weather Service remained in effect for much of Southern California because of the strong wind and low humidity.



5H-MUX

London, Jan 10 — Piper PA-31-350, 5H-MUX struck trees during an aborted landing at Matambwe Airstrip, Selous, Tanzania, at approximately 0902, UTC, Jan 5. The pilot and eight passengers received

minor injuries. One passenger was fatally injured and a second passenger was seriously injured. The aircraft was destroyed. There was fire. The flight departed from Dars es Salaam.

AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO ISTANBUL, TURKEY

London, Jan 5 — The cargo door of an MD-88 operated by Onur Air opened during takeoff Jan 1. The aircraft lost pressure while climbing through an altitude of 6000 feet. The crew decided to return to Istanbul. Upon touchdown the cargo door sprang open, causing luggage to fall onto the runway.

C-GFFN

London, Jan 8 — On Jan 3, Transwest Air 350, a Beech A100 King Air, was on a medevac flight from La Ronge, SK, to Sandy Bay, Ontario. The flight was cleared out of controlled airspace for a descent and an approach at Sandy Bay, but did not arrive at the airport. A search was commenced and the aircraft was located one mile from the airport. One fatality and three serious injuries were reported. The aircraft sustained substantial damage.

CRASH, CLINTON, MISSISSIPPI, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated Jan 10, states: The pilot of a twin-engine airplane was killed today when the plane crashed into a wooded field east of Clinton, authorities said. Aircraft registration information showed the plane, a five-seater, was owned by Jackson architect and pilot William P. Joseph Jr. Joseph's office said he had checked in shortly before a flight to the Mississippi Gulf Coast today and that his secretary had been called to the crash scene. Emergency responders were on the scene about five miles from Hawkins Field, a private airstrip in west Jackson. Officials said the crash occurred near the Clinton-Jackson city limits. Hawkins Field officials said the plane, a Cessna 310, departed the airport before noon today. Officials said the plane apparently experienced some sort of difficulty and the pilot tried to return to the airport. Kathleen Bergen, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration, said the pilot was en route to Ocean Springs on the Mississippi Gulf Coast when problems developed. The Clarion-Ledger quoted witnesses as saying the plane was in a nosedive before it slammed into the ground.

CRASH, FORT ST. JOHN, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: A small aircraft has crashed in blizzard conditions at the airport in Fort St. John, in north-east B.C. None of the 10 passengers or two crew members on the Peace Air aircraft was injured. However, RCMP Cpl. Stephen Wile says damage seemed substantial to the props and undercarriage of the twin-engine Jetstream aircraft. Wile says the

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airport has been closed while the Transportation Safety Board investigates the crash.

CRASH, GUNNING AREA, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency service workers have located the wreckage of a light aircraft that crashed in southern New South Wales yesterday and the bodies of two men. The experienced pilots, both Goulburn residents, were expected to take only a short flight. Weather in the Goulburn area was said to be fine yesterday. A police spokeswoman said earlier police and air safety investigators were being flown to bushland in an area north-east of the town of Gunning. She said investigations were continuing and a report would be prepared for the coroner. The alarm was raised about 2100 hrs, yesterday after a Stinga aircraft failed to return to Goulburn airport. Neil Smail, from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said: "About 8.30am this morning wreckage was sighted ... about 10 kilometres north-east of Gunning. It was found by an aircraft from the Wollongong-based Australian Aerial Patrol." He said the aircraft had come down in a "wooded area". There were no indications at this stage as to what caused the accident.

CRASH, NIKISKI AREA, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 10 — A press release, dated Jan 9, issued by the U.S. Coast Guard Juneau, states: The Coast Guard, Alaska State Troopers and Alaska Air National Guard responded to a report of a downed Cessna 207 aircraft about 12 miles northwest of Nikiski. The Coast Guard Command Centre in Anchorage received a report of a possible downed aircraft from the Kenai Police Department at about 1055 hrs, today. The plane was en route from Kenai to Kokhimak when the pilot radioed the Kenai air traffic control tower to report engine problems. Shortly after the call the tower personnel lost contact with the plane. The pilot is the only person reported aboard. The Coast Guard launched an HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter from Air Station Kodiak. Two Alaska State Trooper aircraft were launched and an Air National Guard helicopter from Anchorage also responded. The responders located the plane about two and a half miles offshore in northern Redoubt Bay at about 1341 hrs. The plane has been recovered but the pilot, Randy Crawford, was not aboard. The automated aircraft ELT activated and was located by the on scene search aircraft. The plane was submerged in the water up to the tail section. The aircraft was recovered by the tank vessel *Seabulk Nevada* that was transiting Cook Inlet and responded to the Coast Guard Urgent Information Broadcast (UMIB). They visually confirmed the tail number of the aircraft and recovered the plane. The vessel hooked up their crane to the

