

## Tanker owners in protest over Brussels liability plan

**Intertanko furious over proposals drawn up without industry consultation, writes Justin Stares in Brussels — Wednesday November 16 2005**

**T**ANKER owners' association Intertanko attempted to head off Brussels' proposals for a new liability regime yesterday with a strongly worded letter to European Union transport commissioner Jacques Barrot.

The association, which represents a fleet of almost 2,500 tankers trading worldwide, said it was "disturbed" by reports of a "radical" new proposal on which the industry had received no consultation.

### Treaties

Any new directive would almost certainly run "contrary to existing international treaties" by which EU member states are bound, the association warned.

The intervention follows a speech made by Francois Lamoureux, director general in the European Commission's transport ministry, to the Institut de la Mer in Paris last month.

Mr Lamoureux, a well-known opponent of limited liability in the maritime industry, said the commission would, in its forthcoming package of legislation, seek to redefine liability for shipowners and abolish the ceiling for owners involved in pollution incidents.

"This is indeed surprising and disturbing news to us," wrote Kristian Fuglesang, Intertanko's assistant director for shipping policy, "not only by itself, but more so as we cannot recall that such ideas have been put forward during the two consultation rounds which have taken place with the industry and member states."

### Directive

He continued: "We are disturbed that such radical new plans can reportedly be under consideration not having been aired during the consultation rounds." Such a directive would also break with political agreements, he wrote. In Brussels, another shipowners' group backed the Intertanko message by claiming a new EU liability regime could undermine the international convention on limiting liability for maritime claims.

Alfons Guinier, secretary general of the European Community Ship Owners' Association, said they too feared new proposals on liability. "If a proposal such as this becomes law, EU member states would have to denounce ratification of the LLMC convention," he said.

The European Commission was yesterday putting the final touches to a package of maritime safety legislation

which it is expected to publish next Wednesday. It has already been confirmed that the package will include proposals for liability and insurance, plus flag and port state control.

Commission transport spokesman Stefaan de Rynck said: "It is important to improve the rules on insurance and civil liability. The way in which this is done will be debated in the commission."

### Liability

It is thought that the commission is seeking to push ahead with its own liability regime because current international conventions have received poor support in Europe.

Intertanko urged the commission not to be tempted by regional EU laws, as it has done in the past.

"Intertanko would strongly urge the Commission to reconsider putting forward this part of the third maritime safety package," Mr Fuglesang wrote.

"Instead of going down the route of regional rules which will severely undermine the international liability and compensation regimes, we suggest that the commission even more strongly than hitherto should encourage member states to ratify existing conventions ... which aim to give prompt and adequate compensation to pollution victims."

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
ARIS	general	THA	—	3,398	5,666	1968	Deliberately grounded off Qui Nhon Nov 4 after crew discovered a hole in the hull. Crew removed and oil pumped off. Refloating operations underway.
BANGA BARTA	general	BGD	GL	5,505	7,820	1983	Broke down in lat 09 07N, long 84 48E, Oct 28 and not under command. Taken in tow of tug Mahanuwara and arrived at Colombo Nov 3. Repairs to a broken piston to commence Nov 10.
CATUAN	tug	DMA	—	193	—	—	Grounded and subsequently sank at San Pedro de Macoris Oct 13. Refloated Oct 25 and is considered a total loss.
FERTILIA	bulker	ITA	LR	90,392	172,632	1996	Sustained three "cuts" in double bottom, 20 metres in length, in the Sulu Sea Oct 16. Reported Nov 9 alongside at Cigading discharging. To proceed to Singapore for dry-docking.
HAJ SALEH	general	EGY	—	242	—	—	Grounded on a rock at the port of Tyr Nov 3. All seven crew removed. Refloating operations under way.
KAMOE EXPRESS	general	PAN	—	1,039	1,145	1965	Grounded and holed on North Providence Island, two miles east of Nassau harbour Oct 24, due hurricane "Wilma". Still aground Nov 8. Refloating operations under way.
MAERSK HOLYHEAD	lpg	VEN	NV	17,980	23,272	2000	In collision with bulk <i>Pequot</i> 54 miles off the Lake Maracaibo channel Nov 6, causing a small fire. Crew safe. Later alongside at El Tablazo. Holed in starboard side above and below waterline. Bunkers leaking. Leak stopped Nov 9.
PAN RIVER	general	PAN	LR	4,195	6,851	1990	Reported Nov 5 adrift in lat 29 07.6N, long 145 14.7E with main engine damage. Taken in tow same day, bound Miyako for repairs.
PAVO	general	ATG	GL	3,300	4,107	1986	Sustained a steering gear problem and grounded on departure from Ahus Nov 8. Refloated same day and back alongside at Ahus. Divers inspection found 10x1 centimetre crack in ballast tank. Sailed Nov 9 without repair.
PEQUOT	bulker	LBR	AB ABS	36,615	70,165	1996	In collision with Lpg <i>Maersk Holyhead</i> 54 miles off the Maracaibo channel Nov 6.
STELLA RIGEL	asphalt tanker	NLD	BV	2,456	3,680	1988	Drifting with crankshaft problems in lat 51 48.6N, long 05 52.7W, Nov 3. Anchored. Some crew taken off. Taken in tow Nov 4, for Swansea, where arrived Nov 5. ETC repairs one month.
STRILMOY	supply vessel	NOR	NV	3,380	4,500	2005	In collision with fv <i>Harvester</i> in lat 59 16N, long 00 52.2E, Nov 4. Minor bow damage. Proceeded to Beryl oilfield. Arrived Stavanger Nov 5.
TU KING	bulker	HKG	NK	16,749	27,088	1977	Lost rudder at Santos roads Oct 17. Rudder located four days later. Towed to Rio de Janeiro, where arrived Oct 27, to have rudder refitted.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



### ACOR B. (Portugal)

Leixoes, Nov 8 -- C.c. Acor B. arrived Leixoes Nov 6 and sailed Nov 7 for St.Michael's. -- Lloyd's Agents.

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

Seattle, Nov 4 -- Tug Legacy was reportedly raised yesterday, Nov 3. Vessel reportedly remains afloat. Tug Active is hopefully to be raised today. - Lloyd's Agents.

Seattle, Nov 9 -- Tug Magic, ex Active, is again upright and cabled off to shore. The fairly large amount of engine oil present is being dealt with by boom containment. Two booms are being used at this time and the oil is being captured with the use of absorbent materials. This is proving to be very effective. Materials stored in various compartments are being removed, in preparation for stem to stern steam cleaning, in an effort to capture as much oil as possible. The cleaning effort is scheduled to take approximately one week. during this time a destination will be decided. A marine non-profit organization has expressed interest in eventually obtaining the vessel. -- Lloyd's Agents.

### AEGAIO (Greece)

Piraeus, Nov 8 -- Research Aegaio was inspected and sailed from Kimi port on Oct 24 bound for Piraeus. Minor repairs were reported. -- Lloyd's Agents.

### AEGEAN SUN (Greece)

See "Aegean Sun (Greece)" under "Miscellaneous".

### AL-KAHFAIN (Panama)

London, Nov 3 -- Understand passenger ro/ro Al-Kahfain has been towed into Safaga. Also understand there were no fatalities.

London, Nov 8 -- Understand passenger ro/ro Al-Kahfain has capsized at Safaga.

Port Said, Nov 9 -- Passenger ro/ro Al-Kahfain caught fire near Shadwan Island. The vessel was towed towards Safaga, but about four to five miles off Safaga it sank. -- Lloyd's Agents.

### ALGOWAY (Canada)

London, Nov 4 -- Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1500, UTC: Bulk Algoway (16186 gt, built 1972) lightly grounded on sand at the northern end of Lake Superior, in lat 45 57.63N, long 85 52.67W, at 0900, UTC, today. Vessel remains aground at present and it is hoped that the winds will change direction and blow away some of the sands to improve the situation of the vessel and facilitate refloating.

London, Nov 5 -- Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, dated 2008, UTC: Bulk Algoway refloated

yesterday and proceeded on its voyage.

Troy, Mich, Nov 8 -- Bulk Algoway ran aground near Port Inland, Michigan, due to gale force winds on Nov 4. The crew waited for the winds to decrease and to shift in hopes of freeing the vessel. The bottom in area of the grounding is sandy and mud. The vessel did not expect to need commercial assistance. On Saturday the vessel was able to break free of the bottom after offloading 300 tons of its cargo on to bulk Algorail. The vessel was able to proceed on its trip with no damage. Before grounding the Algoway had loaded at Port Inland for Serpent Harbour, Ontario. -- Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping News.

### ALPINIST (Luxembourg)

See Memo.

### AMERICAN STAR (Panama)

London, Nov 9 -- The forward portion of the wreck of passenger American Star (26353 gt, built 1940) has begun to collapse onto its port side after nearly eleven years of being stranded on the shoals of Fuerteventura in the Canary Islands. The vessel was under tow to Thailand for preservation as a hotel and museum ship in January of 1994 when it broke loose and drifted onto her rocky grave during a force eleven storm. It broke in half amidships, and, due to its position against the mountainous surf, the aft section collapsed shortly afterwards. The forward section has endured for all these years, resisting the elements that are now beginning to claim it once and for all.

### ANTARES (NIS)

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

### APACHE I (Panama)

London, Nov 10 -- Understand product tanker Apache I (4997 gt, built 1985) had engine breakdown 2243, Sep 20, at Istanbul Strait off Kandilli, with VTS direction tugs Sonduren 5 and Kurtarma 4 were immediately sent to the accident area. The ship was towed by Sonduren 5 with Kurtarma 4 escort and secured after anchoring to Ahirkapi anchorage area. (Note -- Apache I subsequently arrived Bourgas Sep 24 and sailed Sep 26.)

### ARAFURA

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Diesel is leaking from 20-m prawn trawler Arafura that sank in the Gulf of Carpentaria on Wednesday (Nov 2) evening. The skipper narrowly escaped going down with his ship. The crew escaped without injury. The Northern Territory Government and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority are now monitoring the diesel leak, which extends across six nautical miles. Flights have been conducted over the area as the diesel plume drifts south. The Government says there wildlife has not been affected at this stage.

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

**ARBIT RAJE (North Korea)**

London, Nov 10 -- Understand general cargo Arbit Raje (885 gt, built 1971) grounded in at Istanbul Strait Umuryeri south lighthouse, lat 41 08.8N, long 29 04E, at 0342, Jun 20. In order to ensure safety of lives, properties, navigation and the environment, patrol vessel Kiyi Emniyeti 8 and tug Kurtarma 1 were immediately sent to the accident place. As a result of advance inspection around vessel, that had 11 crew, no pollution reported. Divers made underwater survey at 0515 hrs. Salvage operation was started after signing TOF at 0945, Jun 21 and was refloated at 1240 hrs.

**ARIS (Thailand)**

London, Nov 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: The central Vietnam maritime rescue squad began rescue work this afternoon on Thai-registered general cargo Aris (3398 gt, built 1968), cargo 4,000 cubic metres of timber, which deliberately ran aground after its crew discovered a hole in the hull. Authorities in the central province of Binh Dinh, in co-ordination with Ho Chi Minh City's Doan Anh Duong rescue company, picked up the crew of Aris, pumped the oil it was carrying to another vessel, and began work to tow it from the sand bar where it is stuck. The crew of Aris discovered the hole on the starboard side this morning when they were preparing to leave for Da Nang in central Vietnam and grounded it off Qui Nhon to prevent a possible sinking. There are no reports on casualties.

**ASTERIX (Japan)**

Yokohama, Nov 8 -- Lpg Asterix sailed for Yokkaichi on Oct 26. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**B.G.IRELAND (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Nov 6 -- Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1816, UTC, Nov 6: C.c. B.G.Ireland (7660 gt, built 2003), Rotterdam for Dublin with general cargo in containers, anchored in Downs anchorage in lat 51 12.56N, long 01 26.29E, awaiting for tug to tow to Dover for repairs. Vessel had main engine alarm, nature unknown at this time.

London, Nov 6 -- Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1853, UTC: C.c. B.G.Ireland has suspected piston defect. Tug Anglian Monarch proceeding from Folkestone to stand by vessel.

London, Nov 7 -- Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0845, UTC: C.c. B.G.Ireland is still anchored and awaiting a tug to tow it into Dover. Coastguard tug Anglian Monarch stood by over night but has entered Folkestone for gyro repairs.

Dover, Nov 7 -- C.c. B.G.Ireland, Rotterdam for Dublin sustained engine failure and anchored at the Downs to try to effect engine repairs. The vessel was unable to effect repairs and Dover Harbour Board tug

Dauntless towed the vessel from the Downs to off the port of Dover. A second Dover Harbour Board tug, tug Dought connected up to the vessel and towed it to berth at Cruise Terminal 2. Repairs are underway, and the earliest time of sailing will be tomorrow. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Dover, Nov 8 -- Repairs to c.c. B.G.Ireland have been completed and vessel sailed from Dover at 0554, today, for Dublin. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**BANGA BARTA (Bangladesh)**

London, Nov 5 -- The owners of general cargo Banga Barta (5505 gt, built 1983) reported at 0600 UTC: Banga Barta broke down on Oct 28, in lat 09 07N, long 84 48E, and was not under command. Tug Mahanuwara proceeded and took Banga Barta in tow to Colombo anchorage, where they arrived at 1430, Nov 3. Banga Barta was placed alongside in Colombo at 1830, Nov 4, but was still attached to Mahanuwara, under the orders of the harbour-master, due to the bad weather in the area.

Colombo, Nov 10 -- General cargo Banga Barta broke down off Trincomalee Nov 4, the tug Mahanuwara towed the vessel. The vessel is currently berthed at Unity Container terminal and surveyors/insurance parties have inspected the vessel during the past few days. One of the pistons has broken and the engineers are planning to start repairs today or tomorrow. However the main engine is working. The owners are planning to complete the primary repairs at Colombo and sail out for Singapore in order to complete the repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**BASKER SPIRIT (Bahamas)**

Melbourne, Nov 4 -- Barwil Agencies, agents for product tanker Basker Spirit, have advised us that they are unsure of the nature and extent of the damage to the vessel, however, a permit for hot work has been obtained and she will remain at the Melbourne anchorage while repairs are being carried out. They indicated that the repairs should be completed by tomorrow but it is uncertain when vessel will sail as no sailing orders have been received yet. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**BEEFO (Australia)**

London, Nov 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Yacht Beefo, 33 metres, with four people on board is in distress in treacherous seas in the Bass Strait, off Victoria's Port Philip Bay. The volunteer coast guard responded to an emergency call and is struggling to tow the vessel back to shore in high winds and rough seas. Commander Paul Copeland, duty officer at Queenscliff volunteer coastguard, said that the vessel lost steering and power about 9km south-east of Point Lonsdale. It called for help about 1945, AEDT, and a rescue vessel from Queenscliff came alongside about 2130, AEDT. "It's steering had seized, suspected to be a mainsail wrapped around the rudder

of the distressed vessel," Cdr Copeland said. "It's very treacherous seas out there at the moment, there's a strong wind warning current and it's blowing 20 to 30 knots south-west to southerly. "So it's making the rescue a bit of a difficult operation." Cdr Copeland said the stainless steel hulled yacht was slightly larger and about twice as heavy the rescue boat. He said rescuers were waiting for an hour-long window at 2330, AEDT, when water was at an equal level inside Port Philip Bay and outside in the Bass Strait creating a reduced swell, to try to bring the it to shore. "It would be reasonably difficult to keep the yacht steady, because it's a reasonably large size," he said.

London, Nov 10 -- Following received from Australia RCC, timed 1355, UTC: Yacht Beefo is in tow to Port Philip Bay.

**BIKOI (Solomon Islands)**

London, Nov 8 -- Following navigation warning issued today: Rudder troubled ferry Bikoi (488 gt) adrift in lat 30 40N, long 136 50E at 2230, UTC, Nov 7.

London, Nov 8 -- Following received from Coast Guard Japan, timed 0830, UTC: Ferry Bikoi, H4PD, 488 gt, bound Solomon Islands, is still adrift.

London, Nov 8 -- Understand ferry Bikoi has an electrical problem affecting the vessel's rudder. A patrol vessel is taking a battery to the ferry and is due on the scene early tomorrow.

**BLUE RIBBON (South Korea)**

Manila, Nov 8 -- Permanent repairs to general cargo Blue Ribbon were completed on Oct 21. The vessel sailed from Subic Shipyard, Zambales, on Oct 22, for an unknown destination. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**BLUEWING (Cyprus)**

London, Nov 4 -- Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1520, UTC: Bulk Bluewing (18311 gt, built 2002), cargo steel, touched sandy bottom near Sault Ste Marie Locks at 1025, UTC, today. Vessel refloated itself and is now anchored at Sault Ste Marie. (Note -- Bluewing sailed Campana Oct 9 for Sault Ste Marie.)

**BONNIE SMITHWICK (Bahamas)**

Montreal, Nov 6 -- Bulk/oil Bonnie Smithwick (45593 gt, built 1993) sustained damage to a hatch cover at Seven Islands when it was struck by a payloader during cargo operations on Nov 5th. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Bonnie Smithwick left New York Nov 1 for Port Cartier.)

Montreal, Nov 9 -- The repair to bulk/oil Bonnie Smithwick was a small repair. Now finished and the vessel is loading and should depart approximately Nov 10. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**BUMI JAYA (Indonesia)**

Chittagong, Nov 10 -- General cargo Bumi Jaya is still lying idle at Chittagong outer anchorage. Vessel's

local agent said that the decision for repair work has not yet been taken. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CAST PROSPERITY (Germany)**

Montreal, Nov 8 -- C.c. Cast Prosperity sailed from Montreal on Nov 1. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CATUAN (Dominica)**

Santo Domingo, Nov 7 -- Tug Catuan (193 gt, built 1944) grounded and subsequently sank at San Pedro de Macoris on Oct 13. The vessel was refloated on Oct 25 and is considered a total loss. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CHIOS BEAUTY**

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

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

London, Nov 8 -- A press report, dated Nov 4, states: Radio ship Communicator (490 gt, built 1954), the former home to the Superstation Orkney radio station, may have to be beached in South Ronaldsay to prevent it sinking. Kirkwall Sergeant Eddie Graham said: "The vessel was taking on water last night. The Fire Brigade and police attended and pumped it out. The pumping out continues but the intention is to beach the vessel if that proves unsuccessful." The vessel poses no pollution risk.

Kirkwall, Nov 9 -- Radio ship Communicator, which has been berthed at St. Margarets Hope Pier, operating as a radio station since last year, took on some water Nov 2/3 and had to be pumped out. She is still berthed at St. Margarets Hope Pier and having no more problems. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CRUSADER (Panama)**

See "Drugs Found on Panamanian Vessel at Mosjoen, Norway" under "Miscellaneous."

#### **CSL LAURENTIEN (Canada)**

London, Nov 7 -- Bulk CSL Laurentien (24024 gt, built 1977) struck an overhead scaffold while transiting downbound in the Rouge River, near Detroit, in lat 42 17 12N, long 83 08 24W, at 1011, EST, Nov 4. The radar scanner was reportedly knocked over.

#### **CUMBRAE (U.K.)**

London, Nov 5 -- Tug Cumbrae sailed Tyne Oct 31.

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

London, Nov 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: Chinese fishing Da Yuan Yu 309, accused of fishing illegally in Mozambican waters, has slightly more than a week to pay a fine of 10.8 billion meticaís (about US\$400,000), reports today's issue of the independent newsheet "Mediafax". The boat has been anchored at Maputo port, guarded by the Mozambican navy and the port authorities, since Oct 11. Inside the boat, the fisheries authorities found about 290 kilos of sharks' fins, seven tonnes of sharks (without their fins), and five tonnes of

tuna. The vessel was only licensed to fish in the Pacific Ocean. It had no authorisation to enter Mozambican waters, let alone fish there. The authorities believe that the vessel poached much more fish than the 13 tonnes on board. From declarations made by the master, and records on board, it seems that the real amount fished was about 100 tonnes. "The boat entered Mozambican waters on Sept 24," said Ivone Licucha, the national director of fisheries administration. "Since then it fished about 100 tonnes of produce, but we don't know where it all is, since we only found 13 tonnes on board". She assumes that the missing fish was transferred to another vessel on the high seas. The owners of the boat have eight days to pay the fine, or appeal against it. In addition to the fine, the Mozambican state will confiscate all the fish and the fishing equipment on board the boat.

#### **DOCERIVER (Liberia)**

Busan, Nov 8 -- The Pohang agents of bulk Doceriver (79184 gt, built 1986) report that the vessel sailed from Pohang at about 1308, Nov 6, in tow of salvage tug Koyo Maru (2474 gt, built 1998), bound Nantong for drydocking and repairs to propeller. Understand from the agents that the vessel has propeller problems, but details not available. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note -- Doceriver had arrived Pohang Oct 29.)

London, Nov 8 -- Following notice to mariners issued Nov 7 -- Tug towing bulk Doceriver in lat 35 16N, long 129 32E, at 1800, UTC, Nov 6 bound Chang Jiang (Yangtze River), lat 31 18N, long 121 52E, ETA 1900, UTC, Nov 9. Speed five knots, length of tow about 1,000 metres.

#### **DURGANDINI (Panama)**

London, Nov 8 -- A Semco salvage report states: Semco was contracted by PT Arpeni Protama Ocean Line TBK on Oct 3 to assist in pumping oil from product tanker Durgandini which had supposedly sustained slight grounding damage when approaching Cilacap. Two salvage crew and a senior salvage master mobilised to Cilacap on Oct 4, at the same time tug Salvixen departed Base loaded with pumping and pollution control equipment. On arrival at the vessel it was well down by the head. It was obvious that it had sustained more than slight grounding damage as four of its forward cargo holds, two forward ballast tanks, the forepeak and the pump-room were all flooded and open to the sea. There was also serious damage to the rudder and some damage below the main engine, the engine-room was not flooded. Due to the underwater damage to the vessel it was decided to bring in a team of Semco Divers to supervise patching works being carried out by local divers. The rest of the salvage team and divers arrived Cilacap on Oct 9, the divers immediately carried out a full underwater inspection which confirmed the damage as above. Salvixen arrived on Oct 10 and went straight alongside the vessel to offload

all the equipment. Pumping of oil commenced the same day. Over the next three weeks in what was a very complex pumping operation, more than 40,000 cubic metres of oil was pumped ashore without spilling a drop. The oil had to be pumped through a pipeline over one mile long to shore tanks at the Pertamina Refinery, this was definitely a job for our high powered Marflex Pumping Systems, smaller pumps would not have managed the job. Presently two pumps and four Semco crew along with Salvixen remain at Cilacap on stand by waiting for the vessel to be towed to Tanjung Priok, Salvixen will be escorting the towage, on arrival at Tanjung Priok it will take off the equipment and demob to Singapore.

#### **EIDER (Hong Kong)**

Valparaiso, Nov 3 -- Bulk Eider: The dry dock where the vessel is expected to be moved for plating repairs is located at Talcahuano. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Nov 7 -- A press report, dated Nov 6, states: The owners of bulk Eider that ran aground off the coast of northern Chile last week have been fined US\$60 million. The ship hit rocks near Antofagasta and spilled fuel that has spread seven kilometres along the coast. Local officials say the oil has already killed dozens of sea turtles, and will take two years to clean up.

#### **ELLI T. (Malta)**

London, Nov 4 -- Passenger ro/ro Elli T. sailed Brindisi Nov 1 for Patras.

#### **ENDEAVOR (Netherlands)**

London, Nov 7 -- A press report, dated Nov 5, states: A shipping mishap off the Welsh coast has sent 92 tons of whisky into the sea from c.c. Endeavor (7681 gt, built 2005). Endeavor was in rough seas when a wave slapped it broadside and swept four 40-foot containers overboard Thursday (Nov 3) night, it was reported today. Three of the containers each contained 22 tons of whisky while a fourth contained 26 tons of an unidentified liquor. "We put out a message for vessels to look out for these containers," said Bill Muldrew, watch manager at Milford Haven Coast Guard Station. "But they're all reported to have sunk." (Note -- Endeavor sailed Greenock Nov 2 for Bilbao.)

London, Nov 7 -- Following received from Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC, timed 1005, UTC: A report was received at 1855, UTC, Nov 3 that c.c. Endeavor, PHCH, had lost four containers in lat 51 17.5N, long 05 56.3W. Three of the containers were sealed and the other had broken open.

London, Nov 8 -- C.c. Endeavor arrived Bilbao Nov 5 and sailed Nov 6.

#### **EUROMED**

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

London, Nov 10 -- Understand general cargo Euromed (2457 gt, built 1969) engine-room made water on Sep 26. After requesting help from

Istanbul VTS at 1345, Sep 26, immediately patrol vessel Kiyi Emniyeti 8 and tug Kurtarma 3 were sent to the accident area. Kiyi Emniyeti 8 reported that the crew were not leaving the ship. At 1830 same day while tug Kurtarma 4 towed the ship with tug/supply Alemdar 2 escorting and entered to the Strait taking it to the Ahirkapi anchorage, risk factors were evaluated and ship anchored to Buyukdere at 0430 hrs. After repairs and water transferring operations vessel refloated (?proceeded). (Note -- Euromed subsequently arrived Constantza roads Oct 8 and was next reported to have passed Istanbul Nov 4, from Kherson.)

#### **FERTILIA (Italy)**

London, Nov 9 -- Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1150, UTC: Bulk Fertia (90392 gt, built 1996), Hay Point for northern Europe, cargo coal, sustained bottom damage in the Sulu Sea Oct 16 and as a result vessel sustained three "cuts" in double bottom length 20 metres. Vessel is now alongside at Cigading discharging all cargo and when complete will probably proceed to Singapore for drydocking. (Note -- Fertia, from Hay Point, arrived Singapore Oct 20 and left Nov 5 for Cigading.)

#### **FLOTTBEK (Germany)**

Montreal, Nov 6 -- C.c. Flottbek (16324 gt, built 2005), on charter to C. P. Ships on their Montreal/North Europe service, has lost 20 40-foot containers and has damage to approximately seven other containers on board. Flottbek will arrive Montreal at 1200, Nov 7. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Flottbek left Antwerp Oct 29 for Montreal.)

#### **FONCIA (France)**

See "Mid-Atlantic" under "Weather & Navigation".

#### **GALINA (Cambodia)**

Falmouth, Nov 6 -- General cargo Galina has now been detained by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency for various deficiencies. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **HAJ SALEH AL JADID (Egypt)**

Beirut, Nov 7 -- Schooner Haj Saleh Al Jadid (242 gt), with a cargo of 300 tonnes of rice, arrived at Tyr Lebanon at 0120, local time, Nov 3, during bad weather. Vessel dropped anchor outside the port waiting for the weather to improve. At 1400, local time, Nov 4, when the weather started to improve, vessel lifted anchor and started to move when it hit a rock and went aground. Water started to infiltrate and covered the hold to its brim. Ahmed Issa Tarabay is the owner and the Captain on board. He has been taken ashore with the six members of the crew. Salvors have today started to discharge the cargo to lighten the schooner for possible refloating. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Beirut, Nov 9 -- Total cargo salvaged to date from schooner Haj Saleh Al

Jadid is 75 tonnes, which is only good for animal food, if not effected by virus. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **HARVESTER (U.K.)**

London, Nov 4 -- Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 0742, UTC, today: Fishing Harvester (154 gt, built 1973) pair trawling with fishing Ocean Harvest when supply Strilmoy (3380 gt, built 2005) was identified as being on collision course with in lat 59 16N, long 00 52.2E at 0622, UTC, today. Vessel called on CH 16. No response. Harvester struck and began taking on water. Six persons transferred to Ocean Harvest. No injuries. Harvester has about 3,500 gallons diesel oil, leaking and sinking. Strilmoy remaining in area. ETV Anglian Earl requested to proceed at best speed to casualty, ETA 1630, UTC. Ocean Harvest and Strilmoy to remain until Harvester has sunk. Strilmoy intends to proceed to Norway.

London, Nov 4 -- Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1500, UTC: Fishing Harvester sank approximately 75 nautical miles south-east of Sumburgh, in lat 59 16.564N, long 00 52.661E, at 0743, UTC. Fishing Ocean Harvest is proceeding to Peterhead with the six crew from the Harvester, ETA 2300, UTC. Supply Strilmoy is proceeding to the Beryl oilfield and will then sail to Stavanger. Coastguard Emergency Towing Vessel, tug/supply Anglian Earl, has been released and has returned to Kirkwall.

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fishing Harvester was sunk after a collision with supply Strilmoy in the North Sea. Strilmoy struck and sank the trawler yesterday morning. The collision occurred at about 0700 yesterday. Strilmoy sustained only minor damage. "It's just a matter of minor damage to the bow," press contact Nils A. Liaaen at Simon Mokster Shipping, the Strilmoy's operator, told Aftenposten.no. She is on her way to Stavanger, where it will be inspected by classification society Det Norske Veritas and the shipping company. "There will eventually be a maritime inquiry. The master and the others on board must give evidence," Liaaen said.

London, Nov 9 -- Supply Strilmoy arrived and sailed Stavanger Nov 5 for Peterhead.

#### **HUCKLEBERRY FINN (Sweden)**

Helsingborg, Nov 9 -- Passenger ro/ro Huckleberry Finn completed repairs and departed from the Oresundsvarvet repair yard, Landskrona, this morning. The vessel resumed its scheduled passenger service between Trelleborg and Rostock this afternoon. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **HYDRA (Netherlands)**

Falmouth, Nov 6 -- General cargo Hydra (2056 gt, built 2000), Campbelltown for Algeciras, cargo eight nacelles, arrived Falmouth at 0420, Nov 5, to resecure the cargo. Vessel berthed at Queens Wharf,

Falmouth docks, at 1115 hrs and assistance being given by A & P Falmouth Ltd. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Falmouth, Nov 9 -- General cargo Hydra: Re-securing cargo of the eight nacelles was completed at 1030, Nov 7. Vessel awaited suitable weather and sailed Falmouth at 0830, today. -- Lloyd's Agents.

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

Corunna, Nov 3 -- General cargo Ilya (7249 gt, built 1994), Swedish ports for Greece, cargo wood, due to heavy weather, sustained damage/loss of deck cargo and entry of water, with subsequent list to starboard side. Vessel was assisted by tugs Serrtosa Veintiseis and Serosa Veintiocho and arrived Corunna pm yesterday. Vessel presently discharging cargo and ascertaining extent of damage. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- (Note -- Ilya sailed Kemi Oct 15 and passed Dover Oct 24 for Corinth.)

#### **IONIAN STAR (Greece)**

London, Nov 3 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Ro/ro Ionian Star (4225 gt, built 1984) sustained damage to the port main engine at 2330, Nov 2, shortly before departure from Killini for Zakynthos. The port authority prohibited departure pending inspection of the repairs and the passengers were forwarded to their destinations on other vessels.

#### **IVS KWELA (Panama)**

London, Nov 5 -- Bulk IVS Kwela arrived Seven Islands Oct 30.

#### **JULIE DELMAS (Bahamas)**

London, Nov 4 -- Following received from Etel MRCC, timed 1135, UTC: C.c. Julie Delmas (26047 gt, built 2002), Dakar for Felixstowe, lost eight containers overboard in lat 46 19.1N, long 07 27.2W, at 2315, UTC, Nov 2. (Note -- Julie Delmas subsequently reported in lat 51 13 37N, long 02 02 38E, at 0312, UTC, today.)

