

December 10 2004

## Stability fears over double-hull tankers

**I**NTERNATIONAL Salvage Union president Hans van Rooij has voiced salvors' concerns about safety and stability on board the new generation of containerships and tankers.

Mr van Rooij raised salvors' concerns in London this week about double-hull tankers' stability during salvage operations and during discharge as well as during the discharge of large container vessels.

Salvage industry members will be undertaking studies in co-operation with universities and other industry players to explore the problem, he said. Entry of salvage personnel into tanker spaces was also a source of worry.

Many double-hull tankers, he suggested, had lost stability during simultaneous cargo discharge or ballasting "with the sudden list tearing off the cargo hoses".

Excessive wave loads and heavy rolling by containerships are a source of concern, as is the securing and release of containers stacked on deck.

With the size of containerships increasing, it is becoming more difficult to lighten casualties before refloating.

Mr van Rooij suggested that well-maintained single-hull tankers would probably be safer than poorly maintained double-hulls in a few years' time.

Without proper protection and maintenance of tank coatings for double-hulls, pitting could eat through half the bottom plate in the space of three to four years, leading to splitting and oil ingress into the double bottom, he estimated at a recent seminar organised by the Britannia P&I Club.

Salvors are also hoping to open a dialogue with cruise operators to establish agreements on emergency procedures in the event of a casualty, Mr van Rooij said.

He believes that co-operation with other industry players is vital as salvors cannot work in isolation.

The ISU has introduced an associate membership scheme which now has 30 members as a means of increasing its contacts with other sectors of the industry.

Pressures on owners, insurers and salvors are on the increase as more governments implement zero tolerance policies for environmental accidents.

"Protection goes before response," Mr van Rooij said, and the ISU is looking at mechanisms to ensure that salvors' role in protecting the environment is recognised in salvage awards.

Mr van Rooij called recently for a specific IMO instrument "offering best practice for major casualty management".

This, he suggests, could be achieved by expanding the guidelines on places

of refuge adopted last year. An enhanced role for the salvor was needed in the casualty risk assessment process, he suggests.

Issues that needed to be addressed included bureaucratic delays or difficulties in gaining access to ships in distress and the problem of criminalisation of salvors and seafarers generally.

Mr van Rooij was critical of many coastal states which he said "show consummate skill in evading their own responsibilities". Such states adopted tactics that "can only be described as 'playing to the crowd'", he said.

Singled out for particular criticism was Spain over the Prestige disaster. He said Spain "blamed virtually everyone but themselves for a catastrophe with a price tag of 1.5bn". Spain had ignored the fact that "this event was very largely the result of their decision to refuse a place of refuge for the casualty", he said.

He also criticised the recent Spanish legislation demanding financial guarantees and the suspension of limitation rights before providing a place of refuge.

Mr van Rooij described those sections of the recently released report by the Bahamas on the Prestige that related to his firm Smit's involvement in the salvage as being "factual".

**Sandra Speares**  
Lloyd's List Editorial

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

<b>Vessel</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Flag</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>GT</b>	<b>DWT</b>	<b>Bit</b>	<b>Casualty</b>
AMPHITRITE	fishing	FRA	—	49	—	1978	Sank in lat 44 38N, long 02 27W, following flooding, 01 Dec 2004. Four persons abandoned to lifeboat and rescued.
ATHOS I	crude oil tanker	CYP	LR	37,895	60,880	1983	Had engine-room problems at Mantua Creek anchorage Nov 27. Developed 8-deg list, lost engine power and lost about 450,000 gallons of heavy crude oil. Anchored in lat 39 51.37N, long 75 13.65W, held in position by 2 tugs. List righted Nov 29.
BAWISUM	fishing	KHM	—	227	131	1972	Missing near Takeshima Island, Sea of Japan, Nov 28.
BREVIK	chem tanker	SWE	LR	2,406	3,889	1981	Grounded at Slottoen, Trollhatte Canal, Nov 25, while changing course to avoid another vessel. Refloated with tug assistance Nov 26. Inspection revealed bulkhead dented. To proceed to Skoghall, then dock at Gothenburg.
FIFTIETH VICTORY ANNIVERSARY	ice-breaker	RUS	—	—	—	—	Caught fire at St. Petersburg shipyard Nov 30. Construction materials burning over large area of deck.
HE XIN NO.1	general	PAN	KR	1351	3,401	1985	Sank in lat 24 12N, long 119 48E, Nov 30. Seven of the 11 crew rescued.
MALAKHIT	fishing	RUS	NV	962	1,200	1995	Sank Dec 1 after encountering a severe storm in lat 73 30.9N, long 17 04.6E, Barents Sea. Eighteen crew rescued. Two dead.
NICOLE II	fishing	USA	—	51	—	1978	Sank 15 nautical miles east of Hull, Massachusetts, Dec 1. Crew rescued.
RAW FAITH	—	USA	—	—	—	—	Reported Nov 26 disabled about 50 miles off Portland, ME, due to rudder problem. Coast Guard cutter dispatched to tow vessel to Portland.
SHIN JYI WANQ	fishing	TWN	—	—	—	—	Burned out after explosion 92 km off Pacific coast of Costa Rica Nov 26. Crew missing.

# CONTENTS

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

<b>Marine, including Overdue &amp; Missing Vessels</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Port State Control</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Seizures &amp; Arrests</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Pipeline Accidents</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Pollution</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Weather &amp; Navigation</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Earthquakes</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Volcanic Activity</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Political &amp; Civil Unrest</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Kidnappings</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Labour Disputes</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Awards &amp; Settlements</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Railway Accidents</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Robberies &amp; Thefts</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Fires &amp; Explosions</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Aviation</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Product Recalls</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Port Conditions</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Port Conditions charts</b>	<b>31</b>

© Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit 2004  
These reports may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photographic, recorded or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.



## The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



### AGIOS NIKOLAOS (Greece)

Piraeus, Nov 29 — General cargo *Agios Nikolaos* completed repairs and sailed Piraeus, exact date of sailing/destination not available, however, vessel has since arrived Rethimnon Oct 11 and sailed Oct 12. — Lloyd's Agents.

### AL-ZAHRAA (Iraq)

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

### ALMAR (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Nov 29 — Edible oil tanker *Almar* arrived London Nov 27 from Harlingen and sailed same day for Hull, where arrived Nov 28.

### ALMAZ (Russia)

Seoul, Dec 2 — Fish factory *Almaz*, which sailed from Donghae Nov 20, bound for Sea of Okhotsk for fishing works, had a fire 35 miles north-west from the eastern part of Ullung Island at 0001, Nov 21. Accommodation part was completely burnt. Two persons were killed and 71 persons were rescued. The cause of fire is under investigation by Donghae Maritime Police. After the fire was extinguished, vessel was towed to Donghae Nov 21. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ALYSSA M.II (U.K.)

Wellington, Nov 27 — Yacht *Alyssa M.II*: No change, vessel still in port at Nelson, no further work carried out, vessel still advertised for sale, but no sale has yet eventuated. — Lloyd's Agents.

### AMISIA J. (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Dec 1 — Information received from Sandnes states: General cargo *Amisia J.* completed repairs at Langstein Shipyard at 1200, local time, today, and moved to Aalesund for loading containers.

### AMORGOS (Greece)

London, Nov 27 — A press report, dated Nov 26, states: Court proceedings for Taiwan's first international lawsuit seeking compensation for the ecological damage caused by the 2001 oil spill from general cargo *Amorgos* began in Norway early this month and the judgment is expected before the Christmas holidays, the Environmental Protection Administration said yesterday. On Jan 14, 2001, the vessel, en route from Indonesia to China, ran aground near Kenting National Park in bad weather. Four days later, 1,150 tonnes of fuel oil in the vessel began to leak, contaminating 6,987 square metres of the Lungkeng Ecological Reserve. The spill polluted the water, damaged coastal ecological systems and interfered with fishing in the area. Since the spill, Assuranceforeningen

Gard (Gjensidig), a Norway-based insurance company representing the vessel's owner, has paid NT\$61 million for the oil clean-up in Lungkeng, NT\$1.8 million for forest restoration, NT\$84.7 million for the removal of part of the shipwreck and various amounts to local fishermen. Leu Horng-guang, director-general of the EPA's Bureau of Water Quality Protection, said yesterday that the international lawsuit showed Taiwan's determination to seek justice. "We hope to stress that ecological resources in waterways in Taiwan Strait deserve more attention," Leu said yesterday at a press conference in Taipei. From Nov 1-18, Taiwan-ese lawyers hired by the government and ecological experts from Kenting National Park Headquarters and the National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium, appeared in court in Arendal, Norway, to explain how the spill had hurt the park's ecology. Experts from the Norwegian Institute for Water Research and the Institute of Marine Research appeared in court for the defence, the vessel's owner and Assuranceforeningen Gard. According to Sylvia Huang, an attorney with Lee and Li, the NT\$350 million compensation figure was determined by a Hong Kong-based international consulting company and includes the cost of the impact on the region's ecological systems, fishery resources and tourism as well as consultant fees. "The defence told the court that no compensation was necessary. They attributed the ecological damage and tourism losses to typhoons in 2001," Huang said. Huang said Taiwan's representatives had done their best to provide evidence linking the spill and ecological damage but the judges said they would need at least four weeks to evaluate the case. Fan Tung-yung, a biologist with the museum, told the Taipei Times that before he left for Norway a newly completed investigation of ecological losses caused by the spill had shown that the percentage of coral coverage in affected areas has fallen from 80% to 30%. "We just have to wait and see Norway's judgment and then discuss it with the relevant governmental agencies. We don't know yet if we will appeal to a higher court if the judgement doesn't account for coral protection and ecological judgment," Leu said.

### AMPHITRITE (France)

London, Dec 1 — Following notice to mariners issued at 0132, UTC, today: Fishing *Amphitrite* (49 gt, built 1978) sank in lat 44 38N, long 02 27W. Four persons abandoned ship in one liferaft. Vessels in vicinity requested to keep a sharp lookout, assist if possible. Reports to Etel MRCC.

London, Dec 1 — Following received from Etel MRCC, timed 1810, UTC: Fishing *Amphitrite*, FPFN, sank following flooding. The four persons on board were rescued safely.

### ANNERDIEP (Cyprus)

London, Nov 26 — General cargo *Annerdiep*, from Viana do Castelo, passed Tarifa Nov 24.

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

**ANTINA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Brest, Nov 25 — General cargo *Antina* sailed Brest Nov 24. — Lloyd's Agents.

**APOSTOLOS P. (Greece)**

Piraeus, Nov 29 — Ferry *Apostolos P.* is still under repair in Piraeus port. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ATHOS I (Cyprus)**

London, Nov 27 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, VA, timed 1157, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Athos I* (37895 gt, built 1983), laden with heavy crude oil, reported problems in the engine-room at Mantua Creek anchorage at about 0130, UTC, Nov 27. The vessel developed an eight-degree list, lost engine power and leaked approximately 500 barrels of heavy crude oil. The vessel is currently anchored in lat 39 51.37N, long 75 13.65W, and is being held in position by two tugs.

London, Nov 27 — Following received from the managers of crude oil tanker *Athos I*, dated today: The United States Coast Guard has responded to an incident involving *Athos I* in the Delaware River, near the Citgo terminal, New Jersey. The vessel was in the process of routine berthing manoeuvres under pilotage, with tug assistance when she suddenly listed. Shortly afterwards, an oil spill was noticed. The vessel reported the spill to authorities at 2115, local time. Coast Guard and vessel responders mobilised upon notification. Under the supervision of the vessel's master, an internal cargo tank transfer was carried out by the vessel's crew to halt the loss of cargo. The vessel is currently at anchor and has been boomed off. The vessel's managers Tsakos Shipping and Trading (Athens) deeply regret this incident and take this opportunity to advise that every effort is being made to protect the local environment. The company also wishes to thank the US Coast Guard and oil spill responders for their swift actions. At present, the US Coast Guard has closed the Delaware River between the Commodore Barry Bridge and the Walt Whitman Bridge as a precaution. Three oil recovery vessels are already on site. Coast Guard officials are investigating the cause of the accident and response crews headed by oil spill response organisation O'Briens are on scene responding to the spill. There are no reported injuries.

London, Nov 27 — A press report, dated today, states: The United States Coast Guard was helping to clean up an oil spill in the Delaware River near Philadelphia today, one day after the vessel leaked an estimated 30,000 gallons (113,560 litres) of crude into the waterway, according to a Coast Guard spokesman. Crude oil tanker *Athos I* was carrying about 325,000 gallons of oil. Petty Officer John Edwards said the environmental damage from the spill has been "minimal thus far." The vessel first called the Coast Guard about 0915, local time yesterday to report the leak. "When they were pulling into the Citgo facility in Paulsboro, New Jersey, they were at an

eight-degree list, which means the vessel was leaning a bit," Edwards said. "They noticed product in the water and that's when they noticed they had a problem." A portion of the river, from the Walt Whitman Bridge to the Commodore Barry Bridge, was closed. The Coast Guard has hired several environmental contractors to assess the damage and help clean up the spill. In addition, Edwards said it was "actively skimming the water" to separate it from the oil. There was no estimate on how long the cleanup might take. "Environmental protection is the Coast Guard's long-standing mission, and we're out there with these other groups getting this cleaned up as quickly and effectively as possible," he said. The vessel was anchored at a creek. The cause of the leak remained under investigation today.

London, Nov 27 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, VA, timed 1800, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Athos I* is still anchored in lat 39 51.37N, long 75 13.65W, and the clean-up operation is still ongoing.

London, Nov 28 — Following received from the managers of crude oil tanker *Athos I*, dated today: *Athos I* lost an estimated 30,000 gallons of heavy crude oil as it was enroute to the Citgo Facility in Paulsboro, New Jersey, on Friday night (Nov 26). Two tugs were helping the vessel move to the facilities pier when it listed eight degrees to port and lost power. The source of the loss was secured and authorities were notified. Coast Guard Personnel from Marine Safety Office-Group Philadelphia, as well as personnel and resources from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, the New Jersey State Police, representatives from the vessel's owner and Citgo, are all co-operating to ensure the clean-up of the spill as well as minimising any impact to the environment. Approximately two miles of protective boom has been set up around the vessel and 12 neighbouring creeks as a preventive measure to contain further impact to the river and wildlife. Additional protective boom will be set up to points north and south of the areas as oil continues to move. The US Fish and Wildlife Department reported 300 birds affected by the oil and another 50 dead. "Any amount of oil in our waterways is a serious matter," said Captain Jonathan Sarubbi, Captain of the Port of Philadelphia. "We are committed to cleaning up the oil and ensuring the Delaware River is open to commerce." Vessels and helicopters from the Coast Guard, as well as New Jersey State Police, are assessing the quantity and impact of the oil spill, which stretches from the Tacony Palmyra Bridge to Tinicum Island. The river is closed to all commercial and pleasure craft from the Tacony Palmyra Bridge to the Commodore Barry

Bridge. The O'Brien's Group, Miller Environmental, Delaware River and Bay Co-Op and Clean Ventures have been contracted for clean-up operations. There are currently 110 people and 10 skimming vessels actively involved with the clean-up, which began last night and is ongoing. The cause of the spill is under investigation by the Marine Safety Office, Philadelphia. It was incorrectly reported that *Athos I* experienced the spill while transferring oil from one tank to another. Once the spill was noted, the crew successfully commenced transfer operations in order to stop the out flow of oil.

London, Nov 28 — Following received from the managers of crude oil tanker *Athos I*, dated today: The damaged location, between No 7 centre cargo tank and No 7 port water ballast tank, has now been identified by divers as being a two-metre by 40-cm punctured tear, breaching both tanks. This type of damage is indicative of the vessel striking an underwater obstruction. The vessel was under pilotage, with tug assistance during berthing manoeuvres at the Citgo Terminal. The vessel at no time during the incident lost power, as reported previously by some sources. Salvage contractors are mobilising pumping equipment, to empty the breached tanks of oil. In keeping with Federal Regulations and company policy, post incident drug and alcohol tests were carried out on all key members of the vessel's staff, with negative results. The vessel's managers and on-board staff are extending their fullest co-operation and expertise to the USCG and responders. The full amount of spillage cannot be estimated at this stage.

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated Nov 28, states: A gash in the hull of crude oil tanker *Athos I* probably caused about 30,000 gallons of crude oil to spill into the Delaware River between Philadelphia and southern New Jersey on Nov 26, the US Coast Guard said today. About 20 miles of the river remained closed to shipping, and about 20 vessels are delayed in leaving or entering the port of Philadelphia, said Coast Guard spokesman Lieutenant Buddy Dye. The port may reopen on a limited basis later today, he said. Divers found a 1.98-metre by 0.46-metre gash in the hull of the vessel, which was en route to a Citgo facility in Paulsboro, New Jersey, Dye said in an interview. The Coast Guard does not yet know what caused the hole, Dye said. The Coast Guard, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware environmental agencies and other groups were working to clean up the spill. Private companies have been contracted for clean-up work, which began on Friday night (Nov 26), the Coast Guard said. The US Fish and Wildlife Service said 50 birds died from the spill. Tsakos Shipping and Trading SA, the vessel's owner, said the gash indicated the vessel hit something underwater, Dye said. The vessel was carrying 325,000 barrels of oil from

Venezuela. The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency said the spill did not threaten drinking water.

London, Nov 29 — Following received from the managers of crude oil tanker *Athos I*, dated Philadelphia today: As managers of *Athos I*, we are now able to update you on the current situation concerning the progress being made to secure the vessel and therefore allow full discharge of its cargo, following Friday night's berthing incident at Paulsboro. Using the vessel's own pumping systems, the vessel staff have successfully righted the vessel from its previous condition of a 7 degree list to port. We can now report, phase I of the operation has been safely completed. Phase II, will include the use of a lightering barge until the vessel reaches a newly revised draught to allow safe berthing at the Citgo terminal for discharge of all cargo. A subsequent diver's videotaped survey has revealed another puncture in the hull in close vicinity to that previously found. This second puncture, also to the same cargo tank is smaller in size measuring approximately 60cm x 40cm. Currently, vessel's managers Tsakos Shipping and Trading S.A. (Athens) are confidently waiting to receive US Coast Guard approval so Phase II can be executed.

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated Nov 29, states: Vessel traffic may resume as early as tonight on the Delaware River after a crude oil spill last Friday (Nov 26), US Coast Guard officials said today. Vessels will move on a "case-by-case basis" with care being made not to disrupt the clean-up of up to 1,000 barrels, or about 425,000 gallons, of heavy Venezuelan crude oil. The crude oil spilled from two gashes in the hull of crude oil tanker *Athos I*, that was to deliver the crude to the Citgo Corp refinery in Paulsboro, New Jersey. Citgo is the US-based refining unit of Venezuela's state-owned Petroleos de Venezuela S.A. No people were injured and there appears to be no threat to drinking-water supplies, said Bradley Campbell, commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Between 500 and 1,000 birds were killed, most of them ducks, geese and seagulls, said Campbell. He said it was difficult to assess the numbers of birds killed or exposed to the crude oil. As of this afternoon, 29 birds were in rehabilitation, which usually consists of washing them off with dishwasher detergent. About 20 miles of the Delaware River was shut to allow for the clean-up. Campbell said about 400 workers from government agencies and private companies were involved in the clean-up. "We're pleased so far with the clean-up," Campbell said. "We've been successful in booming off the five tributaries that are sensitive." The vessel was to have its oil lightered beginning today, said Petty Officer Jaime Bigelowe of the Coast Guard. The vessel's owner has said it will pay for the cleanup, according to Bigelowe. The vessel sustained two gashes, the largest of them about six feet by 1.5

feet, Bigelowe said. It was not known how the vessel was damaged, and the US Army Corps of Engineers was surveying the bottom of the river to determine if any obstructions caused the gashes.

London, Nov 30 — A US Coast Guard press release, dated Nov 29, states: Philadelphia: Crude oil tanker *Athos I*: The Coast Guard, state and local agencies as well as contracted environmental agencies continued the unified effort to cleanup and investigate Friday night's oil spill in the Delaware River. Limited traffic is being permitted to transit the security zone on a case by case bases. Protective barriers will be in place as needed to ensure the oiled areas around the vessel are not spread during the vessel's movement. Daily over-flights and boat crews will monitor the channel for further oil. The vessels will be cleaned after they transit the impacted area to limit the spread of the oil. An additional 170 workers will be added to the efforts bringing the total to 400 people involved in the clean up. Crews have recovered thousands of gallons of oil and oil water mixtures. Multiple skimmer vessels are on the river continuing to pick up floating oil. Clean up crews along the shoreline are using 37,000 feet of protective boom, absorbent pads, and vacuum trucks to remove the spilled materials. The recovered materials are being taken to approved facilities for disposal. The affected area of the spill now extends from just north of the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge to the Commodore Barry Bridge. The spill continues to affect wildlife along the river. Wildlife experts from Tri State Bird Rescue, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and New Jersey and Pennsylvania state wildlife agencies are working diligently to retrieve and treat oiled wildlife. A salvage plan for the ship's cargo was approved this afternoon. The ship will remove oil from the affected cargo hold into barges. The vessel will then be moved to the CITGO facility to offload the unaffected cargo. The owners will proceed with plans to repair the damaged hull. The Army Corps of Engineers completed a survey of the surrounding area showing no obstructions. (See issue of Dec 1.)

New York, Nov 30 — Vessels were moving slowly into and out of the Port of Philadelphia today after the Delaware River was partly shut by a crude oil spill last Friday from crude oil tanker *Athos I*, US Coast Guard officials said. "Traffic is open on a case-by-case basis," said Petty Officer Jamie Bigelowe. "Ships are allowed through once they are inspected," he said about the port, which normally receives about 1 million barrels of crude oil per day for refineries upstream. The inspections slowed traffic. About five commerce vessels were waiting to enter the river from the Atlantic Ocean at midday today, said Petty Officer John Edwards. About 20 miles of the Delaware River was shut to allow for the clean-up of about 30,000 gallons, of heavy Venezuelan crude oil that had spilled from two gashes in the hull of *Athos I*.

On Monday (Nov 29), officials said up to 450,000 gallons had been spilled. — Reuters.

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Crude oil tanker *Athos I*: To the relief of sailors, longshoremen, terminal operators and many others involved in port operations, the logjam of freighters caused by Friday's (Nov 26) oil spill near Paulsboro broke up yesterday. A tanker carrying 800,000 barrels of crude oil arrived at Valero Energy Corp's Paulsboro refinery, for example, ensuring that operations would not be disrupted. Thirty-five vessels were scheduled to arrive at Delaware River ports from Saturday through yesterday morning, said Dennis Rochford, president of Maritime Exchange of the Delaware River and Bay. By early yesterday afternoon, 28 of them had arrived or were nearing their destinations. "That would indicate that effectively the port is open for business again," Rochford said. Joseph A. Balzano, head of South Jersey Port Corp. in Camden, said workers yesterday were unloading two banana ships at the Broadway terminal leased to Del Monte Fresh Produce. Three other vessels were unloading at Camden's Beckett Street Terminal, Balzano said. Sunoco Inc., which has refineries in Philadelphia and West Deptford Township, did not provide information about the status of oil shipments. The resumption of full-scale activities on the port meant a busy day for longshoremen, who work in both Philadelphia and New Jersey, said Marty Mascuilli, secretary-treasurer of Local 1291 of the International Longshoremen's Association. The Coast Guard says investigators believe much more oil spilled than the 30,000 gallons initially reported. Coast Guard Lt. Buddy Dye said 473,500 gallons are unaccounted for, but called a leak of that size a "worst-case scenario." Dye said it could take four or five days for investigators to probe the vessel to determine how much oil actually escaped through a gash in the hull. The Coast Guard said the cause still was unclear. The initial estimate of 30,000 gallons might have been inaccurate because it was based on a reading taken while the vessel was listing four or five degrees to the side, Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Patrick Montgomery said. New Jersey Environmental Protection Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell said that while the oily muck was concentrated within a few miles of Paulsboro, across the river from Philadelphia International Airport, an oily sheen could be seen along about 40 miles of the river. After flying over and then boating through parts of the Delaware affected by the spill, US Sens. Jon Corzine and Frank Lautenberg said they would introduce a bill to increase the liability for ship owners in case of a leak. The legislation the two said they would introduce would double the amount ship owners are required to pay to clean up a disaster. The senators said the measure should speed compliance by shipping companies. According to the current formula, Tsakos Group, the Greek

company that manages *Athos I*, could be made to pay up to about \$45.5 million toward cleaning up the spill and mitigating the environmental and economic problems it may cause. Corzine said it is not clear whether that amount may be enough in this case; officials say it will take more investigation to determine the cost of fixing the problems created when *Athos I* leaked. A federal oil pollution fund is available to pay costs beyond the current liability cap. "It's all going to be cleaned, every twig, every grain of sand," said Paulsboro Mayor John Burzichelli, a Democrat who also serves on the state General Assembly. The Army Corps of Engineers completed a sonar survey of the river without finding anything in the water that would strike the vessel, Montgomery said yesterday. He also said there was no evidence of a navigation error that might have led the vessel into shallow waters or caused it to bump up against something on the shore or in the water.

#### **ATLANTIC QUEEN (Panama)**

Yokohama, Dec 1 — Bulk *Atlantic Queen* (18061 gt, built 1998), Nagoya for Osaka, and lpg *Koyo Maru No.6* (698 gt, built 1985), Nagoya for Ube, were in collision 283 deg and 6,900 metres from Kiihino Misaki lighthouse, Wakayama, at 0535, Nov 19. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Atlantic Queen* arrived Osaka Nov 20 and sailed Nov 23.)

#### **ATLANTIC TRANSPORT (Belgium)**

London, Nov 29 — Understood non specific tanker *Atlantic Transport* did not sustain any damage in the grounding incident in the River Scheldt as it was lying flat on the sandbank. Vessel has continued its normal service.

#### **BALIBO (Indonesia)**

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry *Balibo* (540 gt, built 1996), operated by a state-owned company, ran aground on its way from Alor regency to Kupang, the capital of East Nusa Tenggara, at dawn yesterday, but no fatalities were reported in the incident. The ferry, carrying some 220 passengers, became lodged on a coral reef off of Kera island, 17 kilometres from Bolok port in Kupang. The passengers were all rescued four hours after it hit the reef, said Unru, the head of the Kupang office of state-owned transportation company PT River Transportation and Crossing (PT ASDP). The ferry can accommodate 400 passengers and 18 cars. The passengers were taken to Kupang onboard another ship.

#### **BAWISUM (Cambodia)**

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Cambodian-registered ship (fishing) *Bawisum* (227 gt, built 1972) with 11 people onboard has gone missing near Takeshima Island in the Sea of Japan and the body of a man was recovered near the area last night, the Japan Coast Guard said. The body was found by the coast guard's patrol vessel *Daisen* around

2050 hrs when it was searching for *Baweisum*, a 227-ton ship that issued a distress signal Friday night.

#### **BBC CHINA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Rotterdam, Nov 25 — Heavy swells and high seas yesterday prevented the SMIT Salvage team from continuing with onboard preparations for the reduced general cargo *BBC China* blasting operation, which will render the wreck's fuel tanks tidal and speed up the natural process of destruction of what remains of the wreck. As soon as conditions allow, the salvage team will continue preparing for the blasting operation and it is hoped that weather permitting, this operation will take place within the next two to three days. An Environmental Impact Assessment report was submitted to Authorities on Nov 22. Over the course of last weekend, several pollution prevention and wreck reduction measures were successfully carried out. The salvage team completed the stripping and burning of the accommodation section of *BBC China* early in the weekend and on Sunday morning, assisted by the salvage tug *Smit Amandla* and effective pre-cutting of the structure, the accommodation section was toppled, followed soon thereafter by the cranes. The *BBC China* salvage team completed the recovery of the majority of all pollutants from the wreck last week and also completed the removal of specific cargo items such as paint and lead-covered batteries. — SMIT Salvage BV.

