

# CasualtyWeek

November 25 2005

## UN Security Council urged to act on Somalia piracy

IMO says inter-country co-operation crucial, writes David Osler— Friday November 25 2005

**T**HE United Nations Security Council should “consider” the issue of piracy off Somalia, a resolution carried by the International Maritime Organization assembly in London this week has urged.

But stripped of the inevitable bureaucratic phraseology, a statement from the UN agency comes close to a call for urgent action over this increasing problem.

The motion authorises IMO Secretary-General Efthimios Mitropoulos to submit the resolution to UN chief Kofi Annan “for consideration and any further action he may deem appropriate”.

This may even entail bringing the matter to the attention of the security council.

### Resolution

Somalia’s ineffective transitional government is requested to bring the resolution to the attention of the transitional federal assembly, requesting it to initiate appropriate actions.

But in the current political situation, where that government’s writ simply does not run in much of the country, that proposal will inevitably have little short-term impact.

“The resolution condemns and deplors all acts of piracy and armed robbery

against ships, and appeals to all parties, which may be able to assist, to take action, within the provisions of international law, to ensure that all acts or attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships are terminated forthwith,” the statement advises.

It also demands that “any plans for committing such acts are abandoned, and any hijacked ships are immediately and unconditionally released and that no harm is caused to seafarers serving in them.”

### Monitor

The IMO will also continue efforts to monitor the situation in Somalia, in collaboration with the United Nations monitoring group on Somalia.

In addition, it will consult with interested governments and organisations to discuss technical assistance to Somalia and nearby coastal states

Governments are “strongly urged” to increase efforts to prevent piracy

Steps in this direction could include advice and guidance to vessels in Somali waters.

Information on pirate attacks and attempted attacks should be conveyed to nearby coast states and the most appropriate rescue co-ordination centre.

Governments should also “establish, as necessary, plans and procedures to assist

owners, managers and operators of ships in the speedy resolution of hijacking cases”.

The resolution was broadly backed by the shipping industry. Pottengal Mukundan, director of anti-piracy watchdog the International Maritime Bureau, said: “We welcome it. Raising [the issue] to the level of the security council is wonderful, it’s perfect.”

Representatives of the International Shipping Federation were yesterday unavailable for comment.

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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>ANITA SUE</i>	fishing	USA	LR	113	—	1977	Had fire break out in engine-room, knocking out power and communications, about 32 miles west of Tillamook Head, Oregon, Nov 16. Towed to Warrenton same day.
<i>ANTJE</i>	general	NLD	BV	998	1,463	1983	Adrift without engine power in lat 54 47.6N, long 04 24.4E, Nov 14. Taken in tow Nov 15 and arrived Delfzyl Nov 16.
<i>BOLD CONTENDER</i>	fishing	USA	—	99	—	1980	Reported Nov 10 taking water off Lincoln City, Oregon. Coast Guard attempts to dewater vessel failed and crew were rescued by lifeboat. Still drifting about five miles off Lincoln City. Reported Nov 14 to have been sunk by Coast Guard.
<i>DBL 152</i>	barge	USA	AB ABS	8,710	—	1982	Struck submerged object in Gulf of Mexico, in about lat 29 08N, long 93 14.9W, while combined with tug Rebel, Nov 11. Taking on water. Fuel oil leakage. Barge proceeding to lighter vessel. Rolled over Nov 14, being stabilised.
<i>EVER MIGHTY</i>	bulker	PAN	BV	39,376	75,265	1996	Grounded on Hatter Reef, in lat 55 54N, long 10 50.8E, Nov 11. Tug from Kalundborg on scene. Listing 15 deg. Still aground Nov 16, cargo discharge to commence same day.
<i>GRISHA PODOBEDOV</i>	general	RUS	RS	2,949	2,180	1976	Reported adrift in lat 41 50.1N, long 142 17.8E, Nov 11. Reported Nov 12 to have been repaired by own means and proceeding to Muroran, ETA same day.
<i>ICE LOUISE</i>	refrig	NIS	LR	1,884	2,225	1980	Reported taking water in the engine-room in lat 62 46N, long 05 22W, 53 nautical miles east of Faroes Nov 9. Assisted to Kolle Fjord by Coast Guard vessel <i>Brimil</i> . Sailed Nov 11 after preliminary repairs.
<i>INZENIERIS NECIPORENKO</i>	ro-ro	MLT	RS	8,454	5,306	1975	Reported Nov 17 to have diverted to Freeport(BHS) in tow due main engine problems. Being surveyed and will be repaired locally.
<i>SINU-I-WASA</i>	ro-ro	FJI	—	1,481	964	1972	Reported Oct 9 to have struck both passenger <i>Spirit of Fiji Islands</i> and ro/ro <i>Suilven</i> while approaching Taveuni Wharf, Fiji. Reported Nov 17 at Savusavu, with minor scratches.
<i>SPIRIT OF ALPHA</i>	bulker	PAN	BV	14,927	25,517	1984	Grounded off Padang, Sumatera, Nov 7. Salvors appointed. Some water ingress. Tug due on scene Nov 18.
<i>SPIRIT OF FIJI ISLANDS</i>	passenger	FJI	—	4,421	2,267	1968	Struck by ro/ro <i>Sinu-I-Wasa</i> near Taveuni Wharf, Fiji, Oct 9. Reported Nov 17 at Savusavu with paint scraping and minor denting.
<i>SUILVEN</i>	ro-ro	FJI	LR	3,638	1,850	1974	Struck by ro/ro <i>Sinu-I-Wasa</i> near Taveuni Wharf, Fiji, Oct 9. Immediately repaired after collision. Back in service as of Nov 17.
<i>SUZIE Q.</i>	general	ATG	BV	1,980	3,008	1983	Reported Nov 10 drifting in lat 28 08.2N, long 129 08.3E, with engine trouble. Still adrift Nov 11 with Coast Guard vessel in attendance. Reported Nov 12 in tow for Sasebo.
<i>TONG CHENG 818</i>	lpg	CHN	—	998	1,135	1979	Sank near entrance to Yangtze River in bad weather Nov 14.

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



### ACTIVE (U.S.A.)

Seattle, Nov 15 -- Tug *Magic* ex *Active*: Work continues on vessel. Most of the oil on its surfaces has been cleaned and collected. In one week of floating on its own hull, it has shown no inclination to roll over. Most of the booms have been removed, however CAICOS has two hard booms around the vessel at this time. The gear on the support barges is in the process of being cleaned and returned to the suppliers. This includes, but is not limited to, the spreader bar, dive gear, pumps and rigging. No date has yet been set for the dry-docking of the tug *Legacy*. Priority is to get the garbage removed before sending the vessel to Port Townsend. -- Lloyd's Agents.

### ANITA SUE (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 17 -- A press report, dated Nov 16, states: The US Coast Guard towed fishing *Anita Sue* (113 gt, built 1977) to safety after a fire broke out in its engine-room, knocking out power and communications today. The 70-foot *Anita Sue*, out of Warrenton, had three people on board when a fire ravaged the engine-room around 0244 hrs, said Mark Dobney, civilian search and rescue controller at US Coast Guard Group Astoria. The boat was about 32 miles west of Tillamook Head, Oregon. The crew managed to put out the flames with help from an installed fire suppression system, but the boat was disabled. The nearby fishing vessel *Nicole* relayed a call for help to the US Coast Guard, which launched an HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter from Air Station Astoria and a 47-foot motor lifeboat from station Cape Disappointment shortly after 0300. A portable radio was lowered from the helicopter to the *Anita Sue's* crew, which managed to get a generator up and running. The 47-foot motor lifeboat towed the disabled vessel to Warrenton this morning with its crew on board. No one was injured in the fire, Dobney said.

### ANNTORO (Norway)

Trondheim, Nov 10 -- General cargo *Anntoro*: Kvernhusvik Shipyard, at Hitra, inform that there is still no decision regarding possible repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

### ANTARES (NIS)

See "Norway Flagged Vessel Blockaded Off Finland" under "Miscellaneous."

### ANTJE (Netherlands)

London, Nov 15 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1635, UTC: General cargo *Antje* (998 gt, built 1983), cargo animal feed, lost power and was drifting close to a

platform in lat 54 47.6N, long 04 24.4E, at 1425, UTC, Nov 14. Tug *Waker* arrived on scene at 0100, UTC, today to stand by. Tug *Hellas* was dispatched and is now on scene with the *Antje* in lat 54 39.3N, long 05 16.8E. Vessel is probably to be towed to Delfzyl.

London, Nov 16 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1100, UTC: General cargo *Antje* arrived Delfzyl, in tow, at approximately 1000, local time, today.

### ARATERE (New Zealand)

Wellington, Nov 17 -- A Taic Investigation report states: On Wednesday Feb 9 and Sunday Feb 20, incidents involving steering malfunctions occurred on board ro/ro *Aratere* while the vessel was on passage between Picton and Wellington. In both incidents, the steering gear operating the port rudder failed to respond to command signals from the navigating bridge. However, in both incidents the navigation of the vessel was continued safely using the starboard steering gear and rudder. Because of the similarities arising from each incident, both incidents have been combined into one report. There were no injuries to passengers or crew during either of the incidents. Because *Aratere* was capable of being navigated and manoeuvred safely on either of the two independent steering systems fitted, and the crews exercised good bridge resource management during the incidents, bringing each to a safe conclusion, no specific safety issues were identified. Because of the safety actions taken by Toll NZ Consolidated Limited, no safety recommendations have been made. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: Steering gear on the Cook Strait ro/ro *Aratere* failed twice in February, but the quick actions of master and crew kept the vessel from becoming a shipping hazard, a Transport Accident Commission investigation has found. However, owing to a lack of information about equipment in the vessel, the "intermittent fault" was never identified and may still exist. In both incidents, navigation of the vessel was continued safely using the starboard steering gear and rudder, and neither the safety of the vessel nor its occupants was compromised. In the first incident, on Feb 9, just inside Wellington Harbour, the helmsman told the master he was having difficulty maintaining the course. The master thought the port rudder had stuck and eventually decided to stop the vessel to investigate the fault before proceeding. Engineers were unable to identify any fault. Later analysis of voyage data showed the port rudder had stopped working from a point outside the harbour entrance but the helmsman had probably assumed the ship was being affected by tidal currents. "Had the master not taken the ship out of the main shipping route, the *Aratere* may have

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become a significant hazard for the fast ferry closing from astern," the report found. In the second incident, on Feb 20, the master noticed the port rudder was malfunctioning again, and decided to anchor in Queen Charlotte Sound. An electrician could not identify the problem but after cleaning electrical contacts the fault appeared to be fixed. The commission found the fault was an intermittent one, so it may still exist or it may have been accidentally fixed while fault-finding. "The problem was that the documentation did not accurately reflect the installed equipment of *Aratere*, so fault-finding is a process of educated guesses," the report said. Technicians were forced to work by a process of "elimination". Since the incident, Toll NZ has replaced various parts.

**ASTRO ANTARES (Greece)**

London, Nov 11 -- Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1515, UTC: Product tanker *Astro Antares* (53074 gt, built 1996), inbound, had a loss of power 15 miles before Head of Passes at 1620, local time, yesterday. Vessel was taken in tow by four tugs this morning and was underway at 0630, local time, for Southwest Pass anchorage.

London, Nov 11 -- Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1914, UTC: Product tanker *Astro Antares* is now at Southwest Pass anchorage, awaiting a Class report.

**ATLANTIS (Germany)**

Hamburg, Nov 17 -- Ferry *Atlantis* is still under repair and repairs are not scheduled to be completed/finalised before the beginning of next year. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**AYTAK (Turkey)**

London, Nov 16 -- Understand tug *Aytak* (78 gt, built 2003) was towing two military hulks, *Borda No.42* and *Borda No.43*, and while entering the Bosphorus the vessel made water, left the towed hulks and grounded five miles west of Kilyos, at 0840, Oct 2. Upon this information, immediately, tugs *Kurtarma 3* and *Sonduren 5* and patrol vessel *Kiyi Emniyeti 4* were sent to the accident area. As a result of investigations *Borda No.42* was found in lat 41 18.48N, long 28 56.78E. Vessel was secured. After inwater and surface surveys no damage was discovered. *Borda No.43* was found sunk in lat 41 19.08N, long 28 57.37E. Upon agency request *Borda No.42* was towed and entered the Bosphorus by *Sonduren 5* at 1530 hrs.

**BAHIA DE ESPIRITU SANTO (Mexico)**

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

**BALTIYSKIY 202 (Russia)**

London, Nov 13 -- A press report, dated Nov 12, states: The master of general cargo *Baltiyskiy 202* (2264 gt, built 1994) that was involved in a harbour collision has been fined

£4,000 for being under the influence of alcohol. Sergey Pchelkin, 47, pleaded guilty to being nearly four times over the legal limit while in command of the vessel on Thursday (Nov 10). The vessel collided with the pilot boat *Sid Hook* in Teignmouth harbour, Devon. The collision happened at about 1220 and caused about £30,000 worth of damage, Torbay magistrates heard today. The court was told that it was only in the 24 hours that his vessel was anchored outside Teignmouth awaiting a pilot to guide it into the dock that he started drinking. Prosecutor Lisa Cassidy said the pilot stepped on board the *Baltiyskiy 202* at about midday on Thursday and immediately noticed Pchelkin was unsteady on his feet. After guiding the vessel towards the harbour, the pilot passed control back to the master and his ten crew members. But as Pchelkin was manoeuvring the vessel into its berth, it collided with the pilot boat, which was tied up alongside. The pilot informed the harbour master and police arrested the vessel's master. A police test found he had 136mg of alcohol per 100ml of breath, nearly four times the legal limit of 35mg. Pchelkin, who was also ordered to pay £55 costs, will face an investigation by the Marine Accident Branch and a disciplinary hearing within his company. Pchelkin, from St Petersburg, had just completed a 28-hour crossing to England from Ireland in atrocious weather.

London, Nov 17 -- General cargo *Baltiyskiy 202* sailed from Teignmouth on Nov 12 bound Mjosund, Finland.

**BANGA BARTA (Bangladesh)**

London, Nov 17 -- General cargo *Banga Barta* sailed from Colombo on Nov 11 bound for Port Kelang.

**BASKER SPIRIT (Bahamas)**

London, Nov 16 -- Product tanker *Basker Spirit* sailed from Melbourne on Nov 14 bound for Geelong.

**BEEFO (Australia)**

See *Befor*.

**BEFOR (Australia)**

London, Nov 11 -- Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0030, UTC: Small yacht *Befor*, 36 feet in length, with four persons on board, had steering failure and main engine failure, in Bass Strait off Port Philip Bay, yesterday evening. Volunteer coast guards were activated and attended the vessel. *Befor* has been towed, by the Coast Guard vessel, safely to Queen Cliff.

**BELGIAN REEFER (Bahamas)**

See under "Miscellaneous".

**BLACK PEARL (Malta)**

London, Nov 12 -- Following received from Corsen MRCC, timed 2350, UTC: General cargo *Black Pearl* (5370 gt, built 1980) lost part cargo of timber after cargo shift in lat 49 01N, long 05 43W at 0700, UTC, today. Listing 42 degrees to port. Vessel subsequently

taken in tow by salvage tug *Abeille Flandre* bound for Brest, where ETA 0600, UTC, Nov 13. (Note -- *Black Pearl* sailed Loviisa Nov 5 for Oran.)

London, Nov 13 -- Following received from Corsen MRCC, timed 2310, UTC: General cargo *Black Pearl* arrived Brest, with a 20 degree list, at 0800, UTC, this morning.

Brest, Nov 14 -- Reported 12 Nov that while general cargo *Black Pearl* was on a loaded passage between Finland and Algeria, about 45 miles north-west of Ushant, the master called the French Coast Guard to report a main engine failure and the loss of approximately 2000 M3 of wooden planks overboard. The vessel, listing 35 degrees as a result of the cargo shift, was taken in tow of tug *Abeille Bourbon* and arrived Brest at 1100, local time, Nov 13. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 15 -- Understand salvage services were rendered to general cargo *Black Pearl* by Les Abeilles International Limited under Lloyd's Open Form, dated Nov 12.

London, Nov 17 -- A French seafarers' union yesterday called on European Fishing and Maritime Affairs Commissioner Joe Borg to send a representative to see the alleged "execrable" sanitary and safety conditions on board general cargo *Black Pearl* brought into the port of Brest after an engine breakdown. The 1980-built, B Navi-operated *Black Pearl* was towed into Brest on Sunday (Nov 13) after reporting a 35 degree list and losing 2,000 cubic metres of its cargo of wooden planks overboard about 45 miles north-west of Ushant. Local reports said it was in danger of capsizing prior to the intervention of the French salvage and rescue tug *Abeille Bourbon*. French inspectors subsequently went on board and, according to the head of the local ship safety centre, found it "in a deplorable state from every point of view". Sanitary conditions in particular were such that a doctor was called to examine the 18-strong crew of 15 Poles, two Russians and a Bulgarian. According to a local report the inspectors found crew toilets and showers out of service, refrigerators containing rotten food and mattresses torn and in a state of decay.

**BLUEWING (Cyprus)**

London, Nov 16 -- Bulk *Bluewing* sailed from Thunder Bay on Nov 12.

**BOLD CONTENDER (U.S.A.)**

London, Nov 11 -- A Coast Guard Depoe Bay, Ore, press release, dated Nov 10, states: Coast Guard Station Depoe Bay, Ore., received a call on VHF Channel 16 at 0745 hrs, from the operator of fishing *Bold Contender* (99 gt, built 1980) stating that his vessel was taking on water and in need of assistance. A lifeboat, and a surf rescue boat from Station Depoe Bay, as well as an HH-65 Dolphin Helicopter from Coast Guard Air Facility Newport, Ore, were launched to assist. The Coast Guard arrived alongside *Bold Contender* at 0820 hrs,

and passed an air compressor to the vessel. Attempts to dewater the vessel were unsuccessful and the crew was forced to abandon the vessel at 1052 hrs. The crew was immediately rescued by the crew of the lifeboat and taken back to Station Depoe Bay where they were seen by awaiting emergency medical technicians and subsequently released. Five of the crewmembers were wearing survival suits and one was clinging to a life ring. The Depoe Bay Fire Department provided the rescued crewmembers food and dry clothes. **Bold Contender** is currently adrift approximately five nautical miles off of Lincoln City, Ore. The cause of the accident is still under investigation.

London, Nov 11 -- Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 0830, UTC: Fishing **Bold Contender**: A helicopter overflight of the area at 1645, local time, found no sign of the vessel.

London, Nov 14 -- Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 2055, UTC: Fishing **Bold Contender** was located and sank by the US Coast Guard. The vessel was a danger to navigation.

#### **BONNIE SMITHWICK (Bahamas)**

Montreal, Nov 14 -- Bulk/oil **Bonnie Smithwick** carried out temporary repairs to No.2 hatch cover in Port Cartier. Understand that permanent repairs to be carried out at discharge port, UK port. Vessel left Port Cartier Nov 10. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CHEER ARROW (Panama)**

London, Nov 11 -- Cement **Cheer Arrow** arrived Busan Oct 31, sailed Nov 2, and arrived Kanda Nov 2.

#### **COMMUNICATOR (Netherlands)**

Kirkwall, Nov 11 -- Radio ship **Communicator** will be towed south in the next four to six weeks, the man behind the venture said this week. Dave Miller was speaking after news that the vessel, which is berthed at St Margaret's Hope pier, began taking on water and listing badly on Wednesday night (Nov 2) last week. He told "The Orcadian": "The ship is going to go in the next four to six weeks. I am not sure where it is going, but it is." Mr Miller revealed that there were two parties interested in purchasing the ship, which went up for sale for around £25,000 in December, last year. "I hope one will be doing a deal this week, but whatever happens, the ship will be leaving St Margaret's Hope." Several fire appliances were called to assist pumping out the vessel throughout Wednesday night and into the early hours of Thursday in a successful bid to keep the vessel afloat. A police spokesman said there was never any risk of pollution as the vessel did not carry any engine oil. Mr Miller explained: "I got a phone call at about 10.30pm to let me know it was taking on water. We did have the same last year at the same time. I don't know what it was and it hasn't let in any water since. It is perfectly fine at the moment." Although under no

pressure to move the ship, Mr Miller said, he did not want to cause the harbour authority any further difficulties. "The harbour-master has been truly fantastic while we have been away and has looked after our ship." Mr Miller has said that he may have to foot part of the bill for the operation. "We probably will have to pay towards the fire service and the harbour authority costs." -- The Orcadian.

#### **DA YUAN YU 309 (China)**

Maputo, Nov 17 -- Fishing **Da Yuan Yu 309** arrived Maputo on Oct 12 and is still in port, as understand that the vessel has been arrested due to illegal fishing. **Da Yuan Yu 309** will only sail as soon as all conditions are met by owners with the maritime authorities. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **DBL 152 (U.S.A.)**

London, Nov 11 -- A K-Sea Transportation press release, dated today, states: K-Sea Transportation Partners reported today that it has initiated responsive action to an incident involving the tug/barge combination tug **Rebel** (194 gt, built 1976) and tank barge **DBL 152** (8710 gt, built 1982) in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. The Company initiated its Vessel Response Plan after the master of the tug reported, at about 0115, local time, the barge struck a submerged object and was taking on water. An unknown quantity of fuel oil has leaked from a breach in the double hull. The Company maintains significant insurance, including protection and indemnity liability coverage as well as hull and machinery coverage for the vessel. Accordingly, the Company expects no material financial impact from this incident. K-Sea Transportation President and CEO Tim Casey said "we sincerely regret this incident and are working closely with all involved to resolve this situation quickly. We will have further comment when we have been able to assess all the facts".

London, Nov 11 -- Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1600, UTC: Tank barge **DBL 152** struck a submerged object in approximately 29 08N, long 93 14.9W. Following the incident the barge separated from the tug **Rebel** but is still afloat. Further information is awaited.

London, Nov 11 -- Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1914, UTC: Tank barge **DBL 152** has now been stabilised and is in no danger of sinking. A diesel sheen has been observed around the vessel in 400-600-foot patches, spreading out to a distance of 12 miles. A barge is proceeding to lighter the vessel, ETA on scene eight hours.

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated Nov 13, states: About 10,000 gallons of thick, heavy oil had leaked from a damaged oil barge (tank barge **DBL 152**) about 30 miles off the coast of Louisiana as crews worked today to contain the spill, the Coast Guard said. The vessel contained about 5

million gallons of a thick petroleum product known as number-six fuel oil, and the damaged tank was holding about 300,000 gallons of oil, the Coast Guard said. The barge left Houston shortly before midnight Thursday (Nov 10) en route to Tampa, Fla. But the 441-foot vessel hit debris in the water that gouged a 30-foot by 6-foot hole in the starboard bow, and early Friday crew members called the Coast Guard when they noticed the barge was slightly listing south of Lake Charles. The Coast Guard said today that underwater surveys had shown that oil continued to leak from the barge and black patches of oil extended three miles south-west of the vessel. Clean-up operations were expected to continue throughout the night, the Coast Guard said. Mike Hanson, a spokesman for Staten Island, N.Y.-based K-Sea Transportation, which owns the barge, said today the leak appeared to be intermittent because the oil was thick and sticky. He said National Response Corp. contractors hired by K-Sea had placed 2,000 feet of containment boom around the barge to contain the spill and skimmers were on the scene to remove surface oil. "It's more like a molasses coming out of the refrigerator," he explained. "They'll keep going until it's cleaned up." He said the barge wasn't expected to sink. K-Sea had assessed stability and dive and salvage efforts were ongoing today. Coast Guard, vessel salvage and pollution response personnel responded. The Coast Guard, which was overseeing cleanup efforts, said the barge didn't obstruct marine traffic and all area waterways remained open. A four-mile safety zone was in effect around the barge. The cause of the incident is being investigated by Coast Guard officials.

London, Nov 14 -- A Coast Guard Port Arthur press release, dated Nov 13, states: Response crews are anchoring tank barge **DBL 152** and plugging ballast tank vents to prevent water from leaking into the cargo tanks. Salvage operations will continue throughout the night. Today's underwater survey operations revealed that oil continues to leak from the barge's damaged cargo tank. An overflight this morning revealed a sheen and black patches of oil extending three miles south-west of the barge. While transiting from Houston to Tampa, Fla., Thursday night the barge struck some debris that gouged a 35-foot long by 6-foot wide hole in the starboard bow. There was approximately 300,000 gallons of oil in the damaged tank. Approximately 2,000 feet of containment boom is being placed around the barge to contain the spill, and oil skimmers are on scene to remove the surface oil. The barge is now in lat 29 12.3N, long 93 28.14W, about 29 miles due south of the Calcasieu Pass, La. and about 100 miles due west of Galveston. The barge is listing approximately 50 degrees to starboard and its bow is resting on the bottom in 55 feet of water. The owner of the barge, K-Sea Transportation of New York, has

conducted a stability assessment, and dive and salvage operations are in progress. The Coast Guard Captain of the Port, Capt. Sharon Richey, is advising fishermen not to fish in the vicinity of lat 29 08.8N, long 93 14.9W, approximately 32 miles south of the Calcasieu Pass, La. There is a strong possibility of heavy grade oil floating partially submerged or on the bottom in the area due to the spill from the tank barge. The tank barge is not obstructing marine traffic, and all area waterways remain open. A four mile safety zone is in effect around the barge. The cause of the incident is under investigation by the Coast Guard.

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Crews tried to stabilize tank barge *DBL 152* yesterday after it rolled onto its side with its bow resting on the bottom in 55 ft of water, the U.S. Coast Guard said. The barge left Houston shortly before midnight Thursday en route to Tampa, Fla. About 2,000 feet of containment boom has been placed around the barge to try to contain the spill. Oil skimmers worked to remove the surface oil. The Coast Guard said crews were trying to keep the barge from capsizing and would continue salvage and cleanup efforts as long as the weather permits. The cause of the incident is being investigated by Coast Guard officials.

London, Nov 15 -- A Coast Guard Port Arthur press release, dated Nov 14, states: Despite the efforts of response crews who worked throughout the night, tank barge *DBL 152* rolled on to its side at about 1630 today. Progressive flooding inside the barge caused it to list 85 degrees to starboard with the bow resting on the bottom in 55 feet of water. Responders are working to stabilize the barge and prevent it from completely capsizing. The forecast of foul weather has increased the need for response crews to work quickly. Salvage and oil clean-up operations will continue as long the weather permits.

London, Nov 16 -- A Coast Guard Port Arthur press release, dated Nov 15, states: At approximately 2330 yesterday tank barge *DBL 152* capsized. Progressive flooding had caused the barge to roll onto its starboard side Monday at about 4:30 p.m. Responders are working to stabilize the barge as the weather front moves into the area. Salvage and oil clean-up operations will continue as long the weather safely permits. There were approximately 300,000 gallons of oil in the damaged tank. The amount of oil that leaked out is unknown at this time. Approximately 2,000 feet of containment boom is in place around the barge to contain the spill, and oil skimmers are on scene to remove the surface oil. An additional 1,800 feet of containment boom is being stage on scene as a precaution. The barge is now in lat 29 12.3N, long 93 28.14W, about 29 miles due south of the Calcasieu Pass, La. The Coast Guard Captain of the Port, Capt. Sharon Richey, is advising fishermen

not to fish in the vicinity of lat 29 8.8 N, long 93 14.9W, approximately 32 miles south of the Calcasieu Pass, La. There is a strong possibility of heavy grade oil floating partially submerged or on the bottom in the area due to the spill from the tank barge.

London, Nov 16 -- No further leakage has been reported from tank barge *DBL 152*. Salvage and clean-up operations are currently suspended due to bad weather.

**DELAWARE (Georgia)**

London, Nov 16 -- A press report, states: General cargo *Delaware*, Taganrog for Abu Ki, passed through the Canakkale strait at 0150, Oct 26 and ran aground in front of Akbas Lighthouse at 0150, local time, same day. Akbas lighthouse, being two miles to north of Canakkale lighthouse. Vessel refloated at 1500, local time, Oct 28 and anchored at Karanlik Liman Anchorage Area at 1545, local time, same day, for formalities. Vessel sailed for destination, Abu Kir, 1500, local time, Nov 10.

**DOCERIVER (Liberia)**

Shanghai, Nov 16 -- At the request of the hull and machinery underwriter, we will arrange the survey of bulk *Doceriver* at the end of this week. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**DON JUAN D'AMBRA (Argentina)**

London, Nov 17 -- Following notice to mariners issued Nov 16: Trawler *Don Juan D'Ambra* (597 gt, built 1955) adrift in lat 42 20S, long 59 38W.

London, Nov 17 -- Following notice to mariners issued today: Fishing *Santa Barbara* towing trawler *Don Juan D'Ambra* in lat 42 18S, long 59 33W. Line length 400 metres, speed seven knots, course 022 degrees, bound Mar del Plata port.

**DONGJIN PHOENIX (South Korea)**

Busan, Nov 15 -- Following received from Dongjin Shipping, Busan: General cargo *Dongjin Phoenix* shifted from Aokata to Hiroshima and is discharging the remaining cargo at the port. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**DURGANDINI (Panama)**

Jakarta, Nov 16 -- Product tanker *Durgandini* has completed repair at Cilacap and sailed to Jakarta Nov 10. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**ENOL FRIO (Panama)**

London, Nov 14 -- Following received from Cape Town Radio, timed 1855, UTC: Ref *Enol Frio* (5851 gt, built 1969) taking on water in lat 33 35S, long 27 24E at 1700, UTC. Pump unable to contain ingress. C.c. *P&O Nedlloyd Heemskerck* sent pump to assist the casualty. No assistance has been requested.

London, Nov 15 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0950, UTC: Ref *Enol Frio* is anchored in lat 33 31S, long 27 22E. Vessel has a small pump on board and tug *Smit Skua* is en route with a larger pump, ETA not known.

London, Nov 16 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0950, UTC: Ref *Enol Frio* is still anchored. Tug *Smit Skua* is on scene. One of the pumps placed on the vessel yesterday is not working so another pump is being flown out by helicopter. The vessel has the leak in the pump-room.

**EVER MIGHTY (Panama)**

London, Nov 11 -- Bulk *Ever Mighty* (39376 gt, built 1996), Ventspils to UK, 63,000 tons of coal, ran aground on Hatter Reef in the early hours of this morning. SvitzerWijsmuller tug *Egil* from its Kalundborg station is on the scene. It was discovered by a passing vessel with pilot on board. He saw the vessel make no speed and with a 15 degree list.

London, Nov 11 -- Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0835, UTC: *Ever Mighty*, cargo coal, ran aground at about midnight. Vessel is still aground. No information regarding damage to the vessel or pollution.

London, Nov 11 -- Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1230, UTC: Bulk *Ever Mighty* is still aground in lat 55 54N, long 10 50.8E. Danish Maritime Authorities are en route to investigate the grounding.

London, Nov 14 -- Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0845, UTC: Bulk *Ever Mighty* is still aground. Understand from contracted salvors that they will start cargo discharge on Wednesday (Nov 16) weather permitting. The weather is very bad at the moment.

London, Nov 15 -- A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV report, dated Nov 14, states: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV was instructed Nov 12 to provide salvage services to bulk *Ever Mighty*. The vessel with 63,000 tons of coal loaded vessel ran aground in the Great Belt on Friday, Nov 11. Instantly the SvitzerWijsmuller tug *Egil* was sent to the site with a salvage/dive team being mobilised immediately. Diving surveys were executed Friday evening late and subsequently Svitzer Wijsmuller Salvage, through our Singapore office, was appointed by owners/underwriters in Taiwan on Saturday, Nov 12, morning to start up operations. Further salvage team members are being mobilised from our operations in Denmark and The Netherlands, inclusive of SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage naval architects. Lighterage tonnage will be mobilised in shortly with salvage staff and equipment on board to execute lighterage operations, expected to commence mid this week. Some 7,000 to 11,000 tons of cargo is expected to be taken out of the vessel before a controlled refloating attempt can be made.

London, Nov 16 -- Following received from Kiel, dated today: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage B.V. was instructed Saturday (Nov 12) to provide salvage services to the 225 metre long bulk *Ever Mighty*. The vessel ran aground in the Great Belt on Friday (Nov 11). Instantly the

SvitzerWijismuller anchor handling firefighting tug/supply *Egil* was sent to the site with a salvage/dive team being mobilised immediately. Diving surveys were executed late Friday evening and subsequently SvitzerWijismuller Salvage, through their Singapore office, was appointed by owners/underwriters in Taiwan on Saturday morning to start up operations. Further salvage team members are being mobilised from our operations in Denmark and The Netherlands, inclusive of SvitzerWijismuller Salvage naval architects. Lighterage tonnage will be mobilised shortly with salvage staff and equipment on board to execute lighterage operations, expected to commence in the middle of this week. Some 7,000 to 11,000 tons of cargo are expected to be taken off the vessel before a controlled refloating attempt can be made. *Ever Mighty*, Ventspils for UK, with 63,000 tons of coal, ran aground on Hatter Reef. It was discovered by a passing vessel with pilot on board. He saw the vessel making no speed and with a 15 degree list. Cargo discharge will start today, weather permitting. The weather is very bad at the moment.

London, Nov 16 -- Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1105, UTC: Bulk *Ever Mighty* is still aground. Cargo discharge is expected to begin this evening.

