

Genoa customs go-slow angers port community

Cargo could be diverted elsewhere, writes John McLaughlin — Wednesday October 19 2005

AN OVERTIME ban by customs officers in the port of Genoa has created a mounting backlog of unprocessed containers and prompted warnings of cargo diversions to rival ports from an increasingly angry port community.

This latest challenge for the perennially troubled port stems from a police anti-fraud investigation in which local forwarders and customs officers have been implicated.

A number of customs officials have been transferred to other ports and replaced by officers from outside Genoa.

Restricting

In response, customs unions have called an overtime ban, effectively restricting operations to the morning and creating in the process an increasing backlog of uninspected boxes, much to the consternation of the port community.

In a letter sent on Monday to Genoa's prefect, Giuseppe Romano, port authority president Giovanni Novi and regional customs director Alberto Libeccio, six leading organisations in the port expressed their grave concern.

The letter, sent jointly by organisations representing truckers and forwarders, terminal operators and exporters, agents and forwarders, noted that on Saturday in the Voltri terminal alone: "1,600 customs forms were waiting to be processed; there was a backlog of more than 650 boxes to

be inspected; more than 400 boxes were yet to be loaded on board ship and several ships had been forced to put off their departure until Monday."

The port organisations also expressed "shock at the suggestion that the situation could be resolved by shipping the boxes to other ports".

"Such a solution would establish a very dangerous precedent for the port of Genoa," they wrote, "as well as giving the impression that the port is incapable of responding to the situation."

Backlog

Rather, they said, the port community had agreed to go to a 24-hour work schedule in a bid to shift the backlog as speedily as possible. By the same token, they called on the customs service to provide the necessary resources to bear its share of the burden.

They also urged the port authority to set up a permanent crisis unit to co-ordinate the response. Commenting on the latest problem, Filippo Gallo, president of the agents' and brokers' association, said: "We have no problem with the people at the top of the customs service in Liguria.

"They have been very co-operative in trying to improve the efficiency of the port. But we do have a problem with the leadership in Rome, who do not appear to consider Genoa a major port and so do not seem prepared to give us the resources we need."

Genoa's latest difficulty follows a long summer of discontent, with disagreements over the concession at the main Voltri terminal and plans for the expansion and modernisation of the port followed by less-than-civil warfare over the performance of the port authority leadership.

By the close of last month, a number of contentious issues appeared to have been resolved and, with the arrival of the Grand Alliance at Voltri, the port seemed ready to move forward. This latest contretemps sets it back on its heels once again.

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Lloyd's

Casualty

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>BELLE OF ORLEANS</i>	barge	USA	—	10,503	—	1995	Sustained extensive damage from hurricane "Katrina" when moored on Lake Pontchartrain prev Oct 11. Not expected to be operational until Jan 2006.
<i>DAVID V.</i>	—	USA	—	75	—	1968	Had fire on board in lat 58 46.5N, long 125 06W, Oct 6. Taken in tow and placed alongside in Auke Bay. Reported listing & down at stern Oct 7.
<i>IERAPETRA L.</i>	ro-ro	GRC	HR	12,891	2,250	1975	Ran aground 400 metres off Rhodes Oct 8. All 170 passengers evacuated. LOF signed with Tsavlis. Refloated Oct 12 & at Rhodes awaiting inspection.
<i>MIDAS 1</i>	general	BLZ	—	499	1,594	1985	Capsized and sank in bad weather off north eastern Taiwan in lat 25 18.5N, long 121 30.5E, Oct 8. All nine crew rescued by Coast Guard, one injured and taken to hospital.
<i>NEW AUSPICIOUS</i>	bulker	PAN	—	26,586	48,227	1997	Ran aground off Kijang, Bintan Island, Indonesia, previous Aug 17. SMIT Singapore arrived on site Aug 17 and refloated vessel without any lightering operations. Arrived Niihama Aug 20 & sailed Aug 27.
<i>SAMHO BROTHER</i>	chem/oil carrier	KOR	—	2,418	3,561	2003	In collision with c.c. TS Hongkong and capsized about 9 nm off Hsinchu, north-west Taiwan, Oct 10. All 14 crew rescued by Coast Guard. Spill of light and heavy oil. Cargo not thought to be leaking. Booms & barriers in place.
<i>TINIAN EXPRESS</i>	ferry	PAN	AB ABS	475	—	1996	Grounded on western side of Tinian Island Oct 10. Sustained severe damage to front portion. Slight injuries to all 12 passengers and co-captain. Reported refloated and safely in port Oct 11.
<i>YVONNE DENISE</i>	fishing	USA	—	58	—	1966	Reported disabled and adrift near Point Alava on Revillagigedo Island Oct 11. All three crew abandoned & rescued, no injuries. Vessel sank off Hog Rocks same day.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AGIOS GEORGIOS (Greece)

London, Oct 12 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the morning of Oct 9, while passenger ro/ro Agios Georgios (5122 gt, built 1972) was sailing 12 nautical miles west of Kythnos Island, the vessel sustained damage to its starboard main engine. At the time of the incident, Agios Georgios was performing the schedule Piraeus-Sifnos- Kimolos-Milos, with 77 passengers and 50 crew on board. Following the incident the vessel proceeded with one engine and with good weather arrived at Sifnos at 1330, local time, same day. The passengers were disembarked at Sifnos and proceeded to their destinations on board passenger Ro/ro Express Afrodite.

ALPENA (U.S.A.)

Troy, Michigan, Oct 11 -- Understand cement Alpena (8018 gt, built 1942), lost its rudder recently, was under tow by two Selvick tugs entering the Bay of Green Bay through Death's Door yesterday. It is thought that it is enroute to Sturgeon Bay for repairs. -- Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

London, Oct 12 -- Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1330, UTC: Cement Alpena is currently moored in Sturgeon Bay for repairs after its rudder broke on Oct 7.

BELLE OF ORLEANS (U.S.A.)

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

BUMI JAYA (Indonesia)

Chittagong, Oct 9 -- General cargo Bumi Jaya (7669 gt, built 1977) engine out of order, is lying at Chittagong Outer Anchorage, awaiting employment/instruction. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CANADIAN ENTERPRISE (Canada)

Troy, Michigan, Oct 6 -- On Tuesday, Oct 4, the self unloader boom of bulk Canadian Enterprise (23395 gt, built 1979) made contact with the No.1 coal loader chute at Conneaut, causing extensive damage to the loader chute, traversing boom and arm. The damaged No.1 loader is stuck in the down and extended position, fouling the vessel berthing area under the loader's boom and blocking freighters from loading at the No.2 loader. Insurance Adjusters were at the site yesterday. No plans are yet developed for clearing the freighter berthing area, effectively closing the coal loading operation. Once the damaged No.1 loader can be retracted or disassembled for repairs, vessels can once again be loaded using the adjacent No.2 loader. The No.1 loader

was operating at the time of the accident. The operator was trimming the load in one of the Canadian Enterprise's holds when it unexpectedly traversed its unloading boom into the loader's chute. The extent of damage to the Canadian Enterprise unloading boom was not known. Canadian Enterprise sailed after the No.1 loader's chute was manually forced out of the way enough for the vessel to move by. -- Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

CHANG AN (Panama)

London, Oct 9 -- Following received from Fort de France MRCC, dated today: Bulk Chang An (20681 gt, built 1981) cargo iron ore, 26 persons on board, reported fire in lat 17 11N, long 62 51W, 10 nautical miles south-west of St Kitts & Nevis at 0553, UTC, today. Crude oil tanker British Vine locates casualty on its radar and AIS and proceeds to distress position. At 0740, UTC, fire is reported in the engine-room and spreading to the cabin and mess area. Tugs Statia Responder and Apollo proceed to distress area. Patrol boat Stalwart on scene at 0835, UTC, with firefighting equipment. Fire reported under control, 70 percent of the interior badly burnt at 0959, UTC. Master report the fire broke out in the engine-room as a result, he sealed the hatches leading to this area and activated CO2 system to contain the fire. Fire extinguished at 1209, UTC, Statia Responder alongside and cooling casualty. At 1953, UTC, St Kitts reports that master of Chang An would carry out a full electrical and engineering check before leaving for St Eustatius. If its engines do not work he would require a tow to St Eustatius by tug Statia Responder. Master given notices to proceed to St Eustatius. All 26 persons were in good condition, two minor burn injuries.

London, Oct 11 -- Following received from Fort de France MRCC, timed 1600, UTC: Bulk Chang An has repaired damage off St. Kitts and is now under way for its destination.

London, Oct 12 -- Understand that bulk Chang An, which had fire on board off St. Kitts on Oct 9, which was subsequently extinguished, is on voyage for China.

DAVID V. (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 7 -- Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, dated 2105, UTC: Yesterday, passenger vessel David V. (75 gt, built 1968) reported it was on fire in lat 58 46.5N, long 125 06.6W. The vessel was subsequently taken in tow and then placed alongside a dock in Auke Bay. Today, the vessel is reported listing and down at the stern.

DEEPSEA NAUTILUS (Panama)

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

DESTINY EMPRESS (Canada)

London, Oct 10 -- Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1455, UTC:

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

Hydrographic research Destiny Empress (1314 gt, built 1967), bound Bermuda, was reported with mechanical problems in lat 37 04N, long 65 31W, at 0540, UTC, Oct 9. Vessel is currently proceeding under reduced power for Bermuda at a speed of three knots.

DONGJIN PHOENIX (South Korea)

London, Oct 8 -- Following Navigational Warning, dated today, states: Tug towing stranded general cargo Dongjin Phoenix departs Aokata Ko, at 1830, JST, Oct 7. Via Kanmon traffic route east side entrance at 1630, JST Oct 8, west of Yokoshima and south of O-kunoshima, estimated time of arrival 0800, JST, Oct 9. Speed eight knots, length of tow from 325 to 675 metres.

DURGANDINI (Panama)

Jakarta, Oct 11 -- Product tanker Durgandini is currently in repair dock at Cilacap to repair damages to ballast tank. -- Lloyd's Agents.

EIRIK RAUDE (Bahamas)

See "Barents Sea" under "Pollution".

ELQUI (Uruguay)

Stanley, Oct 7 -- Fishing Elqui was scuttled yesterday. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ERIC H. (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 7 -- A press report, dated Oct 6, states: The Coast Guard is still searching for three missing crewmembers from fishing Eric H., that was engulfed in flames early yesterday. The search is centred in an area about 90 miles west of Naples. Kenneth Simpson Sr., 47, was operating the vessel, the Coast Guard reports. His son, Travis Simpson, 25, and Benjamin Gilbert, 51, are crewmembers. All are from Freeport, Texas. Marine firefighters from Tampa searched the charred vessel yesterday and found no one on board.

London, Oct 7 -- Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1350, UTC: Fishing Eric H. is still afloat but with severe fire damage to its superstructure. Salvors are expected on scene today and are hoping to take vessel in tow for a port, possibly in the Tampa area. The three crewmen remain missing with search still under way.

London, Oct 10 -- Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1505, UTC: Fishing Eric H. is still at sea with no definite plans at present with regards to towing it into port, etc. The search for the three missing crewmen has been called off.

London, Oct 12 -- Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1350, UTC: Fishing Eric H. has been towed into Fort Myers.

EUGENIO (St.Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Oct 12 -- As of yesterday general cargo Eugenio was still at the Dormac repairyard, Durban.

FOWAIRET (Qatar)

London, Oct 7 -- C.c. Fowairet which has been unloaded at the Flushing Sloe Harbour, sailed at 1800, local time, Oct 6, in tow of tugs from the salvage combination of Multraship and the Unie van Reddings- en Sleepdienst, for Rotterdam. The owner of the vessel has decided to have the vessel towed to the port of Rotterdam for inspection and probably for repairs.

London, Oct 7 -- C.c. Fowairet arrived Rotterdam at 0605 today.

London, Oct 10 -- United Arab Shipping Co's damaged c.c. Fowairet which ran aground near Antwerp three weeks ago, has been towed to Rotterdam by joint salvors Multraship Salvage and URS Salvage and Maritime Contracting. After the grounding, the vessel was held in Flushing harbour. Damage included a cracked fuel tank resulting in an oil leakage which was contained by anti-pollution craft with sweepers. In Flushing, salvors offloaded the deck cargo of about 600 containers into barges in order to reduce the vessel's draft sufficiently to enable it to be shifted and moored at Flushing's Verbrugge Terminal. At Verbrugge, the oil was pumped out the damaged and leaking tanks, and into a lightering tanker. About 1,000 more containers were offloaded at Verbrugge, leaving 297 boxes. Under the tow of two tugs, with a further two escort tugs, anti-pollution craft and two fast-rescue boats in attendance, the vessel was towed to Rotterdam. The vessel is expected to be repaired by Damen Shiprepair Rotterdam.

GENMAR TRUST (Liberia)

Ponta Delgada, Oct 8 -- Bulk/oil GenMar Trust, with main engine damage and towed by tug Fotiy Krylov, arrived Ponta Delgada today and safely anchored at port outer anchorage at 0900, local time, in order to carry out the reported repairs on turbo-charger. -- Lloyd's Agents.

HYDE PARK (Liberia)

Halifax, Oct 12 -- Chem.tank Hyde Park arrived at Halifax Shipyard on Oct 4 and repairs to hull damage, port side sheer, commenced upon arrival. It is anticipated that repairs shall be completed Oct 19-21. -- Lloyd's Agents.

IERAPETRA L. (Greece)

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 200 passengers and crew have been rescued after ro/ro Ierapetra L. (12891 gt, built 1975) ran aground off Rhodes. The car ferry, with 170 passengers and 62 crew on board, was in shallow water 500 yards from the port of Rhodes when the incident happened. Greek transport chiefs said all passengers were evacuated after Sunday's (Oct 9) accident.

London, Oct 11 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0305, UTC: Ro/ro Ierapetra L. ran aground during the evening of Oct 8. Vessel remains aground, awaiting tug assistance.

London, Oct 11 -- Understand salvage services are being rendered to ro/ro Ierapetra L. by Alexander G Tsavlis & Sons Maritime Co under Lloyd's Open Form.

Piraeus, Oct 12 -- Ro/ro Ierapetra L. is still aground off Rhodes. Cargo and bunkers have been removed and a refloating attempt is expected to commence in the near future. -- Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

Piraeus, Oct 12 -- Ro/ro Ierapetra L. stranded in shallow waters, 400 metres from Rhodes port on Oct 9. All 62 crew members and 170 passengers were reportedly healthy and secure. No pollution nor ingress of water were reported. The vessel was finally refloated at 1603, local time, today and remains at Rhodes awaiting inspection. -- Lloyd's Agents.

IKA NO.7

Suva, Oct 11 -- Vessel Ika No.7 was advertised for tender by Fiji Customs Oct 4. However, since there is no interested party, Customs may demolish the vessel and/or a decision will be made soon on whether to hand over the vessel to the Ports Authority in order to cover for the costs/expenses incurred whilst it is lying in Suva harbour. -- Lloyd's Agents.

JAKOB MAERSK (DIS)

London, Oct 12 -- Lpg Jakob Maersk was reported arriving at Geismar, U.S.A., on Oct 10.

JAMES PRIOR (U.K.)

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated Oct 10, states: Buses have begun running over Battersea Bridge for the first time since it was hit by general cargo James Prior. Transport for London said repairs would not start until November and it could be months before it fully reopens. People from the area say there has been serious congestion since the bridge, which normally carries 1,300 vehicles an hour, closed to traffic.

JUPITER 6

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See Satsung.

KABALEGA (Uganda)

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated Oct 4, states: The Durban salvors Subtech Diving has been invited to negotiate a salvage contract to recover ro/ro Kabalega, which lies in about 45 metres of water 50 miles off Port Bell in Lake Victoria.

KIEFERNWALD

(Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Oct 13 -- Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo Kiefernwald was still in the Kreishafen in Rendsburg as of Oct 9. There are still reports that it will proceed to Lindenau yard, Kiel, for repairs.

London, Oct 13 -- Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo Kiefernwald remains at Rendsburg as of today.

KIPEROUSA (Malta)

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated Oct 10, states: A fire briefly threatened the stranded bulk Kiperousa last week but was quickly brought under control and extinguished. The fire was the result of sparks from an angle grinder, which was being used by salvors to cut away section of the vessel to allow access to salvors. The bulker now has a large section missing on the port side, which lies open to the sea. SvitzerWijsmuller holds the contract to remove the cargo and transfer it to East London. Fears have been expressed that if logs escape into the sea they could become a dangerous navigational hazard, a number of logs has already washed overboard after a section of the hull broke open due to the action of heavy seas.

KS GLORY (Panama)

See Murat Kiran.

KUK SA BONG 2 (North Korea)

Dalian, Oct 12 -- General cargo Kuk Sa Bong 2 is still lying sunk. Currently, the Dalian Container Terminal Company is discussing/negotiating salvage operations with the shipowner, but no result. -- Lloyd's Agents.

LADY ELIZABETH (NIS)

London, Oct 11 -- Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 1940, UTC: Supply Lady Elizabeth (1924 gt, built 1983) in lat 52 33.6N, long 01 48.5E, aground on approaches to Great Yarmouth harbour. Currently pumping off ballast awaiting arrival of tug from Felixstowe, ETA 0100, local. Duty surveyor, CPSO and DAO informed; liaising with Yarmouth Port Control. Crew have carried out local inspection but have not found any damage to hull. Vessel hopes to refloat with tug assistance on flood tide.

London, Oct 12 -- Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 0231, UTC: Supply Lady Elizabeth refloated at 0300, UTC, local time and is proceeding to sea for trials before investigating team arrives later this morning from Aberdeen.

LIPARIT (Turkey)

London, Oct 7 -- Bulk Liparit, Yuzhnyy for Venice, passed Istanbul Oct 5.

LONG XUYEN (Vietnam)

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

MAGIC CHARM (Canada)

London, Oct 11 -- At 0720 hrs, Oct 7, passenger Magic Charm (192 gt, built 1995) experienced engine failure while berthing at Plaza of Nations, False Creek, B.C., in lat 49 15N, long 123 08W, causing the vessel to strike the dock.

MAKOURIA (Guyana)

Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 10 -- Ferry Makouria has been repaired and returned to service. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MIDAS 1 (Belize)

London, Oct 9 -- Following received from Rescue Coordination Centre Taipei, timed 0800, UTC: General cargo Midas 1 (499 gt, built 1985) capsized, yesterday, in lat 25 18.5N, long 121 30.5E. All nine crew were safely rescued, from an inflatable dinghy, by local coast guards and helicopter. The present disposition of the vessel is unknown.

London, Oct 9 -- A press report, dated Oct 8, states: Helicopters and vessels rescued nine crew members after their vessel (general cargo Midas 1) sank off Taiwan's northern coast, in rough weather, coast guard officials said today. The vessel, registered in Belize, was carrying steel from Japan to Vietnam when it capsized amid strong waves early today. The vessel had refueled in Keelung. The nine crew members, all Chinese citizens, escaped in an inflatable dinghy, but drifted for more than an hour before helicopters and vessels from Taiwan's Coast Guard whisked them to safety. One crew member was taken to MacKay Memorial Hospital, in nearby Tamshui, for treatment.

Taipei, Oct 12 -- Keelung harbour bureau report general cargo Midas 1 sunk off Taiwan's northern coast in rough weather in lat 25 18.5N, long 121 30.5E at 0230, Oct 8. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MILANO (Bahamas)

London, Oct 8 -- Ref Milano arrived Piraeus on Oct 4, from Lisbon.

MOLOKAI PRINCESS (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 8 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Passenger Molokai Princess (99 gt, built 1971) was about an hour late arriving in Lahaina Harbour yesterday morning because the vessel developed a problem with its hydraulic steering filter after leaving Kaunakakai Wharf. The delay affected three dozen passengers, a number of whom were Molokai residents commuting to work in West Maui, said Dave Jung, general manager of ferry operator SeaLink Hawaii. Jung said the problem developed after the it departed from Kaunakakai, and it took the crew about 45 minutes to change the filter in calm waters on the leeward side of Molokai. He said SeaLink personnel continued to investigate what went wrong with the filter, which is replaced regularly as part of routine maintenance.

MSC ELENA (Panama)

See under "Pollution."

MSC SARISKA (Panama)

Wellington, Oct 13 -- C.c. MSC Sariska (13276 gt, built 1970) had engine problems at 1745, Oct 12, while sailing from Wellington with a pilot on board, bound for Brisbane. The vessel anchored in Worser Bay, inside Wellington Harbour, until 1935 hrs, when under way inside the harbour for engine trials, which successfully completed by 2000 hrs and cleared Wellington at 2025 hrs bound for Brisbane. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MSC TRADER (Panama)

London, Oct 8 -- General cargo MSC Trader arrived Antsiranana on Sep 17, sailed on Sep 20 and arrived again at Antsiranana on Sep 22.

MURAT KIRAN (Turkey)

Chittagong, Oct 9 -- Bulk Murat Kiran berthed at Chittagong Port Authority jetty berth No. 2, at 1200, Oct 7, with bulk wheat on board, on account of private ports vessel presently discharging her cargo. Reportedly damages sustained to vessel, due collision, on the first officer cabin at the captain's deck, at the boat deck port side at the stern area inside steering gear room. Bulk KS Glory sailed for Singapore at 0545, Oct 6, after effecting some temporary repairs by local workshop. Understand she lost her anchor, with nine shackles of chain cable, during the incident. The chain was cut by gas cutter during the incident, to free Murat Kiran. KS Glory is scheduled to undertake repair works at Singapore. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NCC MADINAH (NIS)

Genoa, Oct 7 -- Chem.tank NCC Madinah is reportedly due to sail later this evening. Understand that the vessel sustained only very minor damage to the hull and repairs have been effected "on the spot". -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 11 -- Chem.tank NCC Madinah sailed Genoa Oct 8 for Ceuta.

NEW AUSPICIOUS (Panama)

Singapore, Oct 12 -- Bulk New Auspicious (26586 gt, built 1997) carrying 43,000 tonnes of bauxite, ran aground off Kijang, Bintan Island, Indonesia. Smit arrived on site on Aug 17 and successfully refloated the vessel without any lightening operation. -- SMIT Singapore Pte Ltd. (Note -- New Auspicious arrived Niihama Aug 20 and sailed Aug 27, arrived and sailed Busan Sep 8.)

OMAHA

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard is investigating what caused dredge barge Omaha to sink yesterday afternoon in the Chesapeake Bay just off the Lynnhaven Inlet in Virginia Beach. No one was on the dredging barge when it sank around 1700 hrs. Owned by Woodside Construction, the barge was under contract with the Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the Lynnhaven Inlet channel as a part of routine maintenance. The barge sank about 150 feet from the channel and is not considered a navigational hazard. Although the barge has 2000 gallons of diesel fuel and 70 gallons of hydraulic oil onboard, no leaks have been detected and the Coast Guard does not believe an environmental risk exists at this time.

London, Oct 13 -- Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1325, UTC: Dredge barge Omaha capsized yesterday afternoon. Contractors are on scene to deal with any pollution and to try and refloat the barge.

PANAGIA TINOU (Greece)

London, Oct 12 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the early hours of Oct 11, while passenger ro/ro Panagia Tinou (1787 gt, built 1976) was sailing 1.5 nautical miles from the port of Kythnos, the vessel sustained damage to its port main engine. At the time Panagia Tinou was performing the schedule Syros-Kythnos-Kea-Lavrion with five passengers on board. Following the incident the vessel did not proceed to Kythnos or Kea and returned instead to Lavrion for repairs.

Piraeus, Oct 12 -- Passenger ro/ro Panagia Tinou sustained failure in its left main engine yesterday morning, while sailing 1.5 nautical miles from Kithnos island. The vessel called at Lavrion port where crew members managed to restore the failure. After inspection by the local port authorities Panagia Tinou returned to service and sailed at 1600, local time, same day for Syros. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PATRIZIA D'AMATO (Panama)

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

POINTING

See Satsang

PRIMA INDAH (Indonesia)

See "Indonesia" under "Piracy".

PRINSENBORG (Netherlands)

London, Oct 7 -- Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Bulk Prinsenberg, which grounded on the river Weser Oct 5, was inspected by divers in Bremerhaven in the afternoon of Oct 6. As only minor damage was found, the vessel resumed its voyage, with 6000 cubic metres wood, to Baltimore some hours later.

PUERTO DE ALTAMIRA (Panama)

Ymuiden, Oct 6 -- Typhoon "Stan" passed close to the site where SvitzerWijismuller's salvage team are working on cutter suction hopper dredger Puerto de Altamira at Veracruz. SvitzerWijismuller Salvage personnel remained on site to assist and monitor the situation during the storm approach and its passage. The mobilisation of further personnel and equipment was delayed as a consequence of the approaching storm but has now been started up again. -- Wijismuller Salvage BV.

REGINA BALTICA (Estonia)

London, Oct 12 -- Passenger ro/ro Regina Baltica was reported sailing from Naantali on Oct 7, bound for Tallinn.

ROTA (Belize)

London, Oct 11 -- General cargo Rota arrived Glasgow Oct 9 from Liverpool and sailed Oct 10 for Pasajes.

SAMHO BROTHER (South Korea)

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: The South Korean chemical/oil carrier Samho Brother (2418 gt, built 2003) that overturned

following a collision with c.c. TS Hongkong (10925 gt, built 1996) off Hsinchu on Taiwan's north-west coast, carries 3,140 cubic metres of benzene, which could pose a hazard to fishing vessels operating in the area, the Coast Guard Administration (CGA) warned today. CGA officials said they had notified the Chemical Disaster Prevention Center for northern Taiwan to send experts to inspect whether the harmful chemical has leaked into the sea. At the same time, fishery radio stations were asked to warn fishing vessels to stay away from the area, located about nine nautical miles west of Hsinchu. In addition to benzene, the vessel was carrying 85 tons of fuel oil and 16 tons of diesel. An oil spill is reported. The Environmental Protection Administration formed an emergency task force in an attempt to control the pollution. The collision took place yesterday morning. It overturned nine hours later. The CGA sent four vessels and two helicopters and rescued all 14 crew members from the vessel. The TS Hongkong is now in Keelung Harbour, northern Taiwan. Experts from the CGA who examined the vessel found clear collision marks on its starboard side and are trying to determine the responsibility for the accident. (Note -- TS Hongkong arrived Keelung at 1255, Oct 10.)

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Chemical/oil carrier Samho Brother capsized off the coasts of northern Taiwan yesterday after colliding with c.c. TS Hongkong, causing environmentalists to express concern over whether water and fishery resources have been polluted by toxic chemicals. No casualties were reported in the incident, however. All 14 crew members on board Samho Brother, which was heading for Kaohsiung, were rescued by the Coast Guard Administration. Taichung Harbor Bureau officials said that Samho Brother collided with TS Hongkong nine nautical miles off the Yung-an Harbor of Taoyuan County. The Environmental Protection Administration said it had set up a task force to prevent further spillage of the freighter's cargo of fuel and benzene. Sweden-based P&I Insurance, which covers oil pollution for the South Korean freighter, is commissioning a Taiwan company to take care of the compensation matters. The 14-member Korean crew of the capsized freighter was rescued by the coast guard, while TS Hongkong and its 20-strong crew were apprehended for trying to flee the scene of the incident, said a coast guard official. "Booms and barriers have been erected around the capsized ship to prevent the spread of the fuel" that has already leaked, an EPA spokesman said. The spokesman said EPA staff have not been able to start pumping the fuel out of the vessel because of rough seas. "We don't know when the operation will start. It depends on what the weather is like tomorrow," he said, adding they were not concerned about the benzene spill "because it

immediately evaporates and poses no threat to the environment." Samho Brother was carrying 85 tons of fuel oil, 16 tons of diesel and 3,000 tons of methyl benzene before it capsized.

London, Oct 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Officials from the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) yesterday confirmed that initial testing of water samples collected from the surrounding waters following the collision between chemical/oil carrier Samho Brother and c.c. TS Hongkong on Monday (Oct 10) show there is no leakage of benzene. The collision initially triggered an emergency operation to prevent the spill of hundreds of tonnes of toxic chemicals. Although the samples tested negative, the EPA, still fearing the possibility of contamination, is attempting to haul away the capsized Samho Brother to minimize the damage. Crew from the capsized vessel told the EPA officials that they are confident of the structure of the storage tank carrying the benzene, as this type of storage tank is specifically designed for the substance. If the other vessel had hit the storage tank rather than the body, it would not have been seriously damaged, they said. In addition, the EPA officials also pointed out that there are spills of light oil and heavy oil from the vessel, covering an area of several square kilometres. Fortunately, the spills are not spreading, said EPA officials. Besides, light oil is a substance of high volatility and most of it has evaporated. What is left on the sea surface is heavy oil and dirt that does not require special cleanup. The crew of the stricken vessel have suggested that the spilled substance be burned, but the EPA is worried that such a measure might cause further contamination and believes that the best way to solve the problem is to tow the vessel away as soon as possible.

SAN NIKUNAU (New Zealand)

London, Oct 11 -- Fishing San Nikunau (1957 gt, built 1991) had a "black out" at about 1640, UTC, Sep 19 and the fire alarm for the engine-room sounded. It was discovered that the port generator was on fire. The Chief Engineer extinguished the fire with dry chemical and carbon dioxide extinguishers. After the smoke cleared, a damage assessment was made and it was determined that the vessel was seaworthy and the vessel proceeded to Samoa for repair.

SANTA EMMA (Panama)

Halifax NS, Oct 7 -- Ro/ro Santa Emma departed in tow of anchor handling tug/supply Rig Deliverer on Sep 21, as one half of a tandem tow with bulk Willowglen, bound for Alang, to be broken-up. Santa Emma is now owned by Rikan Shipping. There were no crew on either Santa Emma or Willowglen. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 7 -- Following received from Ponta Delgada MRCC, timed 1746, UTC: As a result of bad weather last night, ro/ro Santa Emma sank in lat 36 53.3N, long 28 14.4W.

SATSANG (Panama)

London, Oct 7 -- Reported salvage tug Smit Amandla now has bulk Satsang in tow and is holding the vessel, pending the arrival of another tug, which will then resume the Satsang's break-up voyage.

London, Oct 11 -- A press report from LaSalle, dated yesterday, states: Salvage tug Jupiter 6 is officially presumed lost with all hands after an emergency radio beacon signal was picked up and a search failed to find the vessel. Several grim signs pointed to the fate of the tug, missing for more than a month. The clues are a belated signal from an emergency position indicating radio beacon, a patch of oil and a piece of wreckage in a position about 200 miles south of Port Elizabeth, well off the shipping lanes. This seems to be the tragic conclusion to the mystery that has haunted the shipping industry since Sep 6, the day the last communication from the Indian-owned tug was heard. The tug and her tow were reported missing when no further communications were received and vessels at sea were asked to keep a lookout. At the weekend, the tug's emergency beacon finally began signalling and the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Bellville sent an SA Air Force long-range aircraft to search the sea around the position signalled by the beacon. Two vessels joined in the search. The aircraft crew saw only a patch of oil and a piece of wreckage, but no survivors or other signs of the vessel. Even the wreckage and the oil could not officially be linked to the tug, said a spokesman for the rescue centre who did not wish to be named. The Jupiter 6 had left Cuba for India with scrapped bulk Satsang, in tow about three months ago. They stayed six weeks at Walvis Bay while repairs to the tug's propellers and engine were made, shipping sources said. After dipping beyond the horizon off the Namibian coast, however, it was never seen again. Her last communication with its owners was Sep 6. After that, silence. Then, two weeks ago, the Satsang was spotted by a bulk carrier. It was drifting alone in the ocean currents about 220 miles south of Port Elizabeth, her tow wire hanging straight down, and of the Jupiter 6 there was no sign. But the mystery of how the tug met its fate has only deepened. Could she have been afloat until recently, her crew battling to the last to keep her from sinking, with no working radios with which to call for help, or did she sink weeks ago? If she had sunk some time ago, the signal from the beacon would not have been heard now, the rescue centre spokesman said. "These beacons have a battery life of only 90 hours. Even if it went down with the vessel and only popped up now, its battery would have been activated already. "We would not have heard the

signal because it would have been under water and the battery would have been dead by the time it surfaced," he said. But if the tug had been struggling to stay afloat, why did the crew not take to their liferafts? The Satsang was finally taken in tow by the South African salvage tug Smit Amandla last week after waiting for days to get salvors aboard the derelict in rough weather. Salvors who boarded the vessel reported that the tow rope attached to its bow had been snapped and that two emergency towing rigs assumed to have been set up by the Jupiter 6 crew had also failed. Such evidence indicated that the Jupiter 6's crew had a terrible battle to try to reconnect their tow twice during bad weather.

