

Lloyd's

Lloyd's Casualty Week contains information from worldwide sources of Marine, Non-Marine and Aviation casualties together with other reports relevant to the shipping, transport and insurance communities

CasualtyWeek

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>ALTAVERDE</i>	general	PHL	—	196	—	1972	Sank following engine failure off Surigao, Philippines, Oct 8. Crew rescued.
<i>ANTLIA</i>	general	RUS	RS	2,470	2,960	1980	In collision with chemical/oil carrier <i>Stolt Innovation</i> in the Berendrechtsluis, Antwerp, Oct 9. Serious bow damage.
<i>BLACK PEARL</i>	general	MLT	RI	5,370	6,070	1980	Listing 20 deg to port after shifting of cargo in lat 52 42.9N, long 03 00.3E, Oct 12. Some cargo lost overboard. Escorted by tug into Rotterdam same day.
<i>BOSS</i>	fishing	USA	—	79	—	1947	Grounded inside jetties of Yaquina Bay, Oreg, in lat 44 36.7N, long 124 04.3W, Oct 8. Crew rescued. Partially submerged. Wreck towed by tug away from the main channel.
<i>DONA NINA</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	In collision with bulk <i>North Countess</i> at Km 112, River Parana, Oct 6. Serious damage sustained, crew rescued. Drydocked Buenos Aires.
<i>JIU LIAN SHAN</i>	general	CHN	—	—	—	1990	Sank after collision with sand-carrying vessel at Fuzhou in Fujian Province, China, Oct 12. Crew rescued. Salvage work in hand same day.
<i>JONATHAN THOMAS</i>	tug	USA	—	159	—	1975	Contacted by bulk carrier <i>Napoleon</i> while pushing four barges near Light 64, Houston Ship Channel, Oct 11. Engine-room flooded, vessel beached. One of the barges, <i>Kirby 10378</i> , was also contacted. Safely moored as of Oct 13.
<i>PROSPERITY</i>		USA		478			Sank in lat 41 53.4N, long 69 07.2W, Oct 12. Crew rescued.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AL TAWFIK (Georgia)

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Russian authorities have impounded general cargo *Al Tawfik*, believed to have hit and sunk a Bulgarian fishing boat and fled the spot of the collision, a report said today. The master of the vessel was missing five days after the incident. *Al Tawfik* was being held in Russia's Black Sea port of Novorossiysk, the Focus news agency reported. The Georgian embassy in Sofia said the vessel was owned by a Syrian company and sailed under Georgian flag. None of the crew were Georgian nationals, the embassy said in a statement. *Al Tawfik* collided with the eight-tonne Bulgarian fishing boat *Orion* off the Northern Bulgarian Black Sea coast on late Oct 3. The boat capsized and its captain Atanas Atanasov, 37 disappeared. A rescue vessel saved the other two crewmen. Two Bulgarian officials left today for Novorossiysk to inspect the vessel, Bogdan Bogdanov, Bulgarian Sea Administration chief in the Black Sea port of Varna said. Bulgaria has urged all Black Sea states to impound *Al Tawfik* and hand its crew over to stand a criminal investigation.

AL-ZAHRAA (Iraq)

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

ALESSIA (Switzerland)

Falmouth, Oct 12 — General cargo *Alessia* (2999 gt, built 1999) arrived Falmouth at 1745, Oct 11, and berthed at Queens Wharf to effect repairs to hull damage on the port quarter. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Alessia* sailed Leixoes Oct 8 for Fowey.)

ALGONTARIO (Canada)

Thunder Bay, Oct 7 — Local sources indicate bulk *Algontario* is likely to depart from Pascol Engineering tomorrow, Oct 8. — Lloyd's Agents.

Troy, Mich., Oct 8 — Bulk *Algontario*, its repair and refit complete, departed Pascol Engineering at approximately 1600 hrs, yesterday to conduct sea trials in Thunder Bay harbour. They finished at around 1800 hrs. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

ALTAVERDE (Philippines)

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The 196-ton Philippine m.v. *Alpha Verde* (? general cargo *Altaverde* 196 gt, built 1972), bound for Leyte province with 60,000 sacks of cement and 18 crew, had engine failure and sank earlier today. The crew said in the same report strong waves caused the vessel to sink.

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A crew member was killed when a cargo vessel sank off Surigao, GMA Network's "Flash Report" said

today. He was with 17 other crew members of *Alpha Verde*, bound for Leyte province when the vessel sank earlier today, the report said. Quoting Philippine Coast Guard authorities, the report said the vessel's motor had stopped. However, crew members said in the same report that strong waves caused their ship to sink. An earlier report also dated today, but from Butuan City in Agusan del Norte province, said the cargo vessel was bound for Cebu from Surigao City when it sank off the coast of Surigao yesterday night due to large waves. Colonel Leopoldo Las Marias of the Surigao City Coast Guard said the vessel had 18 crew members and was loaded with 60,000 sacks of cement.

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Altaverde*, with 18 crew, was reported missing today in stormy waters in the southern Philippines, the coast guard said. *Altaverde* radioed authorities late yesterday after sustaining engine trouble and stalling near Surigao City on the island of Mindanao, from where it departed on its way to the town of Naval on central Leyte island. The last radio message from Olympio Jugalbot, master of the vessel, said the vessel was listing and being battered by big waves and strong winds off Surigao, 710 kilometres south-east of Manila. The coast guard said the crew fired a flare as a guide for search and rescue vessels, but the cargo vessel had not been sighted when the search was suspended shortly after midnight due to bad weather. The vessel was carrying 16,000 bags of cement.