London, Nov 16 -- Following received from SvitzerWijismuller Salvage B.V: The lightering vessel is expected to arrive in the area of bulk *Ever Mighty* tomorrow morning at daylight. Upon arrival and weather permitting, it will be moored alongside whereafter discharge is scheduled to commence. For the sake of good order, lightering of cargo will not start today.

#### EVERSUNNY (Tuvalu)

See "China" under "Weather & Navigation".

#### EXPRESS APOLLON (Greece)

Piraeus, Nov 14 -- Passenger ro/ro *Express Apollon* (5590 gt, built 1973) sustained starboard engine breakdown upon sailing from Karlovasi port, Samos island, Nov 13. The vessel returned to port where sailing was initially prohibited by the local port authorities. *Express Apollon* eventually sailed at 1110, local time, Nov 14, without passengers bound to Piraeus. The vessel will be replaced by passenger ro/ro vessel *Express Afrodite*.

#### FEDERAL LEDA (Cyprus)

Montreal, Nov 10 -- Bulk *Federal Leda* (22654 gt, built 2003) arrived Montreal Nov 9 with damage to cargo in hold No.1 due to heavy weather. No damage to the vessel. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Montreal, Nov 14 -- Bulk *Federal Leda* is now at Hamilton, Ont, as of Nov 13. Vessel will probably will go to Duluth or Thunder Bay to load grain for Europe. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### FEDERAL MACKINAC (Liberia)

Montreal, Nov 14 -- Bulk *Federal Mackinac* (18825 gt, built 2004) struck the pier on arrival at Becancour Nov 12. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 16 -- Bulk *Federal Mackinac* struck the wharf at 0550, EST, Nov 13, while berthing at Becancour. Damage reported to the vessel and the wharf.

London, Nov 17 -- Bulk *Federal Mackinac* arrived at Sorel on about Nov 15.

#### FELIZ 1 (Panama)

London, Nov 16 -- A press report states: Bulk *Feliz 1* (23566 gt, built 1980), Black Sea for Aegean, ran aground in front of the Doganarslan Bank, 13 miles north of Gelibou lighthouse, at 1200, local time, Nov 12. Vessel floated by own means at 1430, local time, same day and dropped anchor for the formalities in anchorage area according to VTS instruction. Vessel completed its formalities and entered into strait at 0745, local time, Nov 16 and passed Canakkale at 0945, local time, proceeding for destination. (Note -- *Feliz 1*, Constantza for Istanbul, had passed Istanbul 0010, Nov 12.)

#### FERTILIA (Italy)

Jakarta, Nov 17 -- Bulk *Fertilia* arrived at Cigading at 2130, local time, Nov 7 and berthed alongside at 0030, local time, Nov 08. Estimated to complete discharging on Nov 25. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### FILIPINAS MAASIN (Philippines)

See *Our Lady of Rule*.

#### FINNSAILOR (Sweden)

Gothenburg, Nov 14 -- Ro/ro/c.c. *Finnsailor* (20783 gt, built 1987), Travemunde for Malmo, was involved in a collision early yesterday morning with a Maltese registered vessel, bulk *General Grot-Rowecki* (23409 gt, built 1985), 9HZU6. The *Finnsailor* sustained damage to its starboard aft above the waterline. *General Grot-Rowecki* experienced some damage to the front of its port side, but not at the bow. German Police attended and conducted a general short investigation before both vessels could proceed for survey and repair. *Finnsailor* had some 48 lorries and trailers on board - including a unit containing eight trotting horses. *Finnsailor* arrived at Malmo some five-six hours behind schedule and experienced severe problems to get the aft ramp open, but with assistance of mobile crane the ramp was opened shortly after midnight this morning, allowing the lorries/trailers to depart the ferry. The vessel will to proceed to Oresundsvarvet at Landskrona for repair and will stay there for a week or so. There were no reported injuries and passengers stated the incident was handled professionally by the vessels' officers and crew. -- Westax Marine Services AB

London, Nov 14 -- Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Ro/ro/c.c. *Finnsailor*, Travemunde for

Malmo, with 52 passengers and 24 crew, was in collision with bulk *General Grot-Rowecki*, bound Ventspils, near Rugen Island at 0525 yesterday. Weather: Wind force 4 (moderate breeze), and some fog. There were no injuries. *Finnsailor* sustained damage above waterline and was able to proceed to Malmo around midday same day. *General Grot-Rowecki* had leaks in ballast water tanks and water ingress in two cargo holds, but the vessel remained stable and was able to head for Swinoujscie. (Note -- At 1840, yesterday *General Grot-Rowecki* was in lat 54 28 52.14N, long 13 49 31.2E, speed 8.7 knots.)

London, Nov 15 -- Ro/ro/c.c. *Finnsailor*, operating between Malmo and Travemunde, and bulk *General Grot-Rowecki*, collided in the notorious Kadet Channel in the Baltic Sea early on Sunday (Nov 13). Both vessels sustained damage but were able to continue the trip. No one was injured. *Finnsailor* had 52 passengers and 24 crew members on board. The cause of the accident is still under investigation.

London, Nov 16 -- Bulk *General Grot-Rowecki* arrived at Szczecin on Nov 14.

#### FLOTTBEK (Germany)

Montreal, Nov 10 -- C.c. *Flottbek* is completing repairs to the heavy weather damage sustained and should load and depart from Montreal on about Nov 13 for Liverpool. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Montreal, Nov 13 -- C.c. *Flottbek* has completed repairs and loaded with containers sailed Montreal Nov 12 bound for Liverpool and Antwerp. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### FRIENDSHIP (Panama)

See "Illegal Discharge of Waste From Panamanian Vessel *Friendship* under "Miscellaneous."

#### GENERAL GROT-ROWECKI (Malta)

See *Finnsailor*.

#### GRAMPIAN HAVEN (U.K.)

London, Nov 12 -- Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1527, UTC: Standby safety vessel *Grampian Haven* (769 gt, built 1982) has lost main propulsion and is holding on shuttle system only in lat 61 35.00N, long 01 12.60E. The vessel is currently in tow by standby safety *Grampian Pioneer* to Lerwick, no ETA at present.

London, Nov 13 -- Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1720, UTC: Standby safety vessel *Grampian Haven* has lost all means of propulsion while being in tow of standby safety vessel *Grampian Pioneer* in lat 60 32N, long 00 01W, at 1530, UTC. The vessel has arranged with Lerwick harbour for berthing if necessary.

London, Nov 14 -- Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 0620, UTC: Standby safety vessel *Grampian Haven*, in tow of standby safety vessel *Grampian*

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

*Pioneer*, is currently holding station 36 nautical miles from Lerwick, due to bad weather. Towage is expected to resume at about midday.

London, Nov 15 -- Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1515, UTC: Standby safety vessel *Grampian Haven* was towed to Lerwick harbour limits by standby safety vessel *Grampian Pioneer* around 0800, UTC, today. Vessel then berthed at Lerwick about a couple of hours later.

Sullom Voe, Nov 17 -- Engine repairs to standby safety vessel *Grampian Haven* have been completed and the vessel sailed on Nov 16. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**GRETE THERESA (Singapore)**

Noumea, Nov 16 -- Chemical/oil carrier *Grete Theresa* completed repairs and sailed Nov 15 for a normal round trip to Santo, Port Vila, Wallis & Futuna, Port Vila and then back to Noumea. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**GRISHA PODOBEDOV (Russia)**

London, Nov 11 -- Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0935, UTC: General cargo *Grisha Podobedov* (2949 gt, built 1976) reported adrift in lat 41 50.1N, long 142 17.8E. Believed vessel to be towed to Muroan.

London, Nov 12 -- Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0050, UTC: General cargo *Grisha Podobedov* repaired engine by own means and is proceeding to Muroan, where ETA 1130, JST, Nov 12. A Coast Guard patrol vessel is escorting.

**HAJ SALEH AL JADID (Egypt)**

Beirut, Nov 14 -- Schooner *Haj Saleh Al Jadid* has now been refloated and moved to a quay, waiting for repairs. All cargo on board is completely damaged and destroyed, as declared by the Tyr Harbour Master. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**ICE LOUISE (NIS)**

London, Nov 11 -- A Torshavn MRCC report, states: At 1112, UTC, Nov 9 RCC Stavanger informed that a Norwegian vessel was taking water 53 nautical miles east of Faroes. Coastguard vessel *Brimil* left Soldafjord and assisted the vessel to Kolle Fjord. The vessel was safe in port at 2025, UTC.

London, Nov 11 -- Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1145, UTC: A report was received at 1108, UTC, Nov 9 that ref *Ice Louise* (1884 gt, built 1980), cargo 1,600 tons frozen fish, was taking water in engine-room in lat 62 46N, long 05 22W. Search and Rescue operation was passed to Torshavn MRCC.

Torshavn, Nov 14 -- Ref *Ice Louise* left Faroes Friday night (Nov 11) after having undertaken a preliminary repair which the Faroese representative of Lloyd's Registry Of Shipping approved. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**ILKA (Germany)**

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Ilka* (1366 gt, built 1985), cargo grain, has

run aground in the River Tay near a gas pipeline. *Ilka*, with five crew members, had been heading up river in an area known as Seggieden, near Perth Harbour. A specialist from Shell was working with the emergency services and the Perth harbour-master in preparations to move the ship at about 1430, UTC. Police said the pipeline was buried three metres below the river bed and it was unlikely to have been damaged. A police spokeswoman confirmed that the situation was being carefully monitored. She said: "It is unlikely that there will be any damage to the line. But in the event that there is, the pipeline will be shut down. "As a precautionary measure, a small number of residents in nearby houses have been advised of the situation. "Network Rail has also been informed but there are currently no diversions in place or disruptions to the transport network." (Note -- *Ilka* sailed Rostock Nov 8 for Perth.)

London, Nov 14 -- Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 1530, UTC: General cargo *Ilka*, bound Perth, cargo grain, was reported aground in approximately 56 22.6N, long 03 20.9W, at 0310, UTC. Vessel was refloated at 1426, UTC, and proceeded to Perth under tug escort.

London, Nov 14 -- Following received from Coastguard Forth MRSC, timed 1535, UTC: General cargo *Ilka*, cargo 2000 tonnes of grain, reports no damage sustained and no pollution reported. Vessel was refloated and proceeded up river to Perth. Vessel berthed alongside safely at 1430, UTC. Search and rescue operations terminated.

**INZENIERIS NECIPORENKO (Malta)**

Freeport, Bahamas, Nov 17 -- Understand ro/ro *Inzenieris Neciporenko* (8454 gt, built 1975) has diverted to Freeport, under tow of a Wijsmuller tug, due to main engine problems. Vessel is presently being surveyed and presumably will be repaired locally. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**JIZHOU 1818 (China)**

See "China" under "Weather & Navigation".

**KALINA (Germany)**

Bremen, Nov 17 -- C.c. *Kalina* (6362 gt, built 1996) had sailed early on Nov 17, for Hamburg. It returned at 0210 hrs, this morning to pick up two crew members. During berthing at the Stromkaje the vessel collided with the pier and damaged same. The damages to vessel and pier have been surveyed by the water police and the port authorities, but further details are currently unknown. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- *Kalina* arrived at Bremerhaven at 1410 hrs, Nov 16.)

**KIEFERNWALD (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Nov 11 -- Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Kiefernwald* left Rendsburg Nov 10 and was heading

towards the North sea via Brunsbittel locks the same evening. Destination unknown.

London, Nov 15 -- General cargo *Kiefernwald*, Rendsburg for Husum, Germany, passed Brunsbittel on Nov 10.

**KURT R. LUEDTKE (U.S.A.)**

London, Nov 16 -- A Coast Guard Marblehead, Ohio, press release, dated Nov 15, states: A Coast Guard Station Marblehead 47-foot utility boat is assisting tug *Kurt R. Luedtke* (95 gt, built 1956) to find its garbage barge. The tug does not know at what point it lost one of its barges on its voyage from Sandusky to Cleveland. The tug and the Coast Guard crew backtracked along its original path. The search has yielded no results. (Later): Coast Guard crews searched today for a missing barge believed to be between Sandusky and Cleveland at approximately 0330 today. The Luedtke Corporation flew over the Sandusky area and spotted the 150-foot barge at approximately 1800 hrs. The barge was aground two to three miles from the Sandusky dock. The Luedtke Corporation worked with U.S. Coast Guard and Canadian search crews to find the missing vessel. This incident is currently under investigation.

Troy, Mich., Nov 16 -- A spoils barge (originally reported as a garbage barge) that somehow slipped away from its tug earlier in the day was found yesterday night near the Thomas Edison Memorial Bridge. The empty barge was found at about 1800 hrs, stuck in shallow water in Sandusky Bay, two-three miles from the Sandusky docks, said Petty Officer Matthew Schofield from the U.S. Coast Guard District 9 office in Cleveland. The barge came loose from the tug *Kurt R. Luedtke* sometime early yesterday on its voyage from Sandusky to Cleveland, Schofield said. The operator of the tug, which was towing two barges, did not notice the 150-foot by 50-foot barge was missing until he arrived in Cleveland, Schofield said. Officials from Luedtke Engineering Corp., the tug owners, found the barge as they flew overhead in an airplane, he said. The search may have been aided by a call from a Cleveland radio station, which called in a sighting reported to them near the Edison Bridge, Schofield said. It's still unclear how the barge got away. A Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit will investigate the incident, Schofield said. Crews from three Coast Guard stations spent parts of yesterday looking for the missing barge. A crew of six guardsmen searched with its 47-foot boat from 0445 hrs to 0945 hrs, without success, Johnson said. Vessels from the Coast Guard stations in Lorain and Cleveland were launched at about 0830 hrs, Schofield said. A C-130 cargo plane from Canada also helped. -- Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News.

**LB 200 (Panama)**

London, Nov 12 -- Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC,



timed 0839, UTC: Pipe layer **LB 200** (19968 gt, built 1975), in tow of tugs **Maersk Seeker** and **Maersk Lifter**, reports that both tow lines have become disconnected due to heavy weather in the area. The vessel is currently in lat 59 05N, long 01 18.5E and drifting eastwards about 10 miles from the Harding and Gryphon platforms.

London, Nov 12 -- Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 1058, UTC: Stolt Offshore have tasked anchor handling tug **Olympic Pegasus** to assist with the tow of pipe layer **LB 200**.

London -- Nov 12 -- Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 1218, UTC: At 1218, UTC, pipe layer **LB 200** in lat 59 12.9N, long 01 34.1E, drifting 047 degrees at 2.5 knots. Tug **Olympic Pegasus** is en route from Aberdeen. Tugs **Normand Commander** and **Skandi Admiral** are also proceeding. If the weather moderates an attempt will be made to reconnect the tow.

London, Nov 12 -- Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 1550, UTC: Pipe layer **LB 200** has been reported in Norwegian waters in lat 59 17.4N, long 01 43.1E, at 1505 UTC.

Gothenburg, Nov 12 -- Pipe layer **LB 200** broke loose from the tug during towage for Bergen this morning and started to drift off in rough and high seas. Tonight, around 2000 hrs, two tugs managed to get things under control, re-connected the barge and continued the towing. The hard work to get the tugs lines on board again had been going on for the entire day, a tough job in the rough sea, with winds exceeding 32 knots, and seas of six-to-seven metres. At some point this afternoon there was a fear that the barge could hit one of the oil rigs, no immediate danger. However, decided to evacuate part of the crew with helicopters. All persons, not considered as "key-persons", were brought to various rigs and platforms in the area, and only crew involved in the rescue remained on board. The **LB200** has no power or engines itself and has just completed a job for Norwegian Statoil. Vessel had total 265 persons on board, and the 84 person crew and workers were taken to a platform within the Harding field. Tug **Maersk Lifter** attending plus two others on their way to the area tonight. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated Nov 13, states: A North Sea barge is slowly being brought back to land after 150 crew members were airlifted when it broke loose of its tow lines and began drifting near oil platforms. Pipe layer **LB 200**, operated by Stolt Offshore, had 265 workers on board. It broke free from two tugs amid rough waters about 170 miles north east of Aberdeen yesterday morning. The 170m semi-submersible barge eventually drifted into Norwegian waters. Rescue teams managed to restore two tow lines to the vessel. Three rescue and nine civilian helicopters were used to

remove 150 non-essential workers from the barge, first to nearby oil platforms and then to the city of Stavanger about 120 miles east. Nils-Ole Sunde, duty controller at the rescue co-ordination centre in Stavanger, said: "The barge was brought clear of two platforms we were concerned about. It is now south of the Balder platform and is expected to begin heading to Bergen under tow."

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Pipe layer **LB 200** that broke away from two Maersk tugs in the North Sea Nov 12 has been brought safely to port in Bergen.

London, Nov 16 -- Stolt Offshore's pipe layer **LB 200** is sitting in a fjord in Stavanger after an incident-fuelled journey across the North Sea. Five oil platforms and two-thirds of the workers on the lay barge were evacuated by helicopter when the **LB 200** broke from its tow lines twice in 55-knot winds and 10-metre seas. The vessel was en route to Bergen for its winter refuge after finishing laying the Langeled pipeline across the North Sea. Anchor handlers **Maersk Seeker** and **Maersk Lifter** were towing the lay barge when a line broke and it drifted. Workers on BP's Harding oil platform were evacuated as a precaution. When another tow line was attached, this also broke further along the voyage. This time the Norwegian platforms **Balder**, **Grane**, **Heimdal** and **Ringhorne** were evacuated. Eventually anchor handlers **Maersk Seeker**, **Skandi Admiral** and **Olympic Pegasus** were able to tow the vessel to Stavanger, said a Stolt Offshore spokesman. They are waiting to tow **LB 200** out of the fjord and to Bergen when the weather improves.

#### **LEGACY (U.S.A.)**

See *Active*.

#### **LIAOPUYUN-777 (China)**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from the capsizing of cargo vessel **Liaopuyun-777** in the Yellow Sea near north-eastern China's coastal city of Dalian rose to 18, with one other person still missing, state press reported today. The vessel overturned while off-loading about 100 tonnes of bricks at Changhai County Haiyang Island Port in Liaoning province Monday (Nov 7) night, the China News Service reported. All 46 people on board were thrown into the sea but 27 were rescued. An investigation into the accident was ongoing. Earlier press reports said that the vessel was not certified to be carrying passengers, but that passengers were on board because a local ferry service had been shut down.

#### **LODBROK (Sweden)**

Gothenburg, Nov 14 -- Crane barge **Lodbrok**: Several shipyards have been invited to tender for repairs. The vessel's owners have 10 days to evaluate the tenders and a further 10 days to reach a final agreement. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

#### **MAERSK ENSENADA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Nov 16 -- Understand c.c. **Maersk Ensenada** is still aground.

#### **MAERSK HOLYHEAD (Venezuela)**

London, Nov 11 -- Investigations into a collision involving AP Moller-Maersk Group's Lpg **Maersk Holyhead** have yet to reveal the causes of the accident, although photographs taken from the bridge of bulk **Pequot** may shed some light on last Sunday's events. The photographs appear to show a deviation on the part of the Maersk-owned LPG carrier which took the vessel into the path of **Pequot**. The photographs, although in no way conclusive, will nevertheless play a central role in the investigation undertaken jointly by insurers, owners, classification societies and the Venezuelan authorities. The owners of both vessels said they were waiting to see the full details of any investigation before making any comment. Niko Schues, managing director of Laeisz, which manages **Pequot**, said the vessel was still at anchor in the harbour as it assessed what to do with the cargo and where to undertake repairs. **Pequot** is fully laden with coal and has received substantial damage as a result of the accident. "The extent of the damage is still unknown," said Mr Schues. "We are still collecting all the evidence and documentation. At this moment I would not like to make any comment about what caused the incident." In the immediate aftermath of the accident one Venezuelan source working for the emergency services said that the Maersk vessel appeared to have lost direction in a sector of the channel subject to a strong current. AP Moller-Maersk Group refused to confirm whether the ship had had any technical problems as it entered port. "As long as there is an investigation going on it is our policy not to comment," said a company spokesman. He said that an oil spill caused by a hole in one of the vessel's tanks holding 550 cu m of bunkers was now under control. Company representatives have been at the scene assisting authorities and undertaking their own preliminary investigations into the incident since Monday. PDVSA has sent out details for a replacement LPG carrier for a period of 30 days, according to brokers in Venezuela.

London, Nov 15 -- An A.P. Moller - Maersk press release, dated Copenhagen Nov 11, states: Lpg **Maersk Holyhead** berthed at the port of El Tablazo located at the entrance to Lake Maracaibo on Monday, Nov 7. The oil leakage from the damaged starboard fuel oil tank has been stopped and as precaution oil booms have been placed around the damaged area of the vessel. We have started the discharge of the vessel's cargo of gas and expect to finalise this over the weekend. Our emergency response plan has been activated. Specialists in the area of oil spill containment and overall spill management are actively engaged in handling the situation.

With the leakage of oil stopped, focus shifts to clean-up at shore and at sea. We have had our own representatives on the location since Nov 7 and have notified and are working with the appropriate Venezuelan authorities. As investigations are still ongoing it is at this stage not possible to comment on the cause of the accident.

#### MR-1 (Indonesia)

Jakarta, Nov 17 -- Wine tank *Mr-1* arrived at Tanjung Priok on Oct 30 for repairs and the estimated time for completion is Nov 30. The vessel will then sail to Tanjung Perak. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### MUIRNEAG (U.K.)

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: A major investigation is underway after a routine ferry crossing to Lewis turned into a 16 hour ordeal for passengers on board CalMac ro/ro *Muirneag* (5801 gt, built 1979). One passenger had to be airlifted off the vessel with head injuries and thousands of pounds of damage was caused to vehicles when *Muirneag* was caught in horrendous conditions and 50 foot waves. Passengers say the Ullapool to Stornoway crossing took a 16 hours in the storm, with the vessel ending up 60 miles off course. It has been claimed thousands of pounds of damage was caused to a number of vehicles on board during the crossing. One 22-year-old man had to be airlifted from the ferry by the Stornoway Coastguard helicopter after he was thrown across a room, striking his head. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency today confirmed it had launched an investigation into the lashing down of vehicles on board *Muirneag*. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch and Health and Safety Executive have also been informed.

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: An investigation has been launched after a man was airlifted to hospital during a 16-hour boat journey in atrocious weather conditions. Vehicles on the Caledonian MacBrayne ro/ro *Muirneag* were also damaged during the journey from Ullapool to Stornoway. A CalMac spokesman said the ship took a "real buffeting". He added that the man had a suspected head injury. The crossing usually takes less than three hours. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) and Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) are making inquiries. The ship got into extremely heavy weather including hurricane force winds and it was unsafe to go into Stornoway harbour. The ship was forced to stop as it was crossing The Minch because of the stormy weather conditions. Philip Preston, operations director at CalMac said the company was still trying to establish how many people had been on board the vessel, which can carry up to 12 passengers. He added that the ship, which was delivering food products and other goods to Lewis, left Ullapool at around 1000, UTC, Friday (Nov 11) and

arrived in Stornoway in the early hours of Saturday. "The ship got into extremely heavy weather including hurricane force winds and it was unsafe to go into Stornoway harbour," he said. "She took a real buffeting and a passenger had suspected head injury. "There was also damage to some of the freight and lorries and we have contacted the hauliers and surveyors who are going to Stornoway to assess the damage." He added that the company was also in contact with the vessel's owners, Glasgow-based Harrison's Clyde. An MCA spokesman said: "While the weather conditions were very poor there was a lot of shifting of cargo, including a car which got beaten up because it got pushed about the deck. "We were concerned about some of the containerised freight on board which had been damaged and had to be taken out by a tractor unit. "We need to find out what went on. If there is very poor weather forecast, then things should be lashed down."

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: For passengers on board ro/ro *Muirneag* last Friday, the CalMac route between Ullapool and Stornoway became memorable after the 3.5 hour journey took 15 hours to complete in 80mph winds. An investigation has now been launched into why the vessel was allowed to set sail in such bad conditions. Cars slammed about the deck, crashing into other vehicles and smashing deck lights. Lorries were also damaged, freight was catapulted off trailers and oil and cargoes of fish farm food were spilled. Below deck, seating and tables were said to have been wrecked and crockery was sent flying through the air as the ferry was buffeted by the storm. *Muirneag*, chartered by Caledonian MacBrayne for the daily crossing, left Ullapool at 1015 Friday with 18 commercial vehicles, 10 cars and the maximum 12 passengers on board. The west coast and Western Isles were battered by storm-force winds, but skipper Alan Smith decided it was safe to make the crossing. However conditions worsened considerably quicker than expected and the ferry was soon pounded by waves up to 15 metres high. The vessel was blown off course and the master also took evasive action, desperately trying to seek shelter from the mountainous seas. Having taken nearly five times longer than expected, the journey finally ended when the ferry arrived in Stornoway at 0335 Saturday, but the repercussions continued. The Marine and Coastguard Agency said it has begun a preliminary investigation into the lashings of the vehicles on board the ferry. CalMac is conducting its own internal inquiry and said the Marine Accident Investigation Branch and the Health and Safety Executive are looking into the incident. The owner of the ferry is also conducting its own checks but yesterday claimed the incident had been exaggerated. CalMac said safety management, including the securing of vehicles and

cargo on the ferry, is the responsibility of the owners. The company said it did not wish to comment on the master's decision to put to sea. A spokeswoman said the vessel was off-course due to a combination of the weather and the master seeking shelter. She said: "At no time was the ship out of control. It was under the full command of the master who was seeking shelter as a result of the poor weather." The spokeswoman added: "We do not know the extent of the damage as yet. We are contacting the hauliers involved to assess damage to vehicles and are dealing with any insurance claims from that through the normal channels." A statement from ASP Ship Management, agents for the ferry owners, said: "During the *Muirneag*'s passage from Ullapool to Stornoway on Friday, the weather deteriorated earlier than had been forecast and the vessel had to take evasive action. During this time some cargo did shift and was damaged. This included a car that apparently had faulty brakes." It added: "While the weather was violent, at no time were the passengers or the vessel in danger." Alan Cunningham, ASP's fleet manager, added: "It is always the master's decision whether to sail or not. The service frequently does not sail because of weather conditions, especially at this time of year. "On this occasion the master decided it was fine to sail but unfortunately the weather deteriorated far faster than he expected and the vessel got caught in it." *Muirneag* sustained no damage but is presently undergoing pre-planned routine maintenance and is due to return to service today.

#### NIAGARA FALLS (U.S.A.)

Honolulu, Nov 15 -- It was reported by the Navy that general cargo *Niagara Falls* was repaired and departed Guam on Nov 12. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### NORD STAR (U.K.)

London, Nov 10 -- Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 1756, UTC: General cargo *Nord Star* is still at anchor. A new master is due to arrive this evening and board the vessel tomorrow morning. A diver's survey is scheduled for later tomorrow.

London, Nov 12 -- Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 0333, UTC: General cargo *Nord Star* remains at anchor in Scallastle Bay, North of Craignure, Isle of Mull. New Master and Mate have joined the vessel. Currently awaiting weather window to conduct in-water inspection.

London, Nov 14 -- Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 1227, UTC: General cargo *Nord Star* was towed into Corpach at 1700 yesterday and is now safely alongside.

Glasgow, Nov 15 -- General cargo *Nord Star* remains alongside at Corpach after grounding on rocks in the area of Lochaline. Shipyard in attendance and carrying out temporary repairs to steering. These

should be completed later today, after which the vessel is expected to sail under her own power to Buckie, where it will be slipped and permanent repairs effected. Subject to the findings, permanent repairs could take up to three weeks. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **OUR LADY OF RULE (Philippines)**

Manila, Nov 17 -- Two Philippine-registered vessels, ferries *Our Lady of Rule* (2387 gt, built 1970) and *Filipinas Maasin* (884 gt, built 1968) collided at 1940 hrs, on Nov 14, while manoeuvring off the port of Cebu in central Philippines. *Our Lady of Rule* was leaving port when *Filipinas Maasin* "unexpectedly came out of the pier" and hit *Our Lady of Rule*. *Our Lady of Rule* was bound for Ozamiz City while *Filipinas Maasin* was sailing to Maasin port, in Leyte province. In its incident report, Aboitiz Transport System, owner of *Our Lady of Rule*, said that their vessel sustained a hole in its fore-castle, 13 feet and two inches in length and 16 inches in width, seven metres above the waterline. The *Filipinas Maasin* on the other hand, was damaged astern and port, particularly to its gangplank, catwalk and the roof deck of the economy class. Both ships returned to Cebu port to disembark their passengers and undergo repairs. There were no deaths or injuries to either of the ships passengers or crew. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **OVERSEAS COLMAR (Marshall Islands)**

London, Nov 15 -- A report from the managers of crude oil tanker *Overseas Colmar* (24584 gt, built 1987), dated Piraeus today, states: *Overseas Colmar* involved in an incident off Sakhalin Island in Russia. After loading 22,000 tonnes of crude oil at the port of Okruzhnoye, she went to anchor just outside the port to finalise documentation and to disembark the pilot. The weather deteriorated and a heavy swell picked up, which was strong enough to cause the starboard anchor to break free. The vessel drifted towards the shoreline and touched the bottom before she was able to proceed forward under the main engine. Once she had been secured with the port anchor, an inspection of the steering gear showed that the rudder had been lost. All authorities have been notified, and a tug is presently on its way to assist and will arrive at approximately 1500, UTC. Another tug has also been dispatched and will arrive on Thursday (Nov 17). The vessel will then proceed to Korsakov, some 440 miles from the incident, using her main engine and the tugs to assist with the steerage. The managers also state that as a result of the incident, there has been no pollution, no casualties or injuries to the crew and no ingress of water into the ship.

London, Nov 15 -- The managers of the crude oil tanker *Overseas Colmar*, who had earlier today reported that the vessel had lost its rudder while

touching the bottom off Sakhalin Island in Russia after loading 22,000 metric tonnes of crude oil, now report that one tug has arrived alongside the vessel and has made fast. The vessel will sail the 330 miles to Korsakov with the tug in attendance, while a further tug will meet the two vessels en route and also join as escort to the tanker. It is expected to arrive in Korsakov after 42 hours. On arrival in Korsakov, inspection will be carried out by class, the P&I Club, hull and machinery insurers and the Salvage Association. If it is felt that vessel is able to continue its passage with the assistance of tugs, it will proceed to Tsingtao in China, where it will discharge its cargo and effect repairs to the rudder. The voyage to Tsingtao with tugs is expected to take eight days.

London, Nov 16 -- In rough conditions, crude oil tanker *Overseas Colmar* ran aground off Sakhalin Island, damaging its rudder and anchor. Overseas Shipholding Group's 1987-built handysize tanker was anchored outside the port of Okruzhnoye after loading 22,000 metric tonnes of crude oil when a heavy swell forced its starboard anchor to break free. The vessel drifted towards the shore and grounded before it was able to proceed with its main engine. The vessel was then secured again with the port anchor and will be towed to a safer location for inspection and repairs. Salvage tug *Atlas* rescue vessel is en route to help the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker, said the Sakhalinsk Basin emergency and rescue department and another tug is expected to set off from the Korsakov seaport today. The two tugs will then tow *Overseas Colmar* to the shelter of Anivsky Bay off southern Sakhalin. There were no spills reported from the incident.

London, Nov 16 -- Crude oil tanker *Overseas Colmar* is under tow after running aground off Sakhalin Island and damaging its rudder. Overseas Shipholding Group's 1987-built handysize tanker was anchored outside the port of Okruzhnoye after loading crude oil, when a heavy swell forced its starboard anchor to break free. The vessel then drifted towards the shore. After grounding, it was able to move off under its own power and was then secured again with the port anchor. Salvage tug *Atlas* arrived and began towing the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker to the shelter of Korsakov seaport. Another tug set off from Korsakov to assist the tow. There were no spills or other damage reported.

#### **PAN RIVER (Panama)**

Yokohama, Nov 17 -- Repairs to general cargo *Pan River* have been completed at Miyako and the vessel is now scheduled to set sail for Hiroshima today. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **PAULA (Republic of Ireland)**

Trondheim, Nov 10 -- Eidsvik Skipsbyggeri AS now estimate to

complete the rebuilding of trawler *Paula* in early December -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **PEQUOT (Liberia)**

See *Maersk Holyhead*.

#### **PONGO (Bahamas)**

London, Nov 13 -- Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1950, UTC: General cargo *Pongo* (664 gt, built 1982) loaded with 913 tonnes of stone bound for Brightlingsea is drifting at lat 50 11.15N, long 03 26.83E, 8 miles east of Start Point at a speed of one knot. The vessel is unable to start the engines and owners have arranged with Torbay shipping to supply tug *Protector* for towage to Plymouth.

London, Nov 14 -- Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 0625, UTC: General cargo *Pongo*, in tow of tug *Protector*, is now at anchor in Cawsand Bay and will proceed to Plymouth later this morning.

London, Nov 14 -- Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1644, UTC: General cargo *Pongo* is now alongside at Milbay Docks, Plymouth. The vessel reportedly has a fishing net tangled around its propeller.