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated Nov 28, states: General cargo *BBC China*, which ran aground off Port Grosvenor on the Wild Coast last month, was blown up today. The cargo and bunker fuel from the vessel, which initially posed an ecological threat to the coastal waters, has been removed but attempts by salvors to refloat the vessel were all in vain. *BBC China*, which was en route to Durban for refuelling, ran into trouble last month. Salvors managed to rid the vessel of its hazardous cargo, but 20 tonnes of isolated fuel still on board the vessel forced them to give it the "final blow" today. Strict safety measures were put in place for the operation. Even local residents had to evacuate their homes at the time of the blast. The remains of the vessel will be flushed out by the sea swell and surf. Environmental authorities are on standby and are keeping a close eye for damage caused to the coastline and marine life.

#### **BEATRICE (Sweden)**

See *Ingrid*.

#### **BERGITTA (NIS)**

Maassluis, Nov 27 — Crude oil tanker *Bergitta* sailed Rotterdam Nov 26. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **BIRK (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Curacao, Nov 26 — C.c. *Birk* sailed Curacao Nov 25. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BRAE ALPHA**

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 40

workers remain on North Sea oil platform *Brae Alpha* from which 139 people were evacuated following a gas leak. Three search and rescue helicopters were involved in the operation, which began just after 2000, UTC, Saturday (Nov 27). The remaining 'essential' workers on *Brae Alpha*, 155 miles north-east of Aberdeen, are continuing to investigate the cause of the leak. No-one was injured during the incident and it is not clear how long the remaining workers will stay on board. A spokeswoman for platform operators, Marathon Oil, said: "The investigation into the cause of the incident is continuing and until we are happy that everything is safe and the investigation is complete; we will stick with having just essential people on the platform." Production at the rig remains shut down. On Saturday night, 114 non-essential workers were airlifted to the nearby *Brae Bravo* platform. And yesterday, a further 25 crew were taken to the *East Bravo* rig. The Marathon Oil spokeswoman said that 113 of the 114 workers removed on Saturday night were flown to Aberdeen by a civilian helicopter. The remaining worker remains on board *Brae Bravo*.

#### **BREVIK (Sweden)**

Gothenburg, Nov 25 — Chem.tank *Brevik* (2406 gt, built 1981), cargo on board 2,000 tons of gasoil, ran aground at Slottoen in Trollhatte Canal this morning due changing course to avoid another vessel and ended up beside the fairway and channel; no problems for other ships passing. Divers will inspect the bottom today and a couple of tugs are on their way to assist, one from Karlstad and one from Gothenburg, ETA late tonight. Some 250 metres of oil booms placed downstream for security. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Nov 26 — Chem.tank *Brevik*: Captain confirmed ballast tanks have been emptied. Vessel refloated at 1030, today, assisted by two tugs. Vessel berthed at 1045 hrs. Inspected and checked, only dent in bulkhead, but nothing serious affecting the safety to the bottom and no holes. Class approved vessel to proceed to Skoghall, *Lake Vaernern* assisted partly with tug *Karl*, only for part of the voyage. Discharge and return back to Gothenburg for Vityyard and docking next week. — Westax Marine Services AB.

#### **CASINO EXPRESS (Sweden)**

Gothenburg, Nov 25 — Coast Guard have started to question the crew of passenger ro/ro *Casino Express* regards grounding. No further attempts had been made to pull it off the ground. Eighteen crew members still on board. Vessel taking in water and engine-room is partly filled with water. Emergency pumps put in and running frequently. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Nov 26 — Finnish operator RG Line's passenger ro/ro *Casino Express* was still aground off Holmsund in northern Sweden yesterday after a cable parted as the ship was under tow following damage to its bow propeller.

Passengers were taken off the ship on Wednesday (Nov 24) and there were no injuries. Insurance representatives and the Swedish Maritime Association were on board the vessel, the Swedish Coastguard said yesterday. Divers were due to make an inspection of the hull as there was concern that the vessel was too unstable to be moved, a spokesman added. The vessel, which is classed by Lloyd's Register and entered with Skuld P&I Club, was not blocking the entrance to the harbour, the coastguard said, but was impeding entrance to a leisure marina. Weather conditions at the scene were force 6-7 (strong breeze - near gale) yesterday afternoon.

London, Nov 28 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 0831, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Casino Express* is still aground.

London, Nov 29 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1645, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Casino Express* remains aground in the same position.

Gothenburg, Nov 29 — Passenger ro/ro *Casino Express*: Understand around 10-12 trailers plus around 30 lorries was discharged via a special low flat-barge during weekend in order to lighten the vessel. Wind and current made the water surface slightly lower, and an attempt to refloat the vessel failed. The wind has to change, as expected and possibly a new attempt will be made during tomorrow, but still uncertain. RG Line chartered before the incident ro/ro *Kahleberg*, but it requires extensive re-building before being accepted on this route. In the meantime RG Line chartered as substitute passenger ro/ro *Alandia* from Eckoroline and it will go into service tomorrow. — Westax Marine Services AB.

#### **CEDARGLEN (Canada)**

London, Nov 27 — Bulk *Cedarglen* arrived Contrecoeur Nov 25.

#### **CELINE (Switzerland)**

London, Nov 27 — Following received from Lisbon MRCC, timed 0909, UTC: General cargo *Celine* is presently under tow to Algeciras, ETA am, Nov 28.

London, Nov 29 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1655, UTC: General cargo *Celine* is currently arriving at Algeciras, preparing to go alongside berth.

#### **CELTIC PIONEER (U.K.)**

Hull, Nov 26 — General cargo *Celtic Pioneer* sailed Goole Nov 25. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CENTAURUS (Panama)**

Stanley, Nov 29 — Product tanker *Centaurus* arrived Berkeley Sound Nov 28. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CEPHEUS J. (U.K.)**

See *Ileksa*.

#### **CHIOS PRIDE (Greece)**

Troy, Michigan, Nov 30 — Bulk *Chios Pride* (16651 gt, built 1980) was stuck fast yesterday at the channel entrance of the Menominee River about 200-300 hundred yards off the lighthouse on the

red side of the channel. Selvick tugs worked all morning to free it, then USCG ordered engines all stop until a salvage plan could be put in place. Yesterday night the tugs *Erika Kobasic*, *Jimmy L.* and *William C. Selvick* returned to dock, with plans to meet *Chios Pride* at 0700 today and attempt to move it. The pilot is confident that with the three tugs and shifting of ballast water they will get the vessel free. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated Nov 29, states: A freighter (bulk *Chios Pride*), carrying 16,651 gross tons of pig iron, ran aground today in Lake Michigan's Green Bay, Coast Guard officials said. The accident happened at 0655 about a half mile east-north-east of the Menominee River in about 21 feet of water near the Michigan-Wisconsin border, Coast Guard Commander Mark Hamilton said. No one was injured and there was no reported pollution. Hamilton said this evening that officials were investigating whether there was damage to the vessel and if it could be refloated. The pig iron, which is partially refined steel, was loaded onto the vessel in Itaquí, Brazil, between Nov 8 and Nov 10 and reached Green Bay via the St. Lawrence Seaway, Hamilton said. The destination of the vessel was the Marinette Fuel and Dock in Marinette. Pig iron is held there until trains take it to steel mills, Hamilton said. Coast Guard officials were investigating whether a mechanical problem or human error caused the vessel to run aground. "We know it's not in the shipping channel that it's supposed to be in," Hamilton said, adding that officials also planned to conduct drug and alcohol testing.

London, Nov 30 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0953, UTC: Bulk *Chios Pride* is still aground. Three tugs are standing by the vessel, and a refloating attempt will commence at first light, approximately 1300, UTC.

London, Nov 30 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1550, UTC: Tugs are close by bulk *Chios Pride* awaiting a pilot. No pollution reported.

Troy, Michigan, Dec 1 — Bulk *Chios Pride* remained aground off Menominee yesterday night. Efforts to free the vessel began early yesterday morning but were not successful. The Basic Marine tug *Jimmy L.* was standing by all night as per US Coast Guard order. Other tugs involved are *William C. Selvick* and *Erika K.* — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

London, Dec 1 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1420, UTC: Bulk *Chios Pride* is still aground in the same position. US Coast Guard evaluating how best to refloat.

Troy, Michigan, Dec 2 — Bulk *Chios Pride*, grounded outside Menominee since Monday (Nov 29), was finally freed yesterday morning. It immediately went to anchor about a mile or two offshore. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

#### **CIUDAD DE ENSENADA (Liberia)**

Buenos Aires, Dec 1 — Bulk *Ciudad de Ensenada*: There have been no

developments regarding the vessel's situation. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CORN SWIFT (Malta)**

Hull, Nov 26 — General cargo *Corn Swift* sailed Hartlepool Nov 26. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **DIEPPE (France)**

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated Nov 27, states: Some 200 passengers of passenger ro/ro *Sardinia Vera* from Britain were stranded off France for some nine hours overnight because passenger ro/ro *Dieppe* (17672 gt, built 1981) had broken down and could not free the berth in Dieppe, regional authorities said. *Sardinia Vera* of Transmanche Ferries finally docked with its mainly British passengers at around 1100, UTC, instead of 0200, UTC, after *Dieppe* was towed away for repair to the electrical fault which immobilised it. *Dieppe* will take several days to repair, leaving just one ship to manage the four-hour crossing.

Le Havre, Dec 1 — Passenger ro/ro *Dieppe* broke down at Dieppe Nov 26 and repairs have been carried out. Vessel returned to service Nov 28. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **DREPANO (Greece)**

Piraeus, Nov 1 — General cargo *Drepano* is still laid up at Eleusis. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Drepano* arrived Eleusis Jun 7, 2001 and has been laid up since Jul 4, 2001.)

#### **EGASCO FORTUNE (Egypt)**

Alexandria, Nov 25 — There is no change in the situation of bulk *Egasco Fortune*. The vessel is still under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ELBE (Netherlands)**

Maassluis, Nov 26 — Museum tug *Elbe* is currently in the Wilhelminahaven. It is an insurance matter. It is hoped that the vessel will be repaired and if this is the case, it will moor in the harbour of Maassluis. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **EMERALD (Latvia)**

Cadiz, Nov 26 — General cargo *Emerald* sailed from Cadiz on Nov 24 bound for Avonmouth. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ERNA OLDENDORFF (Liberia)**

London, Nov 27 — Bulk *Erna Oldendorff* sailed Hamilton Nov 23.

#### **EUROPA I (Bolivia)**

Piraeus, Nov 29 — Passenger ro/ro *Europa I* has completed repairs and is expected to depart Nov 29 or 30. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **FEDERAL PESCADORES (Panama)**

Miami, Nov 24 — Following received from Tampa Port Authority, dated today: Bulk *Federal Pescadores* remains at Tampa. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **FESCO VOYAGER (Cyprus)**

Tianjin, Nov 30 — C.c. *Fesco Voyager* is still under repair at Xingang Shipyard, ETC around Dec 15. — Lloyd's Agents.

**FIFTIETH VICTORY ANNIVERSARY (Russia)**

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Incomplete icebreaker *Fiftieth Victory Anniversary* caught fire at the local Baltiisky Zavod (Baltic Factory) ship-yard in St. Petersburg, fire-fighters are doing their best to extinguish the blaze. People at the public-relations department of the city's main civil-defence and emergency-situations department noted that the fire had been reported at about 0900, Moscow time. According to preliminary reports, construction materials are burning over a 50-square-metre area on one of the incomplete icebreaker's decks. Fire broke out at the incomplete *Fiftieth Victory Anniversary* icebreaker, reports the Baltiisky Zavod press centre. All workers have already been evacuated from the vessel. About 20 fire-engine crews that have been summoned to the site are still unable to contain the blaze, RIA Novosti's said. *Fiftieth Victory Anniversary* had been launched December 29, 1993; its construction was eventually stopped for lack of money. Partial construction resumed in the late 1990s. On Aug 13, 2004 it was decided to channel additional monies into this ship-construction project in line with new nuclear-safety standards and the need to perform various operations because of delayed construction. The vessel was 93 percent completed by Jul 1, 2004. Its hull, superstructure and stern mast are complete, the ship-yard's workers have also finished installing all the main mechanical and electrical equipment.

**FLYING DOLPHIN IV (Greece)**

Piraeus, Nov 29 — Hydrofoil *Flying Dolphin IV* is still under repair in port. — Lloyd's Agents.

**FORTUNE EPOCH (Panama)**

Atlanta, Nov 30 — Understand ro/ro *Fortune Epoch* was released by the Captain of the Port, at about 1400 yesterday and it reportedly sailed for Tampa. Also understand that clean-up operations were suspended over the weekend. There was some fouling of beaches, coastal marshes, sea birds etc and there has been cleanup where it has been found and was practical to undertake; however, a scientific panel that was brought in to assess the situation has reportedly recommended that what oil has gotten into the grassy coastal salt marshes be left be and let nature run its course. Press releases indicate that there was a sizeable area of sheen on the water; however, this too was reportedly not heavy enough to warrant clean-up. — Lloyd's Agents.

**FRASER TITAN (Canada)**

London, Nov 26 — Hopper dredger *Fraser Titan* (2976 gt, built 1969) struck the Queensborough Railway Bridge, Fraser River, B.C., in lat 49 11.50N, long 122 55.00W, at 0700, Nov 24.

**GOOD HOPE (Malta)**

Alexandria, Nov 25 — Crude oil tanker *Good Hope* experienced a leakage of crude oil Nov 19, while

loading at the SUMED oil terminal, Sidi Kerir. The vessel is now under arrest by order of the Environment Authorities for the sum of E£3.5 million — approximately US\$565,000 — in respect of the environmental damage caused. — Lloyd's Agents.

**HE XIN NO.1 (Panama)**

London, Dec 1 — Following received from Taipei RCC, timed 1030, UTC: General cargo *He Xin No.1* (1351 gt, built 1985), HPXP, sank in lat 24 12N, long 119 48E at 1355, UTC, Nov 30. Four crew found dead, seven rescued.

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Four Chinese sailors died and seven were saved after a Panamanian-flagged cargo vessel (general cargo *He Xin No.1*) sank off Taiwan, Taiwanese rescuers said today. The vessel, carrying sand, from Hong Kong to Kaohsiung, sank yesterday, the National Rescue and Command Centre said. Seven crew were rescued while helicopter crews spotted the four bodies this morning.

**HEITOKU MARU NO.11 (Japan)**

London, Nov 30 — Following navigation warning issued at 1340, JST, today: Honshu, northwest coast west of Henashi Saki: Engine troubled fishing *Heitoku Maru No.11* (137 gt, built 1976) removed.

**ILEKSA (Malta)**

London, Nov 26 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1050, UTC: General cargo *Ilekxa* (4955 gt, built 1996) and c.c. *Cepheus J.* (6454 gt, built 2003) were in collision in Danish waters about two days ago. Neither vessel was seriously damaged and both proceeded on voyage. *Ilekxa* arrived Copenhagen Roads and subsequently sailed from there yesterday for Kaliningrad. *Cepheus J.* is en route to St. Petersburg.

**INGRID (Germany)**

Gothenburg, Nov 30 — C.c. *Ingrid* (5056 gt, built 1998) and fishing *Beatrice* were in collision about 10 nautical miles north-east of the southern end of Oland Island shortly after 0800, local time, yesterday. No injuries reported. *Beatrice* proceeded into Degerhamn, Oland Island. The Coast Guard have begun an investigation on behalf of the Police and the District Attorney. — Westax Marine Services AB.

**JOHN SPENCE (Canada)**

Montreal, Nov 26 — Anchor handling tug/supply *John Spence* is operating normally at Hamilton. — Lloyd's Agents.

**JUTLAND (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Gothenburg, Nov 26 — When grounding, general cargo *Jutland* sustained rudder damage, in addition to damage to the bottom. The vessel is at present under tow to a yard on the island of Aeroe, southern Denmark, with an ETA of Nov 27. Scheduled to dock during Sunday (Nov 28) for survey and inspection of damages. — Westax Marine Services AB.

**KOYO MARU NO.6 (Japan)**

See *Atlantic Queen*.

**LIBRA 7 (Panama)**

See "India" under "Port State Control."

**MALAKHIT (Russia)**

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing *Malakhit* (962 gt, built 1995) is currently in distress in the Barents Sea. The Murmansk Region centre of the Ministry for Emergencies received the first distress message at 0500, Moscow time, today. A helicopter that took off from Norway to aid the 20 fishermen, who abandoned the ship, is expected to arrive at the distress area by 0900, Moscow time. Tug *Purga* has also been sent from Murmansk to help the crew of the ship in distress, an officer on duty at the regional rescue centre said. The duty officer said the trawler had encountered a severe storm. Water began to penetrate the ship after waves swept over the deck and ripped off the hatch of the hold.

London, Dec 1 — Following received from Bodo RCC, timed 1935, UTC: Fishing *Malakhit*, UITL, sank in lat 73 30.9N, long 17 04.6E, at 1706, UTC. Eighteen crew were rescued safely, and two others died.

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated Dec 1, states: Two Russian sailors were killed and 18 rescued after fishing trawler *Malakhit* capsized today in stormy weather between the Bjornoya and Svalbard islands in the Arctic Ocean. *Malakhit* was on a fishing run in the area when it radioed other vessels in the region around 0225, local time, that it was listing, the Norwegian Rescue Coordination Centre (HRS) for North Norway said. By 0500, local time, the vessel's 20 crew were forced to abandon ship and jumped in the freezing cold water. Eighteen of them were picked up by rescue helicopters and ships, but two died before they could be rescued. "Thirteen were rescued from liferafts by another Russian vessel that arrived on the scene, a helicopter from Svalbard picked up five persons and the rescue helicopter picked up the two who died," said Jakob Carlsen at HRS North Norway. Heavy snow and stormy winds complicated the rescue operation. The HRS helicopters took nearly two hours to arrive due to the distance and weather conditions. The surviving crew members were taken to a hospital for treatment. None had life-threatening injuries. The cause of the sinking wasn't immediately known.

**MATSUSHIMA (Cambodia)**

Yokohama, Dec 1 — General cargo *Matsushima* (660 gt, built 1983) while proceeding through the Kanmon Strait, bound for China, ran aground in shallow water 172 deg and 679 metres from Shirasu lighthouse, Kita, Kyushu Island, at 2028, Nov 20. The vessel refloated under its own power and anchored east of Mutsure Shima, Yamaguchi prefecture. No oil spill reported. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Matsushima* sailed Osaka Nov 19 for Jiangyin.)



**MAYSORA (Bahamas)**

See under "Miscellaneous."

**MERKUR BRIDGE (Liberia)**

London, Nov 30 — C.c. *Merkur Bridge* sailed Singapore Nov 26.

**MICHAELA MCALLISTER (U.S.A.)**

Jacksonville, Nov 26 — Tug *Michaela McAllister* arrived Jacksonville Nov 25. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MIDDLETOWN (U.S.A.)**

London, Nov 27 — Bulk *Middletown* arrived Duluth around Nov 24.

**MILAGROS TRES (Philippines)**

Manila, Nov 26 — Repairs to ferry *Milagros Tres* have been completed and it returned to its normal service on Nov 15, plying Iloilo-Cuyo-Puerto Princesa-Iloilo. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MONTANA SUN (Liberia)**

Tunis, Nov 30 — Chemical/oil carrier *Montana Sun* was refloated Nov 28, and was conveyed directly to port. Vessel will sail at 1100, today, destination Turkey. — Lloyd's Agents.

Tunis, Nov 30 — Chemical/oil carrier *Montana Sun* sailed Tunis Nov 30. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MSC EYRA (Panama)**

Maassluis, Nov 26 — C.c. *MSC Eyra* sailed Antwerp Nov 26. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**MSC KATIE (Panama)**

London, Nov 26 — Following received from Australia MRCC, timed 0345, UTC: At 1900, Nov 25, c.c. *MSC Katie* (35599 gt, built 1977) was reported to be broken down with main engine problems, in lat 20 07S, long 109 56E. It is understood that the vessel has not yet been able to proceed. (Note — *MSC Katie* sailed Fremantle Nov 24 for Singapore.)

London, Nov 26 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 1022, UTC: C.c. *MSC Katie* effected repairs and was reported under way at 0500, UTC, today.

**MYRINA EXPRESS (Greece)**

London, Nov 29 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Passenger *Myrina Express* (1168 gt, built 1991), with 43 passengers, arrived at Lavrion from Kea with damage to the starboard main engine on Nov 27. Later the same day the vessel was permitted to depart after repair of the damage and survey by the marine inspectorate.

**NADINE BAKER (U.S.A.)**

London, Nov 27 — A press report, dated Nov 26, states: Tug *Nadine Baker* that sank into the Green River near Curdsville on Nov 16 was successfully raised from the water yesterday. Lt. Commander Gerry Nauert with the U.S. Coast Guard said the operation began around 1000 hrs and took just over an hour. Two large cranes from Aquarius Marine Salvage lifted *Nadine Baker* from the bottom of the river.

**NAPHT AL YEMEN 17 (South Korea)**

Aden, Nov 29 — Product tanker *Napht Al Yemen 17* arrived Aden Nov 26. — Lloyd's Agents.

**NAVIOS HIOS (Greece)**

St. Petersburg, Nov 26 — Bulk *Navios Hios* (31169 gt, built 2003) ran aground when approaching a berth in St. Petersburg with a pilot on board about 0900, local time, today. The vessel was refloated with the assistance of two tugs about 1100, local time, and it dropped anchor in the inner anchorage, where reportedly an inspection will be carried out to ascertain if any damage was sustained. — Lloyd's Agents.

St. Petersburg, Dec 2 — Bulk *Navios Hios* is at St. Petersburg at the moment. First inspection revealed damages to the blades of the propeller, but no damages to the hull. — Lloyd's Agents.

**NICOLE II (U.S.A.)**

London, Dec 1 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1430, UTC: Fishing *Nicole II* (51 gt, built 1978) sank 15 nautical miles east of Hull, Massachusetts, this morning. All crew rescued.

**NINGWUJI 078**

London, Nov 27 — A press report, dated Nov 26, states: Jiangsu Province cargo ship *Ningwuji 078* struck an empty ferry docked at the Wusong Wharf on the Huangpu River yesterday, disrupting the morning commute for thousands of passengers. As the ferry drifted into the river, the cargo vessel sped from the accident site and was tracked down 10 kilometres away by maritime authority patrol boats. The ship's crew is now in custody while authorities investigate the cause of the mishap. No one was injured, but the ferry was severely damaged, and the dock was shut down for hours while repairs were made. Some 8, 000 passengers had to alter their journeys across the river to Pudong's Sanchagang area. The accident happened at about 0430 hrs. Arriving from Nanjing, *Ningwuji 078* had unloaded its cargo of construction material and was heading away from the Shanghai port when it struck the docked boat, according to Wang Jian, an official with Shanghai Ferry Co Ltd. Wang said the crash occurred before normal business hours, and there was no one on the ferry at the time. "A side on the ferry was seriously damaged, and six cables anchoring the vessel to the dock were broken," he said. "The crash also damaged two float bridges as well as other wharf equipment." A damage estimate was not available. After the ferry drifted several hundred metres into the waterway, a maritime authority vessel lashed onto it and towed it back to the dock. "The uncontrolled ship posed a great danger to marine traffic," said maritime official Wang Jiqin. Meanwhile, three patrol boats went after the hit-and-run cargo ship, catching it on the Yangtze River about an hour away from the

accident scene, said maritime officials. Six people were found on the ship, including a two-year-old child.

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated Nov 27, states: The owner of a cargo ship (*Ningwuji 078*) that struck an empty ferry docked at the Wusong Wharf, disrupting ferry service for hours on Wednesday (Nov 24, not Nov 25 as before reported) morning, will be detained for seven days, must compensate the ferry owner and has been fined, the Shanghai Maritime police announced yesterday. Maritime patrol boats caught Xing Guangbing's vessel on the Yangtze River soon after it fled the scene. He has been in police custody ever since. Maritime authorities said the crew's improper operation caused the accident. The Jiangsu Province vessel was travelling in reverse near the ferry dock, which resulted in the collision. Besides spending seven days behind bars, Xing must pay the ferry company 50,000 yuan (US\$6,024). He was also fined 2,500 yuan for not having enough sailors on board and 5,000 yuan for fleeing the scene of an accident. Xing has allegedly confessed to the offenses and agreed to the punishments. Local officials said authorities in Nantong, Jiangsu, pulled the boat's licence as well as the crews' after the vessel was caught hauling too much cargo on Apr 11. Instead of returning to Nantong to accept fines and get the licences back, the boat ran without a licence until police pulled it over after the crash on Wednesday. The empty ferry, which was waiting for passengers at the dock, was severely damaged on one side and is still being repaired. Some dock facilities were also broken in the accident and repairs took several hours before the dock reopened with a replacement ferry put into use.

**NISSHO MARU (Japan)**

London, Nov 28 — Following navigation warning issued at 2350, JST, Nov 27: Stranded general cargo *Nissho Maru*, 419 gt, (built 1993) exists in the vicinity of lat 34 16.9N, long 133 37.3E.

London, Nov 28 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0054, UTC: General cargo *Nissho Maru*, JL6117, grounded at 1158, UTC, Nov 27. All crew, three person, safe. It is still aground. A tug will be arranged to refloat the vessel.

London, Nov 28 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0413, UTC: General cargo *Nissho Maru* was refloated at 1130, JST, today.

**NONA MARY (Greece)**

London, Nov 29 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Passenger ro/ro *Nona Mary* (2206 gt, built 1972) sustained damage to the port main engine while arriving at Chios on the morning of Nov 26. At the time, the vessel was operating a scheduled Mytiline-Chios-Mykonos-Syros-Tinos-Lavrion route. The vessel was permitted to sail the next day, following repairs to the damage and survey by the Marine Inspectorate.

**NORTHERN SEEKER (Norway)**

Esbjerg, Nov 26 — Offshore safety *Northern Seeker*: After completion of repairs, vessel departed Esbjerg at 2225, Nov 25 bound Ijmuiden — Lloyd's Agents.

**ODYSSEAS II (Greece)**

Piraeus, Nov 29 — Ro/ro *Odysseas II* remains in Piraeus port undergoing repairs, ETD unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

**OSIRIS (Netherlands)**

Maassluis, Nov 26 — General cargo *Osiris* remains under arrest at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**PIONEER KNUITSEN (Norway)**

London, Nov 27 — Following received from Sandnes: Lng *Pioneer Knutsen* (1687 gt, built 2004) when arriving Kollsnes, made hard contact with quay at approximately 1200, Nov 25. The vessel was holed in a ballast tank in bow section. No injuries to the crew of six and no pollution. Minor damage to quay. Vessel will be repaired and ETC is about one week.

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

London, Nov 29 — Chem.tank *Pointe du Cormoran*, in tow of tug *Multratug 10*, sailed Milford Haven last night for Rotterdam, where ETA Dec 2.

London, Dec 2 — Chem.tank *Pointe du Cormoran*, in tow of tug *Multratug 10*, arrived Rotterdam 0205 today from Milford Haven.