London, Oct 11 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0915, UTC: Bulk Pointing ex Satsang was handed over by tug Smit Amandla to tug Ruby Deliverer off Port Elizabeth yesterday for onward towage and is now enroute to India.

SEN. JOHN J. MARCHI (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 8 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Staten Island passenger ro/ro Sen. John J. Marchi (2901 gt, built 2005) travelling to Manhattan with hundreds of passengers broke down this morning and drifted in the Hudson River toward the Statue of Liberty before tugs accompanied it to Staten Island, officials said. Passengers aboard the vessel which left Staten Island at 1130 hrs, said the vessel's engine failed about 15 minutes into the trip. No one was injured, passengers said. The vessel, which made its inaugural trip on May 20, had its power restored less than 10 minutes after losing it and returned to the St. George terminal in Staten Island under its power, said city Department of Transportation spokesman Ted Timbers. The 400 passengers on board were diverted to other boats, he said. The cause of the power failure was under investigation, he said. Three tugs and a U.S. Coast Guard patrol vessel initially surrounded the it and began moving it, passengers on board said. The vessel returned to Staten Island by 1250 hrs.

SHAN HAI (China)

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated Sep 30, states: Bulk Shan Hai remains under detention in Durban harbour following the accident on Sep 14 when a 50-years old crane operator employed by a Durban stevedoring company was killed. An investigation is underway as to why one of the vessel's four on board cranes collapsed while lifting cargo that was reportedly well within the crane's limits. Cargo loading on the ship has recommenced at another berth (M), although not with the use of the ship's cranes -- two commercial landbased cranes have been hired to load the cargo of steel coils.

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated Oct 3, states: Bulk Shan Hai which had been held in Durban

pending an enquiry into the death of a stevedore after one of the ship's cranes collapsed has sailed. The stevedore died when the ship's crane he was operating sheered off and collapsed while lifting a cargo of steel at Durban's Point berth A. The ship later moved to another berth where cargo loading was completed using shore-based cranes.

SHINSEI MARU NO.3 (Japan)

London, Oct 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Investigators from Japan and Israel today inspected c.c. Zim Asia in Hong Kong that collided with Japanese fishing Shinsei Maru No.3 last month killing seven of its crew. Two representatives from Japan's Marine Accident Inquiry Agency, four from its Coast Guard and one from the Japanese Consulate General in Hong Kong boarded the Zim Asia in the early hours of this morning. Michio Harada, director of policy planning at the Japanese Consulate General in Hong Kong, said today the inspections were continuing but he declined to provide details. An Israeli official also boarded the vessel to conduct a separate investigation. The scratched Israeli vessel arrived in Hong Kong waters late yesterday and the inspectors boarded early today. Y. K. Lau, a Marine Department spokesman, said the Zim Asia was scheduled to leave Hong Kong waters later today, but he did not say where the vessel was headed.

SOUTHERN TIARE (New Zealand)

Wellington, Oct 9 -- General cargo Southern Tiare completed engine repairs and sailed from Napier at 1000, local time, Oct 9, for Chatham Islands. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SPIRIT OF RESOLUTION (New Zealand)

See "New Zealand" under "Weather & Navigation."

TASCO 1 (Thailand)

London, Oct 13 -- Understand that salvage services are being rendered to asphalt tanker Tasco 1 (4063 gt, built 1995), cargo bitumen, by Shanghai Salvage Bureau, under Lloyd's Open Form, following grounding in lat 30 48 31N, long 122 44 32E, yesterday morning.

TASMAN TRADER (Tuvalu)

London, Oct 11 -- General cargo Tasman Trader (17331 gt, built 1990) while discharging an item of cargo, at Auckland on Sep 13 one of the stevedore's flat web slings failed. The cargo fell approximately three metres onto the tanktop, holing the tanktop causing the No. 5 hold to flood with heavy fuel oil. (Note -- Tasman Trader arrived Auckland Sep 12 from Suva and sailed Sep 26 for Wellington.)

TIGER III (New Zealand)

Wellington, Oct 13 -- Master of passenger Tiger III may have been too preoccupied giving passengers a running commentary to notice the craft was in danger of running

aground in the Bay of Islands late last year, an inquiry has found. The 21 metre long, twin-hulled vessel was written off after hitting rocks near Cape Brett lighthouse on Dec 18. All 62 people on board were evacuated to shore with a few receiving minor injuries in the process. A Transport Accident Investigation report issued yesterday said problems began when one of two engines on the Fullers vessel failed to respond as it came close to rocks in marginal weather on a scenic tour. In the report, the vessel's master said he had stopped about 160 metres from the rocks before being told soon afterwards that unusual smells were coming from one of the engines. Soon afterwards, while describing Cape Brett to passengers, the master noticed the port engine was doing only 500rpm and the vessel was not turning as he had expected it to and was heading for rocks. He called for another vessel in the area to come to assist and tried to use the starboard engine to get out of difficulty, but despite rescue efforts involving a towline, one of the propellers on the Tiger III struck a rock and the towline pulled free. The vessel ended up grounding on rocks and the master sent a mayday message to Maritime Radio via another boat in the area. The report said the master may have noticed the vessel was not responding properly sooner had he not been talking to passengers. "Once the preconceived plan failed due to the port engine not turning the boat, there was no alternative plan readily available to the master," the report said. It suggested he should have put the starboard engine to full ahead to turn it but the master said that would have been excessive for what he considered a minor problem at that point. It would also have been a brave move so close to the shore. The report said tour commentary by the master needed to be identified as a possible hazard and noted in hazard registers. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TINIAN EXPRESS (Panama)

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ferry Tinian Express (475 gt, built 1996) ran aground on the cliffline of the Tinian Dump Coke area on the western side of the island early yesterday morning, slightly injuring all 12 passengers and the its co-captain. Police said the passengers sustained minor injuries that were immediately treated. The co-captain, however, had to be brought to Saipan's Commonwealth Health Center for further treatment, acting police spokesman Eric David said. Police received a report about the distressed vessel at about 0118, yesterday. The ferry ran aground on the western portion of the island. The port is located on southern Tinian. The ferry sustained severe damage to its front portion. Until yesterday afternoon, Tinian police said efforts to salvage the ferry were still ongoing. It remained unclear if there was heavy

downpour at the time of the incident. Despite the incident, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino staff said ferry services between Saipan and Tinian remain normal, except for two trip cancellations. Tinian Express cancelled its 2230 hrs trip from Tinian to Saipan, and the midnight trip from Saipan to Tinian.

London, Oct 11 -- Following received from Coast Guard Guam, timed 0030, UTC, today: Ferry Tinian Express: Salvage operations under control, vessel has been refloated and is safely in port.

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Saipan-Tinian ferry service is now down to two round trips a day, except Tuesdays and Saturday, because of last Monday's accident on Tinian. The Tinian Shipping and Transportation Inc. issued a revised schedule yesterday that further cut the ferry's operations. The transportation company has only the Saipan Express currently operational, after ferry Tinian Express ran aground on the cliffline below the Tinian Dump Coke area early Monday morning. Tinian Shipping initially cancelled only two of its 10 daily trips: the 2230 hrs trip from Tinian and the midnight trip from Saipan. Citing operational limitations, however, the company again revised its schedule effective yesterday. Trips will now be made only at daytime, departing from Tinian at 0800 and 1300 hrs and departing from Saipan at 0930 and 1700 hrs. Special trips will be made on Tuesdays and Saturdays when there are charter flights coming in from China. On these two days, the ferry will leave Tinian at 0130 hrs and Saipan at 0330 hrs. Saipan seaport manager Lee Cabrera said the broken vessel is still on Tinian. Because of the extent of the damage and lack of needed facilities in the CNMI, the boat will have to be brought to the Guam for drydock and repair, he added. All of the 12 passengers, who were mostly Chinese tourists, and the boat's co-master were slightly injured when the accident took place at 0118 Monday on the western side of Tinian. The ferry sustained severe damage to its front portion. It was not immediately known what caused the accident.

TOREGELOW (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy".

TORILL KNUTSEN (NIS)

London, Oct 11 -- Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Chemical/oil carrier Torill Knutsen (11425 gt, built 1990) ran aground between the Gruenthal Bridge and Fischerhuetten, in the Kiel Canal on Oct 7, where the vessel was stuck fast in the embankment for about two hours. The ship then managed to free itself with little damage. The cause of the accident was a damaged compass which caused the vessel to go off course in dense fog.

TORKSEY

London, Oct 6 -- Vessel Torksey remains aground on the beach at Dunwich this evening after attempts to refloat it failed. Salvors have reported that the salvage is proving more difficult than envisaged and have been attempting to pump out water from the vessel. The vessel has been secured for the night and a further attempt to refloat it will be made on the high tide around midday, tomorrow.

London, Oct 7 -- Vessel Torksey was refloated at high tide today, with some assistance. The vessel then proceeded to Walsham. The cost of salvage was put at £4,000. The vessel will be inspected by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and will according to the owner, remain in harbour until "early spring", to allow sufficient time for repairs. It is possible though, the owner, could face legal action.

TOSCANA (Italy)

London, Oct 9 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Tirrenia ferry, passenger ro/ro Toscana (13885 gt, built 1994) has brought about an odyssey for 340 passengers who left Cagliari last night bound for Palermo, where they were expecting to arrive at 0830 hrs. Instead, they won't reach the Sicilian port before 2330, tonight due to a technical breakdown that came to light during the trip. The vessel is being assisted by the Coast Guard and is now proceeding at a much slower pace. The port authority's central operations office at the Port of Palermo have explained that it will only arrive at the Sicilian capital 15 hours later than scheduled. The Tirrenia press office has said that the technical breakdown on the Cagliari-Palermo bound vessel is to do with the engine. This little problem will force 340 passengers to spend a further frustrating 15 hours that will only bring their trip to a close at around 2330 hrs. Consequently, the Tirrenia has announced, the vessel from Palermo to Cagliari, will leave 24 hours later than scheduled.

TRADER (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Oct 7 -- General cargo Trader, bound Ireland, passed Gibraltar Oct 5.

TRANSOCEAN MARIANAS (Panama)

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

TS HONG KONG (Liberia)

See Samho Brother.

TS HONGKONG (Liberia)

See Samho Brother.

UMFOLOZI (Cyprus)

Rotterdam, Oct 12 -- C.c. Umfolozi: The salvage operation is in progress, with cleaning of containers currently in hand. -- SMIT Salvage BV.

URANUS (North Korea)

Limassol, Oct 10 -- General cargo Uranus arrived Limassol Oct 9 from Novorossisk and sailed Oct 10 for Tartous. -- Lloyd's Agents.

VILLA (Turkey)

Buenos Aires, Oct 7 -- Bulk Villa remains aground. Refloating attempts are being performed by tugs Alianza Rosario and Buni. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Buenos Aires, Oct 11 -- Bulk Villa refloated at 2250, Oct 7 assisted by tugs Alianza Rosario and Buni. -- Lloyd's Agents.

WILSON BRUGGE (Malta)

Trondheim, Oct 10 -- Reported that general cargo Wilson Brugge (2446 gt, built 1996) sustained some engine/gear trouble near Kristiansund on Oct 3, on a loaded voyage from Antwerp to Verdal, Trondheimsfjord. The vessel arrived at Verdal on Oct 4, and after discharging the cargo, it sailed to Trondheim Verft (yard) for repairs, arriving during the evening of Oct 6. The yard have informed us that they are waiting for spare parts to arrive and therefore estimate to complete repairs by the end of next week. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Wilson Bragge sailed from Antwerp at 1339 hrs, Sep 30.)

YM XINGANG I (Germany)

See "Seizure Of Drugs On German Flagged Vessel At Manila, Philippines" under "Miscellaneous".

YVONNE DENISE (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 13 -- A Coast Guard Kodiak press release, dated Oct 12, states: A Coast Guard helicopter crew rescued three fishermen from a beach near Point Alava on Revillagigedo Island yesterday afternoon. The Coast Guard received a call at 1149 hrs, reporting fishing Yvonne Denise (58 gt, built 1966) disabled and adrift. Crewmen Aaron Hudson, Cliff Hudson and Elmer Makua abandoned ship wearing their survival suits. A Coast Guard Air Station Sitka helicopter crew arrived on scene and airlifted the passengers safely to Ketchikan.

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated Oct 12, states: A Coast Guard helicopter crew rescued three fishermen from a beach near Point Alava on Revillagigedo Island yesterday afternoon after they were forced to abandon fishing UYvonne Denise which was disabled and adrift. The Coast Guard reported they received the call at 1149 hrs requesting assistance. A Coast Guard Air Station Sitka helicopter crew arrived on the scene and airlifted the fishermen safely to Ketchikan. No injuries were reported. The disabled and adrift fishing vessel went down off of Hog Rocks yesterday afternoon. According to Federal Aviation Administration's Flight Service Station, wind gusts at the airport yesterday afternoon were recorded at 81 miles an hour.

ZIM ASIA (Israel)

See Shinsei Maru No.3.
London, Oct 11 -- C.c. Zim Asia sailed Hong Kong Oct 7 for Singapore.



INDONESIA

London, Oct 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Prima Indah which was hijacked off Bangka Island on Sept 30 with about US\$6 million worth of tin on board has been found, sunk in shallow water in the area where it was hijacked, according to sources. It is believed that the cargo of tin is probably still on board. Soon after the Sept 30 hijacking, the Prima Indah's crew was released and taken by small boat to a nearby island, but there had been no trace of the ship and cargo despite an extensive search. The assumption had been that the cargo had been discharged and sold at a remote location and the vessel turned into a 'phantom ship' operating under a false identity. But it seems that for some reason the pirates may have decided to sink the ship and abandon any plans to dispose of the cargo.

SOMALIA

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Torgelow (840 gt, built 1972) with nine Kenyan seamen on board is feared to have been hijacked by Somali gunmen. Seafarers Assistance Programme Co-ordinator, Mr Andrew Mwangura, yesterday said the vessel was hijacked near El Maan port in Somalia, the same area where eight Kenyans abducted in another vessel three months ago were released last week. Mwangura said Torgelow, which belongs to the same company that owns the recently released Semlow, was carrying general cargo belonging to Somali businessmen. The captain is Sri Lankan and the other nine seamen all Kenyans. Mwangura said the vessel was also carrying oil, foodstuff and water. In the latest incident, the vessel left Mombasa last Friday (Oct 7) with the expectation of docking at El Maan port on Sunday but it was hijacked by pirates.



CHANGXIANG (Panama)

London, Oct 13 -- Bulk Changxiang (1427 gt, built 1989), which arrived at Hong Kong at 0528 hrs, today, is currently reported at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under arrest.

CHINA SEA DISCOVERY (Liberia)

Taipei, Oct 7 -- Passenger China Sea Discovery is still at berth at pier No.4 Kaohsiung Harbour, Taiwan. As advised by the ship's agent, an auction was held by the Kaohsiung court mid September and the new owner, name unknown, bought the vessel in this auction. The agents also advised that the vessel is scheduled to comply all necessary documents and idepart from Kaohsiung harbour at the end of October. To date the vessel has not yet changed its name. Understand the vessel might be towed to an Indian harbour for scrap. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MAZNAH (Indonesia)

London, Oct 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: The entire crew of what is believed to be a Singapore-based Indonesian-owned vessel, general cargo Maznah has refused to sail the ship from Tawau until they are paid about US\$300,000 in wages owed to them since May this year. The owner, Dosowo Lloyd of Makassar, Indonesia, had offered through Malaysian negotiators to pay the 22 all-Indonesian crew members, including the master, Silas Zola Makalew of Jakarta, one month's wage but they refused to accept it, insisting on being paid in full for the four months. The ship had sailed into Tawau port on the east coast of Sabah in May with an empty hull from India after delivering a steel consignment to China and was supposed to pick up a timber consignment in Tawau for China, but it was prevented from leaving port after a bunker supplier in Singapore obtained an order from the Kota Kinabalu High Court to detain the ship for owing it more than US\$100,000. The ship was arrested and detained in Tawau until last month when the order was lifted after the payment was made, according to Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) official Bala Subramanian, today. MTUC became involved after the crew ran out of money to buy provisions and fuel and it co-ordinated efforts involving the International Transport Workers Federation and the Sabah Banking Employees Union (SBEU) to help the crew while the problems were being sorted out. Bala told Bernama he was in no position to convince the crew to sail if they did not want to. He said more than US\$1,000 had been spent to supply provisions to the crew. Local newspapers reported E-Maritime Pte Ltd of Singapore as the ship's owners but they denied it when contacted. The database of an international maritime magazine links a vessel by that name to Dosowa Lloyd of Makassar, Indonesia, believed to be an Indonesian Chinese based in Singapore. Capt Silas could not be contacted by phone but Tawau port manager Mayau Garundin said the ship was still anchored two nautical miles off the coast.

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

PAKISTAN FISHERMEN/VESSELS ESCORTED BY INDIAN NAVY IN ARABIAN GULF

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated Oct 10, states: The Indian Naval forces are reported to have escorted two fishing vessels along with 10 fishermen and fish and shrimp catch worth millions of rupees from the Pakistan territorial waters in the Arabian Sea in the early hours of today. The district president, Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum Thatta, Syed Gulab Shah, told reporters that all the fishermen belonging to Athurki, were escorted when they were busy in fishing at Kajhar Creek in the Pakistani territorial waters at gunpoint. The fishermen were overpowered and escorted from the Pakistan territorial waters along Shah Bundar at gun point by the Indian Navy. Meanwhile, PFF chairman, Syed Mohammad Ali Shah and others have condemned the violation of oceanic territorial limits of Pakistan waters by the Indian Naval personnel and called upon the Pakistan authorities to help release the arrested fishermen.

PLAVA (Albania)

Bari, Oct 3 -- General cargo Plava is still under arrest at Bari. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SANTORINI SKY (Greece)

London, Oct 7 -- A report in the Oct 7 edition of "Newsfront" states: Ro/ro Santorini Sky has once again been listed for hammering down, this time on Oct 19. Lying in Keratsini, it carries two start-up prices of Euro175,000.

Piraeus, Oct 13 -- Ro/ro Santorini Sky remains under arrest and is scheduled to be auctioned on Oct 19. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Pipeline Accidents



ABADAN AREA, IRAN

London, Oct 9 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Four oil product pipelines had caught fire in southwest Iran, state television reported today. The report said the fire affected four out of 13 pipelines connecting a refinery in the city of Abadan, 675km south-west of Tehran, to Bid Boland, a centre for processing oil products. Television showed firemen unable to approach thick columns of flame. It was not immediately clear how the fire would affect Iran's ability to process oil products. Most pipeline fires in south west Iran are due to ageing infrastructure, but officials have also blamed some recent blasts on Arab rebels seeking independence from Tehran.

KHUZESTAN PROVINCE, IRAN

London, Oct 10 -- A press report, dated Oct 9, states: Over 200 metres

of gas pipeline was damaged as a result of explosion in liquid gas transfer line yesterday in Khuzestan Province. The repair work on the damaged pipeline, carrying gas to Bandar Imam and to the port of Mahshahr, was finished yesterday and the line feeding the port of Abadan will be operational again in the next two days, Abdolhossien Samin, the operation manager of NIGC (National Iranian Gas Company), said today. In another statement, executive director of NPC (National Petrochemical Company) Mohammadreza Nematzadeh said that the activity at Bandar Imam Petrochemical Complex has gradually been resumed and the export business will be started soon. However, the financial scale of the damages has not yet been assessed and it is underway, he added. The head of district 1 gas transfer operation, Shahryar Jokar, considered the high pressure in liquid gas pipeline the main cause of the explosion; several gas and oil lines caught fire and were ripped open nearby. The fire still partially continues, he said in conclusion.

LAGOS AREA, NIGERIA

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Large areas of the Nigerian economic capital Lagos were enveloped in a dense cloud of mysterious fumes today, triggering health concerns. Residents in the heavily-populated inner city districts of Ikeja, Oregun and Gbagada complained of irritation to their eyes and stomach pains after what appeared to be smoke filled the streets. "The smoke is attributed to a petroleum pipeline rupture. Smoke samples are under analysis. There is no cause for alarm so far," city health commissioner Bisi Adesina said on television. Police spokesman Bode Ojaduni said: "We discovered the heavy smoke this morning, we have sent our men out to investigate it. For now we cannot ascertain the source and the nature of the smoke." Television images of the latest leakage showed a dense, fog-like grey cloud lying over the city centre, reducing visibility in some areas to less than 20 yards.

TUXPAN AREA, VERACRUZ STATE, MEXICO

London, Oct 10 -- Mexican state oil monopoly Petroleos Mexicanos yesterday confirmed two oil pipeline spills in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz that were brought under control without interruptions in service. The leaks were located at Papantla and Tihuatlan, both near the city of Tuxpan 155 miles north-east of Mexico City. Pemex spokesman Roberto Franco Quiroz said only 250 litres of oil spilled from the pipeline in Tihuatlan, but did not have information about the size of the spill at Papantla. Papantla Mayor Martin Rizo Lopez said the leak was discovered early Friday (Oct 7) morning when oil was seen floating in

El Tajin creek, where it killed turtles and fish. Pemex employees repaired the leak within 24 hours, said Rizo, who did not know how much oil spilled.

Pollution



BALTIMORE HARBOUR, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 10 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Coast Guard officials say more than 500 gallons of home heating oil have spilled into Baltimore's Inner Harbor in the Canton area. Officials say the oil is leaking from the Constellation Energy generating facility. Cleanup work is underway as the Coast Guard, Maryland Department of the Environment, and private contractors have started cleanup work and they say it could take a week to clean up the spill.

London, Oct 10 -- A press report, dated Oct 9, states: An estimated 7,000 gallons of fuel escaped from a Constellation Energy power generation plant and travelled through Baltimore's storm drain system into the Inner Harbour, company and state environment officials said today. Contractors for Constellation Energy had contained the spill this evening and were working with the Maryland Department of the Environment to clean up the spill, said Alan Williams, MDE's emergency response and planning program manager. Officials with the US Coast Guard, the federal authority responsible for such incidents in the harbour, were also involved in the cleanup efforts. Williams said his agency considers this a large spill. "But anytime fuel goes into the harbour, it's serious," said Williams, the on-scene coordinator for the incident. One factor in the spill was heavy rain over the weekend, Williams said. It overwhelmed safeguards in the plant's drainage system, sending the fuel into the storm drain system, he said. The fuel travelled about 15 blocks through the city's storm drain system, from the Pulaski Highway plant to the drain in Canton where it was spotted pouring into the harbour, Williams said. Because of that, it could take a week and a half to make sure the spill is completely cleaned up, he said. Constellation Energy reported the spill to MDE before noon today, according to Rob Gould, a spokesman for the company. Officials were still trying to calculate exactly how much fuel had escaped tonight. "How much fuel is still in the storm drains is anyone's guess," Tom Cinko, US Coast Guard, tells WJZ's Adam May. To control garbage, the city already had a pollution boom in the area. "Luckily that was here, as the oil came down the storm drains," Cinko said. The

fuel that was spilled is used to run turbine generators at the facility, which runs only when demand for power is high, Gould said. The company is not sure what caused the spill, though one factor he said will be looked into is maintenance conducted there yesterday. "We're going to have contractors and employees there through the night and tomorrow to do all we can to clean this up as quickly and safely as possible," Gould said. MDE will investigate the incident, Williams said. But he noted that Constellation is an "upfront company" that has done everything the agency has asked of it. "If there's appropriate enforcement action to take, we'll take it," he said. Right now, the environmental impact is unknown, but is suspected to be minimal.

BARENTS SEA

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated Oct 10, states: A discharge of hydraulic oil from the drill platform Eirik Raude in the Barents Sea on Apr 12 posed no environmental threat, according to an official inquiry report. This document has been drawn up by the Petroleum Safety Authority Norway (PSA) and the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority (SFT). Eirik Raude was drilling the Guovca wildcat for Statoil when the accident happened. Work stopped at once, and contractor Ocean Rig and Statoil sought to clarify the background for the leak. This internal investigation also concluded that the discharge of about one cubic metre of hydraulic oil had no impact on the marine environment. "The official report is in line with our own assessment of the causes of the accident," says yrjan Birkeland, Statoil's exploration manager for the Barents Sea. "We're glad it confirms that no environmental damage was done. It also supports the view that, despite the leak, this was one of Norway's most environment-friendly drilling operations." The internal inquiry found that the direct cause of the leak was a split hose. After the hose had been replaced, drilling resumed following a three-week shutdown.

MSC ELENA (Panama)

London, Oct 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: The chief engineer aboard an international cargo ship has been indicted by a federal grand jury for allegedly rigging a device to pump untreated oil sludge into the ocean and then lying about it to investigators. Mani Singh, chief engineer of c.c. MSC Elena, could face up to 40 years in prison if convicted of conspiracy, obstruction of justice, making false statements, destroying evidence, and violating an international antipollution act, federal prosecutors said yesterday. He was one of nine Indian men taken into custody in May when Coast Guard investigators from Boston discovered the device during an inspection conducted in Boston Harbour. The other men have not been charged. Several provided evidence against

Singh. According to the indictment, Singh, 57, falsified oil discharge records and lied to Coast Guard officials about the device, which he dubbed the "magic pipe." He also instructed junior officers to lie and told one subordinate to "stick with what you have said" and not reveal anything about the pipe when questioned by investigators, the indictment said. The oily compounds generated by ship engines are supposed to be treated before they are discharged. According to the indictment, the device bypassed the treatment process and dumped untreated sludge into the ocean. Engineers also are required to log all waste dumps, which prosecutors said Singh failed to do. There is no telling how much sludge the MSC Elena discharged, prosecutors said, but the indictment alleged discharges were made "routinely" at various times and places, which were not detailed in the charges. Singh's lawyer, Joshua Levy, declined to comment.

PERVAYA RECHKA RIVER, RUSSIA

London, Oct 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: The emergency regime that had been imposed in the Amur Bay over an oil spill has been lifted, chairman of the city commission for emergency situations, first deputy head of the Vladivostok administration Yuri Koren told Itar-Tass today. The emergency regime was introduced on Sep 24 after the leakage of nearly 50 tonnes of fuel oil from a petroleum storage depot of the Pacific Fleet. Part of the oil products got into the sea. Petroleum products contaminated over three kilometres of beaches in the centre of Vladivostok. The damage done to the city is estimated at eight million roubles. The press service of the Vladivostok administration told Itar-Tass the clean-up operation involving over 200 people, Pacific Fleet servicemen and rescuers, has been completed on the whole. The rest of the work will be completed in the normal mode. The Pacific Fleet forces have the assignment to liquidate the aftermath of the oil spill in a routine mode until the final cleanup of the coast line is attained. Specialists of the city civil defence and emergencies department will control the scheduled operation. The Military Prosecutor's Office is currently investigating the criminal case of negligence related to the oil spill.



AMAZON, BRAZIL

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Authorities today began a massive relief effort to help thousands of families along the Amazon River hurt by a serious

drought that has made river travel to many jungle areas nearly impossible, officials said. The water level of the Amazon -- the world's biggest river by volume -- has dropped by several feet because of a monthslong drought, officials said. Most of the water course is navigable but some key tributaries have nearly dried up, halting travel and harming the important fishing industry. The government of the jungle state of Amazonas said it was dispatching thousands of emergency workers to the most seriously stricken region -- upriver from the central Amazon city of Manaus, which is located 1,660 miles north-west of Sao Paulo -- to deliver food and supplies to some 32,000 families that now can only be reached by air, said Hiel Levy, the state government's press spokesman. The government's Geological Service said a dramatic decline in rainfall this year has caused water level along the entire Amazon to drop an average of six feet from its normal 55-foot water depth. Large vessels can still travel up the Amazon River to Manaus, nearly 1,000 miles from the Atlantic Ocean, according to the geological Service. Beyond that, cargo must be loaded on to small vessels. In parts of the river, travel has been limited to daylight hours to keep vessels from running aground. Army troops and state civil defense were being sent to isolated communities to dig wells and deliver drinking water because thousands of fish killed by the drought have made the remaining water in rivers undrinkable, a government statement said. Levy said that due to the drought, malaria cases in the city of Coari, 220 miles west of Manaus, have increased, prompting the government to send medicine and pesticides. Carlos Nobre, a senior researcher with the Brazil's National Space Sciences Institute, said the rivers will likely take more than a month to begin returning to normal. "The rains have already returned, but the rivers will only begin to fill up in the middle of November," Nobre said by phone. The prolonged drought has affected all of the Amazon jungle's rivers, with many of them reaching the lowest levels ever recorded, Nobre said. Last week the Solimoes River, one of the largest branches of the Amazon, fell to just five feet from its normal 41-foot depth, according to the geological service. The four cities that were declared disaster areas last week are located along the Solimoes.

BANGLADESH

London, Oct 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Floods in northern Bangladesh have killed 16 people, damaged crops and infrastructure and marooned almost two million people over the past four days, government officials said. The victims died crushed in collapsed houses or from drowning or snake bites as rivers burst their banks following torrential rains. "The torrents washed away some 100,000 mud-walled houses, making at least half a million homeless in the region,"

a disaster management official said. One-third of the homeless had taken refuge in government shelters or on high ground, he said. The flooding damaged rice and vegetable crops over at least 200,000 hectares and a road network stretching nearly 1,000 kilometres, according to preliminary estimates. One relief official said that rivers flowing into Bangladesh from India were still in spate and the situation might worsen if the rains continued. But the Bangladesh meteorological department said today the floods were likely to recede soon.

CHINA

London, Oct 8 -- A press report, sdated today, states: Floods and landslides have killed 1,247 people and left another 331 missing in China in the major flood season this year, a senior official said, adding that crops on at least 15 million hectares of farmland have been destroyed and 1.17 million houses ruined. Direct economic losses from the disasters were estimated to have amounted to 136 billion yuan (US\$ 16.8 billion), said Vice-Minister of Water Resources E Jingping. The hardest-hit areas include the provinces of Fujian, Anhui, Zhejiang and Hainan in southern and eastern China, which have been plagued by seven typhoons and cyclones that claimed 205 lives. According to the flood-control authority, this year's major flooding period in China is drawing close. However, the continuous heavy rainfall during the National Day holiday has caused the biggest flood in a decade along the lower reaches of the Weihe River and the middle reaches of the Hanjiang River in Shaanxi and Hubei provinces. Sections of the rivers running through Shaanxi Province in Northwest China overflowed, forcing 359,000 people to be evacuated. More than 4.6 million people in 61 counties were affected by floods and mud slides, which ruined 79,800 hectares of crops and destroyed 39,200 houses. Floodwaters also damaged railways, highways, cable lines and irrigation infrastructure in the province. About 30,000 people have been mobilized to reinforce embankments. But the flood gradually receded as the water level fell below warning levels late Thursday (Oct 6), Xinhua reported. Central China's Hubei Province was also dealing with torrential rains and the threat of widespread floods. The water level in the middle reaches of the Hanjiang River running through Hubei Province has risen above the danger mark. Some 20,000 people were toiling to shore up embankments and watch for breaches. The peak of the flood was expected to hit Xiantao, a city near provincial capital Wuhan, yesterday night.

COLOMBIA

London, Oct 8 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: An intense rainstorm triggered a landslide that buried part of a shantytown on the outskirts of the northwestern city of

Medellin, killing at least 26 people, many of them children, officials said today. Rescuers today recovered the bodies and continued digging through the mud as nearly 30 people remained missing, said Claudia Helena Velez, a municipal official in Bello, 160 miles northwest of Bogota. The landslide, which brought mud, trees, garbage and rocks sweeping through the town of Bello, occurred late yesterday after five hours of heavy rains that loosened the earth in the boulder-covered mountain above the town. At least 11 of those killed were children, said Gen. Ruben Carrillo, police chief of Antioquia state. About a dozen homes, many made of plywood with tin roofs, were destroyed, and entire families were killed by the mudslide. Colombian authorities announced a general alert throughout the region, warning that the heavy rains could continue during the weekend.

HURRICANE "JEANNE"

Freeport, Bahamas, Oct 9 -- Cement Contrader arrived Freeport Sep 19 from Cuba and sailed Sep 23 for Nassau. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Contrader was reported Sep 26, 2004, lying on its side, partially submerged, spilling oil, after tipping over against a pier during hurricane "Jeanne" on the south coastline of New Providence Island, Bahamas.)