Plymouth, Nov 17 -- General cargo *Pongo*: The fishing net was removed from the vessel's propeller by divers and the vessel sailed from Plymouth Nov 15. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **PUFFIN (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Toronto, Nov 15 -- Bulk *Puffin* left Thunder Bay Nov 11, ETA Sorel Nov 16. It is not known if the vessel was damaged. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **PUGET SOUND (U.S.A.)**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Product tanker *Puget Sound* (27894 gt, built 1983), carrying 52 million litres of jet fuel, had to reduce power today in the Strait of Juan de Fuca in north-west Washington, and was assisted by a tug into the Port Angeles harbour. The state Department of Ecology says the vessel was on its way to Anacortes, but had to reduce power because of engine overheating. No injuries were reported, and no fuel or other leaks occurred. The problem began about 1000 hrs, when it was off Dungeness Spit, at the north end of the Olympic peninsula. The tug *Hunter*, based in Port Angeles and owned by Crowley Marine, was accompanying the tanker as required for vessels that sail through the strait once they reach Port Angeles. State officials said the tug assisted the vessel back to Port Angeles. The tanker is owned by Puget Carrier Corp. and operated by OSG Ship Management Inc. It was not immediately known where the vessel's voyage originated. The tanker will be repaired and inspected and then allowed to continue to Anacortes, the officials said. (Note -- *Puget Sound* sailed Port Angeles Nov 9.)

London, Nov 11 -- Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 0830,

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

UTC: Product tanker *Puget Sound* arrived Port Angeles 1430, local time, Nov 10, carried out repairs and left for Anacortes. (Note -- At 0730, UTC, today *Puget Sound* was in lat 48 19 41.94N, long 122 57 43.5W, speed 12.3 knots.)

**REBEL (U.S.A.)**

See *DBL 152*.

**RENUAR (Panama)**

Montreal, Nov 10 -- Repairs to the damaged boiler on board bulk *Renuar*, at Seven Islands, are expected to be completed on Nov 22. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**RICKMERS GENOA (Marshall Islands)**

London, Nov 16 -- Following received from the operators of general cargo *Rickmers Genoa*, dated today: *Rickmers Genoa* is still under repair at Shanghai, ETC unknown.

**RITA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

London, Nov 11 -- Passenger *Rita* is disappearing quickly. Cutting has reached the first class observation deck beneath its bridge and is claiming a large portion of its aft hull and superstructure. Vessel is about 45% dismantled.

**ROXANA BANK (South Africa)**

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated Nov 13, states: A Cape Town sailor fractured his skull when fish factory *Roxana Bank's* (2405 gt, built 1978) anchor chain snapped in heavy seas off Port Elizabeth harbour. The man was standing on the deck of the vessel late on Thursday (Nov 10) night when the anchor chain apparently snapped as the vessel lay two miles offshore in 4 m swells and 20-25 knots of easterly winds.

**RUIYUAN NO.1 (China)**

See "China" under "Weather & Navigation".

**SALAM 4 (Jordan)**

See *Shanghai Pride*.

**SAN CARLO (Malta)**

See "Somalia" under "Piracy".

**SEA EXPRESS (Panama)**

London, Nov 17 -- Crude oil tanker *Sea Express* sailed Aden Nov 11.

**SEA HAWK-2 (Malta)**

Piraeus, Nov 15 -- General cargo *Sea Hawk-2* remains in Mytilene port. ETD Unknown. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**SEVEN STARS (U.S.A.)**

Honolulu, Nov 12 -- Fishing *Seven Stars* (71 gt, built 1987) went aground at Kukui Point, Onomea Bay, approximately seven miles north of Hilo, Hawaii, shortly before 0500, local time, Nov 12. Six crewmen were rescued by the Big Island fire department. It is reported the vessel's owners, Kwang Myoung, hired a company to remove approximately 700 gallons of fuel and to remove the vessel from its grounded position. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 13 -- A press report, dated Nov 11, states: Teams rescued the crew of fishing *Seven Stars* that ran aground on the coast of the Big Island early Friday morning (Nov 11). The US Coast Guard picked up the distress call off Kukui Point near Onomea, about 7 miles out of Hilo after it lost power, drifted inside the breakers. Efforts are under way to salvage the 69-foot vessel. The Kwong Myong Co. out of Honolulu owns the vessel. Its crew is safe after the harrowing rescue by Hilo's fire crews. "Since the boat was on the shore on the rocks, they were hammered. The waves were actually coming over the top of the boat," Hawaii County Fire Department pilot Paul Darryl said. It happened just before 0500. Fishermen issued the emergency call, and the Coast Guard alerted the fire department. In the darkness, fire rescue crews said they had trouble initially locating the vessel. Teams spotted one of the fishermen in the water. Five others were still on board. "It was a good thing all the personnel had their life vests on because we could see their reflection. So, as they moved, the lights would flicker and we could spot them," said Miles Kawazoe, of the Hawaii County Fire Department. Rescuers managed to get to the fisherman in the water first. He was found just a few hundred feet offshore and was pulled from the ocean by helicopter, said Fire Capt. Clarence Young. "There was debris in the water and some diesel spill spread out approximately a mile out and a half-mile wide," Darryl said. Firefighters said the rescue of the crew on the vessel was trickier since they were battling waves estimated to be about 20-feet high. Teams plucked the crewmembers one-by-one from the boat. They suffered only minor cuts and scrapes. The Coast Guard said its main concern is the 700 gallons of diesel fuel that's still onboard the vessel. It is investigating the incident.

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated Nov 13, states: Fishing *Seven Stars* that ran aground 0530 Friday (Nov 11) off Onomea has broken in half and will likely have to be sunk in deep waters, the Coast Guard and an official involved in the clean-up operation said. *Seven Stars*, owned by Honolulu-based Kwang Myong, Co., broke in two late Friday (Nov 11), Coast Guard spokesman Michael De Nyse said yesterday. The bow has now sunk about half a foot into the sand, he said, and the stern is on nearby rocks. Pacific Environmental Corp, a clean-up company, removed 700 gallons of diesel fuel from the vessel Friday before it broke up. Officials will decide today how to take the vessel off the remote shoreline, about seven miles north of Hilo's Kukui Point. Rusty Nall, Pacific Environmental vice president, said the removal is expected to be difficult because of high surf in the area and the location of the vessel at the base of a 50-foot cliff. Because of the condition of the vessel, Nall said, it will likely be dragged out to sea and sunk. "It's not going to be

salvaged," he said. Yesterday, Pacific Environmental workers picked up debris, including wooden planks and fishing supplies, from waters near to where the vessel grounded.

**SHANGHAI PRIDE (Panama)**

London, Nov 14 -- Following received from Colombo Radio timed 1505, UTC: General cargo *Shanghai Pride* (9055 gt, built 1983) and bulk *Salam 4* (15990 gt, built 1977) were in collision off Sri Lanka yesterday. Both vessels are now at Colombo anchorage. Extent of damage to both vessels not known.

Colombo, Nov 16 -- Understand general cargo *Shanghai Pride* and bulk *Salam 4* are still lying outside Colombo. No firm decision regarding the onward transmission has been taken yet. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Colombo, Nov 16 -- General cargo *Shanghai Pride* and bulk *Salam 4* were in collision 50 miles off Galle. Both vessels are now nine miles off Colombo. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Colombo, Nov 17 -- General cargo *Shanghai Pride*, cargo 11,500 tonnes rice, and bulk *Salam 4*, cargo fertiliser, were in collision off the southern coast of Sri Lanka, close to Dondra Head, at approximately 2340, Nov 12. Both vessels have sustained structural damage. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 17 -- General cargo *Shanghai Pride* arrived at Colombo on Nov 14.

**SID HOOK (United Kingdom)**

See *Baltiyskiy 202*.

**SIGAS MONARCH (Singapore)**

London, Nov 14 -- Lpg *Sigas Monarch* sailed from Rotterdam on Nov 12.

**SINU-I-WASA (Fiji)**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Fiji Islands Maritime and Safety Administration is investigating allegations that inter-island trader ro/ro *Sinu-I-Wasa* (1481 gt, built 1972) contacted two other ships. The incident is said to have happened on "Oct 9" at Taveuni Wharf. *Sin-I-Wasa* allegedly struck passenger ro/ro *Spirit of Fiji Islands* (4421 gt, built 1968) and then hit o/ro *Suilven* (3638 gt, built 1974) as it was making its way to the wharf. It was claimed *Sin-I-Wasa's* port engine failed as it made its way to the wharf. The engine failure and strong winds have been blamed for the collisions. Venu Shipping, which owns *Sin-I-Wasa*, denied the vessel had any mechanical fault. "We asked the masters of both ships to move out so we could come in but they didn't. Had they moved out, the accident would not have happened," said *Sin-I-Wasa* owner Ben Naidu. *Suilven* director Mark Roe said a compensation claim would be made.

Suva, Nov 17 -- Ro/ro *Sinu-I-Wasa* is at Savusavu. Vessel sustained minor scratches and requires painting. Passenger ro/ro *Spirit of Fiji Islands* is at Savusavu. Vessel has been scraped along the port side from mid ships to bow. Only superficial paint damage occurred with minor denting

to bridge wing port light housing and forward port life boat pulley. Ro/ro *Suilven* is in operation between Vanua Levu, Viti Levu and Taveuni. Vessel sustained minor structural damage to forward starboard side and caused a passenger accommodation window to be broken. Vessel was immediately repaired after the collision. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**SITC BANGKOK (Turkey)**

London, Nov 14 -- Understood c.c. *SITC Bangkok* (14236 gt, built 2002), which sailed Bangkok Nov 10 for Vietnam, grounded in lat 09 59.01N, long 103 08.44E, on Nov 11. Vessel's cargo, some of which is refrigerated, has not been affected and holds are reportedly sound. Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contract has been signed with SMIT. Some lightering will be carried out onto local vessels to facilitate refloating. Salvage crew are on scene and a tug is proceeding from Singapore.

London, Nov 16 -- Understand c.c. *SITC Bangkok*, Thailand for Ho Chi Minh City, is still aground.

**SOLIDOR 5 (France)**

London, Nov 17 -- Sea travellers to France will be unable to use *Emeraude* ferries from next week. Passenger *Solidor 5* (2369 gt, built 2001) needs urgent repairs and is being taken out of service for up to two months. The last Jersey to St Malo trip is on Monday (Nov 21). A replacement ferry has been organised, but this will not start until the end of November at the earliest. The company says it will contact all passengers who are affected and if they are unable to change their tickets a full refund will be given. An additional discount for further sailings will also be offered.

**SPIRIT OF ALPHA (Panama)**

London, Nov 14 -- A SvitzerWijismuller BV report, dated Nov 12, states: SvitzerWijismuller Salvage BV received instructions to execute the necessary refloating operations of bulk *Spirit of Alpha* (14927 gt, built 1984), cargo clinker, after it ran aground off Padang, Sumatra, on Nov 7. SvitzerWijismuller Salvage was approached by the owners/underwriters almost immediately and instantly sent in one of its salvage teams to inspect the situation and condition of the vessel. Based on the contract confirmation that was received today, further salvage team members from SvitzerWijismuller salvage bases in Indonesia, Singapore and The Netherlands will be mobilised in to bring the initial salvage team at full operational strength. SvitzerWijismuller salvage tug *Albatros* will be mobilised in from Singapore with the necessary additional salvage equipment.

London, Nov 14 -- Understand salvage services are being rendered to bulk *Spirit of Alpha* by SvitzerWijismuller Salvage BV under Lloyd's Open Form dated Nov 12.

London, Nov 16 -- Bulk *Spirit of Alpha*: Understand there has been some water ingress. A tug is due on scene Nov 18.

**SPIRIT OF FIJI ISLANDS (Fiji)**

See *Sinu-I-Wasa*.

**STAINLESS DOLPHIN (Panama)**

Piraeus, Nov 11 -- Chemical/oil carrier *Stainless Dolphin* has reportedly completed repairs and remains in Styliis roads awaiting class certificate to be issued. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**STEN ODIN (NIS)**

Glasgow, Nov 15 -- Chemical/oil carrier *Sten Odin* sustained main engine turbocharger failure, and proceeded to Lerwick with an estimated 40% engine power, with tug *Anglian Earl* in attendance to assist if required. All fast in Lerwick harbour at 0505 hrs, Nov 9. Repairs were completed and the vessel sailed from Lerwick at 2023 hrs, Nov 10. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**SUILVEN (Fiji)**

See *Sinu-I-Wasa*.

**SUZIE Q. (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Nov 11 -- Following Navigational Warning, dated today, states: Engine troubled general cargo *Suzie Q.* (1980 gt, built 1983) adrift in lat 28 44.2N, long 129 08.3E at 1710, UTC, Nov 10.

London, Nov 11 -- Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0755, UTC: *Suzie Q.* is still adrift. Coast Guard vessel is on scene.

London, Nov 12 --Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0050, UTC: General cargo *Suzie Q.* is in tow of tug *Heisei Maru*, from Fukada Salvage, bound for Sasebo.

**TE MAURI (Fiji)**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Twenty passengers travelling on ferry *Te Mauri* to Kadavu, Fiji, were forced to "jump ship" in open seas early yesterday morning. And they were lucky enough to have been rescued immediately after by the *Sinuwasa*, which also happened to be on the same route, when the vessel started taking in water. *Te Mauri*, owned by Khan's Shipping Limited, left the Suva Wharf without any problems but started taking in water when its engine suddenly died in waters off Kadavu. One passenger on board, Vilimone Belolevu, relayed the incident to police from his mobile phone and the matter was referred to the navy's search and rescue team. But navy officials said no one was injured as passengers and their cargo were loaded on to the *Sinuwasa*. It is understood that after loading the passengers and their cargo, the *Sinuwasa* towed the *Te Mauri* to Vunisea. But this was only after the crew of both vessels worked hard to bail water out of the *Te Mauri*. Reports from the Command Centre revealed that the vessel would have sunk had the *Sinuwasa* arrived a little

later. Inspector Penioni Ravoka later confirmed that at about 1300 hrs, both vessels safely reached Vunisea.

Suva, Nov 17 -- Informed by owners that ferry *Te Mauri* is currently at Kadavu with no damages. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**TINIAN EXPRESS (Panama)**

Honolulu, Nov 15 -- According to the Coast Guard, ferry *Tinian Express* was extracted from its grounded position and is moored in Tinian Harbour. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**TONG CHENG 818 (China)**

See "China" under "Weather & Navigation".

**TRANSAT JACQUES VABRE YACHT RACE**

London, Nov 11 -- A Transat Jacques Vabre press release, dated today, states: Around 1800, UTC, yesterday trimaran *Groupama-2* capsized 40 miles NW of the Canaries. Since this news, the priority of the team and sponsor has been to get both skippers to safety. Franck Proffit, at the helm when the accident happened, has suspected broken ribs as a result of being thrown violently forward. Both skippers were airlifted off the overturned trimaran around midnight UTC, even though Cammas, who was uninjured and inside the cockpit at the time, wanted to stay on board until his boat was salvaged but the Spanish authorities deemed that given the weather conditions it was not safe to leave someone alone on an overturned boat at sea. However, the maritime authorities in charge of this zone have guaranteed that the boat is not in danger of breaking up at sea. Proffit went straight to hospital in Las Palmas, Cammas has been in a hotel overnight and is at the hospital to be with Franck today. The news from the hospital is that Proffit must not be moved for three days as he has suffered broken ribs, but we will know more details of his injury soon. The last position of the trimaran from its ARGOS beacon at 2300, UTC, was lat 29.25.26N, long 18.22.56W. At the moment, two of *Groupama-2*'s shore team, Ewen Le Clech and Pascal Blouin, are flying from Nantes to Las Palmas to rendezvous with Franck Cammas. Olivier Wrozinski and "Napo", members of the Gitana Team who have experience in organizing salvage operation, are accompanying the *Groupama* team to assist on site. A towing vessel will leave Las Palmas this morning, and in France, the team manager co-ordinating the salvage operation, Stéphane Guilbaud, is liaising with the CROSS Gris Nez and Spanish Maritime authorities.

Las Palmas, Nov 14 -- Santa Cruz de La Palma harbour-master reports trimaran *Grpama-2* capsized at approximately 1900, Nov 10. The two crew-members were rescued by a helicopter. A fishing vessel from Las Palmas together with salvage vessel *Salvamar* towed the trimaran into the port of Santa Cruz de la Palma today. The trimaran has lost its mast and

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one of the three hulls is badly damaged. Apparently they intend to wait for a cargo vessel to call at La Palma in order to load the trimaran on board and take it to France for repairs. A French salvage team are at present in Santa Cruz de La Palma taking the necessary steps and making arrangements. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 15 -- Transat Jacques Vabre press releases, dated today, state: Giovanni Soldini and Vittorio Malingri, the two Italian skippers on ORMA 60 trimaran *TIM Progetto Italia*, which capsized 450m West of Freetown at 0515 yesterday morning, were picked up around 2000 hrs by crude oil tanker *Cape Bari*, alerted by the CROSS in Daker, which was en route to Mexico. There is no current information about a possible transfer of the two skippers before the tanker reaches Mexico. Giovanni spoke to the Race organisation around 2100 hrs from on board the tanker about the chances of salvaging his trimaran. "I don't think we can save the boat. The starboard float was smashed by the mast, which broke into three pieces and was heavily damaged." Meanwhile *Groupama-2* has arrived in Santa Cruz de la Palma where under the direction of its skipper Franck Cammas and its shore team it has been righted. The boat will be put on to a cargo ship and taken back to the team's base in Lorient where it will be repaired, ready for the 2006 ORMA Championship.

**TS HONGKONG (Liberia)**

London, Nov 16 -- C.c. *TS Hongkong* arrived Singapore Nov 12 and sailed Nov 13.

**UMFOLOZI (Cyprus)**

London, Nov 17 -- A SMIT Salvage report states: C.c. *Umfoloji* was patched, refloated and successfully redelivered to its owners Nov 2.

Cape Town, Nov 17 -- Understand that c.c. *Umfoloji* was refloated at Walvis Bay on Oct 28 and has apparently been sold to local interests. It is presently unknown whether the vessel will be cut up for scrap or whether attempts will be made to repair it. *Umfoloji* is reported to be alongside at the port, although preparations are being made to move it to the outer anchorage. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**URVAAG (Norway)**

Trondheim, Nov 10 -- Owners of fishing *Urvaag* inform that the vessel will be sold at the end of November. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**VERA 777 (Panama)**

London, Nov 11 -- Understand salvage services were rendered to general cargo *Vera 777* by Guangzhou Salvage under Lloyd's Open Form dated Oct 31.

**VERESHCHAGINO (Ukraine)**

London, Nov 16 -- Understand general cargo *Vereshchagino* (746 gt, built 1978) drifted because of engine failure near Anadolukavak 0930, Oct

3. Immediately tug *Kurtarma 3* was sent to the accident place. After a salvage assistance operation the vessel was anchored safely at Buyukdere.

**VLISTBORG (Netherlands)**

Montreal, Nov 10 -- General cargo *Vlistborg* (6130 gt, built 1999) arrived Montreal Nov 9, effected part permanent repairs to heavy weather damage and departed Nov 10 to continue her voyage to Green Bay, Wisconsin. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- *Vlistborg* sailed from Kotka Oct 18.)

**WILSON TANA (Malta)**

Cadiz, Nov 16 -- Bulk *Wilson Tana* (4907 gt, built 1977), missed the Guadalquivir river channel limits last Monday (Nov 14) night at 0120 hrs while sailing to Seville, dragging three fishing vessels and contacting with external pier of Bonanza Port at Sanlucar de Barrameda, Cadiz. According to local Authorities the vessel caused numerous damages to the fishing vessels, to which the vessel cast off their moorings, keeping its course to Seville with a leak on the hull over the flotation mark. Seville Harbourmaster's Office is taking charge of the accident (the vessel is actually berthed at Seville Port) while staff personnel from regional Ports Authorities (EPPA) are inspecting the damages caused at Sanlucar. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- *Wilson Tana* arrived Seville Nov 14.)

**WIN FENG 168 (Taiwan)**

London, Nov 16 -- Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 2120, UTC: Fishing *Win Feng 168*, 90 foot, 14 persons on board, last reported contact Nov 6, 500 miles south-east of the Hawaiian Islands. SAR operations have now been suspended.

**WITH JUNIOR (Norway)**

London, Nov 11 -- Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1145, UTC: General cargo *With Junior* arrived Floro 2359, UTC, yesterday.

Bergen, Nov 14 -- General cargo *With Junior* was repaired early morning Nov 11 and left Floro immediately. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**XIAN FENG HAI NO.1 (China)**

See "China" under "Weather & Navigation".

**ZENITH (U.K.)**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated Nov 10, states: Fishing *Zenith* is a complete write-off after a mystery harbour blaze. Fire broke out in the wheelhouse of the Banff-registered *Zenith* while it was berthed in Fraserburgh harbour on Tuesday (Nov 8) evening. Dozens of firefighters battled the inferno throughout the night and stood by yesterday morning. Skipper Graham Reid, from Portknockie, was called to the scene as fire crews fought in vain to save his livelihood. The 46-year-old and his crew had been due to head out to sea on Tuesday night. Mr Reid has owned

the 85ft predominantly wooden vessel for five years. An investigation is now going on to try and determine the cause of the blaze, but it was not being treated as suspicious.



**SOMALIA -**

London, Nov 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: The crew of product tanker *San Carlo* are reported safe and well, while negotiators seek to secure their freedom after contact was made with Somali pirates. Malta Maritime Authority officials are working closely with the authorities of the nearby African states and the Commercial Crime Services, a specialised division of the International Chamber of Commerce which was established to combat international crime. The MMA said: "The MMA is in contact with the investigators. The release of the crew has not been secured, but negotiations are underway with the pirate captors."



**AFAMIA (Dominica)**

See "Cyprus" under "Port State Control".

**CYPRUS**

Limassol, Nov 17 -- General cargo *Afamia* was released on Nov 12 and sailed from Limassol the same day bound for Beirut. -- Lloyd's Agents.



**AGIOS CONSTANTINOS (Cambodia)**

Tenerife, Nov 14 -- General cargo *Agios Constantinos* remains arrested under judicial custody. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**ATLANTIC MERCADO (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated Nov 11, states: General cargo *Atlantic Mercado* (3422 gt, built 1976) is to be sold in Durban at auction under a court order in the near future. The vessel entered Durban for repairs at a shipyard in Durban and was later arrested and detained. A subsequent court order obtained in the Durban High Court resulted in the ship being made available for auction under the hammer of Durban auctioneers,

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Admiralty Sales. (Note -- *Atlantic Mercado* arrived Durban Aug 4.)

**BOREAS (Cyprus)**

Bilbao, Nov 14 -- General cargo *Boreas* is still under embargo at the port of Bilbao. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**DA YUAN YU 309 (China)**

See under "Marine."

**DAMANIA-1 (India)**

Mumbai, Nov 9 -- Ferry *Damania-1* is currently reported in the Mumbai Port Trust records as being docked alongside No. G, P.D. Mumbai, under High Court arrest. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**GM GALLANT (Singapore)**

London, Nov 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Singapore-flagged tug *GM Gallant* (91 gt, built 1999) was detained early on Friday morning (Nov 11) off Selayar for allegedly transporting and selling diesel without official documents. The vessel is now tied up in Pamatata port in Selayar regency while its master and five crew members, all Indonesians, are questioned by the police. Selayar Police chief Adj. Sr. Comr. Bayu Eka Rida Rianto said on Friday that the vessel had been detained while pumping diesel to a fishing boat operating in off Selayar. "We have followed the ship's activities closely over the past few days, and at last we have caught it red-handed selling diesel to a fishing boat here," said Bayu. Based on their preliminary investigations, the police found that the vessel regularly sold diesel to local fishing boats. When it was detained on Friday morning, it was carrying 71 tons of diesel. The diesel was being sold for Rp 600,000 per 200-litre drum, or Rp 3,000 a litre, much cheaper than the price in Indonesia, which now stands at Rp 4,300 a litre. The vessel's master, Darwin, admitted that he had bought the diesel in Singapore and was selling it to local Selayar fishermen.

**LJUBLJANA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Nov 10 -- Bulk *Ljubljana*, which was arrested at Tilbury Nov 4, was released Nov 9. (Note -- *Ljubljana* sailed Tilbury Nov 10.)

**PAN YUN BO 1 (China)**

London, Nov 14 -- General cargo *Pan Yun Bo 1* is today reported to still be at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under detention.

**SANDRIEN (Bolivia)**

Delfzyl, Nov 16 -- Chem.tank *Sandrien* is currently still at Amsterdam, awaiting demolition. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note -- *Sandrien* was arrested in 2000 and was scheduled to be demolished by the spring of 2005.)

**VITYAZ (Panama)**

London, Nov 10 -- Product tanker *Vityaz* (3719 gt, built 1995) was arrested at Thunderer Jetty Dagenham, Nov 10 by the Admiralty Marshal on behalf of Blue Sky

Shipping & Trading Co, in respect of the balance of an unsatisfied judgment by the Sharjah Federal Court dated Nov 11, 2000, in the sum of UAE Dirhams 449,372.20. (Note -- *Vityaz* arrived London Nov 9.)

London, Nov 12 -- Product tanker *Vityaz* was released from arrest on Nov 11.

London, Nov 14 -- Product tanker *Vityaz* arrived Sluiskil Nov 12 from London.



**AUSTRALIA**

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than \$33 million was given to drought stricken farmers across Queensland last financial year. The funding is part of a record \$114 million in loans and grants paid out by the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority. Chief executive Colin Holden says he expects the high rate of grants to continue. "The first quarter of this current financial year we've seen demand continuing, in fact in some areas increasing with respect to the loans and grants we provide under the interest subsidies for exceptional circumstances drought," he said. "It's not easing up and we're certainly dealing with more and more producers week in, week out than we have for some time." The Goulburn Rural Lands Protection Board in the south-east of New South Wales says it will be some time before the region fully recovers from the impact of the drought. The region had its drought declaration lifted at the weekend (Nov 12/13) and is now considered marginal. Parts of the Braidwood Rural Lands Protection Board have also had their drought declaration upgraded. The board's Graham Murray says the season is better than other years but many farmers are heavily in debt after the drought.

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: A freak lightning strike has severely damaged a home in Melbourne's east, and 3000 homes were left without power after this morning's storms. Power was restored to thousands of homes in Bacchus Marsh, north of Melbourne, around 0625 hrs after supply was cut an hour earlier. Powercor crews traced the fault to a tree that had fallen on power lines on Gisborne Road. Power was also cut to the Smorgon Steel factory in Laverton, south-west of Melbourne, for an hour after lightning hit the plant around 0230 hrs. A home in Molka, in central Victoria, was destroyed after a fire caused by a lightning strike. The Country Fire Authority says the occupants were away on holiday. Another home in Kalorama, in the Dandenongs, escaped destruction after a freak fire.

Lightning hit a power cable, the charge travelled to the meter box, then hit the gas meter, which exploded, setting the garage ablaze. There were no injuries reported, but a neighbouring house had to be evacuated. Minor fires also broke out at homes in Coburg and Reservoir.

**CHINA**

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Sixty-one sailors were rescued and 13 remained missing last night as a cold front from Siberia swept gale-force winds and huge waves across the Yangtze River Delta region, swamping at least five vessels in the East China Sea. "We've received numerous calls from ships in trouble," Tang Panrun of Shanghai-based Donghai Rescue Bureau said yesterday. The fate of all the vessels was unclear, however. Some may have sunk, some capsized and some were towed to port, authorities said, without giving precise numbers. The calls began coming in on Sunday (Nov 13) as winds from the cold front began to gust at up to 88 kilometres an hour, kicking up waves that surged to three metres. Authorities issued weather alerts to all ships in the region, but some vessels foundered under the heavy seas. Four patrol boats and a helicopter were assigned to rescue operations and were still busy with emergency calls late yesterday. "The bad weather caused turbulent waves, flooding ships' cabins and disabling engine systems," Tang said. While most of the rescues ended in success, the crew of general cargo *Xian Feng Hai No.1*, a Zhejiang Province cargo vessel, was not so fortunate. Thirteen sailors who fell into the sea were missing yesterday, and two crewmen who were rescued were in poor condition when they were picked up. They were being treated last night at Shanghai's No. 7 People's Hospital. *Xian Feng Hai No.1* alerted the Rescue Bureau at 0340, local time, yesterday that the vessel had been stopped by the heavy weather. The bureau dispatched a helicopter that eventually spotted an overturned lifeboat and raft. Two struggling sailors were spotted and pulled from the sea about a half hour later. On Sunday morning, general cargo *Eversunny* (995 gt, built 1981) became snarled in a fishing net on its journey from Tokyo to Zhejiang Province. The disabled vessel was in danger of capsizing after the winds increased and huge waves began to pound its decks. A rescue boat from the Donghai Bureau managed to tow the vessel to port at 0100, local time, yesterday. All nine crew members were in good shape. Other sailors were saved from general cargo *Ruiyuan No.1*, a Shanghai cargo vessel, and general cargo *Jizhou 6818*, from Jizhou in Hebei Province. *Ruiyuan No.1* was stranded at sea for 49 hours after a mechanical breakdown occurred and the bad weather moved in. The vessel was finally pulled into the Yangshan Deep-water Port in south Shanghai.

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*Jizhou 6818* lost power after waves broke into its cabin and flooded its engines. Rescuers saved 17 sailors.

Beijing, Nov 15 -- General cargo *Jizhou 6818*, with sand, sank near Lianyungang, Nov 13, due to bad weather. Seventeen people were rescued. Lpg *Tong Cheng 818* (998 gt, built 1979) sank near the entrance of the Yangtze River early Nov 14 due to strong winds in the area. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### HURRICANE "RITA"

London, Nov 17 -- A SMIT Salvage report, states: Shortly after Hurricane "Katrina", a weakened but still powerful hurricane "Rita" altered its course to threaten residents in Louisiana and Texas. SMIT Salvage was contracted to provide assistance for two jack-up rigs *Adriatic VII* and *High Island III*. The rigs broke off their legs. Both rigs are positioned in East Cameron, Louisiana. *Adriatic VII* went into the water and the drilling derrick, rig floor package and helideck came off. The platform drifted approximately 118 nautical miles off its original position and is now 1.3 nautical miles off the beach. Massive damage was found to the drilling tower of *High Island III*. The pontoon, with the remaining leg protruded from the leg wells, is sitting aground in a self created trench on the bottom of the sea. The workscope for both projects is: offload fuel oil and drilling mud, ballast the platforms down, cut off remaining portions of the legs, connect tugs, de-ballast and refloat the platforms. On Nov 4 a salvage team started to work on (another) jack-up *High Island II*. This jack up rig is positioned in the South Marsh Island Area, Louisiana. Our salvage team will attempt to pull the rig to a more vertical position where after an attempt will be made to jack it down.

#### HURRICANE "WILMA"

Veracruz, Nov 14 -- As of Nov 12, ferry *Bahia de Espiritu Santo* was still aground at Puerto Juarez. -- Lloyd's Agents.

New York, Nov 16 -- Insurer Axis Capital Holdings Ltd. said today damage from Hurricane "Wilma" in October would be between \$100 million and \$140 million, based on preliminary estimates. The company said it was still assessing losses from Hurricanes "Katrina" and "Rita" as well, and if actual losses from the storms are materially greater than this assessment, its business, results of operations and financial condition could be materially adversely affected. -- Reuters.

London, Nov 17 -- Nearly four weeks after the last cruise ship departed the island ahead of Hurricane Wilma, Cozumel is preparing to reopen its port on a limited basis and the first cruise ships are already en route. Cozumel's piers were damaged when the eye of hurricane "Wilma" passed directly over the island, so passengers will tender to shore until the piers are repaired. The downtown area sustained the least damage, so visitors

can enjoy the shops, restaurants and bars near the tender drop-off points. Because some of the tourism infrastructure is not yet operational, a maximum of four ships a day will be allowed to call on Cozumel until further notice.

#### INDIA

London, Nov 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: The damage caused by heavy rain and floods in Bangalore and in other parts of the State is "very severe." This is the assessment of the seven-member Central team headed by Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs Ranjan Bhattacharya. Mr. Bhattacharya told press persons after a meeting with Chief Minister N. Dharam Singh that the team will submit a report to the Centre immediately. The team arrived in Bangalore on Nov 9 and got down to business immediately. It split into three teams and visited all the 12 affected districts to assess the damage caused by last month's heavy rain and floods to infrastructure and public and private property. S.M. Jaamdar, Principal Secretary to the Government, Department of Revenue; Ramesh B. Jhalki, Secretary (Scarcity); V.P. Baligar, Principal Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj; and K. Jothiramalingam, Commissioner, Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BMP), made a presentation on the situation. The Centre deputed the team after a delegation led by Mr. Dharam Singh met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil in New Delhi on Saturday last (Nov 5) seeking an assistance of Rs. 1,167 crores. The Chief Minister expected the team to draw the Centre's attention to the severe natural calamity suffered by the State. The Centre released Rs. 400 crores for taking up immediate relief measures in the flood-affected areas in north Karnataka. Expressing his happiness over the team's visit to the affected areas in Bangalore, Bidar, Belgaum, Gulbarga, Raichur, Hassan, Mandya and Mysore districts in three batches for assessing the damages, Mr. Dharam Singh exuded confidence that substantial relief would be received from the Centre. When his attention was drawn to the statements of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders that the Prime Minister had not stated that the Centre would release the funds sought by the State, Mr. Dharam Singh said the Prime Minister told the delegation that money is not a problem.