**POLO M. (Bahamas)**

Gothenburg, Nov 25 — Local rescue centre now preparing for a major mission to protect the shores of Gotland from oil from bulk *Polo M.*, estimated to 30 tons. Wind is expected to swing later tonight. A total of 30 km of shore with white sand is in danger and sheets of felt will cover part of the shore and a few metres out into the water. The felt will release water but not oil. Estimated total 9,000 sq.m will be used. Coast Guards still working to empty the damaged tank with HFO but leaking. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Nov 26 — Bulk *Polo M.* is still aground. Repairers are presently repairing and welding the vessels tanks and bulkheads, but new defects and cracks are observed every time the ballast tanks are put under pressure. Chemical/oil carrier *Bitfjord* departed Gothenburg at 0600 today and will arrive Gotland at 0200, Nov 28, to discharge approximately 1,000 tons of intermediate fuel oil and 500 tons of marine diesel oil from the vessel. There are also plans to discharge approximately 2,000 tons of cement onto barges in order to lighten the vessel, but no decision has been taken. The Coast Guard and many others are ashore tackling heavy oil which is reported to be floating below the surface. Some 9,000 square metres of felt have been placed on the beaches to collect the oil. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Nov 28 — Bulk *Polo M.*: On Friday night (Nov 26) the Coast

Guard found additional tank damaged, and stated that total 40 cubic metres at least have leaked out into the water, but the oil is cold and sinking. Today the vessel is still being repaired and welded and is said to be in a generally poor condition. A tanker arrived as scheduled alongside for discharging the oil and no cement has been discharged as yet. There is no oil leaking from the vessel and the surface is clean, leakage stopped. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Nov 30 — Bulk *Polo M.*: Two tugs connected at 1030 today and awaiting final emptying of ballast tanks to lighten the vessel ready to pull it off the ground. Intention is to clear off the ground and to anchor at slightly deeper water to check and investigate damages to bottom. Most of the oil discharged and also cement during yesterday. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Visby, Dec 1 — Bulk *Polo M.* was refloated yesterday after discharging some oil and about 2,000 tons of cement. The vessel is now at anchor in Slite roads. Divers will now investigate and see if the vessel can be towed to a yard. A decision must also be made about the remainder of the vessel's cement cargo. Some oil pollution has occurred and is being dealt with by the coast guard, who are seeking a guarantee for the cost of the clean-up. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Dec 1.)

Ymuiden, Nov 30 — At 1204, local time, today Wijsmuller Salvage BV refloated grounded bulk *Polo M.*, with the assistance of two Svitzer/Wijsmuller (Roda Bolaget) tugs *Freja* and *St. Olof* under command of the salvage master and his team. Immediately after the grounding of the vessel onto the island of Gotland, Sweden, salvage team members from Sweden and the Netherlands were moved in, as was salvage equipment from the Wijsmuller warehouses in Sweden and the Netherlands. Roda Bolaget tug *Freja* was instructed to proceed. Instant action was necessary due to the severe weather on site and the damage done to the vessel upon grounding. In order to refloat the partly loaded (bulk cement) vessel the Wijsmuller salvage team had to use general regaining buoyancy techniques inclusive of tank pressurisation, bunker and cargo lightering and environment preservation activities. In total seven of the 12 double bottom water ballast and fuel tanks as well as the ductkeel had been breached as a consequence of the grounding. Initially the bunkers have been removed and/or internally transferred to stop the oil release while later also bunkers (HFO and MDO) and slobs from sound tanks were transferred as far as practically necessary and possible. Lighterage tonnage was made available in the form of a cargo receiving tug-barge combination and a bunker tanker. The former was used to take about 1,900 tons of cement cargo, the latter was used for the reception of the slobs and bunkers. In the meantime the immediate surroundings of the casualty had been charted by sounding

and diving operations whereafter a refloating route could be determined and marked. At the same time breached non-oil containing tanks were prepared for de-watering. At 0700, the operations started with dewatering tanks whereafter *Freja* on the bow and *St. Olof* at the stern were able to move the vessel off along the pre-determined route, whereafter *Polo M.* was anchored for further inspections and stabilisation. — Wijsmuller Salvage B.V.

**QUEENIE (Italy)**

Caracas, Nov 25 — M barge *Queenie* is still lying unrepaired in dock No.13 at La Guaira at the order of court and port authorities. — Lloyd's Agents.

**RAW FAITH (U.S.A.)**

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A Coast Guard cutter was dispatched to assist disabled 88-foot vessel *Raw Faith*, (built 2003) with six people reported aboard about 50 miles east-southeast of Portland, a Coast Guard spokesman said today. Lt. Cmdr. Bill Bellatty, based in Boston, said a rudder problem apparently had disabled the vessel, out of Addison, Maine. Plans called for the vessel to be towed to Portland. No injuries were reported.

**REINE (Panama)**

Santo Domingo, Nov 30 — Ro/ro *Reine* arrived Las Calderas Nov 25 and repairs will start by next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ROSEBANK (U.K.)**

Maassluis, Nov 26 — General cargo *Rosebank* remains under repair at Ridderkerk. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**S. DURVILLE (Singapore)**

Brisbane, Nov 26 — General cargo *S. Durville* is scheduled to sail at 0600, tomorrow bound for Melbourne. — Lloyd's Agents.

Brisbane, Nov 29 — General cargo *S. Durville* sailed Brisbane Nov 27. — Lloyd's Agents.

**S.A.FORTIUS (Bahamas)**

Sydney, Nov 26 — The owners of bulk *S.A. Fortius* are expected to file an appeal today against the \$16.1m damages awarded against them by the Federal Court in September. The vessel struck the Port Kembla Coal Terminal while berthing in April 2001, putting substantial parts of the facility out of commission for several months. The ship is owned by Braverus Maritime, part of the Retsis Group's Enterprise Shipping and Trading. The Port Kembla Coal Terminal was the plaintiff against Braverus. The owners made a cross-claim against the Port Kembla Port Corporation alleging that the corporation's pilot, Captain Stephen James, was entirely to blame. In a case closely watched by port communities, Mr Justice Hely found that Captain Ryszard Krol of *S.A. Fortius* should have intervened earlier to change the orders of the pilot leading up to the collision. The master had the authority to step in but did not do so until it was

too late, the judgment said. The judge upheld the legal immunity of the pilot and his employer, the Port Kembla Port Corporation. The owners had argued that under common law the shipowner should not be made liable for the pilot when pilotage was compulsory. They also argued that the port had not properly issued Capt James's pilot licence. However, Justice Hely found that modern Australian law provides that the pilot, whether compulsory or not, remains under the authority of the master. He also said that New South Wales port corporation laws could still consider someone a pilot even if they did not have a license under the Marine Pilotage Licensing Act of 1971. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

#### SEA BEACH (Panama)

London, Nov 25 — Following received from Coast Guard Norfolk, timed 2015, UTC: Ro/ro *Sea Beach* (1436 gt, built 1970) reported 40 minutes ago around at Eugene Island shipping channel, Morgan City, on sandy bottom. "Soft" ground, therefore, damage minimal. Coast Guard and commercial salvage companies to attempt refloating at 2000, UTC, tomorrow. (Note — *Sea Beach* sailed Cartagena, Col, 1600, Nov 12, for New York.)

London, Nov 26 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1530, UTC: Ro/ro *Sea Beach* is still aground in lat 29 22N, long 91 22W. A salvage vessel is due on scene about 1300, local time, today and refloating attempts are expected to be made at high tide, at 1730, local time.

London, Nov 27 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 0300, UTC: Ro/ro *Sea Beach* was refloated at 1700, local time, Nov 26. Vessel is now at anchor just outside the Eugene Ship Channel. A bottom survey will be carried out at 0700, local time, today.

#### SEA FALCON (Bahamas)

London, Nov 30 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 0018, UTC: General cargo *Sea Falcon* (1475 gt, built 1977), C6QJ7, Amsterdam for Peterhead, anchored in lat 53 38.3N, long 00 14.3E, six miles east of Spurn Point, at 0001, today, due fouled propeller. Vessel managed to free propeller but had turbo failure, requiring repair. Vessel able to manoeuvre and has restricted speed of five knots. Initially anchored in lat 53 42.7N, long 00 21.4E, to assess damage. Arrangements made for vessel to enter Grimsby to effect repairs 0600, UTC. Pilot arranged for 0415 hrs. Tug arranged for berthing. Upon completion of repairs to proceed Peterhead. (Note — *Sea Falcon* sailed Amsterdam 1520, Nov 28 for Peterhead.)

Hull, Dec 1 — General cargo *Sea Falcon* arrived Grimsby Nov 30 and sailed pm, same day, after effecting repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### SHIN JYI WANQ (Taiwan)

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Eight crew members are missing after Taiwan fishing *Shin Jyi Wanq* exploded late

Friday (Nov 26) in the Pacific off Central America. Costa Rican officials said *Shin Jyi Wanq* exploded 92km off the Pacific coast and the Taiwanese master was missing, along with his seven Chinese crew. The Public Safety Ministry said the Costa Rican patrol boat *Pancha Carrasco* had found the floating, burned-out hulk of the Taiwan vessel. "Fire had consumed nearly the entire ship," it said. There was no trace of the crew. The ship had left Puntarenas heading for Panama.

#### SNORRE A

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Nearly 200 workers have been evacuated from a Norwegian oil platform in the North Sea after gas continued to leak from an "unstable well" in its oil field. Operator Statoil wasn't sure this morning when the situation could be brought under control. The workers started being airlifted off the oil platform *Snorre A* late yesterday evening, because of fears the gas leak could cause a blowout. The well was later stabilized but gas continued to waft up from the sea floor to the surface. Around 75 workers remained on the platform to try to stop the leak, but 39 of those were evacuated early today. The leak started yesterday evening when the well was undergoing an overhaul and a production pipe was being removed. Production was shut down and workers started being taken off the platform, which lies off the coast of Norway due west of Floro. The platform *Snorre A* is an integrated drilling, production and accommodation platform. It is the field's oldest and has produced oil and gas since August 1992.

London, Nov 30 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 0958, UTC: The gas leak on board platform *Snorre A* has been halted, and work is under way to set up a second barrier against the leak.

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated Nov 30, states: Statoil's decision to halt production from its *Snorre A* oil platform in the North Sea means that 205,000 barrels a day will disappear from the market. A gas leak that forced the platform's evacuation was finally stopped and a serious accident averted, but it remained unclear today when production could resume. There were concerns the *Snorre A* platform, operated by Norwegian oil company Statoil, could actually sink. Engineers involved in the construction of the platform said the risk of sinking was at times greater than that of an explosion. That's because *Snorre A* is a floating platform, half of it submerged in the water with fasteners to the sea floor, and thus vulnerable to changes in the mass of water around it caused by a gas leak. Statoil officials claimed there never was serious threats of a blowout or loss of stability, maintaining that its experts on site were constantly evaluating how safe it was to remain on board. They pegged the decision to evacuate so many people to the halt in production, since there wasn't much work to do. Newspaper Aftenposten reported that

the lack of production is costing more than NOK 50 million a day in oil revenues. The state is losing the most, because it remains Statoil's largest owner and faces lost tax revenues as well. The afflicted platform itself produced around 130,000 barrels of oil a day, but its work stoppage also forced the closure of the Vigdis field, because its 75,000 barrels of oil a day goes to the Statfjord platforms via *Snorre A*. With *Snorre A* out of operation, Vigdis' underwater installations had to be shut down as well. Statoil's insurance will cover repairs to the well involved in the leak, but there will be no coverage of lost revenues unless the halt in production lasts more than 30 days.

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

Troy, Michigan, Nov 25 — The Australian government is close to foreclosing on Rochester's passenger ro/ro *Spirit of Ontario I*, possibly within days or weeks, the city's corporation counsel told the Rochester Chronicle and Democrat on Tuesday. "I can't believe it's going to be much longer than that," said attorney Linda Kingsley. Officials at the Export Finance and Insurance Corp., an arm of the Australian government that provided a \$22.5 million loan guarantee for the ferry project, declined comment. It's unclear whether foreclosure would be good or bad news for Rochester officials, who are floating a business proposal to buy the vessel from the private ferry company and turn the service into a publicly run operation. The city has already made an offer to Canadian American Transportation Systems. Mayor William A. Johnson Jr. has said that EFIC has other potential buyers for the \$42.5 million *Spirit of Ontario I*. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

#### SPRING HAWK (Liberia)

Honolulu, Nov 29 — Bulk *Spring Hawk* completed repairs Nov 21 and departed the Barber's Point Deep Draught Harbour at approximately 1415 hrs for Balboa. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### STAVTANK (NIS)

London, Nov 30 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC: Timed 2054, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier *Stavtank* (5378 gt, built 1995), Gdynia for Cork, cargo 7,500 tonnes molasses, in lat 51 11.7N, long 01 42.69E, with suspected fire. Dover lifeboat proceeding.

Timed 2110, UTC: Suspected fire is in engine-room. Crew, wearing breathing apparatus, are investigating at the moment. Vessel is not under command. (Note — *Stavtank* sailed Gdynia 1630, Nov 27 for Cork.)

Timed 2145, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier *Stavtank*: There is no fire in vessel's engine-room. A rubber joint on the propeller shaft was rubbing against the shaft causing friction which caused a lot of smoke. The vessel is currently at anchor in the south-west shipping lane. Coastguard tug *Anglian Monarch* has been task and should be on scene in approximately 20 minutes.

London, Dec 1 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0237, UTC: Tug *Anglian Monarch* towed chemical/oil carrier *Stavtank* to safe anchorage position lat 51 05.5N, long 01 17E, Dover Harbour Western Entrance 2.06 nautical miles. Tug released.

London, Dec 1 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1840, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier *Stavtank* is still at anchor awaiting spare parts which will be delivered on Friday at earliest, otherwise next Monday. Understood owner is also considering having the vessel towed to Cork.

#### **STOLT TERN (Cayman Islands)**

London, Dec 1 — Following received from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated today: At 0946 today, chem.tank *Stolt Tern* (3206 gt, built 1991) reported to Holyhead Coastguard that the vessel was aground by the breakwater at Holyhead harbour. The Harbour-master's office and Port Control office were also informed at the same time. The vessel is carrying 4,000 tons of gas oil and 167 tons of diesel fuel oil. The vessel's crew have reported that no damage has been sustained to the hull. The MCA's Counter Pollution response team has been informed and is on standby. No leakage from the vessel has been seen by visual inspection. Jim Paton, Holyhead District Operations Manager said "Fortunately no lives are at risk nor have any injuries been sustained, so no search and rescue activity is needed at this time. The tide will change soon and it seems that the vessel will go towards the breakwater. Tug *Afon Braint* is proceeding to the vessel to assist if necessary. We have now talked with the local pilot and we will see in the next two hours whether the rising tide will lift the vessel off its grounding point." (Note — *Stolt Tern* sailed Immingham 0237, Nov 29 for Holyhead.)

London, Dec 1 — Following received from Coastguard Holyhead MRSC, timed 1134, UTC: Chem.tank *Stolt Tern* refloated at 1115, UTC, with the assistance of tug *Afon Braint*, and will berth at Holyhead shortly. The vessel has sustained slight forepeak damage and a survey will be carried out.

Holyhead, Dec 1 — Chem.tank *Stolt Tern*, bound Holyhead with a cargo of bunkers for a tank farm which serves the local ferries, grounded off breakwater at entrance to Holyhead about 1000 today. As tide was rising, vessel attempted to get itself afloat but it had to eventually call on the services of tug *Afon Briant*, which refloated it about 1120 hrs. Vessel is now proceeding under its own power for Terminal 4 in Holyhead for cargo discharge and survey. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Dec 1 — At approximately 1000 this morning chem.tank *Stolt Tern* went briefly aground, approaching the port of Holyhead, while under pilotage. It has subsequently been refloated using the rising tide. Nobody was injured during the incident and there has been no environmental pollution or loss of cargo. First

indications suggest that the vessel has received some minor damage to its forepeak ballast tank where it rested on the bottom, and that the vessel is otherwise undamaged. *Stolt Tern* is now alongside discharge berth, where it will undergo a full inspection. *Stolt* will of course co-operate very closely with investigations into how this incident occurred and would like to thank all those involved for their professional response and assistance.

#### **TERRA NOVA PLATFORM**

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Petro-Canada, the country's third- biggest oil company, said production at its Terra Nova offshore oilfield near Newfoundland will remain shut until it completes an investigation into a spill of about 1,000 barrels of oil. The probe may be completed as early as tomorrow, said Ed Martin, Petro-Canada's incident commander overseeing the cleanup, during a conference call with reporters today. Production can't resume until the Canada-Newfoundland Petroleum Board reviews Petro-Canada's findings and approves its proposed plan, Martin said. He declined to speculate how long it may take to get approval from the federal-provincial regulator. A second spill at the field occurred today when a mobile drilling unit leaked less than three barrels of oil while testing a well, the company said. Drilling has been suspended and a regulatory review will examine both accidents, the Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board said in a statement.

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Officials have shut down a drilling rig at the *Terra Nova* offshore oil project following another oil spill yesterday morning. It is the second oil spill at Petro-Canada's *Terra Nova* site since Sunday (Nov 21), when up to 1,000 barrels of crude oil leaked into the ocean. The second spill at the *Henry Goodrich*, a semi-submersible drill rig located within sight of the *Terra Nova* platform 350 kilometres off the coast of Newfoundland, was much smaller. Early estimates were that less than 1,000 litres, about six barrels, of oil had spilled into the ocean. Petro-Canada said most of it had been recovered by mid-morning. The Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board suspended operations at the drill rig and will investigate the second spill along with the larger spill from the offshore platform. Board officials say the operations will remain shut down until they can be assured no further leaks will occur and that they will not interfere with investigations. Very little of the earlier, larger spill has been cleaned up and the slick has now spread over 57 square kilometres of ocean about 33 nautical miles south-east of the platform. Four oiled seabirds have been recovered but wildlife experts believe hundreds, if not thousands, are likely to have been effected. Seabirds are the primary environmental concern in the area, which is located on the Grand Banks, a prime area for migratory seabirds in the North Atlantic.

#### **THOR HAWK (DIS)**

London, Nov 29 — Understand c.c. *Thor Hawk* (1964 gt, built 1992) lost a 70-ton lift overboard at Abu Dhabi this morning and has developed a 20-degree list.

Abu Dhabi, Nov 29 — C.c. *Thor Hawk* arrived and berthed at Abu Dhabi at 0148, Nov 29, and commenced discharge of cargo at 0700 same day. There were two transformers of gross weight 7650 kilograms on board. One of the transformers had already been discharged. During discharge of the second transformer, using vessel's two crane's in tandem, one of the cranes in the fore developed a problem. The transformer was almost on the low-bed trailer when at 1302, local time, the transformer slid off the trailer and hit the ground. No casualty, pollution or injuries have occurred. The transformer base has been damaged. The cause of the crane failure is still under investigation. — Lloyd's Agents.

Abu Dhabi, Dec 2 — C.c. *Thor Hawk* completed discharge of all cargo at 1245, local time Nov 30. Discharge was accomplished using shore cranes. No reason for the mishap has been advised and the damages appear to have resulted from a mechanical fault of the crane. Repairs to the crane are in progress and are expected to take almost four days. The vessel is still at Mina Zayed port. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **THRASYVOULOS V (Greece)**

Victoria, BC, Nov 26 — Bulk *Thrasyvoulos V* arrived Victoria Nov 25. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TORNES (Madeira)**

Rijeka, Nov 29 — Bulk *Tornes* arrived Rijeka Nov 27 and sailed Nov 28. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TROPIC BRILLIANCE (Liberia)**

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Crude oil tanker *Tropic Brilliance* has arrived at Hellenic Shipyards after the Greek yard won an international tendering process for the job. It is expected to be at the yard for just over one month undergoing renewal of about 100 tons of steel.

#### **VEMAOIL XXV (Malta)**

Gibraltar, Nov 26 — Product tanker *Vemaoil XXV* sailed Gibraltar Nov 25. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **VICUNA (Chile)**

Santos, Nov 26 — Following received from Paranagua Sub-agents: The three salvage companies which came to Paranagua to inspect the condition of chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna*, alongside Cattalini outer berth, will now have to prepare a project to submit, together with a proposal to the Britannia P&I Club in London. The proposals will have to be handled prior to Dec 2. The winner will get the contract to remove the vessel from the water. The firms are TecnoSub/Spain, Smit Tak/Netherlands and Wijsmuller/Netherlands. The projects and proposals will be firstly analysed by the club. Then the club will hire one of them to carry out the job. Apparently

the operation will be firstly an attempt to float the shipwreck and move it away from the jetty to be dismantled and removed ashore somewhere else. Or to cut it in pieces on the spot and remove ashore by using the right equipment. Apparently the vessel has its entire bottom and keel in one single piece. It is cut apart only in the sides. The real picture of actual situation has not yet been released by the divers, since they will use such information to prepare their projects and present to the club for perusal and consideration. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Nov 26.)

Santos, Nov 29 — Chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna*: Following received from Paranagua sub-agents: The APPA pier resumed loading and unloading operations at about 2330, Nov 27. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### VIHAN 5 (Vietnam)

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

#### VIRGINIAN (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 29 — Ro/ro *Virginian* (16169 gt, built 1984) is back in service after an electrical fire on board in the Persian Gulf. The vessel was assisted by the Royal Navy after being adrift due loss of power as the result of the fire.

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: Frigate HMS *Campbeltown* has come to the aid of stricken ro/ro *Virginian* in the Arabian Gulf. The frigate was on patrol when it came across the merchant vessel which had lost all power and was adrift. After investigating the situation, *Campbeltown* sailed to meet *Virginian* and initially provided protection for the ship while the crew recovered the situation onboard following an earlier electrical switchboard fire. Having struggled overnight to repair the damaged switchboard, a request for help from *Virginian* saw a team of three engineers led by Lieutenant Steve Hearty being dispatched. After 12 hours, the Royal Navy team helped return electrical supplies to the drifting ship and provided technical assistance which later allowed the ship to get under way. *Campbeltown* then escorted the vessel to a safe port where the ship will await assistance in permanently repairing the damaged switchboard.

#### VOC GEMINI (Antigua & Barbuda)

Busan, Nov 26 — Bulk *VOC Gemini* arrived Incheon Nov 25. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### WHITE STAR (Cayman Islands)

Hodeidah, Nov 24 — Yacht *White Star* sailed Hodeidah Nov 23. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### XANDRINA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Tallinn, Nov 23 — General cargo *Xandrina* arrived Paldiski Nov 22. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### XIN QING DAO (China)

London, Nov 26 — Understand c.c. *Xin Qing Dao* (66433 gt, built 2003), bound Felixstowe, encountered storm force 11 winds, 30 metre seas and 30

degree rolling, and as a result 31 laden 40ft containers were lost overboard and another 29 damaged off Brittany, during the night of Oct 27. (Note — *Xin Qing Dao* sailed Hong Kong Oct 6, passed Cape Finisterre Oct 27, arrived Felixstowe 0601, Oct 29 and sailed 0727, Nov 1.)

#### YOU KING (Hong Kong)

Accra, Nov 29 — Bulk/c.c. *You King* arrived Tema Nov 26. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### ZIEMIA GNIEZNIENSKA (Liberia)

London, Nov 26 — Bulk *Ziemia Gnieznienska*, downbound, sustained a steering gear failure in the Beauharnois Canal at 0920, Nov 20. The vessel had to drop anchor to avoid a collision with Valleyfield bridge.

## Port State Control



#### INDIA

Kochi, Dec 1 — Understand supply *Libra 7* (1209 gt, built 1976) has been detained at New Tuticorin by the Port State Control after the classification survey. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Libra 7* arrived New Tuticorin Oct 24.)

## Seizures & Arrests



#### ABDUL RAHMAN (Lebanon)

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated today, states: US experts were examining 900 tonnes of explosives on board general cargo *Abdul Rahman* (3166 gt, built 1981), a Canadian-owned but Libyan-flag (? Lebanon-flag) cargo vessel that arrived last week at Puerto Cortes, 220 kilometres north of the Honduran capital, officials said. *Abdul Rahman* failed to report it was carrying the explosives, in violation of rules that require 72 hours advance notice, according to Honduran authorities and has been arrested. "The US investigators arrived 24 hours ago and maybe tomorrow will authorize the departure of the ship," Puerto Cortes Superintendent Oscar Contreras said yesterday. US Embassy officials could not be reached for comment. Honduran authorities have described the explosives as Type B and Type E blasting material, accompanied by fuses. Contreras said similar explosives frequently come through Puerto Cortes for use in mining operations in Honduras. Nevertheless, the detonation of such a load could have destroyed much of the Caribbean port. The vessel, which arrived Nov 23, was anchored 13 kilometres off shore and guarded by police and soldiers yesterday. Its crew remain under arrest

in Puerto Cortes. The vessel's Canadian owner, Egyptian captain and a first officer from the Sudan have been charged by Honduran prosecutors with illegally transporting explosives and threatening the environmental security of Puerto Cortes. They were fined US\$10,000. Authorities identified the owner as Hassan Bachacha of Canada, but gave no other details. Foreign Affairs Department spokesman Reynald Doiron said the Canadian Embassy in Costa Rica, which is accredited to Honduras, has been instructed to contact Honduran authorities to obtain more information. The vessel apparently took on the explosives at the Mexican Gulf Coast port of Tampico. It was due to stop in Suriname, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic after leaving Honduras. It reportedly stopped in Puerto Cortes to unload some 2,000 tonnes of salt.

#### AGIA ELENI

Valletta, Nov 30 — Fishing *Agia Eleni* is now operating at the Manoel Island Marina. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### AGORRETA (France)

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated today, states: The Irish Naval Service has detained French-registered fishing *Agorreta* (144 gt, built 1990) on suspicion of breaching fishing regulations. The *Agorreta* was detained by the LE *Niamh* off the Kerry coast and is currently being towed to Castletownbere. Officials from the Department of the Marine will inspect the vessel when it arrives at the Co Cork port this afternoon.

#### AL-ZAHRAA (Iraq)

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

#### BOKA STAR (Tonga)

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

#### EGASCO FORTUNE (Egypt)

See under "Marine."

#### ERSIN USTAOGU (Turkey)

Istanbul, Nov 30 — General cargo *Ersin Ustaoglu* (299 gt, built 1968) is currently under arrest at Samsun port. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### FISHING VESSELS SEIZED BY PAKISTAN

Karachi, Nov 29 — Pakistan's Maritime Security Agency (MSA) has arrested 43 Indian fishermen and seized their eight fishing boats when they were catching fish inside the Pakistani territorial waters at about 73 nautical miles from Karachi shore in the early hours of yesterday. The arrested Indian fishermen and their impounded fishing boats were later handed over to the Docks police for further legal action. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### GOOD HOPE (Malta)

See under "Marine."

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

**JAPANESE FISHING VESSEL SEIZED BY RUSSIA**

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated Nov 27, states: Fishing *Ryoan Maru No.75* (279 gt, built 1987) was seized by Russia's border security authority Tuesday (Nov 23) in waters off the Kamchatka Peninsula on suspicion that it caught more walleye pollack than the amount applied for, the Japanese government said yesterday. All 20 crew members on board are Japanese and reportedly in good health, the Foreign Ministry said.