HURRICANE "KATRINA"

London, Oct 7-- A press report, dated Oct 6, states: In their first assessment of the chemical and oil spill damage from Hurricanes "Katrina" and "Rita", the nation's ocean stewards said today that the long-term impacts will be "tremendous" and take a year or more to deal with. "In terms of overall impact, these two hurricanes have created the largest incidents to which NOAA has ever responded," David Kennedy, director of the Office of Response and Restoration at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said in a statement. "The scope of the damage in the area is enormous," added Pat Montanio, chief of NOAA's Damage Assessment Centre. More than 1,000 pollution reports have been received along the coastal waters of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, NOAA said. "Prioritizing oil spills in the region is vital," the agency stated. "It is likely that the long-term effects to the heavily populated Gulf Coast will be tremendous." Challenges include how to deal with numerous sunken or grounded vessels that may hold pollutants, NOAA said. The spills, the largest from refineries and storage tanks, include six in southeast Louisiana designated by the Coast Guard as major (more than 100,000 gallons) and three listed as medium (10,000-50,000 gallons). On Tuesday (Oct 4), the Coast Guard reported that 7.7 million gallons of oil or oil products had spilled due to "Katrina" in southeast Louisiana, of which 2 million gallons had yet to be recovered. Some 2.9 million gallons

were recovered and 2.7 million gallons evaporated or naturally dispersed, the Coast Guard said. NOAA said its agencies are helping identify the location of spills in coastal waters as well as reviewing the conditions of petroleum facilities from Galveston, Texas, to Pensacola, Fla. "NOAA's scientific support teams will be advising the US Coast Guard on ways to control and clean up spills throughout the region, and ensuring that additional damage to the environment does not occur during the cleanup," the agency said. "We have people in the impact zone and around the country working seven days a week to support and evaluate hazardous material spills," noted William Conner, chief of NOAA's Hazardous Materials Response Division. Officials have yet to provide hard estimates of any impacts to marine life and other wildlife in the region from the hurricanes.

London, Oct 8 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The beach in West Gulfport shook under the straining of three large bulldozers and other heavy equipment yesterday afternoon. They were pushing a 360-ton barge, washed across U.S. 90 by Hurricane "Katrina", down a temporary stretch of railroad track for the last 200 feet of its journey back to its usual environment in the Mississippi Sound - one that doesn't require a street address. R.J. Corman Derailment Service specializes in train-wreck cleanup but has found a new niche market. It moved 10 barges off the CSX railroad tracks in the Mobile area after Katrina, but literally broke new ground in scope and efforts here. The barge moved about 250 yards from the vicinity of 38th Avenue across U.S. 90, thanks to old-school techniques. Workers used untreated telephone poles as a rolling mat under the barge between 1730 hrs and 2230 hrs, Wednesday (Oct 5). The barge reached the water yesterday afternoon through the work of 18 men operating three large bulldozers pushing from the stern, four mobile sidebooms pulling with cables around the back of the barge and other support equipment. Economics make it the better business decision for American Commercial Barge Line, a barge company based in Jeffersonville, Ind., to move it rather than scrap it up and build a new one. New barges cost about \$500,000 and there's a two-year waiting list for construction. Its barge had about 1,500 tons of aluminum ingots worth \$2.5 million on board, which had to be offloaded before the barge moved. Two barges owned by another company remain further inland in West Gulfport.

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated Oct 10, states: The bidding process on rebuilding the Popp's Ferry Bridge will have to be restarted this week thanks to a "double snafu," postponing start of work by at least 12 days. Four companies turned in bids Friday (Oct 7) to repair Hurricane "Katrina" damage to a major north-south traffic artery in east Harrison

County. But the low bid by Key Constructors of Madison was less than one-third of the next lowest, setting off a hectic Monday that ended with the city of Biloxi throwing out all four bids. The project will be advertised again Wednesday, with bids opened a week later. The city intends to award the contract that day and still anticipates the work taking 100 days from the start of construction. Key's \$2.79 million bid was far under T.L. Wallace Construction's of \$9.39 million. Key President David Trevathan said his company got into the process late, only last Wednesday, and it did not know about a pre-bid conference the other three bidders attended earlier. (See issue of Oct 11.)

London, Oct 12 -- A press report, dated Oct 11, states: Columbia Sussex Corp is dealing with extensive hurricane damage to its river casino barge Belle of Orleans (10503 gt, built 1995) in New Orleans. The floating casino, which was moored onto Lake Pontchartrain, will have to be towed by tugs to a location for repairs. Fred Buro, chief operating officer for Columbia Sussex, estimated the casino may not be operational until after January. Hurricane "Katrina"'s storm surge, Buro said, lifted the casino barge from its moorings and deposited it onto a dry dock area atop about 30 sailboats. He said the company is exploring other options for moving the casino barge in different area of Lake Pontchartrain. Columbia Sussex bought the Belle of Orleans earlier this year from Caesars Entertainment, prior to the company's buyout by Harrah's Entertainment.

London, Oct 12 -- A press report, dated Oct 11, states: Business continues to build at the Port of New Orleans as 14 vessels, including four container ships, are scheduled to call on the port this week. The number topped last week's schedule of nine ships and demonstrates steady growth in cargo operations. CP Ships and Mediterranean Shipping Company will each bring in two container ships into port in the next seven days. Osprey Line barges will move container cargo tomorrow, as well. Terminal operators P&O Ports, Coastal Cargo Company, Empire Stevedoring and Pacorini are working multiple container or break-bulk ships throughout the week with more and more work on the way. "We're progressing each and every week," said Gary LaGrange, the port's president and chief executive officer. "The 14 vessels that we are handling this week represent about 35 percent of our pre-"Katrina" ship traffic. Although we continue to face many challenges, the return of these vessels to the port is good news for the Louisiana economy and the national economy." About 380,000 total jobs in the United States and \$16.9 billion in personal income are related to the Port of New Orleans maritime terminals, according to an economic study completed just before Hurricane "Katrina". Port officials say there continues to be a high demand for truck drivers throughout the port

community. Truck capacity is currently running about 40 percent of pre-storm levels, but also improving each week. To accommodate truck drivers and other port personnel wishing to return to work but who may not have a place to live, accommodations aboard Maritime Administration vessels are still available free of charge. The port is identifying sites for trailers that will be provided by FEMA for longer term housing of port workers and their families.

London, Oct 12 -- Bulk Patricia D'Amato sailed from Mobile on Oct 7, bound for New Orleans, where it arrived on Oct 10.

HURRICANE "RITA"

London, Oct 7 -- A press report, dated Oct 6, states: Utility giant Entergy Corp said yesterday that its damages from hurricane "Rita" will range from \$400 million to \$550 million, a bill that comes on top of damages that could hit \$1.1 billion from hurricane "Katrina" a month earlier. The New Orleans-based company, temporarily headquartered in Clinton, Mississippi, said it believes it has enough liquidity to meet its obligations and fund rebuilding. Entergy said it would pursue insurance payments, federal relief and rate increases. Entergy's New Orleans unit filed for bankruptcy protection after "Katrina," citing \$325 million to \$475 million in damages to power and natural gas transmission systems and the loss of most of its customer base. The company estimated the total damage to all of its operating units at \$750 million to \$1.1 billion. Most of the "Rita"-related damage hit the Entergy Gulf States unit, which serves south-western Louisiana and south-eastern Texas, the company said. Damage to that unit was estimated at \$365 to \$500 million. Entergy Louisiana sustained \$30 million to \$40 million in damages, while the rest of the damage to Entergy properties ranged from \$5 million to \$10 million, the company said. At the height of "Rita," which hit on Sep 24, 82% of the Entergy transmission lines in Texas and 38% of its transmission lines in south-western Louisiana were knocked out. By late Tuesday (Oct 4), Entergy said it had restored 206 of the 344 affected transmission lines and 308 of 436 substation outages. Five fossil-fueled generated units were off line for repairs, the company said. Entergy said it had restored power to 586,000 of the 766,000 customers who lost power during "Rita" and expected to have service restored to about 95% of the customers within three weeks.

London, Oct 7 -- A press report, dated Oct 6, states: Life started flowing through the industrial heart of Southeast Texas today as vessels were again steaming in both directions on the Sabine-Neches Ship Channel. Coast Guard Capt. Sharon Richey said nine vessels were inbound on the channel today and two were outbound. "It's looking good," said Richey, commander of the Marine Safety

Office in Port Arthur. "I anticipate (channel depth) staying at 38 feet for a couple of days before we go to project depth (40 feet). Then we'll start conducting night operations." Richey said it still is difficult to accurately measure the depth of the channel because of all the suspended sediment in the river. The Coast Guard also is actively salvaging a number of wrecks along the river, an effort that will continue for weeks Richey said. "The depth of the channel is the lifeblood of not only our community, but to 11 percent of the country's fuel production," said Jefferson County Judge Carl Griffith. Nederland Mayor Dick Nugent said today the city was immediately lifting its boil-water notice for its residents. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality testing found the water safe and the city's water treatment plant no longer is running off generators. "It would probably be a good idea to flush your lines before drinking it," Nugent advised. Port Neches and Groves residents should still boil their water before drinking because their plants are still running off generator power, said Groves Mayor Brad Bailey. Port Arthur officials still are surveying the damage from "Rita" and today estimated between 600 to 700 homes in the city, including Sabine Pass, are uninhabitable. With power returning to the city, Port Arthur is following the lead of other area cities and waiving the permit process for electrical work to reconnect homes to power lines.

London, Oct 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: The daylight restriction for vessels at Lake Charles has been lifted and traffic is now allowed 24 hours a day. The Pilot boat, however, is still restricted to daylight hours only due to the large amount of debris in the waterway. Pilots will still board vessels 24 hours a day, but this must be done by alternate means (such as helicopter). A draft restriction of 40ft draft is now in place. The draft restriction at Conoco/Citgo Clifton Ridge is 35ft alongside the dock. Terminals expect to begin accepting crude deliveries today. Conditions in the city of Lake Charles are improving and power is slowly being restored.

London, Oct 12 -- A press release from Safeco insurance, dated today, states: Safeco announced estimated after-tax catastrophe losses from Hurricane "Rita" of \$27 million, or \$0.21 per diluted share. Pretax catastrophe losses from the storm are estimated at \$42 million. These figures represent estimated losses both from claims received through Oct 9, 2005 and from future expected claims from policyholders with hurricane damage. Safeco does not anticipate reimbursement from the company's property catastrophe reinsurance program for losses related to Hurricane "Rita." Safeco estimated losses for Hurricane "Rita" using its knowledge of severity and reporting patterns from past storms as well as data and assumptions specific to this catastrophe. Given the difficulty in accessing some areas and other

uncertainties affecting the estimation of losses, Safeco expects to refine its estimates and assumptions related to Hurricane "Rita" and as these uncertainties are resolved. The company will announce its third-quarter financial results on Oct 18

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated Oct 12, states: Transocean Inc's damage assessments of the moored drill platforms Transocean Marianas and Deepsea Nautilus, which sustained damage during the recent hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, are complete, and an estimate of repair time has been made for each unit. The company reported on Sep 27 that Transocean Marianas was forced off its drilling location during hurricane "Rita", causing damage to the rig's mooring system. Further investigation also revealed damage to the unit's thrusters mounted beneath its hull and some hull damage, which caused the partial flooding of one column. Transocean Marianas is scheduled to enter a shipyard in Brownsville, Texas, as early as this week where repairs to the unit are anticipated to take from three to four months. The company expects the rig to return to service in the first quarter of 2006. The company reported on Aug 31 that Deepwater Nautilus sustained damage to its mooring system and lost approximately 3,200 ft of marine riser and a portion of its subsea well control system during hurricane "Katrina". The rig sustained additional damage, primarily to thrusters mounted beneath its hull, when it was grounded following the failure of a tow line used by a vessel engaged in towing the rig to a location away from the projected path of hurricane "Rita". Deepwater Nautilus is expected to mobilize over the next week to a location in the Gulf of Mexico to attempt to retrieve the portion of its subsea well control system lost during hurricane "Katrina". Assuming the subsea equipment is retrieved and is functional, the rig is expected to use a pre-laid mooring system to carry out drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico while awaiting the eventual replacement of damaged mooring system components with items currently on order. The company expects the rig to experience approximately 30 days of out-of-service time during four quarter 2005, with approximately 60 days of additional out-of-service time required during the first half of 2006 to complete all repairs to the rig. The marine riser lost during hurricane "Katrina" has been replaced.

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated Oct 12, states: Lake Charles Pilots have removed the daylight-only restriction for the Bar Channel. Ships are now being moved around the clock, with the normal draft restriction of 40 feet or less.

HURRICANE "STAN"

London, Oct 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: A rescue operation is under way in Central America and southern Mexico, where mudslides

caused by a tropical storm have killed at least 160 people. The emergency services are continuing to find buried bodies as they reach more isolated villages. Although Tropical Storm "Stan" has passed, heavy rain is still falling and river levels are dangerously high. The worst affected countries, El Salvador and Guatemala, are struggling to evacuate everyone at risk. Shelters in both countries are holding thousands of people, while road links have been cut off. "The emergency is bigger than the rescue capacity, we have floods everywhere, bridges about to collapse, landslides and dozens of roads blocked by mudslides," a spokesman for the Salvadoran Red Cross said. In Mexico, reports are now coming in that dozens of people are missing. Across the region, mountain villages and urban shanty towns were ill-defended against the tide of water and mud. Thousands of Salvadorans have fled their homes to seek shelter. The death toll so far has been put at 79 in Guatemala and 62 in El Salvador. At least 19 deaths have been reported across Mexico, Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica. (See issue of Oct 7.)

Tecpan, Oct 6 -- A huge mudslide in a Guatemalan lakeside town popular with tourists killed 40 people after rains and flash floods from hurricane "Stan" devastated Central America and southern Mexico. The latest tragedy was at Santiago Atitlan, a popular destination for US and European visitors in Guatemala's Maya Indian highlands, the government said today. With the new deaths, 210 people have now been killed in floods and mudslides in Central America and southern Mexico in the last few days in the wake of "Stan." Benedicto Giron, spokesman for the civil protection agency, said he did not know how many people were missing in Santiago Atitlan, but rescue workers told Guatemalan radio that up to 800 people might be unaccounted for. Santiago Atitlan is an indigenous town that sits on Lake Atitlan, a collapsed volcanic cone filled with turquoise water. Rain-sodden hills collapsed throughout the region, burying mostly poor peasants. Many of the victims lived in flimsy wooden and tin shacks. An unknown number of foreigners were trapped at the resort of Panajachel, also on Lake Atitlan. "The area was cut off by mudslides. We understand there are a good number of tourists there," Defence Minister Carlos Aldana said at an airfield in Guatemala City. Few rescue workers had been able to reach the area, however, and communication was still cut off. Guatemala confirmed 119 deaths and said the toll would surely rise. There were at least 65 dead in El Salvador, 13 in Mexico, 10 in Nicaragua and three in Honduras. Troops across Central America and southern Mexico tried to reach flooded areas with drinking water, food and medical kits but relentless rains and washed out roads made it difficult. "It's the weather that is preventing us from doing a more-effective job,"

Mexican President Vicente Fox said. Meteorologists predicted the rains would continue for the rest of the week. The flooding came from storms sparked by hurricane "Stan," which smashed into Mexico from the Atlantic earlier this week. The storm quickly weakened but several days of rains swelled normally slow rivers into thundering, brown torrents that swept away bridges, houses, roads and trees across the region. Dozens of fishing villages on Guatemala's Pacific coast were cut off by flooding, and another potentially deadly mudslide was reported on Thursday at the Tacumulco volcano near the Mexico border. Around 2,500 homes were destroyed in Mexico's bustling southern city of Tapachula, on the border with Guatemala. Entire neighbourhoods were deep in water and families spent the night on roofs, waiting to be rescued. On Tapachula's outskirts, residents and workers picked at a pile of mud with shovels, looking for the bodies of three neighbours buried overnight when a hillside collapsed. -- Reuters.

London, Oct 8 -- The BBC reported: Rescuers are continuing their search for hundreds of people missing after mudslides, caused by hurricane "Stan", hit Central America and Mexico. The death toll in Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and southern Mexico has reached 254, with fears that it will rise further. The Guatemalan president wants congress to declare a state of emergency. Entire villages have been completely wiped out by landslides and flash floods. Known death toll: Guatemala 156, El Salvador 65, Mexico 17, Nicaragua 10, Honduras four, Costa Rica two. Across the region, an unknown number of people remain trapped in their houses, with some 200,000 people forced to flee their homes. More rain, blocked roads and collapsed bridges have been hampering rescue efforts. The country's civil protection agency said 50 bodies were recovered from a town on the edge of Santiago Atitlan in the Mayan highlands, popular with Western visitors. Reports in the local media say many people are still missing in the town after a mudslide. Outside emergency teams only reached the town yesterday and locals said they feared dozens more had died, trapped under the mud. In Quezaltenango, people are still trapped in what remains of their homes as flood waters have reached up to two metres high. Mexico was also struck by the weather system, which has killed at least 17 people and caused at least 30 rivers to burst their banks. The town of Tapachula, near the Guatemalan border, was flooded and badly damaged.

London, Oct 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: About 1,400 people have reportedly been buried alive by a mudslide in the central American country of Guatemala. The tragedy was announced by a fire brigade spokesman, who said it happened in a highland village. The mudslide was

caused by torrential rain from hurricane "Stan". The mud that buried the village residents was 12 metres thick in places. Large swathes of land in Central America and Mexico have been flooded and dozens of mountain villages hit by mudslides.

London, Oct 9 -- The BBC reports today: Rescuers are still not able to reach at least 90 Guatemalan villages cut off by mudslides after tropical storm "Stan". At least 508 people are confirmed dead, but officials warn another 1,400 could have died in two villages in the worst affected area, around Lake Atitlan. Hundreds of rescue workers have been digging through congealed mud in heavy rain in a search for victims. "Stan" has claimed 100 more lives across Central America and southern Mexico. After Guatemala, El Salvador has suffered greatest loss of life, with 67 confirmed deaths. Emergency workers in Guatemala have been struggling to reach many isolated communities after mudslides swept away roads and bridges. Continuing torrential rain since the tropical storm hit the region on Tuesday brings the threat of fresh landslides, even as the search for victims goes on.

London, Oct 12 -- A press report, dated Oct 11, states: The death toll from devastating mudslides in Guatemala topped 2,000, as rescuers called off their search for hundreds of people buried for six days under solidifying mud. The decision brought the death toll from the mudslide and accompanying heavy rains and flooding to 2,052 in Guatemala alone. Some 652 people had previously been confirmed dead in Guatemala, and 1,400 had been listed as missing. Forty-two others were killed in Mexico, 72 in El Salvador and 11 in Nicaragua. Guatemalan and Spanish firefighters had little hope of finding survivors as they searched with sniffer dogs after a mudslide on the San Lucas volcano, triggered by the relentless rains unleashed by Tropical Storm "Stan", hit the towns of Panabaj and Tzanchaj. Panabaj was declared an "area of high (health) risk" by the Guatemalan Red Cross, meaning the town was off-limits to everybody, including its inhabitants, and that its surroundings were to be evacuated, a spokesman told AFP. Several towns were "destroyed" and another 14 were flooded in the southwest, near the Pacific coast, according to Santo Domingo Mayor Mario Perez. Guatemala's President Oscar Berger has urged the international community to help his nation of 11.2 million people, and several countries -- including Canada, Cuba, France, Japan, Mexico and Spain -- have pledged assistance. Vice President Eduardo Stein said the country needed 21.5 million dollars in emergency funds to provide food, blankets and medicine to an estimated 3.5 million people affected by the storm. The damage is estimated at 800 million dollars. The United Nations said it was launching a US\$22-million flash appeal to assist victims in Guatemala.

The US military sent a humanitarian assistance team of 58 over the weekend and eight helicopters to deliver supplies, while US General Bantz Craddock, commander of the Miami-based US Southern Command, arrived in Guatemala on yesterday to help coordinate relief efforts. Some 200 doctors from Cuba also travelled to Guatemala over the weekend to help with the emergency effort. Meanwhile, in southeastern Mexico, hundreds of farming communities face months of possible food shortages and the loss of entire crops. Mexican authorities have launched a vaccination drive amid an outbreak of dengue fever in the storm zone. Mexican President Vicente Fox estimated that rebuilding broken bridges, homes and other infrastructure in his country would cost US\$1.8 billion.

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated Oct 12, states: Authorities reaching new communities previously cut-off by flood waters raised the number of Guatemalans whose homes have been damaged, destroyed or threatened by new rainfall to 200,000 -- but the official death toll held steady at 652. Emergency response teams were able to assess the damage to isolated villages deep in the mountains of San Marcos province, near the border with Mexico, for the first time yesterday -- nearly a week after relentless rain triggered flooding and mudslides. Agriculture Secretary Alvaro Aguilar said in an interview that officials had now reached 95 percent of the 515 estimated communities across Guatemala hit by flooding. The death toll from landslides and flooding stands at 652, but the number of missing whose bodies may never be recovered has risen to nearly 600, meaning more than 1,200 people may have been killed nationwide. Another 133 people died in El Salvador, Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras due to the heavy rains, but nowhere was the devastation more widespread than Guatemala. Some 120,000 residents continue to live in shelters after flooding forced them to flee their homes. In all, 200,000 people were considered "directly affected" by heavy rains, meaning that their homes were damaged, destroyed or rendered temporarily uninhabitable because of the threat of flooding from new rains, said Hugo Hernandez, director of the disaster response agency. A massive mudslide in Panabaj, close to Santiago Atitlan, about 140km west of Guatemala City, buried a total of around 400 people, President Oscar Berger said during a visit to the now-hidden hamlet on the shores of Lake Atitlan. A second horrific mudslide occurred further to the west in San Marcos province, where at least 80 people who sought shelter from heavy rains in an evangelical meeting hall in the town of Tacana were buried by a river of mud. Authorities in those areas and elsewhere have begun abandoning efforts to recover bodies and turn to

international agencies to help feed, clothe and treat tens of thousands of residents who survived -- but lost everything. Berger said the government would provide land elsewhere to families looking to resettle and that trucks were bringing in tin roofing to build temporary shelters, but the town of Panabaj would be abandoned forever. Guatemala has issued an urgent call to the UN seeking US\$21.5 million in aid.

NEW ZEALAND

Wellington, Oct 9 -- A local press report, dated today, states: Lightning, thunder, rain and wind gusts of up to 140km/h caused widespread havoc across Auckland yesterday, felling trees, damaging boats and cutting power to more than 17,000 homes. General cargo Spirit of Resolution (3850 gt, built 1997) crashed into the old Mangere Bridge after being caught by a wind gust while being moved by tug to deeper water causing structural damage to the bridge and vessel. There were no reports of injuries and, just an hour-and-a-half later, tug Tika was used to prise the vessel free. The vessel had been heading out, although the Manukau bar was reportedly closed to traffic. Auckland Harbourmaster John Lee-Richards said there would be an investigation into the accident. "There's considerable damage. The vessel will require repairs before going anywhere." Shortly after noon, flashes of lightning struck Auckland's North Shore, cutting power and traffic lights, causing delays on several roads. Some homes in Wellsford were still without power at 2100. A helicopter was forced to make an emergency landing in Mairangi Bay, with witnesses reporting a flash of lightning just before the pilot elected to land his machine in the Windsor Park car park. Winds of up to 140km/h caused boats in the Waitemata and Manukau harbours to break free of their moorings. There were also reports of several people suffering minor injuries from flying debris, including a woman hit on the head by a signpost in Browns Bay. At Waiheke Island, a yacht carrying eight people was blown on to rocks at around 1400. The Fire Service said it was kept busy with about 90 separate incidents, which included securing loose cladding on houses in central Auckland and removing trees from roads. Auckland International Airport also reported that 100km/h wind gusts led to delays, but a spokesman said they did not have to cancel or re-route flights. MetService said the bad weather was felt across much of the North Island, after a low swept up the South Island from Antarctica. Known as the equinoctial gales, or the "gales of the Antarctic dawn", they were hitting Auckland hardest. The gales began last weekend and moved down the country, bringing snow to the Desert Rd. St Arnaud at Nelson Lakes region reported unseasonal snow. There were also reports of heavy snow, up to

15cm, in the South Island's Arthurs Pass, Lewis Pass and Porters Pass. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NORWAY

London, Oct 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: The cost of storms and flooding in the Bergen area of Norway's west coast between September 14-16, is nearly twice what was first expected. Material damage from the storms and subsequent flooding and landslides is now expected to come to nearly NOK 200 million (US\$30.3 million), according to calculations by the Norwegian Financial Services Association (FNH). "As we get a better overview we see that the extent of damage is far greater than we originally anticipated," FNH information chief Stein Haakonsen told newspaper Bergens Tidende. The overview is still not complete. The three major insurance companies Vesta, Gjensidige and If have received a total of 750 damage claims, while the Norwegian Natural Perils Pool estimates that the number of claims is currently over 800.

TROPICAL STORM "TAMMY"

London, Oct 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Tammy" flooded homes and roads in south-east Georgia and dumped heavy rain in the region today before weakening to a depression. In Glynn County, 60 miles south of Savannah, several dozen homes had flooding and streets had up to three feet of standing water this morning, said Richard Strickland, the county's emergency management director. "The ground was already soaked, on top of what we got from Tropical Storm "Tammy"," said Strickland, who said the county had received about 15 inches of rain over the past four days. A wind gust of 46 mph hit St. Simons Island, Ga., where "Tammy" dropped more than six inches of rain before moving inland, said National Weather Service meteorologist Matt Zibura. Camden County, on the coast just north of the Florida state line, was "just a wet, muddy mess," but most flooding had subsided, said Emergency Management Director Mark Crews. The storm toppled trees and power lines, which left more than 16,500 utility customers without power from Savannah to the south, but officials reported mostly mild damage. Forecasters expected "Tammy" to dissipate soon, but not before also dumping three to five inches of rain in eastern South Carolina and south-eastern North Carolina. By late morning, "Tammy" was near Ozark, Ala., moving west near 12 mph. Its winds were blowing at about 35 mph, below the tropical storm threshold of 39 mph. Storm warnings were dropped for the coast, but heavy rain and isolated tornadoes were possible in Georgia and the Carolinas.

TROPICAL STORM "VINCE"

London, Oct 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Vince"

formed today in the far eastern Atlantic, making this hurricane season the second busiest on record, forecasters said. The 20th named storm of the season formed between the Azores and the Canary Islands in waters that are cooler than what is typically needed for a tropical storm, said Chris Sisko, a meteorologist at the National Hurricane Centre in Miami. But the storm, which had top sustained winds of about 50 mph, posed no threat to land. That's because it wasn't expected to survive for long due to the cooler waters and other weather systems in the area, Sisko said. Water temperatures are about 73 to 75 degrees, below the 80 degrees usually needed for a tropical storm. "Vince" is a very odd one," he said. At 1100, EDT, "Vince's" centre was located about 515 miles east-southeast of the Azores and about 140 miles northwest of the Madeira Islands. It was moving northeast at about 5 mph.

London, Oct 10 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Vince" was located near lat 34.8N, long 16.6W. The position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles and the present movement is toward the east-northeast or 70 degs at 10 knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 994 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 50 knots with gusts to 60 knots. The radius of 50 knot winds: 30 nautical miles in the north-east, south-east and south-west quadrants and zero nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. The radius of 34 knot winds: 70 nautical miles in the north-east, south-east and south-west quadrants and 50 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. By 0600, UTC, Oct 11, tropical storm "Vince" is predicted to have dissipated.

TYPHOON "KIROGI"

London, Oct 11 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Kirogi" was located near lat 21.0N, long 133.0E, approximately 420 nautical miles south-southeast of Okinawa, and has tracked south-southwestward, or 210 degs, at four knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. The present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds: 25 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants and 20 nautical miles in the south-west and north-west quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 60 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants and 55 nautical miles in the south-west and north-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 20 feet. At 0600, UTC, Oct 12, the centre is predicted to be near lat 20.8N, long 132.2E, with maximum sustained winds of 70 knots and gusts to 85 knots.

London, Oct 12 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of Typhoon "Kirogi" was located near lat 20.7N, long 132.2E, approximately 410 nautical miles south-east of Okinawa and has tracked northwestward, or 305 degs, at three knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 115 knots with gusts to 140 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 20 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 80 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, 115 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant and 90 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. The maximum significant wave height is 35 feet. At 0600, UTC, Oct 13, the centre is predicted to be near lat 22.4N, long 131.6E, with maximum sustained winds of 100 knots and gusts to 125 knots.

London, Oct 13 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Kirogi" was located near lat 21.5N, long 131.7E, approximately 355 nautical miles south-east of Okinawa, and has moved northward, or 360 degs, at two knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and based on the on eye being fixed by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 90 knots, with gusts to 110 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 20 nautical miles in the north-east, south-east and north-west quadrants and 25 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant. Radius of 34 knot winds: 90 nautical miles in the north-east, south-east and north-west quadrants and 110 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant. The maximum significant wave height is 46 feet. At 0600, UTC, Oct 14, the centre is predicted to be near lat 22.7N, long 131.8E, with maximum sustained winds of 85 knots and gusts to 105 knots.

TYPHOON "LONGWANG"

London, Oct 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: The death toll caused by mountain torrents that hit an armed police unit in east China's Fujian Province Sunday night (Oct 2) rose to 80 yesterday, rescuers said. Among the 57 people saved, 39 were wounded and hospitalized. Some of them have recovered. Rescuers are still searching for the 5 people who remain missing, the sources said. Servicemen, policemen and local residents have been engaged in the rescue work over the past five days and have recovered 80 bodies. The sudden downpour brought by Typhoon "Longwang" hit the unit stationed in Fuzhou, capital of Fujian Province, Sunday night, when mountain torrents dashed against two houses and washed away people inside. The cause of the disaster is under investigation, the sources said.

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Longwang" to hit China has caused millions of US dollars in damage to the farming and husbandry industries in eastern coastal province of Fujian, according to the provincial statistics. "Longwang" brought damages to at least 111,500 hectares of cropland and killed approximately 530,000 domestic livestock, creating losses of some 725 million yuan, or about 90 million US dollars. "Longwang," which landed in Fujian Province on the night of Oct 2, ravaged the province for 10 hours, dilapidating an estimated 5,500 houses and affecting the lives of 3.71 million people. The province is now busily restoring order and rehabilitating local economy, officials said.

TYPHOON "NABI"

Busan, Oct 11 -- Permanent repairs of the general cargo Long Xuyen completed at Kang Nam Shipyard Corporation, Busan, Oct 8 and the vessel sailed from Busan bound for Ulsan, Oct 10 for loading cargo. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 12 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Towns and villages in Pembrokeshire and in Gwynedd have been hit by flooding as heavy rain sweeps across Wales. At the peak of the flooding tonight, fire crews dealt with more than 50 incidents in Pembrokeshire alone. One west Wales school affected by the flooding has announced that it will be closed tomorrow while the clear up continues. The Environment Agency issued two flood warnings and six flood watches across Wales tonight. Pembrokeshire County Council said 100 workers were out assisting residents sandbag their properties at various locations. Some of the worst affected areas in Pembrokeshire include Newport and Dina Cross, where properties are being pumped out by the fire service. In Haverfordwest floodwater rose up to one-and-a-half feet in parts of the town centre and, in Broad Haven, the local school will be closed tomorrow as work continues to clear the school grounds of water. However, there are fears that Haverfordwest and Solva could face further flooding as high tide approaches around midnight. The Environment Agency has issued flood warnings for both locations. Many side roads around Maenclochog, Llys Y Fran and Llandissilio were also impassable due to flood water from surrounding fields. In north Wales, the fire service said 20 properties were affected by flooding at Groeslon, near Caernarfon and the A487 was closed between Llanwnda and Groeslon. Firefighters have also been working to pump flood water away from houses in Caernarfon, Llanllyfni and Pwllheli, and many residents have been provided with sandbags.