tail section and hoisted it on board intact. Once the plane was dewatered and secured to the deck they confirmed that the pilot was not on board. A search is continuing for the pilot utilizing the Air National Guard HH-60 helicopter and C-130 fixed wing aircraft for about an hour before being relieved by a Coast Guard HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter from Kodiak. The weather conditions on scene are reported as clear with light winds and an air temperature of -13 degrees Fahrenheit.

CRASH, SALIN-DE-GIRAUD AREA, FRANCE

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated Jan 7, states: A helicopter has crashed into the garden of a restaurant in southern France, killing three people and severely injuring a fourth. The Alouette 2 helicopter crashed at the Chez Bob restaurant on a road between Salin-de-Giraud and Arles, in the Camargue region. Two of the dead were decapitated while the injured woman had her leg severed, rescuers said. The four people on board the helicopter were unhurt. Police sources told Reuters news agency the helicopter was carrying guests who had been at a lunch at the restaurant. Their dining companions had walked up the garden to bid them farewell when the helicopter came down, the sources said. A witness told AFP news agency: "The pilot is very shocked. He explained that the helicopter seemed to fail and he was unable to steady it."

CRASH, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A 52 year old pilot from Ontario is dead after an aircraft crash in northern Saskatchewan. RCMP say they received a report of a missing aircraft about 2000 yesterday. A medivac aircraft from La Ronge had crash landed on the runway in Sandy Bay. Four people were on board. A 24 year old female co-pilot was hurt, as were a 44 year old man and a 25 year old woman, both medics. They are in hospital in La Ronge and in Saskatoon. There were no patients on board. Details of the injuries have not been released. The cause is unknown as yet. Department of Transport and RCMP personnel are investigating.

CRASH, YELLOWKNIFE AREA, CANADA

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Three people are dead and one person is in serious condition after the small aircraft they were in crashed south of Yellowknife yesterday, RCMP say. Searchers found the wreckage of the Cessna 185 today near the Blatchford Lake Lodge, about 90 kilometres south-east of the city, Const. Roxanne Dreilich said. The injured person was taken to the Yellowknife hospital, she said. It left Yellowknife yesterday morning, headed for the lodge. The pilot called to say he had run into bad weather and was going to try to land. The

Transportation Safety Board has been alerted and police were trying to notify the victims' next-of-kin, Dreilich said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A Boeing 747 aircraft owned by Kalitta Air has made an emergency landing at Los Angeles airport. The freighter lost a landing gear door after take off from Travis Airforce base near San Francisco. The incident took place in the Solano County area on Jan 7. The aircraft was being used by the US military to carry cargo to a base in Hawaii. Pieces of the landing gear door were found just a few feet away from a house. The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating the incident.

ER-26068

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Thirty people were killed when an Antonov-26 carrying Turkish workers crashed north of Baghdad, Turkish foreign ministry officials have said. The aircraft was travelling from the province of Adana in southern Turkey to Iraq. Thirty construction workers and five crew members were on board the aircraft, a Turkish official said. Two people were reported injured. Reports said the aircraft crashed while trying to land in foggy conditions. "The aircraft came down at about midday Turkish time, 1000, UTC, some 2.5 km to the north-west of Balad," a foreign ministry official said. The aircraft was owned by Moldova's Aerian Tur Airlines, Turkish officials said, and the workers were from Turkish construction company Kulak.

London, Jan 10 — Antonov 26B-100, ER-26068, operator Aeriantur-M Airlines, was chartered to fly Turkish construction workers to Iraq when it crashed on approach to the Balad Air Base, a US base 80 km north of Baghdad, Jan 9. There were five crew and 30 passengers on board of which 32 persons were killed, one person was injured and two others are unaccounted for.

Baghdad, Jan 10 — The crash of Antonov 26B-100 ER-26068 which killed 34 people flying from Turkey to Iraq yesterday was believed to be the result of a "technical failure," an Iraqi transport ministry official said today. Officials have made no suggestion of hostile fire, although an Iraqi rebel group claimed it had shot the aircraft down. "It was not shot down," Transport Ministry media director Ahmed Abdul Wahab said. "It is believed to have been a technical failure but the investigation is continuing," he said. He added that it crashed near a US base so US authorities were handling the matter and he had no more details. Turkish officials said the death toll from the crash had risen to 34 and that one survivor was being treated for his injuries in hospital. — Reuters.