**KING DUCKLING (Panama)**

Maassluis, Nov 26 — Bulk/oil *King Duckling* (41940 gt, built 1981), which arrived at Rotterdam on Nov 16 from Xingang, is currently detained in the port. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Maassluis, Nov 29 — Bulk/oil *King Duckling* sailed Rotterdam Nov 28. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**OCEAN BOOMER (Panama)**

London, Nov 30 — Oceanographic research *Ocean Boomer* (1619 gt, built 1966) was detained by port surveyor, Gibraltar at 1800, Nov 29. Vessel is presently alongside in the port.

London, Dec 1 — Oceanographic research *Ocean Boomer* has been released from detention by the Gibraltar Port Surveyor. Vessel is still in port.

**OSIRIS (Netherlands)**

See under "Marine."

**OSTWIND (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Maassluis, Nov 26 — General cargo *Ostwind* remains under arrest at Vlaardingen. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**QUEEN CONSTANTINA (Cyprus)**

Limassol, Nov 29 — Passenger *Queen Constantina* is still under arrest at Limassol under the same owners. — Lloyd's Agents.

**RYOAN MARU NO. 75 (Japan)**

See "Japanese Fishing Vessel Seized by Russia."

**TVILLINGER**

Trieste, Nov 29 — General cargo *Tvillinger* is still under arrest at Trieste, and there are presently no prospects of the vessel's release. — Lloyd's Agents.

**VOYAGER (Netherlands Antilles)**

Maassluis, Nov 26 — General cargo *Voyager* is still under arrest at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**Pipeline Accidents****ASSAM, INDIA**

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

**BASRAH**

London, Nov 26 — Repairs and testing of Pipeline No.42 to Basrah Oil Terminal is expected to start tomorrow afternoon (Nov 27), following a 24-hour delay in the work to fix a leak discovered earlier this week.

**HYDERABAD, SINH PROVINCE, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Nov 29 — Pakistan state owned gas utility company-Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) said some parts of the Hyderabad city of Sindh Province, remained without gas after a fire broke out in a pipeline in the Jani Shah area on Saturday night (Nov 27). An official of company it was eight-inch diameter pipeline, which had caught fire. It was extinguished fire fighters from Market, Faqir-Jo-Pir and Latifabad areas in three hours. The SSGC authorities closed the gas supply in the area to avoid any further loss. However, gas supply was restored at around 0500 yesterday. He said no loss of life or injury was reported and an enquiry is being ordered to ascertain causes of fire. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**Pollution****DELAWARE RIVER, UNITED STATES**

See *Athos I* under "Marine."

**NEWFOUNDLAND, CANADA**

See *Terra Nova Platform* under "Marine."

**TYBEE ISLAND AREA, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES**

See *Fortune Epoch* under "Marine."

**Weather & Navigation****HURRICANE "IVAN"**

London, Nov 27 — A press report, dated Nov 26, states: Residents of Florida's Panhandle affected by hurricane "Ivan" have received a total of \$643.3 million in federal and state disaster aid since Sep16, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State Emergency Response Team announced today. That aid comes in the form of grants to homeowners and renters; low-interest loans from the US Small Business Administration; funds approved for various emergency measures prior to, during and following the storm, and financial aid to state and local governments and certain private, non-profit organisations. A breakdown of the disaster relief shows assistance to individuals now totals \$118.7million. Of that amount, \$56.4

million covers such expenses as temporary housing and/or home repair for 36,070 applicants, and \$62.2 million is allocated to cover necessary expenses such as medical and dental costs, transportation expenses and other storm-related financial needs. The SBA has approved \$119.9 million in low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters and business owners. FEMA has obligated \$364.7 million to cover the increased costs of local and county emergency services and protective measures since "Ivan" struck the Panhandle area. Storm damage to community public facilities (might overwhelm a community's operational budget. FEMA assists with the recovery from such damages for the Florida hurricanes by paying 90% of the storm-related eligible projects. To date, Panhandle communities have submitted 222 requests for assistance and have already qualified for \$40 million in Public Assistance Grants. Immediately after the hurricane hit, FEMA, working through the US Army Corps of Engineers, began the process of providing roof tarps to storm victims for temporary repairs to their roofs, while contractors and AmeriCorps installed protective plastic sheeting on homes. Approximately 97,700 tarps were distributed to individuals, and plastic sheeting was installed on 51,175 structures. FEMA inspectors have completed more than 86,600 housing inspections to verify damage claims. Some 8,718 National Flood Insurance Program insurance claims have been submitted for damages from the storm.

**PAKISTAN**

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated Nov 28, states: Heavy fog today disturbed the schedule of trains and flights from one to five hours. According to an official of Pakistan Railways, all trains passing through Lahore have been delayed by up to five hours. Similarly, domestic flights were also delayed by up to three hours. The Jaffar Express was delayed by around five hours. Besides some local trains, the schedule of Khyber Mail was also affected. The fog also caused temporary closure of the Islamabad-Lahore and Lahore-Faisalabad sections of the Motorway.

**TROPICAL CYCLONE "AGNI"**

London, Dec 2 — Following received from Reuters, dated today: Severe cyclonic storm "Agni" is forecast to strike Somalia as a tropical storm at about 1200, GMT, Dec 3. Data supplied by the US Navy and Air Force Joint Typhoon Warning Centre suggest that the point of landfall will be near lat 9.4N, long 51.5E. "Agni" is expected to bring one minute maximum sustained winds to the region of around 64 km/hr. Wind gusts in the area may be considerably higher.

London, Dec 2 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Agni", near lat 7.9N, long 56.4E, at 0001, UTC, Dec 2. Movement past six hours 265 deg at eight knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical

miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 65 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 60 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 55 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0001, UTC, Dec 3: Position lat 9.2N, long 53.0E. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 50 nautical miles north semicircle, 45 nautical miles elsewhere.

#### **TROPICAL CYCLONE "BENTO"**

London, Nov 26 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone "Bento" near lat 13.1S, long 74.3E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 160 degrees at five knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots, radius of 50 knot winds 30 nautical miles north-east, south-east, north-west quadrants, 35 nautical miles south-east quadrant. Forecast position lat 14.1S, long 74.7E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Forecast position lat 15.1S, long 75.0E at 0600, UTC, Nov 27. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots, gusts 65 knots.

#### **TROPICAL CYCLONE "WINNIE"**

Manila, Nov 29 — Some 800 ferry passengers were stranded in five seaports in Bicol as strong rains and winds caused by tropical cyclone "Winnie" battered the southern Luzon province. All vessels in the ports of Tabaco, Matnog, Bulan, Pilar and Masbate have been confined to port by the Philippine Coast Guard since yesterday. The Manila Domestic Airport, meanwhile, cancelled two Masbate-bound Asian Spirit flights. Airport officials grounded flights 6A321 and 6A888. At 0200, today, weather bureau Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) plotted "Winnie" 50 km east of Legazpi City with maximum sustained winds of 55 kph near the centre. It was moving west north-west at 11 kph, weather forecasters said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Gapan, Nov 30 — Floods and landslides caused by heavy rains have killed at least 26 people in the northern Philippines, disaster officials said, a week after storms left about 160 dead or missing. The death toll from the latest disaster was expected to rise as soldiers and other rescuers struggled to reach areas blocked by landslides and rapid currents after tropical depression "Winnie" and ahead of another storm expected to hit the country in the coming days. "We have 26 dead but that's unofficial because we expect it to increase as we gather more information," National Disaster Coordinating Council Executive Officer Elma Aldea said in a television interview today. Most of the deaths appeared to be in the province of Quezon, about 80 km east of Manila. Police reported 14 people, mostly children, died in the towns of Infanta and Real due to landslides. Quezon

police said two bridges were washed away as the area was hit by 12 landslides. ABS-CBN television showed 13 dead bodies piled on a road in the town of Real. Officials said the northern provinces of Aurora and Nueva Ecija, where at least 18 people died after a storm last week, were also badly affected by the latest rains. In at least one of the areas, rampant illegal logging was blamed for leaving towns vulnerable to landslides, a factor in several disasters in recent years. Hundreds of families lost their homes in Marikina City, part of Manila, and Montalban in Rizal province. Aldea said there were an unknown number of casualties in the provinces of Camarines Norte in the central Philippines and Rizal near Manila. On a national highway near Gapan town in Nueva Ecija, 90 km north of Manila, about 100 passengers were rescued after being stranded for hours on top of three buses stuck in deep floodwater. "In the case of Nueva Ecija there is no doubt that illegal logging is a cause of the flashfloods," Environment Secretary Mike Defensor told television. Rescue efforts were hampered by landslides blocking roads and a lack of helicopters. Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said he expected damage to crops to be minimal as most rice farmers in northern Luzon island, the main rice-growing area, had already harvested this season's crop. "Winnie" had moved into the South China Sea by early today, but a more powerful tropical storm was on course to hit a wider swathe of the country around Thursday morning (Dec 2), meteorologists said. — Reuters.

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated Nov 30, states: Rescuers were desperately searching for survivors after floods and landslides unleashed by a tropical storm in the Philippines killed more than 100 people, most buried alive under tonnes of debris, officials said. A deadly mix of logs and earth dislodged by heavy rain buried several villages in the towns of Real, Infanta and Nakar on the east coast of Luzon island shortly before midnight amid a tropical depression yesterday, accounting for most of the casualties, rescuers and survivors told AFP. The worst-hit was the town of Real, a tiny town of just over 30,000 people, where 94 people were believed buried by landslides, Air Force spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Restituto Padilla told AFP. Thirteen deaths were reported elsewhere on Luzon. As rescuers struggled to find more bodies beneath the debris, the weather also continued to worsen and hampering the mission, Padilla said. "Most of the bodies were (found) already," Padilla said of the 94 people trapped, quoting police rescuers on the scene. "The problem we are encountering is the bad weather. The weather is getting worse. It is still raining. Floodwaters are still rising and the bridges are down," said Padilla. Several thousands of people are still stranded on their rooftops in Real and in the nearby towns of Infanta and Nakar, he added. Civil defense official Armando Duque warned that casualty

figures were expected to rise further as large parts of Real, Infanta and the nearby town of Nakar were still under water. Areas east and north of Manila were also hard-hit, with seven deaths reported in the mountain town of Montalban, one in Pililla and one in the eastern Manila suburb of Marikina, the civil defense office said. Two people drowned in the town of San Miguel together with a third in Angat, north of the capital, provincial administrator Gladys Santa Rita said. A landslide also killed another person in Vinzons town on the Bicol peninsula. The storm caused heavy rains on the Sierra Madre mountain range north-west of Real that unleashed floods on the central Luzon plains. A helicopter on a rescue mission was buffeted by strong winds and crashed into a river near the city of Cabanatuan. Its pilot and passenger however were safe. Nearly 1,800 people elsewhere fled their homes amid rising floodwaters. Officials said poor people living on river banks and under bridges might be forcibly evacuated due to the floods. The tropical depression struck Infanta and Real yesterday before dissipating over the Sierra Madre, the weather bureau here said. Meanwhile, a tropical storm bore down on the Philippines from the Pacific Ocean with maximum sustained winds of 85 km an hour. The storm was estimated to be 1,940 km east of the eastern island of Samar at dawn and moving north-west at 19 kilometres (12 miles) an hour, meteorologists said.

Manila, Dec 1 — Rescuers have struggled to reach three Philippine towns devastated by landslides and floods that killed at least 327 people as a powerful typhoon stayed on course to hit the same area within 48 hours. Hundreds of soldiers were ordered to carry relief supplies on foot to the coastal towns as bad weather grounded the country's few rescue helicopters. "We need to bring food, medicine and blankets to affected communities today because another typhoon will hit these areas and it could be more difficult to reach thousands of families waiting for these relief goods," Major-General Pedro Cabuay Cabuay told local radio. At least 306 people died in the towns of Real, Infanta and General Nakar in Quezon province, about 80 km east of Manila, after heavy rains caused flash floods and landslides, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman said yesterday. She said 150 people were missing in Real alone. Officials said at least 21 people had died in other areas. Witnesses said flimsy houses in the three towns were swept away on Monday night (Nov 29) by a torrent of timber and mud, possibly loosened by years of illegal logging. Local radio said that residents of the towns were using the logs as makeshift coffins for their dead and had appealed for body bags before the next storm arrives. "We are hoping that the typhoon would change course," said Rose Asejo, an official at the national weather bureau. "We haven't seen anything like this since the start of the year. It's a super typhoon with a wider coverage and very strong winds." Typhoon "Nanmadol",

packing winds of 150 kph at its centre is expected to hit the country's east coast late tomorrow or Friday. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who returned early from a Southeast Asian summit in Laos to help coordinate rescue efforts, was due to tour affected areas today. However, early attempts to reach the worst-affected towns by helicopter failed due to bad weather. "They explored all approaches but they could not get in, the clouds are drifting down the mountains and the ground so the helicopters came back," said Lieutenant Colonel Restituto Padilla, an airforce spokesman. — Reuters. (See also "Typhoon 'Nanmadol'".)

#### TROPICAL STORM "OTTO"

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Otto" formed in the Atlantic on the last day of the hurricane season, but its 50 mph winds pose no threat to land, forecasters said today. After nearly two months without any significant storm activity, "Otto" developed last night over the central north Atlantic, forecasters at the National Hurricane Centre in Miami said. At 0400, EST, the centre of the tropical storm was located near lat 31.9N, long 50.7W or about 825 miles east of Bermuda. "Otto" was drifting east at 2 mph and a slow southeasterly track was expected for the next 24 hours. Little change in strength was expected over that period.

#### TURKEY

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A cold snap with snowstorms that has had most of Turkey in its grip since last weekend has claimed two more lives, bringing the total number of deaths to 19 in less than a week, media reports said today. With the three deaths reported yesterday - two by freezing and one when the roof of his house collapsed under the weight of snow - and 14 on Monday (Nov 22), mostly in snow-related traffic accidents, the toll from the sudden wave of cold weather now stands at 19, according to media reports. Hundreds of roads and more than 2,600 villages in the east and centre of the country remained snowbound, many without electricity or telephone links, Anatolia reported. Dozens of schools were closed because of the bad weather in the same parts of the country, as well as in Bursa and Duzce, in the north-west. At least two domestic Turkish Airlines flight from Istanbul were cancelled yesterday because of the snowstorms, which are expected to abate tomorrow as they move further east, the meteorology department said.

#### TYPHOON "CHABA"

London, Nov 26 — Following notice to mariners issued at 1720, JST, today: Stranded general cargo *Vihan 5* removed.

#### TYPHOON "MUIFA"

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Chumphon residents and state agencies were

bracing for the worst as tropical storm "Muifa" swept onto the eastern coast of the southern region of Thailand last night. The Meteorological Department said last night the storm was likely to hit the coast of Chumphon, instead of Nakhon Si Thammarat as earlier thought. It would bear down on the two districts of Lamae and Lang Suan rather than Khanom and Tha Sala of Nakhon Si Thammarat. The storm, packing 70kph winds and moving at 18kph, was reported stirring up waves seven metres high in the Gulf. Hundreds of fishing boats stayed at their moorings along the coast of Chumphon province, some in an estuary, seeking shelter from tropical storm "Muifa", which was to hit the South overnight. Samer Saeng-arun, chief of Chumphon's irrigation project office, said residents would be warned of possible flooding 24 hours in advance. The agency had been diverting water into the sea and preparing for possible inundation. Several parts of Surat Thani and Nakhon Si Thammarat were drenched by heavy rain yesterday, as the storm drew near. In Nakhon Si Thammarat, thousands of villagers of tambon Talumpuk in Pak Phanang district were evacuated to safe areas following predictions that the storm would come ashore there. Some men remained to guard their belongings. Fishing trawlers were called back and told not to go out until Nov 30 as a safety precaution. About 2,000 fishing boats are based in the province. Schools in the coastal areas were also told to close for the rest of the week. Residents of Phipun district, one of the vulnerable areas, were warned of possible run-off and mudslides. About 400 people in tambon Chonlakhram of Don Sak district in Surat Thani were evacuated after their houses flooded. The bad weather had forced Surat Thani to cancel the famous full-moon party of Koh Phangan which this month coincides with Loy Krathong festival. Ferry operators between Surat Thani, Koh Samui and Koh Phangan suspended operations at 1000 hrs, yesterday. Many schools, including 39 schools on Koh Samui, were told to close and authorities instructed to stockpile food and water supplies for a few days. The Department of Mineral Resources also warned of possible mudslides in several districts including Tha Chana, Chaiya, Khiri Ratthanikhom, Koh Samui and Koh Phangan. In Chumphon, more than 1,500 fishing trawlers had sought shelter at piers in Chumphon estuary. The navy put its fleet, led by HTMS *Chakri Narubet*, on stand-by for rescue and relief operations. Health officials in 14 provinces were told to ready 130,000 emergency supply packs and 100,000 first-aid kits. Health permanent secretary Vichai Thientavorn said 300 mobile medical units were ready to go to the affected areas. Staff were on stand-by to help. (See issue of Nov 26.)

Hanoi, Nov 27 — Flash floods triggered by typhoon "Muifa" have killed at least 11 people in central

Vietnam, officials said. Rains started this week in the central region, wreaking havoc, but no damage has been reported to the harvest in the Central Highlands coffee belt. "A red alert has been issued as floodwater is rising in all rivers in the area," said a disaster management official from the coastal province of Quang Ngai today. He said at least four people from the province had been swept away in flash floods. Officials from neighbouring provinces including Quang Nam, Thua Thien Hue and Quang Tri said seven people had been killed. State weather forecasters said floodwater levels in the Thach Han river in Quang Tri province, around 600 km south of Hanoi, had peaked at a year-high of 5.65 metres early this morning. Weather forecasters reported only mild, occasional rains in the Central Highlands coffee belt. Low-lying areas in Thua Thien Hue province were inundated. Trucks and trains stalled in the submerged national north-south highway. Typhoon "Muifa", downgraded to a tropical storm, had shifted from Vietnam into the Gulf of Thailand by Thursday (Nov 25). — Reuters.

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated Nov 28, states: Flash floods triggered by Typhoon Muifa have killed at least 25 people in central Vietnam, state-run Vietnam Television said yesterday. Torrential rains hit the region this week and floods submerged more than 10,000 houses and brought traffic to a standstill.

Hanoi, Nov 29 — Floods and landslides have killed at least 40 people in Vietnam and 42 are missing, officials said today, and elderly wooden houses inundated at a world heritage site are in danger of collapsing. The floods, sparked by torrential rains from typhoon "Muifa" last week, have submerged 170,000 houses in five provinces and destroyed roads, cutting food relief to many areas. Thousands of people have fled their homes and an official said today that 270,000 people in just one of the affected provinces needed urgent help. Officials said they had not been able to get relief supplies though to the mountainous district of Tay Tra, in Quang Ngai province, for four days due to landslides. "We tried, but the road is blocked. Helicopters cannot land," said a provincial official, who added that more landslides were feared. Scores of low, tile-roofed houses in the town of Hoi An in central Vietnam, declared a world heritage site in 1999 by the United Nations, appeared ready to collapse, state media quoted a local official as saying. More than 500 houses in the 16th-century trading centre had been submerged in waters up to two metres deep. "The quality of 83 old houses has worsened seriously. They could collapse any time," Le Van Giang, chairman of Hoi An town People's Committee, was quoted as saying. Thua Thien Hue province officials told Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, who toured the flood-hit area yesterday, that 270,000 people needed urgent help. Weather forecasters said slight rain was expected today in the Central



Highlands coffee belt. No flood damage has been reported there but the rain could disrupt harvesting. Vietnam is the world's top producer of robusta coffee. Having skirted Vietnam, typhoon "Muifa", which killed 61 people in the Philippines, weakened into a tropical storm and went into the Gulf of Thailand last Thursday (Nov 25). — Reuters.

#### TYPHOON "NANMADOL"

London, Nov 29 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Nanmadol" near lat 6.6N, long 146.3E, at 0600, UTC, Nov 29. Movement past six hours 280 deg at 15 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots with gusts to 70 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 25 nautical miles south semicircle, 20 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 60 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 70 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 75 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Nov 30: Position lat 8.6N, long 141.0E. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots with gusts to 90 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 25 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 45 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 105 nautical miles west semicircle, 100 nautical miles elsewhere.

London, Dec 1 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon "Nanmadol" near lat 12.4N, long 130.5E, at 0600, UTC, Dec 1. Movement past six hours 290 deg at 24 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 115 knots with gusts to 140 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 25 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 60 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 135 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 160 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 145 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Dec 2: Position lat 15.4N, long 122.8E. Maximum sustained winds 115 knots with gusts to 140 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 30 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 60 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 145 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 125 nautical miles elsewhere.

Manila, Dec 1 — The Philippine Coast Guard today ordered all vessels confined to port at two southern Luzon island ports as typhoon "Nanmadol" entered the Philippines. Affected by the order were the ports of Tabaco and Matnog. Prevented from leaving Tabaco port were the ferries *Calixta* and *Rochnia*. Confined to Matinloc port were the ferries *King Frederick*, *Princess of Mayon* and *Northern Samar*. Local maritime regulations allow the Philippine Coast Guard to confine ships to port during heavy seas. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said that as of 1600 hrs, Wednesday "Nanmadol" was plotted 610 km east-south-east of Virac, Catanduanes in lat 12.7N, long 129.8E, packing winds of 175 kph near the centre with gusts of up to 210 kph. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Dec 1 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon "Nanmadol" near lat 12.4N, long 130.5E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 290 degrees at 24 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 115 knots, gusts 140 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 25 nautical miles all quadrants. Forecast position lat 14.0N, long 126.2E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 125 knots, gusts 150 knots. Forecast position lat 15.4N, long 122.8E at 0600, UTC, Dec 2. Maximum sustained winds 115 knots, gusts 140 knots.

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Nanmadol" was expected to slam into the east coast of the main island of Luzon early Friday (Dec 3). The typhoon is packing winds of 175 km per hour over the Pacific Ocean and is already bringing driving rain and strong winds to the devastated region, the government weather centre said. The worst-hit coastal towns of Real, Infanta and General Nakar suffered 364 dead and 139 missing, said the civil defense office in Manila. At least 48 people were killed and 38 missing elsewhere on Luzon. The government plans to ask the United States to provide search and rescue and engineering equipment, said Vice Admiral Ariston de los Reyes, military vice chief of staff. Four United Nations agencies have meanwhile pledged about 200,000 dollars in assistance, the defense department said. Many of the dead and missing in Real were in a three-storey building at a beach resort that was being used as a makeshift evacuation center when it collapsed at the height of the storm, civil defense officials said. President Gloria Arroyo, who just returned from a regional summit in Laos, called off plans to fly to the storm-hit areas after warnings that it was not safe for helicopters to fly. About 100 soldiers armed with picks and shovels are to be sent to villages around Real today to look for survivors and to deliver food, said Air Force Colonel Jaime Buenaflor.

Tanauan, Dec 2 — Residents of flood-hit Philippine towns scrambled to higher ground today as the most powerful typhoon this year threatened to cause more destruction after floods and landslides killed up to 600 people. Typhoon "Nanmadol" had gained strength and was expected to make landfall close to the worst flood-affected areas on the eastern coast later today, packing winds of 185 kph. With flying conditions treacherous and roads cut off, disaster officials said there was little they could do to protect thousands of people made homeless by the floods and who were running short of food and drinking water. "We are very worried considering there is a typhoon that will make landfall this afternoon," said Colonel Elma Aldea, an official at the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC). "There is no potable water in these areas and we are afraid there will be an epidemic." Airlines cancelled several domestic and international flights. Schools, government offices and

the Manila foreign exchange market closed early. Officials say up to 600 people may have been killed in landslides and floods that hit several areas in the main northern island of Luzon and devastated three towns on the east coast. Citing police reports, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes said on Wednesday that 412 people were confirmed dead, 63 injured and 177 missing. The NDCC said 37,400 families, or 168,000 people, had been affected by the floods and landslides that followed heavy rains early in the week. Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said yesterday the damage to agriculture was already near pesos 500 million (£4.6 million). Coconuts, vegetables, livestock and fisheries have been badly hit. The government has pesos one billion set aside in its annual budget for disaster relief. Hundreds of people from the town of Real, where more than 100 people died, were walking through deep mud in an attempt to reach higher ground before the typhoon hit. Houses in Real and nearby towns were destroyed by torrents of logs and mud on Monday evening (Nov 29) after rain loosened soil in areas that had been affected by illegal logging. The government has appealed to the United States, Japan, Australia and neighbouring South-east Asian countries for relief assistance. Seven military helicopters were sent to deliver relief goods to isolated coastal and mountain villages on the east coast, Lieutenant-Colonel Restituto Padilla said. "Our pilots are attempting to penetrate the disaster-stricken areas," he said, adding that low clouds and poor visibility made it a risky operation. He said air force pilots had seen dozens of bodies floating in swollen rivers or buried in waist-deep mud. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo yesterday ordered a nationwide crackdown on illegal logging, blamed for several landslide disasters in recent years. — Reuters.

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Philippine Ports Authority today halted all seagoing vessels due to rough waters caused by typhoon "Nanmadol". Vice-Admiral Arthur Gosingan, PCG chief, told DZMM the new advisory superseded an earlier order halting only vessels with less than 1,000 tonnage capacity. Meanwhile, passenger *Superferry 5* from Iligan, carrying 600 passengers has arrived in Manila after sailing through rough waters. The vessel arrived 10 hours later because of inclement weather, according to PCG spokesman Lt. Armand Balilo. The shipping company's communications manager Gina Virtusio said all Super Ferry trips have been cancelled as a result of the PCG advisory. Affected trips included Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Surigao, Nasipit, Dumaguete, Iligan and Misamis. She said the vessel's operations may resume tomorrow depending on the weather condition. PCG Action Center chief Christopher Caunan earlier said hundreds of passengers were left stranded in provincial ports after some

50 vessels were halted. Some 850 passengers were stuck in Matnog, Sorsogon port, 450 in Pilar, Sorsogon, and 300 in Masbate City and Tabaco City ports. More than 400 passengers were also stranded at Batangas International Port Terminal after 23 roll-on, roll-off vessels and 140 cargo trucks bound for Oriental Mindoro, Romblon and Aklan, were stopped.

London, Dec 2 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon "Nanmadol" near lat 14.9N, long 123.4E, at 0600, UTC, Dec 2. Movement past six hours 290 deg at 17 knots. Position accurate to within 25 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 130 knots with gusts to 160 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 75 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 70 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 60 nautical miles south-east quadrant and 50 nautical miles south-west quadrant. Radius of 50-knot winds 100 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 90 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 80 nautical miles south-east quadrant and 70 nautical miles south-west quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds 250 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 200 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 180 nautical miles south-east quadrant and 160 nautical miles south-west quadrant. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Dec 3: Position lat 17.9N, long 118.4E. Maximum sustained winds 95 knots with gusts to 115 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 45 nautical miles north semicircle, 35 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 70 nautical miles north semicircle, 65 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 150 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 160 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 190 nautical miles elsewhere.

#### UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

London, Nov 26 — Following a moderation of weather conditions, Das Island and Zirku Island terminals reopened for operations this morning, at 0500 hours and 0824 hours, local time, respectively. Both terminals had been closed due to adverse weather earlier this week.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated Nov 27, states: Thousands of passengers were grounded during a snowstorm at Reno-Tahoe International Airport today, on the airport's busiest weekend of the year. At nearby Lake Tahoe and elsewhere in the Sierra Nevada, the storm dumped up to 18 inches of snow and delayed thousands of motorists heading over mountain passes. Sixty-nine flights at the airport were cancelled or delayed during a seven-hour period today after a malfunction in equipment used to guide pilots when visibility is poor, spokesman Brian Kulpin said. The instrument landing system is maintained and operated by the Federal Aviation Administration, which fixed the problem after the storm had left up to six inches of snow in Reno. Travellers were urged to contact their

airlines before heading to the airport because delays were expected to continue. Kulpin said some passengers might not be able to get a flight from Reno until Tuesday (Nov 30) because flights were booked solid for tomorrow and Monday. "This has such a ripple effect throughout the system," Kulpin said. "It has impacts on other airports because there are people stranded at other airports." The Sunday after Thanksgiving is traditionally the airport's busiest day of the year, with about 10,000 passengers using the facility. Kulpin said airport officials were angry because it was the second time this month the instrument landing system malfunctioned during a storm. FAA spokesman Allen Kenitzer in Seattle said a combination of bad weather and equipment failure caused the FAA to suspend flights in and out of the airport. The cause of the equipment failure was under investigation, but it appeared a heavy build-up of snow on an antenna contributed to it, he said. The storm restricted departures by causing aircraft to have to undergo deicing, he added. The storm also caused problems on the highways. Authorities reported more than 100 minor traffic accidents in the Reno-Tahoe area, and said a stalled bus on I-80 near Truckee, California, backed up eastbound traffic. The storm knocked down electrical lines in several Northern California counties and left nearly 11,000 customers without power, including 6,700 in Oakland and Berkeley, and 2,100 in Carmel. Sierra Pacific Power Co officials reported small, scattered outages affecting hundreds of customers in the Reno-Tahoe area. In Southern California, the storm brought less than a quarter of an inch of rain in most areas but was blamed for one death. A car ran into a tree that was toppled by gusting winds in Lancaster north of Los Angeles, killing the driver and injuring a 16-year-old passenger, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Meanwhile, in Ontario, the driver of a tractor-trailer was killed when he lost control of the vehicle in the rain, plunging over the side of a highway, according to the California Highway Patrol.

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated Nov 29, states: Hundreds of stranded passengers awaited flights out of Reno-Tahoe International Airport yesterday, a day after a snowstorm and an equipment malfunction forced dozens of flights to be cancelled or delayed. About 2,000 people were unable to book flights out of the city until today or tomorrow because most flights were already full on the airport's busiest day of the year, airport spokesman Brian Kulpin said. The airport traditionally handles 11,000 passengers on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. At nearby Lake Tahoe and elsewhere in the Sierra Nevada, a winter storm system that moved in from the Northwest dumped up to 18 inches of snow, delaying thousands of Thanksgiving holiday motorists heading over mountain passes. At the airport, 41 departures were cancelled

or delayed during a seven-hour period Saturday after a malfunction in the airport's instrument landing system. Twenty-eight arrivals also were affected. The Federal Aviation Administration repaired the equipment after the storm left up to 6 inches of snow in Reno and 18 inches at nearby Lake Tahoe. Pilots are guided by the system when visibility is poor. More than 4,000 passengers in all were affected by the equipment breakdown, airport officials said. The storm system moved into the western United States from Alaska, bringing snow and rain. In central California, where the National Weather Service issued an advisory for an expected hard freeze, officials said two people died Saturday in storm-related accidents.

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated Dec 1, states: Wind gusting to 50 mph knocked out power to thousands, damaged buildings and felled trees across the North-east today, killing at least one person. A 50-year-old farm worker was killed in suburban Philadelphia when he was struck by a falling tree, police said. The blustery winds, which accompanied a strong cold front moving through the region, also may have caused a small aircraft in northern New Jersey to slide off the runway after landing and hit several trees, authorities said. No one was injured. Thousands of people were without power across the Northeast as the wind snapped utility poles and knocked down electrical lines. There were no serious injuries reported. The winds also tore off part of a gymnasium roof at an elementary school in Edison, N.J., and loosened a plastic cover on the state Capitol dome in Charleston, W.Va. In Philadelphia, construction materials blew off the top of a high-rise building, damaging a car. Downed trees also blocked roads and caused scattered power outages that forced two schools to close. All Baltimore County public schools closed early because of power outages.

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated Dec 1, states: Electrical outages, downed trees and high water in some areas occurred early today when high winds accompanied by rain blew into eastern Ohio. About 4,400 homes in the Ohio Valley were without power; 2,200 of the households affected were in Belmont County. "The high winds came through Belmont County first before hitting the rest of the Ohio Valley," said Carmen Prati-Miller, AEP spokesperson, shortly before 0900 hrs. "They're still sweeping through." Some area schools were affected, including the Union Local School District where the schools were closed because of power outages. The Pipe Creek and Barton roads were closed because of weather-related problems, according to the Belmont County Engineer's Office. Businesses, homes and county offices on Bannock Road near Exit 213 were without power this morning. The county's Emergency Management Agency and health department were both running on generator power this morning. Sheriff's offices in Belmont, Harrison, Monroe and Jefferson

counties reported high winds, downed trees and power lines. Prati-Miller said the power outages began around 0400 hrs with areas of Martins Ferry, Bannock, Bridgeport, Maynard, St. Clairsville, Lansing and Neffs affected. AEP crews were on the roads early today to begin repairs, but many residents may not have power fully restored until tomorrow afternoon, Miller said.

#### VENEZUELA

Caracas, Nov 26 — Due to heavy rainfalls over the last two weeks the city of Puerto Cabello has sustained flooding which has affected the port terminal of Puerto Cabello and a great majority of the private warehouses and offices of customs agents and shipping lines. Many containers at floor level and in the yards of the warehouses are suffering damages in the merchandise due to wetting as the water reached a level of 40cm. The cleaning operations started on Nov 23 and customs started to operate again Nov 24. The operations will probably continue until the weekend. — Lloyd's Agents.

## Earthquakes



#### ALGERIA

Algiers, Dec 1 — An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale hit east of Algeria's capital today, injuring more than 15 people, the state seismological institute said. The quake struck at 1742, GMT, at sea a few kilometres from the coastal city of Boumerdes, located some 50 km east of Algiers. It was also felt in the capital. "More than 15 people were slightly injured due to panic and they are being taken care of," an official from the institute told state radio. "We don't have any reports of buildings collapsing." Electricity in the area was temporarily cut off but was being restored. Some buildings sustained slight damage but there were no reports of disruptions at the OPEC-member's key oil or gas producing facilities. — Reuters.

#### INDONESIA

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Six people have been killed and at least 30 others have been injured in a strong earthquake in Indonesia's Papua province. A series of aftershocks have continued to shake the coastal town of Nabire hours after the quake. The quake measured 6.4 on the Richter scale. People are reported to be setting up tents outside their houses because they are afraid to go inside. A Health Crisis Centre coordinator in a nearby town says the dead and injured were caught by falling buildings and fires. Several churches are reported to have collapsed. The Nabire Airport has been closed.

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake rocked Indonesia's West Papua province today causing at least two buildings to collapse, officials said. No injuries were reported. The magnitude-6.4 quake struck at 1125 hrs and was centred 30km from the Papuan town of Nabire, about 1600km east of the capital Jakarta, seismologist Edison Gurning said. The earthquake collapsed a church and government telecommunications building, Mr Gurning said. It also forced authorities to close the local airport after a crack was found in the runway. No injuries were immediately reported, he said, though information was sketchy because phone lines were down in the remote area.

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 17 people have been killed and more than 130 injured after an earthquake hit a town in Indonesia's Papua province for the second time in nine months. Terrified residents in the coastal town of Nabire have pitched tents outside their homes amid continuous aftershocks, badly needing more tents and medicine. "A total of 11 bodies have been identified but there are six others which are still buried under rubble of destroyed buildings," said Commissioner Wempi Batlayeri, the town's deputy police chief. The quake and smaller shocks had injured 133 people, 30 of them seriously and destroyed 328 homes and other buildings, Commissioner Batlayeri said. "The current condition in Nabire is pitch black, there is no lighting. Almost every minute aftershocks can be felt," he said. Residents set up camp outside their houses fearing further tremors while tents were pitched outside the town's main hospital to treat victims. "We are still waiting for supplies from Biak town. The airport's runway is cracked in six places but Twin Otter aircraft can still land here," Commissioner Batlayeri said. The main quake, measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale, hit Nabire at 0925, local time. Some 150 buildings were flattened and another 178 were set ablaze. The tremor had its epicentre 17 kilometres south of Nabire and 33 kms underground.

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Two more bodies were found on Sunday evening (Nov 28), bringing the number of people killed in the devastating Nabire earthquake to 19, a senior police officer said yesterday. The new fatalities included a two-month-old baby who was found beneath a pile of debris after the Friday earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale. Seismologists have so far recorded 368 aftershocks, with the most powerful measuring 5 on the Richter scale, said Guntur Seno from the meteorological agency in Jayapura. Also yesterday, Vice President Jusuf Kalla met with several ministers to discuss how to help the earthquake victims. The ministers are scheduled to visit the city to assess the damage and decide what steps will be

taken to help the victims and rebuild the town. Some 150 buildings, including schools and places of worship were destroyed in the powerful earthquake.

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated Dec 1, states: A powerful aftershock today killed a man in the Papuan town of Nabire as he repaired damage to his house from a major earthquake killed 30 people five days ago. The state-run Antara News Agency said the 4.5-magnitude aftershock was centred 21 miles southwest of Nabire, where the man was killed as his house collapsed on him. Nabire is 2,000 miles northeast of Jakarta, the capital. In the 6.4-magnitude quake on Friday (Nov 26), 30 people died, 200 were injured and more than 170 buildings were flattened. Hundreds of aftershocks have rattled the area in the five days since that tremor. There was a major quake in Nabire in February that killed 28 people and left much of the city in ruins.

#### JAPAN

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.1 has hit a wide area of Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido, Japanese media said, quoting the Japan Meteorological Agency. The agency issued a tsunami warning, media said. Public broadcaster NHK said one elderly woman was injured but there were no other immediate reports of casualties or serious damage. The earthquake hit at 1832 GMT.

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.1 hit eastern Hokkaido early today, injuring several people. The Japan Meteorological Agency issued a tsunami warning temporarily for the eastern shores of Hokkaido's Pacific coastal area following the 0332 hrs quake before lifting it at 0450 hrs. Ten people were reported to be injured in the quake, according to local authorities. The quake measured an upper 5 on the Japanese intensity scale of 7 in the towns of Teshikaga, Kushiro and Betsukai in eastern Hokkaido and a lower 5 in the city of Kushiro, the towns of Niikappu, Shizunai and Akkeshi, as well as in the village of Sarabetsu. The quake was also felt in wide areas of eastern Japan, from Sapporo to Yokohama and Izu-Nagaoka, Shizuoka Prefecture, the agency said. The quake was focused about 50 km below the ocean surface off the Kushiro area, the agency said. It cut off electricity supplies to about 480 households in the towns of Teshikaga and Shibeche in eastern Hokkaido, according to Hokkaido Electric Power Co. Hokkaido Railway Co. suspended train services in southeastern parts of Hokkaido to confirm safe conditions on the railway. The city government of Nemuro temporarily urged some 13,000 households to evacuate. The quake was followed by another tremor with a

magnitude of 4.6 at 0402 hrs. The second quake registered 2 on the Japanese scale in Kushiro, Akkeshi, Bekkai and Nemuro, the agency said.

## Volcanic Activity



### MOUNT IABU, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Port Moresby, Nov 26 — More than 9,000 people will be evacuated from a tiny Papua New Guinea island starting from today as a volcanic eruption continues and heavy falls of ash destroy crops and pollute water supplies, local media said. Vulcanologists said today the eruption on Manam island, off Papua New Guinea's north coast, had quietened after a major eruption on Tuesday (Nov 23) sent ash soaring nine miles into the air. The eruption remained in the stage 3 category, which usually involves voluntary evacuations, but vulcanologists said the chance of a major explosive eruption remained high. "Tremors are still being recorded continuously," volcanologist Herman Patia of the Rabaul Island vulcanological observatory said. "The volcanic tremor system is still very fluid and it could result in a major eruption. The possibility of Manam erupting very explosively is still very high," he said. The Post Courier newspaper said a mass evacuation of Manam would start today, taking villagers to the mainland via a barge. Disaster officials were not immediately available for confirmation. "The evacuation will start with four villages in the north of the island that are the most affected by the increase in volcanic activity, causing heavier ash fall and discharge of volcanic rocks," said the newspaper. Manam is only 6 miles wide, about 8 miles off the country's north coast, with villages scattered around the sides of the central volcano, which towers 1,807 m (6,020 feet) above sea level. The newspaper said that although the alert remained at stage 3, officials ordered the evacuation because heavy ash falls had polluted water supplies and destroyed crops. "Officials also fear mudflows when the rainy season sets in," said the Post Courier. Mud flows have already destroyed some 20 bush homes and injured several people. Manam began erupting in October, but a violent eruption on Tuesday night spewed an ash plume 14 km into the air and extending 89 miles to the south-east. An aviation red alert was issued to warn aircraft to stay away. Evacuations become compulsory if volcanic activity intensifies to reach stage 4, the maximum. — Reuters.

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: About 1,300 people have been evacuated from an island off Papua New Guinea's north coast as a volcanic eruption continues, blanketing crops and polluting water

supplies with ash, making the island uninhabitable. Rescue officials said yesterday it would take another 14 days to evacuate Manam island's 9,600 people, since they had only one boat which could hold just a few hundred people. The vessel can only make one trip a day to the island. The volcano was continuing to rock the island with tremors, but PNG vulcanologists said activity was dwindling. The volcano begun erupting in October and last week spewed ash 14 km into the air and coughed up lava and large rocks, sparking fears it could be on the verge of a major eruption and prompting calls for a mass evacuation. "So far, in the last three days, we have evacuated 1,300 people," rescue leader Pius Ikuma said from a care centre at Bogia on the PNG mainland. "Manam is currently emitting heavy volcanic ash, lava and stones. The water is polluted and fruit trees and gardens have been destroyed, buried under ash," Ikuma said. Ikuma said a baby girl and a young woman had died in recent days, believed poisoned by water polluted by volcanic ash. Manam islanders were being ferried to makeshift care centres set up at three mainland plantations bought by the government to house the displaced islanders. Ikuma said the care centres were crowded and aid groups such as the PNG Red Cross were shipping in extra tents and food supplies for islanders. He feared limited sanitation facilities could cause health problems at the centres.

### MOUNT ST. HELENS, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

San Francisco, Nov 28 — A minor 3.1-magnitude earthquake has split the lava dome in the crater of Mount St. Helens, continuing a series of minor earthquakes rattling the site since October, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said. The mountain has been spewing ash and steam since early October in a process of building a new lava dome, according to a USGS report. The historic mountain has been closed to all climbers and visitors because of the emissions. "Steam and gas emissions are occurring but nothing like the explosive level of 1980," said Stephanie Hanna, USGS spokeswoman. The agency issued a Level 2 Volcano advisory, which means "an eruption could occur without warning, but an eruption is not imminently underway," which gives the agency time to prepare and alert public safety authorities, she said yesterday. Small earthquakes have been occurring about once a minute at Mount St. Helens, according to the USGS report. The agency has issued a level 2 Volcano Advisory Alert, a mid-level warning, and an Orange aviation alert. Hanna described the buildup of the lava dome "rising quickly with a lot of energy beneath the mountain. Because the earthquakes have provided openings for steam and pressure to escape, a major eruption is not expected. — Reuters.

## Political & Civil Unrest



### COLOMBIA

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Some 450 right-wing paramilitary fighters left Colombia's crowded battlefields, turning in their weapons and asking society to let them back into its fold. Wearing camouflage uniforms and rubber boots, the members of the "Banana Bloc" of the outlawed United Self-Defence Forces, or AUC, laid down hundreds of rifles, grenade-launchers and mortars on a long table. "We have been given hope again," government Peace Commissioner Luis Carlos Restrepo told the disarmament ceremony at a soccer stadium in Turbo, 310 miles north-west of the capital, Bogota. The ceremony completes the disbandment of the Banana Bloc, which for more than a decade held sway over much of Colombia's main banana-growing region in Antioquia state. AUC leader Salvatore Mancuso said in a speech at that the paramilitaries were ready to "forgive our enemies and ask society to receive us in its bosom and believe in our decision to liberate ourselves from the war." The fighters will now head to a nearby country estate where authorities will review their individual legal status, health, education and job prospects. Once deemed fit to return to civil society, they will be allowed to leave as free men. Critics of the process, however, warn there is nothing to prevent them from regrouping under a different name and continuing to commit crimes and traffic drugs. The United States considers the AUC a "terrorist organization" and is seeking the extradition of several of its leaders, including Mancuso, on drug-related charges. Villagers have also expressed concern that Marxist rebels driven away by the paramilitaries could return to fill the void left by the demobilization. The army says it has sent 500 additional troops to secure the region.

### INDIA

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Militants blew up an oil pipeline in Assam, but there was no disruption to supplies, oil officials said today. Yesterday's attack, blamed on the powerful United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), came days after New Delhi rejected the outlawed group's demand for independence for oil and tea-rich Assam. An official of state-run Oil India Limited said there was no disruption in supplies because the guerrillas had attacked a feeder pipeline in Tinsukhia, some 30 km from Digboi, where the country's oldest refinery is located. "There is no major loss, the main pipeline is intact," said Mohan Bhandari, general manager of Oil India.

**INDONESIA**

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Violence has flared in the capital of Indonesia's troubled province of West Papua as security forces moved to break up a flag-raising ceremony by independence supporters, a Sydney-based human rights monitor said today. Five people were shot and wounded and at least 18 people arrested as 100 police dispersed the gathering at Trikora soccer field in Adepura, a suburb of Jayapura, just before 1600, AEST, today, John Rumbiak, international spokesman for the Papuan human rights group Elsham, said. Mr Rumbiak, who is now based in Sydney, said an Elsham human rights worker who witnessed the demonstration had been beaten as he tried to photograph the clash.

**IRAQ**

Baghdad, Nov 25 — A laboratory for the manufacture of chemical weapons has been found in Falluja, an Iraqi minister said today, but Marines in the city said they were not aware of any such discovery. "Soldiers from the Iraqi National Guard found a chemical laboratory that was used to prepare deadly explosives and poisons," Minister of State Kassim Daoud told a news conference. "They also found in the lab booklets and instructions on how to make bombs and poisons. They even talked about the production of anthrax." Yesterday, Marines in Falluja said they had found a banner of the insurgent group led by Jordanian al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in a chemicals laboratory in Falluja. But they said there was no indication the lab was used to produce chemical weapons. It was not clear whether Daoud was referring to the same laboratory. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Nov 26 — Four staff of British-based security firm Global Risk Strategies were killed and 15 wounded in an attack in Baghdad's fortified Green Zone yesterday, the company said. A spokesman said today that he had no more immediate information on the incident or the nationalities of the casualties. "We believe it was indirect fire but we do not know whether it was a rocket or a mortar," a US military spokesman said. Coalition sources said the casualties were believed to be Nepalese Gurkhas. The Green Zone, a sprawling complex surrounded by blast walls, houses the American and British embassies and the interim Iraqi government and parliament. Two loud explosions echoed from the Green Zone yesterday and thick black smoke was seen rising above the compound. Insurgents regularly fire rockets and mortars at the compound, and have detonated several suicide car bombs close to its entrances. Last month, two suicide bombers blew themselves up in a cafe inside the Green Zone. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Nov 27 — A roadside bomb detonated in one of Baghdad's busiest streets today, killing two people and wounding at least 15, police sources said. The sources said the bomb went off at around 0900 (0600, UTC) today,

close to the Iraqi central bank on Rasheed Street, one of the capital's most crowded areas. It was not immediately clear who was the target of the attack. Insurgents usually detonate roadside bombs as US or Iraqi security forces are passing by, but have occasionally set them off in crowded areas to cause mayhem and intimidation. There are almost daily roadside bomb or similar attacks in Baghdad, often on the Green Zone, the headquarters of the interim Iraqi government and home to the US and British embassies. — Reuters.

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Gunmen attacked and briefly occupied city hall in a town north of Baghdad early today before being hit by US and Iraqi forces in a fire fight that left several attackers dead and one policeman injured, officials said. The incident in Al Khalis today involved about 100 attackers who raided the city hall and two police stations, said municipal official Saad Ahmed Abbas. According to him, US occupation soldiers and Iraqi security forces regained control after a two-hour exchange of fire. Also a US soldier was killed when a roadside bomb went off near a patrol north of Baghdad, the military said. The attack on the patrol took place near Duluyiah. Also a US military vehicle was damaged in an explosion on the highway near Baghdad International Airport, witnesses said. An official in the Iraqi Communist party was assassinated northeast of Baghdad, a party spokesman said. Munir Jabar was returning home late yesterday when gunmen opened fire on him in the town of Buhriz, northeast of Baghdad.

Near Yusufiya, Nov 28 — US Marines said today they killed several insurgents and took 32 suspects in a series of actions south of Baghdad that included a high-speed riverborne raid on suspected weapons dumps on the Euphrates. Two Marines were also killed in the region, known as Babil province, today. A Marine spokesman gave no further details. Some 40 Marines and 80 newly trained Iraqi Interior Ministry commandos, aided by British soldiers, waded ashore after a dawn race upstream to a point on the east bank opposite Camp Dogwood, where Scottish troops of the Black Watch regiment are based. While that raid came up almost empty-handed, a total of 32 people were seized in raids forming part of the Marines' six-day-old Operation Plymouth Rock, intended to thwart Sunni Muslim insurgents and launched as a follow-up to the US assault on the rebel city of Falluja, upstream to the north-west. They also killed several gunmen in a number of incidents, said Marine spokesman Captain David Nevers. Another raid in the area turned up a cache of 512 130-mm artillery shells. There were no arrests or combat during the raid near the town of Yusufiya, which began with Americans and Iraqis going ashore in waves after short rides north aboard Marine river assault craft. As the search party returned by road to its base, named Kalsu, near Iskandariya,

its convoy was halted by a roadside bomb, which narrowly missed a truck carrying Iraqi troops. As the troops in the halted convoy took up defensive positions, two US vehicles took off at speed. Nevers said later they went in pursuit of two men seen hurrying into a house about one km from the main road after the blast. He said the Marines killed one man they found in the house armed with an assault rifle and detained a second. They said they found a remote detonator for the bomb, which comprised four 122-mm artillery shells buried in a hole by the road. It was detonated, leaving fragments on the road surface. Among the Iraqis killed in the region on Sunday was the driver of a civilian car which failed to obey warnings to slow down as it approached a US convoy, Nevers said. Mindful of suicide bombers, US troops shoot to kill. It was not clear why the driver, whose passenger was detained, had failed to stop. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Nov 29 — A suicide car bomber blew up his vehicle outside a police station west of the Iraqi insurgent stronghold of Ramadi today, killing at least 12 people and wounding 10, hospital officials said. Nazar al-Hiti, a local doctor, said 90% of the casualties were policemen, who had been queuing up to receive their salaries today when the bomber struck. Insurgents have repeatedly targeted Iraq's fledgling security forces, and dozens of police stations have been attacked by suicide bombs over the past year. — Reuters.

Baiji, Nov 30 — A car bomb exploded near a US military patrol in the town of Baiji, north of Baghdad, killing four Iraqi civilians and wounding 19 people, including two US soldiers, witnesses and the military said today. A US military spokesman said the car exploded in a northern section of the city, 180 km north of Baghdad. He said the 17 civilian casualties were taken to hospital and the US soldiers were evacuated. In a separate attack, an insurgent fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a US tank in the town, wounding one US soldier, a spokesman from the US 1st Infantry Division said. A hospital official in Baiji said a child and three traffic police were among the wounded. Baiji, site of a major oil refinery, has seen a surge in violence over the past three weeks, since US forces launched their offensive to retake the rebellious town of Falluja. US tanks and armoured vehicles, backed by helicopter gunships, launched an assault on parts of Baiji two weeks ago to suppress insurgents hiding out there. Since then there have been frequent clashes between US forces and rebels in the town. — Reuters.

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated today, states: One American soldier was killed to the north of Baghdad while another five were injured after one booby trapped car targeted a convoy they were among. In Baiji to the north of Baghdad two Iraqi soldiers were injured in a patrol and this resulted in killing 7 Iraqis and injuring other 20 others. One American vehicle was damaged in al-Khaledeyah as one

explosive went on as American convoys was running. In Falluja, the American forces continued their operations there and announced finding a weapons store in it. News reports said that violent confrontations took place between these forces and gunmen who were still fortifying their positions in al-Golan quarters to the north west of the city, al-Shuhadaa district and Jubeil in its south in which American jets took part. The American forces permitted the Iraqi Red Crescent to evacuate several women and children from inside Falluja. To the south of Iraq, one official in al-Maseeb electricity generation station said that one oil pipeline providing this station with electricity, situated to the south of Baghdad, was damaged yesterday at dawn and this resulted in a fire eruption in it. Near an arable area to the south of Ltefeh, two civilian customs wearing bodies were found with each had three bullets in the head. The two bodies whose identities were not known left near the oil pipeline. The rescue men refused to pullback the two bodies under security allegations. The Iraqi army and the American forces are conducting patrols in the city which is situated within what is called the "triangle of death."

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A mortar barrage hammered the heavily fortified Green Zone and elsewhere in central Baghdad today, killing at least one person and underscoring the vulnerability of even Iraq's best-protected areas ahead of national elections. Also today, a car bomb exploded next to a Bradley fighting vehicle near Beiji, about 155 miles north of Baghdad, wounding two U.S. soldiers and two Iraqi National Guardsmen, said Master Sgt. Cynthia Weasner of the 1st Infantry Division. No other details were available. The Pentagon said yesterday that to increase security, U.S. troop strength in Iraq will be raised from 138,000 now to about 150,000 by mid-January - the highest level of the war. It said extra troops are needed to secure Iraq's Jan 30 election. In Baghdad, at least five mortar rounds exploded today, including two in Baghdad's Green Zone, the compound that holds Iraq's interim administration and foreign diplomatic missions. One round struck near a mobile phone office in Baghdad's Arasat neighbourhood, killing one person and wounding three, according to police Lt. Muhsin Khazim. Witnesses also reported people were wounded in the other blasts around Baghdad, but the number of casualties wasn't known.

#### IRAQ-KUWAIT

Bremen, Nov 26 — Ro/ro *Al-Zahraa* sailed Bremerhaven Nov 25 in tow of tug *Magdalen Sea*. — Lloyd's Agents.

Rijeka, Nov 30 — Ro/ro *Star*, ex *Boka Star*, is still under arrest at Rijeka. Court proceedings are in progress. There are no prospects as yet for the vessel's release. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### ISRAEL

Hebron, Nov 25 — Israeli soldiers killed three Palestinian militants in

the West Bank and Gaza Strip today, witnesses said. In the West Bank town of Hebron, soldiers killed two gunmen who fired at them from the ruins of a house, owned by the family of a dead militant, which the army had demolished hours earlier. Witnesses said troops shot back and killed the men. Palestinian sources said the men were Hamas members who had planned twin suicide bombings on buses that killed 16 people in the Israeli desert town of Beersheba in August. Hamas is an Islamic militant movement sworn to Israel's destruction. In Gaza, medics said a militant in the Rafah refugee camp, a militant stronghold and frequent scene of army raids, died from shrapnel wounds after a shell fired by an Israeli tank exploded beside him. — Reuters.