ANTLIA (Russia)

Maassluis, Oct 9 — General cargo *Antlia* (2470 gt, built 1980) was in collision with chemical/oil carrier *Stolt Innovation* (24839 gt, built 1996) in the Berendrechtshuis, Antwerp, at 1720, local time, today. Serious bow damage to *Antlia* but no apparent damage to *Stolt Innovation*. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Antlia* sailed Bremen Oct 7 for Antwerp. *Stolt Innovation* arrived Antwerp Oct 7 and subsequently sailed Oct 10.)

Maassluis, Oct 10 — Chemical/oil carrier *Stolt Innovation* arrived Terneuzen Oct 10 and sailed Oct 11 for Le Havre. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

AQUA SIERRA (Cyprus)

Monrovia, Oct 14 — As of Oct 7, general cargo *Aqua Sierra* was still in port at Monrovia. — Lloyd's Agents.

BAHIA DE MALAGA (Canary Islands)

London, Oct 11 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1545, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Bahia de Malaga* (5287 gt, built 1980) grounded at Denia, in lat 38 50.9N, long 00 07.5E, at 2026, UTC, Oct 10. All passengers have been safely taken ashore. Vessel remains aground at present with refloating efforts under way. No leakage reported.

London, Oct 12 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 0955, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Bahia de Malaga* is still aground.

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

London, Oct 13 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1010, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Bahia de Malaga* remains aground. Fuel oil is currently being removed from the vessel to facilitate refloating.

London, Oct 14 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 0915, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Bahia de Malaga* was refloated at 1815 yesterday and is now berthing at Denia.

BELLONA (Sweden)

Gothenburg, Oct 11 — Product tanker *Bellona* is currently in Gothenburg dry dock where damages, mostly to rudder and main rudder post and bottom plates aft, are currently being checked. Propeller is not visibly damaged but will be inspected. Expected departure currently unknown. — Westax Marine Services AB.

BLACK PEARL (Malta)

London, Oct 12 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth, MRCC, timed 0359, UTC: Distress message received at 0204, UTC, from general cargo *Black Pearl* (5370 gt, built 1980), with 17 people on board, in lat 52 42.9N, long 03 00.3E, cargo shifted, 20 deg list to port, immediate assistance required to stand by. Deck cargo believed to be wood. Vessel unable to deploy liferaft. Weather in area: Wind east-south-east force 7 to 8 (near gale to gale), sea rough, swell heavy four to five metres. Distress alert acknowledged by vessels in the vicinity. Initially three all-weather lifeboats launched, but stood down as several merchant vessels closer. Rescue 125 on scene. Ro-ro *Bore Mari*, crude tanker *Gerd Knutsen* and general cargo *Vikingfjord* on scene. Salvage tug *Waker* proceeding and will escort once on scene. Distress alert downgraded.

London, Oct 12 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 0550, UTC: General cargo *Black Pearl*: Rescue 125 departed scene to refuel, approximate ETA back on scene 0615, UTC. Tug *WakerP* proceeding, ETA 0740, UTC. *Waker* will escort casualty once on scene. Situation to remain as a Mayday, due to weather conditions and severity of list. Twenty to 30 cubic metres of wood cargo lost overboard.

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Lifeboats and an RAF rescue helicopter were called to help stricken general cargo *Black Pearl* off Norfolk. Coastguards said *Black Pearl* issued a Mayday message in the early hours of today after it began listing in gale conditions. Lifeboats from Gorleston, Cromer and Caister in Norfolk and a helicopter from Wattisham went to the vessel. A spokesman for Great Yarmouth Coastguard said they stood by until the crew stabilised the vessel. He said a cargo of timber had shifted in the hold in the heavy seas, causing the ship to list to one side. It was later escorted by a tug as it made its way to the Dutch port of Rotterdam.

London, Oct 12 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1325, UTC: General cargo *Black Pearl* is now

at Rotterdam. Vessel was escorted to Rotterdam by tug *Waker* and escort was completed at 1105, UTC.

BOSS

See *The Boss*.

BOSS (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The crew of 80 foot fishing *Boss* was rescued by the Coast Guard after their vessel went aground early this morning inside the jetties of Yaquina Bay, Ore. The master of the fishing vessel contacted the Coast Guard Station in North Bend, Oregon around 1330 hrs to report the vessel had gone aground and were in need of assistance. The Coast Guard sent multiple units that included two rescue lifeboats and a land rescue unit from Yaquina Bay to assist. By the time the lifeboats arrived, *Boss* was aground and had already taken on six feet of water. The crew of the lifeboat assisted in dewatering the vessel and prepared to take it in tow. When the pumps could not keep up with the flooding, the crew of the vessel was taken aboard the 47-foot motor lifeboat. The lifeboat returned to Station Yaquina Bay where the crew of *Boss* was evaluated by local emergency medical technicians. Investigators from Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Portland, Ore., are monitoring and investigating the grounding. Arrangements are being made with a private company to salvage the vessel, which remains partially submerged.

