

## Piracy attacks on boxships erupt again in Santos port

Agents tell of 12 incidents in three months, writes Rob Ward — Friday November 17 2006

### **P**IRATE attacks on container ships at the Brazilian port of Santos have resumed after almost seven years.

Figures released by the Ship Agents Association for the state of São Paulo and Santos, Sindamar, claim that there have been 12 "invasions" of vessels in Santos between August and the end of October this year.

All 12 vessels attacked were containerships, according to Sindamar, including three MSC vessels, three belonging to Hamburg Süd vessels and two CMA CGM ships.

Figures from the Federal Police department, Policia Federal, suggest that there have been only five "pirate attacks" during that period, but their definition uses the word "pirate" only when there has been a clear display of "physical violence".

Either way, between 1998, when Santos and other ports in Brazil were often on IMO blacklists for piracy, incidents are officially said to have fallen to "almost zero, perhaps one per year".

The pirate attacks have reappeared despite extra speed boats and surveillance equipment now being made available to Policia Federal squads policing the São Paulo coastline.

The recent strengthening of the Departamento do Policia Maritimo — or Depom, which succeeded Nepom — was supposed to ward off would-be pirate attacks but the Policia Federal says it does not have enough manpower to eliminate pirate attacks in Santos completely.

Earlier this year, when the Policia Federal and Depom inaugurated a new office in Santos, the minister of justice,

Marcio Thomaz Bastos, promised to bolster Depom numbers.

But as the vice-president of Sindamar, José Roque, reflected: "This just never happened. Something must now be done."

And José Eduardo Lopes, president of Sindamar, said that the geography of the port of Santos also lent itself to pirate attacks as it was a "wide open" port with many creeks and tributaries and lush vegetation offering cover for a quick getaway.

Sindamar said that the most recent of the attacks this year on container vessels involved the Alianca Maua on October 6.

During this attack there were eight assailants and they opened up 45 containers, of which 15 were empty.

They escaped with mostly perfumes and electronic goods, "goods which can easily be sold on in the black market" according to a police spokesman.

He added that container ships were targeted because they had a concentration of "high value" cargo on board.

Sources in Santos say shipowners, port authorities and terminal operators have kept quiet, or played down, some of these attacks for fear that Santos will again appear on IMO blacklists regarding pirate attacks just as it was in the 1980s and 1990s.

Sindamar named the 12 vessels that were victims of the pirates as being MSC Manaus, MSC Mexico, MSC Mediterraneo, CMA CGM L'Etoile, CMA CGM Triumph, Guassu, Maersk Valparaiso, Monte Sarniento, Leblon, Cap San Nicolas, Cap Bistand Alianca Maua, an Alianca Navegação Brazilian flagged vessel. The latter company is part of the Hamburg Süd group.

Shipowners fear the pirate attacks are becoming more brazen and more violent and want more action from the federal police.

### Virus hits 700 people on Carnival cruiseship

**M**ore than 700 people have been affected by an outbreak of norovirus on board the Carnival Liberty, writes Sandra Speares.

About 18% of the ship's total of 2,800 passengers were affected by the outbreak as well as 137 crew, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It says some of its staff were scheduled to board the ship in St Maarten yesterday and sail back to Fort Lauderdale.

The CDC will make an epidemiological investigation and additional staff are expected to meet the ship at Fort Lauderdale to monitor cleaning and disinfection.

The ship was on a transatlantic cruise which left Civitavecchia on November 3 and it is due to dock in Fort Lauderdale on Sunday. Most of the passengers have already recovered from the outbreak, according to Carnival.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
AL MAHA	bulker	PRK	—	6,860	11,990	1973	Had fire in three holds at Alexandria inner anchorage Oct 21. Extinguished Oct 23. Large amounts of wood carbonised.
CANADIAN TRANSFER	bulker	CAN	LR	11,120	22,204	1944	Struck submerged object in lat 43 13.6N, long 86 20.6W, Muskegon River, Nov 1. Forepeak damaged and water ingress. Arrived Sarnia Nov 5.
DERYA 2	bulker	PRK	—	9,622	15,900	1978	Had fire in superstructure at Novorossiysk Nov 5. Extinguished same day by fire brigade, Investigation under way.
FRUCTIDOR	bulker	LUX	BV	31,273	53,608	2005	Escorted into Maputo for inspection Nov 2 following temporary loss of engine power. Discharged cargo Nov 8.
GITTA KOSAN	lpg	IOM	BV	4,086	4,811	1990	Reported drifting with engine trouble, in heavy weather, about 30 miles south of Stavanger Nov 5. Under tow of tug <i>Boa Siw</i> . Alongside at Egersund for investigation.
GREEN COAST	passenger	PAN	—	4,992	1,069	1960	Reported Nov 4 capsized at berth at Luanda.
HAREM	passenger	TUR	TU	901	—	1965	Had engine breakdown and contacted the quay at Sirkeci, Istanbul. Nov 5. Damages sustained. 15 passengers injured.
HBC 1000	barge	CAN	—	1,151	—	1964	While in tow of tug Nelson River, took on water near James Bay, in lat 54 01N, long 79 41W, Nov 3. Sank Nov 4.
HOHEWEG	fishing	DEU	—	122	—	1974	Distress signal activated about 16 miles south-west of Helgoland in gale force winds Nov 8. Believed sunk. Beacon and equipment found. All 4 crew missing, search continuing.
KAYE E. BARKER	bulker	USA	ABS	11,949	25,345	1952	Had a major boiler explosion near Ile Parisienne Nov 6. Two crew airlifted off. Anchored in Whitefish Bay. Reported Nov 7 under way with own power. Coast Guard investigating.
ROERBORG	container	NLD	LR	8,777	10,345	1990	Reported Nov 3 to be towed from Iraklion to the Netherlands by tug Captain Michalis. Sailed Nov 6.
SANNA	general	ANT	GL	1,410	1,562	1984	Takin in tow of tug <i>Smit Finland</i> due engine problems near Maassluis Nov 4. Taken to the Lloydkade.
SHAKHTAR	general	UKR	RS	12,030	15,062	1984	Grounded eight miles off Hodeidah Nov 6. Refloated by own means Nov 7 and berthed Hodeidah same day. No apparent damage, discharging cargo.
SICHEM METANOL	chem tanker	MLT	LR	3,744	6,525	1983	Due at Cherbourg Nov 6 for repairs due main engine problem. In the port Nov 7.
VOS REBEL	standby safety vessel	LBR	BV	263	97	1973	In collision with fishing Jacob Senior in lat 53 45N, long 03 18E, Nov 6. Sustained water ingress and pumps failing. Under tug of tug Hunter Nov 7, for Den Helder, where arrived same day.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



## ADI WAITUI (Fiji)

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The owners of general cargo *Adi Waitui* that sank in waters off Bua on Monday (Oct 30) are collecting evidence at the wreck site to determine the cause of its sinking. Islander Shipping Services Limited general manager Ivan Livschitz said he would speak to the crew today and submit a report to the Marine Department. He said he was not qualified to say what could have caused the sinking and did not wish to speculate. Mr Livschitz said the department and police would be given a report today. He said it was unfortunate that one crew member was still missing. North police chief Anand Narayan said the search would continue until Sunday, when it would be reviewed. He said rough seas forced authorities into a stop-start search.

## ADVANCE PESCADORES (Panama)

See "Canada" under "Weather & Navigation".

## AFRICAN HAWK (Bahamas)

London, Nov 3 — Bulker *African Hawk* sailed Klaipeda Nov 1 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 56 31 10N, long 11 23 44E, at 0936, UTC, today, speed 13.9 knots, course 44.4 degrees.

## AIAS (Panama)

London, Nov 4 — Product tanker *Aias* is presently berthed at Hangar 6, Jeteo Alexandra, Montreal. Vessel had arrived Montreal from Three Rivers.

## AL MAHA (North Korea)

Alexandria, Nov 6 — Bulker *Al Maha* (6860 gt, built 1973) had fire in three holds while lying at Alexandria inner anchorage at dawn, Oct 21. Fire-fighting vessels from Alexandria port authority and two Navy launches were sent. The fire was extinguished Oct 23. Large amounts of wood were carbonised and they are now valuing/assessing the damages. The vessel is now at anchor (White Sand Area) under reserve. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Al Maha* arrived Alexandria Oct 20 from Novorossiysk.)

## ALFASHIP (Bahamas)

London, Nov 8 — Understood crude oil tanker *Alfaship* renamed *Lee Yong* arrived at Alang on Aug 11, to be broken up.

## APL DUBAI (Panama)

Singapore, Nov 2 — Container Carrier *APL Dubai* is still at Raffles Reserve Anchorage, Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

## ARCTICA (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Nov 4 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Arctica* sailed Halmstad Nov 3 for Stavanger.

## ARION (Panama)

London, Nov 3 — General cargo *Arion* arrived Luanda 2233, Nov 1.

## ATLANTIC CASTLE (Antigua & Barbuda)

Troy, Michigan, Nov 3 — Bulker *Atlantic Castle* (16807 gt, built 2001) has been moored above Lock 4 at Beauharnois for the last three days with water in the fuel. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

Montreal, Nov 4 — Bulker *Atlantic Castle* was stopped from Oct 30 until Nov 3 at Beauharnois lock area. Reason unknown but it departed Nov 3 and should arrive Chicago Nov 7. — Lloyd's Agents.

## BANA (South Korea)

See "Seizure of Contraband Cigarettes from Korean Flag Vessel, Greece" under "Miscellaneous."

## BARANOF PROVIDER (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 8 — A press release from the United States Coast Guard dated yesterday, states: The U.S. Coast Guard and Alaska Marine Lines (AML) have contained a fire on board barge *Baranof Provider* (1257 gt, built 1981) near Yasha Island in Frederick Sound. The Coast Guard received notification from AML yesterday at approximately 1904 hrs of a fire on board the barge. The barge was being towed from Sitka to Petersburg by the tug *Western Mariner* when the fire broke out. Coast Guard Cutter *Liberty* was dispatched and arrived on scene at approximately 0100 hrs to fight the fire and at about 0400, the tug *Togiak* arrived on scene and relieved Cutter *Liberty*. The Coast Guard North Pacific Search and Rescue Coordination Centre issued an urgent marine information broadcast then transferred the case to Coast Guard Sector Juneau. The fire was brought under control at approximately 0600, this morning. The barge contained mostly empty cargo containers along with some southbound cargo. The cargo involved in the fire is reported to be municipal solid waste. The cause of the fire is under investigation. AML is currently working with the Coast Guard, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), and the City and Borough of Juneau to develop a plan to transfer the remaining cargo to another vessel and how best to dispose of the remaining debris.

London, Nov 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard in Juneau says a barge (*Baranof Provider*) caught fire in Frederick Sound. Officials say no one was hurt, but the fire consumed some containers on the stern of the barge before being controlled. Petty Officer Thomas McKenzie says Alaska Marine Lines notified the Coast Guard of the fire

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last night. Two tugs were sent to the scene to put the fire out. The Coast Guard also responded. McKenzie says the fire was contained, but nine of the 94 containers on board burned. McKenzie says the fire is just smoldering this morning. He says the plan is to tow the barge to Juneau.

#### **BARTOL KASIC (Croatia)**

Rijeka, Nov 9 — Roll On Roll Off *Bartol Kasic* completed repairs and returned to service on Aug 26. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BEAUMAJOR (Netherlands)**

London, Nov 6 — Tug *Leopard*, with tow, (?general cargo *Beaumajor*) was reported passing Cape Finisterre at 1028 hrs, Nov 5, bound for Harlingen.

#### **BELUGA STIMULATION (Germany)**

London, Nov 8 — Container Carrier *Beluga Stimulation* sailed from Hamburg at 1305, UTC, Nov 6, bound for Rotterdam.

#### **BENEGAS (Panama)**

Amman, Nov 6 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Benegas* remains at Aqaba anchorage. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BONG HOA SAN (North Korea)**

London, Nov 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Myanmar permitted North Korean general cargo *Bong Hoa San* (2897 gt, built 1970) in distress to anchor at a port over the weekend, but found no cargo violating UN sanctions during an inspection of the vessel, the Foreign Ministry said. In a statement sent to embassies, the ministry said authorities received a distress call Saturday (Nov 4) from the vessel, and allowed it to enter Thilawa port on "humanitarian grounds." "Myanmar authorities conducted an inspection on board the vessel and found no suspicious material or military equipment," said the statement. The ship left Myanmar early yesterday, the ministry said. The statement did not say where the ship was headed or where it had been. Nor did it detail the nature of the distress call, saying only that Myanmar authorities supplied the ship with fuel and water and food for its 32-strong crew.

#### **BROTHERS-11 (Russia)**

London, Nov 9 — Following received from the managers of product tanker *Brothers-11*, dated today: *Brothers-11* did not actually run aground in the Kama River Oct 30. The report that it had was a misunderstanding. It is currently proceeding for Istanbul, where ETA Nov 10.

#### **CALA PALMA (Italy)**

London, Nov 6 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: Lloyd Werft, Bremerhaven, is awaiting a decision this week whether it will be the yard to carry out the repairs to the fire damaged refrigerated general cargo *Cala Palma*.

#### **CAMILLA DESGAGNES (Barbados)**

Halifax, Nov 6 — Roll On Roll Off *Camilla Desgagnes* remains alongside Pier 9, in Halifax and is understood to be "re-engining" the vessel. This shall be ongoing for some period of time. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CANADIAN TRANSFER (Canada)**

London, Nov 3 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1510, UTC: Bulker *Canadian Transfer* (11120 gt, built 1944), inbound Muskegon River, cargo rock salt, struck object on bottom of river, possibly a rock, in lat 43 13.65N, long 86 20.69W, at 1900, UTC, Nov 1. Vessel has gash in forepeak and was taking water. It subsequently moored and offloaded some of its cargo. Latest information indicates vessel bound Sault Ste Marie for repairs.

Montreal, Nov 7 — Bulker *Canadian Transfer* arrived Sarnia early Nov 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CARAVOS HORIZON (Malta)**

See under "Miscellaneous".

#### **CARIBOU (Canada)**

London, Nov 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Marine Atlantic cancelled three crossings yesterday after passenger ro/ro *Caribou* (27213 gt, built 1986) failed a sea trial. "We still have a backlog of traffic," Tara Laing, a spokeswoman for the federal ferry service, said yesterday evening. The ship had undergone regularly scheduled maintenance and was being tested at sea when "another issue was identified," she said. The ferry service is now down two ships. Roll On Roll Off *Leif Erikson* was pulled out of service on Oct 27 after hitting a concrete wharf in Port aux Basques. Four days of high winds then slowed the service, creating another backlog. Some passengers were delayed more than 12 hours as 115-kilometre-per-hour winds blew across the waters between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. "We traditionally have three vessels in service at this time of year," Ms. Laing said. Only passenger Ro/Ro *Joseph and Clara Smallwood*, with a capacity of 350 vehicles, and Roll On Roll Off *Atlantic Freighter*, which can carry 70 trucks, are plying the Cabot Strait. There were about 150 tractor-trailers waiting for service in North Sydney last night, Ms. Laing said.

#### **CEMENTINA (Comoros)**

London, Nov 3 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0915, UTC: Bulk cement carrier *Cementina* was refloated yesterday and is now under tow for Harlingen.

London, Nov 3 — Understand salvage services were rendered to bulk cement carrier *Cementina* by SvitzerWijmuller Salvage BV under Lloyd's Open Form dated Nov 2.

London, Nov 3 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1058, UTC: Bulk cement carrier *Cementina* is being towed by tug *Hunter* to

Harlingen where it will be inspected in dock. ETA Terschelling pilot 1300, local time, today.

Ymuiden, Nov 3 — SvitzerWijmuller Salvage BV and partners Rederij Noordgat today succeeded in moving to deep water and redelivering bulk cement carrier *Cementina* from the position it ended up after the violent storm this week. The vessel was washed over the first line of sandbanks Nov 1 and had ended up aground in the very sensitive Wadden Shallows after being abandoned by its crew, an operation which resulted in a multiple capsizing of one of the official KNRM lifeboats which itself had to be guided back to port by helicopter. A SvitzerWijmuller salvage crew had attempted to board the vessel that same day but the weather conditions did not allow this. Yesterday the salvage crew succeeded in boarding the vessel and was able to refloat it using rescue tug/vessel *Tempest*, which has an extremely shallow draft. Tug *Hunter*, mobilised to the site, was still prevented from entering the enclosed space of the banks due to the sea/swell conditions. The casualty was therefore anchored in one of the maze-like channels with the salvage team on board and *Tempest* on stand-by. The team in the meantime was able to start up the auxiliary engine of the casualty, restoring power on board. This morning the conditions had improved so that *Hunter* could manoeuvre through the unmarked and ever changing channels guided by *Tempest*, whereby considerable risks were present of grounding the tug itself. The casualty was then connected up and the convoy was manoeuvred carefully back to deeper water through the channels. This operation was accomplished about 0815, local time, today. The vessel thereafter was towed to Harlingen, the latter part of the trip again through the Wadden Shallows escorted and assisted at the stern by tug *Noordgat*. Vessel arrived Harlingen late this afternoon and was then redelivered back to its owners. — SvitzerWijmuller Salvage BV.

#### **CLIFFORD MAERSK (DIS)**

London, Nov 3 — Following notice to mariners issued at 1540, JST, today: Engine troubled container vessel (container carrier *Clifford Maersk*) adrift in lat 35 10.5N, long 131 38.6E, at 1500, JST.

London, Nov 5 — Following Japan Navigational Warning, dated today: Container Carrier *Clifford Maersk* adrift in lat 35 23.N, long 131 53.2E at 1500, JST, Nov 4. (See issue of Nov 6.)

London, Nov 6 — Following Japan Navigational Warning, dated today: Engine troubled Container Carrier *Clifford Maersk* restored at 1645, Nov 5.

Yokohama, Nov 8 — Container Carrier *Clifford Maersk*, Hong Kong for Los Angeles, lost command in lat 35 23N, long 131 34.4E due to malfunction of a cylinder in the main engine at 1300, Nov 1. Following temporary repairs, vessel resumed

under its own power assisted by escorts at 1630, Nov 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CMA CGM ORCHID (Liberia)**

See *Gulsum Ana*.

**DEFENDER (Cambodia)**

Belfast, Nov 3 — General cargo *Defender* arrived Warrenpoint 1940, Oct 30 with part of timber deck cargo missing from aft. Vessel discharged all remaining deck cargo at Warrenpoint on Oct 31. Vessel sailed 2200, Oct 31 for Dundalk to discharge balance of timber from holds. — Lloyd's Agents.

**DERYA 2 (North Korea)**

London, Nov 7 — Bulker *Derya 2* (9622 gt, built 1978), with 21 crew, loading scrap, had a fire in superstructure at Novorossiysk, Nov 5. Tug *Sposobny* alongside. Five city fire teams and firefighting tug *Mars* assisted. Fire extinguished by 0539, local time. No injuries, investigation under way. (Note — *Derya 2* arrived Novorossiysk Oct 27 and still in port Nov 1.)

**EAGLE SUBARU (Singapore)**

London, Nov 6 — Crude oil tanker *Eagle Subaru* sailed from New Orleans on Nov 3, bound for Corpus Christi, where ETA 1200 hrs, today.

London, Nov 8 — Crude oil tanker *Eagle Subaru* arrived at Corpus Christi at 0835 hrs, Nov 7.

**EDELWEISS (Hong Kong)**

London, Nov 8 — Bulker *Edelweiss* arrived at Kochi, Japan, on Oct 27. The vessel departed on Oct 30 for Vostochnyy, arriving on Nov 2. It sailed on Nov 4, destination Japan.

**ENCHANTMENT OF THE SEAS (Bahamas)**

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Enchantment of the Seas* had a sudden contact with a barge moored off the shores of George Town (Grand Cayman Island) Tuesday (Nov 1) morning because of a strong squall of wind. Port Security Officer Roy Lee confirmed that at 1030 Tuesday *Enchantment of the Seas* dragged its anchor 300 metres before it ran into a moored barge off Pageant Beach. The ship had been anchored offshore from the Wharf Restaurant area. Rough weather, which deteriorated very quickly, caused a gust of wind from the south to south east peak to 40 knots, said Mr. Lee. He explained the squall caused the anchor to be dragged north, sending it into the barge in a matter of about three minutes. "It hit the barge on the bow and swung around," he said. The stern of the cruise ship struck the barge. No one was injured in the incident, he noted. At that point in the morning most of the passengers were off the ship, he said. The ship arrived in port over three hours earlier. The contact resulted in two dents on the port side of the ship and a 100 foot long scrape. The barge, which was moored, did not move after it had been struck by the ship. The Cayman

Islands Shipping Registry went onboard the ship and did a report on it following the incident, said Mr. Lee. The anchor was pulled following the incident and the ship remained at engine for the rest of the afternoon, he said.

London, Nov 5 — Passenger (cruise) *Enchantment of the Seas* arrived Cozumel at 1000, Nov 4, from George Town and sailed 1900, Nov 4, for Port Everglades.

**ERMAK (Russia)**

London, Nov 4 — General cargo *Ermak* passed Messina Strait, southbound, at 1509, Nov 3.

**ESTELLE MAERSK (DIS)**

Aarhus, Nov 6 — The shaft of Container Carrier *Estelle Maersk* was damaged on its trial voyage, after departure from Lindoe Shipyard, and repairs were carried out in Aarhus. Reportedly, the vessel sailed on Nov 1, after repairs, and it is expected back in Aarhus, after its trial voyage, on Nov 8. — Lloyd's Agents.

**EUROCARGO NAPOLI (Italy)**

London, Nov 6 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Roll On Roll Off *Eurocargo Napoli* (16009 gt, built 1995), Salerno for Valencia, sustained storm damage in the night of Nov 3. Lashings broke causing cargo movement on the foreship and aft. The ship thereby lost of some trucks in the stern region. The ship berthed at Valencia at 0750, Nov 3.

London, Nov 8 — Roll On Roll Off *Eurocargo Napoli* sailed from Valencia at 1845 hrs, Nov 4, bound for Salerno.

**FALAK G. (Slovakia)**

Rijeka, Nov 9 — General cargo *Falak G.* is still under arrest at Rijeka and waiting for a decision from the court. — Lloyd's Agents.

**FEDERAL PROGRESS (Hong Kong)**

London, Nov 8 — Bulker *Federal Progress* (21469 gt, built 1989) observed an ingress of water in way of No.2 port ballast tank in lat 40 00N, long 70 00W, north Atlantic Ocean off east coast USA, at 2100, UTC, Oct 23. (Note — *Federal Progress* arrived Seven Islands Oct 29 from Quebec.)

**FILIA ALETTE (Netherlands)**

London, Nov 8 — Following received from Coastguard Forth MRSC, timed 1640, UTC: General cargo *Filia Alette* (2450 gt, built 2000) has turbo-charger problems in lat 55 43N, long 00 32W. Vessel requires towage to Rosyth.

London, Nov 8 — Following received from Coastguard Forth MRSC, timed 1800, UTC: General cargo *Filia Alette*, with 2,200 tons plasterboard, in lat 55 43N, long 00 32W, at anchorage awaiting tug *Cramond*, which ETA 0001-0100, Nov 9. Wind WNW force 6. Towage to proceed for Rosyth.

London, Nov 8 — Following received from Humber Coastguard MRCC, timed 1758, UTC: General cargo *Filia Alette*, Rostock for Rosyth, in lat 55

43N, long 00 32W, approximately 43 miles east of Holy Island. Dropped anchor in the above-mentioned position at 1100, UTC, and presently displaying anchor and deck lights. Vessel has turbo-charger problems but inspection revealed that the defects are more extensive.

London, Nov 9 — Following received from Coastguard Forth MRSC, timed 1040, UTC: General cargo *Filia Alette*: Tug *Cramond* arrived on scene at 2338, UTC, Nov 8. Vessels are currently three miles east of Holy Island waiting for the weather to improve before commencing towage to Rosyth. At present winds on scene are force 7 to 8 (near gale to gale).

**FINNBIRCH (Sweden)**

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated Nov 2, states: Roll On Roll Off *Finnbirch* which sank in a storm off the east coast of Oland Island is leaking oil, according to the Swedish Coast Guard. The extent of the spill is not clear at this moment because of bad weather at the site of the accident, but the Swedish Coast Guard officials describe it as a reasonable quantity of oil coming up from the freighter. There were 250 tonnes of heavy oil and 10 tonnes of machine oil on board the vessel when it went down. The amount of the oil released into the sea will depend on the extent of the damage to the sunken vessel. This information is also unknown. Currently, two Swedish Coast Guard ships are at the site, monitoring the situation. The oil slick is drifting south and there is no immediate threat to the shores, the Coast Guard officials said. Meanwhile, member states of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission, known as the Helsinki Commission, or HELCOM, have offered assistance to Sweden. Finland and Germany will be sending their aircraft to monitor the oil spill, but currently heavy winds in the area are currently hampering any air monitoring or an oil spill response operation. (See issue of Nov 3.)