London, Nov 8 -- C.c. Julie Delmas arrived Antwerp Nov 5 and sailed Nov 7.

#### **KAMOE EXPRESS (Panama)**

Freeport, Bahamas, Nov 4 -- General cargo Kamoe Express (1039 gt, built 1965) is hard aground and holed on the north shore of New Providence Island, about two miles east of the Nassau harbour entrance. It was reportedly on a voyage from Puerto Plata, via Montego Bay for bunkers, and to the Bahamas with a cargo of cement blocks, which still on board, when it succumbed to the fringe effects of hurricane "Wilma" on Oct 24. Michelle Towing of New Providence are attempting to refloat the vessel. Owners have not made contact with anyone nor have they been able to be contacted by any of the local interested parties. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Kamoe Express had left Montego Bay Oct 22 for Nassau.)

Freeport, Nov 8 -- Salvors are proceeding with preparations to lighten general cargo Kamoe Express,

including offloading fuel, ballast, and cargo, however a cold front is approaching the area and strong northerly winds are predicted from Friday to Sunday (Nov 11-13). The vessel is aground in an area exposed to the winds, and salvors are concerned about not completing their lightering activities in time prior to the approach of the bad weather which could aggravate the vessel's situation. The options are currently being considered. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**KIEFERNWALD  
(Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Nov 10 -- Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo Kiefernwald is currently berthed at Kroeger Shipyard in Rendsburg.

**KIPEROUSA (Malta)**

London, Nov 3 -- A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV report, dated today, states: Yesterday, Nov 2, SvitzerWijsmuller salvors executed a controlled operation to further weaken and/or destroy the remains of bulk Kiperousa. Explosives were used to break open the starboard side of the engine-room and the remaining structure of the holds to ensure that the remains of the ship would be easier demolished by forces of nature.

**KOREX INCHEON (South Korea)**

Yokohama, Nov 4 -- General cargo Korex Incheon and ferry Panstar Dream both vessels en route to Pusan from Iyomishima and Osaka, collision occurred in the Kanmon strait at 0500, Nov 3. Panstar Dream sustained tearing damage to its hull, no personal injury, water ingress nor oil spill was involved. Both vessels arrived at the Moji port under their own power and are now under investigation by the Japan Coast Guard. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 8 -- General cargo Korex Incheon arrived Moji Nov 3 and sailed Nov 6.

Osaka, Nov 9 -- Ferry Panstar Dream arrived Osaka Nov 7 and sailed Nov 7 for Busan. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**LADOGA 101 (Russia)**

St.Petersburg, Nov 7 -- General cargo Ladoga 101 is still under repairs. ETC unknown. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**LAEMTHONG GLORY (Thailand)**

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

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

See Active.

**LIAOPUYUN-777 (China)**

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Cargo ship Liaopuyun-777 capsized with 19 people missing in the Yellow Sea yesterday evening, and 27 people have been rescued. Search for the 19 is continuing in the sea area near the Haiyang Island of Changhai County, which is under the jurisdiction of Dalian, in Liaoning Province. Liaopuyun-777, suddenly overturned when it was unloading more than 100 tons of air bricks at a berth of the

Haiyang Island at around 1900 hrs. All 46 people on board the ship fell into the sea. Liaoning Provincial Maritime Affairs Bureau immediately sent rescuers to search for all people falling into the sea.

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers have recovered four bodies in the water where Chinese cargo ship Liaopuyun-777 capsized in Liaoning Province, local officials said today. The ship suddenly overturned when it was unloading more than 100 tons of bricks yesterday evening. All 46 people, including a seven-member crew, on board the ship fell into the sea and 27 have been rescued so far. The victims were two men and two women. Fifteen are still missing, officials with the county government said. Rescuers estimated that more victims are buried under or confined in the ship underwater. Cargo ships are forbidden to carry passengers in China, but the capsized ship accommodated 39 passengers, according to a member of the crew. Officials have rushed to the site and the Dalian Maritime Bureau is investigating the cause of the accident.

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Seven bodies have been found in cargo ship Liaopuyun-777 which sank yesterday. Twelve people are still missing, local government said this evening. The ferry service between Pikou port to Haiyang Island port was suspended for two days due to mechanical problems, prompting some passengers to take the cargo ship heading for the island, according to loaders at the Pikou port, where the ship started sailing. The sunken boat belongs to Shunda Shipping Company based in Pulandian, in Liaoning Province. It was loaded with 77.6 tons of cargo, less than the design capacity of 95 tons. The Haiyang Island is a remote islet in Changhai County in eastern Dalian. About 6,000 residents live on the islet.

**LINDSAY (South Africa)**

See Ouro do Brasil.

**LODBROK (Sweden)**

Gothenburg, Nov 7 -- Crane barge Lodbrok: During the course of this week tenders for repairs are being received from shipyards and negotiations are being carried out. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

**MAERSK ENSENADA  
(Antigua & Barbuda)**

London Oct 26 -- Understand that c.c. Maersk Ensenada (6406 gt, built 1998) is currently aground about 60 miles west of Havana. (Note -- Maersk Ensenada was due at Santo Tomas de Castilla, Guatemala, today.)

London, Oct 31 -- Understand c.c. Maersk Ensenada is still aground with salvors on scene.

Havana, Nov 3 -- C.c. Maersk Ensenada: We have contacted the salvors, Antillana de Salvamento, who have informed us that the vessel has not yet been refloated due

unfavourable weather conditions. Vessel is grounded in lat 23 00 05N, long 83 03 09W, about 200 meters from the shore. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Havana, Nov 7 -- C.c. Maersk Ensenada ran aground on rocky bottom, 180 metres from the shore, six miles from the port of Cabanas, Oct 25. LOF was signed the same day and preliminary work for salvage operations commenced Oct 27 in adverse weather conditions. The salvors, Antillana de Salvamento, sub-contracted Wijsmuller salvage BV on Nov 2 to carry out joint salvage operations. Some equipment to be used in the salvage has not yet arrived. Lightening of fuel and containers commenced Nov 6. To date, it is not known when the vessel will be refloated. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**MAERSK HOLYHEAD (Venezuela)**

London, Nov 7 -- An A.P. Moller - Maersk press release, dated Copenhagen today, states: Lpg Maersk Holyhead (17980 gt, built 2000), cargo 11,200 tonnes propane, was in collision with bulk Pequot (36615 gt, built 1996) 53-55 miles off the Lake Maracaibo channel at approximately 1745, local time, Nov 6. Our Venezuelan officers and crew as well as the vessel are safe. The vessel is now alongside in the discharge port El Tablazo and is awaiting additional oil containment equipment before initiating the discharge operation. The collision has resulted in a hole in the vessel's starboard side above and below the waterline as well as a leakage in a bunker tank containing about 500 cubic metres of fuel oil. The oil from this tank is presently leaking into the sea. The cause for the accident has not been clarified yet. The A.P. Moller - Maersk Group are actively cooperating with the relevant authorities to carry out an adequate and effective response to the oil pollution and to determine causes and effects of the incident. Technical expert assistance is presently being arranged flown out from Copenhagen. Maersk Holyhead has been employed for more than four years by the Venezuelan national oil company, for coastal trade.

London, Nov 8 -- Lpg Maersk Holyhead has been holed in a collision with bulk Pequot, entering the Venezuelan port of Maracaibo, at 1745, local time, Nov 6, causing a small fire and the loss of part of the vessel's fuel load. The collision happened between buoy 53 and buoy 55, in the Maracaibo Lake channel. Both vessels are now stable, according to Captain Oscar Ramirez, the harbourmaster in Maracaibo. A member of the maritime fire service, Gerardo Godoy said that Maersk Holyhead had received the worst damage from the collision, but following the extinction of a small fire on board there was now no risk of fire or sinking. Nobody was injured in the collision, he said. There was a collision and it appears that Maersk Holyhead lost its direction and made contact on its starboard side, due to the strong current in this sector of the channel,

said Mr Godoy. The biggest damage was suffered by Maersk Holyhead. The initial collision produced a fire but this was controlled immediately. A statement issued by AP Moller said the collision had resulted in "a hole in the vessel's starboard side, above and below the waterline, as well as a leakage in a bunker tank containing about 500 tonnes of fuel oil. The oil from this tank is presently leaking into the sea. The cause for the accident has not been clarified yet.

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A.P. Moeller-Maersk A/S said Lpg Maersk Holyhead has stopped leaking fuel oil after colliding with a cargo vessel (bulk Pequot) two days ago. "The ship has ceased leaking fuel oil," Jakob Tarnok, an A.P. Moeller spokesman in Copenhagen, said in an interview yesterday. "Booms have been put in the water to contain the spill and efforts to collect the fuel oil have started." The tanker was carrying 11,200 tonnes of propane when the accident happened, about 55 miles off the Maracaibo Lake channel. A tank holding 550 cubic metres of ship fuel ruptured in the accident. It is too early to assess how much oil has been spilled or what the cost of clean-up will be, Tarnok said. The cause of the collision has not been clarified. Meanwhile, the Maracaibo port authority is seeking to determine how Maersk Holyhead collided with a cargo ship carrying coal, El Universal reported, citing Port Captain Oscar Ramirez. The cargo ship was leaving through the shipping channel when it collided with the Maersk Holyhead, which was en route to a petrochemical complex outside Maracaibo, the newspaper said, citing Ramirez.

#### **MAWASHI AL-GASSEEM (Kuwait)**

Adelaide, Nov 9 -- The new owners of livestock Mawashi Al-Gasseem are Hijazi and Ghosheh, Lebanon. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MEGAH DUA (Indonesia)**

See Rzhev.

#### **MEMO (Belgium)**

London, Nov 8 -- General cargo Memo, 100 metres, was in collision with general cargo Alpinist on the River Rhine, near Xanten at Kmr. 827, between Emmerich and Wesel, yesterday morning. The collision occurred head to head with each other and both received heavy damage. The Memo sailed to the shore where the master stranded the vessel on the flat river bank to prevent it from sinking. Later it was patched and towed to a ship repairyard. The other vessel could pump out the ingress water with its own pumps. Nobody was hurt in the collision. The shipping traffic on the River Rhine was not obstructed. The cause of the accident is not clear yet and will be investigated by the German River Police.

#### **MSC AL AMINE (Morocco)**

Tunis, Nov 9 -- General cargo MSC Al Amine finished repairs and left Bizerta port at 1530, local time, Nov 5. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MYSTIC (Netherlands Antilles)**

Poznan, Nov 4 -- The fire onboard ref Mystic took place shortly after 1100, Oct 29, while at dry-dock of GRYFIA shiprepair yard, Szczecin. Circumstances and cause of fire are being currently investigated. Vessel sustained severe damage - extent of damage and duration of repairs unknown at present time. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NEPTUNIA MEDITERRANEO (Brazil)**

Buenos Aires, Nov 7 -- Argentine Coast Guard informed that they had a meeting with province Tierra del Fuego's Vice Governor to try to solve the legal situation of c.c. Neptunia Mediterraneo (12938 gt, built 1996), abandoned at the Beagle Channel in front of the Province's shore. He announced that as from Nov 2 there is Coast Guard personnel on board in order to avoid inconveniences. He also warned of the urgencies stated based on the potential risk of the vessel being located at the Beagle Channel, such as strong winds and storms it has already sustained. Neptunia Mediterraneo was abandoned by Brazilian owners, after sustaining damage to its engine in November 2003. Last year's October strong winds drifted the vessel near Playa Larga, for which the Coast Guard had to intervene, leaving the vessel anchored without obstructing other vessels' navigation. Although the vessel's presence contaminates the view of Ushuaia's Bay, it also represents an ecological danger as it has bunkers inside. It also becomes an obstacle for the big cruisers that arrive at Ushuaia in summertime, Queen Mary 2 is already confirmed for the next season. -- Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Nov 10 -- A Maritime & Coastguard Agency press release, timed 2010, UTC, Nov 9, states: General cargo Nord Star (460 gt, built 1978) had gone aground at Lochaline, Sound of Mull this evening. The vessel carrying a cargo of salt, with four crew on board was reported to the Clyde Coastguard at 1816 hrs to have run aground by the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry. Clyde Coastguard sent the Lochaline Coastguard Rescue team and requested the launch of the Tobermory RNLI all weather lifeboat to the scene. John Griffiths, Clyde Coastguard, says: "Nord Star managed to float free at 1835 hrs, and is now at anchor in Lochaline. No damage has been sustained to the coaster. We believe Nord Star was heading for the Isle of Skye."

London, Nov 10 -- Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 0755, UTC: General cargo Nord Star (460 gt, built 1978), Kilroot for Portree, cargo salt, was reported

aground in lat 56 32N, long 05 46W, at 1816, UTC, yesterday. Wind southerly force 7 to 8 (near gale to gale), heavy drizzle. Vessel refloated unaided and was instructed to come alongside. Vessel eventually anchored at Scallastle Bay where Tobermory RNLI lifeboat transferred members of Strathclyde police to the vessel. The police breathalysed the master and he was taken ashore and will appear at Oban Sheriffs Court this afternoon. The vessel is still at anchor in Scallastle Bay awaiting a new master.

#### **NORMAND NEPTUN (NIS)**

London, Nov 4 -- Following received from Lisbon MRCC, timed 1130, UTC: Tug/supply Normand Neptun (3663 gt, built 1996) had fire in engine-room in lat 42 01N, long 11 44W, about 1200, UTC, Nov 3. Fire was controlled before breaking out again. Fire has now finally been brought under control and vessel is anchored awaiting tug assistance. Tug was due on scene this morning.

London, Nov 5 -- Following received from Lisbon MRCC, timed 2015, UTC: Understood tug/supply Normand Neptun was taken in tow by two tugs arranged by its owners. Their destination is not known.

#### **ORANGE PROJECT (Gibraltar)**

See "Mid-Atlantic" under "Weather & Navigation".

#### **OREL 4 (Ukraine)**

London, Nov 10 -- Understand that general cargo Orel 4 (2571 gt, built 1991) grounded off Dilburnu and tug Sonduren 4 was mobilized at 0615, Mar 27. As a result of advance inspections no pollution reported. After requesting help tug Alemdar II proceeded and at 1940 same day TOF agreement was signed and operation started. Vessel was refloated at 0030, Mar 28 and anchored at Izmit anchorage area. (Note -- Orel 4 subsequently arrived Bourgas Apr 28.)

#### **OURO DO BRASIL (Liberia)**

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated Nov 4, states: The crew of trawler Lindsay erred in steering the vessel straight into the path of oncoming fruit juice tanker Ouro do Brasil, a Court of Marine Inquiry has heard. Captain Nigel Campbell, chief investigator of the SA Maritime Authority (Samsa), was giving evidence yesterday on the cause of a collision between the vessels. Campbell agreed with counsel for the owners of Ouro do Brasil, Les Rose-Innes SC, that "the successive alterations of course by the Lindsay to port put her in the crossing-path of the Ouro do Brasil." Rose-Innes suggested that in the approximately five minutes preceding the collision, five alterations of course by the Lindsay had the effect of "putting her directly in the path of Ouro do Brasil." Campbell said he would view it "extremely seriously" if it transpired, as alleged, that there was no officer on watch on the trawler's bridge. The inquiry continues today.



**PACIFIC RAINBOW (Cambodia)**

London, Nov 3 -- Following Navigation Warning issued at 1819, UTC, Nov 2: Distress signal received from general cargo Pacific Rainbow in lat 05 13.3N, long 107 21.4E, at 1604, UTC, Nov 2. Vessels in vicinity requested to keep a sharp look-out and report to Singapore Port Operations.

**PAN RIVER (Panama)**

London, Nov 7 -- Following Japan Navigational Warning, dated Nov 5, states: general cargo Pan River (4195 gt, built 1990) adrift in lat 29 07.6N, long 145 14.7E at 0610, UTC, Nov 5.

London, Nov 7 -- Following received from Japan Coastguard, timed 0820, UTC: Pan River has been taken in tow bound for an unknown port for repairs.

London, Nov 10 -- The Seoul managers of general cargo Pan River reported at 0105, UTC, today: Pan River has main engine damage and is presently under tow to Miyako for repairs.

**PANSTAR DREAM (South Korea)**

See Korex Incheon.

**PARSIVAL (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Valencia, Nov 3 -- General cargo Parsival (2060 gt, built 1995) was proceeding towards Cartagena at 0800, Oct 16, when it ran aground as the autopilot did not respond when trying to change to the manual position. The vessel is still in Cartagena port in a yard waiting to be repaired. Extent of damage: Hull damages in the forward section, as follows. Port side: Heavy dents on hull plating and framing. From frame 115 to 116.5 at a height of about 1.5 metres close to the base (keel), from frame 116.5 to 117.5 at a height of about two metres, from frame 117.5 to 122 at a height of about two metres above. From frame 122 to 131 two strakes above the base. In this section there is an open cut of about 60 cm in way of the hold. One screen of the water entrance broken. From frame 133.5 to 136 moderate dents, bigger at the base strake. From frame 136 to 141, bulb suction, two strakes from the keel, bulb broken half of its height from the keel. Starboard side: Heavy dents on hull plating and framing but less than port side. From frames 130 to 134, one strake full from the base. Bow thruster tunnel on this side in an apparent sound condition. From frame 134 to 141 bulb section two strakes from the keel. Bulb broken three-quarters of its height from the keel. The stem is deformed and has to be replaced from the initial foot up to the next union above the keel in an estimated length of six metres. Shipyard needs to establish an estimate before starting the repairs and they agreed to send us a copy of their estimate as soon as possible. Work will take at least 20 days as per shipyard information. Master has now informed us that the change from autopilot to manual is now working properly. Vessel grounded on the rocks of the breakwater of the port of

Cartagena with indication that it did not answer to the call of the Port Control Station. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Parsival sailed Malaga Oct 15 for Cartagena.)

**PAVO (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Malmö, Nov 9 -- General cargo Pavo (3300 gt, built 1986) grounded on departure from Åhus at 1730, local time, yesterday. It is understood that Pavo was on its way out with a pilot on board when it had some trouble with the steering-gear and ran aground. The vessel was refloated with assistance from the pilot boat and returned to Åhus. No leaking or oil discharge was noted. Vessel was alongside at 1830, local time. Police boarded the vessel to take alcohol tests. Divers to inspect the bottom and rudder today. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Malmö, Nov 10 -- General cargo Pavo left Åhus, with a pilot on board, at 1700, local time, Nov 9, for Bremerhaven. At the diving inspection a crack ten by one centimetre was found in one ballast tank. No action was made to repair it. The vessel got permission from class, Germanischer Lloyd and the Swedish Maritime, to proceed to Bremerhaven and then to drydock. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**PEARL OF JEBEL ALI (Cyprus)**

Port Said, Nov 9 -- Bulk Pearl of Jebel Ali completed repairs Nov 8 and sailed 0100 Nov 9 for Jebel Ali. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**PEQUOT (Liberia)**

See Maersk Holyhead.

**PUERTO DE ALTAMIRA (Panama)**

Veracruz, Nov 9 -- Cutter suction hopper dredger Puerto de Altamira is still at Veracruz shipyard today. The master advised that the damages were still being evaluated. A technical representative of the main engine builders, MAN B&W in Germany, had visited the vessel, made tests and would send the dredging company the results. The company's technical people were supposed to visit the dredge at the end of this week to communicate their decision as to the repairs. The master did not know whether the dredge was to be repaired. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**PUFFIN (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Nov 7 -- Bulk Puffin (22655 gt, built 2003) lost power and struck the No 1 Lock approach wall in the Welland Canal, in lat 43 12N, long 79 11W, at 2030, EST, Nov 4, while proceeding upbound.

**RAINBOW WARRIOR (Netherlands)**

Manila, Nov 4 -- Research yacht Rainbow Warrior arrived in Manila from Palawan yesterday and is now docked at the port of Manila's Pier No 13. It is scheduled to depart for Iloilo in central Philippines on Nov 15. The vessel's owners, environmental group Greenpeace, said that the vessel had sustained only minor scratches to the bottom hull paint surface when it ran

aground at Tubbataha Reef Marine Park on Monday (Oct 31). "An underwater survey revealed no structural damage and the vessel is in great shape," a Greenpeace spokesperson said. A video recording of the survey was sent to the vessel's classification society, Germanischer Lloyd, which confirmed the seaworthiness of the vessel. In a related development, Greenpeace offered a belated and unconditional apology after the vessel sailed into the port of Manila to continue an island-hopping tour across the Asia-Pacific to promote climate change awareness. The group was fined nearly US\$7,000 earlier this week but blamed what it described as inaccurate navigational charts provided by the Philippine government after the vessel ran aground at Tubbataha Reef. The vessel caused damage on an area of some 160 square meters of coral, authorities said. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**RENUAR (Panama)**

Montreal, Nov 3 -- Bulk Renuar, Comeau Bay for Egypt, cargo 70,000 tons of soya bean, has boiler damage. It is under repair at Seven Islands for approximately 10 days. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**RODINA (Bulgaria)**

Aarhus, Nov 7 -- Bulk Rodina will proceed to Fredericia tomorrow at 0600 for drydocking. The repair is estimated to take approximately one month. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**ROYAL PACIFIC (Panama)**

Taipei, Nov 8 -- Kaohsiung Harbour Bureau reported that passenger Royal Pacific is still berthed at pier No.54, in Kaohsiung port, for scrapping operations, which expected to complete on/around Nov 17. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**RZHEV (Russia)**

London, Nov 4 -- General cargo Rzhhev, collision with general cargo Megah Dua in Taiwan Strait Apr 23, 2002: On Oct 20, 2005, the Admiralty Court granted claimants, the owners of the Rzhhev and the owners of and the persons entitled to sue in respect of certain cargo loaded on board the Rzhhev, a limitation decree in the action arising out of the collision with the Megah Dua, which led to the total loss of the Rzhhev and the loss of its cargo.

**SEA EXPRESS (Panama)**

Aden, Nov 10 -- A local newspaper reports that crude oil tanker Sea Express (52123 gt, built 1980) had a fire in its engine-room, while alongside berth No. 4, Aden Refinery, Little Aden, while discharging crude oil from Ras Isa at 2130, Nov 7. Discharge was suspended. Fire was reported under control within one and a half hours, with the assistance of shore fire brigade units. Discharge resumed and was completed yesterday. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**SEA HAWK-2 (Malta)**

Piraeus, Nov 8 -- General cargo Sea Hawk-2 has completed repairs and remains in port awaiting class inspection. ETD end of the week. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**SEABOURN SPIRIT (Bahamas)**

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

**SILVA (Cambodia)**

Esbjerg, Nov 3 -- General cargo Silva remains in port at Esbjerg. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 8 -- General cargo Silva will be auctioned at 1330, local time, Dec 15, at the court of Esbjerg, Denmark.

**SODEBO (France)**

See "Mid-Atlantic" under "Weather & Navigation".

**SOUND OF ISLAY (Canada)**

London, Nov 7 -- Ro/ro Sound of Islay (280 gt, built 1968) reported striking a rock at the entrance to Burnside Harbour, Nfld, in lat 48 37 06N, long 53 28 57W, at 2150, UTC, Nov 3.

**SPIRIT OF YAVEH (Panama)**

London, Nov 4 -- General cargo Spirit of Yaveh arrived Trincomalee Oct 11.

**STAINLESS DOLPHIN (Panama)**

London, Nov 3 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 2030, UTC: It was reported at 2100, local time, that chemical/oil carrier Stainless Dolphin (2890 gt, built 1979), Euboe Island for Syria, cargo 2,000 tons sunflower oil, had grounded by forepeak in lat 38 55.5N, long 22 56.5E. No leakage reported. Vessel is still aground.

London, Nov 4 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Chemical/oil carrier Stainless Dolphin Psachna, Euboea, for Syria, loaded with 2000 tons of sunflower oil, grounded off the islet Agios Nikolaos, two nautical miles from the area of Glifas, yesterday evening. Two patrol vessels from the Coast Guard of Stylida and Volos immediately proceeded to the area. From the incident there was no ingress of water nor pollution caused. On board the vessel were 15 crew members and one passenger who are in good health.

London, Nov 4 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1750, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier Stainless Dolphin is still aground, but the situation is under control.

London, Nov 5 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1208, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier Stainless Dolphin is still aground. Divers are checking vessel and hope to refloat her later today/tomorrow.

London, Nov 7 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0825, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier Stainless Dolphin was refloated at 1805, local time, yesterday using tug Megas Alexandros. Vessel is now at Stylis for inspection.

London, Nov 7 -- Understand salvage services were rendered to chemical/oil carrier Stainless Dolphin by

Alexander G. Tsavlis & Sons Maritime Co, under Lloyd's Open Form dated Nov 4.

London, Nov 7 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Chemical/oil carrier Stainless Dolphin was refloated during the afternoon of Nov 6 with tug assistance and was escorted by a patrol boat of the Coast Guard to Stylidas Roads. Prior to the refloating efforts proceeding, anti-pollution booms had been placed around the vessel and bunkers had been removed from the vessel. Due to the refloating there was no pollution caused.

**STELLA RIGEL (Netherlands)**

London, Nov 4 -- Following received from Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC, timed 0545, UTC: At 2218, UTC, Nov 3, asphalt tanker Stella Rigel (2456 gt, built 1988), laden with 3,100 tonnes of asphalt, informed MRSC that it was in position lat 51 48.6N, long 05 52.7W, drifting, not under command with an engine problem and anticipated it would take between one to two hours to fix the problem. Vessel had 11 crew on board. Weather on scene was westerly, force seven. After a period, the vessel reported that the problem was a crankshaft problem and it could not be repaired. The vessel was drifting and it was anticipated it could run aground, but the vessel subsequently lowered its anchor and was holding with eight cables, but was dead in the water. The master requested a number of the crew be evacuated as a precautionary measure. A rescue helicopter subsequently took off seven members and has landed them safely at St. Davids. St. Davids lifeboat was tasked and is now alongside. Firefighting tug Anglegarth, out of Milford Haven also arrived on scene and has just succeeded in getting a line on the vessel. Understand owners have agreed terms under LOF. The intention is for the vessel to be towed into Swansea.

London, Nov 4 -- Following received from Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC, timed 0656, UTC: Asphalt tanker Stella Rigel: Seven crew lifted off the vessel as a precaution and landed them shoreside to awaiting coastguard unit. Tug Anglegarth now affecting a tow to the casualty.

Ymuiden, Nov 4 -- SvitserWijsmuller Salvage BV agreed LOF-SCOPIC to assist the with asphalt loaded tanker asphalt tanker Stella Rigel off the coast of Wales earlier last night. The casualty was taken in tow just before it could run aground on the Smalls off Milford Haven. At about 2200, UTC, yesterday the first reports came in about the casualty, then reportedly 30 miles off dangerous ground but in very bad weather. At about 2350, UTC SvitserWijsmuller Salvage BV was instructed to assist the vessel and immediately one of the Svitser Marine tugs in Milford Haven, tug Anglegarth, was instructed to proceed for the intervention. The tug departed with extra crew on board at about 0045, UTC, today and proceeded at

maximum achievable speed, considering the weather, towards the casualty, at that stage already about eight miles off the Smalls. At the same time a salvage team prepared to be mobilised in as a contingency. At about 0500, UTC, the casualty had drifted up to about eight cables off the Smalls and the master requested the non-essential crew to be lifted off by helicopter. At that stage the lowered down anchor started to more effectively reduce the drifting speed, but kept on dragging. At that stage also the Anglegarth had arrived on the scene and prepared to connect up the tow, despite night time and bad weather conditions. At about 0600 hrs the Anglegarth had succeeded with those remaining on board of the casualty to connect up a towage connection and the casualty was then carefully moved away from the rocks being as close as only four cables away at that stage. The anchor could not be recovered and had to be slipped. It is the intention to tow the vessel away from the dangerous area after which she most probably will be towed into Milford Haven as being the closest port of safety. -- Wijsmuller Salvage BV.

London, Nov 4 -- Following received from Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC, timed 1740, UTC: Asphalt tanker Stella Rigel is still in tow of tug Anglegarth and they are just outside Milford Haven awaiting a decision as to whether the vessel will be allowed to berth at Milford Haven.

London, Nov 4 -- Following received from Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC, timed 1848, UTC: Asphalt tanker Stella Rigel remains under tow of tug Anglegarth and proceeding to Swansea.

London, Nov 5 -- Following received from Coastguard Swansea MRCC, timed 0932, UTC: Tow of asphalt tanker Stella Rigel passed to tug Warrior 3 and she has been towed into Swansea Docks. Locked in at 0805, UTC, and now in Swansea Docks attempting to go alongside. Search and rescue operations terminated 0805, UTC.

London, Nov 7 -- A press report, dated Nov 5, states: Asphalt tanker Stella Rigel which broke down off the coast of Pembrokeshire has been safely towed in to Swansea docks. Coastguards in Swansea said a surveyor will assess damage to the ship before repairs are carried out. Stella Rigel arrived in Swansea shortly before 1000, UTC, today.

London, Nov 7 -- A SvitserWijsmuller Salvage BV report, dated Nov 5, states: SvitserWijsmuller Salvage BV this morning successfully towed Asphalt tanker Stella Rigel into the Swansea locks. The vessel was thereafter safely moored alongside the quay in the port at 0950, UTC, by Svitser Marine tugs Anglegarth, who took the vessel in tow just before it would run aground in bad weather, and Warrior (? Warrior III). Operations executed under command of the SvitserWijsmuller salvage master and his team.

Avonmouth, Nov 9 -- Asphalt tanker Stella Rigel is expected to transfer cargo to another vessel Nov 11 and will then remain at Swansea undergoing repairs for about one month. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **STEN ODIN (NIS)**

London, Nov 8 -- Following received from Coastguard Shetland, timed 0742, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier Sten Odin (8594 gt, built 1998) broken down with turbo charger problems and drifting, requiring assistance in lat 59 38.3N, long 02 30W at 0548, UTC, today. ETV Anglian Earl proceeding, ETA 1200, UTC, to standby casualty, until owners have arranged tug assistance.

London, Nov 8 -- Following press release from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated today, states: The Coastguard tug, Anglian Monarch, is currently on route to chemical/oil carrier Sten Odin, which has broken down 39 miles south west of Sumburgh Head. The tug is expected on scene at about midday. The Norwegian registered vessel, which has sixteen crew on board, is drifting north east at a rate of two knots. It has a mixed cargo of 8,494 tons of gas oil and Jet A1 (aviation fuel) on board. Sandy Wylie, Shetland Coastguard Watch Manager says: "The sea is rough at the moment with south westerly severe gale force winds, gusting to storm force. It will be uncomfortable for the crew but they are not in any imminent danger. Once the tug has arrived on scene, we will be able to re-assess the situation and decide whether and where the vessel will be towed to."

London, Nov 8 -- Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1630, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier Sten Odin is currently 26 miles west of Sumburgh, making way under its own power at slow speed, in the direction of Dales Voe, north of Lerwick.)

London, Nov 9 -- Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 0630, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier Sten Odin arrived safely alongside in Lerwick harbour at 0616, UTC, this morning.

London, Nov 9 -- Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 0839, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier Sten Odin effected temporary repairs at 1200, UTC, yesterday and after protracted discussions arranged a berth at Lerwick harbour. Vessel arrived alongside at 0617 today and search and rescue operations terminated at this time.

#### **STRILMOY (Norway)**

See Harvester.