BUSAN PIONEER (South Korea)

Yokohama, Oct 13 — Chem.tank *Busan Pioneer* (693 gt, built 1987), Ulsan for Sakai, had electrical trouble, causing a black-out. It was towed to Shodo Island by a tug. After completion of replacement of battery, the vessel sailed from Shodo Island at 1230, Oct 7. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Busan Pioneer* arrived Sakai Oct 8.)

CAROLINE RUSS (Antigua & Barbuda)

Rauma, Oct 8 — Ro/ro *Caroline Russ* (10488 gt, built 1999) struck a quay with its bulbous bow, when arriving at Rauma harbour on the morning of Oct 5. The quay was damaged "with a deepness" of four-five metres. The Finnish authorities gave permission for the vessel to sail to Antwerp on Oct 6, for temporary repairs. "Maritime Declaration" will not be given, but the damage to the ship is quite "heavy". — Lloyd's Agents.

Zeebrugge, Oct 10 — Ro/ro *Caroline Russ* arrived Antwerp Oct 9 from Rauma. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Oct 11 — Ro/ro *Caroline Russ* sailed Antwerp 2113, Oct 9, for Bremerhaven, where arrived 2200, Oct 10.

CELTIC CARRIER (U.K.)

Seville, Oct 12 — General cargo *Celtic Carrier* arrived Seville Oct 10. — Lloyd's Agents.

CONTRADER (Panama)

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

CRISTALLO (Italy)

Istanbul, Oct 12 — Chem.tank *Cristallo*, Piraeus for Diliskelesi, passed Dardanelles East Oct 9. — Lloyd's Agents.

DAINTY RIVER (Panama)

Durban, Oct 12 — C.c. *Dainty River* sailed Durban Oct 9 for Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

DONA NINA (Liberia)

See *North Countess*.

DWEEP SETU (India)

Kochi, Oct 11 — Passenger ro/ro *Dweep Setu* is at present in dry dock at Kochi Shipyard, a Govt. India Public Sector Company, at Kochi. Repairs to damage sustained in the fire accident have been completed and vessel is now undergoing routine dry dock/repair. The vessel is expected to undock on Oct 20 and likely to sail one month thereafter. — Lloyd's Agents.

EDAMGRACHT (Netherlands)

London, Oct 13 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0001, UTC: General cargo *Edamgracht* (8448 gt, built 1995) left Fremantle Oct 11 for Adelaide. Its cargo shifted, in bad weather, and the vessel deviated at 1747, Oct 11, for Bunbury, where it arrived afternoon, Oct 12. The vessel is expected to leave this morning.

ERNA (Singapore)

See "Malacca Straits" under "Piracy."

EVA DANIELSEN (Bahamas)

London, Oct 12 — General cargo *Eva Danielsen* (3113 gt, built 1986), cargo oil well equipment, had mechanical problems around Aug 10 on passage to Port Harcourt and was towed into Dakar by tug *Boa Queen*. General Average was declared by the shipowners. Repairs to the vessel's main engine were effected by the ship's crew at Dakar and the vessel was subsequently able to complete its contractual voyage and deliver the cargo. (Note — *Eva Danielsen* arrived Dakar Aug 14 and sailed Aug 17.)

FEDERAL PESCADORES (Panama)

London, Oct 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulk *Federal Pescadores* (23531 gt, built 1986), carrying 38,500 tonnes of cement and approximately 30,870 gallons of diesel, ran aground late yesterday while attempting to anchor off Port Everglades, the Coast Guard said. The Coast Guard is overseeing operations to salvage the vessel. Presently, there is no sign of pollution or reported injuries to the crew. The vessel's owners are working with a commercial salvage company to safely refloat the vessel, the Coast Guard said. The Coast Guard will have to review the plan and give final approval, with emphasis toward personnel safety and environmental protection. The problem came to light around 2330 last night when the Coast Guard station at Port Everglades heard the vessel call for commercial salvage help. Then they discovered the vessel had run aground 750 yards west of the

Port Everglades anchorage area. Coast Guard personnel are onboard the vessel to investigate the incident and oversee salvage operations. *Federal Pescadores* last port of call was Canakkale, Turkey, on Sep 16.

London, Oct 7 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1730, UTC: Bulk *Federal Pescadores*, 38,500 tonnes of cement, 105 tonnes of diesel, 588 tonnes of bunker oil, was reported aground off Port Everglades at around 2300, last night. The vessel is still aground. Titan Marine have been appointed as salvors.

London, Oct 8 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1320, UTC: Bulk *Federal Pescadores* is still aground, with commercial salvors on scene. It is planned to start lightering vessel today and refloating attempts may commence tomorrow.

London, Oct 9 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1420, UTC: Bulk *Federal Pescadores* remains aground. Lightering operations commenced today and are expected to take around 20 hours. Salvage tugs are standing by to carry out refloating operations once enough cargo has been removed, probably tomorrow.

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers pumped fuel from bulk *Federal Pescadores*, today, in an attempt to refloat the vessel after it ran aground near Port Everglades. *Federal Pescadores*, transporting cement, ran aground Oct 6, about a half mile offshore, while attempting to anchor at Port Everglades. The Coast Guard said there were no signs of pollution from the fuel transfer and there were no injuries. The Florida Marine Research Institute said divers would survey a reef in the area to determine if there was any damage. The grounding was under investigation.