UNITED STATES

London, Oct 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of

people were forced to evacuate their homes after more than a day and a half of drenching rain washed out roads and flooded homes in New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. At least three deaths were blamed on the storm. New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch declared a state of emergency yesterday and called in 500 National Guard members to assist in relief efforts. Transportation Commissioner Carol Murray said police and highway crews blocked damaged roads before dawn, a move that likely prevented injuries. "A quick assessment is we're probably looking at months, not weeks" to make repairs, she said. The most severe flooding in New Hampshire was in Keene, where some major roads were under as much as 4 to 6 feet of water, fire officials said. About 500 people were evacuated, and about 150 were staying at a shelter in the city's recreation centre. Eight-foot-high flood waters from the Ramapo River caused officials in New Jersey's Bergen County to evacuate about 30 residents Saturday night and early yesterday, Mayor John Szabo said. Rain also knocked out electricity to as many as 6,000 utility customers across the state.

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Residents assessed the damage wrought by the weekend's deadly floods across the Northeast, but the swollen rivers barely had a chance to recede today as more rain was forecast. At least 10 people died in the heavy downpours and about a half-dozen people remained unaccounted for, including a couple whose house was washed away by a surge of water over Warren Lake dam in Alstead. Floods tore up highways, tossed vehicles like toys, and knocked out electricity from North Carolina to Maine.

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Residents began assessing the damage left by deadly flooding that tore up highways, swept away houses and tossed boulders and vehicles around like toys. More than a dozen people remained unaccounted-for in hardhit south-west New Hampshire. At least 10 people died in the heavy weekend downpours or in rain-related traffic accidents from Pennsylvania to Maine. About 1,000 New Hampshire residents fled their homes in what the governor called the worst flooding in a quarter century. State transportation Commissioner Carol Murray estimated it will take months to repair the damage, even as meteorologists cautioned that more rain was coming this week. Three deaths were confirmed in New Hampshire and a fourth was feared, and Cheshire County Sheriff Richard Foote said 14 people remained unaccounted-for. The most severe flooding in the state was in and around Keene, where some major roads were under as much as 4 to 6 feet of water, officials said. The city

had no electricity and reverberated with the sounds of generators and pumps yesterday when Gov. John Lynch visited. Floodwaters tore up pavement and dug gullies 12 ft deep and 20 ft wide for miles. The destruction was one of numerous obstacles to restoring power and telephone service. "Five miles of utility poles were taken out along Route 123 in Alstead and there's no road left. So where do we put the poles?" asked David Graves of National Grid, which owns the local power utility. Lynch has asked for a federal disaster declaration, which would make the state eligible for federal reconstruction help. Flood watches were announced for several locations until tomorrow morning.

London, Oct 12 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The first massive snowstorm of Colorado's winter season has dumped over 500 millimetres of snow in some areas, causing widespread disruption. One woman has been reported dead after a tree limb broke and fell on her during the storm, while a second man was found safe in his home after he spent a night lost in the blizzard. The 74 year-old man had been out snowshoeing with his son in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains near Denver when he lost his way. Furthermore, large stretches of road throughout the state have been rendered impassable, leaving around 70 drivers stranded in Red Cross shelters after car parks at service stations overflowed. Meanwhile, Tom Henley of Xcel Energy, told the Associated Press that around 50,000 homes and businesses were left without electricity after transformers failed and power lines snapped. A number of schools in the Denver area also remained closed due to the power cuts. Denver International Airport also felt the implications of the storm, with all flights grounded for a short time and hundreds of flights delayed.

VIETNAM

London, Oct 12 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Floods in Vietnam's southern Mekong Delta had killed 39 local people as of yesterday afternoon, according to local newspaper Saigon Liberation today. An Giang province has suffered the biggest human loss with 21 people drowned, respectively followed by provinces of Long An and Dong Thap with 10 and 8 victims, since the beginning of the flooding season in mid-August. Thirteen people in the country's central region have been killed or left missing, and nine others injured due to floods caused by a tropical low pressure late last week. The floods also inundated nearly 45,000 houses, damaged over 21,500 hectares of rice and subsidiary crops, and nearly 1,500 hectares of aquatic ponds, causing property losses of roughly 245 billion Vietnamese dong (nearly US\$15.5 million).

Earthquakes



ANDAMAN ISLANDS

New Delhi, Oct 11 -- A tremor measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale shook India's Andaman islands today, but there were no reports of any damage or injury, a meteorological official said. "We felt the shock at 0908 hrs (0338, UTC). It was of 5.5 magnitude and the epicentre was in the South Andaman Sea," K.K. Das, assistant meteorologist told Reuters from Port Blair, capital of the Andaman and Nicobar islands. He said the epicentre was 100 km north-west of Port Blair. -- Reuters.

CENTRAL AMERICA

London, Oct 8 -- A moderate earthquake rocked Central America yesterday, causing the collapse of a rain-damaged highway bridge in Guatemala and sending thousands of frightened Salvadoran residents into the streets. There were no immediate reports of other damage or injuries from the preliminary-magnitude 5.8 quake in either of the two countries, where nearly 230 people have died during five days of floods and landslides. The earthquake was centred 35 miles south-west of San Salvador, just offshore, according to the U.S. Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colo.

INDONESIA

London, Oct 9 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A tectonic quake measuring 5.8 on the Richter Scale rocked Aceh Singkil District, Aceh Province of Indonesia, at about 1130, local time, today. The tremor was also felt in Gunung Sitoli, Nias and Sibolga, North Sumatra, said official news agency Antara. An official of the Meteorological and Geophysics Office for First Territory of North Simatra, Hartono, said the epicentre of the quake was in Sumatra Island's western coast or about 15 km from Aceh Singkil.

London, Oct 11 -- An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale rattled Jakarta yesterday, but no damage or casualties were reported, according to Indonesian Meteorology and Geophysics Agency. The earthquake occurred at around 1755, local time, and was centred 33 kilometres beneath the floor of the Sunda Strait, between Sumatra and Java islands, the agency said. The epicentre was some 190 kilometres south-west of Jakarta, it added.

London, Oct 12 -- A strong earthquake occurred at 1505, UTC, yesterday. The magnitude 6.0 event has been located in Northern Sumatra.

PAKISTAN

London, Oct 8 -- A strong earthquake has struck parts of Pakistan, northern India and Afghanistan, causing panicked residents to pour out into the streets. In Islamabad, buildings shook and walls swayed for about a minute shortly before 0900 hrs. Residents in the Afghan capital, Kabul, and in the Indian capital, Delhi, are also reported to have felt the tremor. The US Geological Survey said the quake had a magnitude of at least 7.6 and the epicentre was north-east of Islamabad. Japan's Meteorological Agency put the magnitude at 7.8. "We can say that it was one of the strongest earthquakes [ever] felt in Islamabad," Mohammad Hanif, an official at the Pakistan Meteorological Department, told the Reuters news agency. Police in the Pakistani city of Lahore told the Associated Press news agency that at least eight people were injured and four shops were damaged. Part of a 19-storey building collapsed in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, reports say.

London, Oct 9 -- The BBC reports today: Pakistan said more than 18,000 have been killed by Saturday's powerful earthquake, which also hit northern India and Afghanistan. The 7.6-magnitude quake, with an epicentre 80km (50 miles) north-east of Islamabad, flattened entire villages. Another 40,000 people are believed to be injured, said military spokesman Major-General Shaukat Sultan. The earthquake, which hit at 0350 UTC, Oct 8, was felt as far away as the Afghan capital, Kabul, and India's capital, Delhi. Several aftershocks followed. It is thought to be the strongest earthquake to hit the region in a century. In one incident, around 250 children were said to have died when two schools collapsed in the North-West Frontier Province's Mansehra district. About 200 soldiers are also thought to have been killed by landslides and falling debris. The earthquake's epicentre was close to Muzafferabad, the capital of Kashmir. Rescue teams have reportedly been airlifted into the city. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said almost 50% of all homes in the area had been destroyed. Landslides have blocked all access roads to the city, where there is no electricity and telephones. Rescuers worked through the night in the ruins of the upmarket Margala Towers residential complex in Islamabad. Heavy diggers tugged huge chunks of rubble off a mound of collapsed, compacted apartment floors. More than 20 bodies had been found by this morning and about 90 people were pulled alive from the rubble. The tower blocks were the only buildings to collapse in Islamabad. Indian officials reported nearly 300 deaths in Indian-administered Kashmir, among them 15 soldiers. The town of Uri, close to the Line of Control that separates divided Kashmir, was worst hit, with 104 dead. The administration is working overtime to restore essential supplies like electricity and water disrupted by the earthquake.

London, Oct 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: The World Bank has offered \$US20 million to Pakistan to cope with the devastating earthquake that has killed over 19,000 people. World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz, who is on a visit to Tokyo, also urged international donors to coordinate efforts to help South Asian nations battered by the earthquake, rather than trying to compete over aid. The International Development Association (IDA) is the World Bank's main lending arm for poor countries. Mr Wolfowitz stressed that international donors should not get into a race to compete over aid. Many international donors have already offered rescue teams and aid to Pakistan. Japan, Britain, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates were among other countries dispatching immediate help.

Karachi, Oct 10 -- As per the press news the death toll following Saturday's massive earthquake rose to 35,000 on Sunday, with 30,000 victims in Azad Kashmir alone. The death toll in NWFP reached to 9,000 including 7,000 deaths in Hazara. At the Margalla Towers, Islamabad 25 deaths have been confirmed. Thousands of people trapped under the debris of collapsed building in AJK and NWFP districts. The worst hit place was Bagh, 40 Kilometres south-east of Muzafferabad, about 6,000 to 7,000 people are estimated to have died in the town and adjoining areas. Azad Kashmir has been severely affected by the earthquake. Out of a population of 2.4 million more than half is affected by the earthquake. Almost 70 percent of the buildings in Muzafferabad, capital of Azad Kashmir have been destroyed or damaged. Some 25 helicopters belonging to the Army Aviation, the Air Force and the crises management cells are engaged to shift the injured people to the hospitals of Murree, Abbotabad and other hospitals. These helicopters are in operation of taking relief workers and materials to the needy areas. The Azad Jammu and Kashmir and northern areas are still not accessible due to heavy landslides. Army engineers have started removing the landslides that have blocked the two main access roads to Muzafferabad via Abbotabad & Murree. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Karachi, Oct 11 -- As per the press news the death toll may exceed 100,000, with over 5 million homeless. According to experts assessments from the devastation the death figures have already reached more than fifty thousand, while dozens of small towns and villages have remained untouched by the relief workers more than 48 hours after the 7.6 magnitude quake wiped away entire villages and buried victims under piles of debris. Rescuers searched frantically for survivors on Monday as the death toll may exceed 100,000 and officials said thousands more could be dead in the rubble. The capital of Azad Kashmir is no more a city of the living. It is almost a graveyard now. Bodies can be seen

everywhere, on roads, streets and under the debris of devastated buildings. People have to spend their nights under the open sky and some in their vehicles. There are no tents, no food and no drinking water. Thousands of people are still alive under the debris and fallen building structures. In Islamabad, European, Arab and Japanese nationals were among an estimated 45 people missing two days after the quake destroyed two apartment blocks. The Azad Kashmir capital Muzaffarabad and Bagh town to the south-east appeared to be the worst sufferers from Saturday morning's quake that also rocked other parts of Pakistan as well as neighbouring India and Afghanistan. The federal government has set up a federal relief commission for coordination of rescue and relief operations in the quake-affected areas of the NWFP and Azad Kashmir. Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates each donated \$100 million for relief of quake-affected people in Pakistan. The government is trying to get satellite imaging to assess the magnitude of the damage in unreachable areas in northern parts and AJK in order to get the aerial image of devastated areas to ascertain the magnitude of destruction caused by the earthquake especially in unreachable valleys of Neelum and Jhelum. The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) has announced an initial contribution of Rs 30 million in support of the earthquake relief being provided by the government and a further Rs 30 million donation towards the President's Emergency Relief Fund. AKDN helicopters have been put at the disposal of the authorities to assist in humanitarian efforts. Pakistan on Monday expressed its gratitude for the overwhelming and rapid response it received from the international community to its call for assistance in the relief efforts following the worst-ever earthquake that hit parts of the country on Saturday. More than 2,000 injured people have been evacuated to hospitals in Rawalpindi from the earthquake-hit areas of Azad Kashmir in the past two days. Most of the injured had multiple bone fractures and head injuries and were airlifted from Muzaffarabad, Rawalakot and Bagh, the worst affected districts of Azad Kashmir. A series of aftershocks continued to rock the twin cities of Islamabad-Rawalpindi and adjoining areas of Azad Kashmir and Hazara division on Monday. Mild tremors shook Islamabad and its surroundings, forcing residents to come out of their houses to nearby roads and parks for safety. No government rescue team has so far reached the Bagh district in Azad Jammu and Kashmir to rescue the survivors of Saturday's earthquake, the survivors themselves were digging mass graves for the burial of earthquake victims. Many bodies had become putrefied and emitting a foul smell. From aeroplane/helicopter the whole towns in northern Pakistan look

as if they have been carpet bombed. The military helicopter flew low over the areas worst hit to reveal the full scale of what Pakistan describes as its worst ever disaster. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Heavy rain and hail forced the cancellation of some relief flights to earthquake-stricken regions of Pakistan today as Officials estimated that the death toll would surpass 35,000. In the latest of a series of remarkable rescues, emergency workers in the northern town of Balakot pulled a teenage boy from the rubble, 78 hours after Saturday's (Oct 7) quake. Two survivors, a 55-year-old woman and her 75-year-old mother, also were pulled from the rubble of a 10-story apartment building in Islamabad, 80 hours after they were buried. They did not appear to have suffered serious injuries. A French search team yesterday rescued at least five children buried in a collapsed school in the northern town of Balakot, said Eric Supara, an official at the French Embassy in Islamabad. In Indian-controlled Kashmir, rescue workers today found the bodies of 60 road workers in a bus that was buried in a landslide during the quake, the army said. Earlier in the day, U.S. military helicopters, diverted from neighbouring Afghanistan, helped ferry wounded from the wrecked city of Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-ruled Kashmir. International rescue teams joined the search for finding survivors. Teams of Britons, Germans and Turks used high-tech cameras to scan under piles of concrete, steel and wood. Thousands of civilian volunteers, some carrying picks and shovels on the shoulders, walked north toward quake-hit towns. The worst-hit region was Kashmir. Bad weather compounded the misery in the region, with heavy rain and hail forcing some helicopters loaded with food and medicine to cancel or delay their flights. That official toll in Pakistan remained at around 20,000 people, but a senior army official close to the rescue operations said government officials were estimating that between 35,000 and 40,000 died. Indian army spokesman J.S. Juneja said his country's death toll had risen to 1,460 with the discovery of the road workers buried in the landslide. The U.S. Agency for International Development reported 33,180 dead in Pakistan, 865 dead in India and four dead in Afghanistan, citing its own, preliminary statistics. The U.N. World Food Program said the first deliveries of food for 240,000 people will reach victims late today. Simon Pluess, a spokesman for the agency, said the WFP was prepared to feed one million people for a month. U.N. officials also warned of a possible measles epidemic and the spread of waterborne diseases such as cholera and diarrhea, as the water and sanitation system is heavily damaged. "Measles could potentially become a serious problem," said Fadela Chaib, spokeswoman for the World Health Organization. Measles is

endemic in the region and just 60 percent of children, for whom the disease is often deadly, are protected. At least 90 percent coverage is needed to prevent an epidemic, the WHO said. About 10 trucks brought by Pakistani charities and volunteers drove into Muzaffarabad, where efforts by relief workers to distribute aid turned chaotic as residents scrambled for handouts of cooking oil, sugar, rice, blankets and tents. It was the first major influx of aid since the monster 7.6-magnitude quake struck, destroying most homes and all government buildings in the city, and leaving its 600,000 people without power or water. Most have spent three cold nights without shelter. Two or three police looked on helplessly as more than 200 people raided a stock of food arranged by relief workers at a soccer field near Muzaffarabad's centre -- one of six designated aid distribution points.

Karachi, Oct 12 -- An earthquake of moderate intensity jolted Sorab and its surrounding areas in the Kalat district, some 220 km south-east of Quetta city, in the Balochistan Province of Pakistan yesterday evening. It was observed for 10 seconds at 2030, local time. "No casualty or major damage was reported," a senior official of the local administration told local media. According to the Met office the intensity of the earthquake was recorded on the international Richter scale at 5.1. The epicentre could be in the Kerthar range of the Chaman fault line, the most quake prone area of Pakistan. Meanwhile, a large number of people, particularly those living in Karachi's southern parts, came out of their apartments and homes when a mild quake (4 on Richter Scale) hit the area at 0028, local time, today. The tremors frightened people in the Defence Housing Authority, Clifton and Seaview areas into leaving their homes. People living around the airport in flats also came out in panic. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Oct 12 -- Rain and hailstorms hampered rescue and relief work in quake-stricken areas on Tuesday as the government-estimated death toll from Saturday's disaster in Azad Kashmir and the NWFP mounted to 30,000. The government deployed thousands more army troops to join the relief work that seemed to be gaining momentum, after complaints by the sufferers about absence or slow arrival of help. Two more divisions and several brigades of the Pakistan Army have been moved to Azad Kashmir and Mansehra district to cope with the catastrophe. The number of casualties could go up further as rescue activities come into full swing in the far-flung and so far inaccessible villages of Azad Kashmir. About 2.5 million houses have been destroyed and the number of homeless people is in the region of 13-15 million. Three days after the disaster the people of this once-prosperous little town set deep in the hills of Azad

Kashmir have all but given up hope. The United Nations on Tuesday launched a \$272 million flash appeal for the earthquake victims. The appeal sought life-saving and early recovery activities for a six-month emergency phase in a remote region which provides enormous logistical difficulties with landslides cutting off many roads, allowing access only by foot or helicopter to areas where more than 80 per cent of buildings have been destroyed. Japan said on Tuesday that it would offer \$20 million and was ready to dispatch several transport helicopters and dozens of troops to assist with relief efforts in the disaster zone. More than 600 earthquake victims with multiple injuries were brought to different hospitals in Rawalpindi on Tuesday. The wounded, including women, children, youths and the elderly, were admitted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Military Hospital, Rawalpindi General Hospital (RGH), Holy Family Hospital, District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital, FID and Railways Hospital. Most of the injured were brought from Muzaffarabad, Bagh, Rawlakot, Balakot and Mansehra. The residents of the area reported that 90 per cent of the houses in the area had been razed and over 60 per cent of the people had lost their lives, mostly the schoolchildren. About 700 students were buried alive in three different schools. The federal government on Tuesday mobilized all electricity-related companies of Wapda and National Engineering Services of Pakistan to start damage assessment and restoration of power supply to Azad Kashmir. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: A strong aftershock shook northern Pakistan in the early hours of today, panicking jittery residents still numbed by the weekend's massive earthquake that claimed at least 23,000 lives. Pakistani seismologists said the quake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale struck at 0124, local time some 200 kilometres east of Peshawar and north of the capital Islamabad. There were no initial reports of any casualties or damage.

Karachi, Oct 13 -- The local press have reported that relief operations in earthquake-hit Azad Kashmir got into full gear yesterday with the help of US and German helicopters, but hundreds of thousands of survivors were still desperate for help facing a fifth night out in the cold. After torrential downpours on Tuesday (Oct 11), blue skies had cleared the way for more mercy flights to bring badly needed food and medicine, and take away the injured. A five-year-old girl today crawled free from a crumpled building here. An aftershock of moderate intensity was felt in Islamabad, Rawalpindi and other cities at 0124 hrs, today. It was also felt in Rawalpindi, Sialkot, Peshawar, Dir, Mansehra, Swat, and Azad Kashmir. Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri has said he will soon be

embarking on a tour of Arab countries to generate aid and donations for the West Bank. The Flash Appeal of \$272 million issued by the United Nations on Tuesday was only the initial appeal and it would be revised and upgraded as need arises, a UN official said yesterday. People are wondering as to where all the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have vanished after the earthquake disaster that hit the country on October 8. In different gatherings here in the capital city, people are talking about the missing NGOs which, they say, have been seen very active until a day before the earthquake disaster in holding seminars and workshops in five-star luxury hotels on various issues. There was no good news at the sandwiched multi-storey Margalla Towers building site yesterday. Only dead bodies and limbs were recovered from the mountain of debris, but the British rescuers at work there have not lost hope. Men and gigantic machines of the army engineering Corps, were at work from dawn to dusk, searching and digging through tons of concrete rubble for survivors. One body of an aged man was recovered around noon and then another body of a young woman was recovered late in the evening. Some human limbs were also recovered during the day. The death toll in the devastating earthquake in the NWFP came close to 10,000 amid warning from officials that the figure may rise as roads are being re-opened and more bodies are retrieved from rubbles of buildings. An official of the crisis management centre at the Home Department in Peshawar said the total number of confirmed deaths yesterday was 9,840 while the number of injured people was 15,321. Relief operations in the earthquake devastated areas got streamlined yesterday after days of frustration as communications improved with the reopening of roads and more helicopters joining the relief effort. The Pakistan Air Force established a forward base at Muzaffarabad airport where its C-130 cargo planes airdropped relief goods for onward delivery to remote villages by land where aid had not reached even five days after the quake struck. ISPR Director-General Maj-Gen Shaukat Sultan has said that 20 per cent of the areas affected by the October 8 earthquake is still inaccessible and rescue and relief teams have reached 80 per cent of Azad Kashmir and the NWFP. He was briefing media-persons at the Chaklala Air Base where cargo planes carrying foreign relief goods and aid workers have been arriving. The Punjab government has announced Rs100 million for the President's Fund for the relief of earthquake affectees which is in addition to the Rs50 million it has already given to the Azad Kashmir and NWFP governments each. The shifting of relief goods from the city to upcountry for quake-hit victims has become expensive as goods transport operators have enhanced fares due to

what they claim is an increased demand and frequent raise in fuel prices. Most of the goods in the country are transported by road instead of government-run trains. The flow of donations from multinational companies, institutions, banks, associations and other organizations for relief and rehabilitation of earthquake victims continued yesterday. Sheikh Nahayan Bin Mabarak Al Nahayan, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Group, has announced a donation of Rs220 million towards the earthquake relief fund. With the government sponsored-relief activities appearing to be still at an initial stage in the earthquake-hit parts of the Frontier province, people rendered homeless are waiting for tents and drinking water more than anything else. Thousands of families rendered displaced because of the devastating tremors are forced to spend their lives in the open in the affected parts of the Mansehra, Battagram, Shangla and Abbottabad districts. Balakot, popular with tourists on their way to the picturesque Kaghan and Naran valleys in Mansehra district, has become a city of the dead after Saturday's earthquake and its aftershocks. The town presents a scene of total devastation where chaos and confusion reign with decomposing bodies buried under the collapsed structures. -- Lloyd's Agents.



ALASKA, UNITED STATES

Anchorage, Oct 11 -- Anchorage residents could see a cloud of steam over the weekend from a volcano 900 miles away -- one of three Alaska volcanoes showing signs of unrest. The three volcanoes, including two located on remote Aleutian islands distant from any population centres, are setting off frequent tremors and minor bursts of ash or steam, seismologists said today. Cleveland Volcano, 900 miles south-west of Anchorage, had a small eruption on Friday (Oct 7), said the Alaska Volcano Observatory, which monitors Alaska's more than 40 active volcanoes. Its ash plume rose to a height of nearly 15,000 feet (4.6 km) above sea level, observatory scientists said. A cloud of steam from the 5,676-foot volcano's peak was visible from Anchorage over the weekend. The volcano has had periodic but minor ash emissions and some debris flow caused by melted snow, said Dave Schneider, a U.S. Geological Survey volcanologist and acting scientist-in-charge at the Alaska Volcano Observatory. The other volcanoes showing unrest are 5,925-foot Tanaga Volcano and 11,070-foot Mount Spurr, 75 miles west of Anchorage. -- Reuters.

SANTA ANA, EL SALVADOR

London, Oct 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Authorities warned of another possible eruption by Santa Ana yesterday and widened the exclusion zone around the volcano from four to five kilometres. (See issue of Oct 7.)

TANAGA ISLAND, ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

London, Oct 9 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Alaska Volcano Observatory says the volcano on Tanaga Island began stirring this month with tiny earthquakes. Volcanologist Rick Wessels of the US Geological Survey says the tiny earthquakes are the first sign of volcanic unrest since the observatory wired the volcano's cone with a network of sensors two years ago. The volcano last erupted in 1914.

Political & Civil Unrest**AFGHANISTAN**

London, Oct 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A suspected Taliban suicide attacker rammed a car laden with explosives into an armored vehicle carrying British government officials today in southern Afghanistan, wounding four of them, a US-led coalition commander said. The assault, coming three weeks after landmark legislative elections, underscored the terrorist threat still facing Afghanistan as it slowly moves toward democracy. It also added to fears that insurgents here are copying tactics used in Iraq. The four Britons were travelling in an armored Land Cruiser in Kandahar city, a former stronghold of the Taliban, when they were attacked by a suicide bomber in a Toyota Corolla, said Col. Steve Bowes, a Canadian commander with the coalition. The Britons' vehicle burned. Kandahar Gov. Asadullah Khalid said the four were customs officials from London touring the region ahead of the launch of a British government-sponsored project. Two of the officials were in serious condition, while the other two were lightly wounded, Khalid said. All were taken to the hospital. The assailant's dismembered body was recovered and he appeared to be Afghan, Khalid said. "We have an intelligence report that the attacker was a member of the Taliban," the governor added. It was the third suicide attack in Afghanistan in two weeks.

Kandahar, Oct 10 -- Two suicide explosions in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar today killed six people and wounded eight, officials said. They said a suicide bomber blew himself up in the city centre, killing a senior anti-Taliban commander and three others. Eight people were also hurt in the blast which was followed by a second

in which a suicide bomber died on the road leading to the airport when a bomb strapped to his body exploded prematurely, said Kandahar governor Asadullah Khalid. There were no other casualties, he said. "Both incidents were the work of suicide bombers of Taliban and al Qaeda," Khalid said. Among the victims killed in the first blast was a former senior factional commander, Agha Shah, Kandahar police chief Colonel Mohammad Hakim said. A Taliban commander, who identified himself as Sabir Momin, claimed responsibility for the first incident. There have now been four suicide attacks in less than a week in Kandahar. Yesterday, four British government officials on a visit to help improve customs services in the restive province were wounded in a suicide attack close to the city centre. -- Reuters.

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Suspected Taliban rebels ambushed a police convoy in southern Afghanistan and killed 19 officers, the deadliest attack ever on the fledgling police force, officials said today. The convoy of 150 police was attacked late yesterday while driving on a dirt road along the side of a mountain in Helmand province, said Interior Ministry spokesman Yusuf Stanikzai. Dozens of insurgents opened fire on the convoy, sparking a gunbattle that lasted until early today before the militants fled into the mountains, he said. Among the 19 dead was Helmand's deputy police chief, Stanikzai said. Four police officers were wounded and four police vehicles were destroyed. Security forces rushed reinforcements into the area and have secured the region, the spokesman said. Another Interior Ministry official, Dad Mohammed Rasa, said the attack was "the deadliest ever on the police," which was set up soon after U.S.-led forces ousted the Taliban from power in 2001.

BURUNDI

Bujumbura, Oct 9 -- Burundian soldiers killed eight fighters from a hardline Hutu rebel group in clashes west of the capital Bujumbura, the army said today. Four fighters of the Forces for National Liberation (FNL) were killed in Rukaramu locality yesterday when army soldiers fired back at a group of FNL fighters who attacked a military base, army spokesman Major Adolphe Manirakiza told Reuters. "There was a lot of exchange of fire and four soldiers were injured in the attack, but the army has seized five guns from rebels," he said. Manirakiza said four other rebels were killed in Muhuta and Mutambu districts in army raids. The FNL, which says it does not recognise the new government of President Pierre Nkurunziza, was not available for comment. Efforts to end 12 years of civil war suffered a blow last month when the hardline Hutu FNL formally rejected an offer of talks by the government, saying it did not recognise the new administration.

Nkurunziza last week told the FNL, the country's last remaining rebel organisation, to enter into talks with the government by the end of October or face "serious action". Nkurunziza's warning, made during a recent meeting with army and police officers and local government officials in northern Burundi, is the latest of several made over the years by authorities in Bujumbura. -- Reuters.

IRAQ

London, Oct 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Insurgents using suicide and roadside bombs killed at least 21 people, including a U.S. soldier, today in the latest of a series of attacks aimed at wrecking Iraq's constitutional referendum next week. The attacks came as Iraqis began picking up copies of the draft constitution that they will vote on Oct. 15 after the country's Shiite-led parliament ended a bitter dispute with Sunni Arabs about how the referendum will be conducted. Under U.S. and U.N. pressure, parliament yesterday reversed its last-minute electoral law changes, which would have ensured passage of the new constitution but which the United Nations called unfair. Sunni Arab leaders who had threatened a boycott because of the changes said they were satisfied with yesterday's reversal and are now mobilising to defeat the charter at the polls. But some warned they could still call a boycott to protest major U.S. offensives launched in the past week in western Iraq, the Sunni heartland. Today's two deadliest attacks in Baghdad involved suicide car bombers. A man wearing an explosives belt got onto a minibus carrying 14 people - including students, workers and policemen heading to the police academy, and detonated his payload, said Police Capt. Abbas Ali. The bomber, who sat next to the driver, struck as the bus passed a police patrol at the intersection where the academy is located, about 400 yards from the Oil Ministry. At least nine people were killed and nine others wounded, Ali said. The bus was left a burned-out husk. Earlier, in Karrada, another part of eastern Baghdad, a suicide car bomb exploded near a convoy of private security contractors, killing three bystanders and wounding six others, police Maj. Mohammed Yunis said. One of the four white sport utility vehicles in the convoy was damaged, but none of the foreigners in them was hurt. In northern Baghdad, a roadside bomb hit a U.S. Army patrol in northern Baghdad, killing one soldier, said military spokesman Sgt. 1st Class David Abrams. That attack raised to 1,945 the number of U.S. military members who have died since the war began in 2003, according to an Associated Press count. Four other U.S. soldiers were slightly wounded when a car bomb hit their patrol in central Baghdad, setting off fighting with small-arms fire and U.S. helicopters, Abrams said. About 20 miles south of the capital, a roadside

bomb hit a police patrol on a highway, killing five policemen and wounding two, said police Capt. Talib Thamir. A shooting and a roadside bomb in the towns of Taji and Udaim, north of Baghdad, killed two Iraqi soldiers and a policeman. At least 292 people have been killed by insurgents in Iraq in the past 11 days. Elsewhere, insurgents bombed a pipeline near the oil-rich northern city of Kirkuk, sending plumes of black smoke and fire up into the air. The pipeline connects oil fields with Kirkuk's refineries, said police Capt. Farhad Talabani. Iraq's Northern Oil Co. would soon repair the damage, as it has after many other attacks, he said. Thousands of U.S. and Iraqi troops also were waging two major offensives in western Iraq, the Sunni heartland, in an attempt to put down Al-Qaida in Iraq insurgents ahead of the vote. At least 42 insurgents have been killed in the "Iron Fist" offensive, which began Saturday (Oct 1) near the Syrian border, and six in the "River Gate" offensive, which started further east Tuesday (Oct 4), the U.S. military said. Scores of suspected insurgents have been detained, and at least four American servicemen have died in the two offensives, the military said.

Baghdad, Oct 7 -- US soldiers killed at least 29 insurgents in a drive to root out militants in western Iraq, the military said today. In new evidence of Iraq's deepening sectarian strife, police said the bodies of 22 men who had been bound with wire handcuffs and shot had been found in south-eastern Iraq. In Basra, British troops were holding 12 men, including members of the police, on suspicion of attacking foreign troops. US officials said their latest campaign near the Syrian border was scoring successes as about 1,000 soldiers backed by combat aircraft seek to shut down what they say is a key route for arms and fighters into the country. At least 20 militants were killed yesterday when US aircraft bombed a hotel that militants had commandeered in the town of Qusayba, while nine other fighters died in other exchanges with US forces, the military said. In Basra, British troops seized 12 men, including members of the police force, during overnight raids and were holding them on suspicion of carrying out attacks on foreign troops, the British military said today. -- Reuters.