London, Nov 3 — Following navigation warnings have been issued Nov 2: Timed 1000, UTC: Wreck of ro-ro vessel (Roll On Roll Off *Finnbirch*) in lat 56 45.3N, long 17 15.6E. Timed 1245, UTC: Wrecked goods adrift in vicinity of lat 56 44.17N, long 17 15.25E.

**FREITIND (Norway)**

Trondheim, Nov 6 — The owners of general cargo *Freitind* have advised that that the vessel is still at Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra, with no change in her situation. — Lloyd's Agents.

**FRUCTIDOR (Luxembourg)**

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Fructidor* (31273 gt, built 2005) arrived safely in Maputo yesterday escorted by the Durban-based supply *Toto* after the bulk carrier reported a breakdown of its engines. The ship had been en route for Maputo with a cargo of 42,000 tonnes of alumina. The ship reported a loss of engine power earlier

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in the week. *Toto* was the only available tug and immediately headed out, taking *Fructidor* in tow but apparently experiencing some difficulty in making forward progress towards Maputo on account of the strong current combined with the heavy tow. However shortly afterwards the bulk carrier is reported to have regained engine power and was able to make its own way to port escorted by the tug which was apparently having some difficulty in keeping up. Both vessels were reported to have arrived safely in harbour yesterday. (Note — *Fructidor* sailed Bunbury Oct 14 for Maputo.)

Maputo, Nov 7 — Bulker *Fructidor* is still in the Port of Maputo awaiting repairs. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Nov 6.)

Cape Town, Nov 8 — Bulker *Fructidor* is currently discharging its cargo of alumina at Maputo. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GITTA KOSAN (Isle of Man)**

London, Nov 5 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 0000, UTC: Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Gitta Kosan* (4086 gt, built 1990), in ballast, drifting due to engine problems about 30 miles south of Stavanger. Salvage tug *Kaliningradets* about five miles from the casualty.

London, Nov 5 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Gitta Kosan*, bound Kaarsto for loading, in lat 58 14.4N, long 05 23.3E with engine blackout outside Stavanger. The weather is rough in the area. Russian tug *Kaliningradets* is in the area, awaiting the situation.

London, Nov 5 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Gitta Kosan*: Tug *Boa Siw* now has a line on board the vessel and is towing it with the weather into sheltered waters. At present winds are north-north-west, strong gales, heavy seas. Two other tugs attempted to get the *Gitta Kosan* in tow but without success.

London, Nov 6 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Gitta Kosan* was towed yesterday morning to Kvina Verft for repairs by tug *Boa Siw*. Tug/supply vessel *Normand Trym* also tried to tow the vessel but the wire broke early yesterday morning and Coast Guard vessel *Tromso* assisted the whole operation. *Gitta Kosan* is now anchored in lat 58.24N, long 06.81E, awaiting repairs.

London, Nov 6 — Following received from the managers of Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Gitta Kosan*, dated today: *Gitta Kosan* is currently alongside at Egersund, with investigations under way to determine the cause of the incident and establish how long the vessel will be out of service. No decision has yet been taken regarding where repairs are to be effected.

London, Nov 7 — A North Sea storm this weekend put one of Danish owner J Lauritzen's Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Gitta Kosan*, now sheltering in

a Norwegian fjord, out of action. Investigators yesterday were assessing damage to the small liquefied petroleum gas carrier after it was caught in bad weather late on Saturday (Nov 4) evening. A large wave hit the 4,415 cu m vessel at 2300 hrs on its ballast voyage from Antwerp to Kaarsto in southern Norway, where it was due to pick up a cargo for Statoil. The vessel was taken the following day to the fjord at Egersund off south-west Norway after it had drifted with engine failure until morning in poor conditions. The Isle of Man-registered and Bureau Veritas classed carrier was hit by a wave up to eight metres high, which broke down the port control cabinet door and tore off cables. No crew were evacuated from the vessel after the engines cut out, and main engine power was restored an hour after the wave struck. A pair of tugs from the Norwegian joint rescue co-ordination centre were unable to secure the vessel in the stormy weather until a third tug joined the operation. The Norwegian coastguard reported that the 4,811 dwt LPG carrier had drifted to within 20 km of the coast before it was towed to shelter. Lauritzen Kosan president Jan Kastrup-Nielsen said the company would await a full report on the extent of the damage before assessing where to take the vessel for repair work. The Danish gas specialist, which has a leading position in the LPG transport market with its tonnage of up to 8,000 cu m, will cover its contract with Statoil with one of its fleet's similar carriers.

#### **GREEN COAST (Panama)**

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Understand passenger (cruise) *Green Coast* (4992 gt, built 1960) has capsized at its berth in Luanda.

#### **GRIGOROUSSA I (Liberia)**

London, Nov 4 — Crude oil tanker *Grigoroussa I* arrived Piraeus Nov 1 from Suez.

#### **GULSUM ANA (Turkey)**

London, Nov 6 — Bulker *Gulsum Ana* (19864 gt, built 1975) dragged anchor because of the strong south-westerly storm and touched Container Carrier *CMA CGM Orchid* (28592 gt, built 2006) from the bow at 0827 today and five containers have fallen overboard. Tugs *Kurtarma 4* and *Sonduren 5* and search and rescue vessel *Kiyi Emniyet 5* were sent immediately by Istanbul VTS to the place of incident. Containers fallen overboard were empty, one of them completely sank and four started to drift through the Bosphorus in a half sunk situation. Interfering of containers to the sea traffic has been prevented and securing operation started. No pollution and loss of life was reported. *Gulsum Ana* has been sent to the proper anchorage area escorted by *Kurtarma 4* for the administrative investigation. The containers have been towed to the Haydarpasa port and secured by *Sonduren 5*. (Note —

*Gulsum Ana* passed Istanbul 0240, Nov 5 and *CMA CGM Orchid*, from Far East ports, passed Dardanelles, bound Istanbul, 1405, Nov 5.)

Istanbul, Nov 6 — As a result of strong south-westerly winds, at 0827 hrs, today, bulker *Gulsum Ana*, with a cargo of steel, dragged anchor and drifted into Container Carrier *CMA CGM Orchid*, Piraeus for Istanbul, near Ahirkapi, Istanbul. The impact of the collision caused five containers to fall into the sea. Reportedly one completely sank and the other four were dragged towards the Bosphorus Straits and subsequently towed to Haydarpasa Port. Reportedly the authorities are trying to take security measures for them and traffic continues to flow. There were no injuries in this incident. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **HAN JIN NO.21 (South Korea)**

London, Nov 7 — Following navigation warning issued at 1020, JST, today: Tug *Han Jin No.21*, 154 tons, adrift in lat 31 52.1N, long 127 57.02E at 0844, JST, today. Barge *Hwang Gang 6*, 197 tons, adrift in lat 31 49.19N, long 128 03.06E, at 0844, JST.

London, Nov 7 — Following navigation warning issued at 2000, JST, today: Towing of tug (*Han Jin No.21*) and barge *Hwang Gang 6* started. Cancel earlier warning.

#### **HANSEATIC SEA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Nov 6 — Roll On Roll Off *Hanseatic Sea* was reported arriving at Emden on Nov 3 and sailing on Nov 4, bound for Rotterdam.

#### **HAREM (Turkey)**

Istanbul, Nov 6 — Passenger ro/ro *Harem* (901 gt, built 1965) operating between Harem-Sirkeci, sustained engine breakdown whilst manoeuvring to berth alongside the Pier at Sirkeci/Istanbul and came into contact with the quay at 1430 hrs, Nov 5. It is reported that 15 passenger were injured and the ferry has sustained some damages. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **HARLE REEF (Germany)**

London, Nov 9 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Harle Reef* is still high and dry in Harlingersiel where it ran aground in a storm. Two cranes will arrive next week to get the vessel back into the water. The date is announced to be Nov 15. The cranes, with a weight of 300-400 tons each, are to be carried to the harbour. The owners used the time for an underwater overhaul of the vessel without need of a drydock.

#### **HARLE RIFF (Germany)**

London, Nov 3 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: The refloating of general cargo *Harle Reef* is scheduled for the forthcoming week.

London, Nov 6 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: General cargo *Harle Riff* is still aground on a pier in Neuharlingersiel. The vessel is to be

refloated on Nov 9. A mobile crane will be used to lift the vessel back into the water. The owners are, however, still looking for a suitable one.

**HARVEST CAROLINE  
(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

London, Nov 3 — General cargo *Harvest Caroline* arrived Greenock Nov 3.

**HBC 1000 (Canada)**

London, Nov 6 — Barge *HBC 1000* (1151 gt), tow of tug *Nelson River* (78 gt), took on water and lost deck cargo near James Bay, lat 54 01 19N, long 79 41 09W, at 1730, EST. Nov 3. Lost cargo included building materials, vehicles and a front end loader. Barge sank the following day.

**HD COMMANDER  
(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

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

**HERTHA O. (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Flushing, Nov 3 — Repairs to bulker *Hertha O.* will take at least two weeks to complete. The old rudder has been completely removed and a new rudder is having to be made. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**HEVI**

Helsinki, Nov 7 — Tug *Hevi* has been taken to the Vuosaari repair dock. The damages are not extensive. According to the tug's owners, Arctic Towing Oy, a small hole in the side and a broken window are the only structural damages. The most severe are the electrical damages, which will take the longest to repair. Arctic Towing Oy estimate that the tug will be back in service again early next spring, possibly at the beginning of May 2007. The tug is not in use during the winter months. — Lloyd's Agents.

**HOHEBANK (U.K.)**

London, Nov 7 — General cargo *Hohebank* arrived at Bremen at 2230 hrs, Nov 6, from Liverpool.

**HOHEWEG (Germany)**

London, Nov 9 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: At 2100 hrs, Nov 8, the signal of fishing (general) *Hoheweg* (122 gt, built 1974), homeport Brake, was activated. It was with a crew of four about 16 miles south-west of Helgoland. There was no communication with the crew. During the night the wind blew at 8 Beaufort Scale. At 2300 hrs, the rescue boat *Hermann Helms* found the beacon and later some equipment from *Hoheweg* was found and fuel smelled. The search for the crew is at present going on and only search flights are allowed in the area. The search is being co-ordinated by the rescue centre in Bremen.

London, Nov 9 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Fishing (general) *Hoheweg*: At 1100 hrs, today, the search forces were further strengthened by the rescue boats *Hans Hackmack* from Busum

and *Hermann Rudolf Meyer*, which has just left Bremerhaven and passed the Stromkaje heading towards the North Sea. Thus it can be assumed that nothing except debris was found yet.

**HOLBERG (Uruguay)**

London, Nov 7 — A press report, dated Nov 6, states: Fishing (general) *Holberg* (485 gt, built 1951), which for a number of seasons has been conducting an experimental fishery for scallops (vieiras) around the Falkland Islands, was reported today, to be still above water after an incident yesterday when it was feared she would capsize. The vessel was fishing in Port Purvis, a large natural harbour to the North East of West Falklands, when, reportedly, it grounded on the southern shore of the harbour on a falling tide. According to a report given to Falklands Radio by Fisheries Department Observer, Mick Hattersley, who was present on *Holberg* at the time, the ship resisted attempts to refloat her and with the tide still falling began to develop a list to starboard. At this point, the crew prepared to abandon the vessel should the need arise. There being no immediate sign of any damage and with the situation appearing stable, the decision was made to wait till the tide rose later in the afternoon, with the expectation that the vessel would float off. As the tide rose, the vessel began to right itself, but then after a few minutes, with the tide still rising, developed a much more severe list to port. This was described by Hattersley as "going within two movements straight from starboard to being almost flat on its port side". At this point the captain had no alternative but to put out an emergency call. This message was picked up by the Falkland Islands Government Fishery Patrol Vessel, *Dorada*, at around 1830 hrs and later relayed to the emergency services. The crew of thirty-one, including a Falkland Islands Government Fisheries Observer abandoned the vessel in liferafts and reached the shore about 200 metres away. From here a Sea King helicopter of the Royal Air Force transferred them to Mount Pleasant Airport. Apart from a small number with minor injuries sustained when the vessel rolled, all the crew are reported to be in good health. Speaking to MercoPress this afternoon, Falklands Director of Fisheries, John Barton said that the vessel did not appear to present an immediate risk to the environment. A surveillance flight had been undertaken earlier in the day, involving the Government's Marine Officer, the Environmental Planning Officer and the Director of Falklands Conservation. According to their observations, the vessel was lying on its side, resting on the bottom and partially submerged, but still intact, with no signs of leakage of oil. Mr. Barton said that interviews were currently being conducted with the crew to determine how much gas oil the vessel might have been carrying.

On the basis of this information, efforts would be made to minimise the risk of any future contamination, which might occur should the vessel break up.

**HWANG GANG 6**

See *Han Jin No.21*.

**HYUNDAI NO.106 (Liberia)**

Portland, Oreg, Nov 3 — Vehicle carrier *Hyundai No.106*: Spill was allegedly minor. Temporary repairs to the hull were made to the satisfaction of the vessel's class and the Coast Guard detention order was rescinded. Vessel departed Portland 0130, Nov 1, next port Ulsan, ETA Nov 13 — Lloyd's Agents.

**ICE FLAKE (Cayman Islands)**

London, Nov 6 — Refrigerated general cargo *Ice Flake* sailed from Durban on Nov 2.

**IKKAMIUT (Greenland)**

London, Nov 7 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: Trawler *Ikkamiut* (935 gt, built 1977) broke lose from its moorings in Hafnarfjordur harbour, Iceland, in winds of 32 m/sec, on Nov 5, and drifted aground a short time later. The ship refloated on the next tide.

**ISSAQUAH (U.S.A.)**

Seattle, Nov 6 — Roll On Roll Off *Issaquah*: Engineering Manager, Ron Wolfran, reports that they expect the ferry to resume service on or about Nov 12. — Lloyd's Agents.

**JACOB SENIOR (Netherlands)**

See *VOS Rebel*.

**JAG PAHEL (India)**

Quebec, Nov 6 — Product tanker *Jag Pahel* left Montreal Oct 27 after completing temporary repairs. As of Oct 31 it was out of Canadian waters and it did not have any orders for loading a cargo at that time. — Lloyd's Agents.

**JOHN G.MUNSON (U.S.A.)**

Troy, Michigan, Nov 8 — Bulker *John G.Munson* (15179 gt, built 1952) struck Shell Canada's fuel dock on the St. Clair River Monday (Nov 6). The vessel was pulling into the refueling station near Corunna, Ontario around 1130 hrs when it struck the dock. Investigators believe mechanical failure is to blame according to local law enforcement. The vessel struck the north end of the dock, demolishing nearly 200 feet of the structure, which sank into the St. Clair River. There were no injuries and there has been no impact on the environment, said Shell spokesperson John Peck. The incident was reported to both the U.S. and Canadian Coast Guard and is being investigated by the Ontario Provincial Police Marine Unit. It is unknown if the Shell Fuel dock continues to operate fueling vessels. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News.

Troy, Michigan, Nov 8 — Bulker *John G.Munson*: As of noon yesterday, Capt. Don Gordon has the tug *Menasha* and

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crane barge on site, along with a dive team from Gordon Marine Services and structural engineers to determine the extent of the damage to the north dock. About 200 feet of the dock is in the water and the support caissons are badly damaged. Operations at the middle and south docks, continue as normal. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News.

#### **JOHNNY P. (Malta)**

Piraeus, Nov 3 — Bulker *Johnny P.* was towed into Piraeus yesterday. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

#### **KANG NAM 1 (North Korea)**

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

#### **KANG NAM 5 (North Korea)**

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

#### **KAYE E.BARKER (U.S.A.)**

Troy, Michigan, Nov 6 — Bulker *Kaye E. Barker* (11949 gt, built 1952) sustained a major boiler explosion near Ile Parisienne around 0800, yesterday morning. Two crew members have been air lifted off the vessel. The vessel has enough boiler power to for electricity and is anchored in Whitefish Bay. The "G" tug *Missouri* was up bound from the Soo around 1800 hrs. The tug will tow the vessel to the Carbine Dock in the Soo. It is expected that another Interlake vessel will take the vessel's cargo of taconite that was loaded in Marquette. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

London, Nov 6 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1500, UTC: Bulker *Kaye E. Barker* had port boiler explosion, causing loss of propulsion and electrical power, near Ile Parisienne, in approximate position lat 46 30N, long 84 50W, around 1145, UTC, Nov 5. Two crew were injured. Vessel remains anchored in Whitefish Bay. (See issue of Nov 7.)

Troy, Michigan, Nov 7 — Bulker *Kaye E. Barker* is under way under its own power. Vessel passed the 9 Mile call in point, downbound, at 1355, local time, Nov 6. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

Troy, Mich., Nov 8 — One crew member from bulker *Kaye E. Barker*, remains hospitalized, in a stable condition. Another injured crew member was released yesterday afternoon. Both suffered second and third degree burns when the vessel's boiler exploded on Sunday (Nov 5) morning in Lake Superior off of Whitefish Point. Officials with the vessel's owner, Interlake Steamship Company, say it appears the fire was caused by a mechanical failure. The Coast Guard is handling the investigation. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

#### **KEE LUNG (Panama)**

See "Belgium" under "Port State Control."

#### **KEW BRIDGE**

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

Mumbai, Nov 3 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Kew Bridge* has been

refloated and shifted to Ratnagiri anchorage to await further orders. — Lloyd's Agents.

Mumbai, Nov 6 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Kew Bridge* sailed for Dubai at 1810, Nov 4. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **KOCATEPE S. (Turkey)**

London, Nov 7 — General cargo *Kocatepe S.* sailed from Cardiff at 1711 hrs, Nov 3, bound for Antwerp, where it arrived at 0713 hrs, Nov 6.

#### **KOREAN EXPRESS (South Korea)**

Yokohama, Nov 8 — Container Carrier *Korean Express* (3967 gt, built 1991), Kobe to Korea, ran aground on the shallows near Bisan Seto in the Inland Sea, in lat 34 22.4N, long 136 46.2E at 2350, Oct 27 due to navigation error. Vessel was refloated by Japanese salvor at 1430, Oct 28 without any water ingress or oil spill. No personal injuries reported. Vessel resumed voyage to destination same day. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Korean Express*, according to Lloyd's MIU AIS, stationary in lat 35 4 17.52N, long 128 59 38.7E, 4.7 nautical miles from Busan, at 0618, today.)

#### **LAI KING (Hong Kong)**

Cape Town, Nov 8 — General cargo *Lai King* (9194 gt, built 1978), Brazil for Yemen, loaded with 14,000 tonnes of sugar, is currently in approximate position lat 26 00S, long 21 00W, with main engine damage. Vessel requires a tow into Cape Town. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **LIAN SHUN HU (China)**

London, Nov 3 — Crude oil tanker *Lian Shun Hu* sailed Marcus Hook 0340, Oct 29, arrived Delaware Bay 1255, same day, sailed 1308, Nov 1 and arrived New York 0905, Nov 2.

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

London, Nov 6 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: Vehicle carrier *Liberty* (51858 gt, built 1985) caused oil pollution in Bremerhaven East Harbour Oct 31. A gash between a ballast water tank and a heavy fuel tank situated above led to the escape of heavy fuel oil into the harbour when ballast water was being pumped out. It polluted an area of about 1,000 square metres which were cleaned by specialist firms. The ship is at present underway to the USA for cleaning of tanks and pipes. (Note — *Liberty* arrived Bremerhaven 2345, Oct 27, sailed 1950, Oct 30, arrived Antwerp 0426, Nov 1, sailed 1856 same day, arrived Southampton Nov 2 and sailed same day for New York.)

#### **LIBERTY A. (Cyprus)**

See "Cyprus" under "Port State Control".

#### **MATHILDE (Netherlands)**

London, Nov 6 — General cargo *Mathilde* was reported passing Brunsbüttel at 0730 hrs, Nov 4, in an easterly direction, reportedly bound for a port in Finland.

#### **MERIDIAN (U.K.)**

London, Nov 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators yesterday left Aberdeen to begin an underwater search in the North Sea for missing fishing (general) *Meridian*. A survey ship from the Marine Accident Investigation Branch left Aberdeen at 1300 hrs and was expected to arrive this morning at the spot where *Meridian* and its four crew went missing 12 days ago. The survey ship, provided by Aberdeen-based Talisman Energy (UK), the crewmen's contractors, will use sonar equipment to search the area up to 230 ft beneath the surface. Once *Meridian's* position is established, a remotely operated vehicle will carry out a visual inspection of its condition. Investigators have said it is unlikely *Meridian* will be raised, and that in the majority of cases the cause of the accident can be found using ROVs. Three of the crew members remain unaccounted for.

#### **MISS TAYLOR B. (U.S.A.)**

London, Nov 6 — A press report, dated today, states: An 83-foot vessel lost its engine propulsion and is being assisted by the U.S. Coast Guard. According to Coast Guard Petty Officer Dana Ward, fishing (general) *Miss Taylor B.'s* (183 gt, built 1978) engine shut down about seven miles off Port Everglades this morning. The Coast Guard said the crew has no control of the vessel.

London, Nov 6 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1335, UTC: Fishing (general) *Miss Taylor B.* reported breakdown off Port Everglades at 0412, local time, today. Vessel is currently under tow of Coast Guard cutter *Farallon* as a dead ship and is presently 2.5 to 3 miles south of the Port Everglades entrance buoy. It is expected proceed to Berth 1A in the port.

London, Nov 6 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 2035, UTC: Fishing (general) *Miss Taylor B.* arrived Port Everglades 1226, local time, 1726, UTC.

#### **MORNING ROSE (NIS)**

Durban, Nov 8 — Vehicle carrier *Morning Rose* undocked from the drydock on Nov 7 and sailed same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MSC ALEXA (Panama)**

Zeebrugge, Nov 6 — Container Carrier *MSC Alexa* (42037 gt, built 1996), in bound for Antwerp, is anchored near Everingen carrying out engine repairs. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *MSC Alexa* was reported near Everingen with machinery problems with tug IZeebrugge standing-by. According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *MSC Alexa* was stationary in lat 51 24 15N, long 03 44 20E, at 1531, UTC, today. *MSC Alexa* had sailed Felixstowe 1448, Nov 5 for Antwerp.)

London, Nov 6 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *MSC Alexa* is in lat 51 20 49N, long 04 17 01E, at 2029, UTC, today, speed two knots.



London, Nov 7 — Container Carrier *MSC Alexa* arrived Antwerp 2120 yesterday.

London, Nov 9 — Container Carrier *MSC Alexa* sailed from Antwerp at 1031 hrs, Nov 8, bound for Le Havre.

**NELSON RIVER (Canada)**

See *HBC 1000*.

**NORMAND TRYM (Norway)**

See *Gitta Kosan*.

**ODIN SYDFYEN (Denmark)**

London, Nov 3 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, Roll On Roll Off *Odin Sydfyen* was located in lat 54 52 33.61N, long 11 01 39.68E, course 007 deg, speed 1.2 knots, nearest port Nakskov, at a distance of 6.8 nautical miles.

**OEN (Denmark)**

London, Nov 2 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1525, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Oen* is still aground and under detention. Understand the possibility of "lifting" the vessel from its stranded position are being investigated.

London, Nov 3 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1125, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Oen*: Insurance company representatives and surveyors boarded vessel yesterday. The plan is to lift the vessel off the ground with a crane, which will then carry the vessel until it reaches a shipyard. This is due to the fact that holes have been found in the vessel's hull. The operation may commence in a few days time.

London, Nov 6 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0945, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Oen* remains aground. It is hoped that the operation to lift the vessel with a crane will commence tomorrow.

London, Nov 8 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0950, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Oen* was lifted off the beach by a crane at 2345, UTC, Nov 7 and carried to the shipyard in Soby for permanent repairs, arriving this morning.

**OMOE (Denmark)**

London, Nov 2 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1530, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Omoie* remains aground, high and dry on the beach. It is hoped to begin dredging work around the vessel tomorrow, with a dredger due on scene then.

London, Nov 3 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1135, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Omoie*: Salvors have dredger *Juttesal* on scene and will commence operations to dig a channel along the beach around the vessel. The operation will take a few days. Two tugs are waiting in the harbour.

London, Nov 6 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0955, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Omoie* is still aground. Dredging work has been carried out and it is hoped to refloat vessel today.

London, Nov 8 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0945, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Omoie* was refloated at

1245, UTC, Nov 6 and is currently being towed to Soby, where it is expected to arrive in two to three hours. Once there, the vessel will enter shipyard for repairs.

**ORCA II (Honduras)**

See "Drugs Found On Honduras Vessel, West Africa" under "Miscellaneous".

**ORION I (Pakistan)**

Karachi, Nov 5 — Understand from the local marine specialist firm, Indus Divers, that equipment is being mobilised at the site of barge *Orion I* for salvage operations. Presently, they are filling holes, leakages and taking other necessary steps required for refloating. The whole operation will take a week or so, according to experts. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**OTM 3072 (Canada)**

Quebec, Nov 6 — Barge *OTM 3072* is at the port of Gaspe. No decisions have yet been taken regarding repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

**PAN ACE (South Korea)**

London, Nov 8 — General cargo *Pan Ace* was reported sailing from Nakhodka on Nov 4.