London, Oct 10 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1615, UTC: Bulk *Federal Pescadores* remains aground. The lightering operation is now complete and it is hoped to start refloating efforts at 2130, UTC, today.

London, Oct 11 — Understand salvage services are being rendered to bulk *Federal Pescadores* by Titan Maritime LLC under Lloyd's Open Form, dated Oct 7.

London, Oct 11 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 0810, UTC: Bulk *Federal Pescadores* remains aground. A refloating attempt yesterday using two tugs failed, another attempt using three tugs will be made at first light today.

London, Oct 11 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1335, UTC: Bulk *Federal Pescadores* was refloated at 0700, local time. Vessel is being taken to anchorage.

Miami, Oct 11 — Bulk *Federal Pescadores* grounded itself in shallow water west of the anchorage near to Port Everglades at 2030, Oct 6. Its position is lat 26 06.72N, long 80 05.52W. The bow of the vessel is hard aground, and the stern is partly free and with some bobbing. The forepeak tank is holed and taking in water. The US Coast Guard is currently carrying out an investigation on why this vessel

grounded where it did. At this time there is damage to a local reef, however, there are no reports of pollutants/leaks from this vessel. As of Oct 7, salvage crews were appointed and they ballasted the vessel to prevent further bobbing of the stern. By Oct 8 and 9, the salvage crews had lightered the vessels 600 tons of fuel onto a barge, and obtained the assistance of three heavy tugs. The first attempt to free the vessel on Oct 10 was unsuccessful. The second attempt at 0600, Oct 11 was successful. The vessel is now re-anchored, and will not berth until Thursday, Oct 14. Damages include forepeak bottom transverse frames, No.220, No.234, fractured and/or buckled in way of the keel plate. A hole in the forepeak has been temporary patched, and regress of water has stopped. Further evaluation of the vessel will take place after it makes berth, and cargo is offloaded. The vessel is carrying two consignments of cement, one for Port Everglades, and one for an unknown port. — Lloyd's Agents.

Fort Lauderdale, Oct 12 — Bulk *Federal Pescadores* was redelivered to its owners Oct 12 and is at Port Everglades anchorage. — Titan Salvage.

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated Oct 12, states: Divers who inspected the area where bulk *Federal Pescadores* ran aground last week off Fort Lauderdale beach found today that the reefs had suffered extensive damage. The damaged area is about the size of a football field, said Lou Fisher, a marine biologist with the Biological Resources Division of the Broward County Department of Planning and Environmental Protection. "It's crushed reef," Fisher said. "It's reef that's scraped clean of anything in some areas. There was an area roughly 50 to 100 feet that was scraped clean entirely." The damage was made worse, experts said, when a tug knocked the ship from side to side, slicing into the reefs and covering them with sand. This morning, seven divers from the county and from Nova Southeastern University's National Coral Reef Institute explored the effects of the grounding. The Coast Guard and other agencies were also investigating. Lesley Bertolotti, a natural resources specialist with the Biological Resources Division, said that in some places the top of the reef had been sliced off. "It's just bright white, no algae growing off it," she said. "When you destroy the corals, you destroy an organism that will take up nutrients, clarify the water and hold sediments — and that will affect the fish," Broward wetlands manager Kent Edwards said today. Fisher said the damage changed the ecology in that area. "It's like wiping it clean, and then it's going to take some time for things to come back in and recreate the reef that was there," he said. One thing that might help would be to place artificial reef structures where the damage occurred to at least rebuild the infrastructure, he said.

FESCO VOYAGER (Cyprus)

London, Oct 8 — Following received from the Stamford-based owners of

product tanker *Jeanette* (29000 gt), dated today: *Jeanette* was in collision with c.c. *Fesco Voyager* (12471 gt, built 1998) in approximately lat 35 08.96N, long 129 18.71E, today, in poor visibility. There were no reported casualties or any damage to the environment. Damage has occurred to own vessel's No.4 starboard ballast tank. The vessel is currently proceeding back to Ulsan for repairs. Vessel was delivered from Hyundai Mipo Dockyard to us at 1030, local time, this morning and had commenced passage to its first port. Owners will conduct a full investigation into the incident upon vessel's return to Ulsan.

Busan, Oct 9 — At about 1920, Oct 8, while c.c. *Fesco Voyager* was on a part loaded passage, with 573 TEU of containers, from Busan to Vostochnyy, its bow came into contact with the starboard side of new building product tanker *Jeanette*, which was on a maiden voyage from Ulsan to Qingdao, in approximately lat 35 08N, long 129 18.8E, off Busan. As a result of the collision, *Fesco Voyager* sustained considerable damage to its bow area and *Jeanette* sustained damage to its starboard side shell plating, in way of cargo tank. No oil pollution or crew injury were reported. *Fesco Voyager* will berth at Busan tonight, for cargo discharge, and the permanent repairs are not decided as yet. *Jeanette* is presently lying berthed at the repair wharf of Hyundai Mipo Dockyard Co, Ltd, Ulsan, Korea, for permanent repairs. — Lloyd's Sub-Agents.

Busan, Oct 12 — C.c. *Fesco Voyager* reberthed at Busan at 0120, Oct 10, discharged all containers on board and sailed from Busan, bound for open sea, at 0812 hrs the same day, to wait owner's instructions for repairs. The vessel will berth at Masan at about 1600, Oct 12, for investigation by marine police regarding collision accident and inspections. Repair schedule has not yet been decided. Product tanker *Jeanette* is presently lying at Hyundai Mipo Dockyard, Ulsan, for permanent repairs, but understand that the repairs have not yet commenced, awaiting agreement repair quote before repairs. The repairs will take about one month. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

FITIAL (U.S.A.)