G-BLUN

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Parts of a helicopter which crashed into the sea, killing seven, have been salvaged and returned to shore. The flight recorder, which may hold vital clues about the cause of the accident at Morecambe Bay on December 27, is yet to be recovered. A Department of Transport spokeswoman said the wreckage would be analysed at an Air Accidents Investigation base. The debris, which was recovered yesterday, will be sent to a base in Farnborough. The search was suspended because of poor weather today. "We have not yet recovered the flight recorder but we believe we know its location," the DoT spokeswoman said. "The search will resume once weather conditions allow." Police and CHC Helicopter Corporation, the helicopter's owners, have refused to comment on speculation that the accident was caused by a mechanical failure.

N16065

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated Jan 6, states: The left wing of an aircraft, backing out of a gate at John F. Kennedy International Airport, clipped the tail of another plane on the taxiway this afternoon, but no one was injured, authorities said. The Air China flight had 215 passengers on board and 23 crew members and was destined for Beijing when its wing clipped the other plane, said Tony Ciavolella, a spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which manages the airports. The Delta flight was empty because the plane had not boarded yet, said Delta spokeswoman Katie Connell. Both planes were taken out of service to repair damage. The Air China flight was rescheduled with another plane for tomorrow. The Delta passengers took another plane an hour after their originally scheduled flight to Nice, France, Connell said. The Federal Aviation Administration was investigating the incident. No other flights at JFK were affected.

London, Jan 8 — Boeing 767-332 N16065, operated by Delta Airlines, was struck in the left vertical stabiliser by a Boeing 747 operated by Air China, at 2243, Jan 6, while parked at the gate at John F. Kennedy Airport, New York. The aircraft sustained minor damage. No injuries were reported.

N2658

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated Jan 6, states: Two Texas men died in a plane crash in northern Arkansas, authorities said. Craig Meyer, 26, of McKinney, and Joel Diffie III, 40, of Terrell, were killed when the 1985 Cessna 182 went down about a mile east of Batesville. The wreckage was found about 1300 hrs, yesterday just east of the Batesville airport, said Richard Griffin of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management. The plane was registered to Barr Air Patrol LLC, a Mesquite company that monitors oil

and gas pipelines from the air. It wasn't immediately clear who was flying the aircraft. The plane left Joilet, Ill., on Thursday (Jan 4) and officials last had contact with the plane about 1100 hrs, that morning when it was flying over Doniphan, Mo., in the southeastern part of the state. Griffin said he wasn't sure if the Texas-bound plane was scheduled to stop in Batesville. It was reported missing Thursday evening when it didn't arrive. Assistant airport manager Ken Rawlings said the weather on Thursday was foggy and rainy. The fog was still bad enough yesterday that crews could not use planes in the search. Meyer was a certified commercial pilot with about two years' experience, records show. The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating the crash.

London, Jan 8 — Cessna 182R (Skylane) N2658 crashed near Batesville, Arkansas, at 0001, Jan 4, while on a flight from Valparaiso, Texas, to Mesquite, TX. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N3940R

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated Jan 3, states: Three people died yesterday night after a small plane crashed near Armstrong in Kenedy County. The plane was a Cessna 172H and went down about 9:30 p.m., said Hector Casanova, regional director of the National Transportation Safety Board. The victims' names have not been released. The crash is under investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration. A representative from Cessna, the manufacturer of the plane and a representative of Continental engines will also be on site, Casanova said. "We were told the aircraft was completely destroyed," Casanova said. The plane, en route to Jacksonville, Texas, took off from an airport in Weslaco.

London, Jan 8 — Cessna 172H N3940R crashed near Armstrong, Texas, at 0233, Jan 3, while on a flight from Weslaco, TX, to Jacksonville, TX. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were killed.

N54DT

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: A single-engine aircraft apparently ran out of fuel and crashed in north-east Ohio today, but the pilot was able to walk away with minor injuries, the State Highway Patrol said. The patrol said the aircraft, flown by Robert Carpenter, 56, of Pinehurst, N.C., apparently ran out of fuel while headed to the Portage County Airport. It clipped trees and crashed south of Ravenna about 10 miles from the airport. Carpenter walked to a nearby home and was taken to Robinson Memorial Hospital to be checked. He was treated for minor cuts and bruises, hospital spokeswoman Christine Isenberg said.