**PERTINACIA (Italy)**

London, Nov 7 — A fire broke out on cable ship *Pertinacia* (12593 gt, built 2003) at Scheldepoort at around 1330, local time, today. The cause of the fire is not known. Five Scheldepoort employees were injured and several persons had smoke inhalation. Some of the victims had to be taken to hospital. The fire has been extinguished. Extent of damage to the vessel is not known at the moment. Tug *Multratug 6* which went to assist has now returned to Terneuzen without being used. (Note — *Pertinacia* had arrived Flushing on Jul 28.)

London, Nov 8 — A fire broke out on board cable ship *Pertinacia*, which was lying at the repair yard Scheldepoort, part of the Koninklijke Schelde Groep, at Flushing East, in the Sloe Harbour. *Pertinacia* was undergoing a conversion from a cable laying vessel into a pipe laying vessel. At about 1330, local time, a fire broke out when welders inside the vessel were doing a repair job. An alarm was given and within several minutes all 200 personnel and crew who were on board, left the ship and were gathered ashore. Five workers had breathing problems due smoke inhalation. After they had been helped by ambulance personnel, two of them recovered very soon, but three had to be sent to the local hospital, but released later. The fire brigade did extinguish the fire very quickly and it did not spread to other rooms in the vessel.

**PETROKREPOST (Liberia)**

London, Nov 3 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, crude oil tanker *Petrokrepost* was located stationary in lat 29 59 46.58N, long 90 25 50.2W, at 1537, UTC, today, nearest port Taft, La, at a distance of 1.1 nautical miles.

London, Nov 7 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, crude oil tanker *Petrokrepost* was reported stationary in lat 29 59 47.37N, long 90 25 49.37W, at 1502, UTC, today, nearest port Taft, La, at a distance of 1.1 nautical miles. (See issue of Nov 7.)

London, Nov 8 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1425, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Petrokrepost* is still being held in the same position until repairs have been effected. The repairs have not yet commenced.

**QUEEN MARY 2 (U.K.)**

London, Nov 7 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Queen Mary 2* is scheduled to arrive in Hamburg on Nov 12, at Blohm & Voss Repair GmbH, a company of ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems. In the course of her previous yard period in the time from May 6 to 10, 2006, one of the four engine pods, a Mermaid Pod, which had been damaged when leaving Port Everglades, Florida, was removed to be repaired by Blohm & Voss. From Nov 12 to 17, the pod weighing approximately 270 tons will be reinstalled. In addition to this, all balconies will be provided with a sprinkler system and the bridge wings will be extended by two meters. *Queen Mary 2* will arrive in Hamburg without passengers on board and leave the port at about 0200, Nov 17, for Southampton from where she will start a transatlantic passage to Fort Lauderdale and, subsequently, a Western Caribbean cruise.

**QUEEN OF CAPILANO (Canada)**

London, Nov 6 — A BC Ferries press release, dated Nov 5, states: Bowen Island - Horseshoe Bay service: Roll On Roll Off *Queen of Capilano* (2855 gt, built 1991) has experienced a mechanical problem necessitating the suspension of service this evening. Water taxi service is being provided. Engineers are working diligently on the problem. An update will be provided in the morning. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Queen of Capilano* was stationary in lat 49 22 36N, long 123 16 15W, at 0854, UTC, today.)

London, Nov 6 — A BC Ferries press release, timed 0530, local time, today, states: Roll On Roll Off *Queen of Capilano* continues to be out of service following a mechanical problem last evening. Water taxi service will be provided this morning until *Queen of Capilano* resumes service. An update will be provided when the service resumption time is determined.

Vancouver, Nov 6 — Following press release issued by BC Ferries Corp, dated Victoria, today: Roll On Roll Off *Bowen Queen* is being redeployed to the Horseshoe Bay — Bowen Island route until repairs can be made to Roll On Roll Off *Queen of Capilano*. *Bowen Queen* is expected to arrive at Horseshoe Bay by late afternoon today resuming the regular scheduled service. In the meantime, water taxi service is being provided to and from

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

Bowen Island. *Queen of Capilano*, which operates on the Horseshoe Bay — Bowen Island route experienced a mechanical malfunction of the propulsion system as the vessel was leaving the dock at Horseshoe Bay approximately 2030 yesterday. Crews immediately proceeded with loss-of-power procedures and deployed both anchors as they are trained to do. There were no injuries, no damage to the vessel and no impact on the environment. Prior to setting sail, all pre-departure checks were conducted with normal results. The cause of this incident is currently under investigation. *Queen of Capilano* will only resume service after all repairs are completed and extensive tests are conducted. The vessel is expected to resume service later this week. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 7 — A BC Ferries press release, timed 1600, local time, Nov 6, states: Roll On Roll Off *Bowen Queen* the temporary replacement vessel for Roll On Roll Off *Queen of Capilano*, has arrived in Horseshoe Bay and is expected to resume service with the 1635 hrs sailing from Horseshoe Bay to Bowen Island.

London, Nov 8 — A BC Ferries press release, timed 0545, local time, Nov 7, states: Roll On Roll Off *Queen of Capilano* will return to service on the Horseshoe Bay - Bowen Island route today with the 0605 hrs sailing from Horseshoe Bay. Throughout the day on Nov 6, engineers and technicians conducted comprehensive tests on the electrical propulsion system of the vessel and are confident the issue has been resolved. Transport Canada has cleared the vessel to sail.

#### **RAY STOKER JR. (U.S.A.)**

London, Nov 9 — A press report from Galveston, dated Nov 3, states: Passenger ro/ro *Ray Stoker Jr.* (1272 gt, built 1996) has sustained an engine problem and will be out of commission for another two to three weeks. William Mallini, who oversees the ferry service for the Texas Department of Transportation said.

#### **RMS VOERDE (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Nov 3 — General cargo *RMS Voerde* arrived Rotterdam 1830, Oct 28 and sailed 1725, Nov 1.

#### **ROBERT H.DEDMAN (U.S.A.)**

London, Nov 5 — A press report, dated Nov 3, states: Repair of the passenger ro/ro *Robert H. Dedman* (1082 gt, built 1998) is on schedule for the vessel to be back in operation today, an official said yesterday. Scheduled maintenance and unexpected breakdowns cut the fleet to a pair of boats for much of this week, annoying frequent floaters between Galveston and Bolivar Peninsula. "At this point, we only have two boats in operation," said William Mallini, who oversees the ferry service for the Texas Department of Transportation. Mallini said the *Robert H. Dedman* was being repaired at the shipyard in Houston yesterday, but should be on its way to

the ferry landing this morning. "We were furiously trying to repair it before we had a problem," he said. During the summer, we run four of our five boats, except for the busiest weekends, when we use all five," Mallini said. One vessel was at the shipyard when the *Robert H. Dedman* was put out of commission with a bent rotor blade.

#### **ROERBORG (Netherlands)**

Piraeus, Nov 3 — Tug *Captain Michalis*, owned by Gigilinis Towage and Salvage, has arrived Iraklion in order to tow Container Carrier *Roerborg* (8777 gt, built 1990) from Iraklion to the Netherlands. To date both vessels are in Iraklion preparing the tug operation. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Roerborg* sailed Alexandria Sep 8 and arrived Iraklion Sep 13.)

Piraeus, Nov 7 — Container Carrier *Roerborg* left Iraklion 1045 yesterday for the Netherlands in tow of tug *Captain Michalis*. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ROGER BLOUGH (U.S.A.)**

Troy, Mich., Nov 5 — The rudder, lost by bulker *Roger Blough* in early August, has been delivered by a tug and crane barge into the Caribe Dock. The massive rudder, measuring 23 feet high by 17 feet long was found in August by side-scan sonar but was not recovered until last week by the heavy-lift crane. The hollow rudder weighs in at about 30 tons. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

#### **ROKIA DELMAS (Panama)**

La Pallice, Nov 3 — The main part of the bunkers on Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Rokia Delmas* have been pumped out. An investigation is still in progress to locate the leak. A barge from Bordeaux should arrive in the area tomorrow, as well with a barge from the Netherlands next week. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Nov 3 — Following received from Delmas Atlantic West Africa Line, Marseilles, dated today: The operation to remove the remaining fuel on board Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Rokia Delmas* is moving toward a successful conclusion. So far, some 550 m3 of fuel, or 93%, including all the heavy fuel oil on board, has been successfully pumped from the vessel. The protection of the environment remains of utmost priority, and the remaining diesel and lighter lubricants will be removed when sea and weather conditions are at their most favourable, in order to minimise any risk of spillage. The second stage of the operation will be to remove the containers from the vessel. A floating crane, on route from Rotterdam, and a barge from Bordeaux should be on site by Monday (Nov 6) morning, weather conditions permitting. The containers will be lifted onto the barge by the crane, from which they can safely be taken ashore. Considerations are well underway for repairing the breach in the hull and the ultimate removal of the vessel from the beach, and Delmas are working with salvage experts to ensure that this operation is

performed in a safe and timely manner. Delmas continue to work in close cooperation with the Prefecture Maritime and would like to once again thank all those involved for their ever professional and welcome assistance in this matter.

Donges, Nov 8 — Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Rokia Delmas*: Main bunker tank empty. Approximately 371 tonnes of fuel were pumped on *Alcyon*. Pumping operations still in progress. A barge/pontoon with crane on the spot for discharging the containers. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ROSELLA (Panama)**

Buenos Aires, Nov 9 — Bulker *Rosella* (17951 gt, built 2005) contacted Delta Dock (Zarate) at night time on Nov 6. The vessel berthed on the River Parana. Some 15 metres of berth were damaged and evaluations are being made in order to control the operational conditions. It is now anchored at Km 120 awaiting further developments with regards to inspections, repairs, etc. — Lloyd's Agents.

Buenos Aires, Nov 9 — At 2236 hrs, on Nov 6, bulker *Rosella* made contact with the eastern wharf of Delta Dock Terminal. As a consequence of the contact, both vessel and wharf sustained extensive damages. The vessel was loaded with 28,400 tonnes of corn in bulk for Algeria. She is currently anchored at km 122 of River Parana de las Palmas awaiting temporary repairs that would permit her to proceed to a transferring area to discharge her cargo and then make repairs in dry-dock as per Coast Guard and class NK. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SAMJOHN SPIRIT (Greece)**

London, Nov 6 — Bulker *Samjohn Spirit* arrived at Rotterdam at 1215 hrs, Nov 5.

#### **SANNA (Netherlands Antilles)**

London, Nov 6 — General cargo *Sanna* (1410 gt, built 1984) was taken in tow by the tug *Smit Finland* near Maasluis Nov 4 following engine problems. The ship was taken to the Lloydskade. (Note — *Sanna* sailed Grove Wharf 0246, Nov 3 and subsequently arrived Rotterdam 0700, Nov 5.)

#### **SEA PRINCE (Cyprus)**

Buenos Aires, Nov 6 — On Oct 13 repairs to Wood-chip carrier *Sea Prince* were completed and she sailed for San Lorenzo Roads, where anchored Oct 14. Reloading operations of cargo started Oct 15 and finished Oct 17. *Sea Prince* sailed San Lorenzo Roads Oct 17 and berthed at San Benito Terminal, port of San Lorenzo, to complete cargo on the same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SHAH BADAR-I**

Chittagong, Nov 7 — The operation to salvage lighter vessel *Shah Badar-I* is proving to be very difficult. Port authorities would like the owners to remove it as soon as possible. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SHAKHTAR (Ukraine)**

London, Nov 7 — A press report, timed 1717, Nov 6, states: date: A “Russian” ship (general cargo *Shakhtar*, 12030 gt, built 1984), carrying 9,800 tons of sugar, stranded off the coast of Hodeidah today. It is reported that the ship which docked at the port for refuelling left its navigation path and went (aground) about eight nautical miles away. (Note — *Shakhtar* was last reported to have sailed Durban Oct 16 for Aden.)

London, Nov 7 — Following received from the owners of general cargo *Shakhtar*, timed 0930. UTC, today. *Shakhtar* was able to refloat itself and is now underway to discharge at Hodeidah. There has been no leakage.

Hodeidah, Nov 7 — General cargo *Shakhtar* refloated by its own power at 0200 today and has berthed alongside Hodeidah port at 1500 hrs with no apparent damage, as stated by the master. Vessel started discharging its cargo of bagged sugar at 1745, local time. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**SICHEM METANOL (Malta)**

Cherbourg, Nov 6 — Chemical tanker *Sichem Metanol* (3744 gt, built 1983) will arrive Cherbourg this afternoon or this evening in tow of tug *Abeille Liberte*, due to main engine problem, for repairs. — Lloyd’s Agents. (Note — *Sichem Metanol*, Jorf Lasfar for Rotterdam, cargo phosphoric acid, passed Cape Finisterre, 0659, Nov 3 and according to Lloyd’s MIU AIS *Sichem Metanol* was in lat 49 49 42N, long 02 42 28W, at 0546, UTC, today, speed 13.1 knots, course 72.1 degrees.)

London, Nov 7 — According to Lloyd’s MIU AIS chemical tanker *Sichem Metanol* is at Cherbourg.

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

Aleppo, Nov 8 — Container Carrier *Silina*: Brokers Sarnia, of Cyprus, are supervising repairs. Repairs started slowly and are expected to last several weeks. Vessel’s Syrian crew have returned to Syria. — Lloyd’s Agents. (See issue of Oct 31.)

**SJOKURS (Malta)**

London, Nov 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry *Sjokurs* (1432 gt, built 1950), belonging to a maritime school in southern Norway, struck a pier in Oslo’s inner harbour just after 0600 today. The vessel is used for training. “It was a relatively strong contact,” said Kjetil Kroken of the Oslo Police District. “The vessel was not exactly going full steam ahead, but there was quite a bit of damage.” There were 69 persons on board the vessel. Those on board included 54 students and 15 crew members, but it was not clear whether students or teachers were at the helm when the accident occurred. There were no injuries, and damage to the vessel itself was said to be minor. The pier, however, was badly damaged, with even its asphalt buckling under the impact of the vessel. The pier is the one located just outside the offices

of Oslo’s harbour police. One of the windows in the harbour police building also was shattered when the ship hit the pier. Police were investigating, and those responsible on board the vessel were to undergo routine testing to check whether any were under the influence of alcohol.

Oslo, Nov 9 — No damages were sustained by ferry *Sjokurs* as a result of contact with a pier at Oslo on Nov 7. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**SKAGERN (Sweden)**

Poznan, Nov 6 — General cargo *Skagern* is still undergoing repairs, which are expected to be completed at the end of December/beginning of January. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**SLOTERGRACHT (Netherlands)**

London, Nov 3 — General cargo *Slotergracht* arrived Antwerp 1159, Nov 1.

London, Nov 6 — General cargo *Slotergracht* sailed from Antwerp at 0757 hrs, Nov 5.

**STAR FUJI (NIS)**

London, Nov 7 — A press release from United States Coast Guard dated Nov 6, states: The Captain of the Port of Charleston issued a captain of the port order Nov 2 on the 616-foot general cargo *Star Fuji* (25345 gt, built 1985), preventing it from entering the port of Charleston until the leak on board is contained. The vessel contacted the Coast Guard and stated that a 20-foot long tank container on the vessel was leaking a small amount of chloroacetic acid in a 70-percent aqueous solution but that no chloroacetic acid had been spilled into the ocean. The Coast Guard required the vessel to remain 12-miles off the coast of Charleston until the leak could be identified and safely contained. The Coast Guard, DHEC, SPA and the Star Line are working with Moran Environment Recovery to repair the slow-leaking container, and the company is making arrangements to safely offload the impacted container near shore in a safe location. No chloroacetic acid was spilled into the ocean at any time. The vessel’s last port of call was Rotterdam, Netherlands. The container is destined for Mobile.

Charleston, SC, Nov 8 — Messrs. Norton Lilly, Charleston, SC, agents for general cargo *Star Fuji*, confirmed that the vessel was denied access by the S.C. State Ports Authority due to leakage from a tank of hazardous chemicals. Vessel is reportedly scheduled to dock at berth of Kinder Morgan Terminal, Charleston, SC in the next few days. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**TCCA 1 (Canada)**

London, Nov 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The Toronto Port Authority’s ferry *TCCA 1* (219 gt, built 2005) was temporarily disabled by a “sizable” piece of driftwood caught in the propeller, TPA chief of operations Ken Lundy said yesterday. He said divers were called in to dislodge the debris from *TCCA 1*, which was out of

commission for most of the day, returning to operation around 1600 hrs. The port authority’s old ferry, *Maple City*, served as a back-up vehicle to transfer people between the mainland and the island airport.

London, Nov 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry *TCCA 1* had to be docked after a stray log jammed its propeller, said Ken Lundy, chief of operations for the Toronto Port Authority. A dive team was sent in to pull the driftwood out, Lundy said. The ferry was docked from just after 0700 hrs while mechanics examined it for damage. It was stated to be running again late afternoon, Lundy said.

**THOR SENTRY (Faroe Islands)**

Kristiansand S, Nov 6 — The Lloyd’s Sub-Agent at Egersund have informed us that the crew members from fishing (general) *Thor Sentry* went ashore in Egersund and that vessel was then towed to Hanstholm in Denmark. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**TIRTA NIAGA I (Indonesia)**

London, Nov 6 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Authorities at Paradip Port Trust (PPT) are in a quandary over what they should do with product tanker *Tirta Niaga I* after it had helped rescue in mid-sea five months ago. The vessel has been lying idle in the port’s dockyard with 22 crew-members. The vessel was carrying 5,900 tonnes of crude palm oil for delivery at the Budge Budge oil jetty in Kolkata, but was diverted towards Paradip after it developed a snag, official sources said. Had it got stuck near the Sandheads, the mouth of the Hooghly river, it was apprehended that it could block the passage into the channel to the port, the sources said. Prompt action by the PPT saved the vessel and averted the possibility of an oil slick. Engineers of PPT swung into action after coming to know that the vessel was in distress and brought it into the dock which berthed at the multi-purpose jetty. The cargo was unloaded and the repair work continued for ten days. PPT deputy chairman Subrat Tripathy said that the ship, after the repair, was fit to resume journey. But it was stranded for several reasons which were beyond PPT’s control, he said. The PPT was entitled to get rental towards the parking of the vessel, but the owner was yet to clear the dues leaving it stranded at the dockyard.

Kochi, Nov 7 — Product tanker *Tirta Niaga I* is currently under arrest at Paradip. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**TORVILL (Malta)**

London, Nov 7 — Refrigerated general cargo *Torvill* was reported arriving at Guayaquil on Oct 23 and sailing from there on Nov 5.

**TRANSBORA (Turkey)**

Portsmouth, UK, Nov 8 — Bulker *Transbora* (12216 gt, built 1972), which ran aground off Novorossiysk in the Black Sea yesterday, poses no danger to the local environment, the

Russian Emergency Situations Ministry's press service announced today. "The Turkish vessel *Transbora*, with a 21-member crew aboard, ran aground near the village of Arkhipo-Osipovka 60 kilometres north-west of Tuapse, at 1950, Moscow time, on Tuesday. It was sailing from Turkey to Tuapse to load scrap metal. No fuel leak has been reported," the press service said, adding "Nothing threatens the crew". Tug *Kapitan Beklemishev* has arrived at the scene. When the weather allows the vessel will be examined and an attempt will be made to move it from the shallow area, the ministry said. A spokesman for the ministry's Southern Regional Centre earlier informed Interfax that the vessel had not been damaged and the fuel did not leak into the sea. "But the crew do not speak English, which creates a problem for the rescue team," the spokesman said. — Correspondent.

#### URSA (Cambodia)

London, Nov 8 — General cargo *Ursa* arrived at Bourgas on Nov 6.

#### VAGABOND (Panama)

London, Nov 6 — Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1505, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Vagabond* is still aground in British Virgin Islands. Fuel removal required.

#### VEESHAM I (St. Kitts & Nevis)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy".

#### VEESHAM I (St. Kitts-Nevis)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy".

#### VEESHAM I (St. Kitts & Nevis)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy".

#### VIEN DONG 2 (Vietnam)

Chittagong, Nov 9 — While general cargo *Vien Dong 2* (5999 gt, built 1990) was manoeuvring to approach the pilot station at Chittagong Roads on Oct 28, the steering failed and the vessel drifted at the influence of a very strong current and came into heavy contact with container carrier *X-Press Manaslu* (9392 gt, built 1985). Understand that after undertaking some permanent repairs at a local workshop, *Vien Dong 2* sailed on Nov 7 for Chennai. *X-Press Manaslu* also sailed on Nov 7 for Colombo. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### VIRGEN DEL CARMEN III (Panama)

London, Nov 6 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Virgen del Carmen III* was reported sailing from Guayaquil on Oct 23 and was next reported arriving at Houston at 2010 hrs, Nov 3.

#### VLADIMIR VYSOTSKIY (Russia)

London, Nov 3 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, product tanker *Vladimir Vysotskiy* was located in lat 45 42 34.03N, long 73 26 14.29W, at 0401, UTC, Nov 1, course 024 deg, speed 13.9 knots, nearest port Pointe aux Trembles, at a distance of 5.3 nautical miles.

#### VOS REBEL (Liberia)

London, Nov 7 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 2350, UTC, Nov 6: Standby safety vessel *VOS Rebel* (263 gt, built 1973), seven crew members, in collision with fishing *HD21*, (trawler *Jacob Senior*, 465 gt, built 1987) 40.2 metres, in lat 53 45N, long 03 18E at 2230, UTC, Nov 6. *Vos Rebel* has water ingress and pumps are failing. Several vessels are on scene to assist in taking crew off the vessel. A salvage tug is about two hours away. *HD21* has proceeded on voyage.

London, Nov 7 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0625, UTC: Standby safety vessel *VOS Rebel* is stable. All crew remain on board the vessel and a tug is due on scene shortly to tow it to Den Helder.

London, Nov 7 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1540, UTC: Standby safety vessel *VOS Rebel* is now being towed by tug *Noorgat* to Den Helder, where ETA 1900, local time.

London, Nov 8 — A SvitserWijsmuller Salvage B.V. report, dated Nov 7, states: SvitserWijsmuller Salvage B.V. with partner Rederij Noordgat have assisted a collision casualty some 70 miles north-west of Den Helder. At about 2320, MET, Nov 6 the vessel (standby safety vessel *VOS Rebel*) was in collision with a fishing vessel, resulting in considerable damage causing flooding and a risk of sinking. Dutch Coast Guard tug *Waker*, if engaged operated by SvitserWijsmuller Salvage, was sent in while tug *Hunter* and fast rescue craft *Tempest* departed Terschelling immediately. Other vessels assisted and pumps were placed on board to gain control, including pumps of *Tempest* and early in the morning hours just prior to daybreak a towage connection was made by tug *Hunter*. The casualty was towed to Den Helder, escorted by *Tempest*, where it was delivered to owners at about 2000, MET.

London, Nov 8 — Following received from Den Helder MRCC, timed 0930, UTC: Standby safety vessel *VOS Rebel* is now at the shipyard at Den Helder.

#### VOUTAKOS (Panama)

London, Nov 3 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS bulker *Voutakos* (in tow of salvage tug *Fairmount Glacier*) was in lat 51 59 32N, long 03 23 21E, at 0953, UTC, today, speed 6.1 knots, course 80.7 degrees.

Piraeus, Nov 3 — Bulker *Voutakos* is currently lying off the Nieuwe Waterweg waiting for the high tide and pilot. It is expected to arrive in Rotterdam late this afternoon or this evening. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

London, Nov 4 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, bulker *Voutakos* was located stationary in lat 51 56 10.9N, long 04 02 56.56E, at 1039, UTC, today, nearest port Europoort, at a distance of 2.2 nautical miles.

London, Nov 6 — Bulker *Voutakos* arrived Rotterdam 1710, Nov 3.

#### W-O TSJOCH (Marshall Islands)

London, Nov 3 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Combined chemical and oil tank *W-O Tsjoch* broke loose from its moorings at the building yard Volharding, at Harlingen on Nov 1 and drifted against a quay opposite where it grounded with a list to starboard. A first attempt to salvage the ship with the tugs *Noordgat*, *Antia Theo*, *Jenny*, *JWR Appollow*, *Typhoon* and *Hunter* failed as the evening tide was already 1.5 metres lower than the flood in which the new building grounded. At low tide the vessel is lying almost completely high and dry. SvitserWijsmuller has been contracted to get the ship back into deeper water.

Ymuiden, Nov 4 — This morning SvitserWijsmuller Salvage BV and partners Wagenborg and Rederij Noordgat succeeded in bringing back the newbuild hull of combined chemical and oil tank *W-O Tsjoch* to its normal environment. The vessel had ended up on top of the quay and dyke opposite the building yard in Harlingen during the severe storm of Nov 1. The rise in water levels due to the storm surge resulted in the highest levels ever recorded at the neighbouring port of Delfzijl. *W-O Tsjoch* had thus ended up with its stern on the quay and the bow on a dyke. SvitserWijsmuller Salvage naval architects brought in with the salvage team then ascertained conditions that could facilitate a possible refloating despite water levels not reaching these storm levels. Contingencies were further worked out and the past days have been used to prepared the casualty for the operation. This included the mobilisation of more powerful tugs, including tug *Svitser Marken* from Ymuiden/Amsterdam, two Wagenborg tugs and tug *Hunter* from Terschelling, salvage and engine-room preservation equipment, a 2,400-dwt Wagenborg barge and shipyard resources. The damage to the stern caused by quay sticking into the hull required preventive action against flooding of the engine-room and further hull flooding while changes in the weight distribution in the vessel were facilitated to allow the operation to succeed. This morning at high water the bow was first refloated by the combined power of the tugs, whereafter the stern was brought back into the water after a two-hour consecutive operation. The hull then was taken safely alongside the yard for redelivery. — SvitserWijsmuller Salvage BV.