London, Nov 16 -- Cochin Port Trust has ordered an inquiry into the collapse of the Q-4 berth of the 75-year-old Mattanchery Wharf on Sunday evening (Nov 13), following heavy rain. The damage to the berth resulted in the loss of around 3,500 tonnes of common salt, which sank in the channel. Heavy unseasonal rains had caused the salt cargo to get soaked and become too heavy for the berth to hold. A portion of the Q-4

berth started caving in and this had a cascading effect. About 160 m of the 690 m long berth collapsed. The salt sank into the channel, along with part of the back-up area. CPT chairman N Ramachandran has constituted an expert team to probe the incident. "The Q-4 berth has been decommissioned following the mishap," Mr Ramachandran said. "However, this is not likely to affect commercial operations as the port has 16 cargo-handling berths to carry out handling of loading and unloading operations." The CPT chairman clarified that berth Q-3 had also been closed as a precaution. The incident has forced the port to draw up plans for the reconstruction of Mattanchery Wharf in a phased manner, in consultation with the Shipping Ministry. Damage control measures are now operating at the wharf. Most of the heavy cargo, including imported machinery, which had been stacked on adjacent berths has been removed.

#### IRAQ

London, Nov 11 -- Operations at Basrah Oil Terminal resumed last night, after being suspended due to rough weather for several days. There is presently only one tug at the terminal.

London, Nov 16 -- Tanker loading operations at Iraq's Basra terminal are severely delayed due to poor weather and a shortage of oil products. A queue of tankers has built up in the Middle East Gulf outside the terminal waiting to load crude and the delays may last to the end of this week. The terminal was forced to close for two days as bad weather disrupted berthing and loading operations, but it reopened late last week. There are also thought to be shortages of marine fuel at the port. Brokers in London said their vessels had been waiting outside the port to load crude at the terminal for up to 10 days. Brokers expect the knock-on effect to last into the weekend. Seven tankers were waiting outside the terminal yesterday, while port managers said flow rates through Basra had increased to 60,000 barrels per day.

#### NORTHERN EUROPE

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: A construction worker was killed Monday in a landslide in Norway as strong winds and heavy rain pummeled northern Europe, cutting power supplies and disrupting traffic and train services. The man was killed while working on house struck by a landslide near the western city of Bergen. Six other workers caught in the avalanche escaped with no serious injuries. Residents were evacuated as landslides destroyed several other homes near the city and hundreds of students were forced to abandon schools threatened by flooding. All train services were halted between Bergen and the capital, Oslo, due to the risk of boulders falling onto the tracks. On the west coast, authorities advised residents to leave their cars at



home due to dangerously strong winds and to use public transport. Mudslides halted traffic on several roads and trapped about 50 cars inside a tunnel, while about 2,000 households in the country's southeast lost power. In southwestern Sweden, electricity supply was cut to 25,000 households and the telephone services of thousands more were disrupted. The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute warned sea levels in the country's south-west overnight Monday could rise by as much as 120 centimetres, with winds gusting up to 90 kilometres per hour. The Finnish Meteorology Institute issued a storm warning for the Baltic Sea, with winds in the country's south-west expected to reach 83 kilometres per hour. Heavy snow, rain and ice in central Finland was expected to cause major traffic disruptions.

#### **NORWAY**

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated Nov 14, states: Torrential rains and landslides sparked chaos all over western Norway today. Motorists were trapped in tunnels, homeowners in their homes and all train and bus service between Oslo and Bergen came to a halt. Around 50 cars were caught in the Langhelle Tunnel between Trengereid and Vaksdal after a mud- and rockslide sealed off part of the E16 Highway. According to Norwegian Broadcasting (NRK), there were no injuries. "We're working hard to clear the rubble," Trygve Hillestad of the Hordaland Police District said. He hoped emergency crews could free people trapped in the tunnel by the end of the day. At least three people were trapped in a house in Kvinnherad, also after the heavy rains unleashed a landslide in the rural area Ytre Matre. The slide destroyed a barn and shoved debris into the house, sealing off its doors and windows. "We're working to dig them out," police sergeant Tor Kristian Olsen at the Kvinnherad sheriff's office told bt.no. An estimated 30 roads were closed in the county of Sogn og Fjordane alone because of slides set off by the torrential rains that started falling Sunday night (Nov 13). The land was already saturated from a series of autumn storms during the past several weeks. Hoyanger was isolated because of slides at three different places along National Highway 55 between Vadheim and Balestrand. That left around 4,000 people without road connections. Police were urging residents to avoid driving because of the danger of more slides along mountain highways. High winds were also causing problems for both conventional and fast ferries in the area. The severe storm in western Norway also has left Bergen's famed wooden wharf under water and shut down the trainline (Bergensbanen) between Bergen and Oslo. Tracks were flooded in some areas, while three landslides (at Langhelle, Romslo and Vaksdal) blocked tracks between Arna

and Bergen. "All trains between Oslo and Bergen are cancelled," said Preben Colstrup of state railway NSB. "We can't put the security of our passengers in danger, and we don't have any other modes of travel to offer." That's because all bus service also has been disrupted by the stormy weather. Colstrup said passengers would get their tickets refunded.

#### **ROMANIA**

Bucharest, Nov 14 -- The Sulina channel was closed at 1340 hrs., yesterday, due to bad weather. Winds were east-north-east, force five-seven. Seas five-six. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Nov 15 -- The Sulina Channel was re-opened at 1140 hrs, Nov 14. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **RUSSIA**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Cyclones with heavy rain and strong wind closed elementary schools and airports on the Kamchatka Peninsula today. The administration of the regional centre, where two-day precipitation accounted for 87 percent of the monthly norm, said elementary school classes have been cancelled. The airport of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, which planned to resume local flights after a two-day break, said they will remain suspended today. Wind has intensified overnight to 33 meters per second in the administrative centre, according to the local weather service, which said the cyclones would rage over Kamchatka until Monday (Nov 14). Heavy rain and wind caused several electricity outages in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, however the local power utility said there were no major accidents. The local emergencies center also reported no emergency situations. However, an emergency situation was declared in a settlement in Khabarovsk region on the mainland, where 1300 people remained without electricity. Wet snow and wind at a speed of 30 meters per second broke electricity transmission lines to the settlement of Ayan.

#### **TROPICAL STORM "NONAME"**

London, Nov 15 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Noname" was located near lat 11.2N, long 130.0E, approximately 565 nautical miles east-southeast of Manila, Philippines, and has tracked north-north-eastward, or 20 degs, at five knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 40 knots, gusts 50 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 40 nautical miles in all four quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 18 feet. At 0600, UTC, Nov 16, the centre is predicted to be near lat 14.0N, long 130.9E, with maximum sustained winds of 50 knots and gusts to 65 knots.

#### **TROPICAL STORM "TEMBIN"**

London, Nov 11 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical depression "Tembin" near lat 18.0N, long 119.3E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 315 degrees at 17 knots. Position accurate to within 30 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 25 knots, gusts 35 knots. Forecast position lat 19.0N, long 118.1E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 30 knots, gusts 40 knots. Forecast position lat 19.7N, long 116.7E at 0600, UTC, Nov 12. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots, gusts 45 knots.

#### **TYPHOON "BOLAVEN"**

London, Nov 17 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Bolaven", was located near lat 13.0N, long 129.1E, approximately 485 nautical miles east-southeast of Manila, Philippines, and has tracked west-southwestward, or 245 degs, at four knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. The present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds: 30 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 100 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 110 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 28 feet. At 0600, UTC, Nov 18, the centre is predicted to be near lat 12.4N, long 126.9E, with maximum sustained winds of 80 knots and gusts to 100 knots.

#### **UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tornadoes swept across central Iowa yesterday, ripping up farms, destroying homes in several towns and sending college football fans running from a stadium for shelter. At least one person was killed in the storm, two others were hospitalized, and a gas leak forced authorities to evacuate part of Stratford, a town of about 746 residents 50 miles northwest of Des Moines. Authorities said at least two dozen homes in the town were destroyed. In Woodward, 30 miles to the south, 20 to 40 homes were severely damaged, Dallas County Sheriff Brian Gilbert said. National Weather Service meteorologist Craig Cogil said it appeared that at least three tornadoes touched down yesterday afternoon. In Ames, football fans gathering for the Iowa State-Colorado game were cleared from the stands and told to take shelter in the nearby basketball arena as the tornado sirens sounded. The storm hit on the edge of the city, where city spokeswoman Susan Gwiasda said the damage was mostly broken windows and downed power lines. Yesterday, at least two tornadoes hit in Boone

County, with major damage in the Boxholm and Pilot Mound areas, a few miles south of Stratford, a dispatcher said. A convenience store in Woodward was also damaged.

London, Nov 16 -- A press report, dated Nov 15, states: Severe thunderstorms rolled across the America's midsection late today, producing funnel clouds that tore off roofs and destroyed or damaged buildings in at least four states. Tornado touchdowns were spotted in 12 counties in western and central Tennessee, with some of the worst damage occurring in Henry County, about 90 miles west of Nashville. "Numerous homes there were damaged, some completely destroyed," said Faye Scott, spokeswoman for the Henry County Sheriff's Department. "It's major destruction." Funnel clouds were also sighted in Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky, where one storm-related death was reported. The National Weather Service could not immediately confirm the tornados. A tornado made a direct hit on Henry County's emergency management centre, forcing authorities to relocate to another building to handle the disaster, County Mayor Brent Greer said. The county medical centre treated 13 people with injuries, mostly cuts and bruises, hospital spokeswoman Sandra Sims said. The storm also ripped the roof off the main shop at the county highway department, destroyed two smaller shops and damaged a furniture manufacturer next door, Greer said. Another business, Paris Industrial Services, was destroyed, but none of the employees was hurt. Andy Zirkle, a spokesman for the Indiana Emergency Management Agency, said the storms destroyed at least nine homes in the southern part of the state. In western Kentucky, storms levelled homes and toppled power lines. At least 22 people were treated for storm-related injuries ranging from minor cuts and bruises to head trauma, according to Jayne Barton, a spokeswoman for the Regional Medical Centre in Madisonville. In southern Illinois, high winds peeled the roofs off a church and several barns. Meteorologists said the severe weather was the result of a cold front moving east and colliding with warm, unstable air across the central Mississippi and lower Ohio valleys. Dan Spaeth, a weather service forecaster, said today's conditions were similar to those that produced the tornado on November 6 that caused 41 miles of damage from Kentucky into the Evansville, Ind., area and killed 23 people. The most severe damage on Nov. 6 was in a mobile home park on the eastern edge of Evansville where 19 of the victims were killed. Four other people were killed in neighboring Warrick County. Elsewhere in the Midwest, nine tornadoes swept across central Iowa on Saturday (Nov 12), killing one woman.

## Earthquakes



### INDONESIA

London, Nov 14 -- An earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale struck eastern Indonesia Saturday (Nov 12) but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the remote region, seismologists said. The quake struck in the early evening at 1024, GMT and was centred 50 kilometres beneath the coast of Seram island in Maluku province, said Nugroho, of the Meteorology and Geophysics Bureau in Jakarta.

### JAPAN

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.9 jolted extensive areas on the Pacific side of the Hokkaido, Tohoku and Kanto areas Tuesday morning (Nov 15), with the Japan Meteorological Agency issuing a tsunami warning. The warning for a tsunami up to 50 centimetres high was issued for the Pacific side of the Hokkaido and Tohoku areas. The 0639 quake measured three on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of seven in those areas. The focus was at a shallow depth under the seabed in the Pacific some 310 kilometres east of the Oshika Peninsula in Miyagi Prefecture.

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: A powerful earthquake shook northern Japan early today, and small tsunami waves struck coastal towns about 200 miles from the epicentre. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. The quake, with a preliminary magnitude of 7.1, hit at 0639 hrs and was centred just below the ocean bottom off the east coast of Japan's main island of Honshu, Japan's Meteorological Agency said. Tsunami waves measuring 12 and 20 inches hit the coastal city of Ofunato, and smaller waves hit at least four other towns.

### PAKISTAN

London, Nov 12 -- A press report, dated Nov 11, states: According to the preliminary estimates, the cost of the devastating earthquake would be to the tune of 5.2 billion dollars. This has been stated in the Preliminary Damage and Needs Assessment done by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. It was released in Islamabad this evening by the Advisor on Finance, Dr. Salman Shah in the presence of Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar and representatives of the UN and the two institutions. Out of the total estimates, reconstruction would cost 3.5 billion dollars, relief one billion, early recovery and livelihood 400 million and death and injury

compensation 205 million dollars. The report says that Pakistan would need 450 million dollars for short term reconstruction and over three billion dollars for medium and long term reconstruction. According to the report, public and private assets suffered a loss of 2.3 billion dollars and loss in income 0.5 billion dollars. In the social infrastructure, the reconstruction cost for private housing would be 1.552 billion dollars, health 303 million, education 472 million, environment 151 million and public administration 72 million dollars. In physical infrastructure, reconstruction cost of transport would 416 million, water supply and sanitation 32 million, irrigation 10 million and energy, power and fuel 40 million dollars. As per estimates of the report in the economic sector, agriculture and livestock would cost 300 million and industry and services 155 million dollars. According to the preliminary estimates, the reconstruction cost in Azad Jammu and Kashmir would be 1.963 billion dollars, and NWFP 1.540 billion dollars. Public Assets would cost 1.384 billion dollars and private assets 2.120 billion dollars. The reconstruction cost in rural areas would be 2.726 billion dollars and in urban areas 777 million dollars. The report says that the private housing, with damages calculated at over 61 billion rupees, suffered the most extensively during the earthquake. The quake destroyed over 203579 housing units and damaged another 196,574, leaving an estimated 2,8 million people in need of shelter. Out of the total housing stock, 84% was damaged or destroyed in AJK and 36 percent in the NWFP. The report has been released ahead of International Donors Conference to be held in Islamabad on 19th of this month. Dr. Salman Shah and representatives of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank said that the estimates are still preliminary and likely to rise as more of the damaged areas are surveyed. They pointed out that the area most heavily damaged by the earthquake is remote and in very difficult terrain. The area is home to 5.7 million people, nearly half of whom are under the age of fifteen. Eighty-eight percent of the population live in hilly, mountainous rural settlements, which range in size from two households to more than three hundred. A high proportion of the population lacks basic services and facilities like clean drinking water and safe disposal of waste. Dr. Shah said there has already been a tremendous outpouring of support from the global community resulting in pledged cash assistance of more than 2 billion dollars. The cash receipts so far totaled only 200 million dollars. He said a lot more assistance is still needed as the complexity of the disaster continues to unfold. To question, he said there could be over half a percentage of impact of the quake on the fiscal deficit provided no remedial measures are taken.

**RUSSIA**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: A 5.8 earthquake occurred in south eastern Siberia, at 1929, Nov 10, 2005.

**SIBERIA**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale rocked south-eastern Siberia 0337 today, according to the Hong Kong Observatory. The epicenter was initially determined to be lat 57.5N, long 120.5E, about 710 km south-west of the city of Yakutsk.



**MOUNT GALERAS, COLOMBIA**

Bogota, Nov 15 -- The Colombian government today asked 9,000 people living near the Galeras volcano in the south-east province of Narino to evacuate after scientists said it could erupt soon. Some residents of the area, near the town of Pasto, told local media they were reluctant to leave their farms and livestock despite increased seismic activity recorded by the Colombian Institute of Geology and Mines. Galeras had a small gas and ash eruption a year ago that started forest fires but caused no injuries. An eruption of the volcano in 1993 killed at least 10 people. -- Reuters.



**AFGHANISTAN**

London, Nov 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Taliban insurgents killed at least three policemen and wounded eight in separate attacks in Afghanistan, officials said yesterday. The overnight raids were the latest in a series of attacks by Taliban fighters and happened in areas close to the border with Pakistan. Two policemen were killed in an ambush the southern province of Helmand while a senior officer was killed when guerrillas attacked a police headquarters in the south-eastern province of Khost, officials said. The police headquarters was partially destroyed in the battle, they said. Four policemen were wounded in the attack in Khost while four others guarding an Indian firm, involved in a road construction project, were wounded in another Taliban raid in the eastern province of Kunar. No Indian workers were hurt and there was no word on whether the attackers suffered any casualties. Taliban fighters were also suspected of killing a deputy provincial governor of Nimroz province on Thursday (Nov

10). He was ambushed while travelling from his southern province to attend a conference in Kabul on national reconciliation, a security official said.

Kabul, Nov 14 -- Taliban fighters rejected overtures from Afghan President Hamid Karzai to abandon their insurgency and join a reconciliation process, while officials reported four more killings today in Afghanistan's south and east. "Jihad and resistance against the American occupiers and its mercenary government is the only way," Abdul Hai Mutmaen, the Taliban's chief spokesman, told Reuters. "We have the will to fight and that will not decrease at all," he said by satellite telephone from an undisclosed location. Karzai reiterated a call for the Islamist fighters to lay down arms and rejoin the mainstream during a government-sponsored conference on Saturday to promote national reconciliation. The growing Afghan National Army is being supported by close to 30,000 troops from a U.S.-led force and NATO-led peacekeepers. But this year has been one of the worst for violence in Afghanistan since the Taliban were ousted from power by U.S.-backed forces in late 2001, after they refused to surrender members of Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network. So far in 2005, about 1,100 people have died, including more than 50 U.S. military personnel. Today, officials reported Taliban fighters had killed at least four more people in separate attacks in the south and east. Two pro-government militiamen were killed by a roadside bomb in Kunar province, while another was killed by a bomb planted at his home in Kandahar yesterday night and a policeman was killed in Helmand. Another two other people, including a judge, were wounded by bombs planted at their homes in Kandahar. -- Reuters.

London, Nov 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: One American soldier has been killed and another wounded when their armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb in south-eastern Afghanistan. The US military says two Afghan security men and a civilian have also been wounded in the blast in Paktika province, near the border with Pakistan. The wounded are in a stable condition. The military says the explosion occurred while American troops were conducting an offensive operation against the militants.

London, Nov 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: A suicide car-bomber has attacked a military convoy including US troops in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, killing three Afghan civilians. The attack was launched during morning rush-hour in the city centre. The area has been cordoned off. A clear picture of what has happened is yet to emerge, with the US military suggesting the coalition convoy had not taken a direct hit. "I can confirm that there was a blast in the vicinity of a coalition convoy," Colonel Jerry O'Hara, a spokesman for US forces in

Afghanistan, said. "Initial report says there was no damage to equipment or to the coalition."

**BANGLADESH**

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two judges have been killed in an explosion in southern Bangladesh, months after a wave of bombings there. The two officials died when a man threw a bomb at their vehicle in Jhalalkathi, 120 km south of Dhaka. One was killed instantly and the other died en route to hospital. Two other people were injured in the blast, including the suspected attacker. Bangladesh saw a number of bombings in August and October that targeted judges, journalists and politicians.

**CHAD**

N'Djamena, Nov 14 -- Security forces in Chad killed at least two gunmen and arrested 15 others who attacked two army bases in the capital N'Djamena today in what appeared to be part of an attempted insurgency, the government said. Security has been tight in the city in recent weeks after scores of soldiers fled their barracks in late September before regrouping in the remote east as an anti-government force named "SCUD" and demanding President Idriss Deby step down. Communications Minister Hourmadji Moussa Doumgor said the gunmen in today's attacks were thought to have been recruited to launch an armed rebellion in the central African country. He told French radio the security forces strongly suspected one or two "well-known" army officers may have been behind the action. "A network for recruiting soldiers in N'Djamena and in the south has been identified and has been watched for several weeks," Doumgor said in a statement. Around 20 armed men wearing civilian clothes attacked the Koundoul military training centre on the southern edge of the capital while a second group of around a dozen men broke into the Nomad Guard camp in the city centre early today. Two attackers were killed and another 15 arrested, while some fled taking a few weapons with them, Doumgor said. Residents in N'Djamena said they had heard gunfire overnight. "The government wants to inform national and international opinion that this is a very limited, desperate act which has been contained. The situation is under control," Doumgor said. One security expert, who follows Chad closely and asked not to be named, told Reuters in Dakar: "This is yet another indication the government doesn't have control over even the capital. This is going to keep happening because there is no way of securing the city. Everyone in the army and everyone in Chad is fed up with this government. ... People have the means to take this president out." The spate of army desertions in late September raised new fears of instability in Chad, with "SCUD" -- whose full name is the Platform for Change, National Unity and

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Democracy -- saying it had the military and political means to topple Deby. Yaya Dillo Djerou, the self-proclaimed head of the deserters, told Reuters in Dakar that today's attacks had been carried out by its allies but declined to comment on whether "SCUD" had been directly involved. Deby, a former army chief who seized power in 1990, dissolved his Republican Guard last month in a move analysts and diplomats said was aimed at shoring up loyalty in the military and ensuring the survival of his administration. Djerou, who says there are around 800 men in his movement, compared to the government's estimate of just 86, has said the deserters' main objection was a change to the constitution which let Deby stand for a third term in polls next year. Djerou says this is illegal and has accused Deby's administration of widespread corruption, particularly over the management of the country's new oil revenues. The landlocked former French colony began pumping crude in 2003 through a pipeline, funded by the World Bank, to neighbouring Cameroon for export. Some of the revenues are supposed to be safeguarded for fighting long-term poverty but the government has said it wants immediate access to the money. Chad ranked as the world's most corrupt country in a recent Transparency International survey of 159 states. -- Reuters.

N'djamena, Nov 15 -- Chadian authorities today insisted they had the situation under control a day after attacks on military camps in and outside the capital, N'djamena, that left at least two of the gunmen dead and 15 under arrest. "The city is calm. People have returned to work as normal," Communications Minister Hourmadji Moussa Doumgor told IRIN from the capital. In the early hours of yesterday, a score of armed men in civilian dress attacked an army training centre about 25 kilometres south of N'djamena, while a dozen assailants staged an attack against the National Guard and Nomad Camp in the capital, the government announced yesterday evening. In the attack outside N'djamena government forces killed two men and detained four. "The rest were able to flee with some arms," the 14 November communique said. Describing the attack in N'djamena, the communique said: "Twelve men, with the complicity of the national guard, tried to break into an arms depot and the chief of staff's office." The government said it has been monitoring a group of would-be insurgents for some time. "A network for recruiting combatants in N'djamena and in the south has been identified and has been monitored for several weeks," the statement said, adding that some involved are "well-known" by government security and information officials. Doumgor said an investigation into yesterday's attacks was underway. Tensions have been high in Chad since scores of soldiers deserted their posts in N'djamena last month and fled east, me analysts said

signalled a desperate bid to save his administration. The deserters now based in the east - who call themselves the Platform for National Change, Unity and Democracy (SCUD) - claim they number at least 700 and are demanding Deby's departure before they will enter into negotiations with the government. Their self-proclaimed leader Yaya Dillo Djerou told IRIN today that SCUD was not linked to yesterday's attacks in and around the capital. -- Reuters.

#### ETHIOPIA

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated Nov 13, states: Ethiopia has released another 1,721 people detained in a massive round-up during clashes between police and protesters earlier this month which left at least 42 people dead, state television has said. The latest release brings to 4,435 those freed from jail in recent days after the crackdown by Prime Minister Meles Zenawi's government on unrest over the disputed May 15 election. "Those who have been released from detention are those who were found not to have been involved in the rioting," state TV said late yesterday, quoting police.

#### FRANCE

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated Nov 13, states: France has been offered 50m euros (\$59m; £34m) by the European Union to help recover from more than two weeks of rioting in poor city suburbs. European Commission head Jose Manuel Barroso said up to 1bn euros could be made available eventually for job creation and to help social cohesion. French insurers estimate that damage claims alone will reach 200m euros. With incidents dwindling, French police chief Michel Gaudin has said "things could return to normal very quickly". Unrest on Saturday night (Nov 12) mainly occurred in provincial cities like Toulouse and St-Etienne.

Paris, Nov 14 -- The French government said today it would ask parliament to grant a three-month extension to emergency powers it invoked to help curb the worst urban violence in almost 40 years. Although the violence dropped again overnight, police said youths destroyed 374 vehicles in petrol bomb attacks in the 18th straight night of unrest in poor suburbs in the Paris region and major provincial cities. Government spokesman Jean-Francois Cope told Europe 1 radio that today's special cabinet session would send to the National Assembly a bill extending the 12-day emergency powers act by three months from November 21, when the current measures expire. "The bill allows the government to end them by decree before the expiry date if that is compatible with the goal of restoring public order," Cope said. Police said 10 youths were arrested in the southwestern city of Toulouse after youths burned 10 vehicles yesterday and damaged a school, driving a burning car against its gates. -- Reuters.

Paris, Nov 16 -- Disturbances rocked French suburbs for the 20th straight night but police said today the number of vehicles destroyed fell to a new low of 163 after lawmakers backed an extension of emergency powers. Police said four times as many vehicles were destroyed overnight in provincial towns and cities than in the Paris region. More than five vehicles were destroyed in five of the country's 36,000 communes or municipal districts, the Interior Ministry said. "Elsewhere, there was a sharp reduction in the number of fires, whose link with the urban violence remains unproven," the ministry added in its statement. The rioting has been blamed mostly on youths who feel excluded from mainstream society although Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy said yesterday that 80 percent of those arrested for rioting were already known to police. Yesterday, France's lower house of parliament backed a government request for a three-month extension to emergency powers invoked by the conservative government last week to quell the wave of urban unrest. The Senate, or upper house, debates the law today. Passage of the law seems certain because the ruling centre-right party dominates the two chambers of parliament. The government approved emergency powers including curfews last week that went into force on November 9 for 12 days, although only a few areas have imposed curfews. -- Reuters.

#### INDIA

Jehanabad, India, Nov 14 -- Hundreds of heavily armed Maoist rebels stormed a jail in eastern India, killing at least two people and freeing about 350 prisoners, including many fellow guerrillas, police said today. The rebels entered Jehanabad town in impoverished and crime-ridden Bihar state yesterday night in small groups, cut off power and raided the prison in one of the biggest ever attacks by Maoist guerrillas, a police officer said. The rebels, who were estimated to number 700, killed a prison guard and a member of a private army of upper caste landlords in a gunbattle with policemen. The guerrillas also abducted at least two dozen members of the Ranvir Sena, the private army of upper caste landlords, who were jail inmates. The rebels, who operate in eastern and southern India, say they are fighting for the rights of landless laborers and impoverished peasants. The attack took place on a day when police had been deployed in other parts of Bihar for elections to the state legislature in a month-long process which ends this weekend. Police and witnesses said the Maoists made announcements during their night-time attack in Jehanabad, about 50 km south of Patna, the state capital, saying civilians should remain indoors and would not be harmed. Today, the prison gates were open and people were moving in and out of the jail at will. Supporters of the Ranvir Sena, the private army set up to defend the

interests of upper caste landlords, gathered outside the jail, protesting the kidnapping of members of the group. The Maoists have stepped up attacks in recent months. Last week, about 300 Maoists stormed a training center for auxiliary policemen, killing five cadets, in neighboring Jharkhand state. India's home ministry has estimated there around about 9,300 armed Maoist rebels in the country and say they have links with Maoist insurgents in neighbouring Nepal who are fighting to overthrow the Himalayan nation's monarchy. -- Reuters.

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Soldiers opened fire today on a hotel in Indian-controlled Kashmir where Muslim militants were holed up after they attacked a police compound, killing two civilians and two soldiers, officials said. Security forces sealed off roads leading to the four-story Peak View Hotel in central Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu-Kashmir state, said Ranjit Singh, a paramilitary police force spokesman. Brief bursts of gunfire were heard from beyond the barricades as the soldiers engaged the militants in a bid to draw them out of the hotel. The gunbattle began yesterday in Lal Chowk, Srinagar's main business district, after the militants attacked a Central Reserve Police Force compound, killing two civilians and two soldiers and injuring six, Singh said. The injured included a Japanese freelance photographer. Security forces fired back, forcing hundreds of people to run and take shelter inside buildings as shopkeepers shuttered their stores to avoid the crossfire. In the melee, the militants took refuge in the hotel, which was immediately surrounded by soldiers. There were no guests in the hotel and its six staff escaped from a side exit. The militants, whose number was not known, and security forces exchanged gunfire through the night until the security forces made a fresh attempt to get closer to the building this morning. The Al-Mansoorain rebel group claimed responsibility for the attack on the police compound. It is one of many groups that have been fighting Indian security forces in the Himalayan region of Kashmir since 1989.

London, Nov 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: A car bomb exploded today in the main business district of Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu-Kashmir state, killing at least two people and injuring 40, officials said. Heavy gun fire was heard soon after the explosion; it was not clear who was firing at whom. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blast, but suspicion fell on Islamic rebels who have been fighting for independence or merger with neighbouring Pakistan since 1989. Deputy Inspector General of Police H.K. Lohia said two people were killed and 40 were injured, including pedestrians, bank employees, soldiers

and a state lawmaker, Usman Majid, who was driving past the bank at the time. Police said Majid was the likely target of the attack. A former counterinsurgency expert, he had assisted security forces in anti-militant operations before joining politics. Many cars, motorcycles and bicycles were damaged in the powerful blast near the four-story corporate headquarters of the state-owned Jammu-Kashmir Bank Ltd. in the Lal Chowk area. Located in the heart of Srinagar, Lal Chowk is usually crowded with office workers and shoppers. Lohia said the bomb was fashioned from a land mine placed in a car. The explosion occurred near the area where yesterday militants attacked a police compound, killing four people. The rebels later holed up in a hotel for 24 hours before one was captured and the other killed by security forces.)

#### INDONESIA

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Separatist Free Aceh Movement (GAM) rebels in Indonesia's Aceh province prepared to surrender 200 more weapons starting today as part of a peace deal to end 29 years of fighting, peace monitors said. A peace deal signed in Finland in August calls for the rebels to surrender all of their self-declared 840 weapons, and for the Indonesian military to cut the 60,000 troops it has in the oil-and gas-rich province by the year's end. Rebels have already handed in 570 weapons, and the Indonesian government has pulled out 12,000 of 24,000 troops, the EU-led monitors overseeing the process said in a statement yesterday.

#### IRAQ

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated Nov 13, states: Two U.S. Marines were killed in combat and an American soldier died in a vehicle accident in Iraq, the military said in a statement today. The Marines, who were assigned to Regimental Combat Team 8, 2nd Marine Division, died yesterday when their vehicle was bombed in Al-Amiriyah on the western edge of Baghdad, a statement said. In a separate incident, the military said a soldier assigned to Regimental Combat Team 2, 2nd Marine Division died yesterday in a traffic accident near Rawah. At least 2,065 members of the U.S. military have died since the war began in 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Baghdad, Nov 14 -- Six people were killed and 30 wounded today when a roadside bomb exploded near two coaches in the western Iraqi city of Ramadi, hospital officials said. Dr. Hamdi al-Rawi of Ramadi hospital said 10 of the injured were in serious condition after the blast tore through one of the coaches. The buses were carrying passengers to Ramadi, 110 km west of Baghdad, from Ta'mim, a small town nearby. Ramadi is the capital of the western province of Anbar. Attacks on civilians are rare in Anbar, but the province has been one

of the focal points of an insurgency by Iraq's Sunni Arab minority and foreign fighters against the Shi'ite and Kurdish-led government and the U.S. forces that back it. -- Reuters.

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: US and Iraqi troops launched a fresh attack yesterday against an insurgent stronghold near the Syrian border despite calls by Sunni Arab leaders to halt such operations to encourage a big turnout in next month's election. The US command said about 50 insurgents were killed. Two US Marines were killed and at least seven were wounded in the fighting in the border town of Obeidi. In Baghdad, a car bomb exploded near the main gate to the heavily guarded Green Zone, killing two South Africans and wounding three other people. The victims worked for State Department security contractor DynCorp International, the US Embassy said. The US-Iraqi attack against Obeidi was the latest stage of an offensive to clear al-Qaida-led insurgents from a string of towns and cities in the Euphrates River valley near the border with Syria and seal off a major infiltration route for foreign fighters sneaking into Iraq.

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least nine Iraqi policemen have been killed in three separate attacks by insurgents in Baghdad and the northern city of Kirkuk today. Four policemen were shot dead in an ambush east of Kirkuk, while three others were killed and three wounded by a roadside bomb in the centre. In eastern Baghdad, two policemen were killed and at least six injured by a car bomb planted near a restaurant. Meanwhile, a professor was shot dead outside his university in Baghdad. Jasim al-Fidawi taught Arabic literature at Mustansiriya University. The attack comes a day after another professor and his driver were killed there, a defence ministry official said. In the west of Iraq, three US Marines from the 2nd Marine Division were killed yesterday, the US military said. One marine was killed by a roadside bomb and another was shot dead in Ubaydi, a town close the Syrian border. The third marine died from wounds he suffered in a bomb attack there yesterday. The marines had been involved in Operation Steel Curtain, which is aimed at imposing security along the Iraqi-Syrian border.

London, Nov 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: Five U.S. Marines were killed in fighting with al-Qaida-led insurgents near the Syrian border and an Army soldier died of wounds suffered in Baghdad, making yesterday the second deadliest day for American forces in Iraq this month. Eleven other Marines were wounded yesterday in Obeidi, 185 miles northwest of Baghdad, according to a New York Times reporter traveling with U.S. forces. A U.S. Marine statement confirmed the five deaths but made no mention of wounded. The statement also said 16 insurgents were confirmed killed in the fighting.