Guam, Oct 11 — Tug *Fitial* is a local tug in Guam, assisting the inbound and outbound of vessels inside the Guam anchorage. The fire on the tug was reported as minor in nature, affecting one of the crew's quarter wooden structures and allegedly did not affect the tug's integrity. The tug remained in normal usage after the fire. Currently the damaged quarter's wooden framework is still being repaired, gradually, whenever the vessel was not in use for towage. — Lloyd's Agents.

FLYING OFFICER NIRMAL JIT SINGH SEKHON PVC (India)

See "Vasco da Gama, Goa, India" under "Pollution."

FOTINI LADY (Liberia)

London, Oct 12 — Crude oil tanker *Fotini Lady*, Kalundborg for Corunna, passed Dover Strait Oct 7.

GALACTICA 001 (Canada)

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Galactica 001*, which sank mysteriously in Toronto Harbour 16 days ago, was raised today in an operation completed late in the afternoon. By midday a salvage crew had raised the boat from its resting place at the foot of Jarvis St. using two cranes pulling on cables which had been attached to the boat's hull. Pumps drained water from inside the boat as Transport Canada officials and insurance inspectors took pictures and examined the vessel. The boat was put onto a barge at about 1600 and towed to Pier 35 where it was unloaded and will be inspected. "Everything's going smoothly," Harbour Master Angus Armstrong said. "There was no hole in the hull." It's not clear why the 50-foot boat sank in 30 feet of water in the middle of the night on Sep 22. One theory was that a valve gave way or a slow leak suddenly became worse and overwhelmed the boat. But Armstrong said an inspection showed that all valves were secure. Armstrong wanted the boat raised sooner, but it took longer than expected to figure out how to raise the vessel safely. A diver spent several hours early in the day attaching steel cables underneath the *Galactica 001's* hull. The cranes started raising the boat at about 1100. By noon, salvage workers were pumping water out of the boat and into containment units. The boat was coated with sludge and mud, but much of the structure looked intact, including stools where passengers would have sat. "It's been down there for some time so you got to figure all the wiring is ruined and the engines probably have to be rebuilt," Armstrong said. "It may be salvaged but that will be up to the insurance adjusters." The boat had undergone extensive renovations and had just begun offering cruises on the harbour again after being out of operation for a couple of years. "Some very good professionals are here to determine exactly why this boat went down," Armstrong said. If there is found to be criminal activity behind the sinking, Armstrong said, the police will be called in. Transport Canada will make a public report in about a week or so, he said.

GARDNO (Panama)

London, Oct 11 — Following received from Coast Guard Etel MRCC, timed 0825, UTC: A report was received at 0750, UTC, today that while bulk *Gardno*, HPSL, (11632 gt, built 1980) was berthing at La Rochelle a towing line broke and the vessel struck the quay. As a result the vessel has a fracture in a ballast tank.

La Pallice, Oct 13 — Bulk *Gardno* while proceeding on channel broke its towline, drifted very quickly and hit access bridge viaduct of mole d escale.

After four hours *Gardno* successfully berthed at mole d escale No.2 pier. *Gardno* is heavily damaged on port side hull, several cracks, hull heavily dented, water entrance to hold No.5. Survey by class and by P&I Surveyor to determine damages. Bridge viaduct of mole d escale also badly damaged, vehicles more than 3.5 tons not allowed to use this bridge which will have strong economical consequences. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

GENMAR TRANSPORTER (Marshall Islands)

London, Oct 14 — Following received from General Maritime Management (Hellas) Ltd, Piraeus, dated today: We sold crude oil tanker *GenMar Transporter* on Oct 13. Vessel was still at Quanzhou at the time of the sale.

HENG SHAN (Panama)

See *MSC Lucia*.

HIZIR REIS-III (Turkey)

London, Oct 11 — Ferry *Hizir Reis III*, which took on water after hitting an unknown object in the Marmara Sea Aug 1, is reported to be back in normal service.

IRAN ARDEBIL (Iran)

Aden, Oct 12 — C.c. *Iran Ardebil* is still at anchor off Aden, with members of salvage team still on board, awaiting release by MAA. We understand that the matters to be settled concerns: 1. Environmental damage, i.e. damage to coral by grounding and 2. Unlawful entry into a restricted area. At this time we are not aware exactly what the authorities are asking for in the way of fines or compensation. — Lloyd's Agents.

Aden, Oct 13 — C.c. *Iran Ardebil* sailed Aden 1800, local time, today in tow of tug *Svitzer Hazira*, bound for Dubai where the vessel will first discharge 100 empty containers for transshipment and then proceed to dry dock. — Lloyd's Agents.