#### IVORY COAST

London, Nov 26 — Insurers have pushed up premiums for ships that dock in Ivory Coast following unrest earlier this month, threatening to slow down exports from the world's top cocoa grower, port officials and exporters say, reports Reuters. "Because of the political situation, insurers generally have increased their insurance rates for ships making stops in Ivory Coast," said Jacques Kolia, director of shipping at Sivom, a leading port operator in the West African state. "To avoid the surcharge, transport companies increased freight charges for Ivory Coast. Exporters have no choice but to pay these higher charges. They're non-negotiable," he said.

#### NEPAL

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: The Nepalese government yesterday gave the Maoist rebels 50 days to rejoin peace talks, failing which it will hold general elections which the rebels are opposing. The government will maintain its efforts to find a political solution through talks until Jan 13, Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba said, announcing his last call on the rebels to rejoin the peace talks.

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Two explosions have rocked Nepal's capital, Kathmandu, damaging some buildings, police say. The explosions struck a building housing Nepal's election office and the home of a former prime minister's daughter. No-one has admitted the attacks but police say it follows the pattern of explosions set off by Maoist rebels. The explosions came nearly a week after the rebels rejected a government deadline of Jan 13 to join peace talks. No-one was reported hurt in the attacks. The first blast early today took place at the home of the daughter of former Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala. It blew a crater in the garden and shattered the house's window panes, say reports. The second explosion hit the three-storey election office in Patan, a Kathmandu suburb. The police said both explosions happened almost at the same time. In a related development, a major international Buddhist conference has

asked for a peaceful settlement of Nepal's long-running insurgency. Delegates from 26 countries who met in the south-western town of Lumbini urged the government and rebels to work on a negotiated settlement.

#### PARAGUAY

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated Dec 1, states: Clashes between landless farmworkers and Paraguayan security forces left a police officer dead and 20 other people injured in a resurgence of violence that has rattled Paraguay's government. Land distribution is seen as a life-and-death issue in Paraguay, where a large part of the 6.2 million population survives through subsistence farming. Farmers' groups say the government is not doing enough to redistribute land to the poor. The officer was shot yesterday when police and troops evicted hundreds of squatters from a soybean field in Itapua Poty, 250 miles south-east of Asuncion, authorities said today. A second clash erupted last night in Guyaybi, about 160 miles north of the Paraguayan capital, and left 20 peasants and officers injured. Authorities reported 312 arrests during the second clash. The outbreak of protests poses a challenge to the 16-month-old government of President Nicanor Duarte, who began his presidency in August, 2003, pledging an economic reversal after years of deep recession. Interviewed on national television today, Duarte accused the head of a national farmers' union of inciting followers to trespass on private land. Farmers groups demand that more than 370,000 acres be distributed among 300,000 poor families. The government says it will turn over 49,000 acres to landless groups but lacks funding to buy up more private lands for distribution.

#### PHILIPPINES

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected communist rebels ambushed a group of soldiers on a mission to support relief operations for victims of a storm, killing 10 and wounding six others, the military said today. The rebels, however, said they killed 14 soldiers, and denied that the troops were deployed to assist storm victims. The army earlier said 19 troops were preparing yesterday to check bridges and roads destroyed by a rainstorm that left at least 412 people dead and 177 others missing when they were attacked by about 80 New People's Army rebels in Bulacan province's San Rafael town, north of Manila. Army spokesman Maj. Bartolome Bacarro said one guerrilla was also killed in the clash.

#### SRI LANKA

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated Nov 29, states: Tamil Tiger rebels clashed with security forces and civilians in a strategic port town today, leaving one person dead and three injured, officials said. The violence came two days after a Tiger leader apparently threatened to revive fighting unless stalled peace talks

quickly resume, raising fears for the truce that has halted this country's brutal two-decade civil war. Police imposed a curfew in the port town of Trincomalee after today's violence, which started when the ethnic minority Tamil rebels attacked majority Sinhalese civilians, a police officer in the area said on condition of anonymity. One person died and three were hurt, said military spokesman Brig. Daya Ratnayake. Earlier today, the Tigers set up roadblocks cutting off Trincomalee from Colombo to protest alleged police and military harassment during their weekend celebrations of Martyrs' Day, an annual event commemorating some 18,000 rebel fighters killed in the conflict, which started in 1983 and killed about 65,000 people. On Saturday, the Tigers' reclusive guerrilla leader, Vellupillai Prabhakaran, issued a message from Sri Lanka's rebel-held north urging the government to unconditionally resume the peace process and give the Tamils greater autonomy in the north and northeast, where most of them live.

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Sri Lankan authorities reimposed a curfew in Trincomalee yesterday after a second man was reported killed following clashes between government supporters and rebels, police said. The body of a van driver who was attacked Monday allegedly by sympathisers of Tamil Tiger rebels was discovered yesterday, a day after a bus passenger was killed in a grenade attack blamed on Tiger rebels, police said. A spokesman said a night curfew was slapped in Trincomalee amid fresh tension following the discovery of the van driver's body. Police and heavily armed troops patrolled the town where Tiger sympathisers and pro-government activists from the majority Sinhalese community have been clashing since the weekend.

#### UKRAINE

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of Ukrainian opposition supporters today blockaded government buildings in protest at the outcome of the disputed presidential elections, as European envoys arrived in the ex-Soviet republic to seek a solution to the impasse. An escalating political crisis has hit the country since Sunday's (Nov 21) presidential poll. Official results indicate that the Kremlin-backed prime minister, Viktor Yanukovich, won. But international observers have criticised the count and the liberal challenger, Viktor Yushchenko, is claiming victory. Tens of thousands of Yushchenko supporters have massed on the streets of the capital, Kiev, for five consecutive days in spite of bitter conditions. Today, the protests intensified as demonstrators linked arms to prevent Mr Yanukovich and his staff from entering the cabinet building where he carries out his duties as prime minister. The development came after Mr Yushchenko's deputy, Yulia Tymoshenko, called on supporters to surround government buildings and disrupt transport systems. Protesters

also blocked nearby streets with buses and vans draped in orange banners, representing Mr Yushchenko's party. Apart from a few traffic policemen wearing orange armbands, there were no police present in the immediate vicinity, but special forces had parked some 30 trucks and jeeps in an alley and police were packed into about 12 buses nearby.

Kiev, Nov 27 — Ukraine's parliament, in a vote providing a moral boost for opposition supporters massed in the capital, said today the disputed presidential poll handing victory to Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich was invalid. Parliament has no legal authority to annul the election results, but with vast crowds backing liberal challenger Viktor Yushchenko's call for a new vote, today's declaration carries political weight. The declaration was issued two days ahead of a Supreme Court case examining Yushchenko's complaints of poll irregularities and as the European Union said it wanted to see new elections. The chamber passed by a large majority a resolution proclaiming the Nov 21 poll was invalid, subject to many irregularities and failing to reflect voters' intentions. However, at the end of a highly charged emergency session, it failed to pass a motion on staging a rerun of the vote. "You now have the time to work through the resolution and prepare the documents necessary to develop it," parliament Speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn said in closing the session. Yanukovich called a news conference after the debate, but his press secretary later said he was detained at a meeting and would not be appearing at his largely deserted headquarters. Yushchenko aides said their candidate had no plans to address crowds in Kiev's main square — as he has daily since last Sunday's election. After talks between the two rivals yesterday, overseen by mediators from Russia and the European Union, Yushchenko told supporters he wanted a new poll on Dec 12. In eastern Ukraine, the prime minister's power base, similarly large crowds have backed Yanukovich as president. The disputed election has raised tensions between the West and Russia, which fears losing its hold over Ukraine, and exposed old fault lines dividing the country into east and west. During its four-hour debate, parliament also expressed no confidence in the Central Election Commission and called on outgoing President Leonid Kuchma to appoint new members. The Supreme Court will examine Yushchenko's complaints of widespread poll irregularities on Monday. "People will not leave the street until a new commission names a new date for elections," said deputy Ivan Zayets, a Yushchenko ally. "These decisions do not solve the problem. They only point in the correct direction for an ultimate resolution." As the session opened, 100,000 Yushchenko supporters massed outside parliament chanting their candidate's name and the European Union pressed for a new vote. "We think the best, the ideal, outcome would be elections," Dutch

Foreign Minister Bernard Bot, speaking on behalf of the EU as its president, told reporters in The Hague. "If we are heading for elections, it should happen rather soon, before the end of the year." Speaker Lytvyn took a swipe at outgoing President Leonid Kuchma's scandal-plagued 10 years in office, saying authorities were to blame for the loss of public faith in institutions. "The outcome is the direct embodiment of public policy undertaken in recent years. We did not take the people into account, we did not listen to the people." Members of nearly all political stripes wanted quick action. "We must put an end to this comedy with a court decision," said Socialist Oleksander Moroz, a close ally of Yushchenko. However, many members placed conditions on any proposal to stage a new election, among them longstanding proposals to overhaul Ukraine's political system, mainly by taking political power away from the president and handing it to parliament. On the streets, passions remained high. Heeding Yushchenko's call to stay in the streets until they secured victory, thousands of supporters braved snow and wind to man blockades around government buildings. Yanukovich supporters were seen boarding trains to return to the prime minister's Donbass stronghold in Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine. Mass rallies took place in eastern Donetsk region. — Reuters.

#### Kidnappings



#### PAKISTAN

Karachi, Nov 29 — A total of 36 cases of kidnapping for ransom were reported during the 10 months of the current year as against 33 reported during the whole year of 2003 in Karachi industrial city of Pakistan, well-placed sources in the police department told local media. They said that in 35 cases of the current year, 44 people were kidnapped whereas last year, 39 people were kidnapped for ransom. The sources said that two captives were killed after negotiations with their captors failed. In 15 cases, the police managed to arrest the kidnapers while 16 other cases remained mystery as the captives got themselves freed after their captors were paid the ransom amount. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### Labour Disputes



#### GREECE

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers at Greece's main

ports are set to begin a 48-hour strike tomorrow in a protest expected to seriously disrupt pre-Christmas cargo shipments across the country. The protest at Athens - main port of Piraeus and 11 other ports - to press demands for higher pay and pension rights - is not likely to affect ferry services. Following the strike, port workers were going to stage a work-to-rule protest over the weekend.

### ITALY

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated Nov 30, states: Italy ground to a halt today as millions of workers observed a general strike in a show of force against the economic policies of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's centre-right coalition government. Shops and business-owners pulled down the shutters and factories across the country came to a standstill as demonstrators filed through the centres of Rome, Milan, Turin and around 70 other cities. "Millions of workers are on the streets" around the country, claimed a triumphant Savino Pezzotta, leader of the Catholic CISL union. The unions said 100,000 workers had marched in Milan, 60,000 in Turin and 50,000 in Rome. Travellers once again bore the brunt of the strike, hammered by phased stoppages in the transport sector which caused severe delays. First, railworkers walked out for four hours before airport staff held their four-hour strike from midday, prolonging the agony for those queuing for flights. National airline Alitalia said it had cancelled 136 flights, including 70 international routes, and British Airways, Air France, Iberia and Lufthansa were also forced into frantic rescheduling and cancellations. Officials at Rome's Fiumicino airport said a total of 54 international flights had been cancelled. Leaders of Italy's three most powerful unions claimed 80% of workers in industries across the board observed an eight-hour public service strike. Some sectors, like transport, opted for four-hour stoppages. Florence's Uffizi Museum staff observed the stoppage. Public health services shut down for eight hours, halting non-emergency surgery, laboratory analysis and x-rays, and private clinics shut for four hours. The country's biggest selling newspapers did not appear on newsstands, due to a related printworkers' strike the day before, and only a few newspapers close to the government appeared. The strike had been called by the left-wing CGIL, Catholic CISL, and centrist UIL unions, which between them boast some 12 million members.

### SOUTH KOREA

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: South Korean car workers at the Hyundai and Kia plants have downed tools in protest at proposed new labour rules. Hyundai said the strike by unionised workers would cost the firm 80 billion won (\$75.67m; £40.11m). An official at Hyundai's sister firm, Kia Motors, said the walkout would result in the loss of

3,447 vehicles and \$45m (£24m). Today, the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) said a total of 157,999 workers at 398 workplaces had responded to the latest national strike call. However, the labour ministry claimed about half that number had taken part in the stoppage, held in protest at a bill aimed at allowing companies to hire more temporary workers and ban strikes by civil servants. The KCTU, which has 620,000 members, is also demanding the government halt free trade talks with Japan. Hyundai's union initially wanted to stay out until Monday (Nov 29), but limited its action to one day on advice from the KCTU.

## Awards & Settlements



### ALLEGED BREACH OF CONTRACT, TAIWAN

London, Nov 27 — A press report, dated today, states: The Taiwan High Speed Rail Corp (THSRC) said yesterday it would pay Eurotrain US\$65 million in compensation for dumping the consortium and choosing a Japanese consortium to build Taiwan's high-speed rail system. THSRC posted the settlement agreement on the Taiwan Stock Market online bulletin board. "Following arbitration by an international arbitration court, THSRC agrees to pay US\$65 million to Eurotrain, which — plus interest — totals US\$89 million," the document said. THSRC's press office said the arbitration was made on Mar 5 by an international arbitration court in Singapore. Compared with an arbitration ruled by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) early this year, the new settlement saves THSRC US\$24 million, according to THSRC. Eurotrain filed for arbitration with the ICC in 2001. The ICC issued an arbitration award on Mar 15, 2004, wherein THSRC was ordered to pay US\$73.04 million in damages and interest to Eurotrain. Eurotrain — a consortium led by Germany's Siemens AG and France's Alstom — claims THSRC gave it priority negotiating rights for building Taiwan's first high-speed rail in 1997, but awarded the US\$14-billion-contract to a Japanese consortium in 1999. THSRC denied there was any contract. The 345-km railway linking Taipei to Kaohsiung is scheduled to start operating in October next year. There were rumors that THSRC favored Japan's Shinkansen system over Eurotrain because former president Lee Teng-hui wanted to forge closer ties with Japan, but THSRC denied there were political considerations.

### RAPE, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated Nov 25, states: A jury in Louisville has awarded \$2 million to a former patient who accused a hospital

employee of raping her. The ruling against Ten Broeck Hospital was handed down yesterday after a week-long trial. Artemecia Brooks says she was raped by Feotis Gilbert in January of 2001. Gilbert was working as a certified nursing assistant at the hospital at the time. Gilbert says the sex was consensual. The jury ruled that the hospital should pay Brooks \$1.8 million in punitive damages and 291,000 for pain and suffering.

### WRONGFUL DEATH, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A jury awarded \$45.5 million yesterday to the family and estate of a seriously disabled woman who drowned while in the care of a group home. Ilana Solomon, 26, had several disabilities, including severe developmental delays and poor vision and hearing. She lived in a north Phoenix apartment with one other developmentally disabled person and a full-time carer supervised by a company called Developmental Systems Inc. The carer put Solomon in a bathtub, and according to police reports left her unsupervised for five to 10 minutes while she used another bathroom in the apartment. When she returned, Solomon's face was under water.

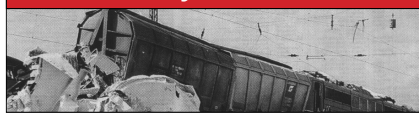
### WRONGFUL DEATH/INJURY, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The families of three men killed in an explosion and fire at a particleboard plant, as well as five other people injured, have settled their lawsuits against several defendants for \$21 million, according to court documents. On Feb. 13, 2001, sparks from a cutting torch ignited sawdust at the Temple-Inland Forest Products Corp. plant in Mount Jewett. Gregg Engelken, 33, Roger Smith, 33, and Jim Covert, 39, died of injuries, and seven other workers were hospitalized. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration blamed Temple-Inland for the fire and fined the company \$248,000 for various safety violations, including failing to prevent excessive accumulations of wood dust. The victims or their families filed lawsuits against various subcontractors who were working at the plant, or whose safety equipment was used at the site. Temple-Inland, meanwhile, closed the plant in April 2003, idling some 120 workers, citing weak market conditions. On Tuesday (Nov 30), a McKean County judge approved a \$1.695 million settlement between Smith's wife and son, and the defendants. The paperwork in that case details an overarching \$21 million settlement involving all the parties. "On Oct. 13, 2004, all plaintiffs in the consolidated actions agreed to a settlement of all claims ... for the collective sum of \$21 million, and on Nov. 10, 2004, the plaintiffs agreed to an allocation of that sum among themselves," according to a petition the Smiths' attorneys filed seeking approval of their individual settlement.



The Smiths' petition doesn't address the status of other plaintiffs. McKean County President Judge John Cleland approved the Smiths' settlement - which includes nearly \$639,000 for their attorneys - subject to approval of the other underlying settlements. The defendants included in the settlement are McGill AirClean, of Columbus, Ohio, and K.W.I. Building Co., of Johnstown. OSHA cited both companies for safety violations, but ruled neither company was responsible for the fire. McGill paid \$7,500 in OSHA fines and K.W.I. paid \$5,500, said John Stranahan, OSHA director for northwestern Pennsylvania. Other defendants include McGill's parent company, United McGill Corp.; Fenwal Safety Systems Inc. of Miami; and GreCon Electronics of Germany. Workers for K.W.I., which was hired by McGill, were welding a catwalk when the fire began. McGill AirClean was hired by Temple-Inland to install an air particulate control device, the lawsuits state. Fenwal manufactures a fire protection system that failed to prevent the accident and GreCon makes heat sensors that also failed to work properly, according to the plaintiffs. The defendants had all previously denied any responsibility in briefs filed in McKean County Court.

## Railway Accidents



### BUNDABERG AREA, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The Tilt Train that derailed near Bundaberg in Queensland last month will take about 12 months to repair. Queensland Rail said today it also had no indication yet from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau when it would hear the result of the investigation into the accident. A Queensland Rail spokesman said the damaged locomotives and carriages from the train had been assessed at the Maryborough workshops of builder Walkers EDI and had been judged repairable. The repairs were expected to take about a year. "The train won't be put back into service until it has been thoroughly checked and tested and that should take about a year," the spokeswoman said. "We have also had not indication from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau on when we can expect even a preliminary report of their investigation of the accident," she said.

### COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Two slow-moving freight trains collided east of Columbia Falls yesterday morning, blocking the main rail line and forcing Amtrak to bus Empire Builder passengers 250 miles between Whitefish and Havre. There were no major injuries to the

four crew members in the head-on crash, said Burlington Northern Santa Fe spokesman Gus Melonas. Melonas said three locomotives and four cars from the 68-car westbound train derailed, with two of the cars going down an embankment toward the Flathead River. The cars were carrying bird seed, feed and grain from Minneapolis to Pasco, but none of the freight reached the river. Three of the four locomotives from the 88-car eastbound train derailed, along with one car loaded with various types of freight, Melonas said. That train was travelling from Portland to Chicago. The derailment blocked traffic on the main line across northern Montana, which carries an average of 45 trains per day. Melonas said BNSF expected to have the line reopened within 24 hours of the 0620 hrs crash.

### CRASH, TAMPA AREA, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated Nov 29, states: Two CSX freight trains collided head-on today, killing one crew member, authorities said. The crash caused the derailment of about 10 cars and injured three people, said Kevin Doll, a spokesman for the Pasco County sheriff's office. CSX spokeswoman Jane Covington said each train had a two-member crew. One train was headed south from Waycross, Ga., to Tampa, while the other was headed north from Miami to Wildwood. They collided about 25 miles north-east of Tampa. Covington said it is too early to say what caused the accident. The tracks are controlled by signals similar to traffic lights and the system is designed so trains do not move into the next section of track until it is clear, she said.

### NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated today, states: An F train derailed early this morning near 34th Street and Sixth Avenue near Penn Station. No injuries were reported, but 57 passengers were evacuated from the train, which jumped the track at about 0413 hrs. Transit workers had been changing a rail, but had not locked it in place, causing the fourth car of the northbound train to derail about 300 feet south of 34th Street. No injuries were reported and passengers were able to leave the trains safely. Service on the F line was diverted to Eighth Avenue while the derailment was being investigated, said Officer Kathleen Price, a police spokeswoman. Fire officials reported a small fire resulted from the derailing, which was soon brought under control.

### WAPELLO COUNTY, IOWA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated Nov 29, states: Crews worked through cold, snowy conditions this morning, cleaning up after a train derailment in Wapello County. The accident happened just before 2000, yesterday. No one was hurt in the accident. The train was operated by Burlington Northern-Santa Fe, and a

company spokesman says they do not know what caused the train cars to derail. The train was carrying 110 cars. Forty-two of those left the tracks. The accident happened with such force that it literally almost tore some of these train cars in half, spilling the coal they were hauling, but luckily most of that coal did not end up on the roadway. Two main tracks run through the accident site. The tracks are shared between Burlington Northern and Amtrak. Burlington Northern has hired private contractors to clean up the area, but don't know when the entire site will reopen. Investigators are looking into what caused the derailment.

## Robberies & Thefts



### MERCHANDISE, UNITED KINGDOM

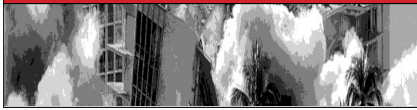
London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated Nov 25, states: A gang of Algerian asylum seekers who took part in a multi-million-pound cheque fraud were jailed at Guildhall Crown Court in London for up to five years each and recommended for deportation. The fraud involved hundreds of bank accounts and scores of bogus identities. It foundered when one of the men asked for a refund on a Laura Ashley dress. Although he had a receipt, he told staff the dress was bought in "Dundee, central London". For two and a half years, the team of benefit-claiming fraudsters toured Britain targeting leading high-street stores. House of Fraser, John Lewis and Marks & Spencer were among 15 chains targeted in "simultaneous" shopping sprees. The purchases consisted mostly of clothes and electrical goods, but also included CDs, books, furniture and cosmetics. All the transactions were carefully kept within the £100 cheque-guarantee limit, and then returned for cash before the cheques could bounce. London's Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court was told. The fraud's scope became clearer when one of the defendants led police to a £1.5 million stash of goods in a container in Stevenage, Hertfordshire. All were neatly hung on racks and attached to matching receipts.

### MONEY FROM BANKS, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated Nov 25, states: A gang suspected of operating an elaborate £3 million banking fraud was targeted during police raids in London and Edinburgh yesterday. Detectives in London confirmed that 15 people were arrested when officers swooped on 17 addresses in the city's Paddington area and one in Edinburgh's west end. The 13 men and two women, all of Arabic origin, are suspected of being part of a criminal ring that has spent the past two years

opening bank accounts with false documents and accruing huge overdrafts. Police sources said yesterday that up to 1,200 accounts are believed to have been opened and that UK clearing banks and finance companies have put the losses at more than £3 million. In July, eight bank employees and members of their families suspected of opening the accounts were arrested as part of the same investigation. They are all currently on police bail. In yesterday's raids, City of London officers executed 25 warrants to search premises and vehicles for evidence against the suspected fraudsters. All those arrested were last night being questioned at a central London police station. Detective Inspector Andy Manning, of City of London Police, said: "During this investigation, we have been working closely with all the financial institutions which have been targeted and this liaison has been invaluable in developing our inquiries."

### Miscellaneous



#### **BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY, CANADA**

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Hong Kong's government announced today that it has lifted an 18-month ban on beef imports from Canada imposed after mad cow disease surfaced in the country. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department said it was now satisfied that Canada has improved its mad cow prevention measures, but it said some restrictions would remain. Hong Kong will start off by only resuming imports of boneless beef from cows less than 30 months old that have had their brains and spinal cords removed during slaughtering, the department said in a statement. Mad cow disease is commonly found in those body parts. Hong Kong halted Canadian beef imports on May 21, 2003.

#### **COLLAPSE OF BRIDGE, LAKE SAKAKAWEA, NORTH DAKOTA, UNITED STATES**

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated Nov 30, states: A section of a huge bridge under construction over a Missouri River reservoir collapsed today, killing one worker and injuring three others, officials said. Fire Chief Duane Estvold said the man killed was hooked to a harness and was partly submerged after the section of the Four Bears Bridge gave way. The 4,200-foot bridge is to be the longest in North Dakota when it is finished, and at \$55 million the most expensive project undertaken by the state. It will replace a narrow, outdated bridge over Lake Sakakawea. Gwen Lanzer, a spokeswoman for St. Louis-based Fru-Con Construction, which began work

on the project in May 2003, said the company was trying to determine what happened. The bridge was scheduled to be completed next summer. One of the injured appeared to have a broken leg, and the two others suffered injuries to their pelvises, Estvold said. They were taken to Trinity Hospital in Minot. Hospital spokesman Randy Schwan said two of the injured men were in stable condition and one was in serious condition.

#### **MAYSORA (Bahamas)**

Ammam, Dec 1 — Livestock *Maysora* faced certain difficulties in discharging the livestock, the importer is in Israel and the vessel is supposed to discharge at Aqaba port directly on trucks to the Jordanian/Israeli borders. The discharge was stopped last Wednesday (Nov 24) until Sunday (Nov 28) as the maximum allowable capacity of storing at Israel is 5500 while the cargo shipped was 8500. The vessel continued discharge and sailed. The importer still has legal issues with the Israeli officials and the vessel for demurrage. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **VANDALISM, UNIVERSITY PREMISES, DULUTH, MINNESOTA, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated Nov 25, states: The recent vandalism at the new science building at the University of Minnesota campus here caused between \$3 million and \$5 million in damage, according to the latest estimate. Prosecutors yesterday charged three boys, ages 12, 13 and 14, with first-degree criminal damage to property and second-degree burglary in the Nov 13-14 incidents. Juvenile proceedings are closed and the names of those charged are not made public. The boys are accused of flooding the building's 30,000-square-foot research wing by plugging the drains and leaving about 30 faucets running. They allegedly spilled buckets of paint, crash motorised lifts into walls and smashed windows. The two oldest boys were also charged with first-degree criminal damage to property and third-degree burglary for an incident in early June. They allegedly did more than \$33,000 damage in that incident. The duo were also accused of burglarising the building on Sep 15. Water damage will require the replacement of instruments and electrical equipment, insulation, walls, floors, and cabinets, delaying by several months the opening of the \$33 million building's research wing. UMD officials have said that insurance should cover the damage to the building. The boys confessed to causing the damage, said to Lt. Anne Peterson, director of the UMD police department. Fred Friedman, northeastern Minnesota's chief public defender, said he will assign a lawyer to represent each of the boys. Friedman said the boys' parents could be forced to reimburse his office, if they can afford it.

### Fires & Explosions



#### **COAL MINE, LIUPANSHUI, GUIZHOU PROVINCE, CHINA**

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 13 miners are dead and another three missing after an early-morning coal mine gas explosion in Guizhou Province's Liupanshui City, in southwest China. The blast occurred at 0130, today in the No. 2 pit, when 49 miners were working underground. Thirty-three people have so far been rescued, four of them injured. No report was available on the extent of their injuries. Two rescue teams from the Panjiang Coal and Electricity Corporation and Panxian County have been sent to the scene. Local officials, including Vice Governor Zhang Qunshan and Guizhou Provincial Coal Mine Safety Supervision Bureau Director He Gang, are also at the site to oversee rescue and recovery operations. The mine is owned by a township and was licensed to operate. Safety conditions were rated C on a four-level scale (A meaning good conditions and D meaning unqualified to operate), according to sources from the Coal Mine Safety Supervision Bureau.