#### WANI LOGGER (Barbados)

London, Nov 3 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Wani Logger* (2602 gt, built 1976) collided with a pontoon in the Kohlfleet, in the harbour of Hamburg. The ship which has a length of 80m was driving upstream off Finkenwerder when it had to alter course to avoid contact with an inland water craft. Thereby it got out of control and drifted broadside in the stream until crashing against the

pontoon and avoiding the collision with a Fire Brigade vessel by five metres. A tug succeeded in connecting a rope and towed the vessel to a berth at CTT.

London, Nov 6 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Wani Logger* has now left Hamburg. It did not sustain any significant damage.

**WESTWOOD VICTORIA (Bahamas)**

See “Canada” under “Weather & Navigation”.

**WIDUKIND (Liberia)**

London, Nov 5 — Container Carrier *Widukind* arrived Antwerp 2012, Nov 2, from Hamburg and sailed 2244, Nov 3, for Le Havre.

**X-PRESS MANASLU (Singapore)**

See *Vien Dong 2*.

**YOHJIN (Panama)**

London, Nov 3 — Vehicle carrier *Yohjin* sailed Bremerhaven at 2305, Nov 2 for Kotka.



**SOMALIA**

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen have hijacked general cargo *Veesham I* (2286 gt, built 1981) off the coast of Somalia, the owner of the cargo on board said overnight. The vessel and its crew of 12 were seized near Adale, 95 km north-east of Mogadishu on Thursday (Nov 2), as it sailed to Dubai from the Somali port of El-Maan, he said. “The captain told me that gunmen hijacked his ship around the Adale coast and forced him to sail to an unknown destination,” said Abdulrahman Olow, the Somali businessman who chartered the vessel to carry a load of charcoal. “We are not aware of its location but perhaps it is somewhere deep inside Indian Ocean,” he said. “I think the hijackers have links with the pirates who were hunting ships off the Somali coast.” In the port city of Mombasa in neighbouring Kenya, a maritime official confirmed the hijacking. “Six Somali gunmen are holding captive *Veesham I* off the Somali coast,” said Andrew Mwangura of the Seafarers’ Assistance Program.

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Pirates, who hijacked general cargo *Veesham I* off the Somali coast on Nov 2, are demanding a \$US1 million ransom for the release of the vessel and 14 crew, a maritime official said today. Andrew Mwangura of the Seafarers’ Assistance Program in the port of Mombasa, in neighbouring Kenya, said negotiations were under way to free the *Veesham I*. The captives include four Indians, four Sri Lankans, two Pakistanis, two

Ethiopians and one Eritrean. Negotiations are ongoing between the pirates and the businessman who chartered the vessel, to secure the release of crew members and settle the demand for ransom, said Mwangura, whose organisation monitors such incidents.

Karachi, Nov 5 — Somalia authorities and the US Navy are tracking general cargo *Veesham I*, being held by hijackers. Reportedly six gunmen travelling by dhow boarded the vessel last Wednesday (Nov 1) and later demanded a \$1million ransom, according to Abbas Ahmad, the manager of Trans Sea Marine Consultants, which is working with Dubai-based Veesham Shipping, which owns the vessel. He told media that Somali patrol boats and the US Navy have tracked the *Veesham I* to a location 20 miles off the Somali port of Obbia. It was chartered by Dubai-based Bahaya Trading and has 14 crew members, who are from Ethiopia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India. It loaded 86.5 tons of charcoal at the Somali port of Al Maan on Nov 1 and set sail for Salalah, Oman. It was then to continue on to Dammam. However, six and a half hours into the journey, the company radioed the vessel and learned that armed attackers had stormed on board and taken control. The hijackers directed the master to change course for the Somali port of Obbia. After that, the crew stopped responding to calls from Veesham’s operations centre. — Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

London, Nov 6 — A press report, dated Nov 5, states: Six Somali gunmen have taken over general cargo *Veesham I* off the Somali coast and are demanding money in return for the safe release of the ship and its 14 crew members. *Veesham I* was taken over last Wednesday (Nov 1) off the coast of Somalia, where it is still being held. The hijackers originally demanded \$1 million for the vessel to be released, but this was negotiated down to \$150,000. Managing director of the Dubai-based Veesham Shipping Incorporation, Ajay Kumar Bhatia, told the UAE-based *Khaleej Times* that if the hijackers’ demands were met, “this will be the end of all trade ties in the future with Somalia.” He said there were continuing negotiations between the pirates and the Somali government and businessmen.

London, Nov 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Islamic fighters stormed hijacked general cargo *Veesham I* and recaptured it after a gun battle with Somali pirates off the country’s coast, an official said today. Two pirates were seriously wounded during the attack, but all 14 crew are safe, said Andrew Mwangura, head of the Kenyan chapter of the Seafarers Assistance Program. About 30 Islamic fighters stormed the ship under the cover of darkness late yesterday, arriving onboard three speedboats and armed with automatic weapons, he said by telephone after being informed of the ship’s recovery by Islamic

officials in Mogadishu. “All the crew are safe and the vessel has been recaptured,” Mwangura said. The pirates will be tried under Islamic law and if found guilty will have their hands cut off, he said. The ship will return to Mogadishu but is currently anchored 400 kilometres north of Mogadishu.



**BELGIUM**

Zeebrugge, Nov 7 — Bulker *Kee Lung* (22089 gt, built 1985) had its departure suspended at Antwerp at 1553, Oct 31, due detentions. — Lloyd’s Sub-agents. (Note — *Kee Lung*, which arrived Antwerp Oct 29, subsequently sailed Nov 3.)

**CYPRUS**

Limassol, Nov 6 — General cargo *Liberty A.* is still under detention. There is no information about her release. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**HONG KONG**

London, Nov 6 — The general cargo *Kang Nam I*, one of two North Korea-flagged cargoships detained in Hong Kong, was released by port state control on Friday (Nov 3) and the vessel was expected to leave port over the weekend. The 1989-built, 2,036 dwt vessel had been detained for nearly two weeks after a port state control surveyor found 25 deficiencies following the vessel’s arrival in Hong Kong on Oct 22. Yu Ying-wai, Marine Department senior surveyor of vessels in the port state control section, told Lloyd’s List a surveyor had freed the vessel at 1330, local time on Friday. He said that most of the deficiencies, including the 12 most serious defects that led the vessel to be detained, had been rectified. Mr Yu said the department had agreed to a dispensation for one of the deficiencies, which involved repairs to the ship’s echo sounder, after marine officials received a fax message from the flag state. “The flag state wanted the vessel to go back to North Korea for repair,” he said, adding that the vessel owner would need to dry dock the vessel for repairs to be carried out. The vessel was loading a cargo of scrap steel for shipment to Taiwan when it was detained and it was not immediately known if it would continue to Taiwan to discharge the cargo or head back to North Korea. Mr Yu said repairs to the second general cargo *Kang Nam 5*, which arrived in Hong Kong three days after *Kang Nam I*, were still continuing although the vessel could be released this week. He said the department had contacted the agent, Topping Enterprises, which said it needed more time to procure equipment for repairs. The stores are expected to arrive early this week when a follow-up inspection will take

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place before the vessel can be released. The *Kang Nam 5*, which arrived from Kaohsiung in Taiwan, was detained following a port state control inspection which showed deficiencies with lifeboats, communications and navigation equipment and out-of-date crew medical certificates.



## Seizures & Arrests

### BAI LONG QUAN (China)

London, Nov 6 — General cargo *Bai Long Quan* is still at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under Admiralty and High Court arrest.

### CASINO ROYALE (Bahamas)

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A magistrate released passenger (cruise) *Casino Royale* from federal court control Thursday (Nov 2). The vessel's owner settled claims from crew members, who obtained a court order for federal marshals to seize the vessel last week. The vessel has been docked at Tampa Bay Shipbuilding & Repair Co. since April, while owners try to get US Coast Guard approval to carry passengers on the casino boat.

### CHANG SHUN (Belize)

Jakarta, Nov 8 — Refrigerated general cargo *Chang Shun*: We have contacted our resource in Surabaya, informed us that the vessel is under arrest at Navy Base, Semampir, Surabaya. The vessel has not been released yet. Before being arrested, the vessel tried to escape from pursuit, several shots fired from the Naval vessel, *Chang Shun* finally surrendered and pulled to Semampir Base. — Lloyd's Agents.

### CHERYL ANNE (Philippines)

Manila, Nov 7 — Barge *Cheryl Anne* and her crew are still in custody with no indication of their release. — Lloyd's Agents.

### CHINESE TRAWLERS SEIZED BY AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Fifteen Chinese fishermen have been detained in Darwin after their boat was intercepted by an Australian defence ship, the Chinese Embassy in Canberra said today. This is the sixth Chinese boat detained so far this year for being suspected of fishing illegally in Australian waters. The vessel, intercepted in Australia's northern waters Monday (Oct 30) afternoon, was escorted to the Darwin harbour yesterday, according to a statement of the Chinese Embassy. All the 15 crew members have been taken to Darwin's detention centre, where they were being held pending further inquiries. The statement quoted the owner of the vessel as saying the vessel did not

conduct any fishing in the Australian waters. The owner said the vessel was nearly out of power and waiting for refueling when it was intercepted without any fish on the boat. The Chinese Embassy has passed on its deep concern over the issue to the Australian fishing authority, expressing the hope that the incident would be dealt with properly and the vessel and crew members be released as early as possible.

### DODEKANISIAKI ANONYMOS NAFTILIAKI ETAIRIA

London, Nov 5 — Roll On Roll Off *Rodos* now named *Rod* and reportedly sold to Indian breakers, sailed from Piraeus on Nov 1, reportedly bound for Port Sudan.

### IRAN GHODOUSI (Iran)

London, Nov 5 — Bulker *Iran Ghodousi* sailed Antwerp 1837, Nov 1, and arrived Hamburg 0936, Nov 3.

### JAPANESE FISHING VESSELS DETAINED BY RUSSIA

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The Russian coast guard detained four Japanese fishing trawlers in the Bering Sea pending an investigation of possible violations of fishing regulations, the service's north-east regional office said today. The fishing boats were brought to the Russian Far East port of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky for the probe, the office said. Some 5.5 tons of pollack were found on one of the boats, it said. Moscow has complained of repeated violations by Japanese fishing trawlers in Russian waters.

London, Nov 5 — A press report dated today, states: The Russian Federal Border Guard Service allowed one Japanese fishing vessel to leave for Japan yesterday, but escorted three others to the coast of the Kamchatka Peninsula in the Russian Far East for inspections over whether they were involved in illegal fishing. The vessels were in Russia's exclusive economic zone catching walleye Pollack, which is widely consumed in Japan, and other fish, Japan's Foreign Ministry said in confirming information from the Russian Federal Border Guard Service via the Japanese Consulate General in Vladivostok.

### KAGU (Dominica)

London, Nov 5 — General cargo *Kagu* sailed Antwerp 2020, Nov 3, and arrived Amsterdam 1420, Nov 4.

### MAESTRO NIYAZI (Azerbaijan)

Limassol, Nov 8 — General cargo *Maestro Niyazi* (4953 gt, built 2002), which arrived at Limassol on Nov 2 from La Nouvelle, is now under arrest by the Supreme Court of Cyprus. — Lloyd's Agents.

### NORD (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Nov 4 — General cargo *Nord* sailed Antwerp Oct 20 and arrived Liepaja Oct 24.

### PUENTE PEREIRAS CUATRO (Spain)

London, Nov 9 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Trawler (All types) *Puente Pereiras Cuatro* (1258 gt, built 1986) cited by Canadian inspectors two weeks ago for misreporting its catch has had its fishing licence revoked. The vessel was boarded by officers with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on Oct 23 off the east coast of Newfoundland. The inspectors found the crew using an overstated shrimp catch to cover up an illegal amount of Greenland halibut. Spain ordered the vessel out of a fishing zone regulated by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization. In a statement today, federal Fisheries Minister Loyola Hearn says the Spanish government has revoked the vessel's NAFO fishing licence, meaning it won't be allowed in the NAFO area for the rest of the year. Hearn says the vessel faces further prosecution in Spain. The vessel is reportedly owned by the same company that owned the *Estai*. The *Estai* was the centrepiece of the "turbot war" that took place in the mid-1990s after Canada, under the direction of then-fisheries minister Brian Tobin, arrested the vessel for illegally catching turbot.

### RODOS (Greece)

See "Dodekanisiaki Anonymos Naftiliaki Etairia".



## Pipeline Accidents

### SUPSA, GEORGIA

London, Nov 9 — BP has been forced to suspend crude oil exports through Supsa in Georgia, after running into pipeline difficulties for the second time in recent months. The development comes after the UK oil major had to halt production in the Prudhoe Bay field in Alaska in August, blaming pipeline corrosion. This time the difficulties are being attributed to unspecified "anomalies", a company spokesman told Bloomberg news agency. Shipments through Supsa have been stopped for the rest of November, and no resumption date has yet been decided. Oil will be diverted to other ports, including Ceyhan in Turkey, Batumi in Georgia and Novorossiysk in Russia. The Supsa pipeline usually supplies about 150,000 bpd from Azerbaijan. On October 18, BP announced it would halt shipments for "routine maintenance." BP's press office confirmed that anomalies were discovered "before October 21", but did not specify an exact date. Internal and external inspections are being conducted.

### UINTA COUNTY, WYOMING, UNITED STATES

New York, Nov 8 — Firefighters today extinguished a fire at an oil

tank near a petroleum pipeline in Uinta county, Wyoming, prompting the shutdown of the small gathering pipeline leading to it, according to the local fire department. The tank was owned by privately-held Bridger Lakes LLC, according to Eric Quinney, the chief administrative officer of the Uinta County Fire Department. Quinney said there were no injuries, although Interstate 80 was shut for over two hours due to the blaze. The pipeline and the tank are part of a crude oil gathering system according to the website of Riverway Petroleum Partners LLC, Bridger Lakes' parent company. The line carries 700 barrels of crude oil per day to Pacific Energy Partners LP Rocky Mountain Pipeline, which serves the Salt Lake City, Utah market. "This was a small gathering line that moved oil into their (Bridger's) storage tank, and this incident has had no effect on our pipeline or our deliveries to Salt Lake City," said a Pacific Energy Partners spokesperson. — Reuters.



**AUSTRALIA**

London, Nov 8 — A press report, from Australia, dated Nov 9, states: A major clean-up is under way this morning after the severe storms that battered south-east Queensland yesterday afternoon. State Emergency Service crews worked through the night to repair damage to homes on the Gold Coast, Caboolture, the Sunshine Coast and at Esk, north-west of Brisbane. Last night another line of storms moved through an area between Rockhampton and the Town of 1770. At the height of the storms, power was cut to around 40,000 homes, mainly on the Gold and Sunshine coasts. The SES says the extent of the damage should become clearer this morning. Sarah Oppenheim from the SES says despite the property damage there have been few injuries.

**BULGARIA**

London, Nov 6 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Strong winds have made Varna maritime authorities to close the port for access of cargo vessels. The aggravated meteorological conditions to the north-east part of Bulgaria put at stake the security of the port traffic, civil defence authorities said. Snowfalls in whole northern and north-eastern Bulgaria have caused congestions along the roads, but no damages were incurred on electricity and water networks. After a week of freezing cold, Bulgaria anticipates slight rise in temperatures, to stay above zero for another week, according to meteo forecasts.

**CANADA**

London, Nov 8 — General cargo *Westwood Victoria* sailed from Vancouver at 0629 hrs, Nov 4 and was next reported departing from Longview at 1855 hrs, Nov 7. General cargo *Advance Pescadores* sailed from Vancouver at 1604 hrs, Nov 4.

London, Nov 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Bad weather halted operations yesterday from the Toronto Island airport. Low visibility forced Porter Airlines to cancel 50% of its flights and to move the rest to a private hangar at Pearson airport, Bob Deluce, Porter's president, said. "Nothing at all has flown (off the island)," Deluce said yesterday.

**GULF OF MEXICO**

London, Nov 7 — Bad weather in the Gulf of Mexico has forced the shutdown since Sunday (Nov 5) of the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, a major conduit for US crude oil imports. "We are currently down due to poor weather conditions offshore," spokeswoman Barb Hesterman told Reuters. "We shut down early Sunday evening and are still down. We plan on resuming operations as soon as weather conditions improve, most likely Tuesday morning." Loop is the largest oil import terminal in the US and offloads an average of 900,000 barrels of crude oil per day, nearly 5% of US daily consumption, from vessels off the coast of Port Fourchon, Louisiana. The company said it expects to catch up with its marine offloading schedule by the end of this week.

**IRAQ**

London, Nov 7 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Flash floods caused by heavy rain killed 18 people and injured 20 in northern Iraq, a provincial governor said today. The heavy rains began late yesterday, mainly in five villages in the Khalifan district in the Irbil province, Gov. Nawzat Hadi said. The floods destroyed nine bridge and several houses, he said. Nine of the dead were members of one family. Three of them were children. Heavy rain and thunderstorms hit different parts of Iraq in the past two days.

**JAPAN**

London, Nov 8 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A rare tornado tore across Japan's far north today, killing nine people and leaving dozens more destitute in a single town as it laid waste to homes used by construction workers, officials said. The tornado scorched through Saroma in the far north of the island of Hokkaido, tearing apart the prefabricated homes of workers who were digging a nearby tunnel. "I saw the tornado passing behind my car. It was 100 metres wide and it moved along for about one kilometre," or about half a mile, said local official Takeshi Mukai, 45. The tornado, which struck amid heavy rain, made a direct hit on the workers' barracks, killing nine of them inside a portable

building, said town official Atsushi Iida. At least 21 other people were hospitalized, police said. "It seemed that it came out of nowhere and vanished all at once," said senior fire department official Yoshihiro Sasaki. Thirty-three homes were completely destroyed, with 29 others suffering partial damage, said Chiaki Kichimoto, an official at the Saroma town office. She said 52 people were sheltered after losing their homes and that electricity was knocked out from 630 houses. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's cabinet set up a special office to coordinate the response to the disaster, an official said.

**PORTUGAL**

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Heavy rain today caused flooding, cut roads and led several schools to cancel classes in Portugal's southernmost province of Algarve. There were no reports of injuries, but between 15 to 20 families in the town of Vila Real de Santo Antonio, located 300 kilometres south-east of Lisbon on the border with Spain, had to be rehoused because of the damage done to their homes, local mayor Luis Gomes told TSF news radio. Water levels rose up to two metres in some areas, flooding homes, restaurants, stores and hotel basements in the town as well is in nearby resorts of Altura, Monte Gordo and Vila Nova de Cacela, emergency services workers said.

London, Nov 7 — A press report, dated Nov 6, states: Heavy rains flooded several villages in central and southern Portugal, forcing hundreds out of their homes during the weekend and today, officials said. Last night rivers and creeks overflowed, isolating the village of Reguengos de Alivela and flooding over 80 houses, officials said. Residents in the small village of Burgau had to climb onto the rooftops of houses and be rescued by firefighters in a helicopter as waters from a local creek rose up to two metres high, Civil Protection official Vitor Vaz Pinto said. Shop owners in Tomar were shown on television crying over lost merchandise in flooded stores. Heavy rain fell at the weekend, flooding hundreds of houses and shops from central to southern regions as well as strong winds knocked down trees, electricity poles, cut off roads and interrupted the movement of trains, officials said.

**RUSSIA**

London, Nov 7 — The damage from snowfall on Nov 3 are estimated at 490,000 rubles in Russia's Kaliningrad region, a source at the regional department of the Emergency Situations Ministry told Itar-Tass yesterday. One hundred and twenty-six broken trees have been removed, and power supplies have resumed to 220 apartment houses. Some 257 electricity sub-stations have been repaired. Streets are being cleared from ice and snow.

London, Nov 9 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The cyclone

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raging over Sakhalin and the Kuriles overnight damaged two electro-transmission lines, leaving 70 percent of the population in the city of Alexandrovsk-Sakhalinsky without electricity. The electricity supply was partially halted in the city of Nevelsk, and it was cut to the settlements of Lesogorskoye, Boshnyakovo and Vostochny. The ferry service in the Tatar Strait between Vanino and Kholmsk is halted because of the storm, the press service of the Emergencies Ministry's Sakhalin regional department reported. The wind speed reached 20 metres a second on Kunashir Island, and 26 metres a second on Iturup Island. The cyclone has moved to the Sea of Okhotsk. More than 200 fishing vessels are in the sea, and rescuers are on alert there. Waves are up to nine metres high and the wind speed reaches 40 meters a second in the sea, the Sakhalin meteorological centre said.

### SOMALIA

London, Nov 9 — At least 47 people drowned and thousands were left homeless after two rivers that snake through Somalia burst their banks after heavy rains. Large swathes of farmland are submerged and food stocks have washed away after torrential rain pounded the Horn of Africa country for several days, swelling the Juba and Shabele rivers. "These are the worst floods to affect the region in the last seven years," Sheikh Abdisalan Hassan, chairman of the middle Shabele Islamic administration, said.

### THAILAND & MYANMAR

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Floods wrecking several parts of Thailand over the past two months have caused more than Bt1 billion in damage, a senior official said today. Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department director-general Anucha Mokhaves said the long-lasting floods, from late August until Nov 3, have wreaked havoc over large areas in 47 of Thailand's 76 provinces. The devastating floods have affected more than 4.1 million people in over 1.1 million households, killing 195 persons and causing extensive damage to more than 3.3 million rai of agricultural lands. The overall damage was estimated at Bt1,124 million, he said. The department chief said the flood waters have receded in 32 provinces, but remain high in 15 others including Phitsanulok, Phichit, and Nakhon Sawan in the North, Chainat, Uthai Thani, Sing Buri, Ang Thong, Ayutthaya, Lop Buri, Sara Buri, Suphan Buri, Pathum Thani, Nonthaburi, Nakhon Pathom and Bangkok in the Central plain. Over 1.1 million residents in some 367,000 households are still suffering from the floods inundating these 15 provinces, including some areas in four Bangkok districts—Lat Krabang, Min Buri, Nong Chok and Sai Mai. Bangkok residents living by the banks of Chao

Phraya River and some main canals remain affected by the overflowing waters, Mr. Anucha said.

### TURKEY

London, Nov 3 — Northbound traffic in the Canakkale Strait was been suspended due to poor visibility between 0745 and 1100, local time, today (Nov 3).

Istanbul, Nov 5 — The mayor of a town in Turkey's south-east called yesterday for international aid to recover from flash floods that have killed more than 30 people in the country. Mayor Huseyin Kalkan said 11 people had died in Batman where about 300,000 people live. "Nearly 63,000 of our citizens from 12,600 damaged houses have been victims of the floods and the disaster," he said. "We urgently need help from our businessmen and international relief institutions." Some 1,200 rescue workers are in Batman after floodwaters hit the town on Wednesday (Nov 1). Rivers swollen by torrential rains swamped streets and toppled buildings. Kalkan said some districts were still cut off from the rest of the town. — Reuters.

London, Nov 7 — Pilotage services and vessels' passage through the Istanbul Strait was suspended at 0620, local time, Nov 6, due to strong southern winds.

### TYPHOON "CIMARON"

London, Nov 3 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Cimaron" was located near lat 17.3N, long 116.5E, approximately 320 nautical miles south-southeast of Hong Kong. It has tracked southward, or 180 degs, at four knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 45 knots, with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 70 nautical miles in the northeast quadrant, 60 nautical miles in the southeast quadrant, 80 nautical miles in the southwest quadrant and 90 nautical miles in the northwest quadrant. The maximum significant wave height is 17 feet. At 0600, UTC, Nov 4, the centre is predicted to be near lat 15.7N, long 115.9E, with maximum sustained winds of 30 knots and gusts to 40 knots, and dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over water.

### Earthquakes



### CHILE

London, Nov 7 — A report, dated today, states: A magnitude 5.6 earthquake in the region of Antofagasta, Chile, occurred in lat 21.72S, long 68.25W, depth 125 km, at 1325, UTC, today.

### CHINA

London, Nov 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Approximately 1,300 people have been evacuated from 445 homes left uninhabitable by a 'moderate' earthquake on Friday (Nov 3) in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. In total around 12,000 people were affected by the quake, which damaged 5,586 homes including 1,343 seriously in Bairin Right Banner, according to local government sources on Sunday. Early reports had put the number of people evacuated at 130. The quake, measuring 4.2 on the Richter scale struck the county-level area at 1421, Friday, and caused estimated losses of 2.3 million yuan (US\$291,139).

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Nov 7 — A report, dated today, states: A magnitude 6.3 earthquake has occurred in the New Britain region, Papua New Guinea, in lat 06.46S, long 151.12E, depth 10 km at 1738, UTC, today.