London, Jan 10 — Thorp T-18 N54DT made a forced landing near Ravenna,

Ohio, at 1608, Jan 9, after losing power on approach to Ravenna. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was not injured.

N55YS

London, Jan 8 — Cessna 182P (Skylane) N55YS crashed near Columbia, South Carolina, at 0435, Jan 5, while on a local flight from Owens Airport, Columbia. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were killed.

N720Z

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A Jamestown pastor was killed yesterday morning when the aircraft he was piloting crashed shortly after takeoff from the Chautauqua County Airport. As of last night, Chautauqua County officials were awaiting the results of Federal Aviation Authority's investigation to determine the cause of the crash. Sheriff Joseph Gerace said a 911 call was received at 0948 hrs and witnesses saw the aircraft, a twin-engine Aerostar, dipping suddenly after takeoff. Though county officials were awaiting for the complete FAA investigation to determine the cause of the crash, yesterday's wintry weather may have been a factor.

London, Jan 9 — Piper PA-60 Aerostar 601P N720Z crashed at Jamestown Airport, New York, at 1448, Jan 8, while taking off for a flight to Buffalo, NY. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The one person on board was killed.

N8231D

London, Jan 8 — Piper PA-34-200T (Seneca II) N8231D crashed near Manzanola, Colorado, at 1400, Jan 5, while on a flight from Pueblo, CO, to Tyler, Texas. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

PK-KKW

Makassar, Jan 7 — Indonesia stepped up efforts today to locate a missing airliner six days after it vanished from radar screens with 102 aboard as anger grew among the passengers' relatives. Another 700 troops and four more helicopters were being thrown into the hunt for the 17-year-old Boeing 737-400 operated by Indonesian budget airline Adam Air, said military spokesman Captain Mulyadi in Makassar on Sulawesi island, where search efforts were being coordinated. Nearly 2,900 soldiers and police have been looking for the airliner along with at least four Indonesian military planes, a Singapore Air Force Fokker-50 and a helicopter. A U.S. military aircraft also arrived at an air base in Makassar to help the search, Lieutenant Joko from the air base told Reuters. The search had initially concentrated on areas of western Sulawesi, from where the last emergency signal was received, but was expanded to the north and east of the island on Friday (Jan 5). The pilot

made no distress call from the plane, which had taken off from Surabaya on Java island on Monday (Jan 1) for Manado, provincial capital of North Sulawesi. The only clue to where the stricken plane might have gone down came when a signal from its emergency locator beacon was detected by a Singapore satellite. In his last conversation with Makassar air traffic control, the pilot said he had encountered cross-winds, officials said. Radar continued to track the flight for some time after that. U.S. transport safety officials arrived in Sulawesi yesterday and were working with Indonesian regulators investigating the disappearance. — Reuters.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A US Navy oceanographic survey vessel was trying to determine today if large pieces of metal found off Sulawesi Island's western coast were wreckage from a Boeing 737 (PK-KKW) that disappeared more than a week ago carrying 102 people. Meanwhile, thousands of soldiers, police and volunteers continued their search on land and headed to two points recommended by US National Transportation Safety Board. An Indonesian vessel recently found three pieces of debris on the Makassar Strait seabed after local fisherman told authorities they had spotted a low-flying, unstable aircraft in the area but lost sight of it after hearing a loud bang, naval officials said. The USNS *Mary Sears*, which has sonar and satellite imagery capabilities, was called in to see if the metal could be the remnants of Adam Air Flight KI-574, which fell off radars in the area during 80 mph winds, said Eddy Suyanto, the search and rescue mission chief. The debris was roughly 2 miles from the West Sulawesi provincial capital of Mamuju at a depth of about 4,500 feet, he said. Rear Admiral Moekhlas Sidik, commander of the Eastern Indonesia Fleet, said the *Mary Sears* had confirmed one of the objects was "round-shaped metal," but that more readings were needed to identify it. The pilot of the Adam Air aircraft, which left Java island for the North Sulawesi provincial capital of Manado on Jan 1, twice changed course because of rough weather but did not issue a mayday or report technical difficulties, officials said. With no emergency location signal to guide more than 3,600 soldiers, police and volunteers searching in the island's dense jungles and surrounding seas, teams have fanned out over a nearly 30,000-square-mile area, almost the size of South Carolina. A US National Transportation Safety Board team arrived late last week and authorities in the United States were viewing satellite imagery of the island, the embassy said. Today, searchers combed two areas recommended by US investigators after they analyzed radar data from the day of the disappearance, Suyanto said.