JAG ARPAN (India)

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Preliminary investigations into a flash fire, on Sep 27, on product tanker *Jag Arpan*, at Jurong Shipyard, established that a worker was using an oxyacetylene torch to cut a hole in the pump-room, just before the incident. The fire occurred as the hole was being cut in a cargo/flush pipe and liquid was released from within the pipe, the Manpower Ministry (MOM) said in a statement yesterday. The last product carried by the vessel was naphtha - a flammable petroleum product. Investigations revealed that the cargo/flush pipe was not purged to empty it of its contents before the commencement of hot-work, the ministry statement said. MOM is continuing its investigation into the cause of the flash fire. There were 13 workers in the pump-room when the accident happened. Nine were discharged from the Singapore General Hospital the same day and two were discharged later. The remaining two workers are still warded and are in

stable condition. The ministry said regulations require that steps be taken to remove explosive or flammable substances contained in any pipe, plant, tank or vessel before any hot-work is carried out on it. An inspection to determine that this has been done and that it is safe for work to commence must also be carried out by a qualified person.

London, Oct 13 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0030, UTC: Product tanker *Jag Arpan* currently remains in Jurong dockyard.

JEANETTE (Marshall Islands)

See *Fesco Voyager*.

JIM CUNNINGHAM (Marshall Islands)

Valletta, Oct 11 — A local press report, dated today, states: Drill platform *Jim Cunningham* arrived at Malta Shipyards yesterday for extensive repair work. *Jim Cunningham* sustained substantial fire damage while on location off Egypt. The work involved is likely to include electrical work, pipe-work, blasting and painting and some steel repairs, the Ministry for Investment and Information Technology said yesterday. — Lloyd's Agents.

JIN CHENG SHAN (China)

See *Jiu Lian Shan*.

JIU LIAN SHAN (China)

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Container vessel *Jiulianshan* (? general cargo *Jiu Lian Shan*) was in collision with a vessel loaded with sand, this morning at a port in southeastern China's Fujian Province, said local harbour bureau. There were no casualties. The head-on accident occurred at 0835, today when the vessel carrying 73 containers, entered Songmen Wharf (Fuzhou) while a vessel filled with sand was leaving. The vessel sunk with all 73 containers while the sand vessel was barely damaged. All 15 crew members were saved in time. Rescuers were salvaging the sunken vessel last night while investigation into the cause is underway.

London, Oct 13 — The vessel in collision with general cargo *Jiu Lian Shan* at Fuzhou was general cargo *Jin Cheng Shan* (9977 gt, built 1973), which was loaded with a cargo of 15,000 tonnes of sandy stone. It is confirmed that there was no damage to the *Jin Cheng Shan*.

JONATHAN THOMAS (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 12 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1450, UTC: Bulk *Napoleon* (27638 gt, built 1981), outbound, reported a steering problem and was subsequently in collision with tug *Jonathan Thomas* (159 gt, built 1975), inbound pushing four barges, near light 64, Houston Ship Channel, at approximately 2200, local time, yesterday. One of the barges, tank barge *Kirby 10378* (716 gt, built 1999), was also struck but there was no leakage. *Napoleon* grounded but has since been refloated and is being taken to the Bolivar Roads anchorage.

Jonathan Thomas was struck on port side with flooding in engine-room, and as a result was beached. There was one minor injury to one of the tug's crew.

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Coast Guard crews yesterday were investigating a collision between tug *Jonathan Thomas* and bulk *Napoleon* near Red Fish Island that restricted traffic on the Houston Ship Channel for about nine hours. Both vessels were headed out of the Port of Houston about 2240 Monday (Oct 11) when the collision happened, according to a Coast Guard report. Chief Warrant Officer Adam Wine said the collision produced no serious injuries and caused no pollution, even though it broke the line between *Jonathan Thomas* and one of four barges it was pulling. One of the barges, carrying 20,000 barrels of lubricating oil, did sustain damage after it also collided with *Napoleon*. "The barge was hit high enough that none of the fuel or oil leaked out," he said. One tug crewmember reportedly suffered an elbow injury, but refused hospitalization. Wine declined to make public any results of the investigation, since it had not concluded as of yesterday. "We have statements from all the people involved, but until the investigation is completed, we're not allowed to comment on findings," he said. The Coast Guard limited Houston Ship Channel traffic for about nine hours after the collision, allowing only for one-way traffic and barring vessels from passing one another. That restriction was lifted at 0740 yesterday, according to Coast Guard reports.

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Houston-Galveston is investigating the collision between bulk *Napoleon* and tug *Jonathan Thomas* with four barges in the Houston Ship Channel Monday evening (Oct 11). A Coast Guard watchstander at Vessel Traffic Service Houston received the report of the collision via the pilot onboard *Napoleon* at approximately 2240 hrs. According to the report the collision occurred while *Napoleon* attempted to over take the tug, near buoy 54, while heading out bound in the Houston Ship Channel near Redfish Bar in Galveston Bay. The collision caused the towline of *Jonathan Thomas* to brake; setting the barges adrift, injuring one crewmen and damaging one barge and the tug. No visible damage was done to *Napoleon*, *Jonathan Thomas*, however, began to take on water and beached on the west side of the channel. *Napoleon* was empty at the time of the collision. *Jonathan Thomas* was pushing four barges; one empty, one carrying 10,000 barrels of octene, one carrying 10,000 barrels of hexene and one carrying 20,000 barrels of lube oil. The lube oil barge was damaged on its starboard quarter, but no pollution has been reported. *Jonathan Thomas* has been de-watered and is no longer in danger of sinking. The barges were gathered by assisting tugs. The channel was restricted to one way traffic at slow speed with no passing between buoys 57

to 61 throughout the night. At 0740 hrs the Coast Guard Captain of the Port, Capt. Rick Kaser lifted the restrictions, and opened the channel to normal traffic. The cause of the collision is still under investigation.