London, Nov 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A magnitude-6.3 earthquake struck near the coast of Papua New Guinea early Wednesday, the US Geological Survey said, but no Pacific-wide tsunami warning was issued. The tremor struck at 0338, local time, 1738, UTC, Tuesday (Nov 7), around 276 kilometres southwest of Rabaul on Papua New Guinea's island of New Britain and about 10 kilometres under the Earth's crust. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre at Ewa Beach, Hawaii said there was no risk of a Pacific-wide tsunami "based on historical earthquake and tsunami data." There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage, said a seismologist at the nation's Geophysical Observatory in the capital, Port Moresby.

### Political & Civil Unrest



### AFGHANISTAN

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Six Afghan police and a soldier were killed and eight NATO troops injured in three separate attacks by Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan, officials and the military say. The attacks which occurred at Herat in the west and Laghman in the east also left three Afghan police and four soldiers injured, they said. The six policemen, including a district police chief, were killed when rebels attacked a police convoy in Herat province on Thursday (Nov 2). Mohammad Sediq, police chief of Adraskan district was visiting police posts in the area when the attack came, the province's police chief, Nisar Ahmad Paikar, said. Chief Paikar blamed the attack on remnants of Taliban. A spokesman for International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Major Luke Knittig said



seven ISAF soldiers were injured on Friday when their convoy was hit by a rocket fired by Taliban in Laghman province. We had "two incidents in the last two days in Laghman province. Eight ISAF were soldiers wounded, one yesterday, 7 today. An IASF convoy was hit by rocket propelled grenade (RPG)" he told said. The Afghan soldier was killed in Thursday's attack when armed rebels attacked a joint patrol of Afghan and NATO forces in Dawlat Shah district, Laghman provincial governor Gulab Mangal said. Laghman governor Mangal also blamed the attack on Taliban. In another incident US-led coalition troops raided a Taliban cell in remote eastern Nuristan province near the Pakistan border Wednesday, killing four insurgents and arresting two, provincial police chief Abdul Ghani said.

London, Nov 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected Taliban militants attacked a police checkpoint in eastern Afghanistan, leaving two militants and one police officer dead, an official said today. The militants fired rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine guns on the police post in the eastern Khost province late yesterday, which also left two police wounded, said General Mohammad Ayub, the provincial police chief. Police rushed reinforcements to the area, forcing the Taliban to flee, Ayub said. The militants took their dead with them, he said.

London, Nov 9 — A press report, dated today, states: NATO launched airstrikes as clashes in the southern Afghan province of Kandahar killed 28 suspected Taliban militants, police said today. Canadian troops from a NATO-led security force and Afghan police identified a Taliban position in Zhari district late yesterday, and with close air support, killed 22 suspected militants, district police chief Ghulam Rasool Aga said. NATO spokesman Maj. Luke Knittig confirmed NATO and Afghan forces clashed with a group of insurgents who had attacked them with small arms fire, but had no immediate details on militant casualties. He said an assessment of the clash was ongoing. Earlier yesterday in Zhari, police fought for three hours with Taliban fighters. The clash left six Taliban dead and four wounded, Aga said. One policeman and three villagers were also wounded, he said. In other violence, suspected Taliban ambushed a police convoy on the main Kandahar-Kabul highway in Shahjoy district of southern Zabul province late yesterday, killing two police and wounding five, provincial police chief Loor Mohammed Paktil said. In eastern Afghanistan, Afghan and US-led coalition forces captured three suspected militants early today from a compound near the city of Khost, a coalition statement said. It did not identify the suspects, who surrendered peacefully. Also in Khost, suspected Taliban attacked a police post on a highway yesterday night about 15 miles southeast of the provincial capital, sparking an intense

one-hour gunbattle. Provincial police chief Mohammed Ayub said one policeman was killed and two wounded, and the bodies of about five militants, some dismembered, were left on the battlefield. He claimed other militants fled by foot and then pickup truck across the border into North Waziristan in Pakistan. The wounded police were taken by US-led coalition helicopter to hospital, but foreign forces were not involved in the fighting, Ayub said.

#### CHAD

London, Nov 8 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A small clash between ethnic Arab and ethnic African villagers along Chad's border with Darfur escalated into a large-scale attack in which Arabs killed 128 Africans, government officials said today. The extent of the Oct 31 violence had not been clear until a Cabinet delegation reached the remote region yesterday to investigate and to call for calm, the officials said. While the delegation did not link the violence to unrest in Sudan's Darfur, Arab-African clashes there have undermined stability across a region that includes eastern Chad and the northern Central African Republic. Delegation members said a fight broke out in Amtiman in southeastern Chad on Oct 31 between two small groups after a member of one group insulted the other. It was not clear which side started the confrontation. Six people were killed in the initial fight. Later the same day, members of the Arab group organized an attack on Africans. The attack on Amtiman left 128 Africans and five Arabs dead. An undetermined number of people were wounded and dozens of homes, warehouses and goods were set ablaze in the African village.

#### INDIA

Guwahati, India, Nov 5 — Five people were killed and a dozen wounded when two powerful bombs exploded in troubled north-east India's biggest city Guwahati today, police said. The first bomb exploded in a crowded market in the heart of the city, killing three people and wounding 10, three of whom were said to be in a critical condition. Police said the bomb exploded in front of a sweet shop in the busy Fancy Bazar area of Guwahati, the main city of Assam state. A second bomb went off outside an oil installation on the outskirts of the city killing two people. Three others were injured in the explosion. "Both the bombs were powerful and we are yet to identify who is behind this incident," senior police officer Nitul Gogoi said. — Reuters.

#### IRAQ

Baghdad, Nov 3 — Three U.S. soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb in eastern Baghdad and a Marine was killed by enemy action in Anbar province yesterday, the U.S. military said. Another soldier died from non-combat injuries north of Baghdad. Two other U.S. soldiers were

killed on Wednesday (Nov 1) also in Anbar province, the U.S. military reported. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Nov 3 — Police in Baghdad found 56 bodies and a severed head over the past 24 hours in various parts of the capital, the highest daily figure since the end of Ramadan, an Interior Ministry source said today. While not unprecedented, the number represents a sharp rise since last week when U.S. forces were out in force throughout the city hunting for a missing U.S. soldier. The body count in Baghdad on Wednesday was 35 and the daily figure was generally lower in the previous week. U.S. troops lifted roadblocks around the Shi'ite slum district of Sadr City on Tuesday (Oct 31) when Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki ordered them out. The checkpoints, part of a massive U.S. search for the missing soldier, had brought gridlock to several parts of the city and drawn the ire of people in the Shi'ite slum district of Sadr City who complained of collective punishment. Sunni Arab leaders, however, warned that lifting them could lead to a surge in sectarian killing by Shi'ite militias. U.S. Major General William Caldwell said on Thursday the number of sectarian killings had fallen in the past week, following a surge during Ramadan. He attributed last week's drop to a combination of the end of Ramadan, calls by clerics and politicians for calm and the greater U.S. troop presence in Baghdad. Caldwell said sectarian killings had fallen 41 percent in Baghdad in the past week. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Nov 5 — A visibly shaken Saddam Hussein was found guilty of crimes against humanity today and sentenced to hang at a lightning session of the US-sponsored court that has been trying him in Baghdad for the past year. Two other senior aides, including his half-brother Barzan al-Tikriti, will also hang if their automatic appeals fail. His former vice-president was sentenced to life in prison and three minor Baath party officials received long jail sentences. Shortly after the verdict was read in a heavily-fortified Baghdad courtroom, clashes broke out between gunmen and US and Iraqi troops in two Sunni Muslim neighbourhoods of the capital. By contrast Shi'ites, the majority now dominating Iraq, swarmed into the streets, yelling in joy that the secular Sunni Arab who oppressed them for three decades is now likely to be executed. There was sporadic celebratory gunfire in Baghdad, notably from areas where the long oppressed Shi'ite majority live. Police said one woman was killed and 10 people were wounded by bullets fired into the air. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Nov 6 — Five U.S. soldiers were killed and Baghdad was under curfew for a second day today as the Iraqi government braced for any insurgent backlash against the court ruling that Saddam Hussein should hang. Heavy curfews in Baghdad and other areas of mixed population appeared to keep down violence yesterday after the judge told the 69-

year-old former president he should be "hanged until dead" for crimes against humanity — killing, torturing and jailing hundreds of Shi'ites from the town of Dujail. About 200 Saddam supporters demonstrated in Falluja, in western Iraq. Mosul in northern Iraq also saw demonstrations, as did Samarra, north of Baghdad. An automatic appeal means no execution is likely until next year at the earliest. Early today, Reuters reporters heard several mortar rounds slam into areas around Baghdad's Green Zone, the heavily fortified government compound that was once Saddam's palace complex and now houses the courthouse where he has been tried. A government source said the curfew, an increasingly common security measure, was extended indefinitely: "Better more curfew than more bombings," the source told Reuters. In Baquba, a violent city with a mixed population just northeast of Baghdad, police put the final casualty toll at two dead and six wounded among pro-Saddam demonstrators when police and Iraqi troops opened fire on them after yesterday's ruling. Two marines and a soldier were killed on Saturday (Nov 4) and yesterday in western Anbar province, where U.S. forces are battling Sunni insurgents that include al Qaeda Islamists, the military said. Two more soldiers died in a helicopter crash today in Salahaddin province north of Baghdad. The military said there was no hostile fire in the area and it was investigating. That brought the total American military death toll since the invasion of March 2003 to 2,836. In October, 105 deaths were the highest monthly toll in nearly two years. — Reuters.

London, Nov 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Baghdad's international airport reopened today after a two-day curfew over the capital was lifted, airport spokesman Ahmed al-Mussawi said. The curfew, which took effect Saturday (Nov 4) night in Baghdad and two neighbouring provinces, largely prevented major violence following Sunday's (Nov 5) sentencing of former dictator Saddam Hussein to death by hanging for crimes against humanity. Authorities lifted a ban on pedestrian traffic yesterday afternoon and raised a ban on automobiles this morning.

London, Nov 8 — A press report, dated Australia, Nov 9, states: At least 15 people died in attacks yesterday as violence returned to the Baghdad area following the lifting of a curfew imposed during the sentencing of ousted dictator Saddam Hussein. The worst attack came 30 kilometres south of the capital in Mahmudiyah where a car bomb exploded in the centre of a popular market killing six people and wounding another 26, security sources said. In nearby Iskandriyah, another bomb exploded in a residential area killing a man and his 13-year-old son. Baghdad city was the scene of several mortar attacks, including one on the health ministry, which is controlled by followers of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, in which three

people were killed and five wounded, a security source said. At nearly the same time, a car bomb exploded near the Nida mosque in the northern Sunni stronghold of Adhamiyah, killing one person. Another mortar attack in downtown's Jumhuriyah Street killed another person and wounded eight. Not long afterwards, a pair of mortars fell on Kadhimiyyah neighbourhood, a Shiite stronghold home to two holy shrines, and killed two people and wounded eight.

London, Nov 9 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 17 people have been killed in Iraq today, seven of them in a suicide car bomb attack in Baghdad, security and medical sources say, on the second day of violence since the lifting of a curfew in the capital. Seven civilians were killed and 27 wounded when a suicide car bomber blew himself up near Mishin trade complex in the Riyadh area of south-east Baghdad, a medic at Baghdad's Ibn Nafis hospital said. A security source said that first a mortar fell on the complex, and when people gathered near the site a car bomber then approached and detonated his vehicle. Al-Kindi hospital said that in another attack, a bomb exploded in the Suq Haraj market in central Baghdad's Bab al-Sharqi area, killing three and wounding 19. Another car bomb in the Faraj market at Baghdad's north-eastern Qahira neighbourhood killed three more and wounded 12. The nearby College of Fine Arts was also targeted with a car bomb that killed two civilians and wounded three others. A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol killed a soldier and wounded four civilian pedestrians on Baghdad's Palestine Street. A civilian was killed and another three wounded when a bomb exploded near their car north-east of the southern city of Amara, a source with the city's civil defence authority said. Police also recovered four bodies, three of them in police uniforms, from the Tigris river near the town of Suweira, south of Baghdad. Meanwhile, a dozen mortars slammed into Baghdad's northern Sunni district of Adhamiyah overnight. The rain of mortars, which went on into the early hours, filled the night air with the sound of explosions, but authorities said they did not cause any casualties. In a statement overnight, the Prime Minister's office ascribed the mortar fire to insurgents attacking the northern parts of the city. The curfew, lifted on Tuesday, was imposed on Sunday to prevent attacks during the Iraqi High Tribunal hearing that pronounced the death sentence on Saddam Hussein for the killings of 148 Shiite villagers in the 1980s.

#### ISRAEL

Gaza, Nov 3 — An explosion in northern Gaza suspected to be an Israeli air strike killed two Palestinians today, Palestinian security sources and witnesses said, as Israel pressed ahead with a massive assault in the territory. The Israeli

army had no immediate comment on the incident. Israel earlier in the day launched several attacks, including air strikes, against Palestinian militants in the area. — Reuters.

Beit Hanoun, Gaza, Nov 3 — Two Palestinian women acting as human shields between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian gunmen were killed today during a stand-off at a Gaza mosque, before the 60 gunmen managed to escape. The dramatic events came on the third day of an Israeli assault on the Gaza town of Beit Hanoun, the largest operation it has conducted in the Gaza Strip in months, designed to put a stop to militants firing homemade rockets into Israel. The gunmen holed themselves up in the al-Nasir mosque yesterday evening. Today, around 50 veiled Palestinian women, answering an appeal on local radio, marched towards the mosque, attempting to act as a shield against the Israeli troops. Israeli forces opened fire towards the mosque and two of the women were killed. At least six others were wounded. The Israeli army said it had fired at armed Palestinians. It said it was investigating whether it had also shot the women. A spokeswoman said the army had television footage showing armed men mingling among the women as they headed towards the mosque. In the melee, the gunmen fled the shrine and Hamas, the Islamist militant group that heads the Palestinian government, said they had also managed to escape from Beit Hanoun, which is almost entirely surrounded by Israeli troops. The Israeli army confirmed the gunmen had escaped. Shortly after they fled, the roof of the mosque, one of the oldest in Gaza according to locals, collapsed, witnesses and the Israeli army said. The minaret was left standing, but most of the building was reduced to rubble. The Israeli military, which earlier demolished a wall of the mosque compound and fired stun grenades and tear gas inside to try to force the gunmen to surrender, said the collapse was the result of gunfire and damage done during the 12-hour siege. Earlier, an Israeli air strike killed four militants from Hamas as they travelled in a vehicle in northern Gaza. With the latest attack, at least 22 Palestinians have been killed, more than half of them militants, since Israeli troops entered Beit Hanoun on Wednesday (Nov 1). One Israeli soldier has been killed in the operation. The offensive has further weakened any chance of peace talks, already minimal since Hamas won elections. Hamas is officially sworn to Israel's destruction. Despite the offensive, militants in other parts of Gaza launched six homemade missiles at the Israeli town of Sderot yesterday, wounding at least two people, medical officials said. In further violence, Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian militant in the West Bank and critically wounded his 15-year-old brother, Palestinian militant sources said. On Wednesday Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's security cabinet agreed to continue

Gaza operations and step up pressure on Hamas, a government statement said. It did not elaborate. In a separate development, Palestinian officials said Hamas and Fatah had agreed in principle to form a new government. Some sources said the deal could create a government of "technocrats" without direct affiliation to either faction. — Reuters.

Gaza, Nov 5 — Israeli forces shot dead two Palestinians, including a policeman, and kept up the shelling of militant targets in the northern Gaza Strip today, residents and medical officials said. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Israel's assault on rocket-launching squads and gunmen would not be open-ended but declined to say when it would finish. He appeared to acknowledge the rocket threat could not be wiped out by the operation. At least one homemade missile hit the Israeli border town of Sderot, the Zaka rescue service said. No one was hurt. Israeli forces have killed 47 people in the five-day operation, one of the biggest since the army and Jewish settlers pulled out of Gaza last year after 38 years of occupation. More than half of the fatalities in the current operation have been gunmen, Palestinian medical officials have said. "We have no intention of conquering Gaza," Olmert said at the start of a cabinet meeting in Jerusalem. "We have declared that we will never accept the ongoing (rocket) fire and that we would take any steps needed to considerably reduce the fire and prevent terror activity." The assault is mainly focused on the town of Beit Hanoun, home to 30,000 Palestinians and not far from the border. It is part of a wider offensive launched in late June after militants including members of the governing Hamas movement abducted an Israeli soldier in a cross-border raid from Gaza. Medical officials and police said Israeli troops shot dead the policeman near his post in northern Gaza. Israel's army said it was checking the report. A gunman belonging to the Hamas armed wing was shot in a clash with soldiers in Beit Hanoun. — Reuters.

Beit Hanoun, Gaza Strip, Nov 7 — Israeli forces pulled out of a northern Gaza town today after one of their biggest operations in the Palestinian territory in a year. "This is the worst raid we have ever witnessed," said Khalil Yazji, a 45-year-old resident and police officer. "The Israeli army has brought destruction into every single street and nearly into every single house." Elsewhere in the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces killed four gunmen and a civilian, militant groups and hospital officials said. Officials said Abbas and Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh would resume talks today on a unity government of professional experts that Palestinians hope can lead to a resumption of direct international aid to the Palestinian Authority. After watching Israeli pull out, Palestinians poured into the streets of Beit Hanoun, a town of 30,000 in an area

that has been a staging ground for rocket attacks against southern Israel. Residents looked shocked at the extent of damage to buildings, roads, water pipes and electricity poles. Several homes were demolished and dozens partially damaged during the fighting. Israeli troops killed 52 people, more than half of them militants, during a week-long raid that has centred on the town, Palestinian medical officials said. One soldier has been killed. Announcing an end to "Operation Autumn Clouds", the army said it found large amounts of weaponry, including rocket launchers and anti-tank missile launchers, in Beit Hanoun. Despite the assault militants have continued to launch rockets across the frontier. — Reuters.

London, Nov 8 — Israeli tank shells landed in a residential neighbourhood north of the town of Beit Hanoun early today, killing at least 14 people in their sleep, according to witnesses. Palestinian hospital officials said there were several more injured. According to witnesses, many of those killed were women and children. Four hospitals were treating the wounded across Gaza. Palestinian security officials said that five tank shells landed in the area within 15 minutes. The Israeli army said it was unaware of an incident in the area but was checking. The shelling came after Israeli attacks in Gaza and the West Bank killed at least 15 people following a pullout from Beit Hanoun.

#### MEXICO

Mexico City, Nov 6 — Leftist guerrillas took responsibility for exploding bombs in Mexico's capital yesterday, rattling a country already nervous about unrest in a poor southern state and a deep political rift from an acrimonious election in July. No one was injured in the blasts at Mexico's top electoral court, an opposition party's headquarters and a Canadian-owned bank in the capital. Five small leftist guerrilla groups said they carried out the bombings and demanded the removal of the governor and federal police from troubled Oaxaca state. Glass and ceiling panels covered the floor of an annex building at the headquarters of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, near one of the city's main streets. Ulises Ruiz, the PRI governor of Oaxaca, is embroiled in a five-month conflict with protesters demanding he resign. Some 15 people have died and federal police clashed with demonstrators there last week. A door was damaged and windows blown out at the electoral court, known as the Trife, which angered leftists in September for ruling that conservative candidate Felipe Calderon won July's presidential election. Judges threw out claims of fraud by leftist candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who held street protests that paralyzed the center of the capital for six weeks. An explosion also tore apart the metal and glass facade of a branch of Canada's Scotiabank in the south of Mexico City. A fourth bomb at

another bank failed to go off and police found and deactivated a fifth device in a diner near the PRI headquarters. The Foreign Ministry was evacuated when a caller warned of a bomb there but it was a false alarm, a ministry source said. The bombings involved bigger devices than those sometimes set off in apparently politically motivated attacks on foreign banks in Mexico. "If these bombs had been put in other locations they could have been lethal to a lot of people," Mexico City Police Chief Joel Ortega said. — Reuters.

#### NIGERIA

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated today, states: An American and a British citizen have been kidnapped from a Norwegian supply *HD Commander* (1204 gt, built 1978) off the coast of Nigeria. This latest attack involving armed men in six speedboats took place in the early hours of Wednesday (Nov 1) morning off the coast of Bayelsa State. The vessel attacked by the gunmen is one of several supply and accommodation vessels for the Funiwa oil platform. There was no immediate demand for ransom or other message from the attackers, who are thought to be militants protesting against the oil companies and the Federal Government, whom they accuse of stripping Nigeria's coastal region of its riches without adequate compensation to local communities.

Port Harcourt, Nov 6 — Suspected militants invaded an oil production facility operated by Italian oil company Agip at Tebidaba in southern Nigeria today, a government official said. The impact on production was not immediately known. "Some militants overran Tebidaba flow station and now we are making contact with them," said Victor Akenge, environment commissioner of Bayelsa state where the facility is located. It was not immediately clear why they attacked, but Agip is involved in disputes with many Bayelsa communities over jobs, local investment and other issues. Another state government official said no hostages were taken. Unions had threatened to shut down the company's facilities last week in a dispute over security bonuses to Nigerian staff. The Tebidaba flow station pumps crude oil to the Brass tanker terminal, which exports about 200,000 barrels per day and is also operated by Agip, a unit of Milan-based ENI. It was the third attack this year in the Tebidaba area. A nearby pipeline was attacked in July, and in March another pipeline attack at Tebidaba forced Agip to reduce production by 75,000 barrels per day for several weeks. Another Agip flow station at Clough Creek, also in Bayelsa state, was invaded last week. The youths vacated the facility on Friday (Nov 3), and the company said the impact on production was minimal. — Reuters.

London, Nov 7 — Militant attacks in Nigeria could hit tanker exports from the Brass terminal in the Gulf of

Guinea. Niger Delta oil output was reduced after a gang attacked and over-ran the Tebidaba flow station, which supplies the Agip-operated Brass terminal. Oil prices failed to react to these latest attacks, sitting around \$59 a barrel. Meanwhile a Briton and an American kidnapped from an offshore exploration vessel off southern Bayelsa are due to be freed early this week.

#### PAKISTAN

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A car bomb has exploded in Pakistan's south-western city of Quetta, killing a man inside the car and two policemen, police and witnesses said. The car was parked near the office of the police chief for Baluchistan province. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but authorities in the past have blamed similar attacks on rebels fighting for more autonomy and more of the profits from Baluchistan's gas and mineral resources. Police in Quetta have also mounted a crackdown against suspected Taliban in recent months amid complaints from Afghanistan, the United States and NATO powers that militants were attacking across the frontier from the safety of Pakistan's borderlands.

Peshawar, Pakistan, Nov 5 — Suspected pro-Taliban militants shot dead a pro-government tribal leader in Pakistan's South Waziristan region, the latest killing in the lawless belt on the Afghan border, a security official said today. The tribal elder, Zar Wali, was headed home when gunmen ambushed his car in Inzar area, 25 km north of Wana, the main town of South Waziristan, yesterday. Such targeted killings are common in the North and South Waziristan region where Pakistan's government has struck deals with tribal leaders to end clashes between pro-Taliban militants and security forces. On Friday (Nov 3), the headless body of a cleric was found in the Waziristan region with a note saying he was a US spy. — Reuters.

Islamabad, Nov 8 — A suicide bomber killed 42 Pakistani soldiers at an army training ground on Wednesday (Nov 8) in an attack the military said was linked to a bloody army assault on a militant camp last week. The blast, the most serious militant attack on the Pakistani military since it joined the US-led war on terrorism, took place in the town of Dargai, in North West Frontier Province. It came nine days after security forces attacked a madrasa, or religious school, in a nearby tribal area, killing 80 people, the biggest number of suspected militants killed in an assault. — Reuters.

#### RUSSIA

London, Nov 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Three suspected Chechen rebels were shot dead in a firefight overnight in the southern Russian republic of Ingushetia, a news agency report said quoting Russia's FSB security service. "The liquidated terrorists were wanted by the federal

authorities and were being pursued in connection with a criminal case under investigation by the prosecutor's office in Grozny", the Chechen capital, a local FSB official told Russia's RIA Novosti. He said the militants, believed to be under the direct command of Chechen rebel leader Doku Umarov, opened fire when FSB and interior ministry troops approached to arrest them.

#### SOMALIA

Mogadishu, Nov 6 — Fighting flared today between Somali Islamist forces and troops from the semi-autonomous northern enclave of Puntland which has resisted Islamist influence, Islamist sources said. "Puntland troops attacked us 30 minutes ago in Galinsoor area," one of the Islamist sources told Reuters, referring to a town near the Puntland province border. No more details were immediately available on what would be a dangerous turn of events in Somalia, which many fear is on the verge of war after the collapse of peace talks last week. "We have no news of any casualties," the source said. Puntland leaders have said they would resist any attempt by the Islamists to extend their control into the northern province. And Ethiopian troops are said by witnesses to be both bolstering the interim government in the town of Baidoa and entering Puntland to bolster its forces. — Reuters.