Makassar, Jan 11 — Pieces of an Indonesian airliner which vanished with 102 people on board have been found on the ocean floor, officials said today, after a painstaking 10-day search from jungles to stormy seas. Parts including a tail stabiliser and flight attendant seats were confirmed or reported found in the sea and on beaches near the town of Pare Pare on the west coast of Sulawesi island. A top search official later said that a woman's body recovered in the vicinity was not that of a missing passenger. "This morning I announced that there has been a finding of a part of Adam Air. What was found was the right tail's stabiliser number 65C25746-76. This thing was found by a fisherman in Pare Pare," said Eddy Suyanto, who has been co-ordinating search efforts from an air base in the South Sulawesi capital, Makassar. "This object has the same number as the Boeing catalogue," he told reporters, displaying the slightly scratched white stabiliser of about 1 metre (3 ft) in length found yesterday. Two flight attendant seats were also found on a beach today in the same general area, search and rescue official Immal Yuhani told Reuters. A stream of other apparent wreckage had also been found and was being examined, said Genot Hardianto, the chief of police at Pare Pare, about 100 km north of Makassar. "So far there have been eight fragments made of fibre and aluminium in sizes ranging from 25 to 50 cm long, a life vest, an ID card, a flare and a headrest," he said. Metro Television showed footage of a series of local people holding what appeared to be plane fragments. One elderly woman showed a small square piece of mangled, white wreckage. Elshinta radio said fishermen had discovered a life vest wrapper 10 km from the stabiliser's location. — Reuters.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF AIRPORT, BRISTOL, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The runway has reopened and flights have resumed at Bristol Airport after tests had to be carried out due to a safety row. Ten airlines had cancelled or diverted flights after claims that aircraft had skidded on landing in wet conditions on a refurbished runway. A total of 385 flights and 25,000 passengers have been affected since the dispute began on Friday (Jan 5). The runway was closed overnight for work on runway drainage systems. When flights resumed on today, the first flight to land was the 1037 from New York. Two more flights have since come safely in to land. "We've had an army of contractors out on the runway over the last 12 hours putting grooves in to increase friction," said Tony Hallwood, Aviation Development Director at Bristol International Airport. Problems began on Friday after Easyjet raised concerns over the safety of the new £17m resurfaced

runway. Today a spokesperson for Easyjet said the firm would begin to relocate services back to Bristol later but for the time being 60% of its flights would continue to fly from Cardiff. "EasyJet intends to run a full service from Bristol International Airport tomorrow with all services to run as normal," said Samantha Day. Holiday company Thomas Cook has also announced a resumption in services from Bristol. At lunchtime today, Air Southwest said it intended to resume all flights to and from the airport straightaway.

YV-2045

London, Jan 10 — Fairchild SW3 YV-2045, was substantially damaged following a loss of control while landing at the Richard L. Jones Jr. Airport near Tulsa, Oklahoma, at 1140, CST, Jan 2. The pilot, the first officer, and the seven passengers were not injured.

Product Recalls



BABY STROLLERS, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 3 — A press release issued by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Dec 27, states: The US Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Regal Lager Inc., of Kennesaw, Ga., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 14,300 Phil & Teds e3 Strollers with doubles seats. Children can touch the rear tyres when in the stroller's add-on seat. This can pose an abrasion hazard to children. Regal Lager has received one report of a child who scraped his arm from touching the tyre in motion. This recall involves the e3 Buggy which is a three-wheeled stroller with a black steel tubing frame. It is sold in a variety of fabric colors. An additional seat, known as a "Doubles Kit," can be added directly behind the main stroller's seat allowing a second child to ride in the stroller. This seat can either be added on top of the stroller's frame or attached on top of the rear axle in the lower position. When used in the lower position, a seated child can reach the wheels. Manufactured in China, the strollers were sold by baby furniture and baby products stores nationwide, and Internet retailers from July 2005 through to November 2006 for about \$380.

DAEWOO MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: GM Daewoo, South Korea's second-largest automaker, is recalling more than 46,000 sport utility vehicles due to a brake defect, the transport ministry

said. It said 46,147 of the 2006-model Captiva sport utility vehicles produced between April 11 and Dec 14, will be recalled. Of the total, 32,254 were exported and 13,893 sold domestically under the model name 'Winstorm'.