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Insurgents determined to wreck Iraq's constitutional referendum killed more than 40 people and wounded dozens in a series of attacks today. In the deadliest attack in Iraq in nearly two weeks, a suicide car bomb exploded at about 1100 hrs in a crowded open market in the northwestern town of Tal Afar, killing 30 Iraqis and wounding 45, said Brig. Najim Abdullah, Tal Afar's police chief. He said all the victims appeared to be civilians since no Iraqi or U.S. forces were in the centre of Tal Afar, which is 260 miles north-west of Baghdad. Insurgents also used two suicide car

bombs, three roadside bombs and four drive-by shootings in the capital today to kill a total of 14 Iraqis; 29 were wounded, police said. The worst attack involved a suicide car bomb that exploded at about noon at an Iraqi army checkpoint in a busy area of western Baghdad, killing eight Iraqi soldiers and one civilian and wounding 12 soldiers, said police Capt. Qassim Hussein. The violence came four days ahead of Iraq's key vote on the new draft constitution, which Kurds and the majority Shiites largely support and the Sunni Arab minority rejects. Sunnis are campaigning to defeat the charter at the polls, though officials from all sides have been trying up to the last minute to decide on changes to the constitution to swing Sunni support. Many Sunnis fear the document would create nearly autonomous Kurdish and Shiite mini-states in the north and south, where Iraq's oil wealth is located, and leave most Sunnis isolated in central and western Iraq under a weak central government in Baghdad. Whether the constitution passes or fails, Iraq is due to hold elections for a new parliament on December 15. In another development, a top Iraqi election official said today that Iraqi law will allow Saddam Hussein and thousands of other Iraqi detainees who have not been brought to trial to vote in the referendum. However, Abdul Hussein Hindawi, one of the eight highest-ranking officials on the Independent Electoral Commission in Iraq, also said the organization was still awaiting a full list from the Interior Ministry and the U.S.-led coalition of the detainees who should be allowed to receive copies of the draft constitution and to vote on Saturday (Oct 15) at Abu Ghraib prison and several other U.S. detention centers. Saddam's long-awaited trial is scheduled to begin October 19 on charges that he and seven of his regime's henchmen ordered the 1982 massacre of 143 people in a mainly Shiite town north of Baghdad following a failed attack on Saddam's life. More than 12,000 detainees are being held at the notorious Abu Ghraib prison, Camp Bucca and two other U.S. military camps in Iraq, many awaiting trial or, in some cases, formal charges. Many of the detainees are believed to be Sunni Arabs who were rounded up by U.S. and Iraqi forces on suspicion of supporting Sunni-led insurgent groups. In another development, Iraq has issued arrest warrants against the defense minister and 27 other officials from former Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's U.S.-backed government over the alleged disappearance or misappropriation of \$1 billion in military procurement funds, officials said. Those accused include four other ministers from Allawi's government, which was replaced by an elected Cabinet led by Shiite parties in April, Ali al-Lami of Iraq's Integrity Commission said Monday. Many of the officials are believed to have left Iraq, including Hazem Shaalan, the former

defense minister who moved to Jordan shortly after the new government was installed. For months, Iraqi investigators have been looking into allegations that millions of dollars were spent on overpriced deals for shoddy weapons and military hardware, apparently to launder cash, at a time when Iraq was battling a bloody insurgency that still persists. With strong U.S. backing, Allawi was named head of the first transitional government after the U.S. returned sovereignty to Iraq in June 2004, but his Iraqi List party did poorly in January parliamentary elections that swept the Shiite-Kurdish coalition into power. Besides Shaalan, warrants were issued against Allawi's labour, transportation, electricity and housing ministers, as well as 23 former Defense Ministry officials, said al-Lami, who heads Iraq's De-Baathification Commission, part of the Commission of Public Integrity. He did not name all the officials.

Umm Qasr, Oct 11 -- We have just been informed by a very reliable source that the Abdally border (commercial) will be closed from Oct 10-16. The military border will be open but only for military personnel and vehicles. No car movement will be allowed in Iraq between Oct 13-16 and a curfew will be enforced from dusk to dawn. Loading operations should not be interrupted between Oct 13-16, as per info received from our source. Reporting may be slightly delayed, but should also continue during these days. The above is due to the upcoming referendum. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ISRAEL

London, Oct 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Israeli army has shot and wounded a Palestinian teenager after he attempted to stab soldiers at a West Bank checkpoint near Nablus. The teenager ran towards the soldiers brandishing a knife and shouting "God is great", witnesses said. Israeli soldiers fired at the youth, lightly wounding him, said witnesses. The attack comes the day after Palestinian militants said they were responsible for a knife attack on an Israeli soldier at another checkpoint. Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades said they carried out the attempted stabbing of the soldier at Hawara checkpoint yesterday, the scene of many previous attacks. "We will continue martyrdom operations throughout Palestine until the occupation leaves. The barriers of shame and disgrace set up by the Zionists shall face more blows," said al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades in a statement on their website. The group said it was not committed to the truce agreed in February between the major Palestinian militant organisations and PA President Mahmoud Abbas. Israel is stepping up security to prevent possible Palestinian militant attacks during Jewish new year celebrations. Israeli troops also barred Palestinians from entering Israel from the West Bank and Gaza during the holiday,

which coincides this year with the first day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

PAKISTAN

London, Oct 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Police in Pakistan say at least eight people were killed and 20 injured when gunmen opened fire as worshippers gathered for Friday prayers. The attack on members of the minority Ahmadiyya sect took place near the town of Mandi Bahauddin in Punjab. The Ahmadiyya profess allegiance to Islam, but were declared heretical by a constitutional amendment 30 years ago. Police official Mohammed Arif said the gunmen rode up on motorbikes before entering the mosque and opening fire. "So far we only know that three men riding on a motorcycle suddenly came into the village of Mong yesterday morning. Two of them went inside the mosque and started firing," he said.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, Oct 5 -- Dozens of people were hurt today when Philippine anti-riot police clashed with leftist activists for the second day near the presidential palace in Manila. Protests against President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo have turned more violent since her administration last month adopted a tough line against rallies held out without permission. Police arrested 13 protesters including two labour leaders who led the march of about 300 activists from left-wing political parties, trade unions and student groups calling on Arroyo's government to reverse the "no permit, no rally" policy. Sapitula said about a dozen police officers were treated for injuries sustained when protesters resisted attempts to disperse them by throwing rocks and empty bottles. More than 30 protesters were hurt in the clash with the rattan stick-wielding police, protest leaders said. -- Reuters.

Manila, Oct 10 -- Philippine communist rebels killed nine soldiers and civilians during an ambush on troops in a remote farming town on the southern island of Mindanao, an army spokesman said today. Major Gamal Hayudini, a spokesman for the military's Southern Command, said the rebels killed four civilians and five unarmed soldiers during an ambush yesterday in the province of Misamis Occidental. -- Reuters.

SUDAN

See "Sudan" under "Kidnappings".

THAILAND

Bangkok, Oct 5 -- Suspected Muslim militants killed five soldiers and wounded two others in an ambush today, police said. An army radio message earlier said the militants raided an outpost, wounding five soldiers and escaping with five guns, but police at the scene said five were killed. "The soldiers were taking an evening break when dozens of militants attacked them, and these troops had no way to defend themselves," Police Colonel

Thanongsak Wangsupa, of Narathiwat Province, said from the scene. It is the highest number of security personnel killed by suspected rebels in a single attack since the insurgency began in January last year. The attackers cut trees to block the road and placed spikes to prevent counter-attacks by soldiers, the radio said. Suspected militants also beheaded a villager in southern Thailand on the eve of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. The head and torso of a man, thought to be in his 50s, were recovered beside a road in a rubber plantation in Yala, one of the three southernmost provinces hit by the violence in which more than 900 people have died. Police said villagers told them about the beheaded man yesterday but were too concerned about booby traps or ambushes to examine the scene until today. The policeman said it was unclear if the victim was Buddhist or Muslim, although as with previous beheadings of Buddhists, a note was left beside the victim's head saying the murder was in retaliation for police actions. The decapitation was the eleventh in 21 months of violence. "You have arrested innocent people from the village. I have killed innocent people in return," the policeman quoted the handwritten Thai-language note as saying. -- Reuters.

London, Oct 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: A homemade bomb triggered by a cell phone exploded today in a town in southern Thailand shortly after the prime minister toured the restive area. One officer was wounded in the bombing in Sungai Padi, a town on the Malaysian border frequently targeted by suspected Muslim insurgents, police said. The bomb went off about an hour after Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra left the town following a tour, police Col. Term Intarasa said in a telephone interview. The colonel said he believed that the targets were officials invited to the opening of a new mosque, rather than the prime minister.

TURKEY

Istanbul, Oct 5 -- A bomb exploded in a shoe shop in Istanbul overnight, killing the man making it and wounding seven other people, Turkish media reported today. "According to the first indications, the explosion happened as a bomb was being made," state-run Anatolian news agency quoted Istanbul police chief Celalettin Cerrah as saying. Police suspect the bomber and two of those wounded in the blast were members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). The blast went off in a shoe shop in the basement floor of the Oral Business Centre on the European side of Istanbul. The shop owner and a number of other people had been detained, Anatolian said. -- Reuters.

UGANDA

Kampala, Oct 6 -- Ugandan troops killed a senior rebel from the notorious Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the north of the east African

country, the army said today. Brigadier Dominic Ongwen was one of the most feared commanders of the cult-like group that has massacred civilians across northern Uganda for the last 19 years. A Ugandan army official said he was killed on Friday (Sep 30) in a gun battle after his fighters torched scores of huts in northeastern Teso region -- an area that had been relatively free of rebel activity for two years. Colonel Charles Otema-Awany, head of military intelligence in the north, said Ongwen's body was paraded on the streets of Soroti town on Saturday (Oct 1) by the resident district commissioner Musa Ecweru, who also heads a local defence militia. The corpse was then buried in a shallow grave before being exhumed on Tuesday (Oct 4) so two former LRA colonels now working for the army could identify it. "It was Dominic," Otema-Awany told Reuters by telephone. "It was the same body Musa displayed. It has now been reburied." Uganda's army said four LRA fighters were also killed in clashes in northern Uganda's Pader district yesterday. Another was captured and one surrendered, a spokesman said. Joseph Kony, the LRA's self-proclaimed prophet leader, is believed to be hiding in southern Sudan, while his deputy Vincent Otti led at least 300 heavily armed fighters into remote northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo last month. -- Reuters.



HAITI

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated Oct 12, states: Kidnappers shot and killed a businessman on a busy street in Haiti's capital today after he resisted being taken, then sped off in his car with his wife and two children, police said. Archange Honore, who ran a large auto parts business, was driving through central Port-au-Prince's when gunmen tried to kidnap him, Deputy Judicial Police Commissioner Ulysse Jean Daniel said. The kidnappers shot Honore after he resisted, dumped his body in the street and then drove off in his car with his wife and two children, Jean Daniel said. The assault was the latest in a wave of kidnappings in Haiti that have added to insecurity ahead of the first elections since the February 2004 ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Police reported more than 50 kidnappings in September. The rash of kidnappings has targeted both poor and prominent Haitians, as well as foreigners. Haitian police and the FBI on Friday (Oct 7) helped free nine-year-old U.S. citizen Olivia Geneus, who was kidnapped in the capital last month, the U.S. Embassy said in a statement. Two men were arrested and were extradited to the United States.

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

SUDAN

London, Oct 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Armed men have taken 18 African Union (AU) personnel hostage in Sudan's troubled Darfur region, a day after the first AU soldiers were killed in the remote area, an AU official said. "Eighteen(AU) personnel including military observers, civilian police, a US representative and a Justice and Equality Movement (rebel) representative are held hostage today," the acting head of the AU in Sudan, Jean Baptiste Natama, said. He said they were being held in the Chadian-Sudanese border town of Tine in Darfur, but there was no further information about who the kidnappers were or what they wanted. Yesterday, two AU soldiers and two civilians contractors were killed in an ambush the AU blamed on the main Darfur rebel group, the Sudan Liberation Army.

Khartoum, Oct 10 -- Darfur rebels have kidnapped a rescue team sent to secure the release of 18 African Union hostages in the western Sudanese region, the AU said today. AU spokesman Nouredine Mezni said the rebel splinter group was now holding up to 40 members of the AU ceasefire monitoring team in the region. Mezni had said the group released most of the 18-strong multi-national monitoring team late yesterday night and that they were on their way back on foot to their camp in the Sudanese-Chadian town of Tine. "Now it seems the rescue team was caught also by the group and the only one who was actually released was the Chadian member of the team," Mezni told Reuters. "It seems they may be holding around 40 now." The rebel faction, which split from the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) leadership earlier this year, is demanding a seat at peace talks in the Nigerian capital Abuja, AU sources, who declined to be named, said. The team, which AU officials said included a U.S. observer, a JEM representative and other AU forces, was kidnapped yesterday. The U.S. embassy in Khartoum could not confirm the presence of the U.S. observer. A 6th round of AU-sponsored peace talks began last month between the government and the two main Darfur rebel groups, the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and JEM. They have faltered with an escalation of violence on the ground. An AU Commission spokesman in AU headquarters had blamed a dissident faction of JEM for the kidnappings. But the head of the JEM dissident faction, Mohamed Saleh, told Reuters from Darfur he had not taken the AU hostages, even though he has a base in the area near Tine. "We want the AU to leave and we have warned them not to travel to our areas," he said. "We don't know and don't care what is happening to the AU, they are part of the conflict now," he added. -- Reuters.

Khartoum, Oct 10 -- Darfur rebels have released all 38 African Union hostages they held in the western

Sudanese region, the last two after a gunbattle with a rival group, an AU spokesman and one of the freed hostages said today. The AU had blamed a breakaway faction of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) for Sunday's kidnapping of a ceasefire monitoring team. The faction denied the accusations. The Cameroonian leader of the AU team, who was one of the last two still being held, confirmed that he and his Sudanese translator had been freed after a shootout between rival rebel groups. Commanders from the mainstream JEM rebel force had secured his release, he said by phone, declining to give his name. "We are safe -- there was some firing but they managed to liberate us," he added. -- Reuters.

Labour Disputes

**ARGENTINA**

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated Oct 6, states: The 71 days fishing industry conflict that paralyzed the Argentine fresh-high seas Mar del Plata based fleet is over after a much debated 180 days truce was agreed following intense negotiations and mediation from provincial legislators. "Today (Oct 5) the crew member union assembly with over 800 voting, decided to lift the strike and return to sea", said Pablo Trueba spokesperson for the union. A pre-accord statement was signed in the Labour Ministry by all the unions involved in the conflict (crew, masters and engineers) with the High seas Vessel Owners Association and the Argentine Fishing Industry Chamber. "This is not definitive but rather opens a 180 days negotiations period to discuss a new collective pay agreement for the fishing sector", added Mr. Trueba. Apparently one of the main points of the pre-accord is that crew members do not drop or give up their claim to be paid in US dollars. "For the crews union the 1998 and 2000 historic agreements with vessel owners remain effective: our salaries must be paid based on the US currency", underlined Mr. Trueba. Actually the agreements in US dollars can be interpreted as over ruled following the Argentine government's bill of 2002 which "pesified" (converted into pesos) all standing debts and contracts, following the collapse of the economy and default. "We will continue to discuss the new agreement based on the 1998 and 2000 agreements", insisted Mr. Trueba.

BELGIUM

London, Oct 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Belgian workers began their first general strike in over a decade today, disrupting schools, transport, government services and shops to protest against social security

reforms and changes to an early retirement scheme. The 24-hour strike halted the high-speed Eurostar service from London and the Thalys connection from Paris to Brussels, the home to the institutions of the European Union. Local news agency Belga reported one tram was running in the city and that was because it left before strikers picketed the depot. Strikers also picketed entrances to factories and offices, including a Ford car plant in Genk, east Belgium. Flights are expected to be affected if baggage handlers join the strike. The Socialist FGFB/ABVV union, Belgium's second-largest, called on its workers and other unions to join the strike.

London, Oct 9 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Construction sites, car plants, public transportation and the port of Antwerp were still today as workers took part in a one-day national strike protesting plans for changes in the social security system. The strike, the first since 1993, was called by the Socialist ABVV-FGFB union to protest government plans to delay retirement age. Picket lines were set up outside several car plants, postal sorting stations, the port in Antwerp and EU headquarters in Brussels. Trains stopped running late Thursday (Oct 6), the cross-Channel high-speed Eurostar train suspended services to Brussels, stranding some travellers. Brussels' central station was boarded up. The Paris-to-Amsterdam high-speed Thalys train, which stops in Brussels, was also cancelled. Rail service was expected to resume late Friday night. At Brussels International Airport, officials reported no cancellations or major delays, though the cargo terminal was shut down. All flights Friday at Charleroi, Belgium's secondary airport, were reported to have been cancelled. Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt is asking unions and businesses to accept an increase in the retirement age from 58 to 60 as a way to cut pension costs.

BRAZIL

London, Oct 8 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: More than 100,000 workers have joined a nationwide bank workers strike that today entered its second day, a union spokeswoman said. Meire Bicudo, a spokeswoman for the National Confederation of Bank Workers said workers in 22 of Brazil's 26 states plus the capital district of Brasilia were on strike. "Of the country's 400,000 bank workers, more than 100,000 are on strike and that number is growing," Bicudo said. Bank workers are demanding a wage increase of 11.77 percent amid record earnings by Brazil's banks, which have offered a 4 percent raise plus a one-time bonus for most workers of 1,000 reals. According to the Brazilian Bankers Federation, the strike had very limited impact yesterday, its first day, affecting only 5 percent of the 17,400 bank branches across Brazil.

CANADA

London, Oct 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Students at B.C.'s public schools are expected to remain out of classes Tuesday (Oct 11) as striking teachers and their government employers continue legal manoeuvres in support of their opposing positions. The B.C. Teachers' Federation executive asked the Labour Relations Board early yesterday to reconsider a ruling that declared their strike illegal. That application is scheduled to be considered by the board Tuesday. Tomorrow morning, meanwhile, the B.C. Supreme Court will convene to consider an application filed Friday by the B.C. Public School Employers' Association that asks the court to enforce the LRB ruling, in an attempt to force the province's 42,000 teachers back to work. Picket lines went up at daybreak yesterday, the first day of a walkout that kept more than 600,000 students from classes. Teachers are angry with legislation that freezes their wages and extends their contract until next June. The legislation was passed yesterday afternoon after an overnight debate in the B.C. Legislature. Premier Gordon Campbell said the teachers' job action is illegal and has been sanctioned by their union.

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: About 600,000 students in British Columbia will have no classes today as their teachers continue to ignore back-to-work legislation. The 42,000 public school teachers walked off the job Friday (Oct 7) morning, saying that they will return only when management and union representatives negotiate a new collective agreement. The teachers object to a bill the provincial government introduced last week to unilaterally extend the term of their current collective agreement, based on 2001 legislation that declared education an essential service and deprived teachers of the right to strike. A ruling on Sunday by the British Columbia Supreme Court declared the B.C. Teachers' Federation to be in contempt of court for defying the legislation and walking out. "Teachers have the utmost respect for the law and judiciary," union president Jinny Sims said in a message posted on the group's website Sunday, responding to ruling. "However, teachers voted 90.5% to take a stand for public education." The teachers have been asking for a raise of 15% over the life of their next contract, as well as smaller class sizes. The Supreme Court ruling said the teachers federation could be fined up to \$150,000 for each day the walkout continues, and union leaders could face jail time. A justice is expected to rule on the union's punishment on Thursday. The union was scheduled to present arguments before the province's Labour Relations Board today to try to overturn the order ruling their strike illegal. In the meantime, many parents have been either taking time off work or scrambling to find daycare for children who attend public schools in B.C.

FRANCE

London, Oct 9 -- A press report, dated Oct 7, states: Six refineries in France, Germany and Switzerland, with a combined capacity of 1 million barrels a day, could be forced to reduce output or shut down next week because of a strike by dockworkers in the southern port of Marseille, oil companies said today. "The situation has become extremely serious," said Jean-Louis Schilansky, director of UFIP, a lobby for major oil companies in France. This evening, about 150 riot police and an additional 20 members of an elite police commando unit unblocked road access to a container terminal at Fos-sur-Mer, west of Marseille, which had been blocked by strikers since Sep 26. The operation lasted about 30 minutes and there were no incidents, authorities said. But authorities said the police operation would not ease the problems for oil tankers, because striking workers are refusing to unload or load vessels. Dockworkers are striking in sympathy with employees from a state ferry operator that the government wants to privatize. The Marseille port operator said that, as of this morning, 27 tankers were waiting offshore to discharge their cargo, while another 21 were blocked in the port. BP PLC, which operates one of four refineries located in the Fos-Lavera energy hub near Marseille, said its facility has been running at a reduced rate. Total said it had stocks to continue operations at its 155,000 barrel-a-day Provence unit, but added that no tanker has been able to offload for almost two weeks. The Marseille port strike could spill over to next week and affect refineries that are fed by pipeline from the Mediterranean port. UFIP's Schilansky said a 68,000 barrel-a-day refinery in Cressier, Switzerland, was running at minimum capacity and could shut down by Thursday if it continues to be starved of crude from Marseille. Schilansky also said a 330,000 barrel-a-day refinery in Karlsruhe, Germany, which is partially fed by the Marseille pipeline, could also be affected next week. Also, a 328,000 barrel-a-day Normandy refinery operated by Total SA, France's largest, remains shut because of a separate strike over pay.

London, Oct 9 -- A report, dated Oct 8, states: Port workers strike, eastern and western harbours of Marseille, Fos, Lavera, Port St Louis: Understand meeting(s) may take place tomorrow between Union and port workers in the light of recent negotiations. According to optimistic sources work might resume within tomorrow or Monday (Oct 10), nothing confirmed yet. We cannot presently anticipate whether vessels will immediately resume operations / movements after strike ends; understand installations of Port Autonome de Marseille, Fos and Lavera terminals, sustained damages and must be carefully inspected first.

Marseille Oct 10 -- Dockers in the French port of Marseille returned to

work on Saturday (Oct 8) and hopes rose that a separate strike disrupting oil terminals at the Fos-Lavera hub could soon end, officials said. The dockers breakthrough came after negotiations resumed earlier without prefect Christian Fremont, the government's top local official who had ordered riot police to clear access routes to the Fos terminal on Friday. "The return to work happened as soon as the CRS (riot police) left the port. Work should return to normal Saturday afternoon in the Marseille area," said CGT dockers' representative Daniel Manca. Dock staff operating cranes and other equipment remained on strike at the 600,000 bpd Fos-Lavera hub, however, preventing oil tankers and container ships from unloading. Fremont later emerged from several hours of talks with unions over the Fos-Lavera dispute to say an outline accord was emerging. Unions were to consult their members over the deal. "Apart from a few nuances, there seems to be the possibility of finding some sort of agreement. The goal is a return to work on Monday," Fremont told reporters. The 12-day strike was called in protest at what staff say is creeping privatisation. The action has prevented 27 oil and five gas tankers from entering the Fos-Lavera port, according to the oil industry body UFIP. Another dispute, this time involving Total's Gonfreville refinery in northern France, has been extended until today. -- Reuters.

Rouen, Oct 10 -- Workers at France's largest oil refinery, Total's 328,000 barrel per day Gonfreville plant, voted today to continue their strike until Wednesday (Oct 12), a union leader said. The oil sector in France however won some reprieve after more than two weeks of strikes and a port blockade after workers at France's Fos-Lavera petrochemicals terminal near Marseille agreed to resume work later today. Total has said the nearly three-week-old stoppage over wages at the 328,000 barrel per day Gonfreville plant is costing the firm up to 2 million euros a day, but the CGT trade union has estimated the losses at double that. "There was no progress," Patrick Varache, a senior official of the CGT union told Reuters after a workers' meeting on the strike today. The 20-day-old refinery strike over wages coincided with a two-week port blockade at the 600,000 bpd Fos-Lavera oil hub in the southern city of Marseille which ended this evening. The tally of tankers queuing at the hub has reached 45, with five more stuck at Lavera berths, port agents said today. -- Reuters.

Marseille, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated Oct 10, states: Hundreds of French ferry workers extended a nearly three-week-old strike on Monday after talks broke down with the government, but unions suspended a separate stoppage that blockaded the port of Marseille. The port workers' decision gave the government some relief after a recent surge in labour unrest, and was expected to

open access to the major Fos-Lavera oil refining hub near Marseille which has been sealed off for about two weeks. But the fate of the SNCM ferry operator hung in the balance as the firm's board met late on Monday to decide its future following the collapse of talks. The strikes, and particularly the handling of the SNCM protests, are seen as a first major test for Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin after just over four months in power. Angry union officials said after meeting Finance Minister Thierry Breton and Transport Minister Dominique Perben that the government had offered nothing new to the striking workers at SNCM. They extended their strike for another 24 hours. "We came here in the spirit of negotiation. The ministers simply came to reiterate the government's position. They slammed the door shut," said Jean-Paul Israel, the CGT union representative for shipworkers. The government had initially proposed a full privatisation of SNCM but backed down after the start of strikes, as well as protests on the island of Corsica where many employees live. Under the latest plan, the government would keep a 25 percent stake, employees would have 9 percent and the rest would be sold off to two French firms. "The government wants to save this company," Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy told France Info radio. "The worst case would lead to the disappearance of the company, which everyone would regret." Workers at France's largest oil refinery, the Gonfreville plant in northern France, voted to continue a strike over terms and conditions until Wednesday, a union leader said. But the large CGT union said Marseille port workers were suspending their nearly two-week-old strike over pay and conditions, although the CGT said it would review the situation in two weeks. "It's not the end. But we are making a gesture for the city's economy," said Joel Meli, the CGT leader at the port. The Marseille Port Authority said port workers serving the oil sector, meaning the Fos-Lavera petrochemicals terminal, would resume work at 1000 hrs. The strikes have put half of France's refining capacity in jeopardy and added to global fuel supply woes after refinery outages in the U.S. Gulf coast due to the recent hurricanes. The labour unrest, which included a national day of protests last week over the conservative government's economic and labour policies, has caused political problems for Villepin. A new poll by Louis Harris research group for Yahoo!, i-Tele television and Liberation newspaper showed Villepin's popularity has slipped slightly since the labour unrest began. The poll, conducted among 1,007 people from Oct 7-8, showed 43 percent of respondents viewed him positively compared with 45 percent a month earlier.

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: The port workers' strike at the eastern and western harbours of Marseille (Marseille, Fos,

Lavera, Port St. Louis) came to an end at 2200 hrs, Oct 10. Work has now resumed at Fos and Lavera oil terminals.

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: France's state-owned Corsica ferry operator SNCM continued to be shut down by a strike by labour unions opposing the government's sale of a majority stake to private investors, with the deadlock between labour unions and the government now entering its 22nd day. Yesterday, the group's board of directors approved the sale of a majority stake to Butler Capital and Connex, and said that if workers do not return to work, it will be forced to file for bankruptcy before the end of this week. This afternoon, the CGT accused the government of refusing to discuss its own proposals to save SNCM, ahead of a works council meeting with company directors later today, and said it will participate in a new day of protests in Marseilles on Saturday.

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The twin French ports of Marseilles and Fos are slowly getting back to normal after the CTT union called off its strike which had crippled the ports, leaving 42 vessels waiting at anchor. The dispute was triggered by opposition to a government plan to privatise the ferry company SNCM which operates to Corsica, Tunisia and Algeria. The ferry terminal is still closed and two cruiseships due today have cancelled their calls. Docks at other berths are now working. The Marseilles Port Authority says there are 20 V/ULCCs waiting off Fos and it will take about 15 days to discharge them all. The chemical terminal at Lavera, Fos, has a seven day backlog.

ITALY

London, Oct 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Alitalia has cancelled 138 flights because of a flight attendants' strike planned for today, the airline said in a statement. The strike today, which has caused the cancellation of 64 national and 74 international flights, will take place from 1200 hrs to 1600 hrs.

London, Oct 9 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Hundreds of passengers were left stranded for several hours at Rome's Leonardo Da Vinci airport due to a four-hour strike by Alitalia flight attendants called to protest the company's rationalisation plans. The national carrier had earlier cancelled 74 international flights and 64 national services after unions called the four-hour strike from midday to 1600 hrs. Airport officials said that despite long queues at check-in desks, the situation was expected to return to normal by late evening. Officials at Milan's Linate and Malpensa airports, in northern Italy, said the strike had caused the cancellation of 68 flights there. Despite the strike warning, passengers stranded in Rome said they had been confused by another 48-hour strike originally set to begin

tomorrow, but put back after unions heeded an appeal by Transport Minister Pietro Lunardi.

LEBANON

London, Oct 8 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Lebanese air traffic controllers at Beirut's international airport have are holding a 20 hour strike in a protest over pay and working hours. The 1100 hrs walkout forced the cancellation of 104 flights and thousands of passengers were affected. The airport's 48 controllers say that despite government promises, they have not been paid overtime since 2001. They are also demanding that their working hours be cut because tiredness could affect their performance. "We work for 240 hours every month including weekends and holidays which far exceeds the official work hour limit of 128 hours per month," said Neamtallah Tannouri, one of the controllers. "We prefer to suspend activity than risk airport safety when a controller is too tired or too frustrated to work. And we plan an open-ended strike if nothing else works," he added.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of workers protested or walked out today in South Africa's economic heartland over unemployment and job losses, closing some gold mine shafts and delaying international flights. President Thabo Mbeki's ruling African National Congress (ANC) is facing mounting pressure to deliver on its electoral promise to create jobs and curb poverty. More than 10,000 people marched through the centre of the capital Pretoria in support of the one-day strike, part of a regional rolling action by the main labour bloc COSATU, a governing ally of the ANC. Despite some disruption most business continued normally, as it did when COSATU launched the action last week in the Cape Town region and the Eastern Cape where South Africa's successful auto industry is based. But COSATU's lead role in the protests has added to strains within the ANC's ruling alliance that could have implications for political stability in South Africa, according to analysts. Harmony Gold said the strike had halted production at one of its installations, while the other two main gold producers, AngloGold Ashanti and Gold Fields Ltd, said the impact was minimal. But at Johannesburg's international airport, a hub for air travel to and within southern Africa, some international flights were delayed after immigration officials heeding the strike call failed to turn up.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: London commuters face major delays as the Northern Line is to remain closed throughout the day amid safety concerns, London Underground (LU) said. Unions called for trains to be

withdrawn yesterday evening after one ran through a red light and its emergency brakes failed. They said it was the fifth incident on the line, and refused to work. LU has given no indication when the line, which carries more than 660,000 people every weekday, will re-open. There have been delays on the line all week because of concerns over the back-up brakes. Both the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union and train drivers' union Aslef, said they would support any members who refuse to work on safety grounds. Up to 60 have so far walked out. Aslef has since said it will ballot members over industrial action today if drivers are sent home without pay. Both unions were due to meet LU representatives today. A spokesman for LU said: "We are working with our trade unions and staff to reassure them that it is safe to continue to run Northern Line trains." He said the company was working with the private sector firms which maintain the Tube to resolve the issue. LU has used emergency powers to oversee remedial work by Tube Lines and its subcontractor Alstom.

Awards & Settlements



ANTITRUST LAWSUIT, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Shares of RealNetworks Inc., a seller of songs and music software over the Internet, surged as much as 34% after Microsoft Corp. agreed to pay \$750 million to settle an antitrust lawsuit. Microsoft will also help promote RealNetworks' music and game services, according to people involved in the talks. Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates and RealNetworks Chief Executive Officer Robert Glaser will host a press conference today, the companies said without giving details. "The settlement amount is more than people were expecting," said Steven Lidberg, an analyst at Pacific Crest Securities Inc. who rates RealNetworks "sector perform" and doesn't own them. For RealNetworks, "the business remains the same. They have a good position in music and a good subscriber base." The agreement resolves one of Microsoft's last antitrust actions and silences one of the most vocal critics of the Redmond, Washington-based company. RealNetworks, which claimed Microsoft used its dominance in Windows to try to quash its RealPlayer product, sued in the U.S. and testified in a case brought by the European Union. Microsoft has agreed to pay more than \$4 billion to settled cases brought by U.S. states, International Business Machines Corp., Sun Microsystems Inc. and Novell Inc. RealNetworks' case against Microsoft in the U.S. was filed in U.S.