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Elsewhere, a soldier from the Army's Task Force Baghdad died yesterday of wounds suffered the day before when a roadside bomb exploded northwest of the capital on the previous day, the U.S. command said. Three other soldiers were killed Tuesday (Nov 15) in a roadside bombing in the same area. But it was unclear if the soldier who died yesterday was injured in the same attack. A Marines statement confirmed that U.S. and Iraqi forces were meeting "strong resistance" in Obeidi - the third town attacked during the Operation Steel Curtain offensive - because insurgents there "believe they are trapped and have nowhere else to go." The latest deaths brought to at least 2,077 the number of U.S. service members who have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. U.S. officials say the offensive near the Syrian border is aimed in part at encouraging Sunni Arabs to vote in the December 15 parliamentary elections without fear of insurgent reprisals. The Bush administration hopes a successful election will encourage many in the Sunni community to abandon the insurgency. However, Sunni Arab anger welled up yesterday following revelations by the Shiite prime minister that 173 detainees, malnourished and some showing signs of torture, had been found in an Interior Ministry building seized by U.S. troops in Baghdad last weekend. Most were believed to be Sunni Arabs. Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari promised a full investigation and punishment for anyone guilty of torture. But Sunni leaders claimed the Shiite-led security forces were trying to intimidate Sunnis from voting and demanded an international investigation. Most insurgents are Sunnis, while Shiites and Kurds dominate the U.S.-backed security services.

## ISRAEL

Nablus, West Bank, Nov 14 -- Israeli paramilitary border policemen shot dead a member of the Hamas militant group in a predawn raid in the occupied West Bank town of Nablus today, Palestinian witnesses and the army said. The raid came hours before U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was to meet Israeli and Palestinian leaders in Jerusalem and the West Bank in a bid to revive peace talks stalled by violence. Several explosions and exchanges of fire were heard as troops in 15 jeeps raided an eastern part of Nablus and arrested eight other suspected Hamas militants. Three other suspected militants were arrested in other West Bank raids, the army said. An Israeli army spokeswoman said troops opened fire at an armed man who escaped from a house during a gunbattle. She said troops later found an assault rifle, a pistol and ammunition on his body. Hamas's armed wing issued a statement saying the militant killed, Amjad Hanawi, 34, was one of their leaders in Nablus. Palestinian

witnesses said he was shot in the head from close range and there was damage to a flat which he used as a hideout. Israel has conducted raids against militant hideouts on nearly a nightly basis since a suicide bombing late last month killed six Israelis in an open-air market in the town of Hadera. Palestinians criticize the raids, saying they obstruct their efforts to restore order in the occupied territory to prepare the ground for peace talks under a U.S.-backed "road map" plan. -- Reuters.

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Israeli and Palestinian officials hope to reopen Gaza's border crossings with Israel and Egypt in 10 days, top US diplomat Condoleezza Rice has said. The secretary of state had delayed her departure from the Middle East to work through the night yesterday to achieve an agreement. Opening the border is seen as key for Gaza's economy and Palestinian exports, including short-lived foodstuffs. The deal marks the first time that the Palestinians will control a border. It will allow Palestinians to travel in bus convoys between Gaza and the West Bank starting in a month, and in truck convoys a month after that. Its other provisions include: The opening of a sea port, and further discussions about an airport; Allowing the urgent export of all agricultural goods from Gaza during the 2005 harvest and the reduction of obstacles to movement in the West Bank, which Israel still controls. The Israeli newspaper Haaretz reports that the deal also includes video surveillance of the Rafah crossing to Egypt by a joint team of Israelis and Palestinians several kilometres away. Ms Rice said the agreement "shows that progress continues", adding that it would change the lives of people on both sides for the better. She had met Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz in the early hours of today following late-night talks with Palestinian negotiators. Talks focused on Gaza's Rafah border crossing with Egypt, as well as the Karni crossing point with Israel, both of which have remained closed since Israel pulled its forces out of the Gaza Strip in September. Earlier this month the Israelis and the Palestinians agreed to allow European Union observers to monitor the border crossing point at Rafah, but negotiations stalled over Israeli monitoring of the site.

## JORDAN

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated Nov 13, states: An Iraqi woman confessed on Jordanian state television today that she tried to blow herself up along with her husband during a hotel wedding reception last week, saying that the explosives concealed under her denim dress failed to detonate. Sajida Mubarak Atrous al-Rishawi, 35, made her statement hours after being arrested by authorities tipped off by an al-Qaida in Iraq claim that a husband-and-wife team participated in

Wednesday's (Nov 9) bombings at three U.S.-based hotels. The attackers killed 57 other people at the Radisson SAS, Grand Hyatt and Days Inn hotels. Al-Rishawi's brother was once the right-hand man to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian leader of al-Qaida in Iraq, said deputy premier Marwan Muasher. He said the brother, Mubarak Atrous al-Rishawi, was killed in the former terrorist stronghold of Fallujah, Iraq. Officials believe al-Rishawi, who entered Jordan from Iraq on November 5, may provide significant information about the operations of al-Zarqawi's group, which claimed responsibility for the hotel bombings, Jordan's deadliest terrorist attacks. The group said the attacks were retaliation for Jordan supporting the United States and other Western powers. Al-Rishawi was shown on state television wearing a white head scarf, a buttoned, body-length dark denim dress, and belts packed with TNT and ball bearings. Muasher told CNN the belts were captured with her. Al-Rishawi said she and her husband, Ali Hussein Ali al-Shamari, 35, were wearing explosive-laden belts when they strolled into a Radisson ballroom where hundreds of guests, including children, were attending a Jordanian-Palestinian wedding reception. "My husband wore a belt and put one on me. He taught me how to use it, how to pull the (primer cord) and operate it," she said, wringing her hands. "My husband detonated (his bomb). I tried to explode (my belt) but it wouldn't. I left, people fled running and I left running with them." Muasher said al-Rishawi's husband noticed her struggle and pushed her out of the ballroom in order not to attract attention before blowing himself up. Al-Rishawi was arrested this morning at a "safe house" in the same Amman suburb where her husband and the other two bombers rented a furnished apartment, a top Jordanian security official said. Jordan officials confirmed the three bombers were Iraqis. Al-Rishawi did not name the other two, but Jordanian authorities identified them as Rawad Jassem Mohammed Abed and Safaa Mohammed Ali, both 23. Muasher said investigations showed no Jordanians were involved, but several local followers of al-Zarqawi have been arrested. Jordanian counterterrorism officials believe al-Rishawi could provide significant leads into al-Zarqawi's whereabouts and his terrorist operations in Iraq. But the officials, insisting on anonymity because of the sensitivity of their positions, also fear her capture may spur al-Zarqawi to avenge the arrest with more attacks in Jordan or against Jordanian interests abroad.

## LIBERIA

Monrovia, Nov 13 -- African leaders appealed to the people of Liberia today to stay peaceful and shun violence in a dispute over a presidential run-off in which Harvard-trained economist Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf finished first.

The 67-year-old former finance minister is poised to become Africa's first elected female head of state after official voting returns showed her obtaining an unbeatable lead over millionaire soccer star George Weah in Tuesday's (Nov 8) poll. But former AC Milan striker Weah, 39, whose supporters stoned police in Monrovia on Friday (Nov 11) and staged a smaller protest yesterday, is calling for a rerun. He says the run-off vote was riddled with fraud. African heads of state meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, praised what they called Tuesday's "peaceful, transparent, free and fair" presidential elections in Liberia, the first since the end of a brutal civil war that devastated the West African state. "They called upon all Liberians to jealously guard the prevailing peace and to desist from any acts that are likely to return their country to crisis," said the statement. It was made by Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, South African President Thabo Mbeki, Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade, Ghanaian President John Kufuor and other African leaders. Earlier in Monrovia, Protestant and Catholic pastors and priests also urged Liberians to avoid the kind of political violence that turned into an orgy of killing during the civil war that ended two years ago. Weah's party has filed official complaints of fraud to the Supreme Court and to electoral authorities, which say they are investigating. Blue-bereted U.N. troops with armoured vehicles guarded the National Elections Commission (NEC) headquarters where Weah supporters clashed with police on Friday, but the streets of Monrovia were quiet today. Calling the run-off results "irreversible", Johnson-Sirleaf has offered Weah a post in government and vowed to rebuild Liberia and heal the wounds of a war that killed a quarter of a million people. The NEC has not yet formally declared her the winner of Tuesday's poll. But it has issued results showing that with 99.3 percent of votes counted, Johnson-Sirleaf has gained 59.6 percent, against Weah's just over 40 percent. NEC chief Frances Johnson-Morris said final results would be announced later this week, but after tomorrow. From more than 3,000 polling stations, the NEC has quarantined two ballot boxes after irregularities were found. A Weah spokesman, Eugene Nangbe, said his supporters would hold a rally in Monrovia tomorrow but they would be told to remain peaceful. The 15,000-strong U.N. mission in Liberia has said it will deal firmly with any attempts to disturb the peace. -- Reuters.

Monrovia, Nov 15 -- Counting ended today in Liberia's historic presidential poll, with former World Bank economist Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf garnering 59.4 percent against former soccer star George Weah, thus becoming Africa's first female President. "Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has received 4778,526 votes corresponding to 59.4 percent and George Weah has

received 327,046 votes corresponding to 40.6 percent," said the head of the election commission, Frances Johnson-Morris. While Weah continued to cry foul and demand a reassessment of the count, he also issued a plea to his supporters to keep their dismay off the streets for the good "of our fragile peace" and said he would challenge the results through the legal process. Today's provisional results were based on a tally of all votes but a final official result is expected only next week. Johnson-Morris said the tally would have to be verified and reconciled by the Commission before it is declared final. Johnson-Morris said: "I have no authority, nor does the commission, to overturn the elections results which reflect the will of the Liberian people." He said 805, 572 people, or 60 percent of the electorate turned out to vote last week. Weah in a statement broadcast on his privately-owned radio station KINGS FM today, a copy of which was given to IRIN, said his party Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) had been "cheated and there is strong evidence that the run-off elections were rigged". His statement said ballot papers were pre-marked in favour of his rival Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and the commission tally sheets in his party's possession "shows this pervaded the entire process". But he ordered a halt to all street protest by his supporters saying he would follow legal procedures to channel his fraud allegations. "Public demonstrations in the streets of Monrovia or elsewhere in protest of the run-off election results is not expedient; it is not good for our fragile peace; it might even be counter-productive to the legal bid we have put in motion at the National Elections Commission," Weah said. The commission head said public hearings into Weah's complaints would start tomorrow. Diplomats and observers have been meeting with Weah to investigate his fraud claims. Some 18 members of his party, the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), which is the best represented in a fragmented parliament, have said that they will not take their seats unless the fraud allegations are adequately addressed. International observers meanwhile have declared the elections broadly free and fair and ECOWAS has urged Weah's supporters to accept the results with dignity and grace. -- Reuters.

#### NIGERIA

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: A major fire disaster was averted yesterday in Abule-Ado in Oriade Local Government Area of Lagos after an NNPC pipe was vandalised causing a large quantity of fuel almost overrunning the entire village behind the International Trade Fair Complex along Lagos Badagry expressway. The incident which caused pandemonium among villagers, especially exhibitors at the on-going trade fair was however, brought under control after the police promptly alerted officials of

NNPC who raced to the scene and effected repairs of the destroyed portion of the pipe. At the scene, two persons were arrested while a petrol tanker with registration number OYO 895 KNH and 4000 litres of fuel were recovered.

#### PAKISTAN

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: A car bomb exploded outside an outlet of a US fast food chain in Karachi today, killing at least six people and wounding several others, police and rescue workers said. The vehicle blew up outside a KFC restaurant at about 0840, Karachi police chief Mushtaq Shah said. "It was a high-intensity explosion and its noise was heard in several parts of the city. It appears that the KFC was the target," Shah said. Six bodies were removed from the scene, according to Muhammad Sabri, a senior official from the Edhi Welfare Trust rescue group. The fast food outlet and a nearby bank branch were destroyed. Many other vehicles were on fire and the windows of neighbouring buildings were shattered, reports said.

London, Nov 15 -- All port operations at Karachi are continuing as usual, unaffected by the bomb blast at a fast food restaurant in the city this morning.

#### PHILIPPINES

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 23 Abu Sayyaf bandits and soldiers were killed and dozens more injured in fierce fighting in Jolo Island, officials said yesterday. The fighting in the town of Indanan already killed four soldiers and at least 19 militants since Saturday (Nov 12). Of the 21 soldiers who are wounded, eight are critical, said Brig. Gen. Alexander Aleo, the island's military chief. Aleo also said that renegade members of the former separatist rebel group Moro National Liberation Front were aiding the Abu Sayyaf. Fresh fighting was reported in several fronts in Indanan at the weekend and that renegade MNLF forces have threatened to attack Panamao town in Jolo's eastern side if the military do not stop the assault against the Abu Sayyaf. Rebel forces also harassed civilians in the two towns, forcing them to flee their houses, Aleo said. He said an Abu Sayyaf attack on a group of patrolling soldiers late Friday in the village of Buanza, Indanan, triggered the fighting that continued the next day. Clashes between military and Abu Sayyaf forces also erupted on Saturday in Candilamon village, also in Indanan, he said. Aleo ordered fresh reinforcements in Indanan to fight the Abu Sayyaf militants, whose group is tied to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda terror network.

Manila, Nov 15 -- Fighting has subsided between Philippine troops and suspected Muslim militants linked to al Qaeda, officials said today, but more people have fled their homes and farms on the southwestern island of Jolo. About 29 people, including

four soldiers, had been killed and dozens wounded in three days of fighting with members of the Abu Sayyaf group in mountains near the town of Indanan, said Colonel Domingo Tutaan, an army spokesman in the southern Philippines. "Fighting has been contained," he told reporters. "Our troops are on clearing operations. They're now pursuing about 80 rebels who had apparently fled the area." Tutaan said the mopping-up operations were being hampered by bad weather. It has been raining in the area for about a week. Tutaan said navy gunboats had blockaded coastal areas as more soldiers were sent to Indanan town to prevent militants from escaping and to tighten security around government and military facilities so as to thwart possible diversionary attacks. Local officials said an estimated 1,000 families from three villages around Indanan town had fled to the island's capital, Jolo town, since Friday (Nov 11). Governor Benjamin Loong said many of the displaced people were staying with relatives and others in parks and schools. "We don't have a total headcount of the evacuees," Loong said in a television interview. "Not a single civilian was caught in the crossfire." -- Reuters.

#### SOMALIA

Mogadishu, Nov 13 -- Heavy fighting apparently sparked by an Islamic militia's moves to close cinemas and video stores in the lawless Somali capital has killed at least 12 people and wounded more than 21, residents said today. Clashes between gunmen loyal to Mogadishu's Islamic courts and local militia defending the densely populated Yaqshid district began yesterday and flared again on today. "The Islamic courts' militia are trying to close all entertainment centres of the district," one local resident Ahmed Dhuhulow told Reuters. Three people died yesterday, and another nine today, in clashes that caused inhabitants to flee the area and shops to close, witnesses and a Reuters reporter said. Heavy firing could be heard from all over Mogadishu. "We have not opened the schools this morning, because of the shooting and heavy bullets which are falling down," said school teacher Abdullahi Hassan. At least two civilians hit by stray bullets, as well as militiamen, were among the 12 dead, witnesses told Reuters. Leaders of Mogadishu's influential Islamic courts oppose Western and Indian films which they say promote immorality in the mainly Muslim nation. In the 14th attempt to restore government since 1991, Somalia's new President Abdullahi Yusuf returned from Kenya this year but has failed to impose authority and has set up base in Jowhar outside Mogadishu due to insecurity in the capital. Rival warlords have effectively run the Horn of Africa nation since ousting dictator Mohamed Siad Barre 14 years ago. Islamists have become more prominent during the absence of central authority in

Somalia and want the government to ensure a new judicial system is based solely on Islamic law. In Mogadishu, the Islamic sharia courts -- along with customary clan law -- are the only form of functioning justice. In a separate incident, the son of a senior Somali politician was gunned down yesterday, his family said. Unidentified gunmen shot dead Khadar Osman Elmi, son of the second deputy speaker of the Somali parliament Osman Elmi Boqorre, in south Mogadishu, they said. Speaker Elmi, who has just defected from a Mogadishu-based faction of the new government to the Jowhar group, told reporters he believed the killing was politically motivated. As well as the Islamic militia's hate of Western and Indian films, politics may be behind today's fighting, residents said. One house attacked by the militia was used during a recent visit by Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Ali Gedi, who belongs to the Jowhar group of the divided transitional government. -- Reuters.

Nairobi, Nov 16 -- Somali parliamentarians based in Mogadishu have resolved to hold talks with the rest of the government, which operates from Jowhar, in a bid to bridge differences that have paralysed the new administration. Omar Hashi, speaking on behalf of the Mogadishu-based leaders, said they reached the decision yesterday at a meeting of more than 100 MPs chaired by Sharif Hassan Shaykh Aden, the speaker of the Somali transitional parliament. Hashi added that the meeting would be held in Somalia - a demand the Jowhar-based group, headed by President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed and Prime Minister Ali Muhammad Gedi, had insisted on. The Mogadishu group dropped their demand that the meeting be held outside Somalia under international mediation. "We only ask that [the international community] be present as observers to witness any agreement," said Hashi. The Jowhar-based Transitional Federal Government (TFG) welcomed the new development as a "step in the right direction". "We have been calling for direct talks without preconditions for a long time. Now that our brothers in Mogadishu agree, we welcome it with open arms," said Muhammad Abdi Hayir, the TFG's information minister. The transitional federal institutions moved to Somalia in 2004 from Kenya, where they were created, but the administration has been divided over where the seat of government should be situated. The president, the prime minister and their supporters pitched camp in Jowhar, 90 km north of the capital, Mogadishu. The two leaders cited insecurity as the reason behind their decision not to work from Mogadishu. Other MPs led by the speaker, went to Mogadishu, saying they would attempt to restore stability to the city, largely destroyed during nearly 15 years of factional warfare following the toppling in 1991 of the Muhammad Siyad Barre regime. The proposed deployment of peacekeepers,

particularly from Somalia's neighbours, also divided the interim government. There have been several attempts by the international community, including the UN, to broker an agreement between the two groups. In August, François Lonsèny Fall, special envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia, presented an "agenda for dialogue" to the interim leaders. Today, Fall said that his office welcomed the new plan: "Any initiative that fosters dialogue within the federal transitional institutions in Somalia is, of course, welcome. My office is ready to assist in any way we can." -- Reuters.

#### SOUTH KOREA

London, Nov 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of farmers clashed with police in Seoul yesterday in a rally against the government's move to open the rice market wider. At least 100 people were injured, police said. Wielding steel pipes and bamboo sticks, the protesters pushed back the police cordon in front of the National Assembly as they attempted to break into the building. Riot police blocked them by using water cannons. At least 80 farmers and 20 police officers were injured, according to police. The scuffle erupted when about 10,000 farmers from across the nation gathered in Yeouido, Seoul, to block a parliamentary ratification of the rice import deal signed with nine countries. Parliament is expected to vote on the bill on Nov 23. "The government should establish clear countermeasures and fundamental measures to ensure the sustainable development of the local agricultural industry before it sends the bill to the Assembly," the Korean Peasants League, which organized the protest, said in a statement. Farmers have been inflamed by last week's suicide of an activist farmer who was found dead on Friday (Nov 11) after drinking weedkiller. Chung Yong-pum, 38, killed himself out of despair over the worsening plight of farmers, the union said. Moon Gyeong-sik, chairman of the Korean Peasants League, threatened to stage sporadic rallies across the country if the government defies their demands. The coalition of eight farmers' unions already planned to hold a mass demonstration in Busan on Friday and in Seoul on Monday. Government officials expressed concerns that delay in ratifying the rice bill could damage the nation's international credibility.

#### SRI LANKA

London, Nov 16 -- At least five people, including two police, were killed in Sri Lanka despite a nationwide security alert on the eve of tomorrow's presidential elections, officials said. Unidentified gunmen shot dead two constables in separate incidents in the eastern province where police also found a landmine near a polling station, a police official said. "It's possible the attacks and the landmine were aimed at disrupting



the election," the official said. "But we've strengthened security with more policemen." He said the bodies of two Tamil guerrillas were also found elsewhere in the region while another man was found killed overnight in what appeared to be rebel internecine clashes.

#### THAILAND

London, Nov 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Suspected Muslim separatists stormed two houses in a southern village early today and opened fire on the families with assault rifles, killing nine people and injuring nine others, a regional governor said. Authorities had not yet entered the area where the attack occurred because about 500 villagers had gathered and were blocking them from entering, said Narathiwat Gov. Pracha Terat. "The assailants cruelly murdered these villagers and spread rumors among other villagers that state officials did this," Pracha told The Associated Press. The wounded villagers and hospital officials notified police of the attacks, he said.

#### TURKEY

Diyarbakir, Nov 16 -- One person was killed and 15 others injured, five seriously, in fresh clashes today between police and pro-Kurdish rebel protesters in Turkey's troubled south-east, security officials said. Tensions have escalated in the province of Hakkari, which borders Iraq and Iran, since a Nov. 9 bombing widely blamed on members of Turkey's security forces. Two people died in the blast and the protests it then sparked. In today's clashes, in the regional capital Hakkari, police fired into the air to disperse the protesters. The injured included five policemen. Three people were killed during a similar demonstration yesterday in the nearby town of Yuksekova. Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, rattled by suspicions that members of the security forces may have taken the law into their own hands, discussed the situation with key ministers in the capital Ankara today. -- Reuters.

#### UGANDA

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Police in Uganda have fired tear gas and bullets at crowds of opposition supporters for the second day running. The protesters believe treason charges against opposition leader Kizza Besigye are designed to stop him challenging the president in elections next year. Dr Besigye is due to appear in the High Court on charges of treason and rape, a day after his arrest sparked running battles in the capital, Kampala. Burnt-out cars and looted kiosks can still be seen on the streets. If found guilty of treason, he and 22 co-accused could face the death penalty. Dr Besigye has previously denied allegations that he is linked to rebel groups. The rape charge dates from an alleged incident in 1997. Police chief Major General Kale Kayihura said that new allegations that Dr Besigye

was linked to the brutal Lord's Resistance Army which operates in northern Uganda came from ex-rebels, who said he had sought an alliance to topple the government. Once Mr Museveni's doctor, Dr Besigye ran against the president in 2001 before fleeing after the elections, saying his life was in danger. On his return to Uganda last month, Mr Besigye told reporters that the time was right to return and take on what he termed "the dictatorship".

### Labour Disputes



#### AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Coal loading at Newcastle may be affected by a 48-hour strike by employees of train operator, Pacific National, which started at 0600 hrs today. The reason for the strike is unknown. The other train operator, Queensland Rail, is not affected and is still operating. The likely impact on coal ship loading is unknown at this stage. Shippers have advised in general that where vessels are delayed due to the stoppage "Force Majeure" will be claimed.

London, Nov 17 -- Patrick and P&O Ports were forced to close their terminals' day shifts in Sydney and Melbourne yesterday as workers took to the streets in protest against proposed industrial relations laws. The terminals were shut between 0630 and 1430. This placed extra stress on a system already bogged down by delays caused by the Australian Customs Service's latest Cargo Management Re-engineering program. A P&O Ports spokesperson said it was trying to minimise the impact of the delays caused by the protest on its customers across the country. A New South Wales truck operator said he experienced the best truck turn around times in "many years". "At 1400 we had a days work to catch up on, but by the end of the night we had cleared all morning jobs without much hindrance to our business operations," he said. But Victorian Transport Organisation deputy chief executive Neil Chambers said he was concerned about the take-up time for two vessels at Patrick as a result of the protest delays. "This also comes on the back of CMR, which is a compounding problem," he said. "Vehicle booking slots and container releases have become even more critical. More ship discharges are required in the lead-up to Christmas." P&O Ports reported that on Nov 13 it handled 13,229 teu at West Swanston dock. This is expected to increase to 18,501 teu in the coming week. Qantas freight spokeswoman Juliet Ryalls said operations "were not affected at all" by the protest. "A small proportion of staff took part in the national day of

protest but it didn't affect flights or operations in any way," she said.

#### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated Nov 14, states: The government of the Central African Republic agreed on Saturday (Nov 12) to pay civil servants two out of 45 months of their salary arrears on the condition that they refrain from striking for at least six months. "The payment is the beginning of the solution but the government must do more," Pascal Sanze Koro, a primary school teacher, said on Monday. More than half the nation's civil servants have been on strike since October, which for schoolteachers is since the beginning of the school year. Under the new agreement signed by six of the country's trade unions, the government will from November 20 to 25 pay workers their arrears. The government said it would pay another two months if workers respect the agreement. Despite the massive arrears owed employees, the unions are for now only demanding nine months arrears for the year 2005. According to a May 2004 study by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) the failure of the government to pay salaries is a leading cause of 15 years of unrest, which has included army mutinies and coups. Saturday's agreement with the government was reached as an IMF and World Bank delegation was in the country to assess the government's efforts to control its finances. The representative of the country's largest trade unions, Union syndicale des travailleurs de Centrafrique, Noel Ramadan, said yesterday that civil servants were sceptical about the government respecting the new agreement. "But we are waiting to see," he said.

#### GUINEA

Conakry, Nov 15 -- Student protesters clashed with police, and a strike called by Guinea's oldest trade union disrupted schools and health services, as anger over the country's economic woes spilled out of the workplace. "Since the increase in fuel prices last May and the attendant increase in the prices of basic goods and services, not a penny has been added to workers' wages," Yamoussa Toure, Deputy Secretary General of the National Confederation of Guinean Workers (CNTG), told IRIN. The CNTG called a two-day strike starting today to demand a four-fold increase in wages and pensions, as well as the establishment of a basic wage and a labour disputes tribunal, and improved transport. Backed by a second of the country's three trade union groupings, the Guinean Workers Trade Union (USTG), the stoppage disrupted schools and offices and forced hospitals to offer minimal services, with scores of patients lined up for help at the capital's main Donka hospital. The president of 21 years has faced spiralling anger in the last couple of years over skyrocketing

inflation that is sapping the already meagre incomes of those Guineans lucky enough to have a job. When fuel prices rose by 55 percent in May, causing an immediate knock-on effect on public transport prices, trade unions reacted by demanding a four-fold increase in wages. -- Reuters.

**PHILIPPINES**

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Was there a transport strike yesterday as promised by two transport organizations? There may have been one but not in Metro Manila. Most of the operators did not join the protest. Commuters have also stopped believing their threats. The National Transport Workers Union and the Jeepney Coalition Transport of the Philippines, however, insisted there was a nationwide transport strike to seek more oil price rollback, the repeal of the oil deregulation law and expanded value-added tax law and to protest various traffic schemes of the Metro Manila Development Authority. Reports from the MMDA metrobase, disclosed that the two groups failed dismally to disrupt traffic and in inconvenience passengers. An MMDA official said the agency made all the preparations and put all its emergency vehicles on stand by. Only about 40 members of Transport Union gathered at the Mabuhay Rotonda. Bren Sayasa, national coordinator, admitted the protest failed in Metro Manila. He said only 20 percent of the transport operation was affected in Metro Manila but the case was different in Mindanao and the Visayas, where almost 90 percent of owners joined the rally. In Central Luzon, Sayasa claimed 70 percent of the transport operators supported and joined the protest. Mar Garvida, president of Pinagkaisang Samahan ng Tsuper at Operator Nationwide, said that while their group did not join the strike, they nevertheless supported it. He did not say how. "We sympathized with them, we are 100 percent in supporting their call," said Garvida. That probably explains why Piston is planning to stage a separate protest this month.

**PHILIPPINES**

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two Philippine transport worker groups launched a joint strike here today, protesting against higher gasoline prices. In Quezon City, Metro Manila, members of the National Transport Workers Union and the Jeepney Coalition Transport of the Philippines gathered to rally along streets, calling for reduction on pump prices of gasoline, a footage of ABS-CBN TV News Channel showed. The groups said that the last two price cuts by the government were negligible. They also called for the scraping of the oil deregulation law, according to the TV report. Several public transport routes in Metro Manila were affected, and some school classes have been suspended due to the strike, the

metropolitan authorities said. However, some major local transport groups did not join the protest and government offices in the Quezon city remained open.

**RUSSIA**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Local harbor pilots brought sea traffic into St. Petersburg's port to a standstill, Nov 9, by initiating a work action in protest of a federal government decision to ban private pilot services in three major northern seaports. "We are protesting against the government's intention to destroy the service of private pilots, which has existed successfully for the last 10 years," said Andrei Makeyev, a representative of the St. Petersburg Sea Pilot Association in an interview yesterday. "We demand contact with a presidential or government representative to resolve the situation," he said. On Wednesday, Nov 9, more than 100 vessels, including 47 oil tankers, were stuck on the approach to St. Petersburg, 13 kilometers west of Kronstadt. Not a single harbor pilot worked that day and pilots in Kaliningrad and Murmansk joined the action. Exceptions were made for five vessels, Wednesday, including two passenger vessels that were guided into port, from the Gulf of Finland, after negotiations had been conducted between pilots and Inflat Management, the company responsible for foreign cruise vessels. The passenger vessels made port on schedule. The pilots are protesting a July 17 government decree, that did not list St. Petersburg, Kaliningrad or Murmansk among the ports where the activity of commercial pilots is allowed. According to the decree, those ports are considered strategically important. "There is crucial, strategically significant sea traffic coming through those ports, and we cannot allow anything serious to happen there, such as people wanting to stop work for some reason, as they have now," said Alexander Filimonov, a spokesperson for the Transport Ministry in a telephone interview yesterday. "Pilots in those ports do not pay anything to finance the renovation of harbor facilities and the security systems of ports. They just put all the money in their pockets. Private pilots have already shown that what they do they do to harm the state," Filimonov said. Port management has hired 19 state pilots since Wednesday, including one of the 107 commercial pilots who are on strike. Management said that a total of 70 pilots are required to return the port to normal operations. Andrei Markerov, a spokesperson for the port's management, said that the new state-employed pilots had carried out more than 100 operations yesterday, leaving only about 20 cargo vessels waiting to enter the port. Markerov said that the remaining backlog would be cleared by this morning. The striking commercial pilots are concerned that their

incomes will be reduced if piloting activity is nationalized. The commercial firm Volgotanker has suffered the biggest financial losses from the strike, according to the daily newspaper Vedomosti. The paper quoted a company spokesperson saying that Volgotanker was losing \$12 million per day.

**SURINAME**

London, Nov 16 -- A press report, dated Nov 15, states: Petrol stations shut down throughout Suriname today as fuel retailers went on strike to pressure the government to increase their profit margins. Private cars mostly stayed off the roads as nearly all petrol stations in the country closed to observe the protest. Public buses operated as normal. Station owners are demanding a profit increase of at least 2.1 percent, or US 3 cents, for each litre they sell, said Soeridjeni Jankie, secretary of the gas station owners' union. In September, the government raised the price of gasoline by 100 percent to keep up with rising world oil prices, a move that cut the station owners' profit margin from five percent to 2.9 percent per litre sold, the AP reports. Jankie said the reduction has made it hard for many petrol station owners to cover their operating expenses. The government has said the profit margins can only be raised by oil companies.

**UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated Nov 13, states: Strikers at bankrupt U.S. copper miner Asarco voted to accept an agreement with the subsidiary of Grupo Mexico and pending bankruptcy court approval should be back at work on Tuesday (Nov 15), a top union leader said today. Top union negotiator Manny Armenta told Reuters that a final tally showed today that workers had voted overwhelmingly to end the four-month strike. "The vote speaks for itself," he said. "I believe our membership was very satisfied with the agreement." Asarco came to a tentative agreement with some 1,500 workers at its Arizona and Texas facilities to end the four-month strike earlier this week. Union representatives had to put the vote to strikers and a bankruptcy judge must approve a return to work. The judge is expected to give approval tomorrow, after which Armenta said workers will lift picket lines. He said the workers were committed to getting back to their jobs.



**ANTI-TRUST SUIT, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: US software giant Microsoft said today it has sealed a

\$US30 million deal with South Korean Internet portal Daum Communications to settle an anti-trust suit and put the two firms in a new partnership. The deal ends a legal battle with Daum, which had accused Microsoft of violating anti-trust rules by unfairly incorporating its MSN instant messaging software into the Windows system. Microsoft and Daum issued a joint statement saying the deal would include putting "select online content from Daum on MSN and other marketing and promotional opportunities." The settlement includes a cash payment of \$US10 million, together with an advertising commitment valued at \$US10 million and another \$US10 million in business terms. In return for dropping its suit, Daum, which has its own messaging service, decided to tie up with Microsoft.

#### **DISCRIMINATION, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 16 -- A press report, dated Nov 12, states: Thousands of female employees involved in a gender discrimination lawsuit against the Boeing Co. will be sharing in a \$72.5 million settlement in the next few weeks. Boeing agreed more than a year ago to pay anywhere from \$40.6 million to \$72.5 million, and documents filed Thursday in U.S. District Court show the final total at the high end. If the plaintiffs' motion for speedy payment is granted, checks could be in the mail to some 17,960 current and former Boeing employees by Christmas. Otherwise, Boeing has until Jan 14 to pay a court administrator, who would issue checks. Individual payments range from \$500 to \$26,000, said Mike Helgren, the plaintiffs' lead attorney. Boeing admitted no wrongdoing but agreed to change its hiring, pay, promotion complaint investigation practices.