#### **SUN PRINCESS (Bermuda)**

London, Nov 4 -- A press report, dated Nov 3, states: A power outage on a cruise ship docked at St. Thomas left passengers mostly in the dark for more than two hours on Tuesday (Nov 1) evening. The electricity shut down on the passenger Sun Princess (77441 gt, built 1995) during routine testing, Princess Cruises spokeswoman Karen

Tetherow said yesterday in a statement. Backup generators provided limited power, she said, but she couldn't say what that entailed. The ship, which was docked in Crown Bay, left port at least two hours behind schedule. Because large vessels lack the means to connect to local power, the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority was unable to assist the ship, Executive Director Alberto Bruno-Vega said. "They depend on their own generators. Otherwise, we would've helped them out," he said. The Sun Princess was carrying nearly 2,000 passengers on a 10-day Eastern Caribbean cruise from Fort Lauderdale.

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

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

#### **TRANSAT JACQUES VABRE YACHT RACE**

London, Nov 8 -- A Maritime & Coastguard Agency press release, timed 0833, UTC, states: At 0308 this morning, Falmouth Coastguard received a distress signal from a 406 Mhz Epirb (emergency position indicating radio beacon) from a yacht in a position 270 miles out in the Atlantic. Falmouth Coastguard in close liaison with the French and other search and rescue authorities in other countries immediately got to work to identify what other ships or vessels were nearby to assist, and what search and rescue units were best placed to assist the two persons on this yacht. The yacht Orange Project (length 18.28 metres, built 1997) with two persons on board is taking part in the Transat Jacques Vabre from Le Havre to Brazil. Two commercial vessels, bulk/oil Sibotura and bulk Baltic Bulker both offered assistance along with French fishing Rassac. The French Authorities are also sending a French warship to the area, and have now taken over the coordination of this incident. Nimrod aircraft R51 is assisting with this incident. At 0358 hrs, Falmouth Coastguard were then alerted by the French Authorities of another competitor in this race in trouble 180 miles west of the Isles of Scilly. Yacht Sodebo (length 18.28 metres, built 2002) had reported that they were dismasted and drifting. A Nimrod aircraft R510 and a helicopter from Chivenor were scrambled to assist, but have now been stood down as the French fishing Scapira has Sodebo under tow. Bulk Fen Jin Hai had offered assistance but has also been stood down. A third yacht has also capsized, yacht Foncia (length 18.28 metres, built 2002) has capsized 30 miles from Orange Project and the French Authorities are also coordinating this rescue mission. The winds are currently south south west at 45 knots at Falmouth.

London, Nov 8 -- Coastguards in England and France are co-ordinating the rescue of three yachts in severe storms. Two trimarans capsized about 280 miles south-west of the Isles of

Scilly. A third lost its mast about 170 miles off the islands this morning. A French warship, an RAF Nimrod, merchant vessels and fishing vessels are also involved in the rescue. Falmouth Coastguards said it is thought one man has been hurt, but the extent of his injuries are not known. Distress beacon The yachts are part of a fleet of 34 competing in an international race between Le Havre and Brazil. A distress beacon was fired by the two-man crew of the Orange Project when it capsized at about 0300, GMT. The Foncia also capsized. The Sedebo dismasted at about 0600, GMT. A coastguard spokesman said weather conditions were "absolutely atrocious", with 70mph south-westerly winds and very rough seas. A Sea King helicopter from RMB Chivenor in north Devon, which was scrambled, has now returned to base.

London, Nov 9 -- A Transat Jacques Vabre press release, dated Nov 8, states: There are six 60ft multihulls still racing in the ORMA class, and all 12 of the Open 60 Monohulls in the IMOCA fleet. Likewise all six 50ft multihulls and now six out of the seven monohulls in Class 2 are racing, albeit various teams are undergoing pitstops or have sustained damage. Open 50 Monohull Adecco-Etoile Horizon has sustained structural damage and has abandoned their race. The Open 60 monohulls were further south than the trimarans this morning, but they also experienced the brunt end of the cold front, but with less violent seas. They are all now back on starboard tack heading south passing Cape Finisterre in a 25 to 30 knot north westerly breeze, and the seas have therefore become more manageable. Brazilian team on board Galileo were the only Open 60 to sustain serious damage with a broken boom in the heavy conditions generated by the cold front. Walter Antunes and Raphael Coldefy are derouting to a Spanish port and still deciding whether they can continue in the race. Amongst the Open 50 monohulls, Artforms reached Orient after their mainsail ripped, in order to pick up their old mainsail. Skippers Kip Stone and Merf Owen are deliberating as to whether to continue racing. Adecco-Etoile Horizon is also in Lorient making a pit-stop. Around 2100, local time, on Tuesday, (? Monday) trimaran Brossard with a 3cm wide crack down the central hull, was finally taken under tow behind a motor boat equipped by Laurent Bourgnon, brother of skipper Yvan. who recounts their tale. "He arrived right on time because we had to position the boat into the sea and we couldn't manoeuvre her by ourselves. There are only a few centimeters which now hold the central hull by the beam, with a serious amount of water coming through the rupture. So we just had to keep pumping it out. The whole boat was at risk as if the central hull had split in two, it would fold in on itself and the mast would have fallen down. Happily, Guernsey was on our path. Today we are still puzzled as

to why this happened because the boat hasn't had any problems for two and a half years. We had thoroughly checked out the boat at the start of the season precisely to be certain that the structure was totally sound. It's even more of a surprise as Brossard's sistership, Banque Populaire, has the same structure and yet has not sustained any damage." At 0315, UTC, today the CROSS and MRCC Falmouth Maritime Rescue Services were informed that the trimarans Sodebo and Orange Project had set off their EPIRB distress beacons. Skippers Thomas Coville & Yves Vincent (Sodebo) contacted the Race HQ in Paris for the Transat Jacques Vabre to inform them that the port hull of their 60ft trimaran had broken, which led to the boat dismasting. The boat was positioned 150 miles to the west of Brest in 35 to 45 knots of wind and a very rough sea state. These two skippers were both safe and sound, but could no longer control the boat. A few minutes later, it was the Swiss team of StÉve and Yvan Ravussin, until now dominating the fleet of ORMA 60 multihulls, who contacted the Race HQ as well to inform them that the beam between the hulls had broken, which also led to Orange Project capsizing. The Swiss brothers are unscathed from the ordeal, and the boat was lying 220 miles from Brest. At 0715, local time, Alain Gautier contacted the Race HQ for the Transat Jacques Vabre: the Project Manager for Foncia informed the organisation that the trimaran had capsized while in 2nd place in the ORMA multihull fleet rankings. It was during the passage of the second, worse cold front that the accident happened. Foncia was progressing upwind at an average speed (about 10 knots) heading West in a 35 to 45 knot south-westerly breeze, waiting for the wind shift to the north-west. Armel Le ClÉac'h liaised with the Race Doctor, Jean-Yves Chauve, because his co-skipper Damian Foxall, had injured his shoulder and it seems that his collarbone is broken. The rescue operation was then handed over to the French Navy and the coastguard to locate and pick up the four skippers on Foncia and then Orange Project as the two boats were only six miles apart: a helicopter from the French Coastguard flew out from Brest to refuel on aircraft carrier Jeanne d'Arc, operational in the zone, at precisely 1030, UTC, today, as the two trimarans were located outside their fly-zone 220m from the coast. Rendezvous was made with Foncia at 1230, UTC. Next the helicopter flew directly to Orange Project and winched off the two Swiss skippers Steve and Yvan Ravussin. At 1400, UTC, all four skippers were on board the helicopter and on an hour's flight to the Jeanne d'Arc first to receive medical assistance. The skippers have now landed in Brest. It is still too rough for any tow to be effected on either trimaran at this moment. Also, in the Multihull Open 50 class, Victorinox and Branec have sustained damage

and are derouting towards the coast. Victorinox, skippered by Dany Monnier and Pierre Dupuy, had broken their bowsprit, and have arrived this afternoon in Roscoff. They have decided to repair and race to Bahia. Branec's port float has broken up. Branec's crew, skippers Roger Langevin and Henriette Lemay, are heading slowly for the French coast.

London, Nov 10 -- A Transat Jacques Vabre press release, dated Nov 9, states: Two crews from Foncia and Orange Project arrived in Brest at 1700, local time, yesterday. A salvage operation for Foncia is underway today by the shore team. Orange Project shore team are also working on a salvage operation. Foncia co-skipper, Damian Foxall, was immediately admitted to hospital and monitored overnight after landing in Brest by helicopter. The X-rays and doctor's diagnosis show that he has not fractured his collarbone but has massive swelling and internal bruising to his right shoulder and ribcage. The fishing vessel towing Sodebo broke down and so, during a four hour manoeuvre in 3m high seas, a new vessel, L'Agrian, took over the tow. Presently they are proceeding towards Douarnenez at 4.5 knots and with 70 miles to go will reach port at midnight tonight. With four abandons in the ORMA multihull fleet (Brossard, Sodebo, Orange Project, Foncia), now Adecco-Etoile Horizon, Open 50 monohull retires into Lorient; Artforms rejoined the race from Lorient at midnight after replacing their ripped mainsail with their old one; Galileo Open 60 reaches Vigo with broken boom at the goose-neck, which Walter Antunes hopes to repair and then restart tomorrow; Cheminees-Poujoulat en route to Vigo 70 miles still to go, with not only broken Fleet 77 dome but also a problem with their steering system. Victorinox 50ft catamaran left Roscoff this morning after successfully repairing their bow sprit. Defi Vendéen, Open 50 monohull, left Brest yesterday afternoon and is back into 4th place in Class 2 Monohull fleet. Branec IV is still heading slowly towards Le Havre with broken port hull. Armel Le ClÉac'h, skipper of Foncia, explains what is happening to recover the trimaran: "Today the shore crew will be heading out on a fishing vessel to the zone where the incident occurred. The Sarsat beacon is still transmitting. It can transmit for up to three days. The mast is broken of course, but when I left the boat, the faring, crossbeams, central hull and floats were still intact." This morning, Foncia's technical shore crew comprising Thierry Briend, David Boileau, Philippe Echassoux and a professional diver set out from Loctudy on a 70 ft long trawler Damocles with a view to recovering the trimaran. Project Manager, Alain Gautier, is coordinating recovery operations from Lorient: "It'll take them about 36 hours to make it to the incident zone. The distress beacon is still emitting will enable them to

pinpoint the boat's position. They will try and right it in situ by filling a float with water and pulling hard on the other side. That should mean that the boat will suffer less when it is under tow. They should be returning to Lorient at the end of next week".

#### **TU KING (Hong Kong)**

London, Nov 8 -- Understand bulk Tu King (16749 gt, built 1977), in ballast, lost its rudder at Santos roads Oct 17. The rudder was located four days later and placed on the vessel and the vessel was towed to Rio De Janeiro for drydocking to have the rudder refitted. (Note -- Tu King is reported to have arrived Rio de Janeiro Oct 25.)

Santos, Nov 9 -- Bulk Tu King arrived Renavi Repairyard (Rio de Janeiro) Oct 27 and is still there under rudder repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **VERA 777 (Panama)**

London, Nov 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Vera 777, Shanghai for Singapore, has brokendown in the South China Sea and its 15 sailors have been saved, after nearly 40 hours of drifting, by Chinese rescuers, authorities said today. The incident took place at around 0800 Monday (Oct 31) approximately 110 nautical miles south of the Yongxing Island of the Xisha Archipelago, when the steering machinery of Vera 777 suddenly broke down and the sailors sent signals for help, according to the South China Sea Rescue Bureau of China's Ministry of Communications. The freighter was driven by the strong current of wind and drifted at a speed of six sea miles per hour, the bureau said. The bureau received the signals for help and immediately sent a rescue team at 1900 Monday, but it did not reach the scene until noon yesterday due to strong wind and the long route of approximately 450 nautical miles. At around 1330 hrs, the 15 sailors were rescued and the freighter was towed by the Chinese rescue vessel towards Sanya. The ship is expected to reach Sanya tomorrow morning, the bureau said.

#### **VIARSA I (Panama)**

See under "Miscellaneous."

#### **WESTWOOD MARIANNE (Bahamas)**

London, Nov 7 -- Bulk/c.c. Westwood Marianne arrived Nagoya Nov 3 from Osaka.

#### **WITH JUNIOR (Norway)**

London, Nov 10 -- Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1115, UTC: General cargo With Junior (1791 gt, built 1998) had engine problems in lat 61 14N, long 04 42E, approximately one hour ago. Vessel has been taken in tow by a navy vessel bound for Floro.

#### **XINTONGYU**

London, Nov 9 -- Non specific tanker Xintongyu, which leaked oil when it unloaded yesterday at an oil wharf of

Haikou, Province of Hainan, has been brought under surveillance to avoid an explosion, the local marine authority said today. According to the Municipal Marine Authority of Haikou, yesterday morning Xintongyu, which belongs to the Zhejiang Tongyu Shipping Co. in Zhejiang Province, had some of the fine gasoline it carried leak into her pump cabin and engine-room, when she unloaded at a special wharf of Sinopec, one of China's leading onshore oil company, in Xiuying harbour. The 1,496-dwt Xintongyu had a crew of 14 and a load of 1,980 tons of fine gasoline. Last night the local marine authority said Sinopec's East China branch dispatched a group of experts to Haikou City to advise on how to cope with the case. The second batch of Sinopec experts will arrive in Haikou this afternoon.

#### **YASAR KAPTAN II (Georgia)**

London, Nov 10 -- Understand general cargo Yasar Kaptan II (3493 gt, built 1974) while anchored two miles to north-west of Turkeli and waiting for sailing instruction, had a fire on board at 2145, May 18. In order to ensure the safety of lives, properties, navigation and the environment, patrol vessel Kiyi Emniyeti 4 and tug Kurtarma 1 were immediately mobilized to the place of the incident. Kiyi Emniyeti 4 saved the crew that consist of 15 Turks, and 3 Romanians. Tug/supply Alemdar II and two life boats were shipped. At midnight fire was under control. It was discovered that the source of fire was electric short circuit . (Note -- Yasar Kaptan II subsequently arrived Istanbul Jun 1, was reported still in port Jul 9, and was next reported to have arrived Tuzla Oct 22.)

#### **YEMEN STAR 1 (Ghana)**

London, Nov 3 -- A press report, dated Nov 1, states: The salvage operation of an oil tanker (Yemen Star 1 also reported as Yemen Star 3) stranded off Socotra Island is proceeding steadily, but slowly, according to Abdul-Rahman Al-Eryani, National Manager of the Socotra Conservation and Development Program (SCDP). Efforts to save the island from serious environmental damage have been thus far successful, but fears remain that the remaining 250 tons of oil onboard may yet leak into the sea. The vessel is the property of Aleysi Company and was carrying 1000 tones of fuel when it ran aground near Hullaf beach in Socotra on Oct 24, missing the entrance to the port. A rescue operation was launched shortly before low tide to force water out of the hull of the ship, a source said. Al-Eryani believes that the remaining oil constitutes a threat, but said that there had been no serious leakage of oil so far. "We informed the authorities of the danger," he said. "We have also held the owner of the ship responsible for any environmental damage caused by leakage, especially since the rescue operation has slowed down." The operation has encountered delays due to the lack of water pumps capable of

coping with the quantities involved, and water reentering the vessel. "The SCDP team and other rescuers have carried out a full diving survey to assess damage to the ship's hull, but were unable to ascertain the status of the vessel's stability, or locate the breaches through which seawater is entering," Al-Eryani added. The ship's hull has scraped the sea-bed, possibly causing breaches in the hull Socotran tugs are not sufficiently powerful to carry out a full operation for such a huge quantity of oil. Supervised and guided by the SCDP team with the help of the army, the vessel began Wednesday (Oct 26) discharging its oil cargo through 3-inch pipes into on-land oil reservoirs located 200 metres from the vessel. "The plan now is to find the hole where the water is coming in and plug it," said Al-Eryani. "Then it will be safer to drag the vessel to the port and pump the rest of the fuel." The Ministry of Water and Environment, the Ministry of Oil, the Aleysi company and other bodies are observing on the situation.

Aden, Nov 7 -- The correct name of the vessel which grounded at Socotra Oct 24 is non specific tanker Yemen Star 1. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Aden, Nov 8 -- Non specific tanker Yemen Star 1: Understand arrangements are being made to tow the vessel out for repairs, destination most likely Aden but not confirmed as yet. We also understand that the vessel may be towed by a sistership, but again we cannot verify this at present. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ZENITH (U.K.)**

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Firefighters have been called to deal with a severe blaze on board fishing Zenith (192 gt, built 1986) in Fraserburgh harbour. Grampian Fire and Rescue Service said it had deployed four appliances to extinguish the fire on board the vessel. Some firefighters wore breathing apparatus and thermal imaging cameras were used to scan the vessel. The ambulance service said it received a call to the scene but there were no casualties. Grampian Fire and Rescue Service said it was called just before 2000, UTC, today. An eyewitness said: "The fire was pretty severe. It was taking hold a good bit and smoke was coming out of all of the hatches."

#### **ZWERVER (Belgium)**

Zeebrugge, Nov 8 -- Repairs to fishing Zwerver have not started yet. They are still waiting for a full report of the damage. When this report is completed, the repairs can begin. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.



#### **SEABOURN SPIRIT (Bahamas)**

See under "Somalia."

#### **SOMALIA**

London, Nov 5 -- Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0520, UTC: Passenger Seabourn Spirit (9975 gt, built 1989) and vessel Dubai Coast II have been attacked by pirates, overnight, off the Somali coast. Both vessels are safe, managing to outrun the pirates.

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Passenger Seabourn Spirit, carrying 18 British passengers, has been attacked by pirates firing a rocket propelled grenade and machine guns. She was 100 miles off the coast of Somalia in Africa when the attack took place. Passengers were woken by the sound of gunfire as two 25-ft rigid inflatable boats came up to the liner and started shooting as their occupants tried to get on board. The ship was carrying 302 passengers and crew, but there was only one casualty, a crew member suffered minor injuries from flying debris. It is not believed that the bazooka fire struck the ship, but it was hit by small arms fire. The vessel escaped with only minor damage. The crew used an on-board loud acoustic bang to repel the attackers who finally sped off without managing to board the liner. They did not return fire at the pirates. David Dingle, a spokesman for the Miami-based company Seabourn Cruises, owned by US cruise giant Carnival, said the ship was en route to Mombasa on a 16-day cruise out of Alexandria.

London, Nov 5 -- The BBC report today: Passenger Seabourn Spirit, sailing off Somalia, has beaten back gunmen in speedboats, who opened fire on it in an apparent pirate attack. At least two boats closed in on Seabourn Spirit, firing automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades at the cruise liner. The crew took evasive action, repelling the attackers without returning fire. One crew member was lightly injured. Passenger Edith Laird, from Seattle, said there were at least three rocket-propelled grenades that hit the vessel, one in a state-room four doors down from her cabin. Passenger Norman Fisher, from London, said he had seen some of the attackers. "One of them clearly had a rifle. Later I realised that two of them had rifles and one had some kind of rocket launcher. They were firing the rifle and then fired the rocket launcher twice. One of the rockets certainly hit the ship, it went through the side of the liner into a passenger's suite. The attack happened about 100 miles off the Somali coast. The crew used an on-board loud acoustic bang to deter the gunmen, making them believe they were under fire. A scheduled stop in Mombasa, in neighbouring Kenya, has been cancelled and the cruise, which began in the Egyptian port of Alexandria is now due to end in the Seychelles on Monday (Nov 6.) David Dingle, a spokesman for the Miami-based company Seabourn Cruises, said passengers were "somewhat surprised and shocked" when they woke to find the ship under attack at 0530 (0230

UTC) on Saturday. The Seafarers' Assistance Programme (SAP) is due to discuss the incident and its implications for tourism in the region on Monday. At least 23 hijackings and attempted seizures have been recorded off the Somali coast since mid-March, according to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), which has warned ships to stay as far away from the coast as possible.

London, Nov 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Passenger Seabourn Spirit attacked with machine-gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades off the coast of Somalia may have been the target of a terrorist high-sea assault, says Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer. She is nearing a port in the Seychelles, but arrival may be delayed because an unexploded missile is embedded in her, said an official.

London, Nov 8 -- The BBC reported today: Passenger Seabourn Spirit, attacked by pirates off Somalia, has docked in the Seychelles after a rocket-propelled grenade was removed from a passenger cabin. US explosives experts boarded Seabourn Spirit and removed the grenade, which was embedded in a wall. Most of the 151 passengers, mainly from the US, Europe and Australia, are to fly home from the Seychelles, after a stop in Mombasa, Kenya, was cancelled. Officials had feared that the grenade, lodged in passenger accommodation, might still pose a threat, but a US Coast Guard spokesman said it had already exploded and was safely disposed of. The pirates' bombardment reportedly lasted for more than an hour and several areas of the vessel, including the observation deck and some staterooms, were damaged by machine-gun fire.

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated Nov 8, states: Somali pirates holding general cargo Torgelow are demanding a ransom before they can set free the vessel and its 10-man crew. The owners, Motaku Shipping Agencies, however, said yesterday that they were not sure of how much money the hijackers were demanding since they were communicating through a third party. The company's managing director, Mr Karim Kudrati, said he understood that the pirates were negotiating a ransom with the owner of the cargo that the vessel was delivering to Somalia. "That is what I have been made to understand, but we are not able to pay, we do not have the money," he said. The cargo owner, a Somali businessman, is in touch with the pirates and is expected to pay the ransom for the vessel to be released, said Mr Kudrati. It appeared an earlier agreement to have the vessel and crew released had been breached by the pirates, he said. "We were very hopeful that the vessel and its crew would be released before Friday last week (Nov 4), but there seems to have been a breakdown," he said. Mr Kudrati said the World Food Programme (WFP) had approached the company to transport relief food to starving families in Somalia. "Of

course our answer was a straight No because of the security concerns in the area. We have no problem if security is beefed up and we can secure our ships and crew," he said. Torgelow is in captivity at Eyl in northern Somalia.

London, Nov 10 -- A Thai cargo vessel [general cargo Laemthong Glory (9077 gt, built 1976)] was hijacked off Somalia on Monday (Nov 7) and its crew taken hostage for ransom, it was learnt yesterday. A 9,077 gt Thai-flagged general cargo vessel was seized by pirates at 0600, UTC, Nov 7, as the situation off the coast of Somalia was described as appearing "out of control." Noel Choong, head of the International Maritime Bureau's piracy reporting centre, said the owners had lost contact with the vessel at position lat 04 28N, long 48 01E on Monday and it is believed the pirates either smashed or switched off the vessel's communications equipment. They have since demanded a ransom for the release of the vessel and its crew. The pirates sent a message to the owners demanding a ransom for quite a large amount, he said. The vessel has 24 crew on board comprising 23 Thai citizens and one from Myanmar. It was on a voyage from Brazil (Vitoria) to Yemen (Aden) at the time it was hijacked. The owner is now trying to negotiate with the pirates over the ransom. The vessel was carrying a cargo of 14,000 tonnes of sugar, worth an estimated \$3.5m.

## Port State Control



### UNITED KINGDOM

See Galina under "Marine."

## Seizures & Arrests



### AMBAR (Honduras)

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

### BALTIC MELODY (Liberia)

London, Nov 10 -- Ref Baltic Melody passed Dover Strait Nov 6, St. Petersburg for Cristobal.

### CAMBODIAN VESSEL DETAINED BY RUSSIA

London, Nov 8 -- A press report, dated Nov 7, states: A poaching vessel under the Cambodian flag was detained in the Tatar Channel, Sakhalin. As the Far-East Customs Department press office said today, aviation and customs vessels participated in the detention. The Sakhalin customs officers detected the vessel under the Cambodian flag in the Russian territorial waters near the

Golden Cape. During the documents check-up they found out that there were about 10 tons of crab on board. The captain had no licenses allowing crab fishery. Besides, the vessel was in the Russian territorial waters at the time of the closed frontier regime, which is also unlawful. The vessel was escorted to the Sakhalin port of Nevelsk. The crab released into sea. The question of filing a criminal suit against the captain is under examination. Thanks to the activities of the Sakhalin customs officers, 10 trespassing vessels have been detained this year, 40 tons of illegally fished crab were released, reports Sakhalin-Info.

### CENTURY BRIGHT (Belize)

London, Nov 4 -- General cargo Century Bright is today still reported at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, but is no longer under arrest.

### DA YUAN YU 309 (China)

See under "Marine."

### FISHING VESSEL SEIZED AT WHANGAROA, NORTHLAND, NEW ZEALAND

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated Nov 3, states: The Ministry of Fisheries has seized a commercial fishing boat after a major bust in the Far North. It says the seizure follows a three-month surveillance operation, focused on two Whangaroa fishermen and a third man, who works for a national fish receiving company. Fisheries officers boarded the \$500,000 vessel when it returned to Whangaroa harbour, and seized a large number of crayfish pots and an \$8,000 vehicle. Northland's Fisheries Compliance manager, Dave Turner, says it is likely the three men will be prosecuted for under-reporting the vessel's crayfish catch over its last 10 trips. Mr Turner says if the alleged offences are proved, those involved stand to lose their fishing boat, quota, gear and vehicle, and could be jailed or heavily fined.

### GAGARINSKIY (Russia)

Vladivostok, Oct 31 -- Fishing Gagarinskiy is still under detention/repair at Vladivostok. -- Lloyd's Agents.

### KARAMYSHEVO (Russia)

Vladivostok, Oct 31 -- Fishing Karamyshevo is still under detention/repair at Vladivostok. -- Lloyd's Agents.

### KOYO MARU NO.8 (Japan)

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated Nov 4, states: Japanese fishing Koyo Maru No.8, seized after a Ministry of Fisheries investigation, will be returned to its current owners upon payment of \$300,000 plus GST. This payment is in addition to other fines and costs, including deemed value payments, bringing the total cost for those charged after the investigation in excess of \$730,000. In January both the vessel master of the then named Koyo Maru No 8, and the

New Zealand based Japanese surimi project manager were collectively fined a total of \$224,000. The vessel, a 104-metre surimi factory processing fishing vessel, was forfeited to the Crown. Following a hearing earlier this year in the Dunedin District Court Judge S J O'Driscoll has now ordered the return of the vessel to the current owners, based in Chile, upon payment to the Crown. The relief from forfeiture was the final chapter of an investigation that Ministry of Fisheries Investigators commenced over two and a half years earlier. In assessing an appropriate sum of money on which to allow the return of the vessel to the current owners, His Honour Judge O'Driscoll recognised that relief against forfeiture should not be a mere formality with the payment of a minimal sum to the Crown. He noted that, "the actual offending which took place was serious, taking into account the quantity of fish taken, the type of offending (trucking) and subsequent under-reporting. This is not offending at the lower end of the scale and the fines imposed reflected that." Mike Green, Ministry of Fisheries Investigations Manager, is pleased with the final result. "The fines and other costs related to this conviction should serve as a stark reminder to any others considering this type of offending that it will not be tolerated," he said. The investigation and subsequent charges brought by the Ministry of Fisheries related to two fishing trips undertaken by Koyo Maru No 8, during August and September 2002 in the Southern Blue Whiting fishery in the sub-Antarctic waters of New Zealand. The offending involved misreporting the area from which just under 700 tonnes of fish was taken. Both the master and the project manager were at the time of the offending employed by the Japanese fishing company, Nippon Suisan Kaisha Ltd (Nissui), which was at the same time the owner of the fishing vessel. The vessel was fishing in New Zealand waters under charter and pursuant to a fishing permit held by Sealord Charters Limited.

#### **KRYUKOVO (Russia)**

Vladivostok, Oct 31 -- Fishing Kryukovo is still under detention at Vladivostok. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **LJUBLJANA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Nov 7 -- Bulk Ljubljana (24953 gt, built 1997) was arrested at Tilbury, Nov 4, on behalf of Maung Maung Zau Lay & Ors, due unpaid wages to 16 crew members.

#### **ORESTES (Panama)**

Bari, Nov 3 -- Passenger ro/ro Orestes is still under arrest at Bari. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **PAN YUN BO 1 (China)**

London, Nov 4 -- General cargo Pan Yun Bo 1 is today reported to still be at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under detention.

#### **PLAVA (Albania)**

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

#### **QUEEN CONSTANTINA (Cyprus)**

Limassol, Nov 10 -- Passenger Queen Constantina is still laid up at Limassol. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TALAVERA**

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

Venice, Nov 7 -- General cargo Talavera: The release from criminal arrest is expected by the end of this month. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TOR (Comoros)**

Venice, Oct 31 -- General cargo Tor (1532 gt, built 1980) is currently under arrest at Venice, where arrived Sep 19 from Thessaloniki. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **YABLONOVSKIY (Russia)**

Vladivostok, Oct 31 -- Fishing Yablonovskiy (739 gt, built 1979) is currently under detention at Vladivostok, where arrived May 14. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ZHOU SHAN 18 (Belize)**

London, Nov 4 -- Trawler Zhou Shan 18 (1895 gt, built 1986), V3QZ2, which arrived at Hong Kong at 0021 hrs, today, is now reported at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under arrest.

### Pollution



#### **GULF OF CARPENTARIA, AUSTRALIA**

See Arafura under "Marine."

### Weather & Navigation



#### **ALBANIA**

London, Nov 4 -- A press report, dated Nov 2, states: Albanian authorities today imposed electricity cuts for up to 13 hours a day across the country because of a severe shortage of water for power stations. "Albania is obliged to adopt such a measure as a serious drought has affected hydroelectric power stations," national electricity distribution company KESH said in a statement. The cuts, for 10 to 13 hours a day, had to be made because there was a risk that water at the power stations would run out and bring a complete halt to electricity production, the authorities said. The rationing would also affect hospitals and industrial bakeries for at least five hours a day. The measure would additionally hit Albania's water

pumping stations, which were already in such a bad state that households could only receive water for about three hours a day. On top of the drought, Albania's energy crisis is also due to the bad shape of hydroelectric power plants, the country's only electricity source, and a lack of foreign investment in the sector in the past 16 years. Built during the communist regime of dictator Enver Hoxha, the power plants were never adapted to handle increased consumption, particularly from households, that represent 70 percent of the country's total needs. Rising prices and the fact that some 30 percent of consumers do not pay their bills have added to the problems authorities face in their bid to modernise the sector. "If the energy crisis persists, the private sector will lose about 80 million dollars (66.6 million euros) in several months," Luan Bregasi of the Albanian Chamber of Commerce told reporters.

#### **AUSTRALIA**

London, Nov 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Emergency service volunteers and firefighters are cleaning up in the far western New South Wales city of Broken Hill after it was hit by a severe storm last night. At least 20 houses lost their roofs and a number were evacuated. The State Emergency Service (SES) says power has now been restored to the city. Spokesman Steve Delaney says the damage will be assessed this morning. "We at the SES have had something like 100 requests for assistance and our team of 19 volunteers out there have done some work on 20 major roof jobs," he said. More than 100 residents from six badly affected streets have taken refuge at the local basketball stadium. Flash flooding has also hit the town and firefighters have rescued two people from a stranded car. Fire Brigade Superintendent Ian Krimmer says the storm was severe.