London, Oct 13 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1320, UTC: Tug *Jonathan Thomas* is now safely moored, location not known.

KAREN ANDRIE (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 7 — Tug *Karen Andrie* was reported arriving at Detroit 1831, Oct 3 and departing 1606, Oct 4.

KENT NAVIGATOR (Gibraltar)

London, Oct 12 — General cargo *Kent Navigator* (12804 gt, built 1977) grounded near Buoy D28, Lake St. Francis, in lat 45 09 18N, long 74 22 23W, at 2150, EDST, Oct 10, reportedly due to steering gear failure while upbound. (Note — *Kent Navigator* arrived Valleyfield Oct 11.)

Montreal, Oct 12 — General cargo *Kent Navigator*, bound Hamilton, Ontario, experienced a steering gear failure in the Seaway at 1948, Oct 10, and ran aground. The vessel refloated the following morning and proceeded to anchorage for a diver's survey. Other problems arose, unrelated to the incident, and the vessel has been delayed. The hull inspection will be carried out very late tonight, before the vessel is able to proceed to Hamilton. There was no leakage or pollution. — Lloyd's Agents.

KIRBY 10378

See *Jonathan Thomas*

KORNI (Norway)

London, Oct 11 — General cargo *Korni* arrived Kristiansand Oct 6 from Lillesand and sailed same day for Moss.

KOVERA (Russia)

London, Oct 11 — General cargo *Kovera* sailed Goole Oct 9 and arrived Hull same day.

KSENIA ZHARKIKH (Belize)

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Unmanned former fish factory *Ksenia Zharkikh* (1895 gt, built 1986), being towed to India for scrap, has broken free and is adrift off the North Island coast. The Maritime Safety Authority (MSA) said in a statement today it was monitoring the vessel which is adrift 55km east of Cape Turnagain, north of Castlepoint, to ensure it did not drift closer to shore and run the risk of grounding. The MSA-managed Rescue Co-ordination Centre has been keeping a close watch on the vessel since it became separated while being towed by another vessel yesterday afternoon. *Ksenia Zharkikh* has no crew, fuel or pollutants on board. It is currently drifting to the east, away from the coast, at a speed of about one knot. The towing vessel is standing by. Director of Maritime Safety Russell Kilvington said there were no environmental concerns and it was unlikely the ship would drift closer to shore, at this stage. "We are facilitating communications to reconnect the tow.

Local fishing *Legionnaire*, is nearby to provide assistance. *Ksenia Zharkikh* has a spare tow on board," he said. *Ksenia Zharkikh* was being towed from Lyttelton to India for scrap metal by trawler *Osha* (1898 gt, built 1984). Both vessels had been laid up in South Island ports for some time. To minimise environmental risks during the voyage, the MSA imposed conditions that the vessels stay at least 12 nautical miles off the coast of New Zealand, do not travel through Cook Strait, and that *Ksenia Zharkikh* does not carry pollutants. (Note — *Ksenia Zharkikh* left Lyttelton Oct 9.)

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated today, states: An emergency tow-rope has been hooked up to fish factory *Ksenia Zharkikh* which has been adrift off Cape Turnagain. The ship was being towed to India to be scrapped when it broke away yesterday. Maritime Safety says another boat was battling 30 knot winds and high seas to try to reconnect the tow. But it says they have settled for an emergency rope and will wait for the weather to settle before re-hooking the proper rope. Maritime Safety says the ship has not moved much and conditions are improving with winds down to only 20 knots and a swell of a metre or less. The MSA says it is confident the ship will be safely on its way as soon as possible.

Wellington, Oct 13 — Towline parted at the stern of trawler *Osha*, so now 420 metres of towline is hanging vertically down from the bows of fish factory *Ksenia Zharkikh*. Vessels presently about 50 miles offshore from Castlepoint. Tug *Titirangi* is planned to sail from Gisborne this afternoon to assist in reconnecting the towline. Estimated time of arrival at scene about Friday morning (Oct 15.) — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 14 — Following received from Wellington MRCC, timed 2340, UTC, Oct 13: Fish factory *Ksenia Zharkikh* and trawler *Osha* are drifting about 70 miles east of North Island, still awaiting tug *Titirangi*. Weather preventing any attempt to reconnect towline.

LAKE EVA (Marshall Islands)

Montreal, Oct 13 — Loaded chemical/oil carrier *Lake Eva* (10948 gt, built 1989) was safely berthed at S. 32, Montreal, repairing a generator, when the vessel was allegedly pulled off the berth by passing passenger *Regal Princess* (70285 gt, built 1991) at 1650, Oct 12. *Lake Eva* broke eight mooring lines and required the assistance of a tug and a harbour pilot in order to return to its berth. There was no damage to *Lake Eva* other than the broken lines and lost time as a result. The vessel had sufficient spare mooring lines on board. The vessel's next loading port is Becancour. — Lloyd's Agents.

LAKE LISI (Marshall Islands)

London, Oct 12 — Product tanker *Lake Lisi* (10937 gt, built 1985) lost propulsion near Buoy Q22, St. Lawrence River, in lat 46 42 24N, long 71 28 48W, at 1815, EDST, Oct 8, while proceeding downbound, and had to proceed to emergency anchorage.