#### SRI LANKA

Colombo, Nov 3 — Sri Lanka's Air Force launched air raids for the third consecutive day on Tamil Tiger targets in the island's northwest and east today, the military said, days after the breakdown of talks to halt renewed civil war. "The air force bombed two Tiger targets this morning. One is a Tiger training and transit camp in (the eastern district of) Batticaloa and the other one is a Sea Tiger base in Mannar," said a spokesman for the Media Centre for National Security. There were no immediate details of casualties. The air raids came as both sides continued to fight artillery duels in the east for a fifth day. They also came after peace talks, the first in 8 months, collapsed on Sunday (Oct 29) with the sides unable even to agree on whether to meet again for more talks. The talks in Geneva collapsed over the government's closure in August of the main north-south A-9 highway, which runs through rebel territory and to the isolated, northern army-held Jaffna peninsula. — Reuters.

London, Nov 8 — A press report, dated Australia, Nov 9, states: At least 65 civilians were killed and over 300 injured yesterday in heavy shelling by government forces in eastern Sri Lanka, Tamil rebels and residents say, marking the heaviest reported casualties since the collapse of peace talks last month. Sri Lankan military spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said he was not aware of civilian casualties, but confirmed "heavy artillery and mortar bomb exchanges" in the embattled district of

Batticaloa. Medical sources said 65 bodies were brought to the main Vakara hospital in the rebel-held part of the Batticaloa district. "At least 300 people have been taken to three hospitals in the district." More than 100 were thought to be badly wounded, with the remainder suffering minor injuries. The Tigers initially placed the death toll at 45 killed and over 125 wounded but had said they feared the casualties could be higher.

#### SUDAN

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Militias backing Sudan's government have killed at least 63 people in attacks in Darfur in the past week, African peacekeepers say. At least 27 of the victims are thought to be children under the age of 12. The attacks were carried on camps for the displaced in the rebel stronghold of Jebel Moon, in West Darfur. United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has urged the Sudanese government to restrain the militias following the attacks. Militia wearing government uniforms, on camels and horseback, swept into eight villages and camps in Jebel Moon Oct 29. The African Union (AU) investigation team has just returned from the area to make its report. The area is a stronghold of the National Redemption Front (NRF) alliance, one of the Darfur rebel group which refused to sign up to a peace deal in May. "The government have begun mobilising the Janjaweed widely, especially in West Darfur, because they want to clear the area and move north along the border and defeat us," said the NRF's Bahr Idriss Abu Garda.

#### THAILAND

London, Nov 5 — Seven people were killed in a spate of shootings in Thailand's restive Muslim-majority south despite fresh government efforts to bring peace to the insurgency-torn region, police say. A 41-year-old Muslim was shot dead in front of his garage by two suspected Islamic militants yesterday in Narathiwat, one of three troubled southern provinces bordering Malaysia. Police said the victim had been cooperative with the government in its efforts to quell the long-running insurgency, which has claimed more than 1,500 lives since January 2004. Local government officials, police, military and Buddhists are often targeted by Islamic militants but Muslims seen as sympathetic to the government are also attacked. Also in Narathiwat, a 40-year-old Muslim villager was killed at a fish shop after gunmen fired a shot at his head. In Songkhla province, located next to the three restive provinces, a 45-year-old Buddhist rubber trader was shot dead by two gunmen. Late on Friday, a 25-year-old Muslim man was killed by suspected militants at a school in the southern province of Yala, where a 22-year-old Buddhist woman was also gunned down at a local health office in

a drive-by shooting. A 43-year-old Buddhist man was also shot dead late on Friday in Yala by suspected Islamic militants while driving a motorcycle. His wife was also injured in the attack. In neighbouring Pattani, a 45-year-old Muslim villager was shot dead at his house, police said, adding that two security guards at a hotel in Pattani were also shot and wounded in a separate incident. The fresh attacks came despite Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont's efforts to bring peace to the violence-plagued south.

## Labour Disputes



### AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Qantas international flights have been delayed at Sydney's international airport after industrial action by the airline's baggage handlers this morning. Meetings on Friday (Nov 3) between the Transport Workers Union (TWU) and Qantas failed to reach agreement on Friday over health and safety concerns affecting up to 800 workers at Sydney's domestic and international airports. About 60 workers and union representatives began a stopwork meeting about 0730 AEDT, today to discuss the dispute, causing delays to Qantas flights. The baggage handlers had returned to work but a Qantas spokesman said some international flights were delayed by two hours. It was not clear when services would return to normal, he said. The union and the airline had held talks over the past six months on staffing, TWU official Scott Connelly said. Qantas management had invited TWU representatives to a meeting in the NSW Industrial Relations Commission this morning, he said.

### BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro, Nov 3 — Brazil's defense ministry said today it had reached a deal with air traffic controllers to end their slow-down protest, which had caused long flight delays, chaos and even fights in airports this week. More than 600 flights were delayed, some by 10 hours, and dozens were cancelled yesterday, which was a public holiday for the Day of the Dead, when many people travel to visit the graves of their relatives or to take a holiday. Police had to be called to control irate passengers in some airports, like in Rio de Janeiro, where disgruntled passengers vandalized a check-in stand for local flights. Some controllers say they have to handle 20 aircrafts at a time in peak hours of their six-hour shifts. "Defense Minister Waldir Pires reached an agreement with the unions for Brasilia's 147 controllers to make a concentrated effort to reduce delays and normalize the situation," a

ministry spokeswoman said. She said that in return, the minister pledged to review the controllers' working conditions and study more pay for them and the possible demilitarization of the profession. Out of about 2,700 controllers in Brazil only 500 are civilians and they all are subject to military command. Today, only slight delays were reported in some airports. — Reuters.

### FRANCE

London, Nov 7 — A press report, dated today, states: High-speed TGV trains from Paris will be reduced by a third beginning today for more than 24 hours because of a strike by railway workers. Eurostar trains to and from London will be unaffected. Thalys trains to and from Brussels will be little affected, with a slightly altered timetable, while just a third of high-speed TGV trains will operate between cities in the rest of France, Societe Nationale des Chemins de Fer, the state-owned rail operator, said on its Web site. Five French unions called for the strike to demand more jobs and higher wages. The strike runs from about 2000 hrs until 0700, Nov 9, depending on when shifts begin.

London, Nov 8 — A press report, dated today, states: French rail workers have begun a strike across the entire national train network. The stoppage began at 2000 yesterday and will continue until 0800 tomorrow morning. Six of the eight rail workers unions called the strike to demand the re-opening of pay negotiations with management. SNCF say up to two thirds of high speed TGV rail links between Paris and the regions will operate. Up to a third of inter-regional TGVs are expected to run. Regional links and the RER rail service between Paris and the suburbs will also be affected.

### GREECE

London, Nov 9 — Greek port workers will refuse to work overtime from today as part of a series of planned industrial actions. According to a union notice, the following action will be taken over the coming days: - Refusal to work overtime on Nov 9 and 10. - No work to be done between 1300 and 1700, Nov 10. - No work on Saturday (Nov 11) and Sunday (Nov 12).

### INDIA

Kochi, Nov 4 — The withdrawal of strike, by the Truck Owners Association, occurred on Nov 3. Accordingly the movement of container, by road, has been commenced and normalcy restored. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ISRAEL

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A strike at Ben Gurion Airport entered into its third day today, as workers continue to protest despite an injunction issued by the Tel Aviv District Labour Court ordering them to resume working. Passengers have been waiting up to

nine hours to receive luggage after arriving in Israel, and departures are experiencing long delays as well. Many passengers spent yesterday night at Ben-Gurion International Airport, waiting for a workers' strike to end and flights to resume. The strike worsened yesterday afternoon, when airport employees ceased loading luggage onto planes. At approximately 1430 hrs, the airport's central luggage conveyer belt was turned off. Some planes departed without passengers' luggage, and dozens of arriving planes were stuck while waiting to have their cargo unloaded. The strike began on Wednesday (Nov 1) to protest plans to lay off 120 temporary airport employees. Roughly 500 temporary workers participated in the strike, despite a back-to-work order. Israel Airports Authority is calling for passengers that left Ben Gurion Airport without taking their luggage to return and receive their luggage.

London, Nov 6 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The National Labor Court determined today that the strike by the workers of the Airports Authority was not legal nor approved by the Histadrut (General Federation of Labor in Israel) and damages the fabric of labor relations in the Airports Authority. The court also directed the Histadrut to instruct the workers to return immediately to work. The court's decision was reached overnight, after a marathon of sessions which began on Friday (Nov 3) and continued on Saturday night. The notice to the Histadrut to order workers to return to work was given on Friday. The Airports Authority announced that the airport would operate as usual, and that there were several hundred suitcases which remain unclaimed. The Authority calls on the owners of those suitcases to come and collect them. The National Labor Court determined that the strike was in contravention of the collective agreements and personal contracts, and pointed to the fact that the workers were temporary employees and could therefore be dismissed. It also determined that the Airports Authority did indeed have the authority to dismiss these workers after conducting a hearing for them, from Nov 15 onward and after reaching agreement with the Histadrut.

### NETHERLANDS

London, Nov 7 — ECT's three Rotterdam container terminals were out of action last night due to wildcat stoppages which look set to continue today. Strikes started on Sunday (Nov 5) night at the Waalhaven and Eemhaven terminals and then spread yesterday to the Delta terminal on the Maasvlakte. By late yesterday afternoon, the strikes had not been called off. Around 400 out of 2,000 employees were thought to be involved in the industrial action. President of ECT, Jan Westerhoud, said the strike was "very unfortunate", adding that he was perplexed because the Hutchison Port Holdings-owned company had

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reached agreement concerning flexible working schedules with both the unions and the workers' council, last week. ECT typically carried out 70,000 container moves a week, so there were vessels waiting to be handled, he added. The agreement concerned around 200 new ECT employees. "Our customers and their customers will be hit by this action. It is very unpleasant," he said. ECT was trying last night to get the employees back to work but it was difficult to know who to turn to, he added, because both the union and council had supported the new working schedule. Although the FNV, a major Dutch union, had agreed to take the proposal to its members, it has yet to hold a referendum to allow them to vote on it. It is believed that the main issue concerns a drop in working hours and that dock workers would have to switch from one shift to another once a month. It was not clear last night exactly which set of workers are behind the current strike action.

London, Nov 8 — Wildcat strike action continued for a second day at all three ECT terminals in Rotterdam. President of ECT, Jan Westerhoud, said he was now asking customers to divert their vessels to other ports. There was limited activity at ECT's Delta terminal but that was it, he said. A dispute over "flexible" working patterns for 200 new ECT workers is believed to be at the main cause of the action. Two meetings were scheduled to have been held today, Mr Westerhoud said, when ECT would have explained the impact of the work patterns and there would have been an information meeting later on when employees could say yes or no to the proposals. "These meetings have been disrupted. This is not democratic. They have chosen the weapon of the strike" He had been surprised by the industrial action because the Hutchison Port Holdings-owned company had reached an agreement concerning the new working schedules with both the unions and the workers' council, last week. "The proposals are being rejected before they have had chance to hear them." As yet it is still not clear who is leading the strike. Mr Westerhoud had not been approached by anyone requesting a meeting. Strikes started taking place on Sunday (Nov 5) night at the Waalhaven and Eemhaven and then spread to the Delta terminal on the Maasvlakte. Port of Rotterdam spokesman Minco van Heezen said the situation was "very regrettable" and damaged the port's reputation. Striking without warning was very unusual in the Netherlands, he added. ECT carries out around 70,000 container moves a week. Meanwhile the port authority has called for an end to the strike, saying that it was very damaging and bad for the image of the harbour.

London, Nov 9 — ECT dockers in Rotterdam resumed work early yesterday morning, with the unions' promise to take the controversial new rosters back to the negotiating table even though ECT has not yet agreed to

new talks. Strikers and unions struck an agreement on Tuesday (Nov 7) night, although the understanding from the strikers' side was that they would take work-to-rule action, or worse, if resumed negotiations are unproductive. The massive support enjoyed by the wildcat action caught both the unions and the ECT Works Council by surprise. On Tuesday, strikers even threatened to organise a vote of no-confidence in the Works Council. Trade union FNV has now said it would support industrial action if it was voted on, although this would be technically difficult as an in-principle agreement has been agreed with ECT, even though this was never entered for membership ballot. Rotterdam port alderman Roelf de Boer yesterday morning offered to mediate between ECT, its workers and their unions, although he publicly criticised the dockers for taking action before the in-principle agreement had been voted on. Although he supported ECT's steps to discuss diverting ships to Antwerp and Hamburg, he added that the idea was regrettable.

#### NEW CALEDONIA

London, Nov 6 — A report, dated New Zealand, Nov 7, states: The commerce commission in New Caledonia says the nearly seven-week-long CSTNC strike is causing harm across the economy and should stop. The union has called for foreign workers to depart the country and for the cost of living to be cut. Police say the strikers continue to block access to two SLN company mines in the north of the territory. Losses for the company are in the millions, but an economic advisor at the commerce commission, Anne Le Leizour, says the strike is affecting all economic sectors. All government attempts to negotiate a solution have been unsuccessful and a congress spokesperson says no further talks with the union have been organised at this stage.

#### NIGERIA

Lagos, Nov 9 — Operations at Apapa Port, Lagos, were disrupted on Tuesday (Nov 7), when over 3,000 dockworkers protested the non-payment of their severance benefits. The protesters, who arrived at the port premises at about 0730 hrs, entered the AP Moller Terminal, a concessioned part of the port and ordered all the dockworkers on duty to join them in the protest. The workers also prevented trucks carrying containers from moving out of the ports, while the drivers of the trucks were also ordered to join in the protest. Though the protest was peaceful, all operators within the port, Green-view Development Company, APM Terminal and ENL, were forced to suspend their operations in solidarity with the protesters. Police were also deployed from the Apapa Port Police Command and Apapa Police Station to monitor the situation to prevent any violence or breakdown of law and order. A representative of the dockworkers, Mr. Ibrahim Ohize,

who spoke with our correspondent, said that the protest would continue until their severance package was paid, alleging that the fund had been earmarked for payment but delayed by those who supposed to disburse it. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### OIL DIVERS, NORTH SEA

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: More than 900 North Sea divers who maintain offshore oil and natural gas platforms will go into talks Monday (Nov 6) to resolve a pay dispute and end an indefinite strike, their union said today. The divers went on strike early Wednesday after rejecting a 37 percent pay rise over three years. They are demanding a 50 percent rise, claiming their earnings have slipped over the past two decades as oil and gas companies rake in ballooning profit. The divers' union RMT said that talks with management will take place through the conciliation service ACAS. RMT General Secretary Bob Crow said the talks were a step forward, but divers would continue to show "unbreakable resolve" until they win a better pay package. Experienced divers can earn up to 46,000 pounds (US\$87,800) a year but they have to pay for their own training, which can cost 20,000 pounds (US\$38,200). They retire at about 50. The U.K. Offshore Operators Association, which represents North Sea oil and gas producers, said Tuesday it hoped the strike would not reduce North Sea production, and "traditionally the winter period is a quiet time for diving on account of the weather." Most planned North Sea field maintenance is done in the summer, but a prolonged strike could have an impact with workers unavailable for essential maintenance.

London, Nov 7 — North Sea divers are in negotiations with subsea contractors to halt a week-long strike that threatens to affect oil production, writes Martyn Wingrove. The National Union of Rail, Maritime & Transport Workers said talks were underway at UK conciliation service ACAS this week in order to find a solution and wage deal. The strike has forced subsea construction vessels back to ports in the UK and Norway and stopped construction work on existing and new oil fields.

#### SPAIN

London, Nov 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A nation-wide strike brought most Spanish petrol stations to a standstill today as employees demanded more pay. Trade unions said 70% of the 40,000 employees of the country's 7,500 petrol stations heeded the strike call. Motorists filling up their tanks had formed long queues yesterday. The government ordered that 20% of petrol stations must remain open to guarantee a minimum service during the two-day strike.

London, Nov 8 — The main Spanish dockers' union, Coordinadora, has announced its intention to go ahead with a strike at all the country's ports

on Nov 13, 14 and 15. Strike action at Spanish ports began on Oct 30 as a result of an ongoing dispute between the union, the State Stevedoring Corporation and the Port Authority of Cartagena over the failure to reach agreement on employment terms and the dismissal of several workers.

#### UNITED STATES

Chicago, Nov 6 — Mechanics who have been on strike since August 2005 against bankrupt American airline, Northwest Airlines have ratified an agreement with the carrier that ends the strike, the workers' union said today. More than 72 percent of the workers who voted approved the deal, according to the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association. Northwest mechanics went on strike in August 2005 after failing to reach a contract with the airline. Northwest responded by replacing the workers and outsourcing some jobs. The deal allows striking employees to accept layoff status and receive one week of layoff pay per year of service, up to five weeks. Alternatively, employees may leave Northwest and receive one week of separation pay per year of service, up to a maximum of 10 weeks. The positions of current Northwest mechanics will not be affected by the proposed agreement, but striking employees who accept layoff status may apply for open technician positions. The deal maintains the \$203 million in annual labour savings Northwest said it needed from AMFA-represented employees. — Reuters.

### Awards & Settlements



#### INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A 21-year-old refuse collection worker has been awarded £3.75m compensation after an accident which left him severely disabled. Birmingham High Court heard Richard Taylor, of Cannock, was in a refuse lorry which overturned last year. The accident was caused by the driver performing a "shift load" - a manoeuvre where the lorry is driven fast before braking hard. The aim, to move rubbish up the truck, is not endorsed by the local council. Mr Taylor suffered spinal injuries and is now paralysed. He was working as an employee of Lichfield District Council when the accident happened in February 2005. In court cases earlier this year the lorry driver was convicted of dangerous driving and a supervisor convicted of aiding and abetting dangerous driving. Both have been dismissed from the council. An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive found the council had not been negligent.

#### RACIAL HARASSMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A black firefighter who was served dog food in his spaghetti by fellow firefighters will be paid more than \$2.7 million to settle a lawsuit alleging racial harassment within the Los Angeles Fire Department. The award, approved on an 11-1 vote yesterday by the Los Angeles City Council, is the latest in a recent string of settlements of lawsuits by firefighters claiming discrimination and harassment and retaliation against those who complain. It is believed to be the largest payout for misconduct in the department's history. Firefighter Tinnie Pierce, 51, alleged in his lawsuit that Firefighter Jorge Arevalo mixed canned dog food into Pierce's dinner at their Westchester station two years ago; that Capt. John Tohill purchased the dog food; and that Capt. Chris Burton knew about the prank but didn't warn Pierce. All three men were present when Pierce ate the dog food. Pierce "took a large bite, at which time he noticed the other firefighters were laughing and making noises," the lawsuit says. He took a second bite, then demanded to know what was in his food, "but no one would tell him." Pierce then left the kitchen "with his co-workers laughing at him." A Fire Department investigation suggested the incident was intended to "humble" Pierce after his team won a fire station volleyball game. A lawyer for one of the defendants initially called the incident "a good-natured prank [not] in any way motivated by race." But a UC Santa Cruz professor who was hired by Pierce's attorney to review department records of discrimination complaints said the prank was clearly intended to "humiliate and dehumanize" Pierce. In addition to the three firefighters, the lawsuit named the city as a defendant because the fire captains allegedly allowed a hostile workplace to exist in violation of department policies forbidding harassment. The two captains were given one month off without pay as punishment. Arevalo was ordered off work for three days without pay. As part of the settlement, they were dismissed from the lawsuit, so they are not liable financially. Councilman Dennis Zine, a police officer for 38 years and the lone vote against the settlement, said he thought the \$2.7-million award was "outrageous for something that caused no serious injury, no permanent harm." In his lawsuit, Pierce said that for more than a year after the October 2004 incident he was subjected to "verbal slurs, insults [and] derogatory remarks" including taunting by firefighters "barking like dogs [and] asking him how dog food tasted in the presence of supervisors. In addition to the payout, the settlement provides for Pierce to remain on fully-paid administrative leave until April, when he reaches his 20-year service anniversary. Then he can retire with an annual pension amounting to half of his salary for life.

#### REFINERY FIRE, ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 7 — A press report, dated Nov 6, states: A jury awarded \$387.4 million to Citgo Petroleum Corp. in a civil lawsuit stemming from a 2001 fire at a suburban Chicago refinery. Attorneys for the plaintiffs say they plan to appeal today's verdict. The fire occurred when a pipe fitting burst in a crude oil processing unit at a Citgo refinery in Romeoville. Citgo filed the lawsuit against a Barberton, Ohio-based parts manufacturer in 2003 to recover repair costs and lost profits. In awarding the damages today, a Cook County jury determined that the Babcock&Wilcox Co. was 45 percent responsible for the accident. Jurors also ruled that Unocal Corp., the previous owner of the refinery, was 40 percent responsible for the fire. Citgo was assigned 15 percent of the blame. Babcock&Wilcox will "have to pick up the whole ticket" because it was assigned 25 percent or more of the blame, said Citgo attorney Randy Donato.

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 9 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A federal jury awarded \$8.3 million to a woman who was sexually assaulted by two Philadelphia police officers. The jury of three men and five women found yesterday in a Philadelphia courtroom that the woman, a stripper attacked after she finished her shift, should be paid \$1.3 million in compensatory damages and \$7 million in punitive damages. U.S. District Judge John P. Fullam earlier dismissed the city of Philadelphia and the police department from the federal lawsuit, ruling that police officials bore no responsibility for the December 2002 attack by partners James Fallon and Timothy Carre. But the woman's lawyers, Dominic C. Guerrini and Jonathan M. Cohen, said they plan a new legal action seeking to force the city to pay the judgment. They argued that lax supervision and poor training set the stage for the attack. The officers pleaded guilty to charges of indecent assault and official oppression in the attack, and were put on probation as part of a plea deal. They were fired by the police department.

#### WRONGFUL DEATH, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A McLean County jury has awarded about \$5.5 million in a wrongful death suit accusing numerous companies of exposing a man to asbestos and hiding risks of the material. The lawsuit, filed in summer 2004, alleged John Hoogerwerf was exposed to asbestos without warnings of its dangers and it caused lung cancer. He fought cancer for a little more than a year before his death on Jul 17, 2002. The suit accused numerous companies of a conspiracy to hide the harms of asbestos, but last week's verdict was

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solely against Honeywell International Inc. Hoogerwerf installed insulation on pipes and boilers using materials sold by Bendix, which eventually became part of Honeywell. In court documents, attorneys for Honeywell denied there was any conspiracy and further denied asbestos caused Hoogerwerf's death. "There is no evidence that Bendix Aviation Corp. (or any of its affiliates) ever conspired with anyone concerning issues pertaining to asbestos, associated health problems, or risks arising from asbestos exposure," said a Honeywell statement issued Friday.

## Railway Accidents



### AUSTVOLL AREA, NORWAY

London, Nov 7 — A press report, dated Nov 6, states: A Norwegian train making the overnight run between Bergen and Oslo derailed early today in the mountains. The train operated by the state railway company struck two rocks that fell on the track between Austvoll and Bergheim. The engine and three carriages left the tracks, Aftenposten reported. A few of the 221 passengers suffered minor injuries, mostly from falling from bunks. Only one person was hurt seriously enough to be transported to a hospital, while the everyone else on the train was taken to a hotel. Buses took the passengers to Oslo. The rail line remained closed today.

## Miscellaneous



### CARAVOS HORIZON (Malta)

London, Nov 8 — Fraudulent paperwork uncovered by the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) from bulker *Caravos Horizon* (36015 gt, built 1985) in Newcastle over the weekend highlights the need for stronger government regulation on vessels entering Australian waters, the federation's Australian co-ordinator Dean Summer believes. ITF inspectors boarded the Malta-flagged, 68,438 dwt vessel on Saturday (Nov 4) after receiving no reply to requests several months ago for its owners, Iason Hellenic Shipping Co, to rectify discrepancies in the vessel's paperwork. Mr Summers, who made the inspection, told Lloyd's List DCN that the extensive investigations on the vessel had uncovered double book-keeping being used on board. The correct financial records revealed that the crew was being paid at less than half the wages specified under international standards and some had

been on board for 22 months straight. "They sign ITF agreements to say that everything is being paid for and that the crew is being paid correctly," Mr Summers said. "But some unscrupulous dealers, and it would appear that Iason has done this, have one set of books to show ITF inspectors and another set." The incident comes as foreign-flagged vessels face closer scrutiny from the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) and ITF, which believe a lack of regulation on coastal carriage leaves Australian ports open to security threats. Mr Summers said coastal shipping legislation should be examined closely after the disappearance of ammonium nitrate from a freight train near Newcastle a month ago. Tighter security measures across the transport industry, including the introduction of Maritime Security Identification Cards (MSICs), had still not addressed serious flaws in coastal shipping. (Note — *Caravos Horizon* sailed Newcastle (Aus) Nov 5.)

### DRUGS FOUND ON HONDURAS VESSEL, WEST AFRICA

London, Nov 8 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Devonport-based frigate has been involved in a drugs bust which found more than a tonne of cocaine. *HMS Argyll* helped intercept the supply *Orca II* (836 gt, built 1979) off west Africa yesterday. Spanish Customs agents found 1.3 tonnes of the drug, worth nearly £60m, on the vessel which is now being taken into a Spanish port. The 950-tonne *Orca II* was stopped 360 miles off the Cape Verde Islands. The drugs bust was directed by the UK's Serious Organised Crime Agency (Soca) working with Spanish Customs.