London, Nov 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: The New South Wales Government has declared the Broken Hill region a natural disaster area after last night's severe storm, which ripped the roofs off around 40 properties. The Emergency Services Minister, Tony Kelly, has just finished inspecting the region. The storm has been described by locals as a mini cyclone. It tore the roofs from at least 36 homes, brought down trees and powerlines and damaged caravans and cars. Mr Kelly flew over the area late this afternoon. He says the area has been declared a natural disaster, which means that apart from emergency assistance that is being provided by the Community Services Department, the Government will pick up most of the cost of any damage to public infrastructure. It will pay all but 25% of the first \$100,000. Farmers and charities will also be eligible for funding relief.

London, Nov 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: About 700 residents were today being evacuated from the NSW central western township of Eugowra as authorities

predicted one of the area's worst floods on record. Residents from the town, near Orange, west of Sydney, were being moved to the Parkes showground as waterway levels threatened to rise to 10.5 metres tonight, SES central west division controller Craig Ronan said. Towns including Orange, Bathurst, Parkes, Forbes, Wyalong and Trundle were hit by up to 100mm of rain overnight and have been struck by flash flooding. The NSW government today declared the central west region a natural disaster area to ensure it received the necessary assistance. Mandagery Creek at Eugowra was currently at 5.5 metres and that height was expected to double by midnight, Mr Ronan said. "That is a flood of record (size) and we are currently commencing to evacuate the town of Eugowra," he said. The Belubula River, near Canowindra, also was expected to reach 4.5 metres at about 1700, AEDT, Mr Ronan said. "This will cause moderate flooding," Mr Ronan said. No flooding was anticipated in the town of Canowindra itself but low-lying river flats located along the Belubula were expected to be inundated if the water levels rose to the predicted height. The current height of the Belubula River was now 3.4 metres. The SES said several main roads and bridges could be closed if the water rose to the predicted levels and numerous rural properties could be isolated by flood water. Landholders were advised to immediately move all pumps and other equipment, livestock, stock feed and chemicals from low-lying areas. Meanwhile, the Molong creek which flows through the small village of Molong, north-west of Orange, peaked about 0530, today, flooding houses and shops. Some suburbs in western Sydney also were being affected by heavy rain overnight. The latest storms came one day after a mini cyclone struck Broken Hill, in the state's far west, which ripped roofs off about 40 homes. This area was also declared a natural disaster area yesterday. (See issue of Nov 8.)

London, Nov 9 -- Further flooding is feared in the already waterlogged Adelaide Plains region, with rising waters today stranding passengers aboard the Indian Pacific train and forcing the evacuation of numerous homes. A further 30mm of rain is forecast to fall at Virginia, north of Adelaide, where more than 60 homes have so far been inundated. The State Emergency Service (SES) said Buckland Park, near Virginia, also was at risk of flooding. Water was travelling towards Buckland Park after the railway line at Virginia was breached to minimise the risk of flooding to about 200 houses. Authorities said about 30 houses were at risk at Buckland Park. They said sandbagging was continuing, adding that at least 40,000 sandbags had been used since Monday. Advertisement: The heavy rains today also prompted authorities to issue a warning about increased numbers of sharks in the St Vincent Gulf, coming

in to feed on fish washed into the sea from Adelaide's bursting river outlets. Authorities also warned that snakes may have been unsettled by the floodwaters and that anyone bitten should seek medical treatment immediately. Emergency services have been stretched to their limits since the rain began to fall across metropolitan Adelaide and the Adelaide Hills late on Monday (Nov 7). Some areas in the hills recorded more than 100mm of rain in less than 24 hours.

London, Nov 10 -- Flooding in areas north of Adelaide was expected to cost farmers up to \$40 million in lost production. The big clean-up started in the worst hit areas this afternoon, after two nights of flooding which cut roads, inundated more than 60 homes and closed schools after the Gawler River burst its banks. By today the worst appeared over, leaving farmers and property owners counting the cost. Primary Industries and Resources said crop losses in the region could reach \$40 million with up to 350 farmers affected. The biggest impact was expected to be felt by greenhouse vegetable growers with losses as high as \$25 million. To help with the losses, the South Australian government has established grants of \$10,000 each for farmers and growers worst affected. Advertisement: "The flow on effects of this flood on family businesses, the regional economy and consumers are very serious," said Premier Mike Rann. "An area of 1000 hectares of horticulture crops has been affected."

London, Nov 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Crop, livestock and fence losses from this week's storms in central western New South Wales have now topped \$16 million. The damage comes on top of property losses in several towns, which were flooded on Tuesday (Nov 8). Premier Morris Iemma has ended a tour of the flood-affected town of Molong and says his government will help businesses and landholders with low interest rate loans. He declared most of the region a natural disaster area. Mr Iemma urged insurance companies to help residents.

#### **LOCK GATE FAILURE, OHIO RIVER, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 300 barges were backed up on the Ohio River today after the gates on a set of locks failed. River traffic was stopped in both directions at the Hannibal Locks and Dam near New Martinsville, about 90 miles southwest of Pittsburgh. Officials said that they hoped to have the locks partially open by Sunday night but that full repairs will take several weeks. Officials said the problem happened Tuesday (Nov 1), when a piece of seal tore off the gates as the locks were undergoing maintenance.

#### **NEW ZEALAND**

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Rough seas yesterday caused havoc for a team installing the country's first artificial

surf reef at Mt Maunganui. Large swells snapped an 8-m anchor leg on a barge being used to secure the reef to the seabed, sending the barge careering towards shore. The accident happened just after midnight, causing a second "spud leg" anchor to buckle as the barge, laden with a digger, was pushed to within 20 m of the beach. The second spud leg was wedged 2 m into the sand, destabilising the barge and forcing the Mount Reef team to deploy a tug to keep it upright. The battle, which was carried out in strong winds and a choppy 1 m swell, went on most of the day until the tide rose enough to allow the barge to be towed away. Project manager Kerry Black said the team had been unable to assess the condition of the reef, which they began installing on Saturday (Nov 5), because they were occupied with the barge. Last night, Mt Maunganui Reef Trust executive officer David Neilson confirmed that damage was minimal. The team had hoped to finish the first half of the reef today.

London, Nov 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Construction of Mount Maunganui's \$1 million artificial surf reef could resume next Tuesday using the barge damaged during a freak storm earlier this week. The barge was yesterday manoeuvred into position off the Harbour Bridge Marina's beach. It then paddled its way onto the sand using the digger's shovel. Bay Underwater Services and Dredging New Zealand managing director, Rob Campbell, said repairs would be carried out on the beach, followed by an inspection which should see the barge ready to resume pumping sand into the reef bags on Monday. Divers using a much smaller capacity pump yesterday finished filling the six smallest bags that partly make up the left side of the delta-wing shaped reef being built 250m offshore from Tay St. But it needs the pumping capacity of the machinery on the damaged barge to fill the medium and large sized bags anchored to the seabed. Mr Campbell said weather forecasts indicated that the next window of opportunity to resume pumping would be Tuesday. And with the big pumps capable of shifting 200,000 cu m of sand an hour, it would take a further one and a-half days to complete construction of the left side of the reef. He said the natural movement of sand along the coast was huge and they needed to get out and fill the rest of the bags before they were buried. The barge lost its two anchor legs when it grounded close to shore on Monday night after strong winds "sprung up from nowhere" and forced the evacuation of the vessel. A new system is being attached to allow the anchor legs to be jettisoned in an emergency evacuation. The new legs will be dropped into place from Port of Tauranga wharves over the weekend.

London, Nov 10 -- A press report, dated Nov 9, states: Divers have resumed construction of the artificial surf reef at Mount Maunganui today,



despite Monday's (Nov 7) big setback when the barge holding the main pump grounded close to shore. Bay Underwater Services divers were today using a much smaller capacity pump to fill six of the smallest geotextile bags that partly make up the left-hand side of the reef being built 250 m offshore from Tay St. Filling the four big bags will need the large capacity pump on the barge which lost both of its anchor legs on Monday, ending up beached. It was towed to safety on Monday and was today due to be pushed up on to the small beach at the southern end of the Harbour Bridge Marina to allow engineers to investigate a better system to quickly lift the anchor legs in an emergency. There was no room on the 600-tonne slip for the barge to be repaired until later in the week. Divers also salvaged the big suction pipe sections from the seabed.

#### **SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated Nov 8, states: Strong winds and rain along the South African coast have hampered cargo working at several ports in recent days causing delays and bunching, with a result that this morning 19 ships were at anchor outside Durban harbour. Ten of these were container ships waiting to berth at the Durban Container Terminal. In Cape Town this morning eight ships were lying at anchor in Table Bay awaiting vacant berths or the wind to abate. The strong wind has hampered both docking and sailings.

London, Nov 10 -- A press report, dated Nov 9, states: Twenty five ships lay at anchor at the outer anchorage off Durban this morning, as a result of strong winds and high swells that closed the port to incoming vessels yesterday. The build up of ships waiting to enter port further exacerbated the problem of delays at the container terminal, early this morning the container terminal had the unusual experience of only a single ship on berth while 13 container vessels waited outside, several other container ships in the meantime had "cut and run" for another port. Swells of between five and eight metres were reported along with strong gusting winds during yesterday and a seafarer on board chem.tank Wappen von Munchen at anchor in the outer anchorage had to be evacuated from his ship after injuring his hand when his ship rolled heavily. The sailor was taken to hospital in Durban where his injury could be treated. Average expected berthing delays for the Durban Container Terminal over the next week is listed as 25 hours but this figure may well push further out following the latest delay. Productivity is said to be just under 16 TEU moves per gantry per hour, which is below the accepted norm, although container volumes had been averaging 4,250 per day. Two berths at the Durban Bluff Connections terminal (Bluff coal terminal) are now available following completion of refurbishment work on

berth 4. The terminal has a full schedule of coal ships due between now and the end of December. Richards Bay Coal Terminal had an average of four or five ships at anchor this week and full occupancy inside, with berthing delays of between zero and 72 hours anticipated. Twenty vessels are due at the terminal by mid November.

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

London, Nov 10 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: At 0600, UTC, tropical storm 23W ("Tembin") near lat 15.2N, long 122.6E. Movement past six hours 290 deg at 23 knots, position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on center located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds, 50 nautical miles north-east and south-west, 45 nautical miles south-east and 65 nautical miles north-west. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 16.2N, long 120.1E. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots.

#### **UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Nov 4 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Work has been suspended at the container terminals at Felixstowe Port as a safety precaution because of today's strong winds. A spokesman said operations at Britain's biggest container port were not expected to resume until tomorrow morning at the earliest. Work was stopped amid fears the conditions could blow down cranes when the wind speed reached 45mph. The roll-on, roll-off sailings are operating normally.

#### **UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: A powerful tornado has killed at least 11 people and injured dozens of others in the state of Indiana, local emergency officials say. Seven people are reported to have killed at a mobile home park in Evansville, while four people are said to have been killed in Newburgh. The storm hit southern Indiana and parts of Kentucky at about 0200, local time. Alarm sirens sounded only about 10 minutes before the tornado hit. Newburgh assistant fire chief Chad Bennett said: "Most people were asleep. They probably didn't hear the sirens. We've had severe damage. Homes were totally devastated." He added the death toll could climb as rescue workers searched through rubble. Thousands of homes are without power, and there are also reports of natural gas leaks. Local officials are said to have declared a local state of emergency, the first step toward requesting state assistance.

London, Nov 7 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A tornado with winds exceeding 158 mph ripped a path of destruction through western Kentucky and Indiana as residents slept early today, reducing homes to splinters and leaving entire blocks of buildings in rubble. At least 22 people

were killed and 200 others injured. Rescuers who reached the hard-hit Eastbrook Mobile Home Park shortly after 0200 hrs found children wandering in the broken glass and debris, looking for their parents, as parents called out for missing children. One child was pulled alive from the debris more than 12 hours after the storm hit. But searchers said they were uncovering more bodies than survivors -- at least 17 victims in the mobile home park alone. The tornado developed in a line of thunderstorms that rolled rapidly eastward across the Ohio Valley. Ryan Presley, a weather service meteorologist in Paducah, Ky., said a single tornado touched down near Smith Mills in western Kentucky, jumped the river and cut a 15- to 20-mile swath through Indiana's Vanderburgh and Warrick counties. The tornado appeared to be at least an F3 on the Fujita scale, which ranges from F0, the weakest, to F5, the strongest. An F3 has winds ranging from 158 mph to 206 mph, and the tornado that hit today may have been even stronger, Presley said.

London, Nov 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Steve Carver, the emergency management coordinator for Hart County, said at least 86 homes and 11 businesses were destroyed or damaged. Carver estimated there was \$2.1 million in damage to homes, at least \$2.5 million to government offices and \$500,000 to utilities. The F2 tornado, with winds of about 150 mph, gouged a path four city blocks wide and a mile long, he said. It hit a little more than two hours after a deadly tornado killed nearly two dozen people in southern Indiana. Munfordville and several other places in Kentucky received damage as the unstable weather moved through, but no Kentuckians died. In Frankfort yesterday, Gov. Ernie Fletcher said that his visit to Munfordville Sunday made him think the state might consider studying the tornado warning system. "The report I got in Hart County was that the siren went off after the tornado hit. So -- not a lot of warning," he said. If tornado damage topped \$4.5 million, the state could expect federal help, Fletcher said.

## **Earthquakes**



#### **ECUADOR**

London, Nov 9 -- A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1133, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.7 event has been located in Ecuador in lat 01 04S, long 76 96W.

London, Nov 10 -- A 5.8 earthquake struck Ecuador at 1133, UTC, yesterday.

**KERMADEC ISLANDS,  
NEW ZEALAND**

London, Nov 3 -- A magnitude 5.8 earthquake occurred in the Kermadec Islands, New Zealand, at 0309, UTC, yesterday. The depth of the quake was 41 km.

**PAKISTAN**

Muzaffarabad, Nov 2 -- The Pakistani government today dramatically increased the official death toll from the devastating earthquake that hit the north of the country last month to 73,276 and said it could rise further. Federal Relief Commissioner Major-General Farooq Ahmed Khan told a news conference the sharp rise from a figure of 57,600 given a day earlier could be related to concerted efforts to clear up debris since the Oct 8 disaster. "Unfortunately the death toll has risen to 73,276 and the number of injured is over 69,000," he said. "There is a likelihood of a further increase." Another 1,300 people have been confirmed killed in Indian-ruled Kashmir. Khan said those listed as injured were seriously hurt. Pakistani Kashmir and adjoining North West Frontier Province bore the brunt of the 7.6-magnitude quake. It was the strongest to hit South Asia in 100 years and left more than three million people in need of emergency shelter with a bitter Himalayan winter approaching. Khan said the government had received around \$2 billion in pledges for the massive task of reconstruction, still way short of the government estimated cost of more than \$5 billion. The United Nations, heading a massive international relief effort, says donors have failed to provide sufficient funds for emergency aid work and warns that as many people who died in the quake could perish in the winter unless help reaches them fast. The US military resumed helicopter relief flights in the earthquake zone on Wednesday, but said it steered clear of an area where it believes a rocket grenade was fired at one of its aircraft a day earlier. Because many roads are blocked by landslides, helicopters have been vital to the relief effort. The United States has 24 helicopters taking part in the operation, which includes others from several countries, including Britain and Japan, as well as some chartered by the United Nations and the Red Cross. -- Reuters.

London, Nov 7 -- A press report, dated Nov 6, states: A severe aftershock jolted Pakistan-occupied Kashmir today but there were no reports of damage. Today's tremor measured 6.0, the highest magnitude so far for an aftershock of last month's massive 7.6-magnitude quake, seismologists in the city of Peshawar said. The 1,190 aftershocks since that quake have sparked landslides that added to the debris blocking roads needed to distribute much-needed aid to remote mountain settlements.

Karachi, Nov 8 -- As per the press news: The death toll from the

earthquake has reached 86,000, about 100,000 people have so far been reported injured and more than 3.5 million people have been affected, said a damage assessment report. The federal government has earmarked Rs20 billion for payment to earthquake victims in the North-West Frontier Province and Azad Kashmir, as an immediate measure to mitigate their sufferings. The decision was taken at a high-level meeting held here yesterday, with President General Pervez Musharraf in the chair. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and senior officials involved in relief efforts attended the meeting. United Nations, yesterday, painted a bleak picture of days ahead for the quake victims with snow expected in certain areas within next 24 hours. Procurement of inferior quality tents by different agencies could make things more difficult for the survivors, said UN Assistant Resident Representative. Islamabad has requested the British government for extradition of Margalla Towers builder Ramzan Khokhar and three other accused in connection with the substandard construction of the towers, a part of which had collapsed in the Oct 8 quake, killing 73 people, sources in the Ministry of Interior told press today. The sources said the ministry was using two separate channels to net the accused, who were stated to be in the United Kingdom. The UK government has been directly requested for their extradition and, secondly, the assistance of Interpol has also been sought, the sources said. More than 7,000 families have been housed in tent villages set up in earthquake-hit areas, according to an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) statement. The authorities are making all-out efforts to provide all basic necessities, including sanitation, food, clean drinking water and medicines, to the displaced people who have been provided shelter in these tent villages. Three major fire incidents caused substantial financial loss to commercial concerns in Karachi city, yesterday. No casualty was reported, rescue officials said. In the first fire incident on early yesterday morning, fire erupted in the offices of a construction firm housed at the fifth floor of the Panorama Centre in Saddar Karachi. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**TONGA**

London, Nov 10 -- A report, dated Nov 9, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0800, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located in Tonga in lat15.11S, long 173.76W, depth 10 km.

**VANUATU REGION**

London, Nov 10 -- A report, dated Nov 9, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0611, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located in the Vanuatu region in lat 18.09S, long 172.89E, depth 10 km.

**Political & Civil Unrest****AFGHANISTAN**

London, Nov 2 -- A press report dated today, states: Militants ambushed police on a southern Afghan mountain and killed five officers, officials said, while a statement issued today, purportedly by Taliban commander Mullah Omar, urged the insurgents not to end their armed struggle. It was not immediately possible to verify the authenticity of the Pashto-language statement.

London, Nov 10 -- Suspected Taleban rebels have killed seven police officers in an ambush in Afghanistan, while two civilians were beheaded in a separate attack. The police were fired on as they drove towards the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, a local governor said. The civilians were abducted on Monday (Nov 7) from a village in the southern province of Uruzgan and their bodies found two days later, Jan Mohammed Khan added. Security forces raided a rebel camp in the area and made two arrests, he said.

**ALBANIA**

Bari, Nov 3 -- Product tanker Ambar is still under arrest at Bari. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**ALGERIA**

London, Nov 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: An Algerian court jailed 23 people for up to a year for rioting after a government crackdown on black market activities, state-run radio said today. The court in Arzew also sentenced eight other rioters to suspended six-month sentences yesterday, it added. It said the court convicted the 31 people for "damaging public properties" but gave no further details. It said they clashed with anti-riot police in October after authorities moved in to shut unlicensed shops selling black market goods in Arzew.

**ARGENTINA**

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of protesters have run riot in Argentina, throwing stones at police just blocks away from the opening of a summit attended by 34 Americas leaders. Groups of demonstrators approached security cordons around the summit, and a bank was set on fire as police fired tear gas to disperse the rioters. US President George W Bush is one of the leaders present, for discussions which include free trade and poverty. Mr Bush faces opposition over plans to revive talks on a free trade area. As the meeting opened, there was no indication that any compromise had been reached. More than 8,000 police have been drafted in to protect the fourth Americas summit, being held in

the Argentine beach town of Mar del Plata. Protests began peacefully, as thousands of demonstrators chanted "Get out Bush." They marched through boarded-up streets a few kilometres away from the summit venue itself. But smaller groups armed with wooden clubs and wearing bandanas began burning US flags, throwing stones and petrol bombs, smashing windows and setting fire to shops. Police used tear gas to disperse them, slowly pushing them away from the summit area down one of the town's main streets. Local media reports said 20 demonstrators had been injured in clashes with police. Police said 64 people were arrested, and the situation was "under control." Protesters argue that US-backed free-market policies have pushed millions into poverty in the region. Other demonstrations were held in Buenos Aires, and in Uruguay and Venezuela. The Venezuelan government has said that it will reject any summit declaration which contains references to free trade in the Americas. Apart from Venezuela, those nations opposed to the creation of a huge free trade zone include Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay.

#### COLOMBIA

Bogota, Nov 1 -- The Colombian government warned thousands of far-right paramilitaries today that it would attack them if they broke a promise to disarm this year. "Those refusing to voluntarily disarm will be confronted militarily," the government said in a news release. The ultimatum came in response to the outlaw United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia's decision in early October to suspend plans to disband about 10,000 fighters to protest the imprisonment of one of its chiefs. The far-right militia, known by its Spanish initials AUC, has already disarmed about 10,000 gunmen in compliance with peace talks which began in mid-2003. A top AUC chief told local radio talks would continue with the government despite the ultimatum but that the paramilitaries would not have time to be able to lay down all their arms by December 31. "It's impossible," said AUC political commander Ivan Roberto Duque, quoted on the Web site of La FM radio. "The December 31 date has to be postponed." The AUC's peace talks with the government have led to a steep drop in violence in a country struggling with a four-decade-old guerrilla war. The fall in the number of killings has helped make President Alvaro Uribe the most popular president in living memory. But the talks have been marred by disputes over how AUC chiefs should pay for their crimes, especially the cocaine trafficking which has made several of them the object of extradition requests from the United States. The AUC had promised to surrender all its weapons by the end of the year, but suspended demobilizations after the government moved one of its top commanders, Diego Murillo, to a maximum security

prison. Murillo had been under house arrest for murdering a provincial politician but the government transferred him to a prison to defuse a diplomatic dispute with the United States, which wanted to extradite him on cocaine charges. Once paramilitaries have disarmed, special tribunals will investigate those accused of crimes. Those who make full confessions and return stolen property cannot be sentenced to more than eight years in prison -- even if guilty of mass murder. But human rights groups and even some U.S. politicians who usually support Uribe enthusiastically say the government is not doing enough to ensure the AUC warlords dismantle their criminal organizations. Any resumption of hostilities with the paramilitaries would come as Uribe would likely be beginning campaigning for a second term. The election is in May. In its communique, the government warned AUC members not to begin participation in politics. At least one senior former AUC commander has said he will run for Congress and analysts fear paramilitaries could use coercion to influence voters in many parts of the country. "Members of the Self-Defense Forces must abstain from politics," the government said. -- Reuters.

Bogota, Nov 3 -- A rebel bomb attack yesterday stopped pumping through Colombia's second largest oil pipeline, the Caño Limón-Covenas, state oil company Eco-petrol said today. The army has sent troops to guard repair work on the pipeline, which was damaged about 270 miles from its source, at a point near the town of Convención in Norte de Santander province near the Venezuelan border, an army spokesman said. The 780-km pipeline, which transports about 90,000 to 95,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude from a field operated by Occidental Petroleum Corp., has often been targeted by Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) Marxist rebels although attacks have fallen off sharply in recent years thanks to the U.S.-backed Plan Colombia. Caño Limón was bombed 17 times in 2004, but this was down from 170 attacks in 2001. -- Reuters.

#### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, Nov 3 -- A press report, dated Nov 2, states: Congolese troops rescued four electoral workers from their militia captors in a raid that set off a battle that killed dozens of militiamen and one soldier, officials said today. Mayi-Mayi fighters had kidnapped the officials on October 23 at Burondo in North Kivu province in northeastern Congo, and the army freed them late Sunday (Oct 30), military spokesman Jean-Willy Mutombo told The Associated Press. "Some 40 Mayi-Mayi militiamen were killed by the army," Mutombo said. "One soldier was killed and three others injured." A spokesman for a United Nations peacekeeping force, Col. Thierry Provendier, confirmed the

rescue. An extensive campaign is under way to register voters for Congo's first presidential election in 45 years. It is due to be held by next June under a peace accord that ended a ruinous 1998-2002 civil war. Backed by U.N. peacekeepers, a transitional government formed after the accord is struggling to gain control over Congo's east, which was formerly held by rebel groups whose leaders have been given top positions in the regime. Congo's military operation in the east has also targeted the Mayi-Mayi militia, which has refused to surrender weapons under a national program giving former rebels a chance to train to join the army or re-enter civilian life.

#### ETHIOPIA

Addis Ababa, Nov 3 -- Three people were shot dead in the Ethiopian capital today, doctors said, in a third straight day of political unrest that has killed at least 42 and stirred fears for the giant African country's stability. The violence has prompted Britain to warn its citizens against non-essential travel to Ethiopia and both the European Union and African Union urged government and opposition in the country, the Horn of Africa's dominant power, to show restraint. Witnesses said police in Addis Ababa opened fire to disperse anti-government protests in several pockets of unrest across the city, a bastion of opposition groups which accuse Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of rigging his way back to power at polls in May. Doctors said that in addition to the three killed today, the overnight death toll among those wounded on Tuesday (Nov 1) and yesterday had risen to eight from three. Many of the wounded said they were not part of the unrest. Police have also detained scores of people including human rights activists, residents said. The violence broke out on Tuesday when riot police clashed with demonstrators apparently heeding a call by the opposition Coalition for Democracy and Unity (CUD) for renewed protests against a May 15 poll it says was rigged. "From last evening police have been rounding up CUD zonal leaders and human rights activists," said Adam Melaku of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council. "We are very scared." In a development likely to test nerves further, state-run Ethiopian News Agency reported late today that seven prisoners were shot dead and 26 wounded trying to escape from Kaliti prison near the capital. Ethiopians say Kaliti has been used in the past to house people held for politically-related offences, but there was no word on the identity of the reported casualties or whether the incident was linked to the latest disturbances. Medical sources today put the death toll from the previous day's clashes between riot police and opposition supporters at 31. Eight were killed on Tuesday. The government says fewer were killed, putting the toll at 11 protesters and two police officers. Residents said police went from house

to house picking up mainly young men suspected of involvement in the violence, which followed months of worsening tensions between the government and opposition in sub-Saharan Africa's second most populous nation. Information Minister Berhan Hailu confirmed the arrests but did not say how many had been detained. He repeated an accusation that CUD leaders were responsible for stoking the bloodshed. "There is no witch-hunt against CUD members except those involved in inciting violence," he said. -- Reuters.

Addis Ababa, Nov 4 -- Gunfire echoed sporadically around Addis Ababa for a fourth day today as reports emerged that unrest had spread beyond the capital, a development likely to deepen international concern for Ethiopia's stability. Information Minister Berhan Hailu said he had word of "some kinds of unrest in some areas" of the north-central Amhara region but dismissed the disturbances as insignificant. Residents said students in Dessie town, 400 km north of Addis Ababa, had thrown stones at police who dispersed them by firing in the air. Today's clashes broke out when a crowd of youths gathered close to the AU headquarters tried to pull passengers from a public transport bus. Police dispersed them by firing in the air but sporadic gunfire could still be heard later in the day. Witnesses said protesters were targeting public transport because they saw the state-subsidised service as a symbol of authority. Doctors at several hospitals put the death toll since the start of the clashes at 42. Information Minister Berhan said today 24 people were killed in three days of unrest. He said the capital was quiet but noted trouble in other areas. "It is relatively calm and there are no reports of violence in Addis Ababa but there are some kinds of unrest in some areas in Amhara region, however, they are not significant," Berhan said. "Shops are closed and some schools are closed (in Amhara)." State-run Ethiopian News Agency reported late yesterday that seven prisoners were shot dead and 26 wounded trying to escape from Kaliti prison near the capital. Kaliti had previously housed people held for offences related to politics but there was no word on the whether the incident was linked to the latest disturbances. -- Reuters.

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least four people were killed and 11 wounded in Ethiopia yesterday, taking the death toll to 46 after a fourth day of clashes between security forces and demonstrators protesting alleged electoral fraud, police said. The violence has spread from the capital to towns outside of Addis Ababa. The four died in the town of Bahir Dar, about 400 km north-west of the capital, where police clashed with demonstrators demanding the release of opposition members in police custody, said the state-run Ethiopian News Agency said, quoting police sources. There was also violence in the

Ethiopian towns of Awasa, Gondar, Dessie and Dire Dawa, the government said, but police did not say whether there were any fatalities in these towns. According to a diplomat, eight people including a soldier were killed in Bahir Dar. Two other diplomats said two civilians were killed in Dessie, a scene of similar rioting.

London, Nov 8 -- A press report, dated Nov 7, states: Ethiopian opposition leaders, whose call for anti-government protests led to unrest in which 46 people were killed in street battles with police, appeared in court today but were returned to jail without being charged. At a closed hearing before three federal high court judges, 24 senior opposition members, civic leaders and journalists were denied bail and returned to jail until Nov 22 but were not charged, an opposition lawyer who was in court said. The detainees were arrested on suspicion of instigating the five days of violent unrest. The CUD earlier said its members were heeding a call for a strike over the disputed election and the 46 deaths, but many residents said they were staying home for fear of new violence. There was uneasy calm in Addis Ababa, with little sign of taxis and public buses. Most shops remained closed, and security forces patrolled the streets, keeping a close eye on the Mercato market where riot police confronted stone-throwing youths last week.

#### FRANCE

London, Nov 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: More cars and shops have been set alight in Paris' suburbs, as youths rioted for an eight consecutive night. Most of the attacks are again taking place in the largely immigrant area of Seine-Saint-Denis, where about 1,000 police have been deployed. Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin has pledged to restore order. He was speaking in parliament, following criticism at the government's failure to end the violence. The overnight incidents occurred in several towns, including Aulnay-sous-Bois. As on previous nights, gangs of youths armed with bricks and sticks have been roaming the streets of housing estates. Dozens of cars have been set ablaze, as well as shops and a warehouse. Yesterday the violence also spread beyond the Paris region for the first time, with reports of cars on fire in the central town of Dijon. In scenes of escalating unrest overnight yesterday, shots were fired at police and firefighters, while gangs besieged a police station, set fire to a car showroom and threw petrol bombs. At least 177 cars were also set alight.

Aulnay-sous-Bois, Nov 4 -- Rioters set fire to hundreds of vehicles in an eighth night of unrest in the impoverished suburbs of north-eastern Paris as local officials criticised the response of national leaders. Rioting erupted again late yesterday despite hopes that festivities ending the fasting month of Ramadan would calm rioters, many of them Muslims of

North African origin protesting against race bias they say keeps them in a second-class status. Police reported fewer clashes than previous nights when police and fire crews were fired upon by some rioters. However, the rioting continued to spread, with firebombings in western Paris suburbs and similar areas near Rouen, Dijon and Marseille. A warehouse was burned down overnight in Aulnay-sous-Bois, a north-eastern Paris suburb. Officials in Seine Saint-Denis, the worst-hit department located between central Paris and Charles de Gaulle Airport, said 187 vehicles had been destroyed there overnight. Police detained 27 people and reported two injuries -- one a policeman and another a handicapped person badly burned during an arson attack on a city bus. French media said up to 600 vehicles were destroyed in the whole greater Paris region, including 23 buses at a terminal in Trappes in the south-west near Versailles. An amateur video aired on television showed them all in a row and all in flames. Security officials said the presence of hundreds of riot police had acted as a deterrent but rioters nevertheless set fire to two textile warehouses, a bus depot and a school. -- Reuters.