LORENA

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

LUCKY LADY (Malta)

London, Oct 13 — Following received from the managers of crude oil tanker *Lucky Lady*, dated today: *Lucky Lady* remains anchored at Cilacap, with negotiations still under way with local authorities, fishermen, etc, over various issues. Once these have been satisfactorily settled, vessel will proceed to a repair yard.

LUDVIG ANDERSEN (Panama)

London, Oct 11 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Ludvig Andersen* is presently undergoing repairs at Karlsund Shipyard, ETC not known.

LUJIN-I (North Korea)

Bucharest, Oct 13 — As at Oct 1, general cargo *Lujin-I* was still at Midia. — Lloyd's Agents.

LUZON SPIRIT (Bahamas)

London, Oct 13 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 0855, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Luzon Spirit* (57448 gt, built 1992), Fredericia for Rotterdam, cargo 83,000 tons crude oil, grounded on a sand/gravel bottom, 200 metres off the quay at Fredericia, due loss of power, at 0200, this morning. Vessel is still aground. There are two tugs in the area and another two are on their way to the area. No damage or pollution reported.

London, Oct 13 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1244, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Luzon Spirit* was refloated at 1123, UTC. Vessel currently remains anchored "in situ" undergoing an inspection.

London, Oct 13 — Following received from managers of crude oil tanker *Luzon Spirit*, dated today: Teekay Shipping regrets to report that at approximately 0200 hrs CET, *Luzon Spirit*, a 1992 built double hull tanker of 98,629 dwt, went aground in Fredericia Harbour, Denmark. The vessel, carrying approximately 90,000 tons of crude oil, was in the process of departing the terminal with pilot on board and two tugs assisting. First reports indicate that a strong current moved the ship aft and despite the use of the engine, a number of mooring lines parted. The ship then grounded on a sandbank east of the terminal. *Luzon Spirit* was refloated at 1318 hrs, CET, shortly after high tide, with the aid of four tugs. There was no pollution and no injuries reported. Teekay thanks the Terminal, the local harbour authorities, the pilot and the tugs for their excellent work and cooperation in resolving this situation so quickly and efficiently. The vessel is currently at anchor carrying out final checks and once we have clearance from the classification society, flag state and the Danish authorities, the vessel will continue on its voyage.

London, Oct 14 — The Danish Maritime Authority said crude oil tanker *Luzon Spirit* broke away from its mooring lines during high winds and drifted 100 m on to a sandbank. One

line was taken away, then six mooring lines between the vessel and pier broke, because of strong winds and current, said Lars Nielsen, head of the DMA's investigation division, yesterday afternoon. The vessel was refloated and now needs a survey before it can go again. If there is no damage then it could be on its way possibly this evening, he said. DMA investigators were on board the tanker to survey the vessel for damage and divers were inspecting the hull.

MARIA DEL MAR

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

MARILA

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

MARJA (Netherlands)

London, Oct 14 — General cargo *Marja* is still undergoing repairs at Polyships shipyard, Vigo. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARTE (Italy)

Bergen, Oct 12 — Lpg *Marte* sailed from Sloevaag on Oct 5, bound for Antwerp. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MARWA M. (Tonga)

Valletta, Oct 12 — MMA has a claim against general cargo *Marwa M.* for Lm 12,594.42 in port dues and other expenses. The First Hall had decided in favour of MMA on Jul 22. Tonio Azzopardi, appointed as curator, appealed the decision and we are now waiting for the Court of Appeal to set a date for the appeal sitting. The vessel had been bought by Cassar Ship Repair Yard in a judicial sale by auction held early in 2003. The sum of Lm 15000 paid by Cassar Ship Repair was deposited in court and MMA filed a garnishee order notified to the Registrar of Courts with regard to the said amount. — Lloyd's Agents.

MELLUM (Liberia)

London, Oct 8 — General cargo *Mellum* departed Melbourne Oct 5, bound for Newcastle (AUS), where it arrived Oct 7.

MIDDLETOWN (U.S.A.)

Troy, Michigan, Oct 12 — Bulk *Middletown* remained in dry dock at Fraser Shipyards yesterday undergoing repairs to bottom damage sustained in the St. Marys River. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

MILENA (Greece)

London, Oct 13 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Passenger ro/ro *Milena* (9856 gt, built 1970), operating between Piraeus and Volos with 71 passengers on board, came into contact with a vessel moored alongside at Skiathos during the afternoon of Oct 12, while manoeuvring to berth. *Milena* sustained minor hull damage and, due to strong winds in the area, moored at Skiathos anchorage. Following a survey by the marine inspectorate, the vessel was permitted to depart at 1140, Oct 13, for Volos.

MISSISSAGI (Canada)

London, Oct 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulk *Mississagi* (9706 gt, built 1943) came within a foot of hitting the sea wall south of the Blue Water Bridge after engine failure caused the vessel to drift toward the Port Huron riverfront. The crew of *Mississagi* dropped anchor on Monday (Oct 4) to slow the vessel and regain control as the self-unloading vessel came alongside the St. Clair River sea wall. *Mississagi* was northbound, approaching the bridge, when witnesses noticed it push toward the shore. The vessel's crew sounded its emergency horn and dropped its anchor, its bow coming within one foot of the