POOL HEATERS, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 5 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Jan 4, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Water Pool and Spa Inc., of Moorpark, Calif., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 105,000 MiniMaxÆ NT STD Gas Pool Heaters. These pool heaters can emit excessive carbon monoxide (CO), posing a risk of CO poisoning in the event of a vent leak in an indoor installation. However, no incidents/injuries have been reported. The recall involves Pentair MiniMaxÆ NT STD Gas Pool Heaters installed indoors. They have BTU ratings between 200,000 and 400,000, and use either natural gas or propane. The model number is located on the rating plate on the inner front panel of the heater. The following model numbers are included: 460427 through to 460430, 460439 through to 460450, 460531 through to 460538, 460543 through to 460566. The recall includes units with serial numbers 0606002 and lower. The recall also includes units without serial numbers. Assembled in the United States, the heaters were sold through pool heater distributors and pool service equipment dealers nationwide from April 2002 through to May 2006 for between \$2,000 and \$3,850 depending on the model number.

PORTABLE GENERATORS, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 5 — A press release, issued by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Jan 4, states: The US Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with DEWALT Industrial Tool Co., of Towson, Md., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 13,000 DEWALT DG2900 Portable Generators. A ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) installed on the generator could fail to operate properly, posing a risk of electric shock to consumers. No incidents or injuries have been reported. The recall involves DEWALT DG2900 2900 watt gasoline-powered generators with date codes 200150 through 200635. The generators are black and yellow. "DEWALT" and "DG2900" are printed on the generator. The date code is stamped on the right side of the unit on the black plastic covering the rear of the control panel. Units with an "R" stamped on the name plate are not affected by this recall. Manufactured in Japan, the generators were sold by major home centre and hardware stores nationwide from December 2001 through to November 2006 for between \$900 and \$1,000.



AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 4 — Vessel waiting time at Australia's Newcastle Port reached 20 days last week, the longest in over a year, with 55 vessels waiting to load at the world's biggest coal export terminal, Reuters reports. "Coal loading is steady at the moment, loading operations are running at the same rate as vessel arrivals, despite a bit of a slowdown during the Christmas period," said a local source. Since November's train track maintenance, which reduced coal exports for the month to about 6.2m tonnes, the weekly average of coal vessels waiting to load coal at the port stands at 45 vessels, according to data from the Newcastle Port Corporation. The port shipped 1.7m tonnes of coal during the week ended January 1.

Sydney, Jan 5 — Long delays for coal ships at the port of Newcastle could be reduced with news that a \$170m upgrade of the Kooragang coal terminal could be completed almost 12 months ahead of schedule. The port has been dealing with a near record coal queue, which was expected to drop to the early 40s by now, but could now take until March to ease. Blown out by a surge in demand during November's shutdown for rail and port upgrades, the queue has hovered above 50 because arrival rates are matching the system's capacity. Port Waratah Coal Services (PWCS) general manager Graham Davidson told Lloyd's List DCN this morning that the work to boost capacity to 102-105m tonnes could be completed by February. The upgrade was expected to wrap up by the end of the first quarter, after initially being scheduled for the second half of the year. It comes as average waiting times for the 56 coal ships off the coast have stretched to almost 20 days this month, up from about seven days during September. There were just 23 coal ships waiting off the coast for an average of almost six days at this time last year. Four months ago there were about 27 vessels waiting, but the figure grew to 40 by the end of September, the highest in two years, when severe weather disrupted shipping for several days. A rush in demand from Asian customers in the last quarter of 2006, combined with scheduled rail and port upgrades in November, pushed the queue out to the mid-50s. The present queue matches the record set in March 2004 when the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) approved coal producers' plans to introduce a capacity balancing system for the coal chain. The CBS was introduced in 2004 to combat the longest queue the port had ever dealt with - 56 vessels waiting to load coal

amidst a boom in demand. As reported in Lloyd's List DCN in September last year, coal companies voted to scrap the port of Newcastle's capacity balancing system starting from January 1. Mr Davidson said that he did not expect its scrapping to have a detrimental effect on the queue. The more significant factor was that the coal companies wanted to move about 8.7m tonnes of coal in November despite being told that the network upgrades would limit capacity to 6.2m tonnes. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

BANGLADESH

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

IRAQ

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Mooring operations were halted at Basrah Oil Terminal yesterday. Terminal berths will remain vacant for Jan 14 when work to install meters is expected to start on Jan 15. Vessels currently at berth will continue to load, but any vessels at anchor/arriving will have to wait until after the completion of meter installation, expected on Jan 20.