#### **COAL MINE, SHAANXI PROVINCE, CHINA**

Beijing, Nov 28 — A gas explosion tore through a coal mine in northern China today, trapping at least 187 miners in what could be the worst disaster to hit the world's biggest and most dangerous mining industry in years. Only 80 miners managed to escape from the Chenjiashan Coalmine in Shaanxi province after this morning's explosion, the official Xinhua news agency said. Around 270 had been in the mine at the time and 187 were trapped, it said. The People's Daily said 273 miners were in the mine at the time of the blast and 85 made it out, leaving 188 still trapped. "At about 0730 hrs, workers at the mouth of the Chenjiashan coal mine discovered thick smoke pouring out of ventilation shafts, and that communication with the inside of the mine had been cut off," People's Daily said on its Web site. An official contacted at the mine said he had no information about the cause of the blast or the number of casualties. The mine is near the city of Tongchuan, about 740 km south-west of Beijing. — Reuters.

Beijing, Nov 29 — A wall of thick smoke is blocking rescuers from reaching 141 Chinese miners trapped after a gas explosion in a coal mine that killed at least 25. A total of 127 miners escaped from the state-owned Chenjiashan Coal mine in Shaanxi province after yesterday's explosion, which could be the worst disaster to hit the world's most dangerous mining

industry in four years. Fire had broken out at the mine last Monday (Nov 22) and some miners had refused to go back to work, but officials, eager to boost production, had threatened to fine or suspend absentees, the China Youth Daily and Beijing Morning Post said. It was impossible for those missing to have survived because there was no air in the underground area where they were trapped, the China Daily quoted an unidentified mine official as saying. State television showed ambulances speeding down dusty roads, past rows of workers and residents, to the mine, which it said was known for a high concentration of gas. "Rescue work is still under way," a rescue official said by telephone today. Rescuers advanced several hundred metres (yards) into the mine but were blocked by heavy smoke, state media said. The top priorities were to repair ventilation equipment damaged in the explosion and to guarantee the safety of rescuers, Xinhua quoted Zhao Tiechui, deputy head of the State Production Safety Bureau, as saying. Of the miners who escaped, 45 were injured and in hospital, Xinhua said. Some had suffered carbon monoxide poisoning. About 2,000 rescue workers have rushed to the mine, some 740 km south-west of Beijing, along with the Communist Party's provincial boss and the acting provincial governor. The blast occurred two days after the Shaanxi government ordered tougher mine inspections and closure of any mines with insufficient or substandard ventilation. The provincial government has ordered all mines in Shaanxi with high gas concentrations to halt operations until safety examinations have been carried out, Xinhua said. — Reuters.

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll in a coal mine explosion in central China rose to 63 with 103 workers still missing, the government said today, as toxic fumes unleashed from the blast slowed rescuers from entering the pit. Rescue workers have recovered 63 bodies from the Chenjiashan Coal Mine in Shaanxi, the official Xinhua News Agency said, citing Huo Shichang, an official from the provincial coal industry administration. Hopes were fading for some 103 miners still missing. Emergency workers descended into the mine yesterday to repair ventilation systems needed to pump the fumes out, Xinhua said. But the agency did not say whether rescuers had begun making their way in to search for the miners, and officials reached by phone said they did not have any more details. "After safe conditions are ensured, then rescue efforts can be sped up," Xinhua said late yesterday. Survival chances for the missing miners were "extremely slight" because of high levels of carbon monoxide, said an official of the mine safety bureau in Shaanxi province, where the mine is located, who gave his name as Chen. "We have to look after the safety of the rescuers," Chen said. "If they take oxygen tanks down there,

there could be another explosion caused by a leak. But if they don't take oxygen down they'll die in a second." Some 127 miners managed to escape, Xinhua said, citing safety officials. Among them, 45 were hospitalised, 11 with serious injuries.

Beijing, Dec 1 — The death toll from a coal mine blast in northern China has risen to 166, Xinhua news agency said today, confirming one of the worst disasters to hit the world's most dangerous mining industry. "The spokesman for the mine just declared all the 166 miners were killed," Xinhua said today, confirming what authorities had been expecting in the days since Sunday's (Nov 28) accident. More than 120 workers escaped the state-owned Chenjiashan coal mine in Shaanxi province after the explosion, or what may have been back-to-back explosions. Many were seriously injured. High temperatures and a build up of toxic gas had slowed the search for bodies at the mine where until today 65 workers were known to have been killed, with 101 trapped and presumed dead. Xinhua gave grim details of the mine's safety record, saying fires were a frequent event. "The coal mine has a high density of gas, due to intergrowth of coal, oil and gas. Its coal bed remains responsive to fires. The mine used to suffer a fire every three to six months and the shortest break between two fires was 24 days," it said. — Reuters.

#### **FACTORY, BRISTOL, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated Dec 1, states: Three workers were rescued from a fire at a polystyrene packaging factory in Bristol early this morning. One employee discovered the fire, believed to have been deliberately started, at the industrial estate on Brunel Way, Thornbury. About 50 firefighters worked to put out the fire that ruined one building and caused smoke damage to another. One firefighter was taken to Southmead Hospital suffering from fume inhalation but was later released. Another firefighter received minor injuries. There was smoke damage to adjoining properties, but the crews on the scene did a fantastic job containing the fire.

#### **FOREST, NEW CALEDONIA**

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: New Caledonia firefighters today called for emergency reinforcements to help them battle the most serious forest fires they have faced in a decade. "The 300 Caledonia firefighters are exhausted and several of them have been injured. Already more than 20,000 hectares have burned and summer has only just begun," said a spokesman for the Union of New Caledonia Firefighters. In a communique they called urgently for reinforcements such as additional air support and mobilisation of the military. Only 15 of 33 villages have firefighting teams and there are only two helicopter water bombers, the firefighters said.

#### **MINE, BAITA, SHAHE CITY, HEBEI PROVINCE, CHINA**

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency workers today pulled three more bodies from the site of a massive mine fire in northern China last week, bringing the death toll to 68, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Most of the miners killed by the Nov 20 fire at a complex of iron mines in Shahe, Hebei province, were suffocated by smoke, state media have said. Police have detained nine people in connection with the blaze, which erupted after an electrical cable caught fire.

#### **MINE, SHAANXI PROVINCE, CHINA**

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers battled thick smoke today to free 141 miners trapped after a gas explosion in a coal mine in northern China that killed at least 25, state media reported. A total of 127 miners escaped from the state-owned Chenjiashan Coal mine in Shaanxi province after yesterday's explosion, which could be the worst disaster to hit the world's most dangerous mining industry in four years. Rescuers advanced several hundred metres into the mine but were blocked by heavy smoke, state media said. The top priorities were to repair ventilation equipment damaged in the explosion and to guarantee the safety of rescuers, the official Xinhua news agency quoted Zhao Tiechui, deputy head of the State Production Safety Bureau, as saying. Of the miners who escaped, 45 were injured and hospitalised, Xinhua said. Some had suffered carbon monoxide poisoning. Some 2000 rescue workers have rushed to the mine, around 740km south-west of Beijing, along with the Communist Party's provincial boss and the acting provincial governor.

#### **NIGHTCLUB, GLASGOW, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A massive fire has gutted a nightclub building in the centre of Glasgow, forcing the evacuation of nearby homes and disruption to rush hour traffic. The blaze is believed to have broken out in the basement Trash club in Bath Street this morning and quickly spread through the building. Police sealed off the area surrounding the club and fire crews battled to control the flames and billowing smoke. No one was hurt but people living nearby were moved as a precaution. The fire destroyed the interior of the building at the junction of Pitt Street and Bath Street, which houses the Trash club in the basement and the Shack club in the upper floors. Strathclyde Assistant Firemaster Keith Small said the emergency call was received at 0545, GMT, today. Evacuated residents were taken to two nearby emergency centres. It is expected some fire crews will remain on site for 24 hours to damp down the embers and investigate the cause.

**REFINERY, NEW JERSEY,  
UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion and fire at the Sunoco Eagle Point Refinery in West Deptford is under investigation yesterday. Gloucester County emergency personnel say it happened just before 0200 hrs at the refinery site at the junction of Routes 295 and 130. The blaze went to two alarms before it was brought under control. There were no injuries.

**WILDFIRES, AUSTRALIA**

London, Nov 25 — A press report from Australia, dated Nov 26, states: Firefighters battling a bushfire in Victoria's remote north-west hope to contain it with fire breaks until cooler conditions prevail tonight. Department of Sustainability and Environment crews are battling the fire, which has burnt through about 580 hectares in the Murray Sunset National Park, south-west of Mildura. Four aircraft and a helicopter have waterbombed the blaze deep in the national park, about 53km south-west of Werrimul. DSE state emergency co-ordinator Peter Bowler said firefighters put fire breaks around the blaze yesterday but soaring temperatures and low humidity posed a big threat. The fire developed from pre-summer fuel-reduction burning begun last Sunday. A spike and change of direction of the wind on Tuesday night caused the fire to jump control lines. The remote location in mallee scrub was making conditions tough for the DSE firefighters, Mr Bowler said.

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A big bushfire in the Fitzgerald River National Park on Western Australia's south coast has been brought under control. The fire started about 1200 pm, AWST, yesterday and burnt through about 6,000 hectares of private farm land and the national park. Some crops, pastures and fences were destroyed, but no buildings were damaged. Greg Broomhall from the Department of Conservation and Land Management says up to 150 people fought the blaze, which was brought under control early this morning. "At this stage we have containment lines around that fire, but obviously we'll be involved today in monitoring and patrol and a lot of tidy up work," he said. Firefighters have also contained another fire in the Millbrook Nature Reserve north of Albany. That fire burnt through about half of the 3,000 hectare reserve. It is believed both fires may have been started by lightning strikes.

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters are concerned that strong winds may hamper efforts to control a bushfire at Stony Rise in Tasmania's north-west. The blaze is burning near homes in the Kelcey Tiers area, though none are under threat at this stage. Five hundred hectares of bushland has been destroyed. District officer Wayne Richards says firefighters are trying to establish fire breaks before the weather

changes. "It will certainly get warmer this afternoon and we expect there'll be a sea breeze which may continue to push the fire in a southerly direction," he said.

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A bushfire could threaten properties at Gosford on the New South Wales central coast as the statewide heatwave continues today. NSW Rural Fire Service media officer Cameron Wade said the fire was burning in the Rumbalara nature reserve, located in the middle of "a number" of properties. The flames were not currently threatening properties but could if winds picked up, he said. Nine firefighting units had been working to contain the blaze since 0200, AEDT, today. The blaze was one of 20 small bushfires burning across the state, Mr Wade said. Meanwhile, the RFS expanded the areas under total fire bans to include several large pockets on the state's coastline. After declaring a fire ban until midnight tonight for eight regions, including greater Sydney, RFS Commissioner Phil Koperberg extended the ban to cover the far north coast, the central ranges and Illawarra/Shoalhaven. The new areas covered by the ban were around Lismore, Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Wollongong, Nowra, Orange and Katoomba. The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting a maximum of 35 degrees in Sydney and 38 in Penrith today, with hot to very hot north-west winds followed a gusty south-west change that could bring thunderstorms.

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Overnight fire crews continued to work on containment lines around two major fires in central-western New South Wales at Parkes and Cobar. Rural Fire Service media officer Cameron Wade says crews are also working to control a fire that has started this morning at Rumbalara on the New South Wales central coast. "It's a nature reserve in the middle of the urban area of Gosford," he said. "We have nine units on scene at the moment actually working on containment strategies with that fire. "There are a number of properties nearby. These people who live next to the reserve are accustomed to fire activity in the reserve, so once again we are asking them to be vigilant."

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteers from across New South Wales have been brought in to fight a major fire that is burning on the state's central west. Residents from the small village of Alectown, near Parkes, were evacuated this afternoon, after the fire jumped containment lines in wind gusts of 80 kilometres-an-hour. Cameron Wade, from the RFS, says a big effort is under way to try to contain the fire overnight. "The fire has spread in a northerly direction towards the township of Alectown, a number of people were taken away from that town to peak hill," Mr Wade said. "The fire's consumed over 2000 hectares, there were 20 units working on it and four airplanes waterbombing this afternoon. "Extra crews are being brought in and

the situation has been declared a bushfire emergency." Meanwhile, the Pacific Highway north of Kempsey has been re-opened to traffic, after smoke from a nearby bushfire forced its closure this afternoon.

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: One of two bushfires are burning out of control in regional New South Wales had been contained, the NSW Rural Fire Service spokesman said today. The blaze in the Parkes area of central western NSW had burnt out about 8000 hectares of grass land and crops, the NSW RFS spokesman said. However, the small community of Alectown was now safe with the fire brought within containment lines by 0700 today, he said. Another fire on the NSW mid-north coast between Kempsey and Macksville, at the Tambar State Forest, had burnt out 80 hectares, the spokesman said. "It's not contained but is likely to be contained today because of milder weather conditions," he said. Another 20-hectare fire burning in the Rumbalara nature reserve in Gosford yesterday, required about 100 firefighters and 22 tankers before it was contained around 1600 hrs, the spokesman said. Yesterday, hundreds of firefighters and emergency services personnel worked frantically to contain blazes across NSW and help hundreds of residents clean up damage caused by winds of up to 90km/h. Around the state about 20 fires were still burning but most were of "patrol status", meaning they were contained and unlikely to flare again.

**ABORTED TAKE-OFF, O'HARE  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT,  
CHICAGO, UNITED STATES**

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: United Airlines Flight 668, Chicago to New York, 118 people on board, aborted take-off today. United Airlines said the aircraft was scheduled to take off from O'Hare at 0600, this morning. Passengers had heard a loud popping noise and some saw a bright flash coming from the right engine. United spokeswoman Andrea Arroyo says a stalled compressor is the suspected cause.

**ACCIDENT, ADI SUMARMO  
AIRPORT, SOLO, INDONESIA**

Solo, Dec 1 — Indonesian investigators said bad weather was probably to blame when a McDonnell Douglas MD-82 skidded off a runway in central Java, killing at least 31 people and injuring 75. The aircraft, operated by budget domestic carrier Lion Air and carrying around 160 passengers and crew, ploughed into a cemetery near Solo city's airport after landing in heavy rain around dusk yesterday after a flight from Jakarta. "The cause of the accident is likely to be bad weather and strong winds. But, we are still looking

into the facts,” Setyo Rahardjo, head of Indonesia’s national transportation safety commission, said. Inspectors hoped to soon recover the aircraft’s flight data recorder and voice data recorder from the wrecked front of the aircraft, which sustained the most damage, he said. Police had said dozens of passengers were unaccounted for, although officials later said they expected many or most of these did not report to airport authorities after escaping. Other sources were giving different numbers. A Lion Air official put the total death toll at 25. Police reported 29 dead passengers and two dead crew. “We’re having difficulties in identifying the bodies because the data from the manifest and some of the identities that we found did not match,” a police officer said. The pilot’s body had been recovered, officials said. At least one wing ripped off the aircraft, which came to rest in the cemetery after skidding off the runway. Survivors said the accident happened without warning. Vice President Jusuf Kalla said an investigation had been ordered into the crash. — Reuters.

#### **ACCIDENT, BARCELONA AIRPORT, SPAIN**

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated Nov 29, states: A KLM aircraft with 140 people on board veered off the runway upon landing at Barcelona Airport yesterday, but no one was seriously hurt in the incident, airport officials said. The landing gear of the KLM Boeing 737-400 arriving from Amsterdam was seriously damaged in the accident. It remains unclear what caused the problem. Some 10 people suffered light injuries and were treated at the scene by doctors. The Dutch airline said two people were taken to hospital for further treatment. The main runway of El Prat airport in Barcelona was closed to traffic following the incident, forcing the rerouting of five incoming flights. A team of 20 KLM staff members departed for Barcelona at about midnight yesterday to care for stranded passengers and investigate the cause of the accident. Passengers were given the opportunity to fly home to the Netherlands. Some six crew were on board flight KL 1673 and all passengers and crew were forced to evacuate the aircraft via emergency exit slides after landing at about 1850 yesterday.

#### **ACCIDENT, LAKE EVORON, KHABAROVSK, RUSSIA**

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated Nov 29, states: The Mi-8 helicopter that went missing in the Khabarovsk region has been found. According to preliminary reports, the three crew members are alive. The missing helicopter, the press service of the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry said, was spotted at the Lake Evoron, not far from its destination airport. Search-rescue team members noticed two bonfires near which the Mi-8 crew probably warmed up. The pilots will be evacuated to Komsomolsk-on-Amur soon, the ministry spokesman

said. The helicopter, owned by the KNAAPO aviation production association of Komsomolsk-on-Amur took off from the Zemgi airport to the Evoron airport located 90 kilometres away from the city.

#### **AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO BANGKOK AIRPORT, THAILAND**

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A Cathay Pacific passenger aircraft’s port engine exploded minutes after takeoff from Bangkok, dropping debris on a car driving near the airport, a newspaper and the car’s owner said today. The Boeing 777-300, which was carrying 348 passengers, returned safely to Bangkok’s international airport yesterday evening, The Nation newspaper reported. The debris damaged the vehicle but did not cause any injuries. Deputy Transport Minister Vichet Kasemthongsri said an engine on flight CX751 from Bangkok to Bombay had malfunctioned, causing a small explosion after take-off, according to the report. A spokesman for the Hong Kong-based airline in Thailand, Yongyuth Luchiadanond, said part of the engine, measuring about 1.5m wide and 2m long, plunged onto the roof of a car. The passengers on the aircraft were transferred to another flight about 0100 today, he said. Mr Yongyuth said the accident was under investigation, but would not give further details.

#### **B-3072**

London, Nov 25 — Bombardier CRJ200, B-3072, operated by China Eastern Airlines, crashed on take-off from Baotou Airport at 0600, local time, Nov 21. The aircraft was destroyed. The 47 passengers and six crew members were killed.

London, Nov 27 — A press report, dated Nov 26, states: The black boxes from a China Eastern Airlines Bombardier CRJ200 (B-3072) which crashed in northern China on Sunday (Nov 21) have been taken to Beijing for study, but it will take time to decode them, an investigator said yesterday. Civil aviation experts have cleaned and dried the two black boxes and scrutinised the welding spots on them, Wu Anshan, a security and safety expert from the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC) told Xinhua News Agency. Wu said the damage to the cabin voice recorder is unlikely to hinder decoding efforts. Experts want to decode the black boxes to determine what caused the crash. The 50-seat regional jet crashed on Sunday morning shortly after taking off from Baotou, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, for a flight to Shanghai. All of the 47 passengers and six crew members on board were killed, along with two people on the ground. China Eastern’s general manager Li Fenghua apologised to the public at a press conference on Wednesday and discredited rumours about the cause of the crash. He said allegations that the fuel pressure system of the aircraft was not warmed up properly because the

aircraft took off 10 minutes ahead of schedule were groundless. He said it is normal for an aircraft to take off 15 minutes before or after its schedule, adding the system needs no preheating at all. Li negated assertions from some media that his airline used fuel of inferior quality on the aircraft, saying all the fuel his airline uses conform to the CAAC’s standard. He also promised at the conference that his airline had scrutinised safety checks in line with CAAC guidelines, and the crash was not the result of a poor safety check.

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Experts have decoded the flight recorders of an aircraft that exploded and crashed into a lake in northern China, killing 55 people, but the cause of the accident remained unclear, according to official reports. The flight data and cockpit voice recorders were recovered from the icy lake near the city of Baotou where the China Eastern Airlines aircraft crashed on Nov 21 seconds after take-off. The devices were examined by experts in Beijing, the official Xinhua News Agency said. “The cause of the accident is still unclear,” the report said, citing Xu Li, a spokesman for the investigative team. Authorities have said they found no evidence of terrorism. All 47 passengers and six crew members on board the Canadian-built Bombardier CRJ200 (B-3072) were killed. Two people were killed on the ground.

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated today, states: An investigation team dispatched by the State Council said today the two flight data recorders from the China Eastern Airlines Bombardier CRJ200 (B-3072) which crashed at Baotou on Nov 21 have been decoded, but more analysis is necessary. The black boxes were sent to Beijing on Wednesday (Nov 24) for examination. Investigators said the two data recorders were slightly damaged but their data was still intact. However, the cause of the crash remained unclear and further analysis is necessary. The crash site investigation is also continuing. So far over 90% of the wreckage has been recovered. The front and the left side of the aircraft were severely damaged. The remaining bodies were identified by DNA testing, and all 55 bodies have been claimed by family members. The airline has announced its compensation plan for the families of the victims. Chinese law sets compensation standards for the death of airline passengers at yuan 70,000, or US\$8,500, but China Eastern Airlines said that, considering the change in the consumer price index, it would double the sum. The family of each passenger will receive about yuan 210,000, or US\$25,000, in total from the airline company.

#### **CRASH INTO SEA OFF ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA**

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Three people were missing and feared dead after the light aircraft they were travelling in crashed in the Indian Ocean off Zanzibar late

yesterday, according to a statement issued by the Zanzibar minister for communications and transport. The statement said the crash occurred in the area between Kwale and Chumbe Islands, some nine km from Zanzibar Airport. The aircraft, which was heading for Zanzibar from Dar es Salaam, was owned by the Tropical Air Company Limited, said Minister Adam Mwanjuki in his statement. The pilot had reported an engine problem to the airport control tower shortly before approaching to land. Efforts to locate the aircraft and any survivors of the crash were still continuing, the statement said.

#### **CRASH, BAOTOU, INNER MONGOLIA REGION, CHINA**

See B-3072.

#### **CRASH, CORONA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

See N747JU.

#### **CRASH, HORSELY PARK, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A helicopter has crashed at Horsely Park in Sydney's west but no-one on board was injured. It is believed the helicopter came down in a brick works site on Old Wallgrove Road about 1500, AEDT. Ambulance officers say the pilot and student are out of the helicopter and walking around. No-one has been injured.

#### **CRASH, LEESBURG AREA, VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES**

See N310DM.

#### **CRASH, MOUNT TARANAKI, NEW ZEALAND**

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Search teams on New Zealand's dormant Mount Taranaki volcano are trying to locate a twin engine aircraft with two people on board that crashed near the summit this morning, police said. The aircraft had not been located because of heavy cloud cover on the mountain, located on the west coast of North Island, New Plymouth police sergeant Selwyn Wansborough said. Radar contact with the Piper Seneca was lost mid-morning and police believe it crashed just below the summit of the 2,518-metre mountain. Authorities confirmed that the aircraft's emergency locator beacon was still sounding. There was no immediate contact from the aircraft's two occupants and their condition was not immediately known. Searchers would soon begin climbing to the suspected crash site, believed to be on the south-western slopes, Wansborough said. The aircraft was flying from the nearby coastal city of New Plymouth to Nelson on South Island when it went down.

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Aircraft wreckage has been sighted on Mount Taranaki. An air and ground search has been underway since a Piper Seneca with two people aboard was last heard from shortly after 1000 this morning. Search and rescue confirms wreckage has now

been seen, but no further details are available. Nelson-based Flight Corporation has confirmed that the aircraft is one of theirs. Chief Executive Simon Palmer says he is devastated. He says the pilot is an experienced and competent pilot, a valued employee, and a close friend. Mr Palmer says he is concerned for the man's family and that of the passenger on the flight. Flight Corporation operates four aircraft from its Nelson base and has a staff of five.

#### **CRASH, OSAKA PREFECTURE, JAPAN**

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A Beechcraft Bonanza E33 crashed on the left bank of the Yamatogawa River in Matsubara, Osaka Prefecture, after clipping a power cable yesterday, injuring the four people on board. The aircraft's nose and left wing were destroyed in the crash. The pilot, Yoshihiro Hashimoto of Sakai, Osaka Prefecture, who runs a security company, suffered a broken nose, while the three passengers suffered minor injuries. The aircraft severed a power cable, cutting the power supply to about 61,000 households, including homes in Osaka. In addition, Hanshin Electric Railways Co's train service between Umeda and Amagasaki stations was suspended. About 20,000 people were affected by the suspension. According to the Construction and Transport Ministry's Yao Airport Office, the aircraft took off from Nanki Shirahama Airport in Shirahamacho, Wakayama Prefecture, at 1431 hrs and was headed to Yao Airport in Yao, Osaka Prefecture. It crashed onto the riverbank at 1515 hrs. Hashimoto asked an air-traffic controller at Yao Airport via radio to confirm whether the aircraft's landing gear had deployed. Soon after the radio contact, the aircraft flew low over the runway, the office said. The office received an emergency call from the aircraft later. Police suspect the aircraft clipped the power cable as it failed to climb high enough after swooping low over the runway. They will investigate the case on suspicion of professional negligence resulting in injuries.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, ALBANY, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated Nov 25, states: An Independence Air plane made an emergency landing in Albany today. The plane was en route from Burlington to Dulles. Thirty-three passengers and three crew members were on board when it landed. Airport officials said one of the engine lights went on, and it's standard procedure to shut that engine off and land the plane. No one was hurt.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, GUANGZHOU, CHINA**

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A China Eastern Airlines jetliner with 300 passengers aboard made an emergency landing in

southern China after its cabin pressurization system failed, it was reported yesterday. No one was hurt Wednesday (Nov 24) when the China Eastern Airbus A300, flying from Shanghai to the southern Chinese island Hainan, was diverted to the southern city Guangzhou. Passengers felt nausea and discomfort in their ears before the captain announced problems with the cabin pressure and diverted the flight.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, SYDNEY AIRPORT, AUSTRALIA**

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A Virgin Blue aircraft made an emergency landing at Sydney Airport today after it blew a tyre on take-off from Brisbane. Airport officials today said none of the 142 passengers on flight DJ204 were endangered as a result of the incident. The aircraft landed in Sydney "without incident" about 0745, AEDT, a Sydney Airports Corporation spokeswoman said. Mechanics were still inspecting the aircraft late this morning to find the cause.

#### **N195DD**

London, Nov 26 — Cessna 195 N195DD crashed near Winona, Mississippi, at 2133, Nov 25, while on a flight from Winona. The two persons on board were killed.

#### **N310DM**

London, Nov 26 — Cessna 310R N310DM crashed near Leesburg, Virginia, at 1709, Nov 24. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

#### **N4029Q**

London, Nov 30 — Robinson R22 Beta, N4029Q, crashed near Arlington, Washington, at 1732, Nov 27. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

#### **N40731**

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated Nov 25, states: A preliminary report by the National Transportation Safety Board shows a plane that crashed into an apartment building in San Antonio two weeks ago came after a loss of control. The plane crashed near West Avenue on Nov 14, killing all five people aboard. The report also shows the pilot was descending when he was told to climb. Witnesses say there was no smoke coming from that plane and did not seem to have any mechanical problems. The NTSB will release a final report in the next few months.

London, Nov 27 — A press report, dated Nov 26, states: A Piper PA-31-350 (Navajo Chieftain) (N40731) which crashed while approaching San Antonio International Airport this month was told to turn out of the path of another aircraft shortly before crashing, according to a preliminary report. The report by the National Transportation and Safety Board on the Nov 14 crash that killed all five on board also cites witnesses who said the aircraft made dramatic turns in and out of the clouds

and flew very low to the ground. Killed in the accident were pilot Jerry W. Oyler; radiologist David McMurray; his son Ben McMurray; surgeon Stewart "Skeet" Johnson; and one of his twin sons, Hugh Johnson. The aircraft started to the left of a navigational beam the pilot tracks when coming in for a landing, called a localiser, when it was approaching to land. The aircraft then turned right of the beam before going 1.3 miles left of the beam with a mile and a half left to go to the runway. The aircraft kept turning left, as if it were turning around to get back on course, when it veered into the path of another aircraft. At that time, the San Antonio Air Traffic Control told the pilot to turn. One of the witnesses reported hearing a "very loud noise" as the aircraft headed toward a building before it climbed back into the clouds. Just before impact, the aircraft's right wing clipped an apartment complex, coming through the roof of a second story unit. The aircraft then hit a tree and dived nose-first into the ground.

