

Bulgarian cargo ship sinks, five dead

by UPI

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia -- A Bulgarian cargo ship sank Wednesday in a winter storm in the Sea of Azov between Russia and Ukraine, killing at least five of its crew of 11, local media said. Russia's Novosti news agency said 10 of the crew aboard the Vanessa were Bulgarian and the pilot was from Ukraine. The distress signal went out at 2 a.m. as the men took to lifeboats but bad weather hampered rescue efforts by a Ukrainian tugboat and a helicopter, the Sofia News Agency reported. The ship was bound for Bulgaria carrying iron and was about 30 miles from the Kerch Strait when it began sinking, the reports said. Last November, a storm in the same area sank four cargo ships and an oil tanker and killed at least six sailors, Novosti said.

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