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: French police have arrested more than 250 people following fresh riots in and around Paris and other parts of France. Nearly 900 cars were burnt on the ninth consecutive night of unrest in immigrant-dominated areas near Paris, despite a heavy police presence. Nurseries and a school were burnt overnight and unrest spread to Nice, Lille, Marseille and Toulouse. Two nurseries, one in Yvelines and another in Bretigny-sur-Orgeand, were set on fire along with a school in Seine-et-Marne, the French news agency AFP reports. A blaze in an underground car park in Suresnes, Hauts-de-Seine, left at least 36 vehicles destroyed. An emergency services vehicle was attacked and burnt out in Meaux, Seine-et-Marne. Several car torchings were reported in the cities of Dijon, Marseille and Rouen as well as violent attacks in Nice, Lille and Rennes. Arsonists destroyed 897 vehicles overnight with 656 burnt in the area around Paris, Paris chief prosecutor Yves Bot said, while police gave an arrest total of 253. Some 1,300 police were deployed in the Seine-Saint-Denis area alone yesterday.

London, Nov 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Urban violence in France has continued for a 10th night, with more than 900 cars set ablaze in several cities and nearly 200 arrested. Central Paris, Toulouse and Nantes in the west were the latest to be hit by the unrest. The attacks came as the French authorities said they were determined to stop the unrest. Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy warned of stiffer jail sentences for arsonists following Friday's (Nov 4) damage. Attacks were also reported in Nice, Lille, Marseille and Dijon. In the

capital itself, four vehicles were set alight near Place de la Republique, and several cars were torched in the 17th district. In the northern town of Evreux in Normandy, at least 50 cars were burned at a shopping centre, and a post office and two schools were also set alight. Firefighters were called in to deal with a blaze which destroyed half a pre-school in Grigny, Essonne region, AFP news agency reported. A primary school was also slightly damaged. A recycling facility was attacked, with 800 sq m of paper going up in flames. In Toulouse, firefighters reported 14 incidents in a second night of attacks.

London, Nov 8 -- Violence has continued in France for a 12th night, with more cars torched. But regional authorities have been given powers to impose curfews to curb the riots. Although dozens of towns and cities have again been affected, the violence appears to be less extreme than at the weekend. At the weekend, several thousand cars were set alight and dozens of police officers were injured - two of them by gunshot. So far, more than 800 vehicles had been burned across the country today. Four police officers have been injured. That compares with 34 the previous night.

London, Nov 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: France will today broaden powers to impose local curfews across the country, one of several measures announced by Dominique de Villepin, prime minister, yesterday night in a bid to quell widespread rioting. Mr de Villepin said Jacques Chirac, France's president, would hold a cabinet meeting this morning to take the unprecedented step of invoking a 1955 law that allows the government's regional representatives to impose curfews on areas at risk of rioting. Curfews were already imposed on Monday night in some Paris suburbs under a legal procedure used by several towns since 2001 to tackle youth delinquency. One of the last blanket curfews in Paris was imposed on Algerians in 1961. Mr de Villepin, in a televised appearance, announced plans to call up 1,500 reserve gendarmes to take the total police deployed against the rioting to 9,500. He also proposed giving apprenticeships to failing school-children from the age of 14, instead of 16, and increasing bursaries and internships for poor children. A programme to demolish tower blocks and build more attractive housing would be accelerated while local association funding would increase. The violence has steadily intensified over the past 11 days. The rioting, mostly by children of immigrants in areas blighted by high unemployment, decrepit housing and poor schools, has spread across France and affected about 275 urban areas. More than 4,700 vehicles have been set on fire since October 27, when protests were sparked by the deaths of two black teenagers, electrocuted while believed to have been hiding from police in an electricity substation in Clichy-sous-

Bois, a Paris suburb. Yesterday night outbreaks of violence were reported in Toulouse, Lille and two districts of Paris.

London, Nov 8 -- The BBC reported today: The French Government has authorised a range of emergency powers in an effort to combat 12 nights of rioting. The move, announced by interior minister Nicolas Sarkozy, allows local authorities to impose curfews and lets police perform raids without warrants. The city of Amiens is the first to declare an overnight curfew, affecting unaccompanied under 16-year-olds. Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin has outlined to MPs an accompanying programme to improve social conditions. Measures announced by the prime minister include a jobs programme and funding for teaching in deprived areas. An agency will be set up with the aim of combating racial discrimination. Unrest continued on Monday night, although Paris saw a lull for the first time. Across the country 1,173 cars were burnt and 330 arrests made. Twelve police officers were also injured. Amiens, in the northern Somme region, has become the first city to declare a curfew under the new powers, which were approved in a special Cabinet meeting on Tuesday morning. Minors will be subject to the law between 2200 and 0600 (2100 and 0500 GMT) unless accompanied by an adult, and are also banned from buying petrol. Two Paris suburbs, Savigny-sur-Orge and Raincy, as well as the historic city of Orleans, have already declared separate curfews not covered by the law. Monday saw rioting in the southern city of Toulouse, where a bus was torched, and Lille in the north, where a creche was burned down and vehicles set alight. Two schools were also torched in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais and Picardie regions, north of Paris. In Paris there was a night of relative calm, areas that had been at the centre of previous violence were virtually deserted.

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Rioters shrugged off emergency laws that took effect today, as they looted and burned two superstores, set fire to a newspaper office and paralyzed France's second-largest city's subway system with a firebomb. President Jacques Chirac announced extraordinary security measures, which began today and are valid for a 12-day state of emergency, clearing the way for curfews after nearly two weeks of rioting in neglected and impoverished neighbourhoods with largely Muslim communities. Officials were forced to shut down the southern city of Lyon's subway system after a firebomb exploded in a station, a regional government spokesman said, adding no one was hurt. Transport officials were to decide this morning when service could resume, the spokesman said. Rioters looted and set fire to a furniture and electronics store and an adjacent carpet store in Arras, in the northern Pas-de-Calais region,

national police spokesman Patrick Reydy said. Arsonists also set fire to the Nice-Matin newspaper's office in Grasse, in the southeast Alpes-Maritimes region, he said. Nine buses were set ablaze at bus depot in Dole, in the eastern Jura region, Reydy said. A bus exploded in Bassens, near the southwest city of Bordeaux after a firebomb was thrown into it, he said, adding the driver escaped. In Nice, a man was in serious condition after being hit by a barbell that fell from a high-rise building in a neighbourhood where there had been recent riots, a local official said. Authorities were investigating whether it was an accident or an attack. Youths threw gasoline bombs at police who retaliated with tear gas in the southern city of Toulouse, where Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy was visiting.

Paris, Nov 9 -- Youths threw Molotov cocktails at police and torched cars in several French cities and towns in a 13th night of violence, ignoring the government's imposition of rarely used emergency laws. Police said today that 573 vehicles were set ablaze across the country overnight, down from 860 the night before. One official said the incidents were sporadic. The number of people detained rose to 204 from 151 the night before. Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin invoked a 1955 law on states of emergency in a bid to stamp out the unrest, which has involved white youths as well as French-born citizens of Arab or African origin protesting against racism and unemployment. Several towns imposed a curfew from midnight. Police in Germany said today that a number of cars were set on fire in the German cities of Berlin and Cologne in suspected copycat attacks after the widespread unrest in France. -- Reuters.

#### GUINEA-BISSAU

Bissau, Nov 3 -- Soldiers and armed police guarded government buildings in Guinea-Bissau today after youths set up barricades of burning tyres overnight to protest against the president naming a close ally as prime minister. President Joao Bernardo Vieira, who won a disputed election in July, named Aristides Gomes, his campaign director during the polls, as premier on Wednesday after sacking previous prime minister and rival Carlos Gomes Junior and his cabinet. Police officials said they were guarding government ministries to prevent civil servants from looting their offices before a new cabinet was named. Youths set up roadblocks overnight in the poor Bairro Militar district of the capital Bissau, a stronghold of Gomes Junior's PAIGC party, raising fears that the political turmoil could spread to the streets. Residents said the streets were otherwise calm, with people going about their normal daily business, although soldiers and police armed with rifles had stepped up checks on the outskirts of the city late yesterday. -- Reuters.

**IRAQ**

London, Nov 4 -- A press report, dated Nov 3, states: The al-Qaeda in Iraq militant group has reportedly said that it will kill two Moroccan embassy employees it kidnapped last month. The decision was announced in a statement on an Islamist website often used by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's group. It said an Islamic court found that the men were "loyalists of the oppressors". Abderrahim Boualam and Abdelkarim el-Mouhafidi disappeared last month while returning to Baghdad by road from the Jordanian capital, Amman. An earlier web posting showed images of the kidnap victims' passports and identity cards. The latest statement said the two Moroccans had been found to be "loyalists of the oppressors" and their deaths should be a "lesson" for others.

London, Nov 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: Six Iraqi soldiers were killed and 10 wounded in a dawn battle with insurgents at a checkpoint in northern Baghdad, a military source said today. The attack took place on the day that most Shiite Arabs in Iraq celebrate Eid al-Fitr, the holiday that marks the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Baghdad, Nov 5 -- Some 2,500 U.S. and 1,000 Iraqi troops launched Operation Steel Curtain against al Qaeda militants in Qusayba, near Qaim, on the Syrian border today. The U.S. military said it had no reports of casualties among its forces or civilians by the end of the day. Insurgent casualties were not clear. Elsewhere, thirteen civilians were killed and two wounded when gunmen in cars shot up a minibus at Balad Ruz, 65 km north-east of Baghdad, police said. Further details on the victims and their attackers were not available. In a separate incident, Fakhri al-Qaisi, a leading Sunni Arab politician, was wounded by gunmen as he drove alone in western Baghdad, police and political allies said. Doctors said he was hit by five bullets and was in a critical condition. -- Reuters.

Baquba, Nov 9 -- Seven Iraqi policemen were killed and nine people were wounded, including three civilians, when a suicide car bomb hit a police patrol north of Baghdad today, medical and army sources said. The attack took place in the city of Baquba, a mixed Shi'ite and Sunni Arab city 65 km north of the capital. -- Reuters.

London, Nov 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two suicide bombers detonated themselves near a restaurant frequented by Baghdad police this morning, killing at least 33 people and injuring 19, police said. The blast echoed through central Baghdad at about 0945, when police officers frequently stop by for breakfast. Police Maj. Abdel-Hussein Minsef said two bombers attacked the restaurant, killing seven police officers and 26 civilians.

**IVORY COAST**

Abidjan, Nov 1 -- Ivory Coast rebels, who refuse to recognise President

Laurent Gbagbo, today accused international mediators of being biased against them and of mishandling a deadlocked peace process. Louis Dakoury-Tabley, No. 2 in the New Forces rebel movement which has held the northern half of the world's top cocoa grower since a 2002 civil war, criticised Pierre Schori, United Nations special envoy for Ivory Coast. He also attacked South African President Thabo Mbeki, the African Union's (AU) mediator. "Mr Schori is trapped in his own bias," Dakoury-Tabley told Reuters in Abidjan, the country's main commercial city. He made the same charge against Mbeki, calling him "clumsy". Government officials say they are expecting Mbeki and Nigerian President and AU Chairman Olusegun Obasanjo to fly to Ivory Coast soon to promote a U.N. peace plan that kept Gbagbo in office after his five-year term ended on Sunday (Oct 30). But a spokeswoman for Obasanjo in Abuja said he would not be going tomorrow, as was originally expected. Dakoury-Tabley said the New Forces rebels were ready to meet Obasanjo but not Mbeki. The U.N. plan foresees Gbagbo staying on for up to 12 months until elections. It also calls for the appointment of a strong independent prime minister to advance the peace process. The rebels say that since Sunday they no longer consider Gbagbo as head of state. In a largely symbolic gesture rejected by Gbagbo's government, they unilaterally named their own leader, Guillaume Soro, as prime minister. "It's deadlock," Dakoury-Tabley said. Threats by opposition youth leaders to cause mayhem in Abidjan if Gbagbo did not step down have so far failed to materialise. But an uneasy calm hangs over the country which has been rocked by riots and massacres in the last few years. "The problem is not the warring sides, it's the mediators ... Can we count on them? No, we can't," Dakoury-Tabley said. More than 10,000 U.N. and French peacekeepers man a porous buffer zone keeping Ivorian rebel and government sides apart. Several thousand pro-government "Young Patriots" wearing the nation's gold, white and green colours attended a concert in Abidjan today to celebrate Gbagbo's extended stay in office and Ivory Coast's qualification last month for the 2006 soccer World Cup finals. U.N. envoy Schori has urged both sides to implement a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for a new Ivorian prime minister with powers to carry out disarmament and electoral reforms to allow free and fair polls to be held. Gbagbo's supporters praised the U.N. resolution. "You must vote to beat the rebels through the ballot box," the president's spokesman Desire Tagro told the Abidjan rally. But Dakoury-Tabley dismissed the U.N. blueprint as confusing and unworkable. He said Schori was insisting the rebels disarm, but he accused the U.N. envoy of failing to demand similar commitments from Gbagbo to advance peace. He saved his

sharpest criticism for Mbeki, whom the Ivorian opposition says favours Gbagbo. "Thabo Mbeki has been clumsy. We've decided not to meet with him in any delegation. He's disqualified in our eyes," he said. Dakoury-Tabley said Soro, as leader of a rebel force controlling half of the nation, was the right person to work with Gbagbo as his prime minister to negotiate national reconciliation and reunification. Gbagbo has said a new prime minister will be named in the coming days. -- Reuters.

**JORDAN**

London, Nov 10 -- The BBC reported today: At least 57 people have been killed and about 300 injured in explosions, yesterday, at hotels in the Jordanian capital, Amman. The Grand Hyatt, Radisson and Days Inn hotels were hit in near-simultaneous blasts. Police suspect suicide bombers. The hotels are popular with foreigners, but most of the victims were Jordanian. Deputy Prime Minister Marwan Muasher said that two of the blasts appear to have been carried out by suicide bombers strapped with explosive and the third by a suicide car bomb. No details have emerged so far of the names or nationalities of the victims, but officials say most are thought to be Jordanian. Many of the casualties are thought to have been among 250 guests at a wedding reception in the Radisson hotel. At the Hyatt, the device apparently went off in a bar in the lobby. A favourite with businessmen and Westerners, the hotel was packed at the time. Windows were blown out by the blast and several people were badly wounded. Many of the injured were taken to hospital in taxis and private cars. There was very little security apparent at the hotel prior to the blast. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but a Jordanian official said the attacks carried the trademark of al-Qaeda or those inspired by it. Police have set up roadblocks around hotels and embassies and Prime Minister Adnan Badra has ordered all schools and public offices to close today.

**LIBERIA**

Monrovia, Nov 3 -- Four former Liberian rebel leaders, including a warlord whose men once hacked the president live on camera, have thrown their weight behind soccer star George Weah ahead of next week's presidential run-off vote. The former AC Milan striker and world footballer of the year faces Harvard-trained ex-World Bank economist Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in a November 8 run-off vote after neither won an outright majority in the first round of elections designed to end years of strife. Former rebel leaders Prince Johnson, Sekou Damate Conneh, Alhaji Kromah and George Boley have come out to support Weah. Critics say their support for Weah stems from a belief that they are less likely to face prosecution for war crimes under a Weah administration

than one headed by Johnson-Sirleaf, a suggestion Johnson dismissed. -- Reuters.

### SOMALIA

Mogadishu, Nov 6 -- An explosion tore through a convoy of cars carrying Somalia's Prime Minister Mohamed Ali Gedi in Mogadishu today, killing six but leaving him unhurt, hospital sources and residents said. Government aides said a land mine caused the explosion, which sharply raised tensions in a city controlled largely by Gedi's political foes. One government source said unidentified attackers had thrown a hand grenade under Gedi's car as it passed seconds before the land mine blast in an apparently co-ordinated attack. The blast set ablaze at least one vehicle among several that were ferrying Gedi and one of his deputies from an airstrip to the lawless city. "Five seconds after the blast, there was an exchange of fire, I don't know who between," a wounded man who had been riding in the convoy told said. "The tyres on our car were shredded by bullets." Gedi had flown in from his headquarters north of the capital to try to hold talks with a dissident faction of ministers based in Mogadishu to end a rift in the government that has stirred fears of renewed civil war in the nation. Six people were killed in the blast, the medical sources said, and a government source said four of the six had been burned beyond recognition. About 20 were wounded. "It struck the car directly behind the prime minister's car, and that vehicle burst into flames," said Ali Nur Sahal, an aide to Deputy Prime Minister Hussein Aided. "We believe it was a land mine." -- Reuters.

### SOUTH AFRICA

London, Nov 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Rail passengers angry at service delays torched at least 26 train carriages near Johannesburg on Wednesday evening. Carriages were burnt at three different locations south of the city, causing 200m rand (\$30m) worth of damage. The arson followed service delays reportedly caused by technical faults. A shortage of trains has now caused services on one route to be suspended. On Tuesday (Nov 8), passengers burnt four coaches after service delays apparently caused by the theft of electric cables. Thandi Mlangeni, spokeswoman for rail company Metrorail, said a signal fault at Midway in southern Johannesburg had brought trains to a halt. "Passengers started getting off the train and burning it," she said. The disruption had a knock-on effect, leading to delays in the Kliptown and Nancefield regions of Soweto, where passengers also then began to torch trains. Yesterday's arson left Metrorail with no trains to run from Midway, in southern Johannesburg, to the town of Vereeniging, Ms Mlangeni said. Commuters have been asked to use alternative means of transport.

Metrorail trains provide an important link for commuters between central Johannesburg, Soweto, and other residential areas further south. Each train typically carries about 1,000 passengers.

### SPAIN

Maderid, Nov 3 -- A bomb exploded in Spain's Basque country early today, causing no injuries, and a second bomb was defused, Basque police said. Police suspect armed Basque separatist group ETA of planting the bombs, a police spokesman said. One bomb, placed in a waste paper basket near an employment office in the Basque seaside town of Zarautz, exploded at about 0130 hrs, (0030, UTC), he said. Another bomb, near a court in Zarautz, had been defused by the police bomb squad about two hours earlier, he said. Hopes of an end to the Basque conflict have been raised since May when the Spanish parliament backed a government proposal to talk to ETA if it laid down its arms. ETA responded in June by calling for a peace process but it has not made any concession on violence and has continued sporadic bombings. Police in France and Spain have arrested dozens of ETA suspects in the last year, including many senior leaders. ETA has carried out about 20 minor attacks this year, but has not killed anyone since May 2003. -- Reuters.

### SUDAN

London, Nov 4 -- A press report, dated Nov 3, states: The biggest rebel movement in Sudan's war-torn Darfur region has chosen Minni Minnawi as their new leader. But Sudan Liberation Army's choice of Mr Minnawi seems certain to split the group, long beset by rivalries. He was chosen at their unity congress and replaces Abdul Wahid, who boycotted the meeting. Any split would further complicate already difficult efforts to resolve Darfur's crisis, which has driven more than two million people from their homes. For the last six days the SLA has been holding its congress deep in rebel-held Darfur. Its slogan was organisation, unity and peace. By electing Mr Minnawi as its new president the rebels now seem destined to split such is the animosity between him and his predecessor, Mr Wahid. Mr Wahid says he will not recognise the congress' decisions. His popularity has fallen after he spent most of the last two years outside Darfur. Mr Minnawi by contrast is a military man and has much greater support among commanders on the ground. The next round of peace talks with the Khartoum government is due to resume in two weeks' time. Six previous rounds failed - in part because of divisions among the rebels. As mediators the African Union must now decide who they consider SLA leader and hence who will attend the next round of talks.

### THAILAND

London, Nov 3 -- A press report, dated Nov 2, states: Bombs have

exploded in several locations in southern Thailand, police and local media say. A restaurant, a prison and electrical resources were said to be among the targets of the attacks in the southern province of Narathiwat. One person was injured in the attack on the prison, officials said. Nearly 1,000 people have been killed in the south since 2004, in violence the government blames on an insurgency by Muslim separatists. However, local people say government security forces are responsible for many of the deaths, through brutal suppression of unrest. Bombs aimed at power supplies knocked out power in parts of the city of Narathiwat, capital of the province of the same name. The authorities also defused other devices, Thailand's ITV television network said. Sonthi Boonyarataglin, the first Muslim army chief in mainly Buddhist Thailand, condemned the attacks, which came on the eve of a festival to celebrate the end of the Muslim month of Ramadan.

London, Nov 4 -- A press report, dated Nov 3, states: Martial law has been imposed in parts of Songkhla province in southern Thailand. The provision covers the two districts of Chana and Thepha, which border three southern provinces already under tight restrictions. The announcement came as police said three people had been killed in the latest violence in the region, including one man who was beheaded. About 1,000 people have died in the Muslim-majority south since early 2004. The army instituted martial law for parts of Songkhla after eight fake explosives were found in Thepha and Chana districts, The Nation newspaper reported. It is the first time this provision, which allows the authorities to arrest suspects and search their properties without a warrant, has been issued in Songkhla. The three neighbouring provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat are all under emergency law, which is not as punitive. There was violence in all three of these provinces yesterday and today, police said. A man's severed head was found early today in Talogapo village, Pattani province. He has not yet been identified as the police have not found the body, but his head was shaved, leading to reports that he was a Buddhist. Late yesterday, a suspected militant blew himself up in Narathiwat town as he set up a device against an electricity pole - one of a series of blasts which knocked out power to the area, police said. And also yesterday, a Muslim villager was shot dead in Raman district of Yala province while riding a motorcycle. In addition to the fake devices found in Songkhla, there was also a number of fake bombs found in five districts of Pattani province on Thursday, police said. Effigies of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra were found near these devices, and on roadsides in Yala province.

London, Nov 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least three people were killed, two others injured and dozens of suspected Muslim

insurgents arrested as militants attacked more than 20 government targets in a southern Thai province, officials said today. Scores of militants launched the coordinated attacks last night on facilities such as police stations, road check points and schools in Yala province, said provincial police chief Maj. Gen. Paitoon Choochaiya. Paitoon said a police officer and two suspected insurgents were killed in Yala. Earlier, authorities said five people had died in Yala and one in the neighbouring province of Pattani.

## Kidnappings



### NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam, Nov 4 -- The kidnapped daughter of a Dutch millionaire was only freed after promising to arrange a 5 million euro ransom and her captors continued to threaten her after her release, the authorities said today. Claudia Melchers, 37, was kidnapped from her home in a wealthy Amsterdam suburb last month but was freed unharmed 48 hours later. Five suspects have since been arrested, one of them in Brazil, and no ransom was paid, police said. "She was released so that she could arrange to meet the kidnapers' demands afterwards," public prosecutor Hanneke Festen said in a televised news conference. The kidnapers initially demanded the delivery of 300 kg (661 lb) of cocaine, which Dutch media said would have a street value of 15 million euros, but later changed the ransom to 5 million euros with a 60,000 euro cash advance. "She was told that if she did not meet the demands it would have serious consequences for her or for her family," Festen said, adding that the woman continued to receive threats by e-mail written by a suspect in Brazil after her release. The woman who was kidnapped is the daughter of Hans Melchers, the owner of chemical firm Melchemie who is listed 36th in the Quote index of the 500 richest Dutch people, with an estimated worth of 460 million euros. The five suspects will be charged with complicity in kidnapping and attempted blackmail, Festen said. The Dutch authorities have requested the extradition of the man who was arrested in Brazil. Three of them were arrested on Curacao in the Dutch Antilles, including the suspected mastermind of the kidnapping. -- Reuters.

## Labour Disputes



### CANADA

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated Nov 4, states: A task force

investigating a crippling strike by container truck drivers at the port of Vancouver has recommended a licensing program for companies and drivers involved in short-haul transportation of containers to and from the region's ports. The report released publicly today recommended to the federal transport minister that Ottawa direct the port authorities to adopt the scheme that would manage the number of drivers and vehicles and to ensure fair compensation for those drivers. Industry Minister David Emerson called it a good report and said Ottawa would have to work closely with the provincial government and others involved in the ports to make it work. B.C. Transport Minister Kevin Falcon said there won't be an easy fix, but was anxious to get work with Ottawa in finding long-term solutions. The three-member task force including labour lawyer Eric Harris, former director of ports at Transport Canada Randy Morris and Ken Dobell, a former deputy minister to B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell, was appointed after container truck drivers stopped working this summer. The dispute was triggered as drivers complained that rising fuel prices were making it increasingly impossible to earn a living. Operations at the port resumed only after mediator Vince Ready stepped in with a plan to set new hauling rates and provide financial relief for truckers if diesel fuel prices continue to rise. The Port of Vancouver welcomed the report and it suggested some of the recommendations have already been implemented including a pilot program to extend the hours the port's truck gates are open. "Governments should provide two years start-up funding and seek agreement among the Port Authorities and private sector agencies to provide funding for this work over the long-term," the report said. The strike had its biggest impact in British Columbia because containers bound for central Canada are usually loaded directly onto rail cars in the port. However, some large national retailers that use B.C.-based warehouses to store goods before loading them onto rail cars were hit by the strike.

### GREECE

Athens, Nov 9 -- Greek airports will shut down tomorrow when the country's air traffic controllers stage a 24-hour strike, joining public sector unions including teachers and hospital doctors pressing for higher wages. Protesting against the centre-right government's tight incomes policy, the public sector umbrella union ADEDY is striking for higher pay as Athens puts its finishing touches on next year's belt-tightening budget. The strike is expected to disrupt a wide range of government services, schools, universities and public hospitals as teachers and doctors join the industrial action by civil servants. The strike by air traffic controllers goes into effect right after midnight yesterday for 24 hours. Greece's two

largest carriers said they will be forced to ground all their flights tomorrow. State carrier Olympic Airlines, which the government wants to privatize, will ground all its 107 domestic and international flights. Privately held Aegean Airlines will cancel 120 flights. -- Reuters.

London, Nov 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Air traffic came to a halt and public services were restricted in Greece due to a 24-hour strike by air traffic controllers and public servants. "All the flights were cancelled at Athens international airport and no flights will land or take off in Greece until midnight," a spokesman for the city's Eleftherios Venizelos airport told Agence France-Presse. Hospital and public services were operating with reduced staff while schools were to be closed today and tomorrow, with teacher unions extending the strike to 48-hours in their sector. The Greek air traffic controllers' union announced on Monday (Nov 7) that it would be joining the strike called by the 200,000-strong Union of Greek Civil Servants (ADEDY) in protest at the conservative government's social and economic policies.

### NETHERLANDS

London, Nov 3 -- A press report, dated Nov 2, states: Unions which represent the Royal Dutch Shell PLC workers in the Netherlands have agreed to suspend their strike after the management agreed to resume negotiations. 'We will be speaking with Shell this evening,' a spokesman for CNV union said. The unions, led by CNV and FNV, agreed to lift the strike for 24 hours, he said. Around 1,200 staff at Shell's 416,000-barrel per day Pernis refinery and 900,000-tonne a year Moerdijk chemical plant have joined the strike, which started on Monday (Oct 31) in a row with the management over pensions. Around 1,000 employees at NAM, Shell's joint venture with US oil giant Exxon Mobil Corp, have also pledged to join the strike. The unions have opposed planned pension reforms, due to take effect in January, aimed at raising the retirement age and forcing workers to contribute to their pensions. CNV claimed over 60 pct of the plants' production have been affected by the workers' action.

London, Nov 4 -- A press report, dated Nov 3, states: Unionised Dutch workers at Europe's largest refinery today settled a pension dispute with the Royal Dutch Shell Group PLC. The agreement means workers will return to the 418,000 barrel per day Pernis refinery in Rotterdam, as well as returning to another petroleum processing facility in Moerdijk, Expatica reported. RDS had wanted workers to begin contributing to their retirement funds and delay their retirement. Both sides reportedly compromised.

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated Nov 4, states: Anglo-Dutch oil giant Shell and trade unions reached an agreement on pension reforms



yesterday, ending a strike which spread across several Shell plants including Europe's biggest refinery, Dutch media reported today. Production at the Pernis refinery in Rotterdam, the biggest refinery in Europe with a daily production of 418,000 barrels, would resume by the end of yesterday, the FNV union said yesterday. Yesterday evening the FNV and CNV unions confirmed a deal had been reached, averting the NAM strike. The CNV union said in a statement that Shell has met the demands of the unions to allow workers to retire at 60, in return workers would start paying towards their pension.

#### PAKISTAN

Karachi Nov 8 -- Karachi Port Trust (KPT) said, this morning, that the arrivals, sailing and shifting of vessels at port remained suspended, yesterday, due to protest of port workers. Some loading and offloading hampered too. An official of port said, port workers went on strike yesterday morning, against award of a contract to a private firm, under privatisation programme, for mooring and unmooring of vessels at port. After successful negotiations between port authority and the Collective Bargaining Agents (CBA), KPT Employees Union, the strike ended at 2200, Nov 7. Later, three vessels sailed and five arrived. It is said the KPT management agreed to suspend the contract for an indefinite period and decided to hold further negotiations with the CBA on the issue. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### SPAIN

London, Nov 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: The strike of the Spanish miners, who stopped work for four days blocked the major roadway in the country along with three railroad lines yesterday, a day before representatives of the miners are supposed to start negotiations with the Government, AFP announced, citing local media. Protests are to continue until Nov 17 in case no agreement is reached. Miners' demands include pension age lowered to 52, increase of the number of workers employed on training programs, and increase of productivity from 9.2 million tons per year to 10.5 million tons.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Nov 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: Boeing Co. officials have not yet decided whether to scrub coming satellite launches or hire replacement workers after machinists went on strike in California, Alabama and Florida, a company spokesman said yesterday. About 1,500 workers joined the walkout that began early yesterday after last-minute talks broke down between their union and Boeing's Integrated Defense Systems unit that operates the Delta rocket program. A federal mediator was unable to broker an agreement. No new talks were

scheduled. The unit services mainly NASA and the Air Force. Boeing was reviewing contingency plans and talking to customers, company spokesman Dan Beck said. "It's too early for us to make a decision as to whether launches are going to be delayed," he said. A union representative said three Delta rockets were on launch pads, two at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California and one at Cape Canaveral, with the earliest launch scheduled for Nov 15. "They're not going to launch any more Delta rockets," said Gary Quick, chairman of the union's negotiating committee. The machinists said Boeing had proposed ending retirement health care coverage for new employees and wants to eliminate caps on out-of-pocket expenses for medical premiums and co-pays. The workers argue that they should not be making concessions when the company posted \$1 billion in net income for the past quarter. Beck said the company's offer would have given workers substantial pay increases and boosted pensions and savings plans. Similar issues led to a four-week shutdown of Boeing's commercial aircraft assembly operations in the Pacific Northwest and Wichita, Kan., in September. However, it's unlikely that Boeing's military clients will exert the same pressure as its commercial clients did to quickly settle the previous strike, said Paul Nisbet, an analyst with JSA Research. "The government is unlikely to penalize Boeing in any way for any slippage of schedules," he said. "The government is quite tolerant of labor strikes. It's very different than the airlines."

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A copper strike against Asarco is apparently over. Asarco and striking workers say they've reached agreement on a new contract, ending a four-month strike. The company and union officials announced the agreement today. It extends terms of collective bargaining agreements that were in effect when workers at five Arizona facilities and one in Amarillo, Texas, went on strike Jul 2. Asarco officials say the agreement allows the company to increase copper production during a time of unprecedented high copper prices. After the strike began, Asarco filed for bankruptcy reorganization. A negotiator for the United Steel Workers Union says they hope a bankruptcy judge will approve the contract agreement and that workers will be back Tuesday or Wednesday of next week.