#### **N420QS**

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated Nov 29, states: No one was injured today when a private jet landing at the Eagle County Regional Airport slid off the runway, airport officials said. At least three flights heading to the airport were cancelled or diverted when the airport closed until the aircraft was cleared from the runway. The county airport, which is not yet running the full load of winter flights, was scheduled to re-open at 1930 today. The Gulf Stream IV, one of the most expensive private jets at about \$40 million, tail number N420QS, was operated by NetJet, a jet chartering company from New Jersey, went down the east end of the runway 1,000 feet and then veered off sharply to the right. It stopped 20 feet away from the north edge of the runway, said Obid Seifers, the airport manager. The incident happened about 1300. "The plane appeared to have had a landing gear malfunction," Seifers said. "The runway was dry at the time of the incident. "The airport closed because the plane's wing was sticking out on the runway," he added. "We had no choice." At the time of the incident, it carried the crew, a pilot, co pilot and flight attendant, and was heading to the Vail Valley Jet Centre, next to the county airport, to pick up passengers, Seifers said. The pilot gave no alert to the tower of any mechanical problems, Seifers said. "It was a safe landing until they experienced directional control problems. The aircraft departed the runway and the nose gear collapsed," a NetJet official said today. Three flights could not land in the airport following the incident. The 1350 American Airlines flight from Dallas was diverted to Denver and two United Express flights from Denver were cancelled, Seifers said. By this afternoon, airport officials expected the 1926 United flight to arrive on time.

#### **N5152J**

London, Dec 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A twin-engine aircraft exploded yesterday morning as it was being repaired behind Paul Fournet Air Service on the grounds of Lafayette Regional Airport. A mechanic was slightly injured, and the cause of the blast is under investigation, according to the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office. The aircraft is owned by Kline Air Inc., Rayne. The Cessna 340 twin-engine aircraft was last flown about three weeks ago. Officials said they are not sure what caused the explosion, which destroyed the aircraft, and an investigation is continuing into the incident.

London, Dec 2 — Cessna 340, N5152J, was destroyed by an explosion at 1508, Nov 30, while parked at Lafayette Regional Airport, Louisiana. One person suffered minor injuries.

#### **N604GA**

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated Dec 1, states: A small charter jet crashed on an island in the Missouri River, killing the charter company's chief executive and his co-pilot, officials said. A police helicopter spotted the wreckage of the twin-engine Hansa 320 jet owned by Grand Aire Express Inc. early today, Sheriff's Department Lt. Craig McGuire said. The aircraft crashed on Howell Island, about four miles west of Spirit of St. Louis airport, he said. The dead, the only two people aboard the aircraft, were Grand Aire president and chief executive Tahir Cheema, 50, of Toledo, and Eko Pinardi, a pilot for the company, officials said. Grand Aire, which delivers auto parts and other cargo and operates a charter passenger service, said in a statement that Cheema was travelling on personal business, with Pinardi serving as his co-pilot. The aircraft had disappeared from radar shortly after leaving the airport at about 2015 yesterday, bound for Toledo, Ohio, where Grand Aire is based, Federal Aviation Administration officials said. Airport director Richard Hrabko said workers reported the jet sounded as if it was having trouble during takeoff. The NTSB was investigating today's crash. Rough weather, including wind gusting to more than 20 mph, hampered the search. When the aircraft was finally spotted, emergency workers had to go to the scene by boat because high water made the bridge to the island impassable.

London, Dec 2 — Messerschmidt HFB 320 (Hansa), N604GA, crashed on Howell Island, Chesterfield, Missouri, at 0156, Nov 30, while on a flight from St. Louis, MO, to Toledo, Ohio. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

#### **N747JU**

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated Nov 25, states: Authorities say two people are likely dead after their Cessna 4-11 crashed shortly after take-off today. FAA spokeswoman Diana Joubert says the twin-engine plane left Corona Municipal Airport about 1430

hrs and crashed one mile west of the airport. The plane seats as many as eight people. Federal investigators have reached the wreckage, which lies in a wooded, marshy region in the Prado Dam region. Authorities say it's unclear where the plane was headed.

London, Nov 26 — Cessna 411 N747JU crashed near Corona, California, at 2225, Nov 25, while on a flight from Corona. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

#### **N873G**

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A charter aircraft carrying NBC Sports Chairman Dick Ebersol crashed and burst into flames during take-off from a south-west Colorado airport yesterday, killing at least two people and seriously injuring Ebersol and one of his sons. Rescue crews were searching for another son. Dick Ebersol, 57, and son Charles Ebersol survived the crash at the Montrose Regional Airport outside Denver, according to Denver NBC affiliate KUSA-TV. The station said crews searched for Edward Ebersol, 14, by helicopter and on the ground. NBC said the aircraft seat was missing from the wreckage. The aircraft's tail number was N873G, identifying it as a CL-601 Challenger, which can carry up to 19 passengers, registered to Jet Alliance of Millville, N.J. In a statement, the company expressed its condolences but had no additional information. Chuck Distel, who was driving on a highway that runs parallel to the runway, saw the aircraft as it skidded sideways off the runway, went through a fence and brush before hitting a roadway that ripped the cockpit from the fuselage and left it an unrecognizable wreck separate from the aircraft. The aircraft, which had left a burning trail of jet fuel, burst into flames that forced rescuers away from the wreckage. Montrose County Sheriff's officials said two people were dead. KUSA said the victims were the pilot and co-pilot. No identities were released, but the station said Ebersol's wife, actress Susan St. James, was not on the aircraft. Linda McCool, a nursing supervisor at Montrose Memorial Hospital, said three men were brought to the hospital after the crash, but had all been transferred to other hospitals by yesterday afternoon. Dan Prinster, vice president of St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, said two people were moved there from Montrose Memorial and another patient was being flown to a burn unit in Denver. Neither McCool nor Prinster would release any other information on the survivors. The crash occurred in an area covered with small brush and cedar trees, sheriff's Communications Supervisor David Learned said. A storm hit much of the state over the weekend and dumped more than three feet of snow in the area. It had been snowing heavily throughout the day but was it lightly snowing with fog and reduced visibility during the time of the crash. It was not known if weather was a factor. The flight was scheduled

for a trip to South Bend, Ind., where Charles Ebersol, the oldest son of Dick Ebersol and St. James, attends the University of Notre Dame. Investigators from the FAA and National Safety Transportation Board were en route to the airport, 185 miles south-west of Denver.

London, Nov 30 — Canadair CL-600-A212, N873G, operated by Global Aviation, crashed near Montrose, Colorado, at 1720, Nov 28, while on a flight from Montrose to South Bend, Indiana. Two of the six persons on board were killed, three were seriously injured and one is missing.

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators probing what caused a jet (N873G) to crash during take-off want to know whether it was de-iced before it went down, killing NBC sports executive Dick Ebersol's youngest son and two other people, a federal official said today. They have not ruled out other possible factors. The plane carrying Ebersol and two of his sons crashed Sunday while taking off from the airport outside Montrose, 185 miles south-west of Denver. A snowstorm had moved through the area and there was light snow and fog at the time of takeoff. Digging through the charred wreckage, investigators yesterday found what is believed to be the body of 14-year-old Edward Ebersol, youngest son of Ebersol, 57, and his wife actress Susan Saint James. The couple's oldest son, Charles, and the aircraft's co-pilot remain hospitalized and are expected to recover. The pilot and flight attendant were also killed. The co-pilot was in critical condition at a burn unit in Denver. The aircraft's voice recorder was recovered yesterday. The jet did not have a flight data recorder. "I had two major concerns when I got here," said Arnold Scott, the NTSB's lead investigator. "The first was to recover the sixth occupant and the second was to recover the cockpit voice recorder. We accomplished those things and now we'll get into the intricate details of the investigation." Connors said that among the factors to be studied are "structural failure, fuel imbalance, engine failure, was there a problem with air speed, human factors" and weather. Investigators will interview Ebersol when doctors allow it, she said. Steve McLaughlin of MTJ Air Services, which de-ices private aircraft at the airport, said his company did not de-ice Ebersol's aircraft before it took off. Airport Manager Scott Brownlee said he did not know whether the aircraft had been de-iced. Witnesses said it appeared the aircraft, a CL-601 Challenger, never got off the ground, and Scott said one of the survivors said it felt as if the aircraft was sliding off the runway during take-off.

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated Dec 1, states: Officials removed some of the wreckage from the aircraft (N873G) that crashed killing three people and injured three others near Montrose, Sunday (Nov 28). The wreckage will be removed from the site just north of the Montrose Regional Airport and transported to Weld County.

Investigators today said that all of the victims died on impact. The National Transportation Safety Board also reports that neither Charlie Ebersol, 22, who survived, nor Teddy Ebersol, 14, who died in the crash, were wearing seatbelts. Investigators will also look at other aircraft systems and pilot expertise as possible causes for the crash. Charlie Ebersol told investigators the aircraft was about 20 feet in the air when it crashed. They are now taking the voice box back to Washington, D.C., and will convene a panel on Monday and Tuesday to examine the voice box.

#### **N8944E**

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Northwest Flight 1933, Detroit for Lansing, scheduled to arrive 1615 yesterday, but pushed back an hour by the weather, when it touched down, on its second attempt, slid off the runway into a field. Passengers said it was relatively calm on board, they did notice the brakes didn't grip, and some felt the engines kick in reverse. No one was hurt but passengers, however, were kept on the aircraft for another two hours while emergency responders took control of the scene. Northwest Airlines cancelled all other outgoing flights for the rest of the night. Delta, Independence Air and United continued with their flights, but experience delays.

London, Nov 26 — McDonnell Douglas DC-9-31 N8944E, operated by Northwest Airlines Inc, ran off the runway on landing at Lansing, Michigan, at 2216, Nov 24, following a flight from Detroit, MI. None of the 94 persons on board were injured.

#### **YV-1083C**

London, Dec 1 — BAe Jetstream 3101, YV-1083C, struck a fire station when directional control was lost while landing in rain at Simon Bolivar International Airport, Caracas, Venezuela, at approximately 1302, Atlantic standard time, Nov 18, while on a domestic passenger flight from El Vigia, Venezuela, to Caracas. The pilot and co-pilot along with 15 passengers received serious injuries. Four passengers were killed.

## **Product Recalls**



#### **BATTERY-OPERATED VACUUM CLEANERS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Nov 26 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Procter & Gamble Company (P&G), of Cincinnati, Ohio, today announced a voluntary recall of about 175,000 Sweep+Vac by Swiffer Vacuum Cleaners. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. In some cases, when the vacuum cleaner is left in the "on" position, the rotor can lock up and

cause the unit to overheat. This poses a smoke and fire hazard. Procter & Gamble has received 14 complaints of the Sweep+Vac overheating, including one report of a fire with minor property damage. No injuries have been reported. The recalled Sweep+Vac by Swiffer is a battery-operated, upright vacuum cleaner used to vacuum floors. The vacuum cleaner stands about four-foot-tall and has a green base and silver pole. The name "Swiffer" is printed across the front of the base in white letters. UPC numbers included in this recall are 37000-46522 and 37000-02553. The UPC numbers are printed on the product's packaging. No other Swiffer products are involved. Sold at retail and grocery stores nation-wide from September 2004 through November 2004 for about \$30. Manufactured in China. Consumers should stop using the product immediately and disconnect the Sweep+Vac by removing the top section of the pole. To disconnect the vacuum cleaner, press the small green button on the pole, about 12 inches below the handle, then pull the handle straight out. This eliminates any possibility of the unit overheating. Consumers should contact Procter & Gamble for more information on returning the product to receive a refund. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

#### **GENERAL MOTORS CORP MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN**

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: General Motors Japan Ltd said today it is recalling 8,418 Cadillac sedans for free replacement of defective fuel pipes. Fuel could leak through rifts in faulty nylon tubes and cause a fire, the Japanese arm of the U.S. automaker said in a report to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

#### **TOYOTA MOTOR VEHICLES, AUSTRALIA**

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Fears of a flawed petrol tank hose have prompted Toyota Australia to ask 77,000 car owners to pull over for a safety check at their local dealership. The car maker said today it was contacting about 77,000 owners of late model sedans warning they could notice a stronger than usual petrol smell when filling the tank. Cars possibly affected are Camry sedans made after July 30, 2002, and Avalon sedans manufactured from 2003. Toyota said it was contacting owners of the cars, asking them to visit a Toyota dealership for a check on canister vent hose routing.

## **Port Conditions**



#### **RUSSIA**

London, Nov 26 — OAO Russian Railways, Russia's rail monopoly, said a backlog at the country's ports



## Port Conditions

worsened, slowing oil and coal exports, Bloomberg reports. A total of 234 trains filled with coal and oil are waiting at the Murmansk, St Petersburg and Vysotsk ports which lack the capacity to handle their cargoes, Moscow-based Russian Railways said in an emailed statement

today. Rail cars stuck on their way to Murmansk port include 1,100 with oil and oil products and 1,376 with coal, a spokeswoman for the Oktyabrskaya Railway, the Russian Railways unit that covers the country's northwest, said in a telephone interview from St Petersburg. At Vysotsk port, close to St

Petersburg, 1,102 cars with oil and oil products and 921 cars with coal are waiting to unload, she said. At the two rail stations by St Petersburg port, 3,086 cars with oil, coal, fertilizers, ferrous and non-ferrous metals are waiting.

## Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbot Point	29-Nov-2004	Coal: 1 vessel berthed, 1 anchored; 8 vessels due by 26/12; up to 1 day's berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion.
Brisbane	29-Nov-2004	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 3 vessels due by 28/12; no delays expected. Grain: 3 vessels due by 15/12, 1 to load wood-chips, 1 sugar, 1wheat; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	29-Nov-2004	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 24 anchored; 61 vessels due by 6/1; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability; 1-12 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion can be expected, although vessels with other stems are experiencing longer berthing delays.
Dampier	29-Nov-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 8 vessels due by 10/12; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 10 vessels due by 12/12; 1-6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shippers will always consider a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels awaiting HW; cargo shortages are evident, delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn.
Geraldton	29-Nov-2004	Iron ore: 2 vessels due by 10/12; no delays expected. Grain: 6 vessels due by 29/12, all to load wheat; up to 9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Gladstone	29-Nov-2004	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 3 vessels berthed, 4 anchored; 35 vessels due by 30/12; 1-8 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion. Shiploader No. 2 will be shut down for 4 days from 13/12 for repairs and maintenance; this will require a 12-hour full electronic shutdown of both shiploaders on 13/12. Barney Point: 7 vessels due by 21/12; up to 3 days delay expected due to cargo availability and berth congestion. Grain: 1 vessel berthed load ing sorghum; no delays expected.
Hay Point	29-Nov-2004	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 3 anchored; 12 vessels due by 12/12; up to 4 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion. Berth No. 1 will be out of action for 3 days for urgent maintenance from a.m. 30/11 to p.m. 2/12.
Kwinana	29-Nov-2004	Grain: 8 vessels due by 30/11, all to load wheat; up to 29 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Melbourne	29-Nov-2004	Grain: 1 vessel berthed to load SBM; 3 vessels due by 14/12, all to load wheat; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Newcastle	29-Nov-2004	Grain: Five vessels due by 19/12, all to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Grain terminal now fully back in operation after main tanance. Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels berthed, 7 anchored; 26 vessels due by 13/12; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels berthed, 3 anchored; 12 vessels due by 14/12; 3-6 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal and cargo receiveal.
Port Adelaide	29-Nov-2004	Grain: No. 27 berth: 4 vessels due by 3/12, 2 to load wheat, 2 barley; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion.
Port Giles	29-Nov-2004	Grain: 3 vessels due by 19/12, 2 to load barley, 1 wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability..
Port Hedland	29-Nov-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 5 vessels due by 3/12; 1-3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 3 vessels due by 29/12; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. 48 hour shiploader repairs will take place ca. 6/12. BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel due 6/12; no delays expected; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 5 vessels due by 5/12; 1-3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; Due to heavy demand for product, acute cargo shortages are still being experienced at wharf stockpiles. Vessels will continue to berth as product becomes available.
Port Kembla	29-Nov-2004	Coal: 2 vessels berthed; 13 vessels due by 18/12; CB-1: 1 vessel due 3/12; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Grain: 3 vessels due by 16/12, all to load wheat; no delays expected.

## Port Conditions

Port Walcott	29-Nov-2004	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 16 vessels due by 15/12; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Every effort will be made to ensure that vessels berth in order of arrival; however, due to product constraints, this may not be possible. Shippers advise that stores, air freight and crew baggage can no longer be delivered to vessels or taken off at berth. With immediate effect, all stores, airfreight and bags must be delivered/removed by launch.
Portland	29-Nov-2004	Grain: 2 vessels due by 1/1, 1 to load wheat, 1 wood-chips; no delays expected.
<b>Brazil</b>		
Paranagua	30-Nov-2004	Fourteen vessels berthed of which 3 fertiliser dischargers, 1 container discharger, 3 reefer loaders, 1 pellets vessel, 1 sugar loader, 5 other loaders/dischargers; 4 vessels waiting in roads, of which 2 to load unknown cargoes, 2 to discharge (1 fertiliser, 1 other); 35 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	30-Nov-2004	One wheat discharger berthed; 2 vessels waiting in roads; 43 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	30-Nov-2004	Twenty vessels berthed of which 2 bulk fertiliser dischargers, 2 bulk salt dischargers, 1 bulk pellets loader, 1 bulk wheat discharger, 1 full container loader/discharger, 11 sugar loaders, 1 paper coils discharger, 1 other loader; 17 vessels waiting in roads; 105 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Sao Sebastiao	30-Nov-2004	Four vessels berthed, 2 waiting in roads; 5 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitoria	30-Nov-2004	One cellulose loader berthed; Terminal Vila Velha: 1 containers, 2 pig-iron loaders, 1 granite loader, 1 wheat discharger; Tubarao: 3 iron ore loaders, 1 soya bean vessel; Praia Mole: 2 coal dischargers, 3 steel products loaders; Portocel: no vessels; Ubu: 1 iron ore loader; 35 vessels waiting in roads; 12 vessels due over the next 7 days.
<b>Bulgaria</b>		
Bourgas	29-Nov-2004	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (1 paper, 2 coils, 1 profiles, 1 technical equipment, 1 equipment), 3 discharging (1 zinc ash, 1 concrete iron, 1billets); 3 vessels waiting in roads, all empty and to load; 10 vessels due, of which 3 to load (1 copper anodes, 1 sulphur, 1 containers), 7 to discharge (2 salt, 1 zinc concentrate, 1 scrap, 1 containers, 1 iron ore, 1 coal).
<b>Chile</b>		
Valparaiso	29-Nov-2004	Four vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 2 vessels anchored; 15 vessels due this week.
<b>Egypt</b>		
Alexandria	29-Nov-2004	Twenty-eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 19 general cargo, 3 bulkers, 3 tankers, 3 containers; 9 vessels dry-docked; 15 vessels at inner anchorage, 5 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	29-Nov-2004	Twenty-one vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 14 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 4 containers; 6 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Suez Canal	29-Nov-2004	Twenty-six vessels transiting Northbound, 30 Southbound.
<b>Israel</b>		
Ashdod	30-Nov-2004	No labour problems. Three general cargo vessels loading at berth, 13 vessels discharging at berth (12 general cargo, 1 bulker), 3 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 car carrier); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 2 container vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge; 2 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 25 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	30-Nov-2004	No labour problems. Three vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 8 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 2 car carriers, 2 tankers); 3 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (1 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 5 vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge (3 containers, 2 tankers); 4 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 22 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
<b>Kazakhstan</b>		
Aktau	29-Nov-2004	Oil products: 2 vessels loading crude oil; 5 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargoes; 2 vessels due by 30/11, both to load unknown cargo.
<b>Pakistan</b>		
Karachi	29-Nov-2004	Three vessels loading at berth (2 rice, 1 MOL), 8 vessels discharging at berth (1palm oil, 4 urea, 1 DNP, 1 rape seed, 1 general cargo), 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 cement vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 rape seed, 1 fertiliser); no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, 1 vessel awaiting orders; 8 vessels due (1 containers, 1 general cargo, 1 fertiliser, 1 SBM, 2 crude oil, 1 chemicals, 1 palm oil), with no berthing delays expected.

**Port Conditions**

Port Qasim	29-Nov-2004	Three vessels discharging at berth (1 palm oil, 2 wheat); 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 1 wheat, 1 other)..
<b>Poland</b>		
Gdansk	29-Nov-2004	Six vessels loading at berth (2 coal, 1 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 3 discharging at berth (1 grain, 1 general cargo, 1 tanker); 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, 1 coal vessel waiting in roads; 21 vessels due.
Gdynia	29-Nov-2004	Four vessels loading at berth (1 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 6 discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 1 coal, 2 grain, 2 bulkers); 3 bulkers awaiting orders; 12 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 38 vessels due.
<b>Russia</b>		
Novorossiysk	29-Nov-2004	Twenty-one vessels in port operating, of which 19 loading (3 scrap, 1 bulk cement, 1 HBI, 1 WRIC/steel billets/slabs, 2 wheat, 2 copper, 2 bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 coils, 1 equipment, 1 bulk peas, 1 cellulose, 1 diesel oil, 1 zinc), 2 discharging (1 bulk sugar, 1 zinc ore); 11 vessels waiting in roads, of which 4 to discharge (1 zinc ore, 3 bulk sugar), 7 to load (1 aluminium, 1 steel billets, 1 pig-iron, 1 wheat, 1 diesel oil, 1 pipes, 1 ammonium nitrate); 94 vessels due, of which 90 to load (6 copper, 3 HBI, 9 pig-iron, 9 bulk ammonium nitrate, 5 bulk NPK, 6 aluminium, 4 DRI, 1 pipes/steel sheets/scrap, 1 wheat, 1 tin plate/sodium sulphate, 1 scrap, 6 coils, 1 bulk NPK/bulk urea, 1 tin plate, 9 steel billets, 4 bulk urea, 1 flowers, 1 NPK/bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 sodium sulphate, 7 steel sheets, 1 WRIC/steel billets, 3 pipes, 1 lead/zinc, 2 UAN solution, 1 lumber/coils, 1 barley, 2 bulk cement, 2 slabs), 3 to discharge (1 equipment, 1 pipes, 1 bulk sugar), 1 to discharge/load containers. Oil terminal: 3 tankers berthed, all loading crude oil; 2 tankers in roads, both to load crude oil; 13 tankers due, all to load, of which 11 crude oil, 1 fuel oil, 1 diesel oil.
Tuapse	29-Nov-2004	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, all loading, of which 1 crude oil, 2 gasoil; 1 gasoil vessel in roads; 10 vessels due by 2/12, of which 4 gasoil, 1 crude oil, 2 fuel oil, 2 naphtha, 1 unknown cargo.
<b>Spain</b>		
Cadiz	29-Nov-2004	Thirteen vessels in port of which 9 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 2 wheat, 1 cement, 1 cereals, 1 semolina, 1 clinker), 4 vessels under repair; no delays.
Sagunto	29-Nov-2004	Twenty-three vessels in port operating of which 14 discharging (12 steel products, 1 vehicles, 1 logs), 4 loading (1 steel products, 3 bulk fertiliser), 5 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>		
Colombo	29-Nov-2004	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Occasional evening rains being experienced at present. Six vessels loading at berth (5 containers/feeders, 1 cement blocks on pallets), 11 vessels discharging at berth (8 containers/feeders, 1 bagged fertiliser, 1 bulk cement, 1 general cargo); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 4 vessels dry-docked, 1 under arrest, 1 awaiting orders from principals, 1 at new tanker berth; 12 vessels due (8 containers/feeders, 3 bagged fertiliser, 1 bulk fertiliser), with 1 day's delay expected for bagged cargoes.
<b>Ukraine</b>		
Ilechevsk	29-Nov-2004	Four vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (2 steel products, 1 sulphur), 1 discharging/loading containers; 4 vessels in roads, of which 3 to load (2 oil, 1 steel products), 1 to discharge/load containers; 30 vessels due, of which 25 to load (18 steel products, 3 vegetable oil, 1 diesel oil, 3 wheat), 5 to load/discharge containers.
Mariupol	29-Nov-2004	Fourteen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (6 steel, 1 fire-clay, 3 coal, 1 ammonium saltpetre, 1 sunflower beans), 2 discharging (1 zinc, 1 boric acid); 6 vessels in roads, of which 5 to load (4 steel, 1 pig-iron), 1 to discharge magnetite; 40 vessels due, of which 33 to load (18 steel, 10 coal, 3 fire-clay, 1 barley, 1 wheat), 5 to discharge (1 containers, 3 equipment, 1 cable), 2 to discharge/load containers.
Odessa	29-Nov-2004	Twenty-five vessels in port operating, of which 14 loading (9 metal, 1 scrap, 1 corn, 1 wood, 2 barley), 8 discharging (1 meat, 2 oil, 1 building materials, 1 luggage, 1 barley, 1 sand, 1 bananas), 2 loading/discharging containers, 1 passenger vessel; 2 vessels in roads, both to load, of which 1 metal, 1 pig-iron; 49 vessels due, of which 24 to load (22 metal, 1 wheat, 1 pig-iron), 5 to discharge (1 metal, 1 general cargo, 1 ore, 2 oil), 20 to discharge/load containers.

**Port Conditions**

**United States**

Houston	30-Nov-2004	Channel open under normal traffic. Pilots report normal 40 ft. 0 ins. max. draft in Houston ship channel; Cargill terminal: 1-2 days delay; LDC Dreyfus terminal: 3 days delay.
Kalama, WA	30-Nov-2004	Kalama export terminal: 2 days delay; United Harvest terminal: 2 days delay.
New Orleans	30-Nov-2004	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: no delays; Cargill-Westwego: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 7-10 days delay expected; Bunge/ Destrehan: 6 days delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 7-10 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 7-10 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 1 day's delay expected; Peavey/Paulina: 2 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 3 days delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: 2 days delay expected; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 2 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 7 days delay expected. Twelve-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to increase to 10.3 ft. by 11/12. Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: SW Pass to New Orleans (Mile 090.0) - 47 ft. for all vessels; New Orleans (Mile 090) to Baton Rouge (Mile 233.5) - 45 ft. for all vessels; vessels with drafts up to 47 ft. have been handled up to Mile 180 in the past, but are approved by pilots on a case by case basis, based on current river conditions; Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 31 ft. bw. Portland, OR Columbia Grain terminal: 3 days delay; CLD Irving terminal: no delays; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays.
Tacoma, WA	30-Nov-2004	Temco terminal: 2 days delay.

**Published by Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit, part of T&F Informa plc, Sheepen Place, Colchester, Essex CO3 3LP.**

**Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit does not guarantee the accuracy of the information contained in this publication, nor accept responsibility for errors or omissions or their consequences.**

**Copyright © Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit, part of T&F Informa plc 2004. This casualty information is copyright. Unauthorised copying prohibited by law.**

**ISSN 0047 4908**

**If subscribers wish to purchase records for networkable or shared use within their company they can contact Andrew Luxton on +44 (0) 20 7017 4625.**

**Lloyd's is the registered trade mark of the Society incorporated by the Lloyd's Act 1871 by the name of Lloyd's**