### GAS LEAK AT COAL MINE, HUNAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Nov 9 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Rescue workers are searching for nine miners reported missing after a gas leak in a coal mine in central China's Hunan Province early today. The incident occurred at around 0900 hrs in the Xincheng Coal Mine of Leiyang City. Eight miners had been rescued from the mine by 1230 hrs, said Li Ming, deputy mayor of Leiyang City. Preliminary investigations showed nine miners were still trapped underground, Li said. The cause of the leak is being investigated. The privately-owned coal mine produces 30,000 tons of coal annually.

### LOW WATER LEVELS, HANJIANG RIVER, CHINA

London, Nov 9 — Dozens of cargo vessels loaded with coal, sand and ore have run aground on the Hanjiang River, the longest branch of the Yangtze River, due to the lowest water level for 77 years. About 70 cargo vessels ran aground at Xiangfan, a city in the middle reaches of the river, according to the local maritime office. The average water level is less than 0.8 metres which is only navigable for

vessels under one hundred tons, the office said. "My two ships loaded with coal have been stranded here for 18 days," said Han Shouliang. He has suffered losses of more than 40,000 yuan (5,000 U.S. dollars) in the past two months due to the poor navigation conditions. The water level at Yujianao between Xiangfan and Yicheng, was 51.2 metres on Tuesday (Nov 7), the lowest in 77 years, according to the Hydrological Station of Xiangyang. The water flow at this section of the river was 440 cubic meters per second, well under the minimum requirement of 478 cubic meters per second for navigation on the river, according to the station. A lack of substantial rainfall in the upper reaches since the beginning of August is the major cause of the low water level. Rainfall was down 80 percent on previous years, the station said. The 1,500-km tributary originates in Shaanxi Province, traverses Henan Province before joining the Yangtze River in Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province. The river's middle reaches in Hubei are busy with vessels carrying raw materials from north to south.

### POWER OUTAGE, EUROPE

Berlin, Nov 6 — A massive power outage temporarily plunged millions of homes across western Europe into darkness, and initial findings suggested a routine safety operation in Germany could have been to blame, said authorities yesterday. The impact of the power cuts at around 2130, GMT, Nov 4 was felt in heavily populated areas of Germany, France and Italy, as well as parts of Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, Belgium and Austria, and even extended to as far as Morocco. The cuts prompted the German government's calls for an immediate explanation into the causes, and renewed demands for a shake-up of Europe's troubled energy policy. A spokesman for a French union said the outage was the worst in France in 30 years. Some European train services were also disrupted. French media estimated some five million people were affected, while authorities in Germany said at least one million there were left without power. The outages, most of which lasted for less than an hour, were also widespread in northern Italy. Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi said the blackout showed the need for a common European energy authority and policy. German utility EON said reports of the cuts began to emerge not long after it shut down a high voltage line over a river in northwestern Germany to let a ship pass, and that this may have been linked to the power loss. "In the past, these operations were often performed without any problems," the firm said, adding that the precise cause behind the loss in supply was still being investigated. A spokesman for German utility RWE Rhein Ruhr said that because electricity was supplied on a shared network, the loss in power had spilled over into other areas. Spanish electricity grid operator Red Electrica



de Espana reported that parts of Spain and Portugal suffered power cuts caused by a problem in Germany. In Spain, the fall in tension caused 2,800 megawatts of wind energy and one power station to be cut off, and interrupted the flow of electricity to Morocco, it said. German national rail operator Deutsche Bahn said more than 100 mostly regional train services were disrupted. Belgian news agency Belga said some 11 municipalities in the country suffered power loss, and some trains were delayed. Austrian Power Grid AG, a subsidiary of Austrian utility Verbund, said in a statement Europe had had a lucky escape. — Reuters.

#### **SEIZURE OF CONTRABAND CIGARETTES FROM KOREAN FLAG VESSEL, GREECE**

Piraeus, Nov 7 — Passenger ro/ro *Bana* was arrested for cigarette smuggling 5.5 nautical miles west of Mytilene island Oct 28. After inspection of vessel's holds, Coast Guard vessels led it to Mytilene port. The vessel's six crew members of foreign origin were arrested and brought to justice. Preliminary investigation is being held by local port authorities. — Lloyd's Agents.

### **Fires & Explosions**



#### **COAL MINE, SHANXI PROVINCE, CHINA**

Beijing, Nov 6 — Seventeen miners were killed and dozens were missing after a blast tore through a coal mine in northern China, state media reported today, adding to the country's grim string of mining calamities. The gas explosion hit the Jiaojiazhai mine in coal-rich Shanxi province near midday yesterday, the official Xinhua news agency said. By late on yesterday night, rescuers had found 17 bodies and 30 were still trapped in the mineshaft, their fate unclear, the semi-official China News Service said. The mine belonged to the Shanxi Tongmei Group. — Reuters.

#### **FACTORY, JEONJU, SOUTH KOREA**

London, Nov — A press report, dated today, states: A fire gutted two buildings of a paper mill and destroyed tons of paper at Jeonju last night, police said. There were no reports of casualties. Some 150 firefighters and 30 fire engines were mobilized to contain the fire, but they are still fighting the blaze, according to police. A strong wind hampered the efforts, and two of the three buildings at the mill in Jeonju, North Jeolla Province, were destroyed.

#### **FIREWORKS FACTORY, JIANGCHUAN COUNTY, CHINA**

London, Nov 5 — A press report, dated Nov 4, states: Thirty-two people

were injured and six are still missing after a fireworks factory explosion in south-west China's Yunnan Province, local government sources confirmed today. The 15 injured people earlier reported were only the workers hospitalised on the day of the blast, said Luo Yuegang, deputy magistrate of Jiangchuan County. A storehouse exploded around 1820 Thursday (Nov 2) at Xiaotianshan Fireworks Factory in Jiangchuan County, when 202 people were working. One worker has been confirmed dead in the blast. The factory was immediately evacuated after the explosion. The search for the missing and the investigation into the cause are still under way.

#### **GATORLAND, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES**

London, nov 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Gatorland, Florida, burned nearly beyond recognition yesterday but the family that founded the park in 1949 vowed it will reopen. It could be several weeks before it reopens with a makeshift entrance, potentially missing out on the first part of the critical holiday tourism season. The gift shop, administrative offices and much of a recent \$1 million renovation were destroyed, including wildlife murals on the exterior of the building, landscaping and a paint job for those famous gator jaws. Two employees tried to fight the flames with fire extinguishers before firefighters arrived.

London, Nov 9 - A press report, dated yesterday, states: Gatorland President Mark McHugh said this afternoon that the fire that destroyed the attraction's main entrance and other areas caused \$2 million to \$3 million in damage. McHugh gave his estimate during a press conference at the south Orange County attraction. Earlier today, the state fire marshal said a heating pad in the snake exhibit caused the Monday (Nov 6) fire. The blaze was ruled accidental, State Fire Marshal Detective Bill Newman said. The conclusion was reached based on evidence in the fire rubble that was traced to the snake exhibit where two pythons died. One dwarf crocodile also was killed in the blaze reported at 0555, Monday. Newman said the fire in the Orange County attraction raged out of control so quickly because the building was mostly made of wood and because of the amount of clothing and other fire fuel in the gift shop. Newman said of the scene. Gatorland's owners have vowed to reopen on Nov 22.

#### **MEAT-PACKING PLANT, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA**

London, Nov 8 — A press report, dated Nov 7, states: A meat-packing plant in Toronto's west end will have to be demolished following a fire that burned for much of Monday (Nov 6). Firefighters were called to the plant at about 0345 Monday and cleared the scene a little while later. But crews were called back for another fire at the

same building at about 0645. Officials have labelled the fires suspicious. The stubborn fire reached the five-alarm level. The blaze could not be put out because of the cork and other insulation surrounding the freezers. Firefighters were still putting out small fires Tuesday afternoon. Residents in a two-block radius had to be evacuated, and they spent the night away from home. No one was injured.

#### **OIL REFINERY, KUWAIT**

London, Nov 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A Kuwaiti oil refinery with a capacity of 200,000 barrels per day (bpd) was shut down overnight after a fire but the country's crude exports will not be affected, an oil official said. The refinery in Shuaiba, 80 km south of Kuwait City, was shut down after the fire broke out in its heavy oil unit. It is not expected to resume full operations for a week, Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) spokesman Mohammed al-Ajmi said. The blaze was extinguished some three hours after it started without causing any casualties, he said. "A fire started after a small explosion in the heavy oil unit about 1300 local time (2000 AEDT). That led to a total shutdown of the refinery," Mr Ajmi said. "The refinery was evacuated of all its employees as a safety precaution while firefighters began their work to put out the fire," he said. Mr Ajmi said state-owned KNPC has formed a team to investigate the blast and assess the damage. The losses initially appeared to be limited, he said. In remarks to the official KUNA news agency, Mr Ajmi ruled out sabotage as a cause of the blast. "There was no act of sabotage behind the explosion... which resulted from a crack in the gas line" feeding the heavy oil unit, he said. Mr Ajmi said that refinery officials needed two days to isolate the unit affected by the blaze, after which operations are expected to resume gradually and the refinery will be fully operational again after a week.

London, Nov 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Kuwaiti Energy Minister Ali al-Jarrah al-Bah said late Saturday (Nov 4) that the daily output of al-Shuaiba refinery would be cut down to 130,000 barrels from 200,000 barrels following the fire earlier in the day. However, the Kuwait News Agency quoted al-Bah as saying that the output cut was a sort of precaution measure which would not affect the country's commitments of oil supplies to the market. He affirmed that the fire was not caused by sabotage act, adding that plans was being mapped out to ensure the safety of other refineries across the country.

London, Nov 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Part of an oil refinery shut down after an explosion was expected to be up and running in about three days, the Kuwait National Petroleum Company said today. Saturday's (Nov 4) explosion in the heavy oil unit at the Shuaiba refinery cut production from 200,000 barrels a day to around 120,000 barrels a day. The heavy oil unit was shut down and

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other units were temporarily closed as a precautionary measure. Mohammed al-Ajami, spokesman for the state-owned company, said all units except for the heavy oil unit, which produces 25,000 barrels a day, would be working within three days. He could not say when the heavy oil unit would be repaired.

**POWER STATION, NEWCASTLE AREA, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA**

London, Nov 8 — More than 150 people have been evacuated after an explosion at a NSW power station. A large transformer exploded at Vales Point Power Station at Mannering Park near Newcastle about 1025, AEDT, authorities said. Another transformer was under threat, NSW Fire Brigades spokesman Phil Turnball said. “We’re standing by waiting until the energy company can shut down the power until we can get in,” Mr Turnball said. “We can’t get close to it.” He said fire fighters were cleaning up oil leaking from the power station. There were no reports of any injuries.

**PREMISES, BARRY, WALES**

London, Nov 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire which destroyed at least five businesses in Barry Docks is being treated as suspicious by police. About 80 firefighters were called to tackle the blaze at the Arcade Workshops Trading Estate in Atlantic Crescent at about 2340, UTC, on Sunday (Nov 5). Several factory units and workshops were housed inside the building. The damage to adjoining firms is yet to be determined. Firefighters were still working at the site today to make the area safe. Acting Det Insp Joe Sweeney of Barry CID said: “We are treating this fire as suspicious and we urge members of the public to come forward with any information”.

London, Nov 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Police want to talk to two youths seen filling petrol cans before a fire which destroyed at least five businesses in Barry Docks. About 80 firefighters were called to tackle the blaze at the Arcade Workshops Trading Estate in Atlantic Crescent at about 2340, UTC, Sunday (Nov 5). Factory units and workshops housed inside the building were destroyed and other damage is being assessed. Firefighters were still working at the site today to make the area safe. Police want to trace two teenagers who filled petrol cans at a nearby supermarket petrol station before the fire started.

**PREMISES, BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 5 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire this morning caused \$2 million in damages at a Carl’s Jr. in Buena Park, authorities said. Three employees inside the all-night fast-food restaurant at 8891 Knott Ave. got out unharmed, said Capt. Stephen Miller

of the Orange County Fire Authority. The blaze that was reported at 0134 hrs was caused by a grease fire in the kitchen, Miller said. Damages are estimated at \$1.3 million for the structure and \$700,000 for the contents inside the restaurant, Miller said. It took 50 Orange County and Anaheim firefighters an hour to put out the blaze, Miller said.

**STEEL FACTORY, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Nov 6 — A report from LaSalle, dated Nov 1, states: A fire at Mittal Steel SA’s Vanderbijlpark plant will see the group lose up to 100000 tons of liquid steel production. The shortfall may have to be imported at considerable cost to the group. The group said yesterday that a fire broke out about 0240 hrs at its continuous caster V1 after a leak resulted in a supply pipe to the caster releasing hydraulic fluid. The fire also affected caster V2. In a related incident later in the morning, a man was killed at the plant. Mittal had called in subcontractor FESS to check if the blaze had affected fire-fighting equipment FESS was installing. While FESS workers were inspecting the uncommissioned equipment, a sudden gas release ripped a pipe from its mounting, killing a FESS worker and injuring two others. Mittal said it would be two to three weeks before caster VI was in operation again, but caster V2 should be in production by tomorrow. The company said that to minimise the effect on customers it was considering diverting exports from Saldanha to Vanderbijlpark. It hoped to import product from within the broader Mittal Arcelor group, but might be forced to import as much as 100000 tons of steel slab or even final products to limit the effect on the local market, spokesman Tami Didiza said yesterday. The imports would come at a considerable cost to the group. Didiza could, however, not quantify that cost. An analyst, who preferred to remain anonymous, said that importing steel to make up for lost production could have a significant effect on the group’s results.

**VESSEL UNDER CONSTRUCTION, HALSA, NORWAY**

Trondheim, Nov 6 — Work is now almost completed and the vessel will probably leave Vaagland Yard on Nov 9, for Aalesund, where she will be named *Storfoss*, under Antigua & Barbuda flag, with the call sign: V2PC. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters today contained a fast-moving wildfire that leveled a lumberyard and threatened hundreds of homes. Wind gusts of up to 50 mph turned the small brush fire into a 640-acre blaze yesterday but the winds died down and allowed firefighters to gain the upper hand at midnight, San Bernardino County fire spokesman Steve Hansen said. The fire destroyed a lumberyard at an industrial park but surrounding

homes were spared and there were no injuries reported. Damage was estimated at \$1 million. Officials said the fire started after sparks and melted metal fell into vegetation near where welders were doing construction work on Interstate 15. Flames burned fiercely for a time on vacant land across a street from a neighborhood, prompting officials to urge a voluntary evacuation of several businesses. Aircraft snuffed the flames with fire retardant and water as firefighters worked from the ground.



**9M-MRI**

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A Malaysia Airlines jet was forced to make an emergency landing at Stockholm’s Arlanda airport shortly after takeoff due to problems with an engine, an airport spokesman said today. The twin-engine Boeing 777 had 300 people on board and was bound for Kuala Lumpur. Initial reports suggested that some parts from one of the engines had fallen off at takeoff, spokesman Niclas Harenstam told Swedish radio. After jettisoning fuel over the Baltic Sea, the plane landed without incident at 1445 hrs (1345, UTC), Harenstam said. The incident was to be investigated by the Swedish Accident Investigation Board.

London, Nov 5 — Malaysian Airlines Boeing 777-200, 9M-MRI, sustained an engine failure after departure from Stockholm-Arlanda Nov 3. Engine parts were seen falling from the aircraft. After dumping fuel a safe emergency landing was performed.

**AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO NARITA AIRPORT, JAPAN**

London, Nov 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Japan Asia Airways jumbo jet bound for Taipei returned safely to Narita airport east of Tokyo yesterday after reporting that smoke had been detected in the cabin following takeoff, airport officials said. There were no immediate reports of injuries among the 287 passengers and 21 crew members on board the JAA Flight 205.

**CRASH INTO SEA OFF SOUTHERN SWEDEN**

Gothenburg, Nov 6 — The attempts to pick up some of the major parts from the aircraft which was found outside Trelleborg was interrupted by heavy winds today. The Average Comm found the broken parts at a depth of 42 metres approximately 30 km south of Trelleborg and earlier attempts to recover were also stopped by the heavy winds during last week. All three bodies on board are to be recovered if possible. — Westax Marine Services AB.

**CRASH INTO SOUTH CHINA SEA**

Manila, Nov 5 — A chartered-Super Puma helicopter ferrying workers to an offshore oil rig crash-landed in the South China Sea, about 103 nautical miles off Dungun, Terengganu, Malaysia, early today. Police said 20 people, including the co-pilot, had been rescued but the pilot was missing. The helicopter is believed to have experienced technical problems and crash-landed at 1140 hrs about 200 metres short of its destination, Exxon Mobil's *Tapis B* platform. Workers on the platform immediately launched a rescue operation bringing survivors to the platform and performing first aid. Three workers with more serious injuries were later airlifted to Kuala Terengganu Hospital. Exxon Mobil Exploration and Production Malaysia Inc said in a statement that the helicopter, which was leased from Malaysian Helicopter Services Aviation Berhad, had originated from Kertih Airport in the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia. It was ferrying workers on a shift change. The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency said that search and rescue operations for the missing pilot was continuing. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Nov 7 — The body of the pilot of the Super Puma helicopter which crashed Sunday (Nov 5) in the South China Sea, 103 nautical miles off Dungun, Terengganu, Malaysia, was found early dawn today. Capt Mohd Salleh Teguh was found still strapped to the seat of his helicopter, which was underwater. The wreckage was discovered some 100 metres from the crash site near Exxon Mobil's *Tapis B* oil platform. The helicopter was found by an Exxon Mobil submersible which is normally used for oil exploration. Efforts to retrieve the body have been hampered by bad weather and strong undercurrents. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**CRASH, BARTLETT LAKE AREA, ARIZONA, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated Nov 2, states: A spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration says a body has been recovered from the wreckage of a light plane found partially submerged in the Verde River south of Bartlett Lake. A helicopter pilot flying for APS found the wreckage of a plane this afternoon while investigating the source of a problem with some high voltage power lines around Bartlett Lake. The crew spotted a ten-foot section of blackened power lines, one of which was frayed, and below it saw a chunk of airplane wing. About 200 yards south of that location, they spotted the nose gear and other parts of an airplane sticking up from the Verde River. The wreckage of the white plane with red stripes was almost completely submerged. Maricopa County Sheriff's Office said one person, whose identity was not released, was pulled from the wreckage by a dive team near Needle Rock Recreation Area northeast of the Fort McDowell Reservation, said

Deputy Lindsey Smith, a Sheriff's Office spokeswoman. The dive team "pulled out" at dark, and the Sheriff's Office planned to return tomorrow to recover the second body, Smith said.

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Federal aviation authorities, yesterday, identified two East Valley men who were killed when their aircraft landed upside down in the Verde River, three miles southwest of Bartlett Dam. The bodies of pilot Larry Olson, of Cave Creek, and Mark Wild, of Mesa, were pulled from the wreckage, according to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. The two were in a Van's RV6, a four-seat experimental aircraft. Olson, who owned the plane, and Wild left the Phoenix Deer Valley Airport between 0700 and 0800, Nov 2, said Zoe Keliher, an investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board. Olson did not file a flight plan and was not required to do so. Arizona Public Service customers had reported power outages in the Bartlett Dam area, north-east of Scottsdale, about noon, Nov 2. After APS dispatched a helicopter to inspect high-voltage power lines, its crew spotted the aircraft in the river, according to Lt. Paul Chagolla of the sheriff's office. The helicopter crew initially saw a wing portion resting outside the riverbed before the aircraft was spotted, submerged in about 10 feet of water. Witnesses near the crash said they saw the aircraft flying low, but it is not believed anyone saw the crash. The pieces of the aircraft were being taken to Phoenix to be examined, and a preliminary report on the investigation should be complete in about six months, Keliher said.

**CRASH, DANVILLE AREA, ARKANSAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Two of three Oklahomans killed in an aircraft crash near Danville, Arkansas, have been identified. Oklahoma Youth Expo director Justin Whitefield and Jenny Parton died in the crash just short of an airport runway. Danville police Detective Kenneth Jackson says the three were aboard a six-passenger aircraft when the pilot reported engine trouble to air-traffic controllers. Jackson says the aircraft went down in a farm cow pasture about two miles from the runway. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating.

**CRASH, KATRINEHOLM AREA, SWEDEN**

See SE-JGX.

**CRASH, PALMERS ISLAND, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA**

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people have been injured in a helicopter crash at Yamba in northern New South Wales. The Bell JetRanger helicopter crashed when trying to land yesterday afternoon on Palmers Island. Police

spokesman Glenn Roach says two Queensland men who were onboard are recovering in Hospital. "And a pilot, a 57-year-old Queensland man was taken to Lismore Base Hospital in a stable condition, his passenger, a 47-year-old Queensland man was also taken to the Lismore Base Hospital," Mr Roach said. "He has head, back and abdominal injuries and he remains in a serious but stable condition. The crash will be investigated by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, KARACHI, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Nov 6 — A Boeing aircraft 747-300 of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) made an emergency landing at Karachi International Airport yesterday. According to media, PIA Flight 304, bound for Lahore with 257 passengers on board, took off from Karachi airport at 1500 hrs, however, after half an hour, captain Naeem Razzak informed the control tower that No 2 engine had become faulty after a bird apparently struck it. Aircraft therefore requested to land. Later, the aircraft was grounded for check up and passengers were sent off around 2000 hrs. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, KENNEDY AIRPORT, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 9 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Mechanical problems forced a JetBlue flight with 66 passengers aboard to return to Kennedy Airport for an emergency landing shortly after it took off last night, a spokeswoman for the airline said. Flight 1077 was headed for Richmond, Va., when pilots received a warning about a possible engine problem. The aircraft landed safely at Kennedy at 2131 hrs, the spokeswoman said. The passengers were put on another aircraft set to depart at 2210 hrs. A spokesman for the Port Authority police said the emergency landing did not affect other flights.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, PEASE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A KC-135 refueling tanker declared an in-flight emergency last night after smoke filled the cabin. The aircraft landed safely at the Pease Air National Guard Base around 2045 hrs. The aircraft, which was headed to Pease, landed without incident and none of the three crew members on board was injured, Lt. Sherri Pierce said. Emergency crews were scrambled in case the aircraft had trouble landing, but their services proved unnecessary. Maintenance crews are working to find out why the cabin filled with smoke, but a cause for the accident may not be available for a few days, Pierce said.

**F-GGED**

London, Nov 8 — A French court found Airbus and Air France liable for

damages over a 1992 A.320 aircraft crash near Strasbourg that killed 87 people. The court cleared six people of criminal responsibility but ordered the companies to pay compensation to the relatives of those killed.

#### **I-POMO**

Genoa, Nov 6 — Piper PA31T, I-POMO, crashed aground at 0400, local time Nov 6, at Centena di Ferriere (Piacenza), northern Italy, during flight from Malta to Milano Linate. Pilot and one passenger died. Official enquiry presently in hand. — Lloyd's Agents.

Valletta, Nov 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Two Italian men were killed early yesterday morning when their Piper PA-31T (I-POMO), flying from Malta to Milan, crashed near Piacenza. The Italian National Air Security Agency has opened a technical inquiry to establish why the aircraft came down. The Piper left Malta International Airport for Milan's Linate Airport just after midnight but crashed around 0330 hrs when close to its destination. The victims are Roberto Manzaroli, 60, a seasoned pilot from Milan and president of the Bresso Aeroclub, and Luigi Rotti, a 35-year-old financial promoter from Bergamo. The airport was not in a position to say what kind of checks were carried out prior to departure, since this is always at the discretion of the pilot in such cases. The incident took place in an area of the Appenines, at an altitude of some 800 metres, at Centena di Ferriere, a province of Piacenza. Eyewitnesses said they saw a ball of fire crash to the ground as firefighters and the police rushed to the scene. The general weather conditions throughout the route were good and no mayday message was given, leaving investigators baffled. An autopsy is planned for tomorrow. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **INCIDENT AT PIARCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TRINIDAD**

London, Nov 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Full-scale emergency was declared at the Piarco International Airport on Friday (Nov 3) night when an American Eagle flight caught fire while en-route from Puerto Rico. As a result of the emergency there was an almost 20-minute delay in the scheduled arrival and departure times of five regional flights and one domestic flight. Operations at the airport were suspended (from 1945 hrs to 2005 hrs) after Air Traffic Control was notified that there was a fire on the American Eagle's ATR72 starboard engine. According to the Airport's Authority, rescue and fire-fighting personnel were also placed on alert to provide aid, "if necessary". The fire was "extinguished before the plane landed", and there were no injuries either to the 44 passengers or the four crew members aboard. After being allowed to disembark both passengers and crew members were medically

examined and were later accommodated at a near-by hotel. The American Eagle aircraft left Piarco early yesterday morning.