### Awards & Settlements

#### BRAIN DAMAGE DUE TOXIC MOLD, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 7 -- A press report, dated Nov 4, states: A family who

claims toxic mold in their home caused brain damage in their baby has reached a \$22.6 million settlement against a lumber company and 16 other defendants. The parents of Kellen Gorman claimed that he became sick because of mold on framing studs that had been improperly stored by Crenshaw Lumber Co. Inc. of Gardena, which agreed to pay \$13 million of the settlement. The studs were used in the custom-built Manhattan Beach home the family lived in for about two years beginning in 1999. Kellen, now 5, functions as a 10-year-old and needs 24-hour care, the family's lawyer, Brian D. Witzer, told the Daily Journal of Los Angeles. Raymond P. Boucher, president of the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles, said the Oct 19 settlement was the largest in the country for a mold case involving a single-family home. Crenshaw settled the day after Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Victoria G. Chaney barred the wood supplier from using 10 of its 17 experts, including a toxicologist and a microbiologist, Witzer said. Witzer said the judge excluded the experts because a lawyer for the defense allegedly missed a deadline for designating witnesses and backdated a document to cover it up. Chaney referred the issue to the State Bar for investigation, Witzer said. James D. Fraser, an attorney who represented a sheet metal company in the suit, said Kellen's doctors concluded he suffered from autism.

#### CLASS-ACTION SETTLEMENT, CANADA

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated Nov 8, states: Four of the world's leading vitamin manufacturers have settled a \$130-million lawsuit that was initiated by a Quebec consumers group. Hoffmann-Laroche, BASF, Rhone-Poulenc and Lonza were found guilty six years ago of hiking the price of vitamins and various products including milk, cereals, shampoo and creams. The money will be divided between local non-profit organisations and companies that bought the vitamins for their products. Individuals will not get any cash. Class-action lawyer Paul Unterberg believes the settlement sends a message to multinationals. Unterberg says companies that want to get together with competitors to raise prices will now think twice about it. In 1999, Hoffmann-Laroche and BASF paid a combined \$725 million US to settle charges laid by the U.S. Department of Justice related to the world-wide price-fixing scam. The head of the Justice Department at the time described the case as "the most pervasive and harmful criminal antitrust conspiracy ever uncovered."

#### COMPUTER LEASE, CANADA

London, Nov 4 -- A press report, dated Nov 3, states: The City of Toronto settled its lawsuit with Clearlink Capital Corp. of Mississauga, formerly known as MFP

Financial Services Ltd., yesterday by paying the company \$9.65-million, Clearlink president Fraser Berrill said. The settlement of the case, which was slated to go to court this week, went ahead after the city agreed to indemnify Clearlink for legal costs if Clearlink were brought in as a third party in any future suits the city might proceed with against others involved in the controversial 1997 computer lease between the city and MFP. The city and the company sued each other in January, 2002, a month before the city launched a public inquiry into the lease deal, and both waited until after this September's report of a public inquiry into the deal to settle the suits.

#### **COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 8 -- A press report, dated Nov 7, states: Grokster, a developer of file-swapping software used to trade copyrighted music and movie files, said today that it would halt distribution of the software and cut off support for its associated network as part of a landmark settlement with the recording industry and Hollywood studios. The agreement comes four months after the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that Grokster could be held liable for copyright infringement by users of its software, a decision that delivered a decisive victory to entertainment companies, particularly music labels, which have blamed widespread digital piracy for a worldwide slump in sales. The court decision sent the case back to a trial court, but the settlement, submitted to a federal judge in Los Angeles today, averts further legal wrangling for Grokster in the four-year-old lawsuit. Grokster also agreed to pay up to \$50 million in damages, though music executives say they do not expect to collect because the software company lacks the resources to pay. The deal also includes an injunction that bars Grokster from directly or indirectly infringing the plaintiff's copyrighted material.

#### **FALSE PRICING, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated Nov 4, states: Ohio will receive \$1.4 million in a settlement over false drug prices. The money is part of a \$124 million settlement between King Pharmaceuticals Inc. and regulators in 49 states and the federal government, Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro said today. Regulators accused the Bristol, Tenn.-based pharmaceuticals company of reporting incorrect prices to the Medicaid program, allowing the company to avoid paying \$62 million in rebates to the program. King Pharmaceuticals also agreed to submit to monitoring from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

#### **FOOD POISONING, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A woman who suffered salmonella poisoning after

eating a meal at a Chinese restaurant has been awarded more than £1.2m in compensation. The Court of Session heard how Margaret-Ann Reynard's career as a midwife was ruined when she developed reactive arthritis. Mrs Reynard, 40, sued Exquisite Cuisine after eating at the firm's Latours restaurant in East Kilbride. Judge Lord Hodge said the former midwife was in "constant pain".

#### **INCORRECT PRICING SETTLEMENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: The South Dakota Medicaid program will receive \$170,000 as part of an agreement with King Pharmaceutical Inc., a Tennessee company that incorrectly reported prices to the government, Attorney General Larry Long says. As a result, King Pharmaceutical paid \$62 million less in rebates to government entities, including state Medicaid programs, Long said in a release. The company makes generic drugs. King Pharmaceuticals Inc. was accused of not accurately calculating drug prices reported to the federal government for the purpose of establishing rebates due to state Medicaid programs, Long said. The settlements include a double damages penalty, resulting in a settlement of \$124 million, he said.

#### **MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated Nov 4, states: The 12-year-old son of former Chelsea and Liverpool star Nigel Spackman has won £3m in damages for injuries suffered shortly after his birth. Frazer Spackman, born in Heatherwood Hospital in Ascot, Berkshire, developed jaundice resulting in brain damage. His family alleged doctors and hospital staff were negligent in failing to treat the jaundice soon enough. Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust denied liability but agreed to pay the compensation. The court was told that Frazer Spackman and his sister Beth were born prematurely at 34 weeks. Paul Rees QC, for the NHS trust, said the hospital had since introduced measures for earlier intervention in cases of jaundice.

#### **PATENT INFRINGEMENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 10 -- A press report, dated Nov 9, states: A federal judge in Virginia has promised a quick review of an earlier settlement of a long-running patent infringement case between Research in Motion and NTP. Investors who had hoped the whole case might be put on hold were disappointed. RIM shares on the TSX fell as much as \$4.29 to \$71.30 after the ruling was handed down but recovered some ground to end at \$72.31, off \$3.28 on the day. Research in Motion reached what appeared to be a final settlement in the dispute with NTP in March. That settlement called for RIM to pay NTP \$450 million US. But three months later, the settlement collapsed. RIM now wants that earlier

settlement agreement enforced. U.S. District Judge James Spencer said he would rule quickly and asked lawyers for both companies to submit briefs. The judge said once he decides whether that March agreement is still enforceable, he would decide whether to proceed with an injunction against RIM. That injunction, which would have shut down U.S. sales of RIM's popular BlackBerry wireless device, was stayed pending the outcome of appeals. But Spencer also said it was unlikely he would delay the case, as RIM has asked, while the U.S. Patent Office considers the validity of NTP's patents. That's a setback for RIM; its case rests heavily on preliminary Patent Office rulings that rejected NTP's patent claims. Privately held NTP first filed suit against RIM in 2001, accusing it of infringing on some of its patents. NTP is a Virginia-based patent holding company.



#### **ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA**

London, Nov 3 -- A press report, dated Nov 2, states: Railway officials today launched a probe into Saturday's (Oct 29) train accident in the Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh that claimed 114 lives. R.P. Agarwal, the commissioner for railway safety, is heading the probe but few people turned out to give evidence on the first day of the three-day inquiry at Nalgonda railway station. Agarwal will continue to examine survivors, railway employees and other eyewitnesses tomorrow. The inquiry will then shift to Secunderabad on Saturday. The accident occurred 0420, Oct 29, when the Repalle-Secunderabad Delta Passenger Fast train plunged into a swollen rivulet as it approached a bridge that was washed away by flash floods near Veligondae. The engine and seven coaches derailed and plunged into the water. Some bodies were feared to have been washed away in the rivulet. Over 100 people were injured. Agarwal has invited people with knowledge about the accident to give evidence. Assistant driver Srinivas, who escaped with injuries, is likely to appear before the inquiry. South Central Railway officials said Agarwal would also examine watchman Bondaiah, who was deployed at the bridge but could not prevent the accident as he was also washed away by the floodwaters. Some villagers found Bondaiah 500 meters downstream. Patrol man K. Sankaraiah, who claimed to have checked the track and bridge at 0100 hrs, will appear before the inquiry. The railways initially blamed nature for the disaster and defended its employees in the wake of public criticism. It later held the Andhra Pradesh irrigation department

responsible for the accident. It alleged that the department and local authorities failed to inform railways about the breach of three tanks upstream and the threat of floods in the rivulet. Home Minister K. Jana Reddy and Irrigation Minister P. Lakshmaiah have termed as "absurd" the charge by the railways that state authorities failed to alert them, resulting in the mishap. They claimed the state government had been regularly passing information about the water levels in the tanks and other details to the railways.

**BARDADIH, LATEHER DISTRICT, INDIA**

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least five people have been killed and 16 people injured in a train crash in eastern India. Officials say three coaches of a passenger train were badly damaged after a collision with a freight train. Police say many people are trapped. The accident took place near Bardadih in Latehar district of Jharkhand state. A senior railway official, Samir Toppo, told the BBC the passenger train was packed when it was in collision with a freight train carrying coal. Four coaches of the passenger train and 31 wagons of the freight train have derailed.

London, Nov 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: The rescue operation in Jharkhand's Latehar district continued today even as the toll went up to eight in the accident that occurred after a goods train ramed into a passenger train. "The death toll has gone up to eight. One injured person succumbed to his injuries and one more body was retrieved this morning," J Mahapatra, director general of police (railways), said. He said a complaint had been lodged against the railway officials at Daltonganj. Railway Minister Lalu Prasad yesterday ordered an inquiry into the accident. Senior railway and state government officials are at the site to oversee efforts to clear the blocked track that is likely to be cleared by tonight.

**FORT HOOD, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: A string of flatbed railcars carrying 4th Infantry Division equipment derailed Monday morning (Nov 7) at Fort Hood. At least five flatbed cars left the tracks after striking five locomotives, three of which also derailed. No one was injured, but the railcars, the locomotives and eleven M-1A2 tanks were damaged. The derailment also damaged a rail spur on post. The equipment was being shipped to Iraq as the division prepares for a second tour of duty. The National Transportation Safety Board, Fort Hood's Criminal Investigation Command and Burlington-Northern-Santa Fe are investigating the derailment.

**HOUSTON, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 10 -- A press report, dated Nov 9, states: At least four freight train cars derailed in southwest Houston today, but there were no reported injuries at the scene, officials said. The train, believed to be from the Southern Pacific line, went off the tracks about 1745 near Almeda at Holmes. The freight cars were hauling coal at the time, Houston Fire Department officials said. One of the cars clipped a power pole, causing a line to fall across the track. Utility workers shut off power at the scene, HFD officials said.

**KOKKOLA AREA, FINLAND**

Helsinki, Nov 10 -- A passenger train hit a cattle truck in Finland today, killing two people in the vehicle, the rail service said. No one in the Pendolino train was hurt when it collided with the truck at an unguarded level-crossing near Kokkola, about 480 km north-west of Helsinki, railway spokesman Martti Makinen said. Services on a stretch of the line had been halted while the scene was cleared, but Makinen denied an earlier report that the train had partially derailed. Passengers were transferred to buses and rail services would resume later today, he said. -- Reuters.

**LANCASTER AREA, LANCASHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated Nov 4, states: A train carrying about 100 people was derailed after it hit a landslide caused by heavy rain in Lancashire. Network Rail said it was the 1227 hrs, Transpennine Express travelling from Manchester Airport to Windermere. The front four wheels of the three-car train came off the tracks two miles south of Lancaster today. Lancashire Ambulance Service said no-one was injured in the derailment but train services from Preston to Lancaster were seriously affected. The line was shut between Preston and Lancaster, affecting services also provided by Virgin Trains and Northern Rail. The same line was due to be closed over the weekend for planned engineering works. Passengers were taken off the train to a nearby nursing home before continuing their journeys by coach. The driver is thought to have hit a pile of clay and mud caused by the landslide at Scotforth. Passengers reported feeling "a hell of a shake" before a loud bang as rocks and debris flew from underneath the train. The train then came to a halt and the power went off. A Transpennine Express spokesman said: "The passengers were shaken but fortunately there were no injuries and we are now getting people to their destinations by coach. The train was slowing down to come into Lancaster station when the incident occurred."

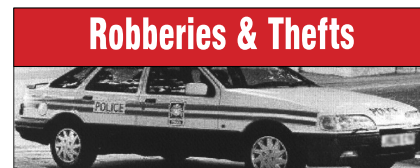
**NEWBERRY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated Nov 7, states: A CSX train

carrying coal from Tennessee to the Columbia area has derailed in Newberry County. No one was injured when 20 of the train's 99 cars left the tracks in Prosperity, said Jane Covington, CSX spokeswoman. It was unclear why the train derailed, blocking three major railroad crossings. The cars sparked a series of small grass and wood fires in Newberry County before leaving the tracks, Prosperity Fire Chief Mark Bowers said. The state Forestry Commission had to plow a path to the train tracks for firefighters to reach the blaze closest to downtown. Bowers said the fires were caused by friction from something on the train.

**SQUAMISH AREA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA**

London, Nov 4 -- A press report, dated Nov 3, states: Another train derailment in British Columbia has critics raising questions about CN Rail's safety measures. Nine freight cars went off the tracks near Squamish, north of Vancouver, early this morning. The cars were empty and there was no environmental damage, but critics say CN's trains are too long and the company is not paying enough attention to safety procedures. There have been a total of three derailments near Squamish in the past few months and all three have involved trains with more than 100 cars. David Chudnovsky, the NDP's transportation critic, wants the government to act to limits train lengths. CN spokesman Jim Feeny says the train involved in today's accident is the same length that always runs the route and it's too soon to draw and conclusions about what caused the derailment. "We have begun our investigation. We will investigate it thoroughly." CN promises to step up its safety inspections and training. It is also placing locomotives in the middle of trains in an effort to provide better stability. Last week, the Transportation Safety Board issued a safety advisory suggesting CN assess the length of trains in the area. But there are no laws or regulations limiting the length of trains.



**CASH, BANK, BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND**

London, Nov 3 -- A press report, dated Nov 2, states: Police made their first arrests in last year's \$47 million bank robbery, one of Europe's largest ever, officials said today. The theft was blamed on the IRA and tarnished its image, despite repeated denials. The arrest of a 30-year-old man in Belfast today came a day after two others were taken into custody in the city of Kilcoo, police said. The IRA-linked Sinn Fein political party protested the

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arrests, claiming they were politically motivated. Member Willie Clarke argued that the men were targeted because they've supported the IRA's cause. The alleged involvement of the IRA in the December robbery was a setback for Sinn Fein, which represents most of the Catholics in the province, in negotiations over a power sharing agreement. A senior police official denied political motivation, saying that officers had acted on tip-offs. "We are where we are in no small part due to the support and information provided openly and anonymously by the community," said acting detective chief superintendent Phil Aiken, who is heading the police investigation. Police declined to identify the men arrested yesterday. Police have said the operation behind the Dec 20 robbery involved months of planning. Gangs with inside knowledge of the Northern Bank's operations held the families of two employees hostage until the bank's main vault was cleared out. Officials have recovered about \$16 million from the heist.

#### ITEMS FROM NATIONAL RAILWAY, ZIMBABWE

London, Nov 4 -- Following received from LaSalle, Quebec, dated Nov 2: The National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) at the weekend lost equipment worth more than \$700 billion to thieves - a record theft in the history of the parastatal. The principal engineer, Mr Philip Chifamba, said that the stolen property included cables, points machines, relays and brass gears. He said the theft was not recorded in Bulawayo only, but was countrywide as NRZ sites in Umuza, Nyamandlovu, and Feruka in Mutare and Selibi near Harare were also affected. Mr Chifamba said "The robbers are targeting aluminium, brass and copper. We need close to US\$10 million to repair what has been damaged. The situation is bad because all the spare parts are quoted in foreign currency." Mr Chifamba said it would take three years for the parastatal to rehabilitate the system even if the funds were available. "Most parts we are using are very old and it is very difficult to replace because they are no longer manufactured locally. It is expensive to get them in countries such as Britain," he said. Senior signal foreman Mr Simon Saimon said it was the first time that the parastatal had recorded vandalism of such magnitude. He said the development was affecting the shunting process, a situation, which could result in accidents. "A person without mechanical background could not have done that. The removal of the brass gears shows that someone with knowledge of the system stole the equipment," he said. NRZ public relations officer Mr Fanuel Masikati said the company would intensify patrols in some remote areas where valuable equipment was installed.

### Miscellaneous



#### AEGEAN SUN (Greece)

Piraeus, Nov 8 -- Ro/ro Aegean Sun is still in Piraeus port under detention. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### CARBON MONOXIDE SPILL, LIAONING, CHINA

London, Nov 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: Six people were confirmed dead and two injured in a carbon monoxide spill at a coal mine in north-east China's Liaoning Province yesterday, the local safety supervision bureau said Friday. The accident occurred late yesterday afternoon at Changsheng Coal Mine in Huazi town of Dengta City. Two repair workers were reported missing at 1800 hrs and six rescuers went down the pit to search for them, but no one showed up again after a long while. Rescuers sent by the local government lifted all the eight people to the ground overnight but three of them were confirmed dead. Three others died later during emergency treatment and the remaining two are hospitalized.

#### COLLAPSE OF BUILDING, ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT

Cairo, Nov 4 -- Eight people were killed in Alexandria today when part of a four-storey building collapsed, the state news agency MENA said. Eight other people were injured and nine were rescued by emergency services using ladders, it added. -- Reuters.

#### CRUSADER (Panama)

See "Drugs Found On Panamanian Vessel at Mosjoen, Norway" under "Miscellaneous".

#### DRUGS FOUND ON PANAMANIAN VESSEL AT MOSJOEN, NORWAY

Trondheim, Nov 3 -- Bulk Crusader (22081 gt, built 1982): According to local press, Norwegian Police confiscated 190 kg of cocaine found on board this vessel yesterday, the largest quantity ever found in Norway. Customs office estimates value at about NK 80 to 90 million. Vessel's crew of 25 has been apprehended but no one has been charged. The vessel regularly carries cargoes of aluminium oxide from Surinam to Elkem Aluminium at Mosjoen. Its current voyage is Surinam for Mosjoen via Trinidad. It was originally scheduled to leave Mosjoen today for France but it is now detained. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Trondheim, Nov 7 -- Bulk Crusader: None of the crew have been charged and the vessel was allowed to sail from Mosjoen this morning at 0820, for Dunkirk, France. From France the vessel will return to Surinam to load another cargo of aluminium oxide for Mosjoen. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### LOCK GATES FAILURE, OHIO RIVER, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 4 -- A press report, dated Nov 3, states: More than 300 barges were backed up on the Ohio River today after the gates on a set of locks failed. River traffic was stopped in both directions at the Hannibal Locks and Dam near New Martinsville, about 90 miles southwest of Pittsburgh. Officials said that they hoped to have the locks partially open by Sunday (Nov 6) night but that full repairs will take several weeks. Officials said the problem happened Tuesday (Nov 1), when a piece of seal tore off the gates as the locks were undergoing maintenance.

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated Nov 4, states: Hundreds of barges were backed up in both directions on the Ohio River yesterday after the gates on a set of locks failed. Traffic on the Ohio River was halted after the primary lock chamber at the Hannibal Locks and Dam near New Martinsville, W.Va., was placed out of service due to the failure of a seal on the lock gates. The auxiliary chamber was previously closed Oct 22 for a 20-day scheduled maintenance, so both chambers at the locks are currently closed to river traffic. "We can't lock anything going either north or south," said David Walters, the facility's lockmaster. With both lock chambers closed, about 26 tows were waiting to pass through the locks yesterday, said Karen Auer, public affairs officer with the Army Corps of Engineers' Pittsburgh office. In order to enable river traffic to continue, maintenance efforts on the valves that control the auxiliary chamber's water levels are being increased. The auxiliary chamber, which is 110 ft by 600 ft, is expected to open about 2300, Sunday (Nov 6) evening, Auer said. Once maintenance on the auxiliary chamber is completed river traffic will continue, but since the auxiliary chamber is only half the size of the primary chamber, some barges will have to undergo double or triple locking. "We will start double locking on Sunday through the small chamber. It will accommodate the barges, but when they are in the small chamber they have to break the tow and be helped through the locks. It just takes twice as long," said Jim Fregiato, a shift leader at the Hannibal Locks and Dam. Repair work to the failed lock gates on the primary chamber is expected to be completed sometime around Nov 16. "Right now we're really focusing on getting the repairs to the small chamber completed as quickly as possible," Auer said. "Getting traffic moving is our first priority at this point."

#### NORWAY FLAGGED VESSEL BLOCKADED OFF FINLAND

Helsinki, Nov 7 -- Environment activists blockaded a vessel loading a cargo of paper in Finland today to protest the logging of ancient forests in Lapland. Greenpeace International campaigners scaled the anchor chains and ropes on the side of the vessel and positioned small boats around the vessel to prevent it leaving the mill in

northwest Finland. "It's a crime that thousand-year-old ancient forests end up as glossy magazines on coffee tables across Europe," activist Matti Liimatainen said. Ro/ro Antares (19963 gt, built 1988) was docked at the Veitsiluoto mill at Kemi, about 56 miles from the Arctic Circle, loading paper for Finnish-Swedish Stora Enso, the world's largest paper and board maker. "Stora Enso should stop buying wood from the Finnish state from areas which are of crucial importance for the reindeer-herding livelihood up in northern Finland and from areas which are ecologically valuable old-growth forests," Liimatainen told Reuters by telephone from the protest. Green activists say the forests are an irreplaceable heritage and indigenous Sami reindeer-herders argue they are essential for the survival of their traditional way of life. But Finland's state logging firm, Metsahallitus, which sells timber to local sawmills and paper firms like Stora Enso, maintains that existing protection for state-owned forests is sufficient. The vessel's owner, Finnlines, said it called the police after small craft blockaded the vessel, which was loading and scheduled to leave for Germany, Stora's single biggest market, later today. "We also received a written notice that there are buoys beneath the water surface to prevent the ship's navigation," said Antti Lagerros, chief executive of Finnlines. Activists had been hanging from ropes and the anchor chain and one had got aboard but left when asked to by the vessel's captain, Lagerros said. Police were monitoring the situation. Stora Enso said it believed both forestry and reindeer-herding should be maintained in northern Finland and was convinced that production from the region was sustainable. "We feel that the ecological value of old-growth forests is already secured, because the protection rate is already so high," said Stora Enso's Susanna Rissanen. The paper company would continue to buy wood from the state logging firm, she added. -- Reuters. (Note -- Antares arrived Kemi Nov 5 from Lubeck.)

London, Nov 10 -- Ro/ro Antares arrived Oulu Nov 7 and Nov 8 for Lubeck.

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

Bangkok, Nov 2 -- The illegal movement of infected poultry, especially fighting cocks and ducks, has helped spread the bird flu virus to seven provinces in Thailand, officials said today. In the latest outbreak of the H5N1 virus, which has killed 13 Thais, laboratory results confirmed it in chickens and pigeons in the central province of Ang Thong, the Department of Livestock Department said on its Website. Tests from 40 other provinces where poultry were reported to have died in suspicious circumstances were under way, but Livestock Department chief Yukol Limlaemthong said that was not a figure that should cause concern. Such deaths were normal at this time of year, with the rainy season ending and

the cooler, dry season beginning, he said. Six of the seven infected provinces were clustered in central Thailand, with the other, Kalasin, in the north-east where fighting cocks might have caught the deadly disease from those in the infected central region, livestock officials said. "Kalasin, which had outbreaks last year from fighting cocks, is very far from the infected central region," Yukol said. Despite a monitoring system involving one million volunteers who educate farmers and villagers with backyard flocks about the virus and alert officials in cases of suspicious deaths, illegal movements were hard to stop, he said. "No matter how strict the measures to control the movement will be, these birds can be easily concealed. Just keep him in a shoulder bag and officials will never find him," Yukol said of fighting cocks which can sell for 100,000 baht. So far, however, the new outbreaks are many fewer than at the same time last year, when 44 of Thailand's 76 provinces had reported fresh outbreaks. The government has imposed strict measures to try to curb the spread of bird flu, including restricting movements of fighting cocks and eliminating a traditional way of raising ducks by moving large flocks around. Fighting cocks and ducks were more resilient to the virus than farmed chickens and could pass on the disease without showing symptoms, Yukol said. The government had set a March, 2005, deadline for halting the large-scale movement of 3,700 flocks of ducks that owners moved around to new feeding grounds, but extended it to December after owners protested and might extend it again, officials said. Yukol said rural livestock officials faced tough battles to restrict movements of fighting cocks, or even culling them, as many are owned by influential local figures. He estimated there were around one million fighting cocks in Thailand, 300,000 of them involved in fights regularly, but only 40,000 had been registered and issued with a "passport", which must be shown to officials when they were being moved. Owners often hide their prize fighters as the government pays only 75% of the market rate for ordinary chickens culled no matter what their attributes and nothing if they did not report suspicious deaths. Yukol said that would not change. The H5N1 virus has killed 62 people and infected 122 in four Asian countries since the virus resurfaced in Asia in late 2003. -- Reuters.

London, Nov 4 -- A press report, dated Nov 3, states: China reported its fourth bird flu outbreak in three weeks today, saying the virus killed nearly 9,000 chickens in a northeastern village, prompting authorities to destroy 369,900 other birds. The outbreak occurred on October 26 in Badaohao, a village in Liaoning province, east of Beijing, the Agriculture Ministry said in a report posted late today on the Web site of the Paris-based World Organization for Animal Health. The report came

despite Chinese government efforts to tighten controls on the country's vast poultry flocks and vaccinate millions of birds. Authorities also found 20 dead magpies and other wild birds, said the report by the ministry's Veterinary Bureau. Local veterinarians initially suspected Newcastle disease, another poultry infection, but laboratory tests showed it was the H5 strain of bird flu on November 1, the report said. The H5 strain is not the same type that has proven deadly to humans. It said officials quarantined the area and ordered the vaccination of 13.9 million poultry in Liaoning. The Chinese government this week ordered authorities throughout the country to step up disease monitoring and announced the creation of a \$250 million fund to finance anti-bird flu work.

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated Nov 4, states: Japan's Ibaraki Prefecture said today signs of avian flu were detected at a chicken farm in a second test and ordered a cull of around 180,000 birds there. The Ibaraki government said an antibody test showed 80 sample chickens had all been exposed to the H5 strain of avian flu virus at the Aikeien farm in the town of Ibaraki. No active virus was found, the government said.

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Indonesia today confirmed its fifth death from bird flu after tests by the World Health Organisation (WHO), a hospital spokesman said. Ilham Patu, a spokesman for the Sulianti Saroso hospital for infectious diseases, confirmed the death as well as another case about which he could not reveal any details. Both were confirmed by the WHO, Patu said. He said one of the two new confirmed cases was a woman, Ina Solati, 19, who died at a hospital in suburban Tangerang on October 28. Solati was the mother of a young girl. "The second case is still confidential and I cannot divulge anything yet," he said, also declining to say whether the person had died or was still alive. Before the two new cases, at least four other people had died of avian influenza in Indonesia. Three others have been confirmed as infected but have either recovered or are still being treated. Doctors at Patu's hospital were also treating as a suspected case of bird flu a nurse who had cared for the latest victim, Solati. The nurse was admitted to hospital yesterday with symptoms of bird flu. Solati's daughter and two nephews were also admitted to Sulianti Saroso hospital showing the same symptoms. Patu said the victims were all in close contact with chickens and doves kept as backyard animals at their houses, but said the conditions of the three young children - aged between five months and eight years - have since improved. He said they appeared not to have contracted the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of avian influenza. "But we cannot yet say whether they are infected or not until the results of the tests in Hong Kong,"

Patu said. Indonesia's latest death comes ahead of the biggest international meeting on the bird flu crisis, which opens on Monday (Nov 7) in Geneva. The three-day gathering is the first of the World Bank and of the three agencies coordinating the global response to avian influenza - the WHO, Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). National representatives, especially from the flu-stricken countries of Asia, will also attend. About seven million birds have been culled in Indonesia as a precaution against the virus' spread, but the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation has expressed concern at a lack of awareness in rural communities about the threat posed by the virus.

London, Nov 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: China has reported two more outbreaks of the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu in its poultry, amid fears of a spike in the disease as winter approaches. The new cases were detected in Fuxin and Jinzhou in the north-eastern province of Liaoning. There have now been six bird flu outbreaks in China in the past month. No human infection has been confirmed in China, but the WHO will this weekend test samples from three Chinese people suspected of having the disease. On Tuesday (Nov 8), Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said the country faced a "very serious situation" and urged areas with a large number of poultry to draft emergency plans. About 1,100 chickens have died in the latest outbreaks in Liaoning, which happened on family farms. Authorities have so far culled 170,000 poultry in and around Chaoyangsi village in Fuxin, and 500,000 poultry in Jinzhou's Daling village, according to Xinhua news agency. One hundred and sixteen people have been put under quarantine.

#### **SUPERFERRY 2 (Phillipines)**

Manila, Nov 7 -- Bomb making materials were seized on board passenger ro/ro Superferry 2 yesterday, the Philippine Coast Guard reported. Philippine Coast Guard personnel assigned as "sea marshalls" on her arrested two men while the vessel was traveling from Cebu to Dumaguete city in southern Philippines. The two men were detained for entering the ship's cargo hold, an area off limits to passengers. A search of the men's belongings yielded an undetermined amount of ammonium nitrate, normally used as fertiliser, but also a key ingredient of explosives. Also found were four cans of phosphine gas, a highly flammable and poisonous substance used for fumigation and a can of rusty nails. She docked at Dumaguete port yesterday evening and the two men were turned over to local police for further investigation. The vessel then proceeded to Dipolog port. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Nov 9 -- Two men arrested on board passenger ro/ro Superferry 2 on

Sunday (Nov 6) were charged with illegal possession of explosives, the Philippine Coast Guard said. The two men were found to be in the possession of aluminum phosphide, a highly flammable and toxic substance. The charges were filed before the regional trial court of Dumaguete City. In a related development, authorities on Monday also found in a container in Dipolog City another two pouches of aluminum phosphide, the same substance found in the possession of the two brothers. Police were investigating if the two incidents were related. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **ROCKSLIDE, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES**

Seattle, Nov 7 -- The main Washington State east/west arterial highway, Interstate 90, is closed due to a major rock slide. Re-opening time is presently uncertain. Alternate routes are at higher elevations through mountain passes. This could affect the movement of interstate/intrastate freight and other transportation. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Seattle, Nov 8 -- A temporary re-opening of Interstate 90 has been effected as of Nov 8, with one lane in each direction being opened to traffic. The Department of Transportation is preparing a rock-retaining wall on the eastbound side of Snoqualmie Pass due to the danger of rockslides in this area. Truck routes have now returned to the main Interstate but warnings of delays and closures are being broadcast by State Agencies. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **VIARSA I (Panama)**

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Federal Government says it is getting legal advice on whether to appeal against a court decision which has seen five fishermen found not guilty of stealing almost 100 tonnes of Patagonian toothfish from Australian waters. A Perth District Court jury acquitted the foreign crew of fishing Viarsa I late last night after deliberating for three days. It was the second time the men had faced trial, with the original jury unable to reach a verdict. In a written statement, Federal Fisheries Minister Ian Macdonald says he is amazed at the decision. He says he does not regret committing resources to chasing the vessel for 21 days across the Southern Ocean two years ago. The vessel's Uruguayan owners will now launch a Federal Court battle to retrieve the \$4 million vessel, although they will not be able to make a claim for compensation.