District Court in San Jose, California, in December 2003. The company accused Microsoft of using its monopoly power to limit competition in music and video players by packaging the Windows Media Player with the Windows operating system, which powers about 95% of the world's personal computers. The settlement removes one of the European Commission's key backers in its case against the company. European Union regulators, responding to a complaint by RealNetworks, last imposed a record 497 million-euro (\$598 million) fine on Microsoft after finding that Microsoft abused its dominant position in the PC market. The ruling required the company to disclose information to competitors and offer a version of Windows without the Windows Media Player. In an earlier settlement with the U.S. Justice Department, Microsoft agreed to give computer makers the freedom to promote rival software programs such as RealPlayer without fear of retaliation. Microsoft, whose software runs more than 90% of the world's personal computers, is appealing the European ruling at the Luxembourg-based European Court of First Instance, the EU's second-highest court. The EU's case relies in part on testimony given by RealNetworks, which complained that Microsoft was thwarting competition in media players. The commission action against Microsoft has continued after previous settlements, including one with Novell and the Computer & Communications Industry Association, whose members include Oracle Corp., in November 2004. The EU began investigating Microsoft after receiving a complaint in December 1998 from Sun Microsystems.

CIGARETTES FROM TRUCK, MONTREAL, CANADA

London, Oct 6 -- A press report, dated Oct 5, states: Montreal police are looking for suspects in a well-planned robbery this morning that netted thieves a cache of cigarettes being delivered to a distributor. The exact value of the haul, removed from the 18-wheel semi-trailer, could be in the thousands or as high as \$1.5 million, had it been fully loaded, police speculated. At 0600 hrs the truck, which originated in Quebec City, parked behind a van at Distribution Regitan Ltd. on the eastbound side of the Trans Canada Highway east of des Sources Blvd., to await their turn. The thieves, police said there were at least two, emerged from the truck, which turns out to have been stolen, and accosted the driver and a security guard in an accompanying vehicle, said Montreal police Constable Laurent Gingras. The thieves forced both drivers to leave the site in the cigarette-laden truck and escort car. The thieves soon cleared the cigarettes out of the truck and abandoned it around 0700 hrs on SauvÉ St. in St. Laurent district, near a supermarket parking lot.

CLASS-ACTION SETTLEMENT, CANADA

London, Oct 6 -- A press report, dated Oct 5, states: Settlement of a decade-old, class-action lawsuit involving Canadian women who had silicone gel breast implants means each woman could receive as much as \$5,000, a lawyer for the women said today. David Klein said the out-of-court settlement was approved by the B.C. Supreme Court and gives the affected women until Feb 1 to file a claim. The settlement was made without any admission of liability by the defendants: Bristol-Meyers Squibb Co., Baxter Healthcare and 3M. Under the settlement terms, the three defendants agreed to pay between \$2.5 million and \$4.3 million depending on how many women come forward with claims. A spokesman for Bristol-Meyers, which had the largest number of claimants in the settlement, was not immediately available to comment. The lawsuit covers women who resided anywhere in Canada other than Ontario and Quebec on Feb 14, 1997, or were given the implants anywhere in the country other than those two provinces. The class-action was the first ever filed in British Columbia and was filed the same day as legislation allowing it took effect in August 1995, said Klein. The class-action was approved by the B.C. Supreme Court and upheld by the B.C. Court of Appeal. The Supreme Court of Canada declined to grant the defendants leave to appeal the B.C. high court decision. During the lengthy battle, Klein said "the science on the effects of silicone gel shifted and there's less concern now about the silicone causing systemic health problems." He said that shifted the "focus" of the lawsuit to "local complications - the hardness, the scarring, the ruptures caused by the implants." The settlement announced by the two sides compensates women for the number of "implant surgeries, the number of times they've had to have them taken out, ruptures and local complications like hardening, scarring and deformities," said Klein. He said many women have already received compensation in the United States, Ontario and Quebec. "At this point we think between 1,000 and 2,000 women will come forward and receive compensation," he said, about half in British Columbia and the other half from the rest of the country. If 2,000 women come forward each would receive about \$2,000 compensation. But Klein expects fewer women than that to make a claim and he believes the average payment will be between \$4,000 and \$5,000. Last month, two manufacturers of the devices told an expert scientific panel at a Health Canada public forum in Ottawa that new-generation silicone-gel breast implants are safe and should be approved for widespread use in Canada. Representatives from both Mentor Corp. and Inamed Corp. said their new silicone implants are not only safer (less likely to rupture or

leak) than older versions removed from the market in the early 1990s, but they offer superior breast augmentation and reconstruction options for women compared to approved saline implants. Silicone breast implants were pulled off the Canadian market by manufacturers in 1992 - 30 years after they were first approved - after Health Canada raised concerns about their safety. The devices were also removed from the U.S. market. Breast implant manufacturer Dow Corning Corp. was granted bankruptcy protection in 1995. The company agreed to pay up to \$2.35 billion US to settle claims from more than 300,000 women - including Canadians - who said their health had been harmed by the product. Despite the ban, many Canadian women have had breast-implant surgery under a special release program, which is intended to give patients access to non-approved products in cases of serious or life-threatening illness.

CLASS-ACTION SETTLEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 6 -- A press report, dated Oct 5, states: Electronic Arts said today it has reached a \$15.6 million settlement of a class action lawsuit connected to overtime claims by its graphics artists. Redwood City-based Electronic Arts the claims by the artists will be dismissed, and its payment will cover all claims by the class members, plaintiffs' attorney fees, any incentive payments to the named plaintiffs and all administrative costs of the settlement. Any portion of the settlement fund that is unclaimed is set to go to the Jackie Robinson Foundation, a national nonprofit organization that awards college scholarships to minority students, with a preference toward students interested in studying interactive entertainment. Settlement of the case, which is pending in the Superior Court of San Mateo County, California, must be approved by the court before it can become effective.

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Metals USA Inc. announced today that it has agreed in principle to resolve a consolidated class-action lawsuit brought against it and each of its directors in the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware, in and for New Castle County. The class action is a consolidation of two lawsuits (Robert I. Mawinney v. James E. Bolin, et al., C.A. No. 1367-N and Taam Associates, Inc. v. James E. Bolin, et al., C.A. No. 1383-N) related to the pending acquisition of the Company by affiliates of Apollo Management, L.P. ("Apollo"). Under the proposed settlement, among other things, the plaintiffs' claims will be extinguished and Apollo will agree to waive, under certain circumstances, its right to receive any portion of the termination fee payable under the merger agreement in excess of \$13.6 million (representing a reduction of approximately 20% of the termination fee). The Company continues to deny that it has engaged in any wrongful

acts and is entering into this settlement solely for the purpose of eliminating the burden and expense of future litigation. The proposed settlement is subject to, among other things, final approval of the Court and consummation of the pending acquisition. As described in the Company's proxy statement for its shareholder meeting to consider the Apollo transaction, the consummation of the pending acquisition is subject to several conditions precedent, including obtaining financing sufficient to fund the transaction. No assurances can be made that such conditions will be met or waivers to these conditions will be obtained. Upon approval of the proposed settlement by the Courts, plaintiff's attorneys are expected to apply for an award of attorneys' fees and expenses.

DEFAMATION, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: The publisher of Sports Illustrated has agreed to settle a \$20 million defamation suit filed by former Washington State football coach Mike Price. Price sued over an article about a night of drinking at a topless bar in 2003 in Florida that cost him his job as new coach at Alabama. The publisher didn't disclose terms of the settlement but says "Sports Illustrated continues to stand behind its story." Price admitted getting intoxicated, but denied the magazine's allegations of sex at his hotel. Price is now head football coach at Texas-El Paso.

DRUNK-DRIVING ACCIDENT, ALABAMA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 9 -- The family of a girl killed minutes after Eunice police allowed a drunken driver to drive home has been awarded \$1.7 million in damages. Daniel Vallere had a blood alcohol content nearly three times the legal limit when he was stopped in April 2003, medical experts testified. But Sgt. Raymond Cole, Vallere's friend and former brother-in-law, instead told him to drive home. Fifteen minutes later, LaShonda Jones, 17, was struck and killed while she walked along the side of the road. In a written ruling and damage award, State District Judge Alonzo Harris said Cole has been "grossly negligent." Cole heard three days of testimony in August. Harris found Cole and the city of Eunice liable for 90 percent of the damages and Vallere liable for the rest. Vallere is serving a 14-year prison sentence after his conviction last year on vehicular homicide charges. Cole was acquitted earlier this year of a criminal malfeasance charge. He remains with the Eunice Police Department. City Attorney James Pate said a decision to appeal will be made by the city's insurance company, which will ultimately pay the damages. Issues could include the \$500,000 in punitive damages included in the award and the fact that Vallere was found only 10 percent liable. But Pate did not dispute the other \$1.2 million in damages.

FAULTY TYRES, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: The U.S. arm of Japan's Bridgestone Corp. today said it will pay Ford Motor Co. \$240 million to settle a longstanding dispute between the companies over Ford's massive Firestone tyre safety recall. In 2001, in one of the biggest recalls in U.S. history, former Ford Chief Executive Jacques Nasser said the automaker would spend \$3 billion to replace 13 million Firestone tyres, installed mostly as original equipment on the company's popular Explorer sport utility vehicle. Ford and Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire LLC both said the settlement laid to rest all remaining matters between the two companies stemming from the safety recall. "We have revolved all of our differences with Bridgestone Firestone amicably," Ford said in a statement. Ford spokeswoman Kathleen Vokes said some class-action lawsuits were still pending against the second-largest U.S. automaker related to the Firestone and Explorer safety dispute. Vokes added that Ford expected the lawsuits to be dismissed but not as a result of Bridgestone Firestone's settlement with the Dearborn, Michigan-based, company.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 7 -- A press report, dated Oct 6, states: In the past month, Cook County commissioners have approved more than \$50 million to settle medical malpractice lawsuits filed against county doctors. That includes a record-setting \$35 million settlement approved yesterday, driving the county's year-to-date total spent settling lawsuits to nearly \$70 million. While some commissioners defended the settlements, saying they've saved taxpayers money by avoiding a jury trial, others are questioning the legal strategy and raising questions about who's performing surgeries at county hospitals. "It's really an indictment of our system, the way we hire, retain and credential our doctors in our health system," Commissioner Tony Peraica said. "Unless we make a change soon, it will happen again to somebody else." But Commissioner Peter Silvestri, who chairs the county's litigation subcommittee, said settling lawsuits is often "the best course of action," especially the settlement for \$35 million. He called it "a fair amount and probably less than a jury would've awarded." The \$35 million approved yesterday will be paid over three years to the family of Tinley Park resident Neveen Morkos, a married mother of two. Suffering stomach pains in May 2004, she was rushed to Oak Forest Hospital, where she was misdiagnosed with appendicitis and sent for emergency surgery, her suit claims. There, 78-year-old anaesthesiologist Dr. Gustavo Albear erred while inserting a breathing tube, the lawsuit claims. Morkos went without oxygen for more than 10 minutes, leaving her permanently brain-damaged.

OVERCHARGING, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 12 -- A press report, dated Oct 11, states: Foreign and U.S. companies will pay the federal government nearly \$25 million to settle claims that they overcharged for Amtrak projects to electrify parts of the Northeast Corridor from New Haven to Boston. A whistleblower's lawsuit filed under the federal False Claims Act prompted the Justice Department's investigation. The whistleblower, a former employee of a London-based firm, will receive about \$4 million in the settlement. Connecticut U.S. Attorney Kevin O'Connor said whistleblower provision under the federal law offers powerful financial incentive.

PATENT INFRINGEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: The long running and infringement on-going patent case between MKS Instruments and Advanced Energy looks to have been brought to a conclusion, after Advanced Energy agreed to pay MKS \$3 million in damages, both companies announced separately today. In 2004, a jury found that Advanced Energy infringed MKS patents related to its ASTRON family of reactive gas generators, used to dissociate gases for use in chamber cleaning, amongst others with its "Xstream" product. This came on the back of a previous case that a jury also found Advanced Energy infringed patents with its RAPID product. In that case, a jury awarded MKS \$4.2 million in damages. However, it would seem MKS has decided to accept a smaller (\$3 million) settlement directly with Advanced Energy with the condition that its Rapid, Rapid FE, Rapid OE and Xstream products can not be sold or imported into the United States.

TAX SHELTER CLASS-ACTION, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Sidley Austin Brown & Wood and KPMG have agreed to pay out \$225m (£127.6m) to settle claims arising from the "cookie cutter" tax shelter class action. The settlement has been jointly agreed by the two firms with plaintiff powerhouse Milberg Weiss Bershad & Shulman. The case stems from the now-notorious tax shelter schemes that were developed and promoted by KPMG between 1996 and 2002. The settlement covers a \$195m payment and up to \$30m in legal fees, with Sidley reported in the US press to be contributing about 20% of the total. The agreement was filed in the US District Court of Newark Sep 27. Milberg Weiss name partner Mel Weiss told Legal Week: "A judge will decide, this week, on a preliminary hearing date, which is likely to be some time in January or February, for the purposes of making sure the settlement is reasonable and adequate." The move follows the admission by KPMG Jul 16 of full liability for its role in the tax shelters,

which are being investigated by the US Department of Justice. In February, the US Senate accused KPMG, Sidley and a host of other professional advisers of "ripping off" billions of dollars from the US Treasury through the deployment of the tax shelters. According to its report into the affair, Sidley admitted to earning at least \$23m in fees for its work on the creation of the tax shelters. The report alleged that the firm provided more than 600 'boiler-plate' opinion letters on potentially abusive tax shelters. At an earlier Senate hearing, Thomas Smith, the former managing partner of legacy firm Brown & Wood, blamed the affair on "rogue partner" RJ Ruble, who was dismissed from Sidley's partnership in 2003. Sidley refused to comment on the settlement, but KPMG said in a statement: "This class action settlement agreement is consistent with KPMG's goal of putting past tax shelter matters behind us."

VICTIM OF TERRORISM, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The family of a local man who was captured and tortured by terrorists for five years through the late 1980s has been awarded a total of \$91 million against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Fourteen members of the Cicippio family or their estates have won \$6.5 million each for pain and suffering they underwent after living with the knowledge that Joseph Cicippio Sr. could have been murdered at any point during his captivity. The family claimed in the lawsuit that Joseph Cicippio Jr., who died at the age of 35, suffered a heart attack due to the stress of his father's captivity. One attorney for the Cicippio family, James A. "Skip" Oliver previously won \$20 million for Cicippio Sr. and \$10 million for his wife after his release. Joseph Cicippio Sr., employed as controller of the American University in Beirut, Lebanon, was abducted by Hezbollah terrorists backed by Iran on Sept. 12, 1986, near his campus apartment. Cicippio underwent threats of torture, castration and death as the Islamic radicals paraded him before television cameras broadcast internationally. During captivity, another hostage, Lt. Colonel William Higgins was executed. Film of the execution was shown worldwide on television, along with threats that Cicippio was next. During the ordeal, Thomas Cicippio attracted significant media attention to the cause by putting up giant wooden signs, one of which counted the days the hostages were held. It ended on day 1,908, when Joseph Cicippio Sr. was released in December 1991.

WORK RELATED ILLNESS, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 6 -- A press report, dated Oct 5, states: The claims of 19 people who say the butter flavouring used at the popcorn plant where they worked caused lung disease have been settled for an undisclosed sum. The

settlements come after the flavouring company was ordered in jury trials to pay four people about \$53 million in damages. Those decisions were appealed. People who worked at the plant in Jasper, south of Kansas City, claimed that exposure to diacetyl, a chemical used in the butter flavouring, caused bronchiolitis obliterans, a disease that obstructs the lungs. None of the workers have died. Ken McClain, a lawyer for 15 plaintiffs, said several remain close to needing lung transplants. The plaintiffs said the manufacturers should have known the flavourings were hazardous and they failed to warn employees of the dangers or provide safety instructions. McClain said what happened at the Jasper plant has led the flavouring industry and the government to start looking more carefully at potential hazards. "This has virtually been an unregulated industry that has ignored the risks of their products," he said. The settlements were announced yesterday with New York-based International Flavors and Fragrances Inc. and its subsidiary, Bush Boake Allen Inc. International Flavors spokeswoman Gail Belmuth reiterated the company's position that the product is safe if handled and used properly. She wouldn't comment further. Jasper Popcorn Co. and Glister-Mary Lee Corp., which bought the popcorn factory in 1999, were not defendants in the lawsuits. Health officials have said people who microwave popcorn and eat it are not in danger, but chemicals released during popping are being studied.

**AMSTERDAM, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES**

London, Oct 13 -- A train derailment forced all eastbound train traffic to be shut down near the city of Amsterdam, New York. Around 0830, yesterday morning, several of the train cars derailed with one box car ending up in the Mohawk River. Amsterdam police say the CSX train derailed and tore up two sets of tracks that run along the river. A total of 18 cars left the tracks. Authorities say there are no reports of injuries. Investigators are still looking into the cause of the accident.

BRIDGEPORT AREA, NABRASKA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Union Pacific work crews are busy today trying to get rail lines up and running after a coal train derailed nine miles east of Bridgeport, Nebraska, early yesterday. U-P spokesman Mark Davis says the 127-car train was traveling from Wyoming to Council Bluffs when 20 cars derailed, dumping tons of coal. No one was hurt. The cause of the derailment is not known. Davis says crews worked

through yesterday to clear rail cars and begin replacing eleven-hundred feet of damaged track. He says one line reopened just before midnight, and a second line will be open today.

BUNDABERG AREA, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 7 -- A press report, dated Oct 5, states: A report into last year's tilt train derailment near Bundaberg in south-east Queensland has made 11 recommendations. More than 100 people were injured in the accident, which occurred when the train was travelling from Brisbane to Rockhampton. A report from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau tabled in State Parliament today found excessive speed was the major factor in the derailment. It recommended that tilt trains continue to be limited to 100 kph until automatic train protection devices are fitted. Transport Minister Paul Lucas said safety measures like automatic braking were already being installed. "Encouragingly the report reinforced the mechanical and structural reliability of the train," he said. "Mechanical faults were not a contributing factor. The report also found the track was safe, there was no design deficiency that directly contributed. It found that both drivers were medically and psychologically fit. Alcohol and drugs were not a factor." Mr Lucas said one of the drivers was not in the cabin when the train derailed, in line with guidelines at that time. "He was making a tea or coffee and he was entitled to do that, so no criticism made there at all in that respect," Mr Lucas said. The report recommended that both drivers now stay in the cabin when the train is navigating critical curves. Mr Lucas said the report was not about pointing fingers and any charges arising from the accident were up to police. He said the main aim of the report was to prevent more accidents. "This is about finding out what went wrong, finding out how we can improve our systems to reduce or minimise that happening in the future," he said.

HAFT-KHAN, IRAN

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: At least two people were killed early yesterday when a passenger and a cargo train collided in northern Iran. The accident occurred at Haft-Khan station, around 200 kilometres east of Tehran and along the main line to the northeastern city of Mashhad. An error by a signalman was blamed for the crash, which left a train driver and his assistant dead. All of the passengers escaped injury, the report said.

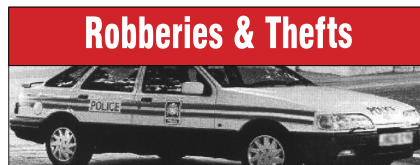
KAMLOOPS, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two trains derailed in the B.C. Interior within about an hour today. In Kamloops, a CP Rail train was slowly moving into the railyard when four cars left the

track, partially blocking the nearby Trans-Canada Highway. Three cars were empty and the fourth contained glycol, used in making anti-freeze. A CP spokesman says there was no hazard. A mudslide is thought to have caused a CN Rail train to leave the tracks near Yale in the Fraser Canyon. RCMP Const. Steve Hiscoe said it's believed the train hit the slide after the mud rolled onto the tracks. Hiscoe said two railway employees received minor injuries and were taken to hospital. Environmental crews were on the way to the Yale derailment to assess the damage caused by a diesel spill.

KREMMLING, COLORADO, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 12 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Union Pacific train derailed early this morning near Kremmling. The train was empty. There is no word on a cause yet. The empty coal train was heading from Pueblo to Axial, Colo. Nine cars went off the track. It happened near a tunnel about eight miles west of Kremmling. The derailment happened about 0030, today. Heavy equipment and crews were heading to the scene to remove the derailed cars. Crews will have to replace about 120 feet of track that has damaged. They hope to have that complete sometime later today. Until the tracks are repaired, all freight and Amtrak trains will be rerouted. The cause of the derailment is still under investigation.



Robberies & Thefts

AIRCRAFT, ST.AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: A 10-passenger charter jet that was reported stolen from St. Augustine, Fla., was found at an airport near Atlanta, and authorities were attempting to figure out who had flown it there. The aircraft, a \$7 million Cessna Citation 7, was found at the Gwinnett County Airport-Briscoe Field yesterday and remained there this morning, said Darren Moloney, spokesman for the Gwinnett County Police Department. The aircraft is owned by Pinnacle Air of Springdale, Ark., which had no comment on the incident today. Crime scene technicians have investigated the interior of the aircraft, and Moloney said there is no evidence that there were weapons or drugs on it. The FBI is also investigating although the theft does not appear to be linked to terrorism, said Lisa Ray, spokeswoman at the Georgia Office of Homeland Security. The aircraft landed at the airport sometime between 2100, Saturday (Oct 8) and 0600 Sunday, Moloney said. It had some damage to the front edge of one

wing but was not disabled, authorities said. Although the aircraft landed when the airport's flight tower was not operating, officials said that is not unusual. Once on the ground, an automatic gate would have let the person out of the airport, Moloney said. The Federal Aviation Administration is probing its own traffic system to see if there is any record of the aircraft flying during the time in question, FAA spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen said.

CASH & JEWELLERY, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 10 -- A press report, from Australia, dated Oct 11, states: A gang of double-storey house burglars has stolen millions of dollars in cash and jewellery from homes across Melbourne. The thieves, who climb on to roofs to disable alarm systems, have raided more than 140 homes in affluent northern suburbs. They steal only cash and jewellery and their haul so far is at least \$4 million. They choose two-storey homes because they are likely to provide rich pickings and good vantage points for a lookout, a source said. The gang has struck almost every week since January. It works between Thursday and Sunday, from 1800 to 2030 hrs, sometimes raiding two homes in a night. Raids on two-storey homes in the Greenvale area have netted the gang more than \$2 million. Police are sure the same burglars are responsible for dozens of identical thefts in the Doncaster area that have netted millions more. The same gang also has been blamed for several burglaries in Keilor Downs and Heidelberg. Det Sen-Sgt Neil Beeson, of Doncaster CIU, said the gang usually forced rear doors or windows to break in after disabling alarms.



Computer Systems

RADAR PROBLEMS, LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Travelers using Logan International Airport may continue to experience delays, as officials are still working on fixing the radar malfunction that has been causing major backups. NewsCenter 5's Gail Huff reported that the problem began Sunday (Oct 9), and some travelers experienced delays of up to five hours yesterday. The Federal Aviation Administration's radar surveillance system in Merrimack, N.H., has been creating false targets on radar screens. A conflict warning goes on advising of a potential collision, but the problem is, it's caused by a computer glitch which causes the system to detect aircraft that aren't even there. Yesterday, Logan air traffic control had to be

switched to a backup radar system in Nashua, N.H. All approaching aircraft had to be kept five miles apart, instead of the usual three miles apart, and that translated into lengthy delays. "Right away they told us that there was a delay in Boston with the radar. It was just about a two-hour delay," one passenger said. The computer malfunction has occurred at other airports, according to FAA spokeswoman Arlene Murray. Yesterday's delays at Logan soon created a domino affect and airports all along the East Coast were affected.

Miscellaneous



DISPUTE OVER CARGO QUALITY, CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Oct 10 -- Three Bangladesh lighter vessel associations - Coastal Ship Owners Association of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Cargo Vessel Owners Association and Inland Vessel Owners Association of Chittagong - requested the Bangladesh Port Authority to release 24 of their ships, loaded with imported goods, which have been lying idle in the port channel for over seven months, because of a cargo quality issue and subsequent tripartite disputes among the importers and exporters of the goods and the customs authorities. In a press conference yesterday, representatives of the associations threatened that they would stop loading, unloading and carrying of goods from Chittagong port and its outer anchorage from Oct 14, if measures are not taken to unload the wheat from the 24 vessels. Bulk Celtic arrived at Chittagong port on Feb 27 with 26,500 metric tons of wheat, which was loaded to 30 lighter vessels. Of them, only six have unloaded and the others are caught in the dispute. Meanwhile, the exporter filed an admiralty suit with the High Court requesting the unloading of the wheat from the remaining 24 vessels. The court ordered the authorities concerned to unload the wheat under the supervision of the customs authority, but instead of taking steps to unload the wheat, the customs authority sought "a stay order" from the Supreme Court and matter is once again "hanging in balance". -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

Bucharest, Oct 7 -- Romania reported its first case of avian flu in domestic birds in the Danube delta today. "We discovered today three cases of domestic birds which were tested positive for the avian flu in the village of Ceamurlia de Jos in the Danube delta," Agriculture Minister Gheorghe Flutur told reporters. Flutur would not comment whether the flu was the deadly H5N1 strain but said: "We will send the samples to Great Britain for

a thorough analysis." The minister said he imposed quarantine for three kilometres around the site and all domestic birds would be culled to prevent the disease from spreading in the environmentally sensitive delta, Europe's largest wetlands. Flutur also said hunting was banned across the delta. The head of the country's veterinarian watchdog Ion Agafitei said final results of the tests were expected in a couple of days, adding: "We may find a less risky strain or a more dangerous one." H5N1 has been officially registered in six Russian regions in Siberia and the Urals, and has also been confirmed in neighboring Kazakhstan. A senior Russian health official said today that an outbreak in Russia of avian flu is dying out but could make a comeback next spring. "The outbreak is petering out, as migrant fowl leave the country," Ivan Rozhdestvensky, Russia's deputy chief veterinarian, told a news conference. "However, we will have to see what happens when... birds return next spring." -- Reuters.

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Romania is culling thousands of farmyard birds in the Danube delta amid fears of an avian flu outbreak. Lab results expected tomorrow should show whether the H5N1 virus deadly to humans has reached Romania. Scientists in Bucharest discovered flu antibodies in three farmyard ducks found dead in a remote village late last month, Romanian officials said. Flu vaccinations are being carried out in Tulcea County in the delta, where seven villages are under quarantine. Romanian officials say about 45,000 domestic birds will have to be culled in the region, where poultry is a staple food. The three Romanian cases were found in the village of Ceamurlia de Jos. Although bird flu antibodies were found, the presence of flu itself has not yet been confirmed. In neighbouring Bulgaria experts are testing samples from three dead birds found in different areas of the Pleven region, about 100km from Bulgaria's Danube river border with Romania. Turkey is racing to contain a suspected bird flu outbreak at a turkey farm in the western town of Kiziksa. Both countries are anxiously awaiting the results of tests to find out whether they have been hit by the H5N1 strain, which has killed more than 60 people in South-East Asia over the past two years. Analysts say the Danube delta is particularly vulnerable because it lies along a route taken by migratory birds, which often mix with domestic ducks and geese. The Balkan neighbours of Romania and Turkey have banned imports of poultry from the two countries, as have Ukraine and Switzerland.

Brussels, Oct 13 -- The European Commission said today it was banning the import of live birds and poultry from Romania after its experts confirmed that a strain of avian influenza had been detected in samples from a Romanian duck and

chicken. "Given that it has been confirmed that the virus is present in Romania, the Commission will now adopt the same measures already taken for Turkey, last Monday, that is to say a ban on imports of live birds, poultry meat and other poultry products," the Commission said in a statement. The Commission said its experts had detected the H5 virus strain in two samples taken in a suspected backyard farm in the Danube delta. "Further tests are necessary to ascertain if the virus in question is the H5N1 strain," it added. The Standing Committee of the Food Chain and Animal Health will hold an emergency meeting today to review the situation, and by today a UK laboratory should also be able to ascertain whether the virus isolated in Turkey earlier is the H5N1 strain. -- Reuters.

POWER OUTAGE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

London, Oct 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: A blackout hit Los Angeles' government buildings, Chinatown and adjacent areas yesterday, but backup power kept key parts of City Hall and police headquarters running. It was the third significant electrical failure in the city since mid-September. The blackout began about 0900 hrs and cut power to as many as 1,000 customers, affecting City Hall, the Los Angeles County Hall of Administration and police headquarters at Parker Center, said Gale Harris, a spokeswoman for the city Department of Water and Power, which provides electricity to 1.4 million customers. Power was restored shortly before 1800 hrs. The cause of the outage remained under investigation, although officials ruled out terrorism or human error, said Carol Tucker, another DWP spokeswoman. She said brief power outages were likely through the night, as engineers planned to test the system. About 100 downtown commercial customers were still without power at midafternoon. The height of the blackout, traffic signals that had gone dark snarled traffic through parts of Chinatown and in sections of downtown. Power failures affected 2 million people Sep 12, while 40,000 customers in downtown and neighborhoods to the east lost service Sep 23.

POWER OUTAGE, TYNESIDE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 100,000 homes on Tyneside were left without electricity today after a massive power cut. Areas affected include North Tyneside and parts of Newcastle, including Benton, Heaton and Gosforth. Nexus, which runs the Tyne and Wear Metro, said passengers were also left stranded on tracks and in tunnels when the blackout hit its control centre. The power company Northern Electric said 22,000 homes were still without power and blamed a faulty cable. A spokesman said it

hoped that all homes would be reconnected by 2020, BST. Mike Parker, Director General of Nexus, said some passengers have been stuck in tunnels since the trains stopped running around 1715, BST.

London, Oct 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: A power cut has caused chaos for commuters on Tyneside for the second day running. The blackout affected the control centre for the Tyne and Wear Metro service in South Gosforth during rush hour this morning. Trains began running later, but it was expected to take some time before the system was fully operational. Yesterday evening a power failure left 100,000 homes without electricity and halted the Metro system. Nexus, which runs the Metro service, said in a statement: "We have two supplies of power in the control room, mains and standby, and as result of yesterday's problems we had to switch over to our temporary system which got overloaded when we went into the early morning rush. The control room lost electricity and we had no way of signalling or moving trains across the system safely. We were also unable to contact our Metro drivers. We will be taking the issue up with the power supplier to ensure we have a guaranteed fail safe system, and once again apologise to passengers for the problems this caused." The power company, NEDL, blamed the last nights blackout on a faulty cable and has promised in inquiry.

SEIZURE OF DRUGS ON GERMAN FLAGGED VESSEL AT MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Manila, Oct 13 -- The Philippine Coast Guard have reported that c.c. YM Xingang I (16236 gt, built 1993) was apprehended and detained Oct 12 for carrying a large shipment of marijuana. "The German-registered vessel is now being held at the South Harbour terminal pending further investigation," Lt.Armand Balilo, Coast Guard spokesperson said. The vessel was seized by a combined team of Coast Guard and Bureau of Customs officials after a high seas chase in the waters of Manila Bay. According to Bureau of Customs Pier and Inspection Division Chief Gerry Macatangay, the Bureau had received an intelligence report indicating that a shipment of marijuana was bound for Hong Kong on board YM Xingang I which was scheduled to depart from the port of Manila for Hong Kong yesterday. A Coast Guard cutter with a Customs team was dispatched to go after the vessel which had already left port. As the cutter was closing in the crew of YM Xingang I threw four cases overboard. These were subsequently recovered by Coast Guard frogmen and were found to contain over 150 kilos of marijuana. Another case of marijuana was confiscated after authorities boarded the vessel and forced it to return to port. Officials said that three crewmen were arrested and turned over to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency for custody. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Oct 13 -- A warrant of seizure and detention is set to be issued against c.c. YM Xingang I which was apprehended on Oct 12 for transporting a large shipment of dried marijuana leaves. "We expect to serve the warrant within the next 24 hours," Bureau of Customs Pier and Inspection Division Chief Gerry Macatangay said. He said that this would allow authorities to detain the German-registered ship for an extended period to allow for a more thorough inspection of the vessel and investigation of the crew. YM Xingang I is now docked and under guard at the port of Manila's South Harbour terminal. Three Filipino crewmembers have been arrested, while the vessel's German master and remaining crew are confined to the ship. Mr. Macatangay said that the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency was still trying to determine if the ship's owner, master and remaining crew were liable and should be charged in court. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Fires & Explosions



APARTMENT BUILDING, LAWRENCE, KANSAS, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 8 -- Fire destroyed a Kansas apartment building yesterday, sending 19 people to the hospital and forcing some tenants to jump to safety from the second and third floors. Three people were missing after the blaze at the Boardwalk Apartments. The flames destroyed 75 apartments. The cause of the fire and cost of the damage had not been determined. Authorities did not know how the fire began.