#### **ENERGY MARKET MANIPULATION, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 17 -- A press report, dated Nov 16, states: Federal regulators have approved an agreement worth about \$250 million that lets Enron Corp. settle civil claims of price gouging and energy market manipulation stemming from the rolling blackouts of 2000-2001 in Western states. Although the deal appears as a \$1.5 billion settlement, the payout may actually be closer to \$250 million since the money will come from a limited amount of Enron assets being divided among creditors in its bankruptcy proceedings, according to the Houston Chronicle. Enron previously agreed to the settlement, estimating payouts at about 22.8 cents per dollar during its bankruptcy proceeding. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission accepted the deal yesterday. A suit alleging that Enron Power Marketing manipulated energy markets was filed after audiotapes and transcripts recovered by investigators showed Enron traders bragging about power

exporting and market gaming. "Given Enron's collapse, we believe this is the best settlement we could reach," said Tom Dressler, a spokesman for California Attorney General Bill Lockyer, who led the suit. Under the settlement, California and several utilities in that state will split \$47.5 million. They also will receive an \$875 million unsecured claim in the Enron bankruptcy, according to the California Attorney General's Office. Oregon and Washington state will each get \$22.5 million in unsecured claims out of the California parties' \$875 million unsecured claim. Parties to the settlement include: the California Department of Water Resources, the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Electric Oversight Board, Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric. A \$600 million civil penalty also was ordered in the settlement but it may never be paid since it is of low priority in the company's bankruptcy.

#### **MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Nov 14 -- A company director who suffered permanent brain damage during a routine operation to treat a runny nose has won a £1.32 million payout. Peter Rogers, 58, will receive the money and his legal costs following a hearing at the High Court in Sheffield. Surgeon George Murty cut into his brain by mistake during the procedure for sinusitis carried out in the Bupa Hospital, Leicester, in May 2002. Mr Rogers, of Weston-by-Welland, Northamptonshire, was managing director of a graphics and printing company and a regular walker before the operation. He now suffers from poor eyesight, memory and concentration and has difficulty speaking, reading and writing. A spokesman for Mr Rogers' solicitors Irwin Mitchell said no decision had been made by their client on whether to lodge a complaint with the General Medical Council about Mr Murty. The money won would be used to pay for ongoing care for Mr Rogers. A statement from Bupa Hospital, Leicester, said: "This settlement is between the consultant Mr George Murty and Mr Rogers. "The hospital did everything possible for Mr Rogers, however all surgery carries an element of risk and although rare, occasionally there are complications with this type of surgery. "Mr Murty continues to practise both in the private sector, including Bupa, and the NHS."

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: A mother who claimed hospital errors left her baby brain damaged has settled her £2m damages action out of court. Deborah Ritchie, from Glasgow, raised the action after claiming her son Cameron was starved of oxygen when he was born at Yorkhill Hospital in 1998. Mrs Ritchie claimed his birth was negligently mismanaged by midwives and doctors at the hospital. The hospital had denied negligence.

Details of the financial settlement have not been released.

#### **MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 16 -- A press report, datelined Sacramento, California, Nov 15, states: Four doctors accused of performing unneeded heart surgeries at Redding Medical Centre agreed to pay victims and the federal government more than \$32.5 million to settle the case against them, prosecutors announced today. McGregor Scott, U.S. Attorney for California's Eastern District, was confident the settlement would resolve the case which began in October 2002 when 40 FBI agents raided the hospital and the doctors' offices after being tipped off by one of the doctors' patients. Under the settlement, federal prosecutors will not file criminal charges against the doctors. The insurance company for three of the doctors -- Fidel Realyvasquez, Kent Brusett and Ricardo Javier Moreno-Cabral -- will pay \$24 million to victims who have a lawsuit pending in Shasta County Superior Court. Realyvasquez, 57, a heart surgeon, and cardiologist Chae Hyun Moon, 58, will also pay \$1.4 million out of their own pockets to victims. Kent Brusett, a heart surgeon in Realyvasquez's group, will pay \$250,000 over 10 years. Moon and Realyvasquez also agreed as part of the deal not to perform any cardiology procedures or surgeries on patients on Medicare or Medi-Cal, the state's health care program for the poor. Tenet Healthcare Corp., which at the time owned the medical centre the doctors were affiliated with, will also pay \$5.5 million. The company paid \$54 million in August 2003 to settle charges it performed the unnecessary heart surgeries to reap government health care money. Today's announcement does not resolve a civil lawsuit brought against the doctors by 647 plaintiffs claiming they underwent unneeded heart surgeries. The first trial in that lawsuit is scheduled to begin Nov. 22. "They are talking settlement daily because the trial is getting close but that action is still pending," said Melissa Fowler-Bradley, Shasta's assistant court executive. As part of the settlement of the federal government's case, three whistleblowers who aided the investigation will divide \$9.8million. John Corapi, a Catholic priest, whom Moon recommended undergo triple bypass surgery but was then told by another doctor he was perfectly fine, will receive \$2.7 million. So will Joseph Zerga, a friend of Corapi, who joined him in filing a federal False Claims Act complaint in November 2002. Patrick Campbell, a Redding doctor, who also filed a complaint in Nov. 2002 will get \$4.4 million. In 2003, Campbell questioned the size of the government's initial \$54 million settlement with Tenet saying in court papers that it should have been for \$500 million.

London, Nov 17 -- A press report, dated Nov 16, states: Two of the Redding doctors accused of performing unnecessary heart surgeries have settled lawsuits against them for a total of \$18 million, attorneys said today. The money will be split among about 650 patients who claimed the doctors performed unnecessary cardiac catheterizations and bypass surgeries while practicing at Redding Medical Center before 2002. The settlements came late yesterday, the same day Dr. Fidel Realyvasquez, a heart surgeon, and Dr. Kent Brusett, a heart surgeon in Realyvasquez' medical group, authorized their insurance carrier to settle the cases as part of an agreement with the federal government. In return, the U.S. attorney's office agreed not to file criminal charges. "They didn't want to settle these cases, but as part of the federal agreement their hand was forced," said Robert Zimmerman, an attorney for Realyvasquez. FBI agents who investigated the case wanted criminal charges filed against the doctors, but national medical experts consulted by prosecutors split on whether their behavior was criminal, the U.S. attorney said. The \$18 million will be paid by the doctors' insurer, The Doctors Co., and will be distributed among patients based on factors including their age, the nature of their procedure and whether there were any complications, Zimmerman said. Payments likely won't go out until early next year. Settlement talks broke down over about 150 procedures performed by two other doctors once affiliated with Realyvasquez' medical group, Ricardo Javier Moreno-Cabral and Kevin Miller. Those trials will now be scheduled for early next year, Zimmerman said.

#### **POLLUTION, EDMONDS, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Port of Edmonds has agreed to pay the Harbor Square commercial center \$13.5 million for its buildings, and Unocal will pay the port \$3.1 million to settle a lawsuit between the three parties over polluted soil at Harbor Square. The port will seek a bank loan to cover the cost, port director Chris Keuss said Tuesday (Nov 15). If the port can't get financing, the deal will be off because the port won't have the money, he said. The port owns the land on Dayton Street, and Harbor Square Associates owns the buildings and leases them to a health club, restaurant, for offices and to service businesses. The oil company owned the land from 1920 to 1978 and leased it to companies that used it for oil and gas storage and distribution and small-scale asphalt manufacturing. The five-member port commission unanimously approved its end of the deal on Monday. It also approved a \$125,000 increase in its 2006 port district property tax levy to help cover the cost of the soil cleanup, a 71% increase over the \$175,000 tax levy for 2005. The 2006 rate will cost the owner of a \$300,000 home \$31.50. The port district covers the area west of 92nd Street SW and

north of the Snohomish County line. The port has spent more than \$2 million so far to remove contaminated soil at Harbor Square, Keuss said. Two more contaminated pockets exist on the property, one of them under some of the buildings, he said. Buying the buildings will be worth the expense for the port, Keuss said. Harbor Inn will remain under the ownership of a separate partnership. No contamination is known to exist under the hotel, Keuss said. The tainted dirt's presence has been known since the late 1980s, shortly after Harbor Square signed its lease with the port. The state required no cleanup until 2001, after a small amount of oily material leaked through a storm drain into a marsh between Harbor Square and the nearby Unocal property. The contamination consists of asphalt tars, diesel oil and hydrocarbons, Keuss said. Two years ago, Harbor Square sued the port over the contamination, and the port countersued Harbor Square and Unocal. The case was scheduled to go to trial in December. The buildings will be turned over to the port Jan 13 if the deal goes through, Keuss said. The next phase of the cleanup is planned for next year, Keuss said. The pollution under the structures will be cleaned up as part of either a redevelopment or razing of the buildings, Keuss said. The port is open to selling the buildings, the port director added.

#### **ROYALTIES PAYMENTS, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated Nov 12, states: An out-of-court settlement of a lawsuit against BP America could mean millions of dollars in royalty payments to 4,500 people. They had sued, claiming BP underpaid for royalties for coal-bed methane gas in La Plata and Archuleta counties in Colorado since 1991. The payments total \$101 million, minus about one-third in attorneys' fees. The settlement goes to Sixth Judicial Judge David Dickinson for approval at a Dec 7 hearing.

#### **SEXUAL ABUSE, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 17 -- A press report, dated Nov 16, states: The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland, Ore, said it hopes to settle all pending sex abuse claims it faces for about \$42 million, according to court documents released today. The archdiocese faces 129 unresolved claims, it said in a bankruptcy reorganization plan filed yesterday. The archdiocese was the first Catholic diocese in the nation to declare bankruptcy when it filed for protection from creditors in July 2004. Archbishop John Vlazny said the reorganization plan "provides for fair and just compensation to victims who have been sexually abused." Vlazny said the plan was made possible with insurance and loans that were not available before bankruptcy, along with "whatever financial support might be forthcoming from friends of the Archdiocese in the form of gifts or loans." Attorneys and activists representing alleged sex abuse victims

criticized the proposal, saying \$42 million is too little and that the church is trying to cover up sex abuse cases by keeping them out of court. "I honestly believe church officials fear the truth surfacing far more than any settlements paid," said David Clohessy, national director of SNAP, a victims group. The reorganization plan is subject to approval by creditors and the court. In 2004, the Diocese of Orange County, Calif., agreed to pay \$100 million to 87 victims. In 2003, the Boston Archdiocese settled with 552 victims for \$85 million. A judge in Kentucky has granted preliminary approval for what would be the nation's largest settlement at \$120 million.

#### **UNDERPAYMENT OF INSURANCE SETTLEMENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated Nov 10, states: An insurance company has been ordered to pay punitive damages of more than \$5.1 million to a couple who said they were underpaid on their claim for a home destroyed during the deadly 2003 wildfire season. Attorneys for the plaintiffs said Wednesday's verdict followed the first insurance trial stemming from the Southern California fires. The couple, Larry Stone and Linda Della Pelle, lost their home in Claremont on Oct 25, 2003, and subsequently filed a claim with Fidelity National Insurance Company. Fidelity eventually agreed to pay \$433,000 - far less than the couple said was needed to return the home to pre-fire condition. The company failed to consider all the rebuilding costs, including flooring, architectural and engineering fees, mold testing, and contractor supervision fees, said Ricardo Echeverria, the couple's lawyer. "They never properly investigated to determine what was in the house," Echeverria said. Yesterday, a jury found the replacement cost should have been \$616,000. With its verdict, jurors said Fidelity breached its contract with the couple and that its conduct met the legal definitions of fraud, malice, and oppression. Lawyer John Hennelly, who represented Fidelity during the trial, said the company plans to appeal. He said the judge made several errors regarding what could be admitted into evidence. Echeverria said he expected the judge to award the couple the difference between the \$616,000 and the \$433,000 - a total of \$183,000 - along with punitive damages of \$5,163,217. Hennelly said his clients would object to paying both amounts.

#### **VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Superior Court judge reduced a \$21 million jury verdict to \$15 million yesterday for the parents of a 4-year-old girl who was killed when she was hit by a Municipal Railway maintenance truck. It remains the largest personal injury award ever against San Francisco. Before ruling, Judge James McBride heard lawyers for the city argue that the September jury award to Sylvia Lopez and

Humberto Dominguez was excessive because another driver had struck the Muni truck before the city vehicle hit the girl on Feb 11, 2003. McBride's ruling let stand a \$6.7 million jury award to another girl and her grandmother, who were injured in the accident. "The order is recognition from the trial judge that the city was 100% at fault and that the loss to the families was a huge one," said plaintiffs' attorney Kevin Boyle. Matt Dorsey, spokesman for City Attorney Dennis Herrera, said the city probably would appeal.

**VIOLATION OF ANTI-TRUST LAWS, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 17 -- A press report, dated Nov 16, states: Hillenbrand Industries Inc. and its Hill-Rom subsidiary have agreed to pay \$337.5 million to settle a 2003 antitrust class-action lawsuit. Spartanburg, S.C.-based Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System sued Hillenbrand and Hill-Rom for alleged violation of federal antitrust laws, including attempted monopolisation and illegal discounting practices. "While we believe the claims are without merit and continue to deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing, we took this difficult step because we believe it is in the best interest of the company, our shareholders, customers and employees," Ray J. Hillenbrand, chairman, said in a news release. Hillenbrand added in the release that the settlement will not require the company to change its current business practices. In conjunction with the settlement and related legal fees, Hillenbrand Industries will take a pre-tax charge of \$358.6 million in its fourth quarter.

**WRONGFUL CONVICTION AND IMPRISONMENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: The city of Chicopee, Massachusetts, will settle for \$2.45 million the civil rights lawsuit brought by a man wrongly convicted of a 1987 rape and imprisoned for 14 years, the Board of Aldermen decided last night. Eduardo Velazquez, 39, formerly of Springfield and Westfield and now living in Puerto Rico, was wrongly convicted of raping an Elms College student at knife-point before DNA tests conducted in 2001 ruled him out as the assailant. Aldermen unanimously accepted the settlement, which will be paid from the city's tax-stabilization fund.

**WRONGFUL DEATH, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: A US jury has ordered Ford to pay more than \$83 million to the family of a 17-year-old boy killed in a rollover when his friend fell asleep driving an Explorer. This is because the US four-wheel drives allegedly overturn instead of sliding out of trouble. Ford was liable in the accident because it sold a vehicle with poor handling and stability, the Florida jury said yesterday. The

company would appeal, a spokeswoman said today. The family of Lance Crossman Hall claimed Ford knew the Explorer was prone to rollovers and failed to warn consumers about the vehicle's defects. Ford blamed defective Firestone tyres for the Explorer's handling and stability problems, and the company knowingly continued to produce unsafe vehicles, Bruce Kaster, a lawyer for the family, said today. "This tragic accident occurred when the driver of the vehicle fell asleep at the wheel while travelling at highway speeds. Real-world experience and testing show that the Explorer is a safe vehicle, consistently performing as well as or better than other vehicles in its class," Ford spokeswoman Karen Shaughnessy said. Hall was reclining in the front passenger seat and wearing his seat belt when the Explorer rolled over four times on State Road 93 in Florida's Collier County on April 20, 1997. He was ejected from the vehicle and died at the scene. The driver of the 1996 Explorer, Melahn Parker, was charged with careless driving. Parker attempted to regain control of the vehicle, but a handling problem with the Explorer caused it to turn sideways, which triggered the rollover, Kaster said. "Ford vehicles are supposed to be designed to slide out in an emergency situation, not roll over, and that's according to Ford's own internal criteria," Kaster said. "But the Explorer is one of their vehicles that will not meet their own criteria. It will roll over." The jury ordered Ford to pay the family \$US1.2 million in damages, and \$US60 million for the pain and suffering of Hall and his mother, Joan Hall-Edwards. Ford was not ordered to pay punitive damages.



**FORT MADISON, IOWA, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: A two-train accident caused a partial derailment and stopped all traffic on the BNSF railroad in Fort Madison for several hours Thursday (Nov 10). Fort Madison Fire Marshal Virgil Krogmeier, who was in charge at the scene of the incident, said in a statement that the accident happened late in the morning on Thursday, but the specific cause has yet to be determined. "At 1000, Thursday two Burlington Northern Santa Fe freight trains collided at the 20th Street intersection after one of the trains jumped the tracks and derailed," Krogmeier said. The accident caused damage to both engines and the freight cars they were pulling. Krogmeier reported that a 4,000 gallon diesel tank on one of the trains was ruptured in the accident, and the

fuel could be seen at the site of the accident. The accident further disrupted train schedules because it happened on the two main east and westbound tracks. Amtrak was also affected by the accident, as the collision prevented its trains from stopping at the Fort Madison location.

**GRANITEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 17 -- A press report, dated Nov 16, states: A train crew rushing to finish its work late on January 5 neglected to realign a hand-operated switch, causing the deadly collision of two trains that spread a toxic cloud over Graniteville, S.C., according to documents released today. The conductor, brakeman and engineer were coming up against their legal work limits of 12 hours when they parked for the night on a spur next to a textile mill. Hours later, a northbound Norfolk Southern train ended up on the spur because the switch that would have kept it on the main rail had not been moved back, investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board said. The Norfolk Southern train slammed into the parked train. The crash ruptured a tank car, releasing chlorine gas. Nine people were killed, 250 injured and 5,400 were evacuated. The conductor and brakeman on the local train told NTSB investigators that they thought the switch had been returned to its proper position after they left the siding for the night. "In my mind I did," brakeman Mike Ford told investigators, though he acknowledged, "I am not totally 100 percent sure." Conductor Jim Thornton described their rush to tie down the trains so the workers would not surpass their legal limit of 12 hours on the job. Thornton admitted that he never touched the switch and did not remind the brakeman to do it, as required. Engineer Benjamin Aiken said he did not notice whether either man had realigned the switch. Both Ford and Thornton continued working on paperwork that would clear the track for the next train to use it. They finished nearly an hour after they had worked beyond the legal limit of 12 hours. Don Hahs, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, said fatigue played a big role in the Graniteville crash. Hahs said train crews cannot count time when they are stranded in a train yard or doing paperwork toward their 12-hour limit. None of the train crew was tested for drug or alcohol use after the crash. All three were fired a month after the crash. According to the Federal Railroad Administration, misaligned switches are one of the leading causes of train wrecks. The agency reported that between January 2001 and December 2003, there were 751 accidents where switches were not aligned properly and 74 where the switches were not locked. Hand-operated track switches left in the wrong position caused eight other serious train wrecks since the Graniteville accident. Ten people died

and more than 600 were injured in these crashes. "A small number of particular human errors account for an inordinate number of human factor-caused accidents," the NTSB concluded in its factual report. Since the deadly Graniteville derailment, the FRA ordered all railroads to improve their manual track switching procedures or be liable for civil penalties up to \$27,000. The order, issued on October 19, gave railroads until Tuesday to retrain and periodically test employees on procedures for operating a switch. It also requires workers to provide written documentation when a hand-operated switch is changed and locomotive engineers must confirm the switches are set correctly before operating the trains. Several of the trainmen involved in the Graniteville accident had been disciplined before the crash for failing to properly secure a switch.

**OKLAHOMA COUNTY, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 16 -- A derailed Burlington-Northern train in eastern Oklahoma County reportedly spawned a chemical leak last night but was isolated, according to fire officials. Officials said seven to eight cars derailed near Anderson and Britton roads, leaking a molten sulfur product from one or more of the cars. Officials initially called for an evacuation of the area between Anderson and Hiwassee roads. The evacuation area, officials said, was about .25 miles on either side of the tracks. However, fire officials soon discovered the source of the leak and the chemical involved, and issued an all-clear to people who live in the neighborhood.

**PHATTALUNG PROVINCE, THAILAND**

London, Nov 15 -- All public train services from Thailand's deep South to Bangkok and vice versa have resumed after a two-day suspension due to a train derailment in the southern Phattalung Province. The services have resumed since this morning, according to the State Railway of Thailand (SRT). All train services from the country's three southernmost provinces of Yala, Narathiwat and Pattani to Bangkok and vice versa were suspended yesterday. A 14-bogie cargo train derailed between Laem Tanod and Khon Had Train Stations in Phattalung Sunday (Nov 13) evening, caused by a defected part of the railroad. SRT officials have removed the derailed bogies from blocking the railway. However, inter-province train services between the three southernmost provinces and from the southern border region to Hat Yai in Songkhla Province and vice versa have not been interrupted. Meanwhile, local mitigation officials have cleared all oil spills in nearby Tanod Canal and confirmed that it would not have any impact on the local environment and the ecological system. A small amount of diesel oil on board the derailed cargo train spilled into the canal after the Sunday's incident.

**SWAINSTHORPE, NORFOLK, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Nov 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: A motorist died when a car was hit by a train at an unmanned level crossing in Norfolk, police have said. The vehicle was stationary on the level crossing in Swainsthorpe when the incident happened, the spokesman added. Emergency services said the One Railways train pushed the car about a quarter of a mile down the track. The driver, who has not been identified, was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident. Eyewitness, who lives near the level crossing, said: "I heard this bang and when I looked over I saw a big ball of fire coming off the train. "The train looked as though it was rocking." Emergency services attended the scene after a phone call from a member of the public. A fire service spokesman said: "The train hit the car and came to a halt 200 metres down the track. "When the crew arrived the front of the train was on fire and the crew extinguished the fire." There were 12 passengers on the train and the East Anglian Ambulance Service, said seven of them were treated at the scene. There were no high speed trains on the Norwich to London mainline at the weekend because of engineering work. An investigation into the incident this afternoon is due to be carried out.



**SONY ANTI-VIRUS PROGRAMS**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Virus writers are exploiting Sony's controversial anti-piracy software to hide their malicious creations. In late October Sony was found to be using stealth techniques to hide software that stopped some of its CDs being illegally copied. Now three virus variants have been found that use the Sony software to evade detection by anti-virus programs. Sony has apologised, saying it is working with computer security firms to address the problems. The stealthy methods that Sony BMG used to protect its anti-piracy system were uncovered by Windows programming expert Mark Russinovich on Oct 31. He discovered that the Sony XCP copy protection system is a so-called "root-kit" that hides itself deep inside the Windows operating system. XCP uses these techniques to install a proprietary media player that allows PC users to play music on the 20 CDs Sony BMG is protecting with this system. The CDs affected are only being sold in the US. Soon after Mr Russinovich exposed how XCP worked security experts speculated that it would be easy to hijack the anti-piracy system to hide viruses. Now anti-virus companies have discovered three malicious programs that use XCP's

stealthy capabilities if they find it installed on a compromised PC. "The development we feared most from Sony's inclusion of rootkit technology to conceal its DRM software was its use to conceal malicious code," said David Emm from security firm Kaspersky Labs. Security firm Sophos said it had found a virus attached to a spam message posing as an e-mail from a British business magazine. The subject line of the message is: "Photo Approval Deadline." Those opening and running the program attached to the mail will have their computer infected with the Stinx-E trojan. The virus is also known as Breplibot and Ryknos. This virus opens a backdoor into infected machines and tries to download more malicious code from the net to further compromise an infected machine. A bug in the code of the first variant of this virus prevented it working properly but now other versions of the malicious program are appearing that fix this problem. So far the numbers of people caught out by the virus is thought to be very low. "This leaves Sony in a real tangle," said Graham Cluley from security firm Sophos. "It was already getting bad press about its copy-protection software, and this new hack exploit will make it even worse." Mr Cluley said he expected other virus writers to start exploiting the Sony XCP code. In response to the concerns, Sony has released a statement "deeply regretting any disruption that this may have caused." It added that it would work with anti-virus firms to ensure its anti-piracy system stayed safe. As the news about the viruses was breaking, more legal challenges to Sony's use of the anti-piracy program were being launched. At last count six class-action lawsuits have been started against the company. As the Boycott Sony blog pointed out, the appearance of these viruses could make it much easier for lawyers to argue that the XCP software can cause real harm to a user's computer.

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Sony's controversial anti-piracy CD software has been labelled as spyware by Microsoft. The software giant said the XCP copy protection system counted as malicious software under the rules it uses to define what Windows should be protected against. It is planning to include detection and removal tools for XCP in its weekly update to its anti-spyware software. The news came as Sony BMG suspended production of CDs that use XCP. Microsoft's decision to label the XCP system spyware was revealed on the corporate blog maintained by the software maker's anti-malware team. Malware is the generic term for malicious software and includes viruses, spyware and any other program designed to hijack or harm a computer. Writing in the blog, Jason Garms, one of the senior managers in the anti-malware team, said the XCP software qualified as spyware under the "objective criteria" Microsoft uses to assess potentially malicious programs. The XCP system

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

is controversial because it uses techniques more often seen in computer viruses to hide itself on users' machines. Specifically XCP uses a "root-kit" to conceal itself deep inside the Windows operating system. "Root-kits have a clearly negative impact on not only the security, but also the reliability and performance of their systems," said Mr Garms in the blog entry. As a result Microsoft will put utilities to find and remove the XCP system in the next update of its anti-spyware software. The same utilities will also go in to the December update for Microsoft's malicious software removal tool. The row about XCP blew up following an expose by Windows programming expert Mark Russinovich. It led to widespread criticism of Sony BMG and several class action lawsuits have been started against the record label over XCP. The stealthy software is intended to stop illegal copies being made of Sony CDs. Mr Russinovich's discovery led to a string of bad publicity for Sony, which culminated in the news that virus writers were starting to use XCP to hide their own malicious programs. In response Sony BMG suspended use of XCP as a "precautionary measure." The XCP software was only used on CDs sold in the US. Speaking about the suspension Mr Russinovich said: "This is a step they should have taken immediately."

London, Nov 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Music publisher Sony BMG says it is recalling music CDs containing copy-protection software that acts like virus software and hides deep inside a computer. Sony BMG's decision is a concession to public concern. "We share the concerns of consumers regarding discs with XCP content-protected software," Sony BMG said. "For this reason, we are instituting a consumer exchange program and removing all unsold CDs with this software from retail outlets." The XCP software used by Sony BMG, which was developed by British software developers First4Internet, leaves the back door open for malicious online hackers. Sony BMG, in a separate statement, has also announced it will distribute a program to remove the software from a PC where it jeopardises security. "We deeply regret any inconvenience this may cause our customers. Details of this (recall) program will be announced shortly," Sony BMG said. The withdrawal is set to affect millions of compact discs from artists such as Celine Dion and Sarah McLachlan. However, Sony did not give exact figures or the names of the artists affected. Sony reiterates that the copy-protection software only installs itself on personal computers and not on ordinary CD and DVD players. At the time it did not recall the CDs or offer a program to remove it from computers. But software engineers say the initial measures still left PCs vulnerable. The program will have installed itself on a Windows-operated personal computer

when consumers wanted to play certain Sony BMG music CDs. The program forces consumers to use a music player that comes with the program. Sony BMG has positioned itself as a defender of artists' rights.

## Miscellaneous



### BELGIAN REEFER (Bahamas)

London, Nov 15 -- A press release from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, dated yesterday, states: Captain Krylov, the master of the *Belgian Reefer* (12383 gt, built 1983) was today prosecuted for a contravention of the rules of the Dover Strait Traffic Separation Scheme and fined £2,500 plus £2,500 costs at Dover Magistrates Court. On the afternoon of the Oct 15, the vessel was proceeding in the correct manner up the North East lane of the Dover Straits traffic separation scheme on a passage from Ceuta to Sheerness in Kent. The conduct of a vessel in a traffic separation scheme such as the Dover TSS is governed by Rule 10 of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea. These rules require vessels that cross the traffic lanes to do so at right angles. A common crossing point of the South West lane is in the vicinity of the MPC buoy, with the appropriate course to adopt in order to cross at right angles being about 315 degrees. The master's passage plan should have, but did not, contain a further way point providing for the crossing of the South West lane of the Dover TSS at right angles. At 1352 UTC the vessel entered the South West lane of the Dover TSS on a course, as per their passage plan, of approximately 356 degrees, which was not at right angles to cross the South West Lane. At approximately 1358 UTC, the Dover Coastguard made contact with the *Belgian Reefer* and pointed out that the vessel's course was in contravention of the Regulations, and that the vessel was standing in to danger. This latter warning was given as the vessel was on a collision course / at close quarters with 3 other vessels proceeding correctly in the South West lane. The *Belgian Reefer* dealt with that situation by altering course to starboard, although this then meant she was proceeding directly against the flow of traffic in the South West lane.

### DISPUTE OVER CARGO QUALITY, CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Nov 14 -- Understand from port sources that the unloading of wheat from 24-lighter vessels began yesterday at Chittagong, following the payment of government dues, as well as the settling of a quality issue between stakeholders. The unloading, suspended for the last 8 months, triggered a strike at the port in the middle of October, followed by an agreement under the supervision of

Chittagong Chambers of Commerce and Industry. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

### ILLEGAL DISCHARGE OF WASTE FROM PANAMANIAN VESSEL FRIENDSHIP

London, Nov 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Karlog Shipping Company Ltd. pleaded guilty to making false statements and obstructing justice in connection with the overboard discharge of waste oil through a hidden bypass pipe on bulk *Friendship* (35196 gross, built 1977), the Justice Department announced today. Under the terms of a plea agreement reached with prosecutors, Karlog Shipping was ordered to pay a \$1 million fine, to develop a comprehensive court-monitored environmental management system, and to serve three years of probation. The comprehensive environmental management system will be a fleet-wide program designed to ensure that the company properly supervises all of its vessels, preventing future illegal discharges and ensuring that vessels are in compliance with environmental laws moving forward. "Today's guilty pleas are evidence of the Justice Department's commitment to ensuring that crimes that harm our environment will not go unpunished," said Acting Assistant Attorney General Kelly A. Johnson. "Companies like Karlog, which knowingly pollute our oceans and then intentionally lie to cover their actions, will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law." The government's investigation began in November 2004 after the Coast Guard discovered evidence of the bypassing during a routine inspection of the vessel in Gravesend Bay, Brooklyn, New York. Panagiotis Kokkinos, the ship's Chief Engineer, and Athanasios Chalkias, the ship's Fitter, have also both pleaded guilty in connection with their role in ordering crew members to make false statements to the Coast Guard regarding discharges of oil from the ship. Both Kokkinos and Chalkias were sentenced to 30 days incarceration and three years of probation on Oct 6, 2005. According to documents filed in court, Karlog Shipping discharged oil contaminated bilge waste overboard through the bypass equipment and without the use of the oil water separator. The pollution was then concealed by maintaining a false oil record book that made it appear that the ship was being operated properly. Engine-room operations on board large oceangoing vessels generate large amounts of waste oil. International and U.S. law prohibit the discharge of waste oil without treatment by an oil water separator-a required pollution prevention device. Law also requires all overboard discharges be recorded in an oil record book, a required log which is regularly inspected by the Coast Guard. The waste oil may be burned on board through the use of an incinerator or offloaded onto barges or shore side facilities for disposal. This

case was investigated by the U.S. Coast Guard Criminal Investigative Service and the Environmental Protection Agency Criminal Investigations Division, and prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's office for the Eastern District of New York and the Department of Justice Environmental Crimes Section. The case was initiated by the Marine Inspectors and Marine Investigators from Coast Guard Sector New York.

#### **NORWAY FLAGGED VESSEL BLOCKADED OFF FINLAND**

London, Nov 12 -- A press report, dated Nov 11, states: Approximately 40 Greenpeace activists protested in Lbeck harbour in Germany on Thursday (Nov 10) against the Finnish paper-manufacturing group Stora Enso's wood acquisitions from Upper Lapland. The demonstrators dangled themselves from a hoist bridge at a height of 40 metres, thus preventing the Finnlines ro/ro *Antares* from entering the port to unload its cargo. On Monday, a group of Greenpeace protesters blockaded the same vessel in the Ajos harbour in the northern Finnish city of Kemi. This time the vessel was not exactly blockaded. Instead, it was forced to make a U-turn as its access to the mooring jetty was obstructed. Around 1.7 million tons of paper are shipped from Finland to Germany each year. Germany is the Finnish paper industry's biggest buyer.

Hamburg, Nov 14 -- Ro/ro *Antares* reached the port of Lbeck Nov 10 and is still there. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Vietnam's northern Hai Duong province announced yesterday that bird flu had broken out in its territory, local newspaper Youth reported today. The provincial People's Committee declared the outbreak in five communes of the two districts of Thanh Ha and Chi Linh. Since Nov 2, over 1,250 fowls in the districts have died of bird flu. Vietnam, from Oct 1 and Nov 10, faced bird flu outbreaks in 17 communes of eight localities in southern, central and northern regions, which killed or led to the forced culling of nearly 25,000 poultry, the report said. Chickens and ducks died en masse in the two southern provinces of Ba Ria Vung Tau and Kien Giang on Nov 10. The specimens from them are being tested for bird flu viruses.

London, Nov 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Kuwait says it has found the deadly virus in a flamingo as the virus spreads around the world. It is the first known case of H5N1 in the Gulf Arab region. Kuwait says it has found a form of H5N1 in one of two infected birds culled by authorities. "The H5N1 (case) was highly pathogenic, HPA," Mohammad Muhanna, an official at Kuwait's agriculture authority, said.

London, Nov 12 -- A press report,

dated today, states: China has confirmed a fresh outbreak of the lethal H5N1 strain of bird flu, the country's eighth within a month. The latest cases are in Jingshan county in Hubei province, indicating that the virus appears to be spreading. Prime Minister Wen Jiabao warned this week that the country was facing a "very serious situation". Four suspected human cases of the virus are being investigated, but so far there have been no confirmed human infections in China. The latest outbreak has killed 2,500 birds, and more than 30,000 birds are being culled. These are the first reported cases in central Hubei province, but there were confirmed cases last month in neighbouring Anhui and Hunan provinces. The authorities have also warned that fake bird vaccines have been sold in the worst affected area, Liaoning province in the north-east. That could mean that millions of birds have not been properly inoculated and are already sick with bird flu, but showing no symptoms. Experts fear that with so many birds infected, it is only a matter of time before human cases of bird flu emerge.