ITALY

Genoa, Jan 8 — Port situation Jan 8: Genoa: No vessels awaiting berths. Savona: One vessel awaiting special berth, average delay 12 hours. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

KENYA

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Containers are piling up at the port of Mombasa after the suspension of three insurance firms from issuing transit bonds by Kenya Revenue Authority. By yesterday morning there were 5,800 undeclared containers saturating the terminal with 9,722 boxes. Clearing and forwarding agents blamed KRA for the rise in the number of undeclared containers at the port. Kenya International Freight and Warehousing Association (Kifwa) chairman John Gardner said KRA did not consult them before suspending the firms, leaving the agents stranded. Mr Gardner contradicted KRA's assertion in an advert last week that the agents were consulted before the suspension of the three main insurance firms that offer transit bonds for cargo destined to other countries. "The move to nullify these bonds running into hundreds of millions of shillings was done overnight and Kifwa was most certainly not consulted," said Mr Gardner in a statement he said was issued to clarify "KRA's inaccurate notice." Mr Gardner asked why Customs allowed the insurance companies to continue to execute beyond bond levels approved by its commissioner. "Customs should have cancelled specific sureties issued to clearing agents who are unable to account for transit goods, instead of nullifying all bonds including those issued to clearing agents with clean records," said Mr Gardner. In the

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press advertisement, the Commissioner of Customs, Ms Rose Namu, said: "This decision (to suspend the insurers) was arrived at in full consultation with the Association of Kenya Insurers and Kifwa." The clearing agents also disagreed with her assertion that there are many players in the insurance industry who can transact security bonds at rates determined by the market. Mr Gardner asked what steps Customs had taken to recover revenue allegedly lost and how goods supposedly

escorted to the border ended up in the local market. Ms Namu said Customs was concerned about the increasing number of undocumented containers at the port, leading to unnecessary congestion and undue pressure on the port infrastructure. She offered support to reduce the congestion, which was hampering operations. "However, KRA will only support such efforts to the extent that they do not endanger revenue collection and the movement of legitimate trade," the official warned.

TURKEY

Istanbul, Jan 06 — Traffic will be suspended for southbound vessels tomorrow at 0530 due to southbound LNG Tanker entering from Gelibolu at 0700. Traffic suspension will continue for southbound vessels tomorrow for container vessels entering at 1000. Traffic will be open southbound tomorrow at 1100. — TurkishStraits.com.

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		
Abbot Point	15-Jan-2007	Coal: One vessel loading at berth; 2 vessels arrived; 11 vessels due by 5/2; 2-7 days delay expected.
Brisbane	15-Jan -2007	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth; Nine vessels due by 1/3.
Dalrymple Bay	15-Jan -2007	Coal: Two vessels loading at berth; 23 vessels arrived; 18 vessels due by 30/1; 5-25 days delay expected.
Dampier	15-Jan -2007	Coal: Parker Point: Two vessels loading at berth; 4 vessels arrived; 22 vessels due by 6/2; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel loading at berth; 1 vessel arrived; 11 vessels due by 24/1; 10-14 days delay expected at Dampier.
Esperance	15-Jan -2007	Iron ore: Three vessels due by 27/1.
Geraldton	15-Jan -2007	Iron ore: One vessel at anchor; 4 vessels due by 5/2.
Gladstone	15-Jan -2007	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Two vessels at berth, 13 vessels arrived; 36 vessels due by 8/3; 11-15 days delay expected; Barney Point: 1 vessel arrived; 15 vessels due by 21/2.
Hay Point	15-Jan -2007	Coal: One vessel loading at berth; 7 vessels arrived; 11 vessels due by 25/1; 5-25 days delay expected.
Newcastle	15-Jan -2007	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: Three vessels loading at berth; 35 vessels arrived; 22 vessels due by 30/1; 19-22 days delay expected; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels loading at berth; 18 vessels arrived; 20 vessels due by 31/1; 16-21 days delay expected.
Port Hedland	15-Jan -2007	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: One vessel loading at berth; 9 vessels due by 23/1; "B" berth: 1 vessel loading at berth; 9 vessels due by 25/1; 5 other vessels due by 4/2 at A or B berth; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island "C" berth): berth closed for refurbishment; (Finucane Island "D" berth): 1 vessel loading at berth; 1 vessel arrived; 8 vessels due by 21/1; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel due by 28/1; 1-5 days delay expected at Port Hedland.
Port Kembla	15-Jan -2007	Coal: Fifteen vessels due by 11/3; 1-2 days delay expected. (Oceania
Port Walcott	15-Jan -2007	Iron ore: Two vessels loading at berth; 7 vessels arrived; 16 vessels due by 29/1; 10-14 days delay expected.
Whyalla	15-Jan -2007	Iron ore: Six vessels due by 18/2.
India		
Kolkata	15-Jan -2007	6 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (General Cargo-2, Iron Ore), 1 vessel discharging Containers, 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers, 1 vessel waiting to load General Cargo, 3 vessels working at midstream discharging (Pules-2, Crude), 2 vessels waiting to discharge at midstream Crude; 4 vessels under repair; 1 vessel under arrest; 2 vessels due (Logs, Containers).
Haldia	15-Jan -2007	16 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Iron Ore-4, Thermal Coal), 8 vessels discharging (POL-2, Coking Coal-2, Crude, Steel, Ammonia Nitrate, Phosphoric Acid), 3 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 5 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (2 to discharge, 3 to load), 4 vessels waiting berth at anchorage (1 to discharge, 3 to load); 5 vessels due (Crude, Met Coke, Palm Oil, Coking Coal, Containers).
Paradip	15-Jan -2007	10 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Iron Ore-4, Thermal Coal), 5 vessels discharging (Cement Clinker, Coking Coal-2, Project Cargo); 3 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load), 1 vessel waiting berth at anchorage to load; 36 vessels due.
Vizag	15-Jan -2007	15 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Thermal Coal, Iron Ore-2, Product-2), 9 vessels discharging (Gypsum, Coking Coal, Crude Oil, DAP, A. Coal, Timber, Lime Stone, Sulphur, Pet Coke), 1 vessel loading and discharging CP Coke & Granite; 11 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (8 to discharge, 3 to load); 40 vessels due (Iron Ore-10, Thermal Coal, Soya-5, CD Coke, Alumina, Product Tankers-4, DAP, Rock phosphate, Urea, L. ammonia, Coking Coal-5, Steam Coal-2., Containers-2, Pet coke, Met Coke, Crude & Product Tankers-3).