CHEMICAL PLANT, GRENZACH, GERMANY

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire broke out this afternoon at Ciba Speciality Chemicals' plant in Grenzach, Germany, near Basel, Swiss police said. The authorities do not yet know if the large plumes of smoke coming from the plant pose a threat to the population but have recommended that people stay indoors and close doors and windows, according to a police statement. Ciba said the fire broke out at around 1240, local time. Firemen are at the scene. Early tests conducted around the factory and neighbouring areas do not indicate a large concentration of toxic products, Ciba said.

London, Oct 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ciba Specialty Chemicals said damage from a fire that broke out at its Grenzach plant in Germany, near Basel yesterday will amount to approximately 10 mln sfr, Euro 6.6 mln, according to a first estimate. Ciba said it has the necessary insurance coverage. The

group said it will take months before work in the damaged building can resume and that it is transferring some 80 staff as well as production of some intermediary products to other facilities, ruling out production stops. Yesterday, some 20 Ciba employees were evacuated from the seven-floor building of its Grenzach plant when the fire broke out following an explosion. Ciba said it is still not sure what caused the fire. Early tests conducted around the factory and neighbouring areas did not indicate a large concentration of toxic products, it said.

CONNERSVILLE, INDIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Propane tanks exploded during a pre-dawn fire today that caused extensive damage at large industrial building. Firefighters were called to CNC Logistics in the eastern Indiana city about 0330hrs, Fayette County 911 Director Jane Sparks said. Some employees were inside the building when the fire broke out, but no injuries were reported. The fire took nearly three hours to bring under control. Witnesses said there were several loud explosions and that they saw flames shooting up as high as 300 feet. The company, which covers about three city blocks, is a parts supplier for the Visteon Corp. factory in the city about 50 miles east of Indianapolis. Four other area fire departments assisted Connersville firefighters in battling the blaze, Sparks said.

FACTORY, DORSET, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 10 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Fire crews fought flames shooting from the roof of a building on an industrial estate for more than two hours after a blaze broke out last night. The fire at the factory on Ferndale Industrial Estate in Nimrod Way in Dorset, began shortly after 2230, BST. Dorset Fire and Rescue Service said 11 fire engines attended the scene and 46 firefighters were deployed. No-one was injured and it is not yet known what caused the fire. An investigation is now under way.

FOREST, CHINA

London, Oct 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: By yesterday afternoon, all the fires in north-east China's Heilongjiang Province were under control, and only one fire at the Shuanghe forest in Nenjiang County still has visible blaze. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has urged the local government to take effective measures to put out the fires as soon as possible and contain their spread. Vice Premier Hui Liangyu also have ordered to find out the situation of the fires and extinguish them against time. A total of five fires have devoured nearly 10,000 hectares of forests since Sep 29 in Nenjiang County of the province. Nearly 2,000 fire fighters, including more than

1,000 forest guards and officers, and five helicopters have been dispatched to extinguish the fires. The State Forestry Administration and the provincial forest fire control headquarters are conducting on-the-spot investigations to look for peacebreakers and the cause of the fires. Six suspects have been detained so far. The State Forestry Administration has also held an audio-visual meeting yesterday, urging forest fire control headquarters at all levels to take effective measures to prevent major forest fires, so as to protect the security of the people and their property.

GAS PROCESSING PLANT, INGUSHETIA REGION, RUSSIA

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: An explosion hit a gas processing plant in Russia's southern Ingushetia region today, killing one person and injuring several others, emergency and police officials said. Authorities said it appeared to have been an accident. The explosion in an area near the border with Chechnya, when workers were inside a building at the plant, Ingush Interior Ministry spokesman Nazir Yevloyev said. Yevloyev initially called the explosion a terrorist act, but he later said it appeared to have been an accident. A duty officer at the Ingushetia branch of the Emergency Situations Ministry said a spark from a welding torch apparently ignited leaking gas, causing a fire that injured five people, one of them fatally. Two of the injured were in intensive care, he said. The ITAR-Tass and Interfax news agencies, citing police, also reported that one person was killed and that authorities believed the blast was an accident. Estimates of the number of injured ranged from seven to 10.

OIL DEPOT, ARKHANGELSK, RUSSIA

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: OAO Rosneft, Russia's state-owned oil company, stopped work at its oil depot in the Arkhangelsk region in northern Russia after an explosion today killed two contract-workers. The blast occurred at about 0855 hrs, at a tank farm near the Arkhangelsk port, said spokesman Nikolai Manvelov in a telephone interview today. The fire was extinguished by 1030 hrs, he said. Two employees of a subcontractor working at the facility were killed, he said. There was no serious damage at the depot, where work has been halted during an investigation of the accident, Manvelov said. Rosneft will make up for delays in any exports when work resumes, he said. He did not have an estimate for how long the delay would last.

PIER, SOUTHEND ON SEA, ESSEX, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: A major fire has destroyed a large area at the end of Southend Pier in Essex. Twelve fire

crews are tackling the blaze, discovered at a pub on the pier late yesterday night. Flames were seen to leap 30 to 40 feet into the air. Eyewitness Dave Watts said that the main entertainment area of the pier, which is the longest in the world, had been "devastated". Insp Glen Westley of Essex Police said there are not thought to be any casualties. An RAF Sea King helicopter was scrambled from RAF Wattisham in Suffolk to see if anyone was in the water. There had been fears for some anglers who were unaccounted for, but they have all since been located. Thames Coastguard had been carrying out a search and rescue operation, but a spokesman said that had concluded. Speaking from the shore in the early hours of today, the BBC's Gareth George said the Jolly Fisherman had been "totally destroyed" and several shops and restaurants had been badly damaged, with the blaze still going.

London, Oct 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: The section of the world's longest pleasure pier which was gutted by fire is to be rebuilt, even though it could cost millions of pounds. The damage to Southend Pier was a serious blow to the town, said borough council leader Anna Waite. A pub, a railway station and other buildings were destroyed in the fire. Eyewitnesses said flames leapt 30 to 40 ft in the air as the inferno engulfed up to 130 ft of the pier, and the blaze could be seen for miles. McGinty's pub, a restaurant, shops and toilet facilities collapsed into the Thames Estuary, taking part of the pier's wooden floor with them. Police said an investigation into the cause of the fire would be carried out as soon as it was safe for experts to begin work. A spokesman said the fire had caused severe damage to a pub, rail station and planking on part of the pier but he said it was too early to speculate about its cause. Southend Borough Council chief executive Rob Tinlin estimated the authority had spent £8-9m on the pier in the past five years. About 75 fire fighters worked through the night to control the blaze. He said crews had either walked the length of the pier or used a train which normally shuttles tourists to reach the scene and initial efforts to extinguish the blaze were hampered by the fact that the tide was out and the pier's water pumps could not be used.

PLASTICS PLANT, POINT COMFORT, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Black smoke and flames streamed from a Point Comfort industrial plant yesterday, following an explosion that injured at least eight workers. The blast at Formosa Plastics Corp. was the third to strike a Texas industrial facility this year and the second to hit one of the Taiwan-based company's US facilities in 17 months. Witnesses reported at least three blasts around 1530 in an area of the 1,800-acre Formosa complex known as the Olefins 2 unit, where the

building blocks of plastics are made, said Patrick Pastuck, a spokesman at the company's Livingston, N.J., headquarters. The plant, Formosa's largest, employs about 1,500 people, Pastuck said. The cause of the explosions and fire was unknown. A company spokesman on the scene, Jim Shephard, said damage to the unit was severe. Two workers, one in a serious condition with burns over 36 per cent of his body and another, who had burns on his arms and was listed in fair condition, were taken to the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. Shephard said six other workers suffered minor injuries. Officials had ordered residents in the surrounding area to stay indoors and avoid the smoke. About 50 students still inside an elementary school across the street from the plant were transferred to another school in Port Lavaca. Authorities also barricaded nearby roads, including the Port Lavaca causeway, Texas 35 and FM 1593. The fire was extinguished after about three hours, but county officials did not lift the shelter-in-place recommendation until just before 2100. Preliminary tests of the air quality hours after the explosion detected no toxic fumes, local authorities said. The causeway was reopened about 2030. Employees gathered at the community centre yesterday night described hearing over company radios that a pipe had ruptured. That was followed by a rumbling sound, and alarms signaling that they should evacuate. "As we were going out, the fire got worse and worse, it got bigger and bigger," said John Hodges, an instrument maintenance supervisor at the plant. "It seemed like gas escaping, and then big fireballs with three, four, five explosions." Safety officials en route State and local officials, in addition to federal environmental and occupational enforcement personnel, were en route to the facility yesterday evening to perform further assessments. The US Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board was sending a team to the scene yesterday night to launch its third investigation into an industrial incident in Texas this year.

London, Oct 10 -- A press report, dated Oct 7, states: The section of the Formosa Plastics Corp. plant that exploded and injured at least 11 workers will be closed indefinitely, straining already tight petrochemical supplies after two hurricanes along the Gulf Coast. Numerous workers said that they heard over the radio minutes before the blast that a pipe had ruptured. Today a Formosa Plastics spokesman would not speculate about the cause of the explosion, saying that the company would conduct a complete investigation. Meanwhile, the condition of the two most severely hurt workers was upgraded today. John Hunt, 45, was released from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, after being airlifted to the medical centre with burns on his arms

yesterday night. Roger Green, 30, was in good condition today. Burns covered 36 percent of his body. Jim Shephard, a Formosa Plastics spokesman, said six other employees were sent to area hospitals with other injuries. As many as three others could have driven themselves to hospitals for treatment. The blasts occurred around 1530 hrs, in the part of the Point Comfort plant known as the Olefins 2 unit, where the building blocks of plastics are made. Company officials ordered a plant-wide evacuation, which sent workers scurrying to nearby convenience stores, onto closed highways and into two shelters set up in Port Lavaca. Residents of the area, located between Galveston and Corpus Christi, were told to stay in their homes, turn off their air conditioning and avoid the smoke until 2100 hrs, last night. Monitoring conducted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, however, has yet to detect any chemicals in the air of concern.

London, Oct 12 -- A press report, dated Oct 11, states: Officials with a South Texas plastics plant that exploded last week have begun to bring units not affected by the blast back online, but they said today that the process will be slow. "A plant as complex and large as the one in Point Comfort, you don't just flip a switch to start it up again," said Rob Thibault, a spokesman for Formosa Plastics Corp., which owns the facility. "A phased start up has to take place." Thibault did not know when the unaffected units in the plant would all be up and running again. Nearly all the fires at the Olefins 2 unit, where the explosion took place Thursday (Oct 6), were finally extinguished as of today. A small fire resulting from a broken pipe that was venting gas still needed to be put out. Thibault did not know when that fire would be extinguished. Officials at the plant had been having trouble shutting off the source of fuel that was feeding the various fires, said officials with the U.S. Chemical Safety Board. CSB investigators had indicated earlier it might have been possible it could take a few weeks for all the fires at the unit to be extinguished but today clarified that, saying it would probably not take that long. The small fire that continues to burn does not present a direct threat to any major equipment at the plant, said Jim Lay, the CSB's lead investigator on the explosion. "We're still assessing (the accident) at this point," he said. "We're starting to get a feel of what some of the root causes might be. But our focus is on preventing future accidents." Lay said it was still too early for him to say what might have caused the accident because investigators still have not been able to inspect the unit because of the ongoing small fire. But Thibault said Formosa officials believe the explosion occurred after a contractor driving a forklift hit a propylene line. Lay said CSB officials will probably head back to Washington, D.C. by the end of the week, but might return. It could be a few weeks before

investigators decide whether a formal investigation will be opened by the CSB, he said. Thibault said Formosa officials were still trying to finalize the number of people who were injured by the blast. He said two people were hospitalized and about a dozen others received minor injuries.

PREMISES, CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Oct 8 -- Understand from fire brigade sources that a huge fire broke out at Reazuddin Bazar, one of the prime commercial centres in the Chittagong port city of Bangladesh, yesterday afternoon. The fire originated at around 1330 and engulfed the whole market soon. Five fire-fighting vehicles rushed to the spot and controlled the fire around 1700 but until then a total of 32 shops, including 10 mobile phone shops, 22 cloth shops and properties worth million of Taka were gutted. Cause of fire is yet to be ascertained. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PREMISES, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A major fire at a four-storey building has caused traffic disruption in the centre of Glasgow. More than 40 firefighters were called to deal with the fire in Archie's bar at the junction of Waterloo Street and Wellington Street. The fire was reported at 0600, BST and a fire service spokesman said there were no reports of casualties. He said fire crews were expecting to be there for some time. Part of the area has been closed to traffic. Thick smoke which billowed from the building filled the other busy thoroughfares in the city centre this morning as people made their way to work.

PREMISES, NEW DELHI, INDIA

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Property worth crores was gutted in a major fire in Bhagirath palace in New Delhi, a wholesale market in the city. It took more than four hours for the fire fighters to control the flames early this morning. 30 fire-tenders were pressed to service at around 0130 today when the fire was reported. "The fire started on the 4th floor. The area is about 600 to 700 square meters and had tin sheets. The basic problem we faced was at the entrance," said chief fire officer. The fire was due to a short circuit in one of the shops. There were no reports of any casualty.

WAREHOUSE, BRISTOL, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters are at the scene of a large fire at a Victorian warehouse which stores theatrical props. Crews were called to Silverthorne Lane near Bristol Temple Meads station early this morning. Avon Fire Service Divisional Officer Geoff Cater said: "All three floors inside have collapsed and the exterior walls are unstable. "We couldn't

commit people inside, so we are fighting the fire from the outside which is more time consuming." At the height of the blaze, flames were reaching 100ft, he added. Nobody was in the building when the fire broke out. The area has been sealed off and crews are expected to remain at the scene for the rest of the day.

London, Oct 11 -- A fire at Aardman's Bristol warehouse has destroyed artwork, sets and archives relating to some of British animation's most iconic characters. Aardman, best-known for Wallace and Gromit, Creature Comforts and Morph, has a distinguished track record stretching back almost 30 years. But in several hours yesterday morning, most original drawings, wooden sets, paperwork, awards and other memorabilia went up in smoke. "It's very sad that a lot of historic material has gone up in flames," says Aardman co-founder Dave Sproxtton. The firm stored most of its past works in the warehouse and the biggest loss was the original Wallace and Gromit storyboards by creator Nick Park, Mr Sproxtton says. Wallace and Gromit storyboards Animation cells from the original Aardman character Artwork, sets and archive material from all Aardman creations Park's three Oscars for Wallace and Gromit and Creature Comforts were also elsewhere. The original film and negatives are stored in a humidity-controlled vault at a different location and the sets from the current Wallace and Gromit feature film, The Curse of the Were-Rabbit, were also elsewhere.

WAREHOUSE, UNION GAP, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated Oct 12, states: Production of Western RV's luxury motor homes will be suspended for about two weeks after a fire yesterday night that caused more than \$1 million worth of damage, officials said today. Union Gap firefighters said the origin of the fire had been isolated to the one motor coach that was destroyed by flames, but the exact cause remained under investigation. The motor coach itself could be worth several thousand dollars, but smoke and water extensively damaged the rest of the warehouse, said Dave Woodall, assistant to Western RV's vice president of marketing. Woodall said the fire may disrupt completion of between five and 10 coaches during a time when the sales market has been strong.

WILDFIRE, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Nearly 200 firefighters and two water-bombing helicopters are working to contain three fires burning on the New South Wales north coast. A fire burning through bushland southwest of Murwillumbah has burnt through more than 100 hectares and is threatening property near a commune at Byrril Creek. Another fire near Fingal Head has burnt about 40 hectares of coastal scrub and crews

are working to protect threatened properties on the southern edge. The third fire, on both sides of the Gwydir Highway west of Grafton, has burnt about 200 hectares of private property.

WILDFIRES, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 8 -- Bushfires raged to the edge of Brisbane homes for a second day yesterday as south-east Queensland's dry, hot conditions continued. Soaring temperatures and gusty westerly winds are predicted to make conditions even worse today. After Thursday's (Oct 6) fire emergency at The Gap in Brisbane's northwest, attention turned to the Keperra, Enoggera and Mitchelton areas yesterday. Queensland Fire and Rescue Service state manager for air operations John Gresty said yesterday was the first time Queensland was able to use three choppers at once to battle blazes. The QFRS was also monitoring a fire in heavy terrain near Crows Nest, north of Toowoomba.

London, Oct 9 -- A press report, dated Oct 10, states: Fire authorities in Queensland's south-east say milder weather and possible rain later in the week may bring relief to the region after a weekend of fire outbreaks. Crews contained numerous spot fires across the region yesterday, including a 600-hectare eucalypt plantation near Caboolture, north of Brisbane. Helicopters were brought in to water bomb the fire. Queensland Fire and Rescue Service spokesman, Ian Aims, says there is likely to be some relief ahead as cooler temperatures are expected during the week. "Later in the week it's looking a bit better," he said. "We might even get some storms and showers which will help us out no end, but up until then the next two days we've still got dry weather." Mr Aims says south-east Queensland will be on high fire danger alert over the next few days. "We'll be keeping a close eye on everything," he said. "We have got four-wheel drive vehicles at the ready and our own pump appliances, so all is going well at the moment." Earlier on Sunday, Brisbane's Gateway Motorway was partially closed due to smoke from a large grass fire that was burning on the city's southside. Several fire crews were working to stop the blaze spreading to homes at Drewvale, south of Brisbane.

London, Oct 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters have been working overnight to try and contain a big fire threatening a number of properties on the NSW far south coast. The blaze at Moruya is one of a number that authorities believe were deliberately lit in the area in recent weeks. The fire broke out in bush near the Moruya Airport and this morning more than 200 hectares has been blackened. The Rural Fire Service's (RFS) Andrew Stark says 30 firefighters worked through the night trying to protect homes. This morning police and RFS investigators will be looking at the cause of the blaze. It is one of about six fires in the area in the past few

weeks which authorities say may have been started by arsonists.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 7 -- A press report, dated Oct 6, states: Fire crews braced for another day of hot weather as they made progress today against two wildfires that have blackened more than 9,000 acres in San Diego and Riverside counties. In the meantime, still another wildfire broke out in Riverside County on this afternoon and quickly spread across 40 acres of steep hillside brush in the Home Gardens area near Corona. The fire had the potential to spread across 100 acres, said Valerie McAdam, a spokeswoman for the California Department of Forestry, but it was expected to be contained sometime tonight. It wasn't immediately known if any homes were threatened. The National Weather Service forecast for tomorrow called for more temperatures in the 90s, with low humidity and light winds. In San Diego County, a fire burning along the California-Mexico border was 10 percent contained today with full containment expected by Sunday evening (Oct 9), fire officials said. The blaze spread after a structure fire in Mexico jumped the US border and burned across about 3,100 rugged, uninhabited acres, said Audrey Hagen, a spokeswoman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. It forced evacuations in a rural area about 30 miles east of San Diego. No structures had been destroyed. In Riverside County, McAdam said fire crews had the Woodhouse Fire 70 percent contained tonight after it burned more than 6,400 acres in a rural area near Moreno Valley. Total containment was expected by Saturday night, she said. The fire, which broke out Wednesday, had initially threatened 100 homes and five commercial properties, but all were safe Thursday night, McAdam said. Two firefighters suffered minor injuries and one was treated at a hospital and released. Residents of about 20 homes who had been advised to evacuate on Wednesday were told they could return. The blaze closed a 10-mile stretch of the 60 Freeway on Wednesday after a wall of flames roared to the edge of the highway. The road was reopened this morning.

London, Oct 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Aided by cooler temperatures and higher humidity, fire crews hoped to fully contain two wildfires near the US-Mexican border by 1800, yesterday. The 4,100-acre Border Fire No. 50 in the Tecate area was 90 percent contained yesterday morning. Temperatures in the low 60s and humidity at 50 percent aided firefighters' efforts at surrounding the blaze, National Weather Service Meteorologist Noel Isla said. About 730 firefighters, including state and federal squads, local volunteers and crews from Indian reservations, remained on scene, California Department of Forestry information officer Leona Rodreick said. Three

firefighters suffered minor injuries, CDF authorities reported. Early estimates put the cost of fighting the fire, which has destroyed no structures in the United States, at \$1.8 million. Meanwhile, the 170-acre Skye Fire in the Cleveland National Forest, just east of Barrett Lake, was 60 percent contained, Rodreick said. About 345 firefighters, along with 21 engines, six helicopters, eight water tenders and a bulldozer remained on the fire line yesterday, said CDF spokesperson Roxanne Provaznik. The cause of the fire was undetermined, Provaznik said. Authorities closed Bear Valley Road and Corral Canyon/Morena Stokes Road, Provaznik said. Cooler temperatures will prevail through today, with an offshore flow and a Santa Ana condition expected to return tomorrow.

WINE WAREHOUSE, VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tens of millions of dollars worth of vintage wine were believed to be destroyed by a relentless fire yesterday at a huge Vallejo warehouse that was considered one of the most secure places for wineries and individuals to store prized collections. The three-alarm fire at Wines Central sent plumes of smoke more than 700 feet high that could be seen from miles and could not be controlled by firefighters because the Mare Island building, which once housed Navy torpedoes, had steel doors and 3-foot-thick concrete walls and a roof that could not be penetrated. The blaze began around 1530 yesterday and was expected to burn into the morning, said Vallejo fire spokesman Bill Tweedy. Wines Central converted the old military warehouse three years ago into a 240,000-square-foot specialty warehouse that stored more than 500,000 cases of rare vintages believed to be worth up to \$100 million, officials said. Clients included wineries, private collectors and some other businesses. One firefighter was taken to the hospital for heat exhaustion, but no other injuries were reported in the blaze, which totally depleted the resources of Solano County's fire departments. Wines Central was billed on its Web site as having "state-of-the-art" fire monitoring systems and a safe and secure environment that provided "the highest standard of care," because of dense concrete walls, its concrete roof and heavy steel doors. But all of that concrete and steel proved harmful yesterday, as it prevented firefighters from entering the building. The fire burned in the upper mezzanine of the warehouse, where floors are made of timber and full of wood palettes. "It is not safe to go through the doors because the roof might collapse," Tweedy said. "We have no way to get access." Firefighters finally started to enter the building around 2200 hrs. The warehouse is in the 700 block of L Street on the northwest side of the Navy shipyard. Manager Debby

Polverino said the warehouse stored both bottles and barrels from about 95 wineries and about 40 private collectors. There were an estimated 6 million bottles stored inside, some bottles worth thousands each. All of Vallejo's seven fire engines were at the blaze. In addition, 14 engines from Solano and Contra Costa County agencies and three air units to provide both water and light were called to help. "All of our resources are going to be here until morning," Tweedy said. "Solano County's resources are stripped. We are calling on the state to have them send resources to cover our stations." The climate-controlled warehouse also stored sauces and other items for the Francis Ford Coppola brand and C&H Sugar, as well as specialty olive oils. Officials at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said the wine and water mixture should not flow into the storm drains or bay waters because it would be harmful to fish. Workers from Vallejo's Sanitation and Flood Control District came to the scene and said they would prevent that from happening, Tweedy said. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.



ACCIDENT AT MUMBAI AIRPORT, INDIA

London, Oct 10 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: An Air Sahara Boeing 737 from Calcutta skidded off the runway after landing at Mumbai airport around 1920, today. The pilot managed to bring the aircraft, with 117 people on board, to a halt on the soft ground a few metres off the runway, but two passengers were injured. Mumbai airport director Sudhir Kumar at first said: "Sahara aircraft has overshot (the runway). All passengers are safe. The airport is completely functional." Later, he confirmed that two passengers had suffered injuries. Airport sources said the aircraft had made an emergency landing.

London, Oct 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Inbound and outbound flights of most airlines at Mumbai Airport were delayed today as the main runway continued to remain unserviceable in view of the mishap involving an Air Sahara aircraft, airport sources said. The flights of all the airlines were delayed considerably since morning as the aircraft had to use the secondary runway in the absence of the main runway which was rendered unserviceable, the sources said. Air Sahara's Kolkata-Mumbai Boeing 737 last evening missed touchdown by several metres while landing and overshot the main runway which was closed immediately thereafter. The aircraft is still on the soft land and continues to block the main runway,

the sources said adding, instrument landing system has also become unserviceable

London, Oct 12 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Air Sahara B737 aircraft, which skidded off the main runway at Mumbai airport on Sunday (Oct 9) night, is still stuck in a soft, grassy patch, affecting flight schedules by up to 45-90 minutes. Today, workers managed to lift the aircraft but could not tow it away. They stopped work in the evening as continuing would have meant closing the runway completely in the night when air traffic is heavy. "By mid-noon tomorrow, an attempt will be made to retrieve the aircraft," said Air India (A-I) spokesman S Venkat. A-I has been attempting to recover the aircraft and is the only airline in this part of the subcontinent that has the aircraft recovery kit. As the "rescue operation" went on, aircrafts were forced to use the secondary runway and the main runway, with shortened length, intermittently. When it skid, the Air Sahara aircraft had stopped close to the Instrument Landing System antenna on the runway, obstructing the signal. That has further affected landings and take-offs. Today, some airlines either clubbed their flights or cancelled them. Some more were diverted. During peak hours, at one point, there were 30 aircraft waiting for clearance to land, said sources.

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: After blocking the runway at Mumbai airport for three days, the Air Sahara aircraft was finally towed away this morning. The aircraft has been removed and taken to a parking area in the airport. The flight operations at the airport will normalise after instrument landing system was recalibrated, they said. The aircraft had overshot the runway while landing and was stuck in the soft land, disrupting normal functioning at the airport.

AIRCRAFT MISSING, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

See VH-BKM.

AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO BRADLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CONNECTICUT, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 10 -- An aircraft was forced to turn around after hitting a flock of birds. The aircraft circled to burn off fuel before returning to Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. Airport spokesman John Wallace says Flight 4768 carried 42 passengers and crew. The aircraft remains grounded as mechanics checked the engines. Passengers are being routed onto other Northwest flights.

AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO KANSAI AIRPORT, JAPAN

London, Oct 11 -- A press report from LaSalle, dated Oct 7, states: An Air Canada Boeing 767 jet bound for Vancouver returned to Kansai airport last night after detecting trouble in its

air-conditioning system, airport officials said. No one was hurt in the incident.

AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO LARNACA, CYPRUS

London, Oct 10 -- Helios Airways aircraft to Glasgow with 184 people on board returned to Cyprus overnight after reporting a technical problem, the Cyprus News Agency (CNA) said. The Boeing 737-800 returned to Larnaca without incident 35 minutes after take-off, reporting a problem related to air distribution with one of the engines. Helios was not immediately available for comment.

Nicosia, Oct 10 -- Aviation authorities in Cyprus may indefinitely ground a Boeing aircraft run by private operator Helios Airways after two flights were turned back in recent days, officials said today. The aborted flights to Britain were on Friday (Oct 7) and yesterday. "The communications ministry will look at the situation today. It is not a matter of revoking (Helios's) licence, but to take a decision on that one particular aircraft involved in the two incidents," a senior communications ministry official told Reuters. A Helios spokesman described the problem as minor, but said the aircraft was undergoing checks by Boeing engineers and would not enter service until rectified. "Safety was, is and will continue to be our first and only priority," said marketing and sales manager Nicos Anastassiades. In separate comments to Politis newspaper, transport minister Haris Throssou said authorities would "ground the Helios fleet if required". The carrier operates two Boeings and a leased Airbus. A problem with a valve distributing air from an engine of a Boeing 737-800 forced the London Heathrow bound aircraft to return to Larnaca on Friday with 139 people on board. A similar scenario was repeated on the same aircraft yesterday, when a Glasgow flight with 184 people turned back. "This has nothing to do with decompression, or air supply to the cabin. The aircraft could have continued flying without problems. It was the decision of the captain to turn back," said Anastassiades. -- Reuters.

C-FEXS

London, Oct 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Federal Express cargo aircraft crashed in Winnipeg today, killing a female pilot, a broadcast report says. The Cessna 208 was en route from Winnipeg to Thunder Bay, Ont., when it went down in the Osborne Village area of the city, said radio station CJOB. It was snowing and foggy when the plane took off. Emergency crews were on the scene early today.

Winnipeg, Oct 6 -- A small aircraft carrying cargo for FedEx Corp., including six vials of research viruses, crashed in Winnipeg today, killing its pilot, the only person on board, but sparing injury on the ground. The Cessna 208 crashed on railway tracks in the western

Canadian city just before 0600 hrs (1100, UTC), leaving only a "twisted heap" of wreckage behind, local radio said. The crash occurred close to a Masonic Lodge at the intersection of several major streets that is known locally as "Confusion Corner." The crash incinerated all cargo on board the plane, including four frozen 0.5 milliliter vials of herpes virus and two of influenza, a spokeswoman for FedEx Canada said. The viruses were not hazardous, Karen Cooper said, although they were packaged and handled as dangerous goods. There was no danger to the public from the viruses, she said. The plane, which was on its way to Thunder Bay, Ontario, from Winnipeg, was operated and maintained by FedEx subcontractor Morningstar Air Express Inc., Cooper said. Federal aviation inspectors and police have not yet determined the cause of the crash, she said. Winnipeg was hit by an unusually early and heavy snowfall yesterday. -- Reuters.

London, Oct 7 -- Cessna 208B (Grand Caravan) C-FEXS, operated by Morningstar Air Express, crashed at Winnipeg, Manitoba, at 0543, CDT, Oct 6, shortly after take-off for a flight to Thunder Bay. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The one person on board was killed.

C-GMHS

London, Oct 7 -- Helicopter Bell 206L C-GMHS was on final approach for the fuel cache at Lac Klotz, Quebec, when the engine flamed out at 1545, EST, Oct 3. The helicopter landed hard and sustained substantial damage to landing gear, tail boom and driveshaft. There were no injuries to the three passengers or pilot. Search and Rescue authorities were advised of the occurrence and the ELT shut-off. The occupants were to be airlifted the next day but strong winds prevailed and they had to spend a second night in the aircraft.

COLLISION, MADAGASCAR

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Madagascan President Marc Ravalomanana and his wife survived a helicopter accident yesterday in the central-southern part of the country, according to the Madagascan media today. The helicopter carrying Ravalomanana and his wife crashed into another helicopter and caught fire when landing. Fortunately, Mr and Mrs Ravalomanana, along with all their entourage, escaped unscathed from the accident with the help of the helicopter pilot, the report said. Ravalomanana had just finished inspecting Fianarantsoa Province and was leaving for another city by helicopter, when the accident occurred, in the afternoon. A third helicopter subsequently took the presidential couple and their delegation back to the capital. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

CRASH, DARKE COUNTY, OHIO, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: The FAA is investigating after an aircraft slammed into a cornfield last night in the Miami Valley. The aircraft went down in Darke County shortly before 2000 on McFellee-Petrey and Hillgrove-Fort Recovery roads. Witnesses said the aircraft exploded and burst into flames when it slammed into a cornfield. Authorities are reporting that one person was killed. Officials are not sure if anyone else besides the pilot was on board.

CRASH, HOOKS AIRPORT, HOUSTON, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft flipped over on a north-west Harris County airport's runway this morning, injuring at least one person. The crash happened at Hooks Airport on Stuebner Airline Road in Spring at about 0910 hrs. Officials with the Cy-Creek Fire Department told KPRC Local 2 that the pilot suffered minor injuries when the aircraft overturned. He was transported to Tomball Regional Hospital. Authorities have not said what caused the plane to crash.

CRASH, IPSWICH AREA, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two men have survived an ultralight aircraft crash south-west of Brisbane. The craft went down at Boonah, south of Ipswich, about 1100, AEST, an RACQ Careflight helicopter spokeswoman said. One man was airlifted from Boonah Hospital to Brisbane's Princess Alexandra Hospital with suspected spinal injuries. The other man was taken to Ipswich Hospital. His injuries were unknown.

CRASH, LAKE ELMO AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 10 -- A press report, dated Oct 9, states: A pilot was injured after attempting an emergency landing at Lake Elmo Airport today, authorities said. An airport spokesperson said one engine on the Cessna 172 failed, causing the pilot to radio in that he would attempt an emergency landing on the airport's inactive runway. The aircraft flipped over upon landing around 1300 hrs, authorities said. The pilot was treated for minor injuries at a local hospital and released, the Washington County Sheriff's Office said. The pilot's identity was not immediately available. The NTSB and the FAA are investigating the accident.