London, Nov 8 -- A press report, dated Nov 7, states: The Federal Government should hand back the impounded Uruguayan fishing vessel Viarsa I after its captain and crew were found not guilty of illegal fishing, the captain's lawyer says. A District Court jury in Perth has acquitted the five men from Uruguay, Spain and Chile of illegal fishing charges brought against them more than two years ago. The men were arrested after a three-

week, 7000km chase across the treacherous Southern Ocean in August 2003 that concluded when armed South African Fisheries officers and security guards boarded the Viarsa. The jury at the men's first trial failed to reach a verdict last December, and late on Friday (Nov 4), the second trial concluded with not guilty verdicts against the captain and crew. The chase and first prosecution cost the Federal Government at least \$4.5 million, according to information tabled in the Senate in August.

## **Fires & Explosions**



#### **BARN AND THOROUGHBREDS, ELKTON, MARYLAND, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated Nov 4, states: Fire Marshal deputies say the fire that killed 24 horses in a barn on Tuesday (Nov 1), began near a feed-storage section. But Deputy State Fire Marshal W. Faron Taylor says investigators still don't know what caused of the fire that started around 1840 hrs at the state-owned Fair Hill Natural Resources Area. The stable at the Fair Hill Training Center was owned by Bruce Jackson and his partner, Buddy Jones. Losses are estimated at \$1.9 million for the horses and the building. The barn was not equipped with a fire alarm or detection equipment, but was not required to be. Only four horses were saved.

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

London, Nov 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thirteen people were killed and three others were missing in a coal mine blast early today in Qingxu county of north China's Shanxi province, according to state media. There were 25 miners in the mine when the accident occurred and nine of them managed to escape, Gong Anku, director of the provincial coal mine safety supervision bureau, was quoted by Xinhua news agency as saying. He said the Taiping colliery, with annual production capability of 60,000 tons, has a complete set of official licenses and safety production certificates. Investigations are under way.

#### **COAL MINE, XINJIANG UYGUR REGION, CHINA**

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated Nov 8, states: At least 11 miners were killed, 14 injured and three others missing when explosives stored in a room near a coal mine exploded early today in China's westernmost Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the state media reported. Rescuers have found 11 bodies and are searching for the three missing persons in the debris of Beitashan Coal Mine, 400 kilometres northeast of

the capital city of Urumqi. There might be faint hope for the survival of the three, Xinhua news agency reported. The tragedy occurred when some 500 kg of dynamite stored in a room near the mine went off, according to the rescue headquarters stationed in the Qitai County, over 200 km south of the site. Local officials have rushed to the mine. An investigation into the causes of the explosion is underway.

#### **FACTORY, CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH**

Karachi, Nov 9 -- A huge fire broke out in a privately owned warehouse of M/s Saad Musa textile and garment factory at Kulgaon in Chittagong Port City of Bangladesh on Monday night (Nov 7). According to fire brigade source, fire that started at the warehouse on the first floor of the five-storey building at around midnight gutted all the fabrics and finished products stored there before the fire fighters could bring it under control yesterday morning. Over 100 fire service men with the help of ten fire-fighting vehicles of different fire stations equipped with nine additional pump machines worked to extinguish the fire. Due to the blaze, cracks developed in the second floor where the Home Textiles of the same group is situated, and the products kept there were also damaged. The cause of fire and extent of loss are yet to be ascertained but it would be in millions of taka. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **FACTORY, PRESTON, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fire has forced the evacuation of 70 people from a textile factory in the Melbourne suburb of Preston. The blaze broke out around 0830, AEDT. Police have closed Wraglan and Dundas streets and are diverting traffic around the scene. There are no reported injuries.

#### **MARINA, GLEN COVE, LONG ISLAND, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 8 -- A press report, dated Nov 7, states: A fire damaged at least four boats at a 340-slip marina on the north shore of Long Island today. There were no immediate reports of injuries. The fire at the Jude Thaddeus Glen Cove Marina originated on board the sport boat Noteworthy, a 45-foot Betram sport boat, and spread to several other crafts at around 1230 hrs, said marina owner Joe Weiser. "The fire was so intense that his ropes burned through," Weiser said of the Noteworthy, and spread to the Sales Meeting, which burned and sank. Noteworthy then drifted "to the next dock, where two or three boats were destroyed," said Weiser. The other damaged boats had not yet been hauled out of the water because of the unseasonably warm weather. The Glen Cove fire department and Nassau Marine Bureau responded to the scene, as did the mayor, Mary Ann Holzkamp.

London, Nov 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A burning boat (Noteworthy) drifted into others docked at the Jude Thaddeus Glen Cove Marina yesterday afternoon, causing a fiery chain reaction that destroyed one vessel and sank another (Sales Meeting, fire officials said. No one was injured. The blaze is under investigation by the Nassau fire marshal's office, which hadn't determined the cause yesterday. At least two boats were destroyed and five others had fire damage, said Glen Cove First Assistant Fire Chief Vincent Martinez. Fire officials estimated that at least a dozen boats were affected. Some boats were moved to prevent the fire from spreading, including two tied to the dock of Steamboat Landing Restaurant and Bar. Both vessels were covered with soot and ash, and the protective cover of another was burned. Dozens of firefighters battled the blaze. Boats with hoses also helped contain the flames. Extinguishing the fire was difficult because of the swirling winds and a propane tank that exploded on one of the boats, Martinez said.

#### **POWER STATION, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA**

London, Nov 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Latrobe Valley Country Fire Authority brigades in eastern Victoria are fighting a fire in the stage-two bunker house at the Yallourn-W power station. The fire started in the shuttle and crane system used to transport coal. Firefighters from Morwell, Traralgon and Moe are using breathing apparatus to access the building. Other crews from Morwell and Yallourn North are also at the scene.

#### **PREMISES, BAYSWATER NORTH, MELBOURNE AREA, AUSTRALIA**

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Bayswater North residents are being urged to remain indoors to avoid inhaling thick black smoke billowing from a fire at the Kilsyth Club in Canterbury Road. The blaze broke out just after 0700, AEDT. George Ellis from the Country Fire Authority says fire crews are struggling to contain the blaze. "Still a large volume of smoke being put up and drifting to the south-east and they've asked that people within the vicinity, particularly the south-east, remain in doors so they avoid breathing in the smoke," he said.

#### **PREMISES, JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA**

Karachi, Nov 10 -- A huge fire broke out in a privately owned warehouse for car accessories and three adjoining buildings in the eastern Muntazahaat area of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on Tuesday (Nov 8), causing damage estimated at SR4 million (over \$1 million). According to local media reports, Civil Defence Authorities were alerted at around 1000 and immediately rushed to the scene. The seven firefighting teams took around three hours to contain the blaze and

prevent it from reaching the other two warehouses. They took another four hours to extinguish the fire, with additional support teams pitching in. It is said the car accessories stored in the warehouses were highly inflammable and that probably contributed to quick conflagration. Civil Defence authorities are investigating cause of fire. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **PREMISES, KARACHI, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Nov 7 -- Understand from central fire brigade sources, this morning two-fire accidents were reported in Karachi port city of Sindh Province of Pakistan. First fire broke out in fifth floor of Panorama building, which housed numbers of offices and storerooms, at main Saddar, Karachi. Actual loss of properties and goods and reason of fire is yet to be ascertained. Nine fire vehicles of different fire stations of city dozed the fire around 1250, local time. Another fire broke out this morning at godown of imported/local tyre at Lemarket. The seven fire fighter vehicles are still busy to control fire. Initial report says hundred of thousands of tyres were burnt to ashes. The while area is engulfed into thick black smoke making fire-fighting operation a difficult one. Cause and extent of damages are to be investigated. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **REFINERY, CARDON, VENEZUELA**

London, Nov 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire erupted at an oil refinery in Venezuela yesterday, injuring 16 people, according to state-owned oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA (PDVSA). A spokesman for PDVSA told state news agency ABN the fire broke out in the morning and affected the alkylation unit of the Punta Cardon refinery. The oil company offered no further details about the fire but local media said that a gas leak had ignited at the Punta Cardon refinery, which processes 767,000 barrels of crude oil a day.

London, Nov 8 -- A press report, dated Nov 7, states: A fire broke out today in the Cardon oil refinery in the state of Falcon, north-western Venezuela, causing 15 injuries, the country's government-run Bolivarian News Agency reported. The preliminary result of investigation reveals that the fire was caused by the gasoline leak ignited by a spark from the nearby ventilation plant, said a local police officer. All the injured were sent to the hospital immediately, two of whom suffered three-degree burns with 80% of their bodies burnt, the police officer added.

#### **REFINERY, ZAMBIA**

Lusaka, Nov 9 -- Zambia's sole Indeni Oil Refinery has suspended petrol-refining operations after a fire, Managing Director Luis Urbano said, in a move that will put further pressure on the country's lifeblood copper mining. "There was a product that fell into the furnace and caused

an explosion. As a result of this we've suspended fuel refining," Urbano told reporters at the refinery near the copperbelt city of Ndola. He gave no further details. The Indeni Oil Refinery produces more than 350,000 litres of petrol per day -- enough to meet Zambia's daily consumption. It also produces more than 1 million litres of diesel fuel, although this had not been affected, the refinery said. The closure led to severe fuel shortages that forced Nkana copper smelter, owned by a unit of Vedanta Resources and Mufulira smelter - owned by a unit of Canada's First Quantum Minerals and Swiss firm Glencore International, to drastically scale down production. -- Reuters.

London, Nov 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire has wrecked Zambia's only oil refinery only a month after it reopened following a five-week shutdown, forcing a renewed suspension of production, an official said today. The fire swept through one of the production units and destroyed the furnace at the Indeni Oil Refinery Company on Tuesday (Nov 8) night, said provincial minister George Mpombo. "The company is still investigating the cause of the fire and the impact it has caused on the machinery," Mpombo said after visiting the plant. He said a worker at the plant had been admitted to hospital with serious burns.

#### **REVENUE BUILDING, KABUL, AFGHANISTAN**

London, Nov 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A big fire, at about 1800 hrs, last night, in Afghan capital of Kabul, destroyed most of the two-floor building of the Revenue Department, but left no injuries, a local official said. The keepers of the nearby clothes shops hurried to take all the goods out of the shops, in order to prevent from the further destruction by the fire. Afghan firefighters and police arrived soon after the breaking of the fire, and firefighters from ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) also came. The cause of the fire is still unclear, but probably because of the electric shortage. The property loss will be big, especially some official documents will be lost, the police chief added. The fire is still alight, but the sudden small rain will probably help the work of killing the fire.

#### **SUPERMARKET, KAIKOHE, NEW ZEALAND**

London, Nov 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A New World supermarket in the Far North town of Kaikohe has been completely destroyed by fire. The blaze started mid-morning today and it took until well after midday for firefighters to bring it under control. The fire has been described as a major blow for the small Northland town. A spokesman for Foodstuffs says it appears the blaze may have started following an electrical fault. Graeme Fabian says the heat from the fire destroyed metal

beams and the roof collapsed. He says at least 40 people worked in the supermarket and no one was injured. The fire appears to have started in a store room. Colin Kitchen of the Fire Service says staff were evacuated, but the fire was a fierce one and the building is destroyed. Firefighters are using foam to put out the last of the blaze. It's not exactly known yet how the fire started.

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: New World employees in Kaikohe have lost their jobs after a major fire. But management says a new supermarket will be built and the 70 staff will be able to re-apply for their old positions. Smoke billowed from the New World store yesterday morning as firefighters from all over Northland battled the blaze. Firefighters say the fire was intense and they could not stop it spreading. Colin Kitchen from the Northland Volunteer Fire Service says the building, which is now just a blackened shell, did not have a sprinkler system. He says that would have made a big difference in stopping the fire from taking hold. Foodstuffs New Zealand says the remains of the building must be torn down before work can begin on the new supermarket. The staff hope to find out today if the supermarket's insurers will cover their wages.

#### **WILDFIRE, AUSTRALIA**

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire burning in Western Australia's Karijini National Park has now covered more than 100 square kilometres as firefighters battle to keep it contained. The fire at Dales Gorge is one of four in the area, but is the only one accessible to firefighters at this stage. Firefighters are having to contend with strong winds and hot weather as they fight to contain the blaze. The Fire and Emergency Services Authority's regional manager in the Pilbara, Peter Cann, is concerned about motorists in the area and says that smoke and firefighting equipment are making driving conditions hazardous. He says the fire rating in the area today is extreme and the conditions are difficult.

#### **WILDFIRES, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Nov 4 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Damage caused by the fires that razed the Eastern Cape region is expected to run into millions of rand. People returned to their homes, farms and businesses today and began picking up the pieces of what the fire left behind. The fires, that raged from the Tsistikamma in the west of the province to the Kleinemonde/Fishriver Mouth area in the east, were all brought under control last night. Firefighters in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro areas are busy with containment and damping down operations and the worst seems to be over. They are keeping their fingers crossed that the gale force winds, which fanned the fires yesterday and died down during the

night, will not spring up again. On standby Members of the national defence force and two airforce helicopters are on standby to assist, should the fires flare up again. At this stage, it seems unlikely that they will be called up. All 16 fires in the metro area have been brought under control.

London, Nov 10 -- A press report, dated Nov 9, states: The R44 coastal road between Kleinmond and Gordon's Bay in Caledon, Western Cape has been closed to traffic due to a massive veld fire that broke out at Pringle Bay this morning. Fire department chief Riaan Jacobs said today that fire fighters were battling one of the fires that was now close to houses in the Overstrand Municipality. "The problem is the strong south easterly winds which are travelling at 40km/h. We are doing everything we can to make sure that the fire does not reach the houses." Jacobs could not tell how widespread the fire was but it was "big" and covered most of the mountainous area. By mid-afternoon, it was still not clear how long it would take to extinguish the blaze.

London, Nov 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: A runaway veldfire fanned by 70km/h winds swept through tinder dry fynbos in the Overstrand yesterday, gutting two houses in Rooi Els and damaging several others. Late last night, as firefighters from various municipalities fought the blaze without helicopter support, the flames were spreading into the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve. Last night Rooi Els was without power. The fire was reported to the Overstrand Municipality at 0725 hrs. It started near the Glen Craig campsite on the R44 near Pringle Bay. At 1000 yesterday Overstrand fire chief Rian Jacobs was still confident that the fire would not threaten any properties, but said it was in a "hard-to-reach spot." But with 70km/h winds fanning the three-metre-high flames, the blaze was soon out of control. By 1400 hrs firefighters had failed to create an effective back-burn due to faulty equipment. By 1600 hrs the flames had reached Rooi Els and burnt down the timber house on the hillside. The other house completely destroyed was on the banks of the Rooi Els river in a ravine. At least two houses were badly damaged.

#### **WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: A wildfire fanned by hurricane-force winds in central Colorado forced the temporary evacuation of 200 families. The seven-acre fire was likely started by sparks from wind-whipped power lines, authorities said. The blaze near Conifer, 25 miles south-west of Denver, was contained early today. No houses were damaged and residents were allowed to return home. Winds up to 84 mph overturned tractor trailers, blew out windows and knocked over trees. Colorado Springs Utilities said large portions of the city were without power.



**5N-BFN**

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated Nov 4, states: Management of Bellview Airlines pledged, yesterday, to pay the families of all passengers on board its crashed aircraft (Boeing 737-2L9 5N-BFN) insurance compensations whether their names were on the manifest or not. Besides, it plans to sink two boreholes for the people of Lisa Village where the aircraft crashed. The borehole drilling commences today. The airline's Managing Director, Mr. Kayode Odukoya, told reporters in Lagos that initial payment of \$10,000 compensation per passenger in the crashed flight 210 would begin on Tuesday. Each passenger is entitled to \$100,000 compensation. According to him, the balance of \$90,000 will be paid after all the necessary assessments by the insurance company, the Lloyd's of London. "All passengers, whether their names are on the manifest or not, will be compensated. The kind of insurance cover we have can take care of all these. All the families need to do is to show a photo ID card to ensure it corresponds with the names on the manifest. We will be doing this with support from Lloyd's. We will meet all our obligations as far as insurance is concerned," Odukoya said. He said Bellview had also brought into the country 14 emergency experts from Blake Emergency Services of the United Kingdom to counsel bereaved families assist in the recovery of remains of the passengers, including DNA checks where possible and offering of further assistance and updates to victims' families who have provided their contacts. On the provision of water to the Lisa community against the backdrop of contamination of their source of water as a result of the crash, the Bellview boss said the airline was taking a practical step to assist the community. Odukoya dismissed insinuations that the location beacon in the crashed aircraft was outdated, adding there was no such thing as outdated beacon. According to him, "the beacon we had on that aircraft is valid as in other several aircraft in different parts of the world."

**9N-AHM**

London, Nov 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft of the Yeti Airlines, 9N AHM, that took off from Kathmandu for Pokhara at 1220, yesterday with 21 passengers and three crew members on board returned to Kathmandu after one of its main wheels on the left came off and dropped to the ground. The aircraft was made to land safely at Kathmandu, Tribhuvan International

Airport Civil Aviation Authority, Nepal Office, said. Before the landing, the aircraft was made to fly low over the tower at a low altitude to determine which of its wheels had dropped off, after which it was landed. The Civil Aviation Authority Office immediately initiated an inquiry into the incident.

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

London, Nov 10 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Boeing 747 was forced to return to Bradley International Airport this morning after striking one or more birds, an airport spokesman said. Delta Flight 1718, with 104 passengers and crew, was bound for Cincinnati. It had just taken off at 0940 hrs when the incident occurred. Delta crews were checking the aircraft. A Northwest Pinnacle flight was forced to return to the gate for the same reason last month. Airport spokesman John Wallace called today's mishap a "non incident."

**AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO CALGARY AIRPORT, CANADA**

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Dozens of air passengers touched down at the Ottawa Airport last night with a story to tell. They left Calgary in an Air Canada Airbus A319 yesterday evening but their aircraft had to return to the airport just minutes later. People all across Calgary reported a loud boom and seeing a ball of fire shooting behind the aircraft as it returned to the airport. The airline says the pilot quickly turned the aircraft around and landed the aircraft safely. A spokesman says a bird was sucked into the engine just before the fireball was reported but the engine did not fully catch fire. None of the 99 people aboard were hurt. The passengers were allowed to board another Air Canada flight bound for Ottawa later in the evening.

**C-GHFT**

London, Nov 8 -- Boeing BV-107 II C-GHFT, operated by Helifor Industries Ltd, crashed near Bella Bella, British Columbia, at 1345, PST, Nov 3. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

**COLLISION, POHATCONG AREA, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: New Jersey State police this afternoon confirmed one death from a collision of two small planes in northwestern New Jersey. State and local authorities in Pohatcong Township during the afternoon were still examining the wreckage of one of the planes located in woods there, where a body has already been found. The pilot of the other plane was safe after an emergency landing in an industrial complex in nearby Alpha, according to state police Sgt. Stephen Jones said.

The two planes collided at about 1140 hrs. Jones said the cause had not been determined. State police had notified the state Division of Aeronautics, according to Jones, who said the state agency would decide whether federal authorities are needed in the investigation.

**CRASH INTO SEA OFF RONNEBY, SWEDEN**

Gothenburg, Nov 8 -- An attempt to salvage a helicopter that crashed last week outside Ronneby, south-east Sweden, commenced this morning around 0600, where divers managed to get a wire around stern part, as also the "black box" containing vital information of what actually happened in same part of the helicopter. All depends upon the weather conditions and sea/swell. The eight persons on board were all saved and well, however, it is the third time a Super Puma has been involved in a serious accident, and the State Average Commission will investigate this matter. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

**CRASH, ANKENY AIRPORT, UNITED STATES**

See N27177.

**CRASH, BARCELONA AREA, SPAIN**

See EC-EME.

**CRASH, GEORGE AIRPORT, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated Nov 4, states: Mossel Bay Helicopters' owner and game farmer Kobus Crous walked away without a scratch after his helicopter ran out of fuel and had to crash-land at George Airport. Crous had played a big role fighting fires in the area this week. Rain and hard work in searing heat finally brought the sweeping bush fires under control in the Southern and Eastern Cape. Crous said today: "The helicopter can be repaired fortunately. I was about 100 m above the ground and I knew I was low on fuel, but the gauges showed I had about five gallons left. It should have been sufficient. But then it ran out while I was coming in to land at the fuel bowser on the north-western side of the main apron. I auto-rotated down, hoping to get a good landing, but unfortunately, the tail hit the ground and sheared off. The insurance assessor has been here already and a new tail can be put on. The cabin and the rest of the chopper is completely intact. Not even a window popped."

**CRASH, GREENVILLE COUNTY, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two men walked away from their small aircraft after it crashed in some woods in northern Greenville County yesterday evening, authorities said. Emergency officials received a call around 1905 hrs saying that a small aircraft crashed near state Highway 11 behind Hopewell Baptist Church, sheriff's office

spokesman Master Deputy Mike Hildebrand said. The pilot and passenger had walked from their wrecked aircraft to where the emergency call was made. They were taken to the hospital as a precaution, Hildebrand said. Deputies and workers started to look for the aircraft from the air and on the ground about a mile or two from Highway 11. They planned to stay out all night to find the wreckage, Hildebrand said. The aircraft did not catch fire when it crashed, authorities said.

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

London, Nov 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: A student pilot and his instructor were killed yesterday when their small aircraft crashed in a wooded area about 300 yards from Leesburg Executive Airport, a Virginia State Police official said. Peter C. Jesinsky and his instructor, Craig M. Schulz, flew from Leesburg to Winchester, Va., early yesterday, then crashed about 0930 hrs on the return trip, police said. Sgt. Terry Lickliger, a state police spokesman, said Jesinsky was operating the aircraft when it went down, but officials with the National Transportation Safety Board would not confirm details of the crash. "The investigation is in very preliminary stages," said Brian C. Rayner, an NTSB air safety investigator and spokesman. A preliminary report will be completed within 10 days, but it could be a year before the board makes a final determination, he said. The aircraft, a single-engine Piper Warrior PA28-161, was operated out of Av-Ed Flight School Inc., based at the Leesburg airport.

#### **CRASH, MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A small aircraft with only the pilot on board crashed into a Wal-Mart today. The pilot was hurt but able to walk away from the crash, and there were no reports of injuries on the ground. The twin-engine Embraer had just taken off from Manchester Airport, about one mile from the store, when it hit the Wal-Mart garden centre at 0720 hrs, said Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Arlene Murray. The aircraft, carrying cargo for United Parcel Service, was bound for Bangor, officials said.

#### **CRASH, ST-HONORE-DE-SHENLEY, QUEBEC AREA, CANADA**

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated Nov 8, states: A farmer found the burned remains of a small aircraft south of Quebec City today, ending a search that began on the weekend (Nov 5-6). The Cessna was discovered near the small community of St-Honore-de-Shenley in the Beauce region. Police said all three people on board, a pilot and two provincial

conservation officers on a surveillance mission, were dead. The aircraft disappeared late Saturday in foggy weather south of Quebec City. The last time the pilot radioed the control centre was to say he had hit bad weather. "The visibility was not good. The weather was not good. And after that we didn't have any answer from that aircraft," said Ann Mathieu, who speaks for the Quebec provincial police. The Canadian Armed Forces helped in the search, sending aircraft from CFB Trenton to the area.

#### **EC-EME**

London, Nov 10 -- Cessna 172N EC-EME was destroyed when it struck a construction crane after departure from Sabadell Airport, Barcelona, at 1630, UTC, Oct 24. The pilot and three passengers were killed.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated Nov 4, states: Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt's chartered aircraft developed landing gear problems today, forcing it to abort a scheduled landing at the Kirksville municipal airport. The aircraft was diverted instead to Columbia, Mo., where it landed safely, Blunt's staff said in a statement. "The pilots noticed an indicator showing that the left landing gear was not down and locked as it should have been before a scheduled landing in Kirksville," said spokesman Spence Jackson. Later, Jackson said that the initial investigation indicated the landing gear was working properly and that the problem was the indicator.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, INDIRA GANDHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, INDIA**

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Gulf Air aircraft with over 100 people onboard, made an emergency landing at the Indira Gandhi International airport today following engine failure. The aircraft which landed safely at around 0935 hrs, had made an SOS call to the air traffic control room after which full emergency was declared, police sources said adding that fire tenders and ambulances kept in a state of readiness to meet any eventuality. However the aircraft made a safe landing.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, KAIKOURA, NEW ZEALAND**

London, Nov 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A light aircraft made a successful emergency landing at New Zealand Kaikoura airport today. The aircraft reported difficulties and loss of power to authorities at around 1630 hrs, said the police. The aircraft, believed to be a Piper Cherokee, landed safely just before 1700 hrs. It suffered damage to its nose-cone but no-one on board was hurt, said the police.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, OSAKA AIRPORT, JAPAN**

London, Nov 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Japan Airlines (JAL) Boeing 777-200 made an emergency landing at Osaka Airport yesterday afternoon after one of its two engines developed trouble, airline officials said. At around 1618 hrs, a meter in the cockpit of a JAL Boeing 777-200 indicated that the hydraulic pressure in its port engine had declined and that its temperature was too low while it was flying over the Pacific Ocean about 37 kilometres southwest of Cape Ashizuri in Kochi Prefecture, the officials said. The pilot of the plane immediately shut down the troubled engine and made an emergency landing at Osaka Airport at Itami at 1657 hrs. None of the 181 passengers or crewmembers was injured. Most of the passengers of Flight 1870 bound for Tokyo's Haneda Airport from Kagoshima changed to other Tokyo-bound flights. JAL mechanics are examining the aircraft to determine the cause of the trouble.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, STEWART INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 9 -- A FedEx cargo aircraft made an emergency landing yesterday morning at Stewart International Airport after the pilot reported fumes in the cockpit. Airport ground crews had to scramble to clear the long runway of construction material and equipment for the landing. The Boeing 727 needed the longer of Stewart's two runways because of its size and weight. That runway was closed for rehabilitation of the lighting system that guides pilots. Airport spokeswoman Tanya Vanasse said workers cleared the airstrip in six minutes, which was quite a feat. The problem aboard the craft was traced to a malfunctioning cooling fan. The three crew members aboard were uninjured. They exited the aircraft using emergency chutes. The carrier was en route from Boston to Indianapolis and was near Stewart when the problem occurred around 0900 hrs.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, TRIBHUVAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NEPAL**

London, Nov 8 -- A press report, dated Nov 6, states: Biratnagar bound Cosmic Air flight today made an emergency landing at the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) due to a technical glitch. The Fokker-100 aircraft that took off from TIA at around 1100 hrs returned after reaching 40 nautical miles from the airport, said a source at the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN). All passengers and crew are safe. "Though the aircraft faced hydraulic leakage in its back-up pump, it was not in danger as the main pump was functioning," he said. "The aircraft was able to make a safe landing." The source, meanwhile, said that the CAAN has begun an investigation into the incident.

### **FLIGHTS DIVERTED DUE TO FOG, KARACHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Nov 10 -- Understand from Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of Pakistan that Karachi International Airport remained closed for six hours due to heavy fog early this morning resulting in suspension of the entire flight operation from 0330 hrs. About two dozen flights were either delayed or diverted to other airports. International flights from Dammam, Dubai, Kuwait, London and Jeddah were delayed for six hours. Similar was the case of domestic flights to and from Islamabad, Faisalabad, Multan and Lahore. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

### **I-NOWA**

Leghorn, Nov 10 -- Italian Aircraft ATR42, I-NOWA, flight AZ 6946, Florence to Milan, soon after having taken off from Peretola airport (Florence) made an emergency landing at Pisa Airport "Galileo Galilei" following breakdown of one engine at 0922, Nov 8. The weather conditions prevailing at the time in the area were fine. None of the pilots, crew and six passengers was injured. The passengers then proceeded to Milan by other Alitalia flights. A formal Commission has been set up by the competent Italian Air Authorities to enquire on the accident.

### **INCIDENT AT NNAMDI AZIKWE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ABUJA, NIGERIA**

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Management of Aerocontractors yesterday blamed the incident involving its Boeing 737-300 aircraft at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, Monday (Nov 7) on bird strike, saying the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria had abdicated its responsibility to check the menace. The airline's Manager, Fixed Wing Division, Capt. Dapo Olumide, told newsmen at a briefing that Aero had in the past few years suffered no less than six bird strikes at the same airport, adding that Monday's incident was the second time its aircraft was being grounded by the strikes. According to him, Aero on the two occasions spent some \$200,000 to effect repairs of the affected engines. Explaining the circumstance surrounding Monday's incident, Capt. Olumide said: "At 1430 Monday we suffered a bird strike on the take off row and the crew aborted the take off. In an attempt to do that, the tyre burst because of the sloppy nature of the runway. The engine was still working, but because of the company's procedure, the crew aborted the flight. The passengers wouldn't have even known there was a problem." He said the aircraft, being a new generational Boeing 737 series, could still have continued the journey to Lagos because, according to him, each of the two engines generate 24,000 pounds of thrust, adding that was more than enough to take the aircraft to its destination. Olumide said immediate checks on the aircraft

after taxiing to a stop for the passengers to disembark revealed that seven of the 36 blades were damaged by the birds, two of which were severely hit. He said the airline had overtime been confronted with the problem of bird strikes particularly at Abuja, Benin, Port Harcourt and Calabar airports.

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

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Searchers are running out of places to look for missing helicopter pilot, multimillionaire Michael Erceg, and his Dutch passenger, Guus Klatté. The two men have been missing since Friday (Nov 4) and, with no indication of where they could be, the search for them is likely to wind down today or tomorrow. Rescue Co-ordination Centre staff last night planned to review the case, looking through all credible sightings and searched areas to see if there was anything else that could be done. Mr Erceg, who is listed as the country's ninth richest man, and Mr Klatté were last seen flying out of Ardmore Airport, south of Auckland shortly before 1000, Nov 4. Thirty minutes later Mr Erceg's maroon-coloured Eurocopter disappeared from the radar. It is not known if the helicopter crashed as it disappeared from the radar or if it flew on for some time and landed elsewhere in the country. When the men were first reported missing the search focused on the area near Raglan, where people had reported hearing the helicopter. As the week has progressed the search has headed south towards Wanganui, where Mr Erceg had planned to refuel. On Monday (Nov 7), 20 helicopters were up in the air, but, by yesterday, that was down to six as searchers covered a more defined area. That area was east of Mokau and south towards Wanganui, where residents had reported seeing the helicopter at about 1100, Nov 4. The search, like all others, was fruitless. Maritime NZ director Russell Kilvington, who is responsible for the rescue centre, said the search had been very difficult due to rugged terrain, poor weather, the size of the area and the limited information about the route the helicopter took. More than 20,000sq km have been searched and helicopter pilots have put in around 300 flying hours collectively. Helicopters cost around \$1500 an hour which would put the search, described as one of the biggest of its kind, at close to \$500,000 for the aircraft alone. Mr Kilvington said money was not a consideration in whether the search continued, but staff had to assess what else could be done. Last night three helicopters were flying back towards Hamilton, with their radios set on a frequency that could pick up a locator beacon, although no signals had been received all week. Following that and the review of the entire search, a decision would be made as to how to progress today, if at all.