Manila, Oct 13 -- The Philippines has introduced more rigorous detection systems against avian flu with the creation of quarantine stations in seven international marine ports and two airports in the country. The marine ports include Zamboanga, General Santos, Davao, Palawan, Poro Point, Port Irene and Subic. The airports are the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila and the Laoag International Airport in the province of Ilocos in northern Luzon. These nine ports are the traditional entry points for imports of poultry and exotic birds. The quarantine stations in these ports will serve as a first line of defence against the entry of avian flu into the country. The quarantine stations, manned by Department of Agriculture officials, will screen travellers and cargo from bird-flu affected countries. The quarantine stations have also been given broad powers to confiscate and return travellers and cargo to their country of origin. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: An Indonesian woman showing all the symptoms of the deadly avian influenza has died in a hospital in the capital Jakarta, a hospital spokesman said yesterday. The woman had suffered from high fever, coughing and respiratory problems, said Ilham Patu, a doctor and spokesman for the Sulianti Saroso Hospital for infectious disease. "The symptoms showed that she could be suffering from bird flu," Patu said. "All these symptoms indicates a tendency towards a bird flu infection." The unnamed patient had arrived in Jakarta from the town of Purwokerto in Central Java, where he said a neighbour had just had 10 chickens die. Several members of her family reportedly also kept birds as pets. Results of tests were expected today, Patu said.

London, Nov 15 -- A press report,

dated today, states: A fresh outbreak of the H5N1 bird flu virus in the Anhui city of Huainan was confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture last night. It said 800 poultry died of the virus in Fanyu village in Tianjiaan district on Nov 6. The Huainan outbreak, in northern-central Anhui, is the second confirmed case in the province in a month. The first was in Tianchang city on the province's southern border. The ministry said 126,185 birds were culled within a 3km radius of the Fanyu site and about 280,000 birds outside the affected zone were vaccinated. In addition, all poultry markets and distribution centres in a 10km radius were shut down. The ministry said 24-hour disinfection stations had been set up on all roads leading into the area and neither live poultry nor poultry products could be taken out of the outbreak zone. All people and vehicles entering and leaving the zone were being disinfected. Meanwhile, Taiwan's agriculture department said yesterday another strain of bird flu, H7N3, had been found in wild bird droppings and it was carrying out tests to see if the virus had spread to nearby poultry farms. The H7N3 strain could also infect humans, an official at the Council of Agriculture said.

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Vietnam, the country worst hit by the deadly H5N1 virus, has confirmed that a 10th province in the country has had an outbreak of the virus in birds. Around 1,000 birds in Thang Thuy commune in Hai Phong city died between last Monday (Nov 7) and Friday, and tests have shown that the 100 chickens and 900 ducks died from bird flu, according to Pham Thi Thuan, a veterinary official from the city, 100 kilometres east of Hanoi. "The National Institute for Hygiene and Epidemiology confirmed that the tests we sent were positive for bird flu," Thuan said yesterday afternoon.

#### **RUSSIAN VESSEL ACCUSED OF ILLEGALLY RESEARCHING IN ESTONIAN WATERS**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated Nov 10, states: The Estonian Border Guard accused a Russian hydrographic vessel today of conducting illegal research in Estonian waters and failing to obey border guards' orders. The border guards saw the vessel leaving a Tallinn port and making strange manoeuvres in the Estonian waters. "In response to a question from Estonian border guards, the Russian sailors said they were conducting research. Since they did not have proper permission, the border guards asked them to (turn their) course towards the Naissaar Island for verification of documents," the Border Guard service said in a statement. The border guards said the vessel headed for the island, but then changed its course and headed north-west intending to leave Estonian waters. The border guards decided not to use



force to stop the Russian vessel, but Estonian coast guard vessels escorted her out of Estonian waters. "The crew of the Russian research vessel violated the law on Estonian territorial waters (and) the UN Sea Convention of 1982 and failed to follow orders from Estonian border guards," the Border Guard service said. "All violations made by the Russian vessel were documented. An investigation has been launched. The proper Russian bodies have been informed about the incident."

## Fires & Explosions



### BARN, FUQUAY-VARINA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: A massive barn fire that started Thursday (Nov 10) in Fuquay-Varina was finally extinguished yesterday afternoon. Firefighters put out the last embers of the fire in the 1800 block of Holland Road near the Wake-Harnett county line at about 1600 hrs. Authorities said the fire started as a controlled burn on a farm, but that flames jumped to two nearby barns and a storage unit filled with more than 10,000 bales of straw. About 100 firefighters from 20 different fire departments responded to the blaze. At one point, the fire threatened several nearby houses and at least two suffered from fire damage. On Friday afternoon, small flames were still seen in the rubble, and smoke was still pouring from the area. Crews spread out the contents of the barns and poured water on them in hopes of extinguishing the fire. The property owner who started the burn received a written citation but will not face charges.

### CASTLE, SANTA FE AREA, NEW MEXICO, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 16 -- A press report, dated Nov 15, states: Flames devoured the historic Seton Castle today, leaving only blackened stone walls and charred timbers in place of the stately 70-year-old building south of Santa Fe. A construction crew that was midway through a \$2 million renovation project was working inside the castle when the fire started at about noon, but firefighters say the cause of the blaze is unknown. When the first firefighters arrived, the fire had already breached the building's roof, engulfing the entire structure, Hondo Volunteer Fire Chief Judd Dean said. "It was just too big by the time we got there," he said. Suppression efforts were suspended for about 10 minutes because of a malfunction in an engine that was pushing water uphill to an "attack engine" next to the castle, Dean said. In 2003, the family of naturalist Ernest Thompson Seton sold the castle

to the Arizona-based Academy for the Love of Learning. The academy was using a federal grant and private donations to restore the building to its original grandeur. Before the renovations began, the castle needed repairs to its roof, several walls and wooden floors. Following the fire, it's not clear how much, if any, can be salvaged. Fortunately, hundreds of historic documents and artifacts had been removed from the home for the construction. The academy's collection includes books, biographical material and artwork by Seton, who was an artist, author and conservationist until his death in 1946. The 32-room, 6,900-square-foot castle on 80 acres near Arroyo Hondo is a National Historic Landmark and New Mexico State Cultural Property. None of the 10 workers from Wolf Corp. or others on contract for the renovations was injured in the fire. Dean said state fire investigators began interviewing witnesses late this afternoon and would issue a report about what caused the fire.

### CHEMICAL PLANT JILIN, CHINA

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Experts examining consequences of explosions at a chemical plant in north-eastern China found no evidence of contamination of the area, Xinhua reported today. As a result of the incident at the enterprise located in the province of Jilin, one person was killed and another five were reported missing. Some 70 people were injured. Immediately after explosions, a thick, caustic cloud enveloped neighbouring districts. The blast wave smashed windows within 200 metres of the epicentre. Fearing a possible poisoning by chemical agents, authorities scrambled to take urgent evacuation measures for 10,000 local residents. The fire at the factory has been localised by now. Investigators and rescuers are remaining at the scene.

### CHEMICAL PLANT, JILIN, CHINA

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Dozens of people needed hospital treatment and more than 10,000 were evacuated after several explosions ripped through a chemical plant in northeastern China's Jilin city on Sunday (Nov 13), officials and state media said. Thick black fumes spread over a district of apartment blocks in Jilin, after a series of explosions hit the No. 101 Chemical Plant of the Jilin Petroleum and Chemical Company, according to photographs shown on the website of the semi-official China News Service. The chemicals had exploded in an aniline workshop at the plant in the afternoon but the fire and leakage were now "under control", a Jilin city spokesman said. Aniline is a colourless chemical used in the manufacture of dyes, plastics and drugs. The spokesman said the number of casualties was still "unclear", but the government's official Xinhua news agency said at least 30 people were treated in local hospitals.

Other reports quoted witnesses as saying "dozens" of people had sought hospital treatment. The force of the blasts shattered windows in buildings up to 200 metres from the plant, the reports said. More than 10,000 local residents were evacuated because of fears of more explosions or the release of poisonous chemicals. The area around the plant was sealed off as at least a dozen fire engines were sent to control fires and prevent more leakages of chemicals. A spokesman for the Jilin Petroleum and Chemical Company said the fire and the emission of toxic fumes were "under control" by yesterday evening. "There is no possibility of new explosions," the company spokesman said.

### DETENTION CENTRE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 14 -- The damage bill from a series of fires believed to have been lit by detainees at the Baxter immigration detention centre is more than \$2 million, Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone says. One detainee was taken to hospital and five others were treated for smoke inhalation on Saturday (Nov 12) as a result of four fires. The fires gutted 34 bedrooms and forced the evacuation of 58 detainees at the South Australian facility. Senator Vanstone said she was appalled detainees had deliberately started the fires and had left taxpayers with a multimillion-dollar bill. "(It) was reckless and seriously endangered the lives of detainees and the Baxter staff," she said. The Australian Federal Police were on site yesterday investigating the fires, Senator Vanstone said.

### DISTILLERY, WARRINGTON, CHESHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 17 -- A press report, dated Nov 16, states: A major fire at a distillery in Warrington on October 15 is being treated as arson, police have revealed. G & J Greenall's distillery was extensively damaged by the blaze.

### MANUFACTURING PLANT, ALEXANDROV, RUSSIA

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fire destroyed the TV set production facility at a U.S. \$100 million TV set and household appliances plant owned by Turkey's Vestel Electronics in the town of Alexandrov in Russia's Vladimir Region, Vedomosti business daily reported today. The TV set production facility has burnt down completely, Ziya Ozturk, Vestel's deputy general director for marketing and sales, told Vedomosti. It occupied approximately 25,000 square metres of the total workshop area of 70,000 square metres, she said. Ozturk said that the plant manufactured between 1.5 million to two million of Vestel inexpensive TV sets annually, as well as Japan's JVC and Sanyo TV sets. A refrigerator and washing machine production line, that is expected to be launched at the plant in early 2006, was not affected in the fire, Ozturk told Vedomosti. The U.S. Whirlpool

planned to produce its washing machines at Vestel's plant. Director of Whirlpools Moscow representative Natalya Berezovskaya said the washing machine line was located in proximity to the TV set line. Vestel did not provide either the name of its insurance company or a preliminary estimate of the damages caused by the fire. The damage might be estimated at \$50 million, Vedomosti reported citing an insurance company CEO.

**SCRAP YARD, POOLE, DORSET, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters are tackling a major fire at a scrap yard in Dorset which has left thousands of homes without power. The blaze broke out at the Nelson Stanley yard on Alder Road in Poole shortly before 0900, GMT, today. A large plume of smoke could be seen and explosions were heard after several vehicles went up in flames, but no-one is reported to have been hurt. The fire burnt through a high voltage network line bringing down live cables on to gardens and roads. Homes and businesses in the area were also evacuated. Fire crews from Springbourne, Redhill, Christchurch, Poole and Ferndown were on the scene and several roads in the area have been closed. Thousands of homes in Poole and Bournemouth were initially left without a power supply, but some were reconnected as Southern Electric re-routed power supplies. There is an exclusion zone around the site and Alder Road, Herbert Avenue, Bloxworth Road and the Bourne Valley roundabout have been closed. The power cuts have also affected traffic lights in the area and several power cables have come down in private gardens and across roads in the area.

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Up to 75,000 homes were left without power in Dorset after firefighters tackled a major fire at a scrapyard. The blaze started at the Nelson Stanley yard on Alder Road in Poole. A large plume of smoke, which rose 200 metres in the air could be seen, police said. Explosions were heard as about 400 cars went up in flames. One person was slightly hurt this morning. The fire burnt through a high voltage network line bringing down main cables. Between 40,000 and 50,000 properties are still without electricity, a spokeswoman for Southern Electricity said. Motorists are warned that street lights and traffic lights could also be affected by the blackout. Councillor Graham Wilson, from Poole Borough Council, said: "I think it's diabolical that we could have such a risk, a known situation of a huge amount of power coming in over a scrap yard which has quite a high potential for this sort of fire, as we see today." The Southern Electricity spokeswoman added: "We are in the hands of the fire service and the police and we are waiting to get on to the site to start carrying out repairs but we can't do anything until we get

access to the site. "It will be several hours before people can be reconnected. "It's the main artery of the power network into the area, Bournemouth, Poole, Parkstone, the whole of that area." About 80 firefighters wearing breathing apparatus tackled the blaze as 30 police officers patrolled the cordoned off area. Mr Coleman added the cause of the fire was not thought to be suspicious and that there was no indication that the smoke plume contained any toxic chemicals. But people have been advised people to stay indoors with their windows closed and to avoid the area. It is not yet known how the blaze began.

London, Nov 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Electricity supplies have been fully restored to thousands of homes in Dorset which lost power when a huge fire burnt through high voltage cables. The blaze started at the Nelson Stanley scrapyard on Alder Road in Poole. Explosions were heard when about 400 cars went up in flames. Engineers worked throughout yesterday and the last house was reconnected to the grid at about 2330 GMT. Firefighters were called to a number of small fires in the area during the night where people had lit candles and fallen asleep. An investigation is being carried out today to find out what caused the fire.

**STEEL PLANT, HIMACHAL, INDIA**

London, Nov 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: One person was killed and two other injured in an explosion in a steel factory at Barotiwala Industrial Estate in Solan district of Himachal Pradesh today, according to police. The explosion, which occurred at 0730 hrs in the Jawala Steel Mills, was reported in a liquid stray of steel after it was pulled out by the labourers from the furnace, deputy superintendent of police Sandeep Dhawal said. The exact cause of the explosion was not yet known, the DSP said adding that the blast may have occurred due to a vehicle shocker that could be a part of the scrap imported from outside the state for making steel. The injured have been admitted in PGI, Chandigarh where the doctors described their condition stable and out of danger, he said. Mr Dhawal said the explosion appeared to be a minor one and added that experts would be visiting the plant tomorrow to find the exact cause of the blast. The DSP said the mill management did not inform the police about the explosion and only rushed the injured labourers to PGI, Chandigarh. "We received an anonymous call at about 0900 hrs, saying that a person had been killed two injured in a blast in Jawala Steel Mills," he said. Meanwhile, a case under Sections 287, 336 and 337 of the Indian Penal Code had been registered against the mill management and further investigations ongoing, Mr Dhawal added.

**UNIVERSITY, TEHRAN, IRAN**

London, Nov 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: Twenty-five thousand books have been completely destroyed due a fire breaking out this early morning in the reference books' hall of the law faculty of Tehran University, CHN reported. According to firemen, 80-90% of the hall has been destroyed due to the fire and the books of this sector are completely burnt. The books were an invaluable resource in the field of law and other related branches. Although the main vault of the library of the Law faculty has not been destroyed in the accident, the fire spread to the reference books hall, which according to the authorities contained about 25,000 volumes, has caused a considerable harm, explained Hamid Arabzadeh, one of the authorities of the fire department of Tehran. According to Arabzadeh, the library was not equipped with fire alarming system, adding that if it had, the loss damages would have been reduced. The main cause of the fire is not yet clear.

**WILDFIRES, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated Nov 10, states: While Rooi Els lay smouldering today after the fires that besieged the town yesterday died down, another fire in the Overberg raged out of control in the mountains above Napier. "We haven't managed to touch the front of the fire," district fire chief Reinard Geldenhuys said of the Napier fire shortly before 1800 hrs. He said the fire did not threaten the town itself, but was racing through very old veld, driven by strong easterly winds. Working On Fire and a private firefighting contractor had been brought in to help the Overberg firefighters, he said. Rooi Els was transformed into a blackened blanket of fynbos bushes, with two burnt-out holiday homes bearing testimony to the fire that struck the town yesterday. Firefighters and volunteers stayed up all night in windy conditions and thick smoke, fighting the fire that eventually spread outwards into the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve. It started as a "controllable" veld fire near Pringle Bay, but was soon fanned into an inferno by 70km/h gale-force winds which pushed it over 7km of veld and over the brow of Rooi Els mountain to the bottom of the town. It spread so rapidly on both sides of the R44 between Pringle Bay and Rooi Els. One small veld fire could still be seen burning in a ravine beside the Salmondsdam Road that leads from the R44 into Kogelberg.

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire raging in mountains above the Overberg town of Napier was still out of control today, said Working on Fire team spokesperson Val Charlton. "As of last night, the fires are still burning high up in the mountains in the Overberg district," said Charlton. "It's not dangerous to property because it's so high up, but there is a concern about bio-diversity and conservation. There has been no damage to property." Charlton said five WOF teams were

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dispatched from the Western Cape and other teams were on standby if the fires became stronger. The fire began yesterday afternoon in an area on the mountain cleared of vegetation and had been driven by a strong wind. Charlton said a fire was also raging in mountains in the Cederberg area and that teams were working to control that fire. No damage to property had been reported, she said.

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fires in mountains above the Overberg town of Napier as well as in the Cedarberg in the Western Cape are under control, a spokesperson for the Working on Fire team said. Evelyn John Holtzhausen said WOF teams managed to control the fires by 1100 today but they were still on standby in case of a flare-up.



**4L-ZIL**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: A C-130 transport aircraft is reported to have crashed 20km north of the Afghan capital, Kabul. An Afghan security official at Kabul airport said there were no survivors. Ten people were on board, international peacekeepers said. C-130 aircrafts are used by both the international force (Isaf) in Afghanistan and the US-led coalition fighting militants. The cause of the crash in Farza, in the Shomali plains, is not yet known.

London, Nov 13 -- Ilyushin 76MD, 4L-ZIL, operating for Royal Airlines Cargo, leased from Global Georgian Airways, built in 1985, was chartered to fly communications equipment for coalition forces from Bahrain to Kabul and US military's air base at Bagram. The flight may have been planned to continue to Sharjah as flight RPK 1102, with an planned arrival time of 1300. Before reaching Bagram the Ilyushin cargo aircraft flew into the side of a hill at Khak-e Shahidan, Afghanistan, some 30 km northwest of Kabul, and broke up, at 0400, Nov 11. All eight persons on board were killed. The aircraft was written off.

**5N-BFN**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated Nov 10, states: Indications emerged yesterday that more than 80% of the entombed Bellview aircraft (Boeing 737-2L9 5N-BFN) that crashed at Lisa Igbore village in Ifo area of Ogun State, have been excavated. Besides, the villagers have petitioned Governor Gbenga Daniel and the Inspector General of police (IGP), over what they described as unlawful arrest and detention of their people by the police. Parts of the body of the crashed aircraft which were recovered as at 1500 yesterday include left and right engines, second part of the wing, while human bones and

some fleshes were equally recovered. However, nothing was said about the discovery of the black box, as all the agencies involved in the excavation process and other workers at the site kept sealed lips. (See issue of Nov 10.)

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hope of recovering the black box of the crashed Bellview aircraft (Boeing 737-2L9 5N-BFN) may have been dashed as the Accident Investigation and Prevention Bureau (AIPB) said it was not found when excavation was completed yesterday. The AIPB is an arm of the Federal Ministry of Aviation. Its Director, Angus Ozoka, told the press in Lagos that "we were not able to recover the black box, Flight Data Recorder (FDR) and Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR), although we found some strips of the casing." He explained, however, that the investigation would proceed with or without the black box, even though "it is likely to take a longer time." Ozoka said the human parts recovered from the site were taken to the mortuary for forensic and pathological analyses and stressed that questions on the burial of the victims should be referred to the Bellview Airlines. He added: "The next phase of the investigation is lengthy and involves the examination of documents and collection and collation of information to be obtained from various sources and this phase will take place here in Nigeria by APIB officials and in the U.S. by our American counterparts. We shall maintain regular contacts, including visitations as required." The site has now been handed back to the Ogun State Government, he stated. Wreckages of the aircraft were displayed at the briefing "for the press to see first hand the work the investigators have done." The pieces will be sent for analysis. President Olusegun Obasanjo had ordered the probe two days after the disaster in which all 117 persons on board the aircraft died. The President, in a letter to Borishade on Oct 24, demanded "a special and detailed investigation" and asked him to "involve the manufacturers of the aircraft and seek assistance of the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) and the United States authorities. Leave no stone unturned in ensuring a thorough investigation of this tragic incident." A few days after the tragedy, Ehindero had reportedly confirmed that the black box had been found, but later denied saying so. Borishade insisted all through that the object was not found. He said it might have burrowed or been submerged in the crater.

**AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND**

London, Nov 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Qantas Airways says there was no threat to passengers, including New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark, after the aircraft they were on board developed a fuel leak. The national carrier said flight QF25 from Auckland to Los Angeles was forced to return to

Auckland shortly after takeoff last night because of a fuel leak. Qantas said the aircraft, carrying 348 passengers, landed safely. "QF25 returned to Auckland yesterday after experiencing a fuel leak and the return was done according to Qantas safety procedures," the airline added. "The aircraft has since been inspected and the defect rectified and returned to service." Qantas said passengers resumed their journey on other flights.

**C-FHRL**

London, Nov 16 -- Gulfstream 100 aircraft (Astra SPX), C-FHRL, operated by Jetport Inc, was landing on Runway 12 at Hamilton in moderate rain at night. The flight crew was unable to stop the aircraft before the end of the runway. The aircraft came to rest approximately 200 feet off the end of Runway 12 at 1902, Nov 15. There was substantial damage to the aircraft. There were no injuries. TSB investigators were deployed to the site.

**C-GCCP**

London, Nov 16 -- Cessna 172N, C-GCCP, operated by Springbank Air Training College, while climbing in the vicinity of Bragg Creek, the engine lost power, 1425, Nov 14. The pilot was unable to regain power and performed a forced approach onto a gravel bar of the Elbow River. The aircraft nosed over on touchdown which resulted in the pilot receiving minor injuries. The pilot exited the overturned aircraft, retrieved the survival equipment and activated the ELT. Another distress call was made using the aircraft's radio after the accident which was heard by an overflying aircraft. The pilot also discharged the onboard fire extinguisher into the engine area as it was smoking. The aircraft was substantially damaged and there was no post-impact fire.

**C-GRHL**

London, Nov 16 -- Aerospatiale AS350BA, C-GRHL, operated by Remote Helicopters (NWT) Ltd, was at 100 feet above tree tops manoeuvring prior to entering a confined area when the main rotor entered an overspeed condition of more than 450 rpm, Fort McMurray, Alberta. The collective was raised in an attempt to slow the rotor rpm, but was unsuccessful. The throttle was reduced below the flight detent and at that time the low rotor rpm horn sounded. The helicopter settled into the trees and came to rest on its right side at 1500, Nov 14. The pilot and three passengers exited the helicopter and called for assistance via the satellite phone. The pilot and two of the passengers were uninjured; the third passenger received minor injuries. There was substantial damage to the helicopter's dynamic systems and airframe.

**C-GSHJ**

London, Nov 14 -- Bell 206B, C-GSHJ, operated by Custom Helicopters was transporting two passengers from Island Lake to a fishing camp situated 50 miles east of Island Lake on East Lake, Ontario at 1430, Nov 9. Upon touching down on a log-constructed landing pad, the pilot applied collective to reposition the helicopter on the pad. The right bearing paw on the high-skid landing gear caught a root or stump near the pad and the helicopter rolled over onto its right side. The pilot and passengers were wearing shoulder restraints which minimised their injuries. One passenger received a minor cut to the head.

#### **C-GTYC**

London, Nov 15 -- The wheel-ski equipped Air Tindi Aviat A-1B, C-GTYC, departed Yellowknife, NT, on a private flight to the pilot's residence at Hoarfrost River, NT at 1230, Nov 11. The pilot landed on a small lake behind his house in gusty wind and low light conditions. On short final the right wing hit a tree. The aircraft struck the ground and nosed over. There were no injuries.

#### **CRASH INTO NEUSE RIVER, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Goldsboro man is in good condition tonight after he was rescued from the Neuse River after the small aircraft he was piloting crashed into the water. According to initial reports, Kent Larson crashed into the water around 1300 hrs. Craven County Emergency Management Services director Tim Harvey says the Cessna four-seater went down into about 12 ft of water. Harvey says the pilot was suffering from hypothermia after clinging to a buoy. A boat and crew fished the man out of the river. He was taken to Craven Regional Medical Centre, and then airlifted to Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville. The FAA is investigating the cause of the crash.

#### **CRASH, ANTIOQUIA PROVINCE, COLOMBIA**

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Six people have died in a single-engine aircraft crash in a mountainous region of Colombia, officials say. "The pilot and five passengers died," regional civil disaster director Carlos Montoya said. He says the accident occurred in the north-western Colombian province of Antioquia, between Girardota and Copacabana. The bodies were recovered by rescuers and evacuated by an air force helicopter, a source at Colombia's Civil Aeronautics says, which is conducting an investigation. The privately-owned Cessna 206 took off from Olaya Herrera airport in Medellin for a 30-minute flight to Ituango.

#### **CRASH, CENTRAL ILLINOIS**

#### **REGIONAL AIRPORT AREA, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated Nov 10, states: Federal investigators arrived in Bloomington today to determine what caused a twin-engine aircraft en route to North Carolina to crash less than a mile from the airport, killing the pilot. The pilot was attempting to land the plane about 2110 yesterday after reporting to the Central Illinois Regional Airport that the six-seater's engine was running "rough," airport director Carl Olson said. The aircraft had been traveling from Peoria to the Johnston County Airport in Smithfield, N.C., Olson said. Airport personnel asked the pilot if an emergency landing should be declared and the pilot said no shortly before contact with the aircraft was lost, Olson said. The wreckage, which was on fire when emergency crews arrived, was found less than a mile south-east of the airport. Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration arrived on the scene this morning, authorities said. The pilot, who was the only person on board the aircraft, was pronounced dead at the scene, said McLean County Coroner Beth Kimmerling.

#### **CRASH, DURBANVILLE AREA, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of model aircraft enthusiasts watched in horror yesterday as a Tiger Moth two-seater aircraft performing a fly-by on a farm outside Durbanville snagged its tail on a power line and crashed. The aircraft was performing for the annual Tygerberg Model Aircraft Show when the accident happened. The pilot and her passenger were injured in the crash and rushed to Durbanville Medi-Clinic, where both were in a stable condition. The accident occurred just before 1000 on the farm Groot Fisantekraal where the air show took place. A Civil Aviation Authority crash investigator flew down from Johannesburg yesterday. He planned to interview eyewitnesses, investigate the crashed Tiger Moth and speak to the police.

#### **CRASH, GASTON COUNTY, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated Nov 13, states: Two people on a small aircraft narrowly escaped a potentially deadly crash in Gaston County yesterday. Local resident Summer Fulghum heard the crash from her house at around 1700 hrs. Firefighters and Highway Patrol rushed to the Gastonia Municipal Airport, just a few feet from Fulghum's house. Firefighters prepare to move the aircraft off the runway. Officials said the pilot, who was flying the single engine plane from New York, had problems with the landing gear. "The indicator light did come on as he was attempting to land but obviously the landing gear did not come down," said Sgt. Fred McMurray

of the Gastonia Police Department. Witnesses said the aircraft skidded onto the runway. Firefighters used 13-ton airbags to lift the plane off the ground. Once it came to a stop firefighters checked out the scene. There weren't any fuel leaks, but the aircraft was resting on its belly and they had to move it off the runway. The aircraft remains in a hangar at the airport where the Federal Aviation Administration will conduct an investigation into what went wrong.

#### **CRASH, GEYSERVILLE, SANTA ROSA, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: The wreckage of a Beechcraft Bonanza aircraft was found near Geyserville this afternoon, and the pilot who died in the crash is believed to be Santa Rosa attorney Fred Zanotto. He was flying home from his law office in Redding Wednesday (Nov 9) night when his aircraft disappeared. Zanotto regularly commuted between Santa Rosa and Redding. The Sonoma County Sheriff's Department said the aircraft was found at 1427 hrs in the 7200 block of Geysers Peak Road. Lt. Roger Rude said recovery teams were still at the site late this afternoon. The pilot was the only one aboard the aircraft.

#### **CRASH, LAKE MARY, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES**

See N7453J.

#### **CRASH, LAKE MARY, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Both people on board a small plane managed to walk away yesterday night after it crashed into two homes in Lake Mary. The homes the plane crashed into are in the Heathrow Country Club, just north of Lake Mary Boulevard. The plane lost both of its wings before coming to a rest. "I heard a loud crunch on my roof," Jeff Zwick said. "And I walked outside, and here I see this plane, half of it on my property, half of it across the street." The plane, a four-seat, single-engine Piper Cherokee, had two people aboard. Amazingly, both managed to walk away from the wreckage. The plane, which was built in the 60s, is registered to Magic Interiors of Sanford. Authorities said the pilot had reported engine trouble and was trying to make it to Sanford Airport when the plane lost power. The Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board are investigating.

#### **CRASH, LEESBURG, UNITED STATES**

See N4171T.

#### **CRASH, LINYI CITY, SHANDONG PROVINCE, CHINA**

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated Nov 13, states: Two people were injured when a helicopter crashed in downtown area of Linyi City in east China's Shandong Province on

Saturday (Nov 12), local government sources confirmed today. The B3519 helicopter belonging to the Tianjin Tianhang General Airways crashed at the People's Square of Linyi City at about 1440 due to failure of the rotor. Two pilots aboard the ill-fated helicopter were injured. None of the people strolling on the square were hurt or killed, according to the sources with the Linyi City government. At first, a witness said, the purple rotorcraft hovered over the eastern part of the square for a while at low altitude. Then, it crashed at the western part of the square with big roaring. The airscrew was broken and fell scores of metres away from the crashed helicopter. The two pilots got out of the crashed helicopter on their own. Doctors said they suffered serious injuries on the lumbar and need therapy.

#### **CRASH, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 13 -- A press report, dated Nov 12, states: A pilot whose small aircraft became tangled in utility wires as he tried to land in a thunderstorm this evening was pulled to safety after dangling from the lines for about two hours. The aircraft was hanging nose down, about 10 feet off the ground when police were called to the scene shortly after 1800, said Milwaukee Police spokeswoman Anne E. Schwartz. The pilot, identified as a 37-year-old man from Elkhorn, was alone in the aircraft and conscious. "We were in contact with him the whole time," firefighter Steve Scherer said. "He's doing fine." The pilot, who was hospitalized tonight, was trying to land at Lawrence J. Timmerman Airport. He had called off his approach several times before the aircraft got caught in the utility lines, Schwartz said. The crash knocked out power to 3,600 customers, and power was cut to 4,100 more for safety, said We Energies spokeswoman Beth Martin. Most of the power was restored by 2200, she said. Authorities brought in a crane to lift the aircraft out of the wires.

#### **CRASH, NORTHERN VOLOGDA REGION, RUSSIA**

London, Nov 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: A helicopter crashed in northern Russia today, killing four people and injuring one on board, an Emergency Situations Ministry official said. A Mi-2 helicopter crashed in the northern Vologda region when it was making a flyover to inspect a gas pipeline that runs through the region, some 500 km north of Moscow, Viktor Beltsov, spokesman of the Emergency Situations Ministry, told the Itar-Tass news agency. Five people were on board the helicopter when it went down. Local residents found the wreckage of the helicopter an hour after it lost radio contact with ground control at 1315, Moscow time. Rescue teams have arrived at the site of the accident.

#### **CRASH, OTSEGO COUNTY AREA,**

#### **UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least one person died when a small aircraft crashed and burst into flames near a small airport in Otsego County west of Gaylord. A Hayes Township couple saw the two-engine aircraft hit the ground and explode in their backyard about 1800 yesterday, Cadillac television station WWTW-WWUP reported. Investigators said at least one person died, but they declined to release further details. Officials from the Federal Aviation Administration were expected to arrive today to investigate the crash.

#### **CRASH, RANCHO MURIETA AREA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A pilot managed to escape a helicopter crash today and walk more than a mile to find help. The Bell 47 helicopter crashed in an open field in eastern Sacramento County near Rancho Murieta, but it did not catch fire, according to officials. The woman piloting the helicopter was able to crawl out of the wreckage and walk to a ranch house about two miles away. She was taken to a local hospital and has moderate injuries, according to officials.

#### **CRASH, SORONG, PAPUA PROVINCE, INDONESIA**

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated Nov 13, states: A light aircraft belonging to the Sorong diocese in Indonesia's easternmost province of Papua crashed upside down in a swampy area next to the tip of Sorong airport's runway today, an official said. The Cessna crashed at 1043, local time, Antara news agency quoted Sorong airport head Panji Supadmo as saying. Panji, however, did not have any idea on the cause of the accident but said the aircraft crashed while the weather was clear. The pilot of the Cessna was safe but two other women on the aircraft sustained leg and head injuries, he said. The accident did not affect flight activity in Sorong, he said, adding an effort to evacuate the aircraft from the swampy area today was hampered by the lack of heavy equipments.