CRASH, LAKEFIELD, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Police said the pilot of a small aircraft and two passengers survived after their aircraft lost power and landed in a field in Lakeland. Police said 48-year-old passenger Bill Hech was taken to

Tampa General Hospital with burns on his lower legs. Pilot Mark Dion, 24, of Fort Myers and a second passenger refused treatment for minor burns. A Lakeland police spokesman said the three were traveling from Fort Myers to Lakeland for breakfast. A they departed for the return trip, the aircraft was unable to gain altitude. Pilot Mark Dion managed to land the aircraft in a field. Police said the aircraft was completely burned. Authorities are investigating the crash.

CRASH, NORTHREPPS AIRFIELD, NORFOLK, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: An air accident investigation has begun after a light aircraft crashed in Norfolk injuring three men. The Piper Cherokee overshot the runway at Northrepps airfield near Cromer yesterday, ending up in a field. The pilot and two passengers were taken to the University Hospital in Norwich with back injuries which are not thought to be serious. The aircraft, which had taken off from Ludham earlier in the day, had damage to its cockpit, nose, wings and tail. The Air Accidents Investigation Branch has been called in.

CRASH, OROVILLE, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 12 -- A press report, dated Oct 11, states: Authorities are investigating the crash of a light plane that killed two people near the Oroville airport. Witnesses reported seeing the plane make a steep climb yesterday before it took a nose dive, crashed in a meadow and burst into flames. Other witnesses reported seeing the plane doing acrobatic manoeuvres and touch-and-go landings before the crash.

London, Oct 12 -- A press report, dated Oct 11, states: The Butte County coroner has circumstantially identified the two occupants of a single-engined aerobatic American Champion Super Decathlon that crashed near the Oroville Municipal Airport yesterday afternoon. The aircraft crashed about a half-mile south-east of the airport after making what witnesses described as a very steep climb. The airport manager told Butte County sheriff's deputies an aircraft that was not based at the airport had been practicing take-offs and landings just prior to the crash. He thinks that's the same aircraft that went down at about 1445 hrs in a field just east of the airport. The Nevada County airport manager said the aircraft left his airport about 1400 hrs for a training flight. The Oroville airport was favoured by instructors because it has a long runway and open space around it. The crash started a small fire which the fire department quickly extinguished. The fire did burn the aircraft's registration numbers, delaying identification of the aircraft. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash.

CRASH, PIANO DE PORLEZZA, ITALY

Genoa, Oct 10 -- A Eurocopter AS 350 (helicopter), chartered by Eli Tellina, crashed on Oct 9, at Piano di Porlezza near Como, Northern Italy. It is believed that the helicopter struck the steel wire of a cableway. The pilot and five passengers died. An official inquiry is underway. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CRASH, PORLEZZA AREA, ITALY

London, Oct 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A sightseeing helicopter crashed in the woods near a lake in northern Italy today, killing all six on board, five tourists and the pilot, police said. The helicopter went down near the town of Porlezza, which is 10 miles from Lugano, Switzerland, and about six miles from Lake Como's western shore. The craft exploded on impact with the ground, police said. The victims were believed to be Italians.

D-ANFH

Guernsey, Oct 13 -- Following received from Guernsey Air Traffic Control, dated Oct 12: ATR 72 D-ANFH had a tail strike when landing at Guernsey at around lunchtime Sept 17. The result being an UK AAIB Investigation, they having seized the aircraft's cockpit voice recorder and flight recorder. The air craft was damaged to the point that two engineers differed as to if the aircraft should fly without being repaired. The aircraft subsequently left the next day, flying at low level unpressurised. -- Lloyd's Agents.

EC-EYO

London, Oct 11 -- Piper PA-36-375 EC-EYO, registered to, and operated by Fumigaciones ADEFA, as an agricultural application flight, crashed in Puerta del Segura, Spain, at approximately 0930, UTC, Sept 27. The pilot received fatal injuries, and the aircraft was destroyed.

EMERGENCY LANDING AT FRANKFURT, GERMANY

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: The passengers of a Bulgarian flag carrier plane that made an unexpected stop at Frankfurt's airport due to an engine failure arrived safely in Bulgaria late yesterday night. Concerned relatives who found out about the engine malfunction from the media were waiting for the thirteen passengers, who were transported to Bulgaria's Varna by another aircraft. The plane was flying from Amsterdam to Sofia and had to make an emergency landing at Frankfurt airport when at 1330 hrs, the pilot found out that one of the engines was not working properly. The airline has sent a working group to Frankfurt to fix the failure.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BELFAST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NORTHERN IRELAND

London, Oct 8 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A passenger aircraft

has had to make an emergency landing shortly after taking off from Belfast City Airport. The Flybe aircraft was on its way to Liverpool tonight when the pilot declared an emergency near the Isle of Man. The aircraft was diverted to Belfast International Airport and landed with one engine out. No-one was injured. The 55 passengers were then bussed back to the City Airport where it is thought another flight was being arranged.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BRADLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: People on a flight out of Bradley International Airport had some tense moments after taking off yesterday. A flock of birds flew into a Northwest Airlines flight bound for Indianapolis, forcing it to turn around and make an emergency landing. The aircraft circled the airport to burn off fuel before landing. Once it was on the ground crews checked for damage and found none. Passengers were re-routed onto other flights.

EMERGENCY LANDING, DELHI AIRPORT, INDIA

London, Oct 11 - A press report, dated yesterday, states: An Air Sahara aircraft made an emergency landing at Delhi airport today following a technical snag. Airport sources said the aircraft, which took off from the capital for Kochi via Hyderabad, reported the snag to the air traffic control (ATC) in Delhi, which alerted the emergency services in the airport. However, the flight S2-145 made a safe landing at 1140 hrs.

EMERGENCY LANDING, FRANKFURT, GERMANY

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Teams of specialists located and removed the fault in Bulgaria Air's aircraft that had an emergency landing due to an engine failure in Frankfurt yesterday. Experts from Bulgaria Air and Lufthansa located a damaged engine gasket that had caused the engine to deflect from the standard rates. After replacing the gasket, the team put the engine to several tests in all operation modes and declared it in good working order. An extra crew will travel with the company's regular flight to Frankfurt today to bring the aircraft back to Sofia. The company announced that an internal investigation on the technical condition of the air fleet is under way, and the results should be ready by the following week.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MAIRANGI BAY, NEW ZEALAND

See "New Zealand" under "Weather & Navigation."

EMERGENCY LANDING, MINETA SAN JOSE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 13 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A SkyWest Airlines regional jet made an

emergency landing this morning at Mineta San Jose International Airport after the aircraft developed a problem with a wing flap. Airport spokesman Rich Dressler said the aircraft, which was carrying 44 passengers from Monterey to San Francisco when it was diverted to San Jose, landed safely at about 0726 hrs. Because of the flap problem, the aircraft had to land at a faster speed than it normally would. At the request of the pilot, who feared overheated brakes might cause a fire, a San Jose fire engine followed the aircraft as it taxied safely to the gate. Dressler said the passengers on Flight 6462 boarded a bus to San Francisco.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 11 -- An American Eagle commuter flight to Los Angeles was forced to make an emergency landing at San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport just after 0600, yesterday morning after the jet's cabin filled with smoke, authorities said. CDF/County Fire Capt. Don West said the smoke was apparently caused by a mechanical problem with the aircraft's air conditioning system, not a fire. No one was injured.

EMERGENCY LANDING, TOLEDO EXPRESS AIRPORT, OHIO, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A twin-engine corporate jet with seven people aboard made an emergency landing yesterday at Toledo Express Airport after it lost hydraulic pressure about 20 miles from the airport, officials said. The Cessna 560XL was headed from Pittsburgh to Chicago when, just before 0800 hrs, the pilot discovered problems with the hydraulic pressure that helps control flaps, landing gear, and other functions of the aircraft, Brian Schwartz, a spokesman for the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, said. The airport issued a Level One emergency in which it calls on the Ohio Highway Patrol, Lucas County Sheriff's Department, and fire departments from Swanton, Moncolva, and Springfield townships to assist airport emergency services. The aircraft landed safely at 0830 hrs. No one was hurt. The aircraft was still at the airport yesterday afternoon, Mr. Schwartz said.

FLIGHT DIVERTED TO GATWICK AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A flight from Manchester to Malaga was diverted to Gatwick Airport today after fears of a loss of cabin pressure when oxygen masks were released. Surrey Ambulance crews said the Monarch Airline flight landed at about 1030, BST, at the airport's south terminal. He said no decompression was found and passengers were transferred to another aircraft to continue their journey. A full-scale emergency

response was launched with six ambulances and fire crews at the scene who were stood down. Paramedics said one woman felt unwell, but she then continued with her journey.

INCIDENT AT ABERDEEN AIRPORT, SCOTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 50 passengers were evacuated from a British Airways aircraft at Aberdeen after it collided with a vehicle on the ground, the firm has said. The 57 passengers on the Manchester-bound City Express flight from Aberdeen airport had a narrow escape after a cable from a ground support unit tangled with the propellers, causing what has been described as "severe damage" to both the aircraft and vehicle. The incident happened at around 2000 yesterday night. A BA spokesman confirmed an investigation into the incident will now take place. He said: "A thing called a ground unit, which starts the engines off, was in collision with the aircraft prior to it taking off. "There were around 50 passengers on board but nobody was injured on the plane or ground." The collision led to 35 passengers being taken to Manchester by bus for a connecting flight. Others were taken to Edinburgh to fly and about a dozen were put up in hotels overnight and left Aberdeen this morning.

MPUMALANGA AREA, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Oct 10 -- A light aircraft that disappeared en route to Rand Airport near Germiston has been found with all three occupants dead, the SA Search and Rescue Organisation said on Saturday (Oct 8). Spokesperson Charles Norval said the wreckage of the Cessna 172 aircraft was found around 1100, yesterday in the Tafelkop area between Nelspruit and Badplaas in Mpumalanga. The aircraft went missing on Friday afternoon after it lost contact with air traffic services and failed to arrive at its destination.

N9085Q

London, Oct 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Washakie County Sheriff Gary Mitchell today identified two Florida residents who died in a plane crash in the Bighorn Mountains. Alfred Terry Sutley and Sharon Hicks, both of Miramar Beach, Fla., died when their plane crashed Tuesday (Oct 4) in a mountainous area between Worland and Casper. The 57-year-old Sutley owned and was flying the plane. Mitchell yesterday told the Northern Wyoming Daily News that he doubted the two bodies could be removed immediately from the site overnight because of darkness and potential bad weather. The single-engine Beechcraft went down after a distress call from one of the two people on board said the wings were icing up and the aircraft was losing altitude. Mitchell said the crash site was

spotted in south-east Washakie County from the air by a Civil Air Patrol plane, which directed searchers to the site. His office was notified at 1550 hrs, that the plane had been found, Mitchell said. Low clouds and inclement weather prevented an aerial search all day Tuesday and for much of the day yesterday. Two planes that made a first attempt early yesterday afternoon had to return to Casper because of clouds over the area, according to George Twitchell, head of the Wyoming Civil Air Patrol's search efforts. Mitchell said the plane took off from Bridger, Mont., en route to Kansas City, with a planned stop in Casper.

London, Oct 7 -- Beechcraft Bonanza V35B N9085Q crashed near Casper, Wyoming, at 1622, Oct 4, while on a flight from Bridger, Montana, to Mosby, MT. The two persons on board were killed.

PK-RIM

London, Oct 7 -- A press report, dated Oct 6, states: The families of more than 100 people killed in an aircraft crash in Indonesia last month plan to sue aircraft manufacturer Boeing, a US-law firm representing the families said today. Manuel Ribbeck, from Chicago-based Nolan Law Group, said the firm would file the suit in Chicago, where Boeing is also based. Ribbeck declined to say how much the company intended to sue for, nor the basis of the suit. The Boeing 737-200 (PK-RIM) crashed soon after take-off in the Sumatran city of Medan on Sep 5. Setio Raharjo, head of the National Transportation Safety Board and the lead investigator in the crash, said today the probe into the crash would be completed by early next year. He would not speculate on the cause of the accident, and said he had not heard of Nolan's plan to sue Boeing.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF LAGOS AIRPORT, NIGERIA

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated Oct 10, states: Scores of passengers were stranded for about six hours at Murtala Muhammed Airport, Lagos yesterday after the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) closed the only functional runway for emergency repairs. The closure of the runway (18L), was communicated to airlines by the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) via a NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) prior to the closure, but took passengers unaware. Passengers were only informed on arrival at the airport. The runway currently serves both local and international flights as the second one (18R) is undergoing resurfacing work. The runway (18L) was closed between 1000 hrs and 1600 hrs, in order that repairs to the same "bad spot" which caused damage to a Lufthansa aircraft in July, could be undertaken. The closure of the airport forced in-bound flights to be diverted to either Ilorin, Abuja or Port Harcourt airports. FAAN General Manager (Public Affairs), Alhaji Adamu Abdullahi, said the runway

was closed after FAAN and International Air Transport Association (IATA) officials discovered that the same spot where a Lufthansa aircraft was damaged in July, had again worn out. Abdullahi said FAAN had no option but to order the immediate closure of the runway to allow the damage to be repaired.

VH-BKM

London, Oct 11 -- Beechcraft A36 VH-BKM, crashed under unknown circumstances 50 km south of Tenterfield, NSW, Sep 24. The aircraft was reported missing on a flight from Murwillumbah NSW to Coonabarabran NSW when it did not arrive as scheduled on Sep 24, and the wreckage was located on Sep 29 by the owner of the property on which it crashed. The aircraft was being operated by the owner on a personal flight. Both the pilot and one passenger sustained fatal injuries and the aircraft was destroyed.

VH-HUZ

London, Oct 6 -- A helicopter has crashed in far western NSW, police have said. The two-seater aircraft went down about 250km north-east of Broken Hill, between White Cliffs and Tibooburra, at 1930, AEST. It was not clear how many were on board or whether there were survivors, police said. The origin and destination of the aircraft were also not known, police said. Emergency, fire and police crews were on their way to the scene, and no other details were yet available.

London, Oct 12 -- Robinson R-22 Beta VH-HUZ, operated by Muncoota Pty Ltd, was observed to descend rapidly and crash near Calindary Homestead at 1921, local time, Oct 6. The pilot and single passenger were fatally injured and the helicopter was substantially damaged.

YV-1353P

London, Oct 11 -- Cessna 182 YV-1353P, struck electrical power lines near La Cruz, Barinas, Venezuela, at approximately 1214, AST, Sep 30. The pilot received fatal injuries and the aircraft was destroyed. The flight originated from the Barinas Airport, Barinas, Venezuela, earlier that day, at about 1045 hrs.

Space Vehicles



CRYOSAT

London, Oct 9 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The European Space Agency has confirmed that its ice mission Cryosat has been lost off the Russian coast. The satellite fell into the Arctic Ocean minutes after lift-off from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome in northern Russia. The £90m craft was designed to monitor how the Earth's ice masses are responding to climate change. Scientists said the crash was

a "tragedy" and it would be years before they could launch a similar mission, even if more funding were available. The European Space Agency (Esa) probe lifted off at 1902, local time, today from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome in Russia. Space officials said the flight broke up and crashed into the sea.

Product Recalls



BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE TYRES, WORLD-WIDE

See "Faulty Tyres, United States" under "Awards & Settlements."

CHILDRENS FLEECE PULLOVER/PANTS SETS, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 6 -- A press release, dated today, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with Adjmi Apparel Group, of New York, N.Y., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 61,000 Reebok Children's Fleece Quarter-Zip Pullover/Pant Sets. Manufactured in Taiwan and China, the zipper slider and pull on the fleece pullovers can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children. Reebok has received two reports from consumers of zipper sliders/pulls that have detached. No injuries have been reported. Only Reebok fleece pullover/pant sets with navy blue quarter-zip zippers are being recalled. The fleece pullover/pant sets were sold in navy blue/red and navy blue/pink in sizes up to children's size 7. Reebok is printed across the front of the pullover. The pullovers have a hood that can be folded under the collar. Some of the recalled pullovers were sold with matching mittens. The style numbers were printed on the store tag only and end in: 1816, 2816, 3816, 1816N, 2816N, 1814, 2814, 4814, and 5814. The items were sold exclusively at Gordmans, Mervyns, JC Penney, Kohls, The Bon, Fred Meyer, Ross, DDos, Edisons, Macy's, AJ Wright, and Reebok Corporate Headquarters retail store in Canton, Mass. from September 2004 through to February 2005 for between \$17 and \$36.

CHRYSLER MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Chrysler is voluntarily recalling about 300,000 vehicles with a potential defect that could prevent the driver from putting the transmission in park. The recall involves some 2005 models of the Jeep Liberty, Jeep Wrangler, Chrysler 300 and Dodge Magnum, Dodge Dakota/Mitsubishi Raider pickups and Dodge Durango vehicles with six-cylinder engines and automatic transmissions. A spokesman for Chrysler, a unit of Germany's

DaimlerChrysler, said a plug inside the transmission may be missing or improperly staked. No accidents or injuries have been associated with the possible defect. Chrysler is also recalling about 283,000 2003-2005 Dodge Ram pickups with diesel engines and automatic transmissions. The automaker has found that some drivers are not fully placing the shift lever in the park position. If that happens with the vehicle running, it may roll away or -- after a delay -- move backward.

DAIMLERCHRYSLER MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 8 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: DaimlerChrysler AG's Chrysler Group said today that it would voluntarily recall about 300,000 vehicles with a potential defect that could prevent the driver from placing the transmission in "park." The recall involves some 2005 model year Jeep Liberty, Jeep Wrangler, Chrysler 300 and Dodge Magnum, Dodge Dakota/Mitsubishi Raider pickups and Dodge Durango vehicles equipped with some six-cylinder engines and automatic transmissions. Chrysler spokesman Max Gates said that a plug inside the transmission may be missing or improperly staked, potentially preventing the driver from placing the shifter in the "park" position. No accidents or injuries have been associated with the possible defect, he said. Dealers will repair the transmission by installing a bracket at no cost to owners. Chrysler also said it was voluntarily recalling about 283,000 Dodge Ram pickups from the 2003-2005 model years equipped with diesel engines and automatic transmissions to correct possible inadvertent movement of the vehicles.

GENERAL MOTORS VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

Detroit, Oct 8 -- General Motors Corp. is recalling 123,592 pickup trucks, SUVs, vans and cars because of potential power steering problems that could lead to engine fires, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said. NHTSA said the power steering hose, under extreme steering maneuvers, may break and leak fluid. This could result in increased braking effort and also, if the power steering fluid spray were to spray onto hot engine parts, an engine compartment fire could occur. -- Reuters.



Port Conditions

AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 11 -- The queue of vessels waiting to load at the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal near Mackay has been growing again as

some producers struggle to meet shipment schedules despite an apparent lack of port or rail constraints on them. Six months ago it was the coal producers blaming the port for export bottlenecks. Now it is some of these very miners who cannot keep up with demand. According to Maritime Safety Queensland information, there were 26 bulk carriers berthed or moving in and out of the DBCT and adjacent BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance terminals at Hay Point yesterday - at least 20 of which were waiting to load at DBCT. This is well above the limit being targeted under an interim queue management system implemented in July to avoid the sort of congestion earlier this year when the conga line of bulk carriers off Hay Point peaked at 54. AngloCoal executive Neville Sneddon, who chairs the miner-owned company that runs DBCT, said the queue was operating in two segments as roughly 10 of the vessels waited for coal to arrive at the terminal. "There have been a few ships waiting for cargo, which is a bit unusual," he said. The problem was partly related to dual coal shipments being held up by production interruptions at Peabody Energy Australia's North Goonyella underground coking coal mine and Xstrata's Oak Creek operations. An Xstrata Coal spokeswoman yesterday confirmed that at least three vessels, including an imminent arrival and one carrying a dual shipment, had been waiting on coking coal from Oak Creek.

Sydney, Oct 11 -- Babcock and Brown Infrastructure (BBI) has rebuffed claims that the coal queue off its Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal is getting out of hand. Media reports have suggested that problems with mines meeting shipment schedules had pushed the queue for DBCT and the adjacent Hay Point terminal out to 26 bulk carriers. But BBI's general manager of operations, Greg Smith, told Lloyd's List DCN the queue this morning stood at 16 vessels. "We want a working queue of 15 to 20 ships at any given time and that's at the lower end of our expectations," Mr Smith said. There were no problems at the terminal - it presently had spare capacity - but the fact that six of those waiting vessels had unallocated berthing times indicated there might be a supply problem at the mines for multi-parcelling of different coal types, he said. DBCT has started to receive barge loads of pre-fabricated parts for its new coal reclaimer. The reclaimer, which is to be commissioned in February 2006, replaces the reclaimer that collapsed at the beginning of 2004. -- Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

COSTA RICA

London, Oct 5 -- Long delays at port Caldera, Costa Rica's main port on the Pacific Coast, which many believe is long been to small, recently experienced a total halt in operations with so many containers waiting to be transported from loading grounds that

goods could neither enter nor leave for nearly a week. These delays create a domino effect, raising shipping costs to imports, inland transport, etc. which are finally transferred to the consumer. For every day a cargo vessel waits in line to be unloaded its estimated costs are \$25,000.00 per day.

ITALY

Genoa, Oct 10 -- Port situation as of Oct 10: Genoa: One bulk carrier and two general cargo vessels and one container vessel waiting for berth. Average number of days delay in berthing: 24 hrs - 48 hrs. La Spezia: No vessels waiting for berth. Savona:

One vessel waiting for normal berth. Average number days delay in berthing 24 hrs- 48 hrs. No vessels waiting for special berth. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, Oct 10 -- The Philippine Coast Guard and Philippine Navy have stepped up security measures in Philippine ports and the country's sea borders following reports of a large shipment of illegal arms from Indonesia and Malaysia. The Coast Guard said shipments entering ports in the Visayas and Mindanao are being inspected more thoroughly as

reports indicate that the arms are likely to be smuggled through these ports. The Philippine Navy, on the other hand, has dispatched three more naval vessels to conduct border patrol operations in waters off the island of Mindanao. Officials said that the arm shipment could be intended for Muslim rebels in Mindanao who have been fighting a secessionist against the Philippine government for decades. Authorities have also not ruled out the Al-Qaeda linked Abu-Sayaf terrorist group, which is based in Mindanao, as a possible recipient of these arms. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	10-10-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed, 3 waiting; 8 vessels due by 26/10; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Dampier	10-10-2005	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting to load; 5 vessels due by 22/10; ca. 24 hour maintenance shutdown scheduled from 19-20/10; Parker Point 2: 2 vessels due by 20/10; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting to load; 13 vessels due by 1/11; ca. 24 hour maintenance shutdown scheduled for 27-28/10; a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels is always a possibility; shippers cannot guarantee that vessel will be able to load up to max. sailing draft available.
Gladstone	10-10-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed and loading; 45 vessels due by 28/11; up to 5 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; Barney Point: 5 vessels due by 6/12; no delays expected.
Hay Point	10-10-2005	Coal: 2 vessels berthed and loading; 14 vessels due by 19/10; up to 9 days berthing delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Newcastle	10-10-2005	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessel berthed and loading; 23 vessels due by 26/11; up to 12 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels berthed and loading; 20 vessels waiting off port area; 43 vessels due by 31/11; 5-12 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal, coal product problems with some shippers berthed congestion and cargo receipt..
Port Hedland	10-10-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 3 vessels due by 15/10; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 6 vessels due by 18/10; 6 other vessels due by 29/10, no eta received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 3 vessels due by 15/10; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 7 vessels due by 18/10; PH1- general berth: 1 vessel due 10/10; PH2 - general berth: 1 vessel due 21/10; PH3 - salt berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 4 other vessels due by 25/10, no eta received.
Port Walcott	10-10-2005	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 7 vessels waiting; 13 vessels due by 31/10; Line-up expected to change at short notice. Cargo grade shortages and stockpile problems may result in vessels berthing out of turn.
Azerbaijan		
Baku	07-10-2005	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; Azerneftiyag terminal: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: 1 vessel berthed, discharging crude oil; 2 vessels due by 7/10, both to discharge crude oil; Sangachal district: 1 vessel berthed, discharging crude oil; 2 vessels in roads, both to discharge crude oil; Transserve terminal: closed.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	10-10-2005	Four vessels in port operating, of which 1 loading coils, 3 discharging (1 billets, 1 metals, gasoil); 2 vessels in roads, of which 1 empty, 1 detained; 14 vessels due, of which 7 to load (2 lead, 1 baryte concentrate, 1 copper anodes, 1 copper concentrate, 1 wheat, 1 containers), 4 to discharge (3 metals, 1 containers), 3 passenger vessels.
Varna	10-10-2005	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 3-9 October: Thirty-one vessels in port operating of which 12 loading (6 soda, 1 scrap, 1 bulk STPP, 1 bulk clinker, 1 packed hardboard, 1 equipment in packing cases, 1 kaolin/silica sand), 12 discharging (5 coal, 1 equipment in packing cases, 2 raw phosphate, 2 liquid urea, 1 clay, 1 containers), 7 discharging/loading (5 containers, 1 equipment in packing cases/pipes/chemicals, 1 bulk coal/chemicals); no vessels waiting in roads.
Brazil		
Santos	11-10-2005	Nineteen vessels berthed of which 8 sugar loaders, 1 bulk soya loader, 3 fertiliser dischargers, 4 chemical products dischargers, 1 bulk diesel oil loader, 1 pellets loader, 1 other discharger; 30 vessels waiting in roads; 23 vessels due over the next 7 days; Private terminals: Terminal 37: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Tecondi: 1 full container loader/discharger; Termare: no vessels; Rodrimar: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Cosipa: no vessels; Ultrafertil: 1 fertiliser discharger; Cargill: 1 sugar loader; Santos Brasil: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Cutrale: 1 bulk soya loader; Dow: no vessels.
Paranagua	11-10-2005	Fourteen vessels berthed of which 1 pellets loader, 2 reefer loaders, 2 containers, 3 sugar loaders, 2 other loaders, 4 fertiliser dischargers; 16 vessels waiting in roads, of which 10 to load (3 pellets, 4 sugar, 3 others), 6 to discharge fertiliser; 35 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	11-10-2005	Two vessels berthed of which 1 phosphate discharger, 1 urea discharger; 2 vessels waiting in roads; 33 vessels due over the next 10 days.

Port Conditions

Rio de Janeiro	11-10-2005	Porto do Rio: 4 steel products loaders; Tecon: 3 full container loaders/dischargers; Porto de Sepetiba: 2 iron ore loaders, 1 coal discharger, 4 other loaders/dischargers; 10 vessels due over the next 7 days
Sao Sebastiao	11-10-2005	Six vessels berthed, 3 waiting in roads; 1 vessel due over the next 10 days.
Vitoria	11-10-2005	Two vessels berthed of which 1 granite loader, 1 cellulose loader; Terminal Vila Velha: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Tubarao: 1 soya loader, 1 potassium discharger, 2 iron ore loaders; Praia Mole: 3 steel products loaders, 2 coal dischargers; Portocel: 1 cellulose loader; Ubu: 1 iron ore loader; 29 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Estonia		
Tallinn	03-10-2005	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 1 oil products vessel loading at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 13 vessels due, with 1 day's berthing delay expected.
Georgia		
Batumi	07-10-2005	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, all loading, of which 1 fuel oil, 1 gasoil, 1 other oil; 2 vessels in roads, both to load, of which 1 crude oil, 1 gasoil; 5 vessels due by 23/10, all to load, of which 3 crude oil, 1 fuel oil, 3 gasoil.
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	07-10-2005	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, completed loading crude oil; 1 vessel in roads to load unknown cargo; 3 vessels due by 7/10, all to load unknown cargoes.
Pakistan		
Karachi	11-10-2005	One cement vessel loading at berth, 13 vessels discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 coal, 2 DAP, 3 general cargo, 3 sugar, 1 urea, 1 MAP, 1 logs), 4 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 sugar, 2 fertiliser, 1 coal, 1 chemicals); no vessels bunkering, 1 under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; no vessels due, with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	11-10-2005	One rice vessel loading at berth, 4 vessels discharging at berth (1 sugar, 1 palm oil, 1 iron ore, 1 rape seed), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 sugar, 1 MEG, 1 palm oil, 1 HSD)
Russia		
Novorossiysk	10-10-2005	Fifteen vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 12 loading (1 bulk cement, 1 scrap, 3 steel billets, 1 wheat, 1 slabs, 1 copper, 2 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 coils/steel billets/tin plates, 1 barley), 3 discharging (1 sugar, 1 steel sheets, 1 construction materials); 9 vessels waiting in roads of which 8 to load (1 bulk ammonium nitrate/bulk urea, 2 pig-iron, 1 steel billets, 1 bulk urea, 2 copper, 1 diesel oil), 1 to discharge coils; 67 vessels due, of which 65 to load (17 steel billets, 3 DRI, 1 equipment/cars, 7 copper, 2 scrap, 5 aluminium, 7 wheat, 3 bulk urea, 3 bulk NPK, 2 WRIC, 1 pipes, 1 copper/coils, 3 bulk ammonium nitrate, 3 coils, 1 steel billets/steel sheets, 1 steel sheets, 2 pig-iron, 1 bulk cement, 1 cellulose, 1 HBI), 1 to discharge zinc ore, 1 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: no tankers berthed; 5 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 6 tankers due, all to load, of which 4 crude oil, 1 fuel oil, 1 diesel oil.
Slovenia		
Koper	10-10-2005	Port working normally. Nine vessels berthed of which 1 bulk carrier discharging minerals, 1 bulk carrier loading general cargo, 2 tankers discharging mineral oils, 2 vessels loading sawn timber/steel products, 1 vessel discharging/loading containers, 2 car carriers loading/discharging vehicles; 1 tanker waiting at anchorage to discharge mineral oils; 18 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 4 bulk carriers to load coal/general cargo, 2 bulk carriers to discharge cement/ore, 4 vessels to load sawn timber/steel products/livestock, 5 vessels to discharge/load containers, 3 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles.
Spain		
Bilbao	10-10-2005	Eighteen vessels operating (3 tankers, 15 other vessels), of which 7 loading, 6 discharging, 5 loading/discharging
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	10-10-2005	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/ conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Eight container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 18 vessels discharging at berth (11 containers/feeders, 1 bagged sugar, 1 steel cargo, 1 bagged maize, 1 bulk palm oil, 1 bagged cement, 2 bulk cement); 1 bulk LPG vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 5 vessels dry-docked, 1 at new tanker berth; 8 vessels due (6 containers/feeders, 1 bagged fertiliser, 1 bulk cement), with no delays expected.

Port Conditions

Turkmenistan

Aladja	10-10-2005	Oil products: 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil.
Okarem	10-10-2005	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, loading crude oil; 1 vessel to load crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	10-10-2005	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, 1 completed loading gasoil, 1 loading fuel oil; 5 vessels in roads, of which 4 to load (1 gasoil, 3 gasoline), 1 to discharge crude oil.

Ukraine

Ilichevsk	10-10-2005	Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (4 steel products, 2 grain, 1 equipment, 1 sunflower oil), 1 discharging nickel ore, 3 discharging/loading containers; 2 vessels in roads, both to discharge/load containers; 20 vessels due, of which 14 to load (6 steel products, 3 grain, 4 vegetable oil, 1 rape cake), 1 to discharge wheat, 5 to discharge/load containers
Mariupol	10-10-2005	Six vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 3 steel, 2 coal, 1 sulphur; 4 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 3 steel, 1 coal; 67 vessels due, of which 63 to load (34 steel, 9 coal, 11 fire-clay, 1 bran, 1 coke, 1 fire-clay/kaolin, 1 wheat, 1 fire-clay/containers, 1 kaolin, 1 sunflower beans, 1 wheat, 1 barley), 2 to discharge (1 equipment, 1 feldspar), 2 to discharge/load (1 containers, 1 containers/fire-clay).
Odessa	10-10-2005	Ten vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (1 metal, 2 wheat, 1 grain, 1 peas), 3 discharging (1 citrus, 1 sugar, 1 luggage), 1 loading/discharging containers, 1 passenger vessel; 1 vessel in roads, to discharge/load containers; 58 vessels due, of which 35 to load (22 metal, 1 pig-iron, 1 ferro alloy, 3 ore, 1 wood, 5 wheat, 1 barley, 1 oil), 4 to discharge (1 citrus, 1 bananas, 1 rice, 1 oil), 19 to discharge/load containers.

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