### **N1548Y**

London, Nov 9 -- Beechcraft Bonanza A36 N1548Y crashed near Socorro, New Mexico, at 0010, Nov 9, while on a flight to Phoenix, Arizona. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

### **N27177**

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Police have released the name of the two victims of the aircraft that crashed north of the Ankeny Airport yesterday morning. The pilot of the aircraft and the passenger were pronounced dead at the scene. The accident happened just shortly after 1000 yesterday morning. The pilot indicated that the aircraft had engine problems just shortly after taking off from the Ankeny Airport. The aircraft then attempted to return to the airport when it crashed into the farm field. The exact cause of the accident has not been released at this time. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is still investigating the crash.

London, Nov 9 -- Piper PA-31-350 (Navajo Chieftain) N27177 crashed on approach while returning to Ankeny Airport, Iowa, at 1620, Nov 8, while on a flight from Ankeny to Emmetsburg, IA. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were killed.

### **N331TA**

London, Nov 9 -- Bell OH-58A N331TA crashed near Chatfield, Arkansas, Nov 6 while on a flight from West Memphis, AR, to Cleveland, Mississippi. The one person on board was killed.

### **N4171Z**

London, Nov 7 -- A press report, dated Nov 6, states: A Spring man and his grandson returning from a hunting trip were killed this morning when their twin-engine aircraft struck a light pole and a car while attempting to land at David Wayne Hooks Airport. The woman driving the car was in stable condition at a hospital. She was the only person in the car. Investigators said the Piper Seneca V aircraft was approaching Hooks about 0800 hrs when it struck the pole and then plunged into the car. The vehicle was southbound on Stuebner-Airline, which runs just east of the airport. Family members at the scene declined to comment, but state troopers said the two victims were returning from hunting near Fredericksburg when the fatal crash occurred.

London, Nov 8 -- Piper PA-34-220T (Seneca III) N4171Z struck a vehicle and crashed on approach to David Wayne Hooks Airport, Houston, Texas, at 1354, Nov 6. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed and one person in the vehicle was seriously injured.

### **N505K**

London, Nov 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: A small jet that had been instructed to take off quickly

because of an incoming airliner crashed today at one of the Houston's airports, killing both people on board. The Cessna Citation 500 was preparing to leave Hobby Airport when controllers told its pilot to take off quickly because a Southwest Airlines 737 with some sort of problem was approaching, said Tommy Dowdy, district chief for the Houston Fire Department. The Southwest plane was diverted to the city's other major airport, Bush Intercontinental, where it landed safely. But the Citation apparently began experiencing some sort of problem and asked if it could return to Hobby, Dowdy said. Officials did not immediately know what type of problem the small plane had that forced its return. The jet crashed on one of the runways, caught fire and slid across a grassy area to a parallel runway, Dowdy said. Neither the victims' names nor their destination were immediately known, Dowdy said.

London, Nov 7 -- Cessna 500 Citation I, Houston Cardiac Electrophysiology Associates, N505K, departed Hobby Airport at 0920, Nov 5 for a flight to Las Vegas. About 60 miles into the flight, the pilot stated that he wanted to return to the airport because of a high fuel temperature indication. As the Boeing 737 was approaching Houston, a Cessna Citation jet was preparing for takeoff. The controller instructed the Citation pilot to expedite the takeoff. Shortly after takeoff the Citation crashed nose down, tumbled over, skidded on runway 22 and burst into flames. Two persons on board were killed. The 737 was diverted to Bush Intercontinental Airport where it landed safely.

#### **N6384E**

London, Nov 6 -- A press report, dated Nov 5, states: Two small aircraft collided in midair today, killing one pilot while the other apparently escaped serious injury. State police found the body of Jeffrey L. Glasserow, of Franklin Township (Hunterdon County), in the wreckage of his Zodiac 601 which ended up in a wooded area of Pohatcong Township in Warren County. The other pilot was flying a Cessna 172 and safely made an emergency landing a short time later in a field in nearby Alpha. It was not immediately clear what caused the crash, which occurred around 1140 hrs, or what airports the pilots had departed from. The crash is being investigated by state authorities, the National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration.

London, Nov 8 -- Zenith Zodiac CH601HDS N6384E and Cessna 172A N7467T were in collision near Alpha, New Jersey, at 1641, Nov 5. N6384E was destroyed. The one person on board was killed. N7467T landed in a vacant field. The one person on board was not injured.

#### **N7467T**

See N6384E.

#### **N7801Q**

London, Nov 8 -- Embraer EMB-110P1 (Bandeirante) N7801Q, operated by Business Air Inc, crashed near Manchester, New Hampshire, at 1226, Nov 8, while on a flight from Manchester to Bangor, Maine. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was seriously injured.

#### **ZK-HTF**

London, Nov 4 -- An aerial search will begin at first light for a helicopter which went missing yesterday on a flight from Auckland to Queenstown. The Eurocopter with HTF on its side, being flown by an Auckland man with an overseas passenger, was last seen on radar at 1014 hrs, over land south of Raglan Harbour after leaving Auckland at 0945 hrs, Rescue Co-ordination Centre spokeswoman Heidi Brook said. Liquor baron Michael Anthony Erceg, of Auckland, is listed by the Civil Aviation Authority as owning a Eurocopter with the registration number ZKHTF. Yesterday, after Christchurch air traffic control told the centre about 1600 hrs the helicopter had not turned up as expected, checks had started for sightings of the Eurocopter.

### Space Vehicles



#### **VENUS EXPRESS**

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: The European Space Agency's Venus Express orbiter lifted off for a mission to carry out the most detailed atmospheric examination of Earth's "twin" and nearest planetary neighbour. The lift-off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan this morning took place at 0933, local time, (0433 Central European Time). Initial Fregat upper-stage ignition took place nine minutes into the flight, manoeuvring the spacecraft into a low-earth parking orbit. A second firing, one hour and 22 minutes later, boosted the spacecraft to pursue its interplanetary trajectory. Venus Express atop the Soyuz-Fregat Contact with Venus Express was established by ESA's European Space Operations Centre (ESOC) at Darmstadt, Germany approximately two hours after lift-off. The spacecraft has correctly oriented itself in relation to the sun and has deployed its solar arrays. All on-board systems are operating perfectly and the orbiter is communicating with the Earth via its low-gain antenna. In three days' time, it will establish communications using its high-gain antenna. The launch, originally planned for Oct 26, was delayed after engineers detected contamination inside the rocket carrying the European agency's craft.

### Product Recalls

#### **AIR PURIFIERS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Nov 9 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Well Brain International Ltd., of Tsimshatsui, Hong Kong, China, retailer Thane International Inc., of La Quinta, Calif., today announced a voluntary recall of about 35,000 Perfect Air Ultra Air Purifiers. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. An overheating capacitor in these air purifiers can cause arcing in a connecting wire which poses the risk of fire. Thane has received six reports of incidents involving these air purifiers catching on fire or melting. Thane has also received six units which were returned by customers and show some evidence of melting and/or charring. No injuries have been reported. The Perfect Air Ultra is an air filtration device to counter indoor air pollution. It measures approximately 12 in high, 15 in wide and 6 in deep, and weighs about 3.2 pounds. The outer casing is made of white plastic and has a gray function plate that is inserted into the top of the unit. The purifier has four stacked tubular rows with a series of horizontal vents along the length of each row. "Perfect Air Ultra" is not written on the unit, but is written on the instruction booklet included with the unit. Sold on television infomercials and via direct sales on Thane's Web site from February 2004 through December 2004 for about \$100. Manufactured in China. Consumers should stop using the air purifiers immediately and contact Thane for instructions on how to return them and receive a coupon for credit toward other Thane products. -- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

#### **RECHARGEABLE BATTERY PACKS, UNITED STATES/ WORLDWIDE**

Washington, DC, Nov 8 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Nikon Inc., of Melville, N.Y., today announced a voluntary recall of about 200,000, about 710,000 world-wide Nikon Rechargeable Battery Packs with Model Number EN-EL3. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. These battery packs can short circuit, causing them to overheat and possibly melt, posing a burn hazard to consumers. Nikon has confirmed four reports of incidents of the problem world-wide with no reports of injuries. The recall involves the Nikon rechargeable lithium ion battery pack with model number EN-EL3, which is written on the side of

the battery. The batteries are rated at 7.4V/1400mAh, which also is written on the battery. The battery is included as a power source for Nikon's digital SLR D100, D70, and D50 model cameras. The battery pack was also sold separately. Sold at Camera, mass merchandise, catalog, Internet, and office supply stores nationwide from May 2004 through November 2005 for about \$50 for the battery only and about \$800 to \$1500 when sold with the digital SLR camera. Manufactured in China. Consumers with battery backs with model number EN-EL3 should contact Nikon's Web site to determine if it is included in the recall. If so, they should stop using it immediately. Nikon will provide a free replacement battery pack. -- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

#### **SONY TELEVISIONS, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Nov 10 -- A report, dated Nov 5, states: In the course of their continuous quality programme, Sony has discovered an electrical problem with the following televisions - KV-32HQ100B / KV-32HQ100E / KV-32HQ100K KV-36HQ100B / KV-36HQ100E / KV-36HQ100K that were introduced to the market in Autumn 2003 -, which need to be inspected and serviced by a designated service agent. Although they have no reported incidents, Sony has decided to issue this important safety notice, as there is a risk of receiving an electrical shock from the set. In the meantime, if you own one of the above models, it is important that you unplug your television from the mains and do not use it until the necessary modification has been carried out by Sony authorised service personnel. They would like you to contact them at your earliest convenience on the number below with the model number of your television; this information can be found on the instruction manual, the warranty card or may be on your receipt. It can also be found on the rear cover of your television on the product label. However, please note, due to the weight of the product you should not move or lift the unit. If you have an affected television, please contact them on the Sony help line 0800 1695263, seven days a week between 8 am and 8 pm. They will then take details from you, and make arrangements to have your television serviced. This will be carried out free of charge in your home, and as it is a simple procedure it not take long. They stress that this information applies only to Sony television models KV32HQ100 and KV36HQ100. No other models are affected.

#### **TOYOTA MOTOR VEHICLES, ASIA & EUROPE**

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Toyota Motor Corp. said today it may recall a further 1.05 million vehicles due to trouble with bolts used in their diesel engines. Toyota said it was looking into the ways the vehicles, including the Hiace and 24 other models that

were exported to Asia and Europe, were used to see if a recall was necessary. "We're investigating how the exported cars are used," a spokesman said. "If the conditions are the same as those used in Japan, there is a possibility that we may recall all of the 1.05 million cars." Toyota declined to comment on cost of the latest recall. The spokesman said the bolts were not rinsed thoroughly when the vehicles were made between April 1998 and September 2003. In the worst case the bolts may be rusted and broken, disabling the engines.

#### **TOYOTA MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN**

London, Nov 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Toyota Motor Corp said yesterday it is recalling a total of 246,592 vehicles in 25 models, including the Hiace and Crown, for free replacement of defective connecting-rod bolts in their engines. The bolts could fracture due to corrosion caused by a remaining cleaning solvent and damage the engines, Toyota said in a report to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

#### **YAMAHA MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 3 -- A press report, dated Nov 2, states: In co-operation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Yamaha Motor Corporation U.S.A., of Cypress, Calif., is voluntarily recalling about 70,000 Yamaha Bruin 250, Bruin 350 4WD and 2WD, Big Bear 400, Kodiak 400, Kodiak 450, and Wolverine 450 ATVs. The protective boots covering the steering systems tie-rod ends (universal joints) on the recalled ATVs could be pinched during installation or adjustment, cutting a hole in the rubber. If this occurs, grease could escape, and contaminants such as sand or mud could get into the assembly through the hole, causing accelerated wear. This could result in abnormal steering free play. If the ATV continues to be operated without repair, the ball and socket portion of the tie-rod end could wear to the point that they separate, resulting in loss of steering control, which could cause a vehicle crash with injury or death. Yamaha dealers sold these ATVs nationwide from 2004 through to October 2005. The manufacturer's suggested retail price for the affected ATVs ranged from about \$3,500 to \$7,000.



#### **AUSTRALIA**

Sydney, Nov 4 -- The Customs/industry action group on the troubled Cargo Management Reengineering import switchover is

meeting again today, with little sign of the bottlenecks ending. The group was expected to discuss the legal measures needed to keep the legacy Compile system operational, the passing of information to depots, and an issues register that will allow users to keep track of how problems are being handled. But there are fears of a second wave of pressure, as more containers are cleared and await movement, and importers start to feel detention charges on containers which they cannot return because of the crush on container facilities. P&O Australia managing director Tim Blood said that there were 1,200 containers waiting for collection in Port Botany, which remains the group's worst affected terminal. The terminal would normally deliver from 700 to 800 import boxes in a day. Mr Blood said that clearing the congestion depends on using the weekend, but noted that once again, truck bookings did not look strong for a major movement of boxes on Saturday or Sunday. There was a "continuing hypocrisy in claiming that children may not have toys for Christmas, and then not using the weekend to catch up with deliveries", he said. Mr Blood said that some elements of the trucking industry "are pushing an agenda that has nothing to do with the Customs issue, to go back 20 years to a 7 am-to-4.30 pm, Monday-to-Friday week, when stevedores and others are changing to a 24/7 operation". -- Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

London, Nov 8 -- Customs has been forced to delay several large technology projects as it struggles to contain the fallout from the controversial Integrated Cargo System. Tens of millions dollars worth of projects have been suspended as Customs rushes to patch up the imports project. Revelations of delayed projects came as Customs chief information officer Murray Harrison ducked for cover over the ICS debacle, refusing to speak publicly, other than to the Senate Estimates Committee. Mr Harrison, who predicted a few months ago that "all but a few trivial issues" with the ICS would be fixed by the October 12 cutover, has been avoiding public comment for the past fortnight as publicity about the trouble-plagued project spun out of control. Several projects including a human resources and rostering package, an electronic document management system and a server and network storage project have been put on the backburner while the Customs IT section works to fix the ICS. The human resources project was to go to tender in August, but has not reached the first hurdle, and industry briefings are scheduled for Canberra next week.

#### **CHINA**

London, Nov 3 -- Vessels waiting to unload iron ore at Beilun, China's second-largest ore port, were delayed by an average of seven days in October compared with four days in September, Bloomberg News reported Tuesday (Nov 1) from the World

## Port Conditions

Shipping Summit in Shanghai. Delays averaged three days at Qingdao, the country's largest ore harbour. Chinese economic growth has fueled demand for metals to construct bridges, buildings and cars, driving prices of iron ore and coal to records, while a dearth of investment in commodity

terminals has caused bottlenecks at ports, forcing vessels to sit idle outside harbours, Bloomberg's report said.

### ITALY

Genoa, Nov 7 -- Port situation Nov 7: Genoa: Two bulk carriers waiting for

berth. Average delay in berthing 12 - 24 hrs. La Spezia: No vessels waiting for berth. Savona: One vessel waiting for normal berth. Average delay in berthing 12 - 24 hrs. One vessel waiting for special berth. -- Lloyd's Agents.

## Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
<b>Australia</b>		
Brisbane	07-11-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed; 9 vessels due by 4/12; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Dalrymple Bay	07-11-2005	Coal: 3 vessels berthed and loading; 31 vessels due by 17/12; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Dampier	07-11-2005	Iron ore: Parker Point A berth: One vessel loading at berth, 5 arrived; 5 vessels due by 5/11; up to 5 days delay expected; Parker Point B berth: 1 vessel loading, 1 arrived; 3 vessels due by 3/11; up to 3 days delay expected; East Intercourse Island; One vessel loading, 5 arrived; 5 vessels due by 9/11; up to 4 days delay expected.
Gladstone	07-11-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels loading; 43 vessels due by 30/12; up to 2 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; plant shutdown for repairs and maintenance on shiploader 2 from 28/11 to 8/12; Barney Point: 5 vessels due by 27/12; no delays expected.
Hay Point	07-11-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 10 vessels due by 17/11; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Newcastle	07-11-2005	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 3 vessel berthed and loading, 1 vessel off port awaiting berth; 49 vessels due by 30/11; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; Dykes 4+5: no vessels off port; 20 vessels due by 30/11; up to 2 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal, coal product problems with some shippers berthed congestion and cargo receipt.
Port Kembla	07-11-2005	Coal: 10 vessels due by 1/12; up to 1 day's delay expected.
<b>Azerbaijan</b>		
Apsheiron	07-11-2005	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 4 vessels berthed, 1 completed and empty, 1 discharging jet fuel, 1 discharging crude oil, 1 to discharge crude oil; 4 vessels due by 8/11, all to discharge, of which 1 gasoil, 1 jet fuel, 2 crude oil.
Baku	07-11-2005	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; Azerneftiyag terminal: no vessels; Azer Trans terminal - Nobel avenue: no vessels; Sangachal district: no vessels; Transserve terminal: closed.
<b>Bulgaria</b>		
Bourgas	07-11-2005	Seven vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (1 sulphur, 2 coils, 1 containers, 1 wheat), 2 discharging (1 containers, 1 metals); 2 vessels in roads, both to load, of which 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 empty; 12 vessels due, of which 5 to load (2 coils, 1 wheat, 1 containers, 1 reinforced concrete), 7 to discharge (1 containers, 1 coils, 1 chemicals, 1 billets, 2 iron ore, 1 coals).
Varna	07-11-2005	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 31 October to 6 November: Fifty vessels in port operating of which 31 loading (3 sunflower seeds, 1 bagged oats, 1 technical salt, 3 silica sand, 9 soda, 2 scrap, 2 bulk clinker, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 1 liquid urea, 1 bulk cement, 1 packaged hardboard, 1 maize/bulk wheat, 2 bulk maize, 1 metal constructions, 1 bulk wheat, 1 silica sand/calcium carbonate), 13 discharging (1 bagged rice, 2 copper concentrate, 2 raw phosphate, 2 bulk coal, 3 petcoke, 1 bulk feldspar, 1 dolomite, 1 liquid urea), 8 discharging/loading (7 containers, 1 equipment in packing cases); no vessels waiting in roads.
<b>Egypt</b>		
Adabiya	07-11-2005	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 1 containers.
Alexandria	07-11-2005	Thirty-two vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 23 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 2 tankers, 3 container vessel; 22 vessels dry-docked; 31 vessels at inner anchorage, 8 at outer anchorage
Damietta	07-11-2005	Twenty vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 14 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 4 containers; 4 vessels at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage.

**Port Conditions**

Dekheila	07-11-2005	Nine vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 7 bulk carriers, 2 container vessel; no vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	07-11-2005	Three vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 2 containers.
Suez	07-11-2005	Eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 3 reefers, 3 passenger vessels; 4 tugs, 1 vessel dry-docked.
Suez Canal	07-11-2005	Twenty-five vessels transiting Northbound, 29 Southbound.
<b>Estonia</b>		
Tallinn	07-11-2005	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 2 vessels loading at berth (1 coal, 1 wood pellets); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 2 vessels due, with 8 days berthing delay expected.
<b>India</b>		
Kolkata	07-11-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Pipe, 4 discharging (Timber Logs-2, Pulses, General Cargo), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel waiting to load General Cargo; 2 vessels working at midstream and discharging (Timber Logs, Crude), 1 vessel waiting to discharge Crude; 4 vessel under repair; 1 vessel under dry docked; 1 vessel waiting to sail; 2 vessels due (LDO, Edible Oil).
Haldia	07-11-2005	16 vessels operating at berth of which 5 loading (Iron Ore-4, Thermal Coal), 7 vessels discharging (PRXL, POL, COKE, Fertilizer, Met Coke, Phosphoric Acid), 4 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 6 vessels awaiting berth (5 to load, 1 to load and discharge); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 2 to load); 2 vessels due ( Crude, Coke).
Paradip	07-11-2005	6 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (Iron Ore, Chrome Concentrate), 4 vessels discharging (Coking Coal, NC Coal-2, Ammonia); 4 vessels awaiting berth (2 to discharge, 2 to load).
Visakhapatnam	07-11-2005	16 vessels operating at berth of which 6 loading (Iron ore-2, Steel Cargo-3, Pig Iron), 10 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-3, Methanol, DAP-2, Crude Oil, Lime Stone, MOP, Steam Coal); 18 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (14 to discharge, 4 to load); 1 vessel under repair (MV Chin Shwe Raw at HSY Jetty which was collide with AMV Uttar Kasi); 21 vessels due (Iron ore-3, Steel-2, Alumina, Granite Blocks, Thermal Coal, DAP, Rock Phosphate, Coking Coal-3, Pet Coke, Containers-2, Steam Coal, Ethanol, POL and Crude Tanker- 5).
Chennai	07-11-2005	20 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading (Lubricant Oil, Iron Ore, Naptha), 11 vessels discharging (Urea, MOP-2, S.Coal-4, Thermal Coal, Crude Oil, HR Coils, Met Coke), 6 vessels loading and discharging (S.Coils/Granite Blocks-2, St.Plat/Granite Blocks, Containers-3); 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 2 to load); 2 vessels due (S.Coil, Containers).
Tuticorin	07-11-2005	10 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading Cement, 8 vessels discharging (Thermal Coal-2, Petroleum Oil, Copra, Timber Logs-2, Rock Phosphate, Urea), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels awaiting berth to discharge; 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (2 to load, 1 to discharge); 1 vessel at the anchorage after completion of cement loading operations for want of MMD Clearance.
Cochin	07-11-2005	6 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading (HSD/MS, SKO, Furnace oil), 2 vessels discharging (Sulphur, Ship's Cranes), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth to discharge.
New Mangalore	07-11-2005	4 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading POL Product, 1 vessel discharging LPG; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to load, 2 to discharge); 16 vessels due (Iron ore (P)-3, POL Product-4, Timber-3, Iron ore (F)-2, POL Crude-2, Fertilizer, Granite Stone).
Mormugao	07-11-2005	2 vessels operating at berth and discharging (MOP, Coal); 3 vessels working at mid stream to load Iron ore; 4 vessels under repairs and dry docked; 1 vessel awaiting berth to discharge; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 8 vessels due (Coking Coal, Iron ore-7).
Mumbai	07-11-2005	13 vessels operating at berth of which 8 loading (Steel Cargo-2, Steel/Vehicles, SBM, Vehicles, Steel/Rice, POL-2), 3 vessels discharging POL; 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 3 vessels working at mid stream and loading (Bulk Peas-2, Steel Cargo); 1 vessel awaiting order to discharge; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load and discharge; 8 vessels under repairs; 3 vessels under arrest, 2 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 31 vessels due (Containers-7, General Cargo-24).
J.N.P.T.	07-11-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 1 discharging Lubricant Oil, 6 vessels loading and discharging Containers.
Kandla	07-11-2005	14 vessels operating at berth of which 7 discharging (MOP, Timber Logs, I.Scrape, Palm Oil, Gasoline, Ammonia, Phosphoric Acid), 5 vessels loading (Agriculture Product-2, Rice, Cement-2); 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 8 vessels awaiting berth (3 to discharge, 5 to load); 6 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 4 to load); 1 vessel under repairs/dry docked (For dredging); 1 vessel under arrest (Saratoga detained by MMD).
Ennore	07-11-2005	1 vessel operating at berth and discharging Thermal Coal; 1 vessel due (MV APJ Sri Devi (Thermal coal).

**Port Conditions**

**Kazakhstan**

Aktau 07-11-2005 Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, completed loading crude oil; 4 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargoes; 2 vessels due by 7/11, both to load unknown cargoes.

**Mozambique**

Maputo 05-11-2005 Six vessels in port operating, of which 1 loading bagged sugar, 3 discharging (1 bulk alumina, 1 bagged sugar, 1 petcoke), 1 under repairs, 1 other vessel; 2 vessels due to berth 5/11, of which 1 to discharge vehicles, 1 to load/discharge containers; 22 vessels due by 27/11 of which 9 to load (2 bulk coal, 3 ferro chrome, 1 petroleum products, 1 magnetite, 2 aluminium ingots), 9 to discharge (1 bulk wheat, 1 green peas/maize meal, 1 containers, 1 vegetable oil, 2 bulk maize, 1 bagged rice, 1 bulk wheat, 1 bulk alumina), 3 to discharge/load containers, 1 other vessel.

**Pakistan**

Karachi 07-11-2005 Two rice vessels loading at berth, 13 vessels discharging at berth (6 general cargo, 3 DAP, 1 fertiliser, 1 sugar, 2 crude oil), 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (2 rice, 1 cement, 1 containers), 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 general cargo, 1 fertiliser, 1 MEG, 1 crude oil); no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, 2 awaiting orders; 8 vessels due (4 containers, 1 ethanol, 1 HSD, 2 palm oil), with no berthing delays expected.

Port Qasim 07-11-2005 Two vessels discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 sugar); 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 2 coal, 1 gasoil).

**Poland**

Gdansk 07-11-2005 Seven vessels loading at berth (1 coal, 2 general cargo, 3 bulkers, 1 tanker), 3 tankers discharging at berth; 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 15 vessels due. Seven vessels loading at berth (1 coal, 2 general cargo, 3 bulkers, 1 tanker), 3 tankers discharging at berth; 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 15 vessels due.

Gdynia 07-11-2005 Five vessels loading at berth (3 coal, 1 grain, 1 bulker), 3 vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 1 bulker, 1 grain); 20 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 44 vessels due.

**Russia**

Novorossiysk 07-11-2005 Eighteen vessels in port operating, of which 17 loading (1 HBI, 1 bulk cement, 1 bulk NPK, 1 DRI, 1 scrap, 1 steel, 1 pig-iron, 1 steel billets, 4 wheat, 1 bulk urea/bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 slabs, 1 steel sheets, 1 aluminium, 1 diesel oil), 1 discharging bulk sugar; 8 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 1 bulk urea, 1 steel billets, 3 wheat, 1 bulk urea, 1 vegetables, 1 cement; 55 vessels due, of which 52 to load (1 steel billets/tin plate/steel sheets, 2 DRI, 2 HBI, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate/bulk urea, 7 steel billets, 9 copper, 3 wheat, 1 oil, 1 WRIC/steel sheets/steel billets, 4 bulk ammonium nitrate, 3 aluminium, 2 bulk urea, 2 cars, 1 slabs/steel billets, 1 pipes/H-beams/WRIC/coils, 1 bulk cement, 1 lead/copper, 3 bulk NPK, 1 pig-iron, 1 pipes, 1 barley, 2 scrap, 1 steel sheets, 1 diesel oil), 2 to discharge (1 zinc ore, 1 citrus), 1 to load/discharge containers; Oil terminal: 2 tankers berthed, both loading, of which 1 crude oil, 1 diesel oil; 3 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 6 tankers due, all to load crude oil.

**Slovenia**

Koper 07-11-2005 Port working normally. Seven vessels berthed of which 2 vessels loading sawn timber, 1 bulk carrier loading coal, 3 bulk carriers discharging coal/minerals, 1 car carrier discharging/loading vehicles; 17 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 2 bulk carriers to load general cargo, 4 bulk carriers to discharge scrap/grain/liquid chemicals, 2 vessels to discharge/load containers, 1 car carrier to discharge/load vehicles, 4 vessels to load sawn timber/livestock, 1 vessel to discharge aluminium products, 2 tankers to discharge mineral oils, 1 reefer to discharge refrigerated goods.

**Spain**

Bilbao 08-11-2005 Thirty-two vessels operating (6 tankers, 23 other vessels), of which 6 loading, 13 discharging, 13 loading/discharging.

Cadiz 08-11-2005 Eighteen vessels in port of which 6 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 3 passenger vessels), 12 vessels under repair; no delays.

Sagunto 08-11-2005 Sixteen vessels in port operating of which 3 loading (1 cement, 1 fruit, 1 baled scrap), 10 discharging steel products, 3 discharging/loading (2 steel products, 1 general cargo); no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.



## Port Conditions

### Sri Lanka

Colombo	07-11-2005	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Ten container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 14 vessels discharging at berth (9 containers/feeders, 1 bagged urea, 2 bulk palm oil, 2 bulk cement); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 4 vessels dry-docked, 1 at new tanker berth; 6 vessels due (5 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement), with no delays expected.
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### Turkmenistan

Aladja	07-11-2005	Oil products: 1 vessel in roads, waiting to load crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	07-11-2005	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed of which 1 completed discharging crude oil, 1 discharging crude oil, 1 completed loading jet fuel; 2 vessels in roads, both to load unknown cargoes.

### Ukraine

Ilichevsk	07-11-2005	Seven vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 steel products, 1 grain, 1 sunflower oil), 2 discharging tropical oil, 2 discharging/loading containers; 6 vessels in roads, of which 4 to load (2 sunflower oil, 2 steel products), 1 to discharge steel products, 1 to discharge/load containers; 24 vessels due, of which 18 to load (12 steel products, 4 sunflower oil, 1 ferrosilicon, 1 sulphur), 6 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	07-11-2005	Eight vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 4 steel, 1 kaolin, 2 coal, 1 sulphur; 2 vessels in roads, both to load steel; 66 vessels due, of which 61 to load (28 steel, 13 coal, 7 fire-clay, 2 wheat, 1 barley, 3 sunflower seeds, 1 coke, 1 sulphur, 1 carbamid, 1 bran, 1 luggage, 1 sunflower beans, 1 heavy lift cargo), 5 to discharge (1 equipment, 1 feldspar, 1 magnetite, 1 heavy lift cargo, 1 fish).
Odessa	07-11-2005	Seventeen vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (4 metal, 1 paper, 1 wheat, 1 soya beans, 1 general cargo), 6 discharging (1 bananas, 2 citrus, 1 meat, 1 wheat, 1 general cargo), 1 loading/discharging containers, 2 passenger vessels; 3 vessels in roads, 1 to load metal, 2 to load/discharge containers; 60 vessels due, of which 32 to load (19 metal, 1 pig-iron, 1 corn, 4 wheat, 1 ferro alloy, 1 oil, 1 car parts, 1 grain, 1 general cargo, 2 barley), 4 to discharge (1 sand, 2 oil, 1 barley), 24 to discharge/load containers.

### United States

Beaumont, TX	08-11-2005	Seasonal cold fronts may reduce available deep draft sailing drafts. No new restrictions in draft (normal 38 ft. 0 ins. f.w. max. deep draft enforced). Traffic schedule: 8/11: inbound traffic a.m., outbound traffic to follow; due to damage from hurricane Rita, the Sabine waterway is open under following conditions: one way, daylight traffic only with max. transit draft 38 ft. until further notice; shoaling has been observed in some parts of the Sabine waterway; parts of the port are still without power and city services. Louis Dreyfus terminal: no delays.
Houston, TX	08-11-2005	Cargill terminal: 1-2 days delay; LDC Dreyfus terminal: 1 day's delay.
Kalama, WA	08-11-2005	Kalama export terminal: 2 days delay; United Harvest terminal: 2 days delay.
New Orleans, LA	08-11-2005	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 2-3 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 2-4 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 6-8 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 4 days delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 6-8 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 6-8 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 1-2 days delay expected; ADM/Paulina: 6-8 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 2-4 days delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays.
Portland, OR	08-11-2005	Columbia Grain terminal: 3 days delay; CLD Irving terminal: 1 day's delay; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays.
Seattle, WA	08-11-2005	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 2 days delay.
Tacoma, WA	08-11-2005	Temco terminal: 2 days delay.
Vancouver, WA	08-11-2005	United Harvest terminal: 3 days delay.

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