#### **CRASH, SUMMERVILLE AIRPORT AREA, SOUTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 12 -- A press report, dated Nov 11, states: A small aircraft crashed near the Summerville airport today, killing one person and seriously injuring another, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. The four-seat single-engine aircraft crashed in some trees about 1425, FAA spokesman Paul Turk said. The aircraft was attempting to land, but there was apparently a problem with the landing gear, he said. The aircraft took off from Waverly, Ohio, about 60 miles south of Columbus. Authorities said the people on the aircraft were travelling to the Charleston area to visit family. Crews struggled for hours

to cut through heavy underbrush to reach the aircraft. The pilot was transported to a burn centre in Augusta, Ga., where he was in serious condition, according to television reports. The identities of the pilot and any passengers were not immediately available. The aircraft, a Mooney M20M, was registered in June to Gerald E. Davis of Waverly.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, BELFAST CITY AIRPORT, NORTHERN IRELAND**

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft has been forced to make an emergency landing at Belfast City airport this morning. The Fly-Be flight from Southampton developed problems in one of its engines but touched down safely shortly before 1000 hrs. There were 53 passengers and four crew members on the flight. An airport spokesman said normal emergency procedures were put into place. There were no reports of injuries.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, CASTLE ROCK AREA, COLORADO, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 17 -- A press report, dated Nov 16, states: A Piper Comanche 250 made an emergency landing on Interstate 25 near Castle Rock this morning and the three people on board walked away uninjured. The aircraft used the highway as a runway and took off five hours later. It landed near mile marker 181 about 0840 hrs, and stopped in the southbound median. The aircraft was not damaged. The pilot said that he had taken off from the Jefferson County Airport about 20 minutes before. He said he was en route to Santa Fe, N.M., and then Las Vegas, Nev., when the aircraft suddenly lost power. He speculated that his carburetor froze up, killing power to the aircraft. The aircraft took off from the interstate just before 1400 hrs.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, DUBLIN AIRPORT, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: An Aer Arann aircraft has made an emergency landing at Dublin Airport after experiencing engine problems this morning. The 48-seat aircraft was being brought back to Ireland following maintenance work in Denmark when the pilot was forced to shut down one engine. Four crew members were on board, but all were unhurt when the aircraft touched down safely in Dublin at around 1045 hrs. The fire services at the airport had been scrambled as a precaution.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, NINYO AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MANILA, PHILIPPINES**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: An Emirates flight landed safely at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Friday after its pilot radioed the airport control tower that the aircraft was

experiencing a "landing gear problem." Several units of the airport's Fire and Rescue Teams were deployed to the runway after the distress call was received. Despite the faulty landing gear, Emirates Airbus 330-200 Flight EK 332 from Dubai, United Arab Emirates was able to land safely and on time, based on initial reports from MIA operations. The aircraft was towed to the terminal for inspection.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, SOUTHWEST FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 16 -- Airport officials say a cargo jet made an emergency landing this morning at Southwest Florida International Airport. Airport spokeswoman Laska Ryan says the UPS aircraft was about ten minutes away from landing when the pilot radioed that there was a reported hydraulic problem. Officials say the aircraft landed safely with two people aboard. The runway was closed during the emergency but airport authority says it had minimal affect other air traffic. The aircraft is now being inspected.

#### **ESENBOGA AIRPORT, ANKARA, TURKEY**

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire broke out at Ankara's Esenboga Airport late last night and it was contained early today, causing no casualties. Turkish officials said the fire started at 2350 hrs, 2150, UTC, in the cafeteria of the domestic flights terminal and later spread to the whole terminal. The semi-official Anatolia news agency quoted Transportation Minister Binali Yildirim as saying that the fire didn't spread to other terminals and the cooling efforts continued. The domestic flights terminal was damaged badly in the fire, said the official, adding that the flights would be held as usual from other terminals today. Investigation into the cause of the fire is underway.

#### **F-GLZQ**

Ottawa, Nov 16 -- The Air France crash in Toronto on Aug 2 did not appear to have been due to problems with the Airbus A340 itself, Canada's Transport Safety Board said today. "To date, investigators have not found significant anomalies of the aircraft systems," the agency said in a preliminary report. All 309 people on board survived after the plane ran off the end of the runway during a severe thunderstorm. (See issue of Aug 8.)

London, Nov 17 -- A press report, dated Nov 16, states: There were no unusual mechanical problems with the Air France Airbus A340-300 (F-GLZQ) that skidded off the runway at Toronto's Pearson International Airport and burst into flames, says a preliminary investigation into the August incident. "No significant anomalies of the aircraft systems have been found to date," said the Transportation Safety Board in a report released today. "The flight controls functioned as expected,

spoilers were deployed on touchdown, the tires and braking system worked as per design, and the thrust reversers were found in the deployed position." The brakes were sent for further testing in the United States and appeared to be in working order, while the aircraft landed with plenty of fuel, said the report, ending speculation the aircraft had run dry. Investigators say the investigation will likely take months before it is finalized.

#### **I-REMU**

Genoa, Nov 14 -- I-REMU, Robin DR 400, crashed yesterday afternoon, near Novi Ligure, Alessandria (Piedmont) on the A26 and A7 motorways link after striking a high voltage cable. The aircraft was destroyed and the wreck, recovered by the road police, has been impounded. The pilot and the sole passenger on board were killed; no victims on the ground were reported. Road traffic later resumed in the night. Court and Italian Civil Air Transport Association formal inquiries are in hand. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **INCIDENT AT CATAMARAN AIRPORT, SAMAR, PHILIPPINES**

London, Nov 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: An 83-seater British Aerospace BAe 146 jet with 32 passengers and six crew members onboard ditched into a muddy section of the Catarman runway in northern Samar yesterday morning after a thick puddle of water on the landing area caused the aircraft to skid off the runway. The aircraft with flight number 6K-587, arrived from Manila at the Catarman airport at about 0645 hrs. It belongs to Asian Spirit. According to initial reports, the plane's tyres reportedly had very little traction upon touchdown because sections of the runway were blanketed by a thin layer of water caused by an early downpour. As soon as the aircraft came to a complete stop, the Asian Spirit crew immediately evacuated all 32 passengers to safety. In an interview, the Asian Spirit airport operations manager disclosed that none of the passengers were hurt but the aircraft sustained minor damages. "No passengers were hurt or injured," said the manager, adding that the incident could be attributed to the "residual water" in the runway at the time of the plane's touchdown. The aircraft sustained minor damages in its landing gear and fuselage as a result of the incident. The Air Transportation Office was still conducting an investigation into the mishap as of yesterday afternoon.

#### **INCIDENT AT OZARK REGIONAL AIRPORT, ARKANSAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 15 -- A Cessna 310 skidded off the runway yesterday morning at the Ozark Regional Airport in Midway. According to airport manager Jack Marchbank, the aircraft's left landing gear collapsed while pilot Brent Brakhop of Little Rock was landing the aircraft. It then skidded off the runway into a field.

Marchbank said he notified the FAA of the incident. No injuries were reported.

#### **INCIDENT AT WUSU AIRPORT, TAIYUAN, SHANXI PROVINCE, CHINA**

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated Nov 13, states: A passenger aircraft ran out of runway in a north China's airport Sunday evening (Nov 13), leaving no casualties but forcing a close of the airport, sources said. The aircraft was going to land on the Wusu Airport in Taiyuan, capital of north China's Shanxi Province, at approximately 1900 when the accident happened, sources with the airport said, adding that some other flights were delayed after the accident. In addition, the flights that are going to take-off tonight at the airport have been cancelled, sources said. The aircraft remains on the grass beside the runway, waiting for investigation.

#### **MISSING HELICOPTER, NORTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND**

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: The helicopter flown by Auckland liquor king Michael Erceg may never be found, rescue officials have said. A private family-funded search was continuing today for Mr Erceg and his Dutch passenger, beer company executive Guus Klatte, after an official search for the pair was called off. The Rescue Coordination Centre in Wellington said today the official aerial search, using up to 20 helicopters, covered more than 50,000 square kilometres, much of it over dense bush. Spokesman Lindsay Sturt said searchers had no real indication of where to look and the helicopter could have gone down anywhere between Raglan, where it was last seen about half an hour after taking off, and Wanganui. Had it gone down in the rugged bush area which was being searched, it may never be found. He said the bush could have closed over the wreckage and it would be virtually impossible to see from the air, even from a searching helicopter flying at low level. Mr Sturt said many helicopters and aircraft had crashed in heavy bush in New Zealand and had never been found, particularly in Fiordland in Southland. Some had been discovered years later by hunters or trappers, but from the air they would be virtually impossible to spot. However, he said the search centre would support the family's private search.

London, Nov 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: The private search for businessman Michael Erceg resumed today with the focus moving to the central North Island. Mr Erceg, the founder of Independent Distillers Group, has been missing for more than a week after the helicopter he was piloting disappeared. Also on board the aircraft on a flight from Auckland to Queenstown eight days ago was his Dutch passenger, beer company executive Guus Klatte. The area searchers were targeting today was north of the township of Ohura and

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

covered about 80km by 25km, John Funnell, an experienced rescue helicopter pilot helping with the operation, said. About nine helicopters were involved and would be flying over heavy bush. Mr Funnell described the conditions as ideal, with clear skies and no wind. Until yesterday, searchers had focused on specific parts of Taranaki. Mr Funnell said the move further inland was based on reports from member of the public. "We are systematically covering areas of interest, particularly where there is some intelligence that has been gathered." He did not want to give details of what information had been received, "because we have to be careful we don't sow seeds in people's minds". Mr Funnell said the search team was appreciative of the help they had been getting from the public. Searchers were hoping to get as much information as possible about helicopter activity from Raglan down the coast to Wanganui and inland as far as Taupo on the day that Mr Erceg was flying.

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Organisers of the cancelled search for multi-millionaire businessman Michael Erceg have denied claims they gave up too soon. The official search, led by the National Rescue Co-ordination Centre, was called off four days ago after finding no trace of Mr Erceg and his companion, Guus Klatte. Their helicopter disappeared from radar screens south of Raglan on Nov 4. Mr Erceg, who has an estimated personal wealth of \$620 million from his business interests in the liquor industry, and Mr Klatte, a beer company executive from Holland, were flying from Auckland to Queenstown. A privately funded search of dense bush between Wanganui and Raglan is continuing, but searchers had nothing new to report yesterday. Mr Erceg's brother, Ivan Erceg, yesterday criticised the decision to call off the official search. He told Newstalk ZB the searchers had discounted some of the sightings of his brother's Eurocopter helicopter, which were now being followed up in the private search. Rescue centre spokesman Steve Corbett said he could understand the family's frustrations, but the centre was confident it had done all it could. "It's not possible to keep searching forever. "We got to the point where we ran out of options. It's never an easy decision to make," Mr Corbett said. Many experts had a say on whether the search should be called off. "It was the terrain more than anything that beat us. We could have gone over the same site three or four times and not seen anything." Mr Corbett said it was "gutting" for all those involved that the men had not been found. Ivan Erceg said he believed his brother and Mr Klatte could still be alive because of the helicopter's design, but Mr Corbett said the centre's hopes of finding the men alive had dimmed over the search period.

London, Nov 16 -- A press report,

dated today, states: Ground parties will continue searching a mountain east of Kawhia today after learning of a previously unreported sighting of multimillionaire Michael Erceg's helicopter. Yesterday, eight ground parties were dropped on Mt Pirongia, after a woman reported seeing the machine in the area on Nov 4, the day it disappeared en route to Queenstown. Incident controller Roger Smith said the southeastern and southwestern lowland slopes were searched. Two areas of tree damage spotted from the air would be checked today.

#### **N117SA**

London, Nov 16 -- A press report, dated Nov 15, states: A seaplane crashed in the Little Peconic Bay this morning, authorities said. The three people on board were not injured, U.S. Coast Guard officials said. They were only in the water a few minutes after the 1000 hrs crash when a nearby clammer rescued them. It's not yet clear why the aircraft, which flew from Connecticut, went down near North Sea harbour, about a mile from the Conscience Point Marina. The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating. This morning, the Coast Guard was checking to see if any fuel had spilled.

London, Nov 16 -- essna 208 (aravan I) N117SA crashed into Peconic Bay, South Hampton, New York, at 1503, Nov 15, and partially sank. The three persons on board were not injured.

#### **N27177**

London, Nov 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: A National Transportation and Safety Board official says oil was significantly depleted in one of two engines of an aircraft (Piper PA-31-350 Navajo Chieftain N27177) involved in a fatal crash near Ankeny last week. The agency has not concluded that that's what caused the crash, which happened just minutes after take off last Tuesday (Nov 8), killing two Des Moines men. A dipstick was missing from the aircraft's right engine, and that one was discovered at the Ankeny Regional Airport. According to online federal reports posted the day after the crash, the aircraft reported an oil leak shortly after departure. It could take up to a year for federal investigators to publicly announce a probable cause for the crash.

#### **N4171T**

London, Nov 10 -- Piper PA-28-161 (Warrior III) N4171T crashed near Leesburg, Virginia, at 1414, Nov 9. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were killed.

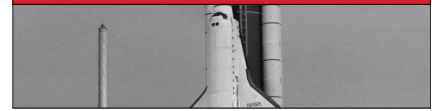
#### **N4319P**

London, Nov 10 -- Piper PA-23-160 (Apache) N4319P crashed near Bloomington, Illinois, at 0259, Nov 10, while on a flight from Peoria, IL, to Smithfield, North Carolina. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

#### **N7453J**

London, Nov 16 -- Piper PA-28-180R (Cherokee Arrow) N7453J crashed near Heathrow, Florida, at 0153, Nov 16, while on a flight to Orlando, FL. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board suffered minor injuries.

## Space Vehicles



#### **ARIANE-5**

London, Nov 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: An Ariane-5 rocket launch was postponed yesterday after a problem was encountered during final preparations for take-off, officials said. A new launch date was set for this evening at the Kourou launch centre, about 37 miles from Cayenne, the capital, in French Guiana, said Arianespace spokeswoman Marie Françoise Bahloul. The rocket was carrying two telecommunications satellites, the US-owned Spaceway 2 and Telkom 2, to serve Southeast Asia and the South Asia. They were in a safe area, in standby mode, at Europe's spaceport in French Guiana, a Arianespace statement said.

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: The lift-off of an Ariane-5 ECA launcher with two telecommunications satellites, which was delayed overnight due to a technical problem, will "probably" take place in two or three days. Chief executive of the European group Arianespace, Jean-Yves Le Gall, says the launcher, which is being worked on at its final assembly plant, will need to be transferred again to the launch pad for a lift-off "probably Tuesday (Nov 15) or Wednesday." "Our attitude is not to take any risk with our launchers," he said, adding "there are only small technical problems, and I am very confident about the launch" this week. The mission was initially scheduled for Jun 24 but the launch has now been postponed twice. The launcher is set to release satellite television firm DirecTV's Spaceway 2, which weighs 6.1 tonnes at lift-off and will enable the company to provide live coverage in the United States. The other satellite set to be launched is Telkom 2, weighing nearly two tonnes, which is owned by the Indonesian company PT Telkom Indonesia. Ariane-5 ECA rockets are designed to carry a payload of almost 10 tonnes.

London, Nov 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: An Ariane-5 ECA launcher with two telecommunications satellites, whose blast-off was repeatedly postponed, has lifted off from the Kourou base in French Guiana, European group Arianespace says. The Ariane-5 ECA rocket was launched at 2046, local time.

## Product Recalls

### ASTON MARTIN MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 14 -- Aston Martin manufacturers report dated Nov 7 recommended a recall of 67 DB9's due to a problem with its power train. On certain passenger vehicles, when a load is applied on the parking interlock system, the locking cone, which is part of the parking pawl system, may create an indentation on an unhardened guide plate at the cone contact area. An indentation may also result in a raised edge towards the locking cone guide channel which may hinder the locking cone from reaching its end position. Dealers will replace the parking pawl glide plate. The recall is expected to begin today.

### HONDA MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 11 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Honda has just announced a recall involving 25,000 Civics from the 2006 model year. The problem has to do with the accelerator pedal which was not installed properly. The pedal could come loose and cause the throttle to stick. Honda says owners will be notified this month to take the vehicle to a dealership for a repair.

### IMMERSION HEATERS, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 14 -- A press report, dated Nov 10, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with World Kitchen Inc., of Reston, Va., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 472,000 immersion heaters. Manufactured by Chun Tai Electric Heater Company, of Taiwan, moisture in the heating element could cause corrosion over time, presenting a shock hazard. World Kitchen Inc. has received two reports of short circuits. No injuries have been reported. The immersion heaters are portable chrome-plated steel heaters with a white plastic handle and mug hook used for warming tea, coffee, soup, or

other liquids. Some products were sold under the EKCO brand and others were sold with no brand. The product was sold at Mass retailers, hardware and grocery stores nationwide from January 1999 through to August 2005 for between \$5 and \$6.

### WORLD KITCHEN IMMERSION HEATERS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Nov 10 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with World Kitchen Inc., of Reston, Va, today announced a voluntary recall of about 472,000 immersion heaters, manufactured by Chun Tai Electric Heater Company, of Taiwan. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Moisture in the heating element could cause corrosion over time, presenting a shock hazard. World Kitchen Inc. has received two reports of short circuits. No injuries have been reported. The immersion heaters are portable chrome-plated steel heaters with a white plastic handle and mug hook used for warming tea, coffee, soup, or other liquids. "IMMERSION HEATER," and "MADE IN TAIWAN" are embossed on the white plastic handle of these heaters. Some products were sold under the EKCO brand and others were sold with no brand. Sold at mass retailers, hardware and grocery stores nation-wide from January 1999 through August 2005 for between \$5 and \$6. Consumers should immediately stop using the product and contact World Kitchen for a refund. -- Consumer Product Safety Commission.

## Port Conditions



### FRANCE

London, Nov 15 -- Refined products/MTBE berth Fos O at Fos Oil Terminal will be unavailable between 0730, Nov 22 and 1830, Nov 24.

### GREECE

London, Nov 16 -- Port operations at Piraeus will be suspended between 1100 and 1500, tomorrow due to a meeting called by the port labourers'

union. Further, the union has announced its intention to suspend overtime for the coming weekend (Nov 19-20). A 24-hour strike has also been called for Nov 21.

### INDIA

London, Nov 14 -- The Port of Cochin has issued a notice decommissioning berths Q-3 & Q-4, which have sustained damage. Port authorities anticipate that it will take three years to reconstruct the damaged jetties. The berths sunk by several metres when about 5000 tonnes of salt unloaded from a vessel got mixed with rain water whilst lying on the jetty. The jetty could not withstand the increased weight of the load and sank. As a result of the decommissioning of the berths, there will be congestion for general cargo vessels which can now only be accepted at berths Q5, Q6, Q1 & Q2. Berths Q7, Q8 and Q9 are already allotted to M/s. India Gateway Terminal Pvt Ltd (IGTPL) for container operations.

Kochi, Nov 15 -- At about 1800 hrs, Nov 13, No.Q4 Berth/Jetty at Mattancherry Wharf, Cochin Port collapsed at its northern end. At the time of the accident the berth was filled with common salt in crystal form, stockpiled in heaps. Heavy rain resulted in salt heap becoming heavier and the jetty gave way and pushed out towards the waterfront. The salt was discharged by bulk *Seafriend* (26019 gt, built 1995) on voyage from Thakou, Gujarat, to Cochin. The vessel sailed after discharge at 1022 hrs, Nov 13. The damage sustained to the Q4 Jetty rendered it unserviceable and calls for extensive repair/rebuild. Cochin Port authorities have constituted a committee to investigate the matter. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Kochi, Nov 16 -- An expert structural committee undertook structural integrity of the damaged Q-4 berth. The Cochin Port Trust Authorities stated to have decommissioned Q-4 for repair/rebuild. Adjoining jetty Q-3 has been declared unsafe for cargo discharge operation until repair/reconditioning work is completed. Cochin Port Authorities investigation is in progress. -- Lloyd's Agents.

### ITALY

Genoa, Nov 14 -- No delays at Genoa, Savona or La Spezia. -- Lloyd's Agents.



**Port Delays**

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbott Point	14-11-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed, 1 waiting; 6 vessels due by 4/12; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Brisbane	14-11-2005	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 3 vessels due by 20/12; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	14-11-2005	Coal: 3 vessels berthed and loading; 28 vessels due by 24/11; up to 8 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Dampier	14-11-2005	Iron ore: Parker Point A berth: One vessel loading at berth, 5 arrived; 5 vessels due by 5/11; up to 5 days delay expected; Parker Point B berth: 1 vessel loading, 1 arrived; 3 vessels due by 3/11; up to 3 days delay expected; East Intercourse Island; One vessel loading, 5 arrived; 5 vessels due by 9/11; up to 4 days delay expected.
Gladstone	14-11-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 1 vessel loading; 38 vessels due by 2/1; up to 12 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; plant shutdown for repairs and maintenance on shiploader 2 from 28/11 to 8/12; Barney Point: 5 vessels due by 27/12; no delays expected.
Hay Point	14-11-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 10 vessels due by 17/11; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Newcastle	14-11-2005	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 3 vessel berthed and loading; 45 vessels due by 8/12; 1-9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 10 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel loading; 21 vessels due by 1/12; 2-8 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal, coal product problems with some shippers berthed congestion and cargo receipt; 6 vessels off port awaiting berths. Train operators of Pacific National went on strike from 06.00 hrs. 14/11. Negotiations are continuing, but at this stage it appears that workers are not expected to return to work until 06.00 hrs. 16/11.
Port Kembla	14-11-2005	Coal: 12 vessels due by 20/12; up to 1 day's delay expected.
<b>Azerbaijan</b>		
Apsheron	14-11-2005	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 2 vessels berthed, both discharging crude oil; 3 vessels in roads, of which 2 empty, 1 to discharge crude oil; 2 vessels due by 12/11, both to discharge, of which 1 jet fuel, 1 crude oil.
Baku	14-11-2005	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; Azerneftiyag terminal: no vessels; Azer Trans terminal - Nobel avenue: no vessels; Sangachal district: no vessels; Transserve terminal: closed.
<b>Bulgaria</b>		
Bourgas	14-11-2005	Four vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 coils, 1 reinforced concrete), 1 discharging salt; 1 vessel in roads to discharge coal; 8 vessels due, of which 3 to load (1 coils, 1 wheat, 1 gasoil), 5 to discharge (2 metals, 1 billets, 1 salt, 1 iron ore).
Varna	14-11-2005	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 7-13 November: Forty vessels in port operating of which 23 loading (1 bagged calcium carbonate/bulk silica sand, 1 bulk maize, 2 bulk silica sand, 1 bulk maize/wheat, 1 bulk wheat, 1 bran, 1 cement/containers/ equipment in packing cases, 1 bulk silica sand/other, 5 soda, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 2 bulk cement, 1 scrap, 1 bulk kaolin/other, 1 bulk clinker, 1 industrial salt, 1 bagged oats, 1 sunflower seed meal), 9 discharging (2 equipment in packing cases, 2 raw phosphate, 1 bulk copper concentrate, 2 bulk coal, 1 petcoke, 1 liquid urea), 8 discharging/loading (7 containers, 1 silica sand/bulk feldspar); no vessels waiting in roads.
<b>Chile</b>		
Antofagasta	14-11-2005	Five vessels berthed, 2 berths vacant; 18 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Arica	14-11-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 17 vessels due this week.
Iquique	14-11-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 15 vessels due this week.
Valparaiso	14-11-2005	Three vessels berthed, 5 berths vacant; 3 vessels anchored; 17 vessels due this week.
<b>Egypt</b>		
Adabiya	14-11-2005	Nine vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 5 bulk carriers, 1 containers.
Alexandria	14-11-2005	Thirty vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 18 general cargo, 6 bulk carriers, 2 tankers, 2 container vessels, 2 cruise vessels; 19 vessels dry-docked; 18 vessels at inner anchorage, 30 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	14-11-2005	Fifteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 12 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier, 2

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## Port Conditions

Dekhaila	14-11-2005	containers; 4 vessels at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage. Twelve vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 7 bulk carriers, 4 container vessels; 1 vessel at outer anchorage.
Port Said	14-11-2005	Three vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 2 containers.
Suez	14-11-2005	Eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 3 reefers, 3 passenger vessels; 4 tugs, 1 vessel dry-docked.
Suez Canal	14-11-2005	Twenty-five vessels transiting Northbound, 30 Southbound.
<b>Estonia</b>		
Tallinn	14-11-2005	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 1 coal vessel loading at berth, 2 vessels discharging at berth (1 cocoa beans, 1 food products); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 3 vessels due, with 7 days berthing delay expected.
<b>India</b>		
Kolkata	14-11-2005	3 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Containers, 1 vessel discharging Pules, 1 vessel waiting to load Containers, 2 vessels working at midstream of which 1 vessel discharging Crude, 1 vessel waiting to discharge Crude; 5 vessels under repair; 1 vessel under dry docked; 2 vessels due (Containers, Passenger).
Haldia	14-11-2005	17 vessels operating at berth of which 8 loading (Iron Ore-5, Thermal Coal, Steel-2), 8 vessels discharging (POL, Crude-2, Coke-3, Fertilizer, Met Coke), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 10 vessels awaiting berth (4 to discharge, 6 to load); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load); 5 vessels due (Crude-2, Coke, Lime, Containers).
Paradip	14-11-2005	10 vessels operating at berth of which 5 loading (Iron Ore-2, Chrome Concentrate, Chrome Ore, Fe. Chrome), 5 vessels discharging (Coking Coal, NC Coal-2, Pet Coke, MOP); 5 vessels awaiting berth (4 to discharge, 1 to load); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load).
Visakhapatnam	14-11-2005	12 vessels operating at berth of which 6 loading (Iron ore-3, Steel Cargo, Thermal Coal, POL Product), 6 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, DAP, Project Cargo, POL Products, MOP); 15 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (11 to discharge, 4 to load); 1 vessel under repair (MV Chin Shwe Raw at HSY Jetty which was collide with AMV Uttar Kasi); 32 vessels due (Iron Ore-6, Steel, Alumina, Illeminate Sand, Thermal Coal, Food Grains-3, B.F.Slag, Feldspar, Molten Sulphur, Rock Phosphate, Coking Coal-5, Pet Coke, Containers-3, Steel cargo, Timber Logs, Caustic soda, Steam Coal, Alumina, POL Products).
Chennai	14-11-2005	12 vessels operating at berth of which 5 loading (Granite Block, Iron Ore, Project Cargo, IOL, MSO/HSD), 5 vessels discharging (Urea, MOP, S.Coal, Crude Oil, Paraffin), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth to load; 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 2 to load); 4 vessels due (Petroleum Oil, Furnace Oil, Crude Oil, S.Coal).
Tuticorin	14-11-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading General Cargo, 5 vessels discharging (Thermal Coal, MOP-2, Urea-2); 1 vessel awaiting berth to discharge; 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage after completion of cement loading operations for want of MMD clearance.
Cochin	14-11-2005	2 vessels operating at berth of which 1 discharging Crude, 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth to discharge.
New Mangalore	14-11-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading POL Product, 6 vessels discharging (Timber-3, Fertiliser, Clay, LPG); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load); 14 vessels due (POL Product-3, Container, Iron ore Fines, Crude Palm Oil, Fertilizer, POL Crude-2, Bentonite, LPG-2, Granite Stone-2).
Mormugao	14-11-2005	2 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel discharging Met Coke, 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 5 vessels working at mid stream and loading Iron ore; 5 vessels under repairs/dry docked (Repairs/dry docking is being carried out by the Western India Shipyard Ltd. in their yard); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load; 9 vessels due (Met Coke, MOP, Iron ore-7).
Mumbai	14-11-2005	9 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading POL, 5 vessels discharging (Palm Oil Products, Logs/Pulses, Peas in Bulk, POL-2), 3 vessels loading and discharging (Containers/Steel/General Cargo/Project, Steel/General Cargo, Heavy Lifts, Containers/ General Cargo); 1 vessel working at mid stream and discharging Steel Cargo; 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load and discharge; 3 vessels awaiting order to discharge; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 12 vessels under repairs/dry docked, 5 vessels under arrest, 2 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 28 vessels due (Containers-5, Oil, General Cargo-22).
J.N.P.T.	14-11-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading RKO, 1 vessel discharging Cement, 5 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth to load and discharge; 2 Containers vessel due.
Kandla	14-11-2005	13 vessels operating at berth of which 6 discharging (Sulphur-2, Timber Logs-2, Chemical, Palm Oil), 5 vessels loading (Agriculture Product-3, Rice, St. Pipes), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels working at mid stream (3 to discharge, 1 to load); 13 vessels awaiting berth (4 to discharge, 9 to load); 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 3 to load); 1 vessel under repair/dry docked.
Ennore	14-11-2005	2 Thermal Coal vessels (MV Rani Padmini, MV APJ Sreedevi) due.
Israel		

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## Port Conditions

Ashdod	14-11-2005	Five bulkers loading at berth, 7 bulkers discharging at berth; 5 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker, 1 passenger vessel); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 2 waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 23 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	14-11-2005	Two vessels loading at berth (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 8 discharging at berth (5 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 13 vessels loading/discharging at berth (7 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker, 5 passenger vessels); 2 bulkers waiting at anchorage to load, 3 bulkers waiting at anchorage to discharge, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (2 containers, 1 tanker); 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 15 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
<b>Mozambique</b>		
Maputo	15-11-2005	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (3 ferro chrome, 1 bulk sugar, 1 magnetite), 2 discharging/loading containers, 1 under repairs, 1 other vessel; 1 vessels due to berth 15/11 to load aluminium ingots; 16 vessels due by 2/12 of which 6 to load (2 bulk coal, 2 aluminium ingots, 2 other vessels), 6 to discharge (1 bulk maize, 1 bagged rice, 2 bulk wheat, 1 bulk alumina, 1 containers), 1 to discharge/load containers, 1 tug, 2 other vessels.
<b>Poland</b>		
Gdansk	14-11-2005	Seven vessels loading at berth (3 coal, 3 general cargo, 1 bulker), 5 vessels discharging at berth (1 bulker, 3 general cargo, 1 tanker); 12 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 23 vessels due.
Gdynia	14-11-2005	Five vessels loading at berth (1 coal, 1 bulker, 2 general cargo, 1 grain), 9 vessels discharging at berth (3 general cargo, 2 bulkers, 1 grain, 3 tankers); 17 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 41 vessels due.
<b>Russia</b>		
Novorossiysk	14-11-2005	Eleven vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 1 steel, 1 cement, 1 scrap, 3 wheat, 1 HBI, 1 vegetables, 1 bulk urea, 1 barley, 1 diesel oil; 5 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 2 wheat, 1 bulk cement, 1 scrap, 1 steel billets; 76 vessels due, of which 72 to load (2 DRI, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate/bulk urea, 1 copper/rails, 2 oil, 9 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 steel billets/pipes, 6 copper, 1 cars, 1 slabs/steel billets, 1 HBI, 1 pipes/H-beams/WRIC/coils, 11 steel billets, 7 bulk NPK, 2 aluminium, 1 scrap, 1 slabs, 3 bulk urea, 6 wheat, 1 WRIC/steel sheets/steel billets, 1 steel sheets/coils, 1 steel billets/pipes, 6 coils, 1 UAN solution, 1 bulk sugar, 1 equipment/coils, 1 cars, 1 steel sheets/steel billets, 1 WRIC), 2 to discharge (1 zinc ore, 1 coils), 2 to load/discharge containers; Oil terminal: 1 tanker berthed, loading crude oil; 3 tankers in roads, all to load, of which 1 crude oil, 2 diesel oil; 9 tankers due, all to load crude oil.
<b>Slovenia</b>		
Koper	14-11-2005	Port working normally. Thirteen vessels berthed of which 1 discharging aluminium products, 3 loading sawn timber, 2 tankers discharging mineral oils, 4 bulk carriers discharging solid chemicals/ minerals, 2 bulk carriers loading agricultural products/steel products, 1 vessel discharging/loading containers; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage of which 1 bulk carrier to load coal, 1 bulk carrier to discharge cement; 16 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 3 vessels to discharge/load containers, 3 bulk carriers to load coal/steel products, 1 bulk carrier to discharge coal, 3 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 4 vessels to load sawn timber, 1 vessel to discharge general cargo, 1 reefer to discharge refrigerated goods.
<b>Turkmenistan</b>		
Aladja	11-11-2005	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed to load crude oil.
Okarem	11-11-2005	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, loading crude oil; 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	11-11-2005	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed of which loading gasoil, 1 to load gasoline; 1 vessel in roads to load gasoil.
<b>Ukraine</b>		
Mariupol	14-11-2005	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (3 steel, 2 fire-clay, 1 coal, 1 ammonium saltpetre, 1 sulphur), 1 loading/discharging containers; 4 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 steel, 2 fire-clay, 1 coal; 50 vessels due, of which 46 to load (29 steel, 9 coal, 3 fire-clay, 1 sulphur, 1 carbamide, 1 sunflower beans, 1 coke, 1 equipment/fire-clay), 2 to discharge (1 feldspar, 1 equipment), 2 to discharge/load (1 containers/fire clay, 1 containers/borax/steel).
Illichevsk	14-11-2005	Seven vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (2 steel products, 1 grain, 1 sunflower oil, 1 iron ore pellets), 1 discharging/loading containers; 3 vessels in roads, of which 2 to load (1 steel products, 1 spirits), 1 to discharge/load containers; 27 vessels due, of which 16 to load (9 steel products, 3 sunflower oil, 1 sulphur, 2 wheat, 1 ferro nickel), 1 to discharge nickel ore, 10 to discharge/load containers.
Odessa	14-11-2005	Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (2 metal, 1 pig-iron, 1 corn, 1 grain, 1 barley), 5 discharging (2 bananas, 1 luggage, 1 fish, 1 grain), 1 passenger vessel; 2 vessels in roads, both to

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