Port Conditions

Chennai	15-Jan -2007	15 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Granite Blocks, Molass, Iron Ore), 8 vessels discharging (Containers-4, Project Cargo-2, Granite Bloks-3, Steel Coil, Steel Plate, Steel Pipes), 8 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load, 1 to load and discharge); 2 vessels due (Supply, Molass).
Tuticorin	15-Jan -2007	5 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading General Cargo, 2 vessels discharging (MOP, Palm Oil); 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 3 to load), 1 vessel waiting and working at anchorage to load, 1 vessel waiting for repair (bunkering); 1 vessel under arrest.
Cochin	15-Jan -2007	4 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (LDO, SKO), 2 vessels discharging (Steel Plates, Crude); 1 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel under arrest (Banglar Gourab- under arrest by MMD/Court).
New Mangalore	15-Jan -2007	10 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Granite Stone, POL Product-2), 7 vessels discharging (Fertiliser-2, Container, Cement, Timber, Lime Coke, LPG); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 13 vessels due (LPG-2, POL Product-4, Phosphoric Acid, Steam Coal, POL Crude-2 Timber, Iron Ore (Fines)).
Mormugao	15-Jan -2007	3 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Iron Ore, 2 vessels discharging (Met Coke, Phosphoric Acid), 4 vessels working at midstream and loading Iron Ore, 1 vessel working at mid stream and discharging Coal; 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 2 vessel under dry docked; 6 vessels due (Coal-2, Iron Ore-4).
Mumbai	15-Jan -2007	13 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Steel Pipes, Bagged SBM), 8 vessels discharging (Steel Cargo, Project Cargo, Wheat), 3 vessels loading and discharging (Containers, Steel, General Vehicles); 1 vessel working at midstream and discharging CFA; 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge, 3 vessels awaiting order at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load), 7 vessels waiting at anchorage (3 to discharge, 3 to load, 1 to load and discharge); 10 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 5 vessels under arrest; 1 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 35 vessels due (Contaners-6, Oil, General Cargo-28).
J.N.P.T.	15-Jan -2007	9 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels discharging (Cement, Edible Oil, Lubricant Oil), 6 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load and discharge; 1 vessel due Containers.
Kandla	15-Jan -2007	14 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Project Cargo, Salt, Rice, Agriculture Product), 9 vessels discharging (Coal, wheat, Coils-2, Urea, Timber Logs, Oil, TCPS, Chemical), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel working at midstream and discharging Timber Logs; 5 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 10 vessels not ready to work at anchorage (6 to load, 4 to discharge).
Ennore	15-Jan -2007	2 vessels operating at berth and discharging Coal, 1 vessel working at inner anchorage loading Iron Ore; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge; 4 vessels due (MV Apj Sri Devi (Coal), MV Sea Friend (Iron Ore), MV Good Season (Coal), MV Tamil Anna (Coal)

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