#### **INCIDENT, CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA**

London, Nov 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Canberra airport was forced to close for an hour this afternoon due to a damaged runway. A chartered 747 damaged the lights on a runway during take-off. All flights were delayed as safety officials cleaned the runway and replaced the lights.

#### **INCIDENT, O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 8 — A press report, dated Nov 7, states: Aviation officials said two United Airlines aircraft clipped each other as they taxied toward take-off at O'Hare International Airport Tuesday morning (Nov 7). Officials said one of the aircraft was headed to an airport in northern Virginia. Chicago Department of Aviation spokeswoman Wendy Abrams said no one was injured. Abrams said the incident happened around 0900 as both aircraft were taxiing, one directly behind the other on the same runway. She said the wing tip hit the tail of the other. The airline will inspect both aircraft Tuesday. United's Web site said both flights were cancelled. United Flight 672 was headed to New York's LaGuardia Airport with 110 passengers on board and United Flight 732 was headed to Dulles International Airport in northern Virginia carrying 96 passengers. Abrams said federal aviation officials were being notified.

London, Nov 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A wing of a United Airlines aircraft clipped the tail of another aircraft this morning as they taxied toward takeoff at O'Hare International Airport, aviation officials said. No injuries were reported. One of the aircraft was turning left and the wing of the second aircraft, another United flight, hit the first aircraft's tail, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Tony Molinaro. Both flights were cancelled, United said.

#### **INCIDENTS AT NEWARK LIBERTY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated Nov 2, states: It was a busy morning at Newark Liberty Airport after two aircraft returned shortly after take-off. The pilot of an American Airlines aircraft turned the jet around when he thought he smelled smoke in the cabin. Officials say American Airlines Flight 43, which left Newark Airport at 0811, en route to Los Angeles, promptly turned around shortly after take-off. The pilot reportedly thought he smelled smoke

in the cabin. Acting out of caution, the aircraft was turned around and landed without incident at Newark Airport at 0912. American Airlines officials will check out the aircraft, and hope to put the passengers back on the same aircraft to resume their flight. There were also some scary moments for passengers aboard an America West jet bound from Newark to Phoenix this morning. Authorities say the Airbus A-320 jet struck some birds shortly after take-off. America West says there was no immediate indication of engine shutdown midflight, but the aircraft with 128 passengers and a crew of five aboard returned to Newark Liberty as a precaution. There, American West maintenance workers are giving the aircraft a once-over before deciding whether to let it continue its flight to Phoenix, or take it out of service for repairs. In that case, officials say passengers will be put on a replacement aircraft. The incident happened around 1000.

#### **N102H**

London, Nov 8 — A bizarre accident occurred yesterday as two aircraft (N102H / N5368E) were in collision at a New Mexico airport. The two small aircraft crashed while attempting to land at the same time. They wound up stacked on top of each other. While no serious injuries were reported, emergency crews did have to pull out the pilot and passenger of the aircraft on the bottom. Federal investigators are looking into the cause of the crash.

#### **N5016W**

London, Nov 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The pilot of a seaplane (N5016W) escaped injury yesterday after his aircraft struck a dock and flipped over into Salmon Creek. Mark Gillette, 42, of West Ridge Road, Parma, freed himself from the aircraft, which rested upside down in about three feet of water, and walked to the back yard at 558 Manitou Beach Road. Gillette, who apparently crashed while attempting a takeoff, declined to talk to reporters other than to say he was fine. A friend, Duane Brooks, said Gillette had recently dug a pond on property Gillette owned in Parma and was seeing how little clearance he needed to take off and land. "He was just checking out the length of takeoffs. He's been up and down here 100 times. It's just one of those things." The dock was owned by Pat and James Gillette, who are not related to the pilot. Wooden boards and a portion of the L-shaped dock floated near the aircraft, which had a crushed pontoon apparently from the collision. Guido Hassig, an aviation safety inspector with the FAA, also was at the scene. He said information will be forwarded to the National Transportation Safety Board. The NTSB will determine the cause of the crash. Guest said a crane may be brought to the area today to remove the aircraft from the water.

#### **N5368E**

See N102H.

**N600XL**

See PR-GTD.

**N929CD**

London, Nov 4 — A light wind blowing across New York City played a role in last month's aircraft crash that killed Yankees' pitcher Corey Lidle and his flight instructor, federal investigators ruled yesterday. A Cirrus SR20, registered in Lidle's name, N929CD, crashed into the 30th floor of an Upper East Side luxury condo on Oct 11, killing both him and instructor Tyler Stanger when the pilot of the plane - either Lidle or Stanger was unable to turn sharply enough in the wind. The aircraft fell to the ground, while its engine shot into the building at the point of impact. The airplane was flying along the East River between Manhattan and Queens when it attempted a U-turn with only 1,300 feet of room for the turn. To make a successful turn with a wind of 8 miles-an-hour from the East, the aircraft would have had to bank so steeply that it might have stalled. The National Transportation Safety Board also reported that the aircraft had not experienced any damage before the crash. There was "no sign of an in-flight fire or damage to the airplane," the report said. "No visibility restrictions were reported at any of the surrounding airport weather stations."

**N9408B**

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated Nov 2, states: Federal investigators are looking into the cause of a deadly plane crash in Calhoun County. It is reported that the plane crashed at about 1400 hrs, today, in a field about eight miles northeast of Battle Creek. Police say a pilot was trying to make an emergency landing around two this afternoon. Investigators say the plane hit the ground and flipped over, breaking in half, and killing the pilot. The plane was flying in near white-out conditions during a snow shower.

London, Nov 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators in Michigan are trying to determine what caused a single-engine aircraft crash that killed an Illinois man. Peter Fay died when the 1957 Cessna 175 he was flying crashed near a highway intersection outside Battle Creek. The aircraft hit the ground, flipped over and broke in half. The pilot was pronounced dead at the scene. Calhoun County authorities say Fay radioed an airport tower to report ice forming on his wings. Controllers lost his aircraft on radar after he said he'd spotted an open field and was going to attempt a landing. A friend says Fay had flown the aircraft to Michigan to visit a friend who was ill and to do some bow hunting.

London, Nov 3 — Cessna 175, N9408B, privately operated, crashed under unknown circumstances eight miles from Battle Creek, Michigan, at 1858, local time, Nov 2. The one person on board was fatally injured, the aircraft was substantially damaged.

**PR-GTD**

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The flight recorder transcript from the Long Island executive jet involved in Brazil's worst air disaster shows that its pilots were told by Brazilian air traffic control to fly at the same altitude as a Boeing 737 before the aircrafts collided, according to a newspaper report today. The smaller executive aircraft, which managed to land safely. All 154 people aboard Gol Airlines flight 1907 were killed on Sep 29 when the Boeing 737 crashed into Brazil's dense Amazon rainforest after clipping the Embraer Legacy 600 executive jet. According to the newspaper Folha de S. Paulo, the flight recorder shows the pilot receiving instructions from the tower in Sao Jose dos Campos to fly north-west at 37,000 feet until Eduardo Gomes, the airport in Manaus. That altitude contradicted the pilots' filed flight plan as well as established norms, which reserve odd-numbered altitudes for southbound flights. Defense Ministry spokeswoman Flavia de Oliveira said she could not confirm the report. The air force, which oversees Brazil's air traffic controllers, has not yet released it to Brazilian federal police investigating the crash, or to the National Transportation Safety Board investigators who are participating in the probe. The Legacy's pilots - employees of ExcelAire Service Inc. of Ronkonkoma, N.Y. - were flying the Brazilian-made jet on its maiden voyage back to New York, and managed to land the badly damaged jet safely. They've been ordered to stay in Brazil during the investigation. A lawyer for ExcelAire said the report supported the pilot's testimony to investigators. The tower instructions reported by Folha may have been the first of a series of problems that led to the crash. As the Legacy approached Brasilia, the aircraft lost radio contact with the control tower. The Legacy's transponder, which signals the aircraft's location to the tower and other airplanes, also stopped working. Just what prevented the radio and transponder from working remains unclear, but from that point on, both the pilots and the air traffic controllers lacked critical information. Controllers had no way of knowing the smaller aircraft's altitude. Brazilian officials have insisted that the Legacy should have returned to its original flight plan after losing contact with the control tower. That plan would have mostly kept the smaller jet at 36,000 feet after Brasilia, and out of the path of the 737, which was flying at its customary altitude of 37,000 feet. Instead, both aircraft remained on a collision course.

**SE-JGX**

London, Nov 8 — Robinson R-44 helicopter SE-JGX, owned by Helitek Hangar i Kariskoga AB, and operated by Copterflyg AB, was destroyed when it crashed in a wooded area north of Katrineholm, at 0815, UTC, Oct 30. The pilot, the sole person on board the helicopter, was fatally injured.

**XA-VEL**

London, Nov 3 — Cessna 208B Grand Caravan, XA-VEL, operator Aerotucan, crashed into the sea about 100 m short of the runway at Punta Pajaros, Mexico, at 1430, Oct 30. At the time of the crash a severe storm was in the area.

**ZK-DXH**

London, Nov 5 — Five parachutists bailed out of a smoking aircraft (Cessna U206F, ZK-DXH) over Auckland yesterday after the aircraft's engine failed. But the jumpers insist the incident was "no big drama". Bruce Thompson, along with four other jumpers, made a speedy exit from the aircraft at 3000ft over West Auckland when the pilot made a mayday call after taking off from Whenuapai. Pilot Marc Saad, forced to land without power, flipped on a power line and landed upside down in a chardonnay vineyard in Kumeu but escaped with only minor injuries. The five experienced parachutists also landed safely, touching down in a field behind the Huapai pub where they hitched a ride back to their club rooms with the tavern owner. About \$100,000 worth of damage was done to the aircraft. Civil Aviation were investigating yesterday.

## Space Vehicles



### CRASH OF ROCKET AFTER LIFT-OFF, KAZAKHSTAN

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Kazakh authorities estimate the ecological and economic damage caused by the Jul 27 crash of a Russian rocket in Kazakhstan's central Qizilorda region at \$1.1 million. Prime Minister Daniyal Akhmetov's office released a statement today saying that the final compensation claim has been agreed with the Russian side. The statement says steps are currently being taken to decontaminate and recultivate land at the site of the crash. It says the accident posed no threat to the health of local residents. Qizilorda regional authorities had initially estimated the damage of the accident at \$340 million. The Russian RS-20 (Dnepr) rocket crashed shortly after taking off from Kazakhstan's Baikonur launching pad.

## Product Recalls



### ATV WINCH KITS FOR OVERHEATING, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Nov 8 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission,

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

in co-operation with Warn Industries Inc., of Clackamas, Ore. (manufacturer of the winch kits), today announced a voluntary recall of about 218,000 Warn ATV and Utility Vehicle Winch Kits. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. A component of the winch kit, the eight-post contactor, can continue to pull current when in the "off" position, which can cause it to overheat and pose a fire hazard. Warn Industries has received one report of a contactor failure resulting in excessive heat and melting damage to the contactor. No injuries were reported. This recall involves eight-post contactors used on certain 2,500 to 3,500 lb Warn ATV and Utility Vehicle Winch Kits. The black contactors were sold as a part of winch kits and have a "WARN" logo on the top and bottom of the contactor. Warn part number 62135 is printed on the bottom. Contactors are found on the vehicle attached to the power wires, between the battery and the winch. The contactor has four holes for securing it to the vehicle. Sold by ATV dealers, ATV accessory retailers, mail order catalogs, and Web retailers nation-wide from May 2001 through September 2005 for \$700. Manufactured in United States (contactors were manufactured in Japan). Consumers with winch kits containing these eight-post contactors should immediately disconnect the contactor wires from the battery and contact Warn Industries or their local dealer for a free replacement contactor. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**FRAMING & CIRCULAR SAWS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Nov 8 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with DeWalt Industrial Tool Co., of Towson, Md., today announced a voluntary recall of about 97,000 DeWalt DW378G/DW378GT framing saws and 37,000 DC300 circular saws. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The lower blade guard can fail to close, leaving the blade exposed and presenting a laceration hazard to consumers. DeWalt has received four reports of the lower guard failing to close, including three reports of lacerations. One consumer received lacerations to the hand and two others received lacerations to the leg, all required medical attention. This recall involves DeWalt DW378G and DW378GT 7 1/2-inch framing saws with date codes 200301-49 through 200637-49. The model numbers for the framing saws are located on the side of the housing. The date code is located either on the name plate or under the handle near the power cord exit. Circular saws involved in this recall have model number DC300 with date codes 200601-49 through 200637-49. The model number on the circular saw is located on the name plate on the top of the motor housing. The date code on the circular saw is located on the underside of the motor housing.

Framing saws marked with a "V" on the underside of the handle near the cord set and circular saws marked with a "V" on the underside of the motor housing or under the handle where the battery is inserted have already been repaired and are not involved in this recall. Sold at major home centers and hardware stores nation-wide from January 2003 through August 2006 for about \$170 for the framing saw. The circular saw was sold from May 2006 through September 2006 for between \$380 and \$800, depending on the kit. Manufactured in Mexico. Consumers should stop using the saws immediately and contact DeWalt for a free repair. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**MITRE SAWS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Nov 8 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with WMH Tool Group Inc., (WMH), of Elgin, Ill., today announced a voluntary recall of about 38,000 Wilton Mitre Saws. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The aluminum cast pivot joint that connects the base of the saw to the head assembly (which contains the saw blade) can crack under extreme pressure or force, causing the blade assembly to unexpectedly break free from the stationary base. This poses a laceration hazard to consumers. WMH is aware of four reports of cracked pivot housings, one of which resulted in the separation of the saw blade from the base. No injuries have been reported relating to this hazard. The recall involves all Wilton-brand, 10-inch Compound Mitre Saws, including models with the Laser Line feature with model numbers 99164 and 99192. The model number is written on a black label on the motor housing. Sold at home and hardware stores nation-wide from January 2002 through October 2006 for between \$100 and \$140. Manufactured in China. Consumers should immediately stop using these saws and return them to the store where purchased for a full refund. No repair is available. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**TOY KEYS, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 6 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Nov 3, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with RC2 Brands Inc., of Oak Brook, Ill., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 275,000 toy keys. The coloured top portion of the keys can crack, resulting in the release of small parts, which poses a choking hazard to young children. RC2 has received four reports of cracking. No injuries have been reported. "Shake 'n' Jingle Keys," "Shake & Jingle Keys," "My Jingle Keys" all by The First Years and the John Deere "Real Keys" are toy keys, with three coloured keys attached to a blue, red

or green remote control with electronic features. Various coloured buttons on the remote activate sounds. Only toy keys with the letter "F" in the date code stamp on the packaging and product are involved in the recall. Manufactured in China, the keys were sold at department stores and independent toy stores nationwide from August 2005 through to October 2006 for about \$6.



**AUSTRALIA**

Sydney, Nov 6 — The transport industry's unwillingness to work on weekends had contributed to extensive delays at Port Botany, Patrick Stevedores said this morning. Patrick said it was working to quickly clear the delays to container deliveries from the port after an unusually high number of vessel arrivals over the weekend. A memo to transport companies this morning advised that the "extensive delays" were "due to severe congestion". A Patrick spokesperson said it was a systemic problem for the port because the transport industry did not pick up or drop off containers after 1400, on Saturday. "We make ourselves available every weekend, but we've never had any take up for timeslots for imports after 1400 hrs on Saturday," the spokesperson said. The spokesperson said the port would always be busy immediately after the weekend until the transport industry found a way to pick up and drop off around the clock, rather than during business hours when customers are there to receive goods. The terminal has handled 11 vessels in the last four days, a rate considered unusually high. The memo to transport operators said that all endeavours were being done to alleviate the problem and called for patience. Patrick expected the terminal would return to normal tomorrow. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

**INDIA**

London, Nov 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Imported wheat remains piled up at the Indian ports of Kandla and Mundra as freight train and manpower shortages continue to hinder efforts to clear arrivals, a senior government official said today. "The situation is the same, there is not much change," the official told Reuters. "No company has claimed demurrage so far, this is governed by international laws." The government and port officials said last week efforts were being made to clear more than 400,000 tonnes of imported wheat backed up at the two ports with more railway wagons and labourers.

**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	13-11-2006	Coal: 9 vessels due by 29/11.
Brisbane	13-11-2006	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 3 vessels due by 12/1.
Dalrymple Bay	13-11-2006	Coal: DBCT berth 1: berth closed for maintenance until approx. 8/11; 3 vessels waiting; DBCT berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; DBCT berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; other vessels not scheduled: 4 vessels waiting; 34 vessels due by 27/11.
Dampier	13-11-2006	Iron ore: Parker Point berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 7 vessels due by 28/11; Parker Point berth 2: 1 vessel berthed; 5 vessels due by 24/11; Parker Point berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 1 vessel due 13/11; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; 8 vessels due by 30/11.
Esperance	13-11-2006	Iron ore: 3 vessels due by 29/11.
Geraldton	13-11-2006	Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 3 vessels due by 23/11; regular maintenance shutdowns are expected at berth No. 4 from January to February 2007 during construction of a new iron ore berth No.5.
Gladstone	13-11-2006	Coal: R.G. Tanna (Clinton) coal terminal: 3 vessels berthed, 7 waiting; 36 vessels due by 19/12; shiploader 2: plant shut down for maintenance for 4 days from 6-10/11; Barney Point: 2 vessels waiting; 6 vessels due by 10/1.
Hay Point	13-11-2006	Coal: Berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 5 vessels due by 12/11; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 4 vessels due by 12/11; 5 other vessels due by 20/11, not yet scheduled.
Newcastle	13-11-2006	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 17 waiting; 42 vessels due by 26/11; 10-15 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; approx. 23 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 17 vessels waiting; 12 vessels due by 27/11; 11-16 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 17 vessels off port awaiting coal.
Port Hedland	13-11-2006	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 7 vessels due by 21/11; planned 48 hour maintenance shutdown starting ca. 14/11; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loaded, 3 waiting; 6 vessels due by 23/11; planned 48 hour maintenance shutdown starting ca. 18.00 hrs. 13/11; 6 other vessels due by 30/11, no e.t.a. received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: berth undergoing refurbishment and closed until further notice; Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "D" berth: 6 vessels due by 21/11; planned 36 hour maintenance shutdown starting ca. 17/11; Cockatoo Island: 2 vessels due by 25/11.
Port Kembla	13-11-2006	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 12 vessels due by 3/12.
Port Walcott	13-11-2006	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 17 vessels due by 27/11; shippers may experience product shortage which might affect berthing schedules.
Whyalla	13-11-2006	Iron ore: 6 vessels due by 1/12.
<b>Azerbaijan</b>		
Apsheron	10-11-2006	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 1 vessel due 11/11 to discharge crude oil.
Baku	10-11-2006	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: 3 vessels due by 10/11, all to discharge crude oil; Sangachal district: no vessels.
<b>Bulgaria</b>		
Bourgas	13-11-2006	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 coils, 1 copper anodes, 1 trucks), 4 discharging (1 copper concentrate, 1 trucks, 1 scrap, 1 gasoil); 4 vessels in roads, of which 2 to load (1 gasoil, 1 ammonium sulphate), 2 to discharge (1 iron ore, 1 billets); 6 vessels due, of which 5 to load (1 containers, 2 steel sheets, 2 coils), 1 to discharge containers.
Varna	13-11-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 6-12 November: Thirty-six vessels in port operating of which 24 loading (3 bulk wheat, 1 equipment in packing cases/small consignments, 1 spare parts in packing cases, 1 scrap, 1 sunflower seeds, 7 soda, 2 bulk sulphuric acid, 2 bulk clinker, 1 bulk cement, 1 equipment in packing cases, 1 miscellaneous cargo/bulk STPP, chamotte/kaolin, 1 chamotte/soda, 1 containers), 3 discharging (1 bulk sugar, 1 phosphate, 1 bulk coal), 9 discharging/loading (8 containers, 1 feldspar/silica sand); no vessels waiting in roads.
<b>Cyprus</b>		
Larnaca	14-11-2006	One conventional vessel discharging at berth; 1 conventional vessel due 15/11; no delays expected.
Limassol	14-11-2006	Three container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 3 conventional vessel discharging at berth; 3 container vessels due 15/11; no delays expected.

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## Port Conditions

### Egypt

Adabiya	13-11-2006	Three vessels berthed (loading/discharging), all general cargo.
Alexandria	13-11-2006	Twenty-nine vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 23 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 3 containers; 10 vessels at inner anchorage, 8 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	13-11-2006	Twenty-three vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 16 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 5 container vessels; 14 vessels at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	13-11-2006	Ten vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 5 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 container vessel; 2 vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	13-11-2006	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 4 container vessels.
Suez	13-11-2006	Five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 2 passenger vessels; 2 tugs, 1 vessel dry-docked.
Suez Canal	13-11-2006	Twenty vessels transiting Northbound, 31 Southbound.

### Estonia

Tallinn	13-11-2006	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): Two vessels loading at berth (1 coal, 1 fuel oil); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 2 vessels due, with 8 days berthing delay expected.
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### Israel

Ashdod	13-11-2006	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel loading at berth, 14 vessels discharging at berth (6 general cargo, 7 bulkers), 6 vessels loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 1 tanker); 3 general cargo vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge, 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 17 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	13-11-2006	No labour problems. Six vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 5 bulkers), 9 loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker, 2 passenger vessels); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 7 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 22 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.

### Kazakhstan

Aktau	11-11-2006	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, both loading crude oil; 12 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargoes; 1 vessel due 10/11 to load unknown cargo.
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### Pakistan

Karachi	13-11-2006	Two rice vessels loading at berth, 8 vessels discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 chemicals, 1 coal, 1 rape seed, 3 general cargo, 1 wheat), 4 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 fertiliser, 1 crude oil, 1 chemicals, 1 SBM); 1 vessel awaiting orders; 7 vessels due (2 containers, 1 general cargo, 2 survey vessels, 1 palm oil, 1 lube oil), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	13-11-2006	One rice vessel loading at berth, 5 vessels discharging at berth (1 palm oil, 1 MEG, 1 HSD oil, 1 iron ore, 1 sunflower seeds), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 sunflower seeds, 1 palm oil, 3 containers), 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 1 sunflower seeds, 2 palm oil).

### Slovenia

Koper	13-11-2006	Port working normally. Eleven vessels berthed of which 2 discharging/loading containers, 4 bulk carriers discharging grain/mineral/ore, 4 vessels loading steel products/sawn timber/timber products, 1 Ro/Ro loading sawn timber; 18 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 5 to discharge/load containers, 2 bulk carriers to discharge fertiliser/minerals, 6 bulk carriers to load coal/grain, 2 vessels to load steel products/sawn timber.
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### Spain

Bilbao	13-11-2006	Twenty-five vessels operating (3 tankers, 22 other vessels), of which 6 loading, 11 discharging, 8 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	13-11-2006	Sixteen vessels in port operating, of which 1 loading general cargo, 15 discharging (11 steel products, 1 gas, 1 fruit, 1 logs, 1 anhydrous ammonia); no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

### Sri Lanka

Colombo	14-11-2006	Inter-monsoonal rains being experienced. Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Seven container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 16 vessels discharging at berth (12 containers/feeders, 2 bulk cement, 1 bagged fertiliser, 1 bulk fertiliser); 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (3 containers/feeders, 1 bagged maize, 1 bulk cement); 5 vessels dry-docked; 6 vessels due, of which 5 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement, with no delays expected.
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## Port Conditions

### Turkmenistan

Okarem	10-11-2006	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, completed loading crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	10-11-2006	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed loading light gasoil; 7 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 HPGO, 4 fuel oil, 2 gasoil.

### Ukraine

Illichevsk	13-11-2006	Seven vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (1 wheat, 2 sunflower oil, 1 steel products, 1 iron ore concentrate), 1 discharging containers, 1 loading/discharging containers; no vessel in roads; 24 vessels due, of which 17 to load (11 steel products, 1 sulphur, 1 iron ore concentrate, 2 sunflower oil, 1 project cargo, 1 wheat), 7 to load/discharge containers.
Mariupol	13-11-2006	Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 11 loading (5 steel, 3 fire-clay, 1 coal, 1 equipment, 1 coke), 1 loading/discharging feldspar/coils; 18 vessels in roads, of which 16 to load (15 steel, 1 fire-clay) 2 to discharge (1 equipment, 1 containers); 45 vessels due, of which 44 to load (35 steel, 2 coal, 4 fire-clay, 1 kaolin, 1 slag, 1 sunflower beans/husks), 1 to discharge foodstuffs.
Odessa	13-11-2006	Fifteen vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading metal, 6 discharging (3 luggage, 1 bananas, 1 barley, 1 general cargo), 5 discharging/loading containers; 10 vessels in roads, of which 4 to load (1 wheat, 1 barley, 1 scrap, 1 metal), 6 to load/discharge containers; 66 vessels due, of which 35 to load (26 metal, 2 pig-iron, 1 oil, 2 timber, 2 wheat, 1 peas, 1 coal), 9 to discharge (1 metal, 4 general cargo, 1 ore, 3 oil), 22 to discharge/load containers.

**Published by Lloyd's MIU, Telephone House, 69-77 Paul Street, London, EC2A 4LQ.**

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**ISSN 0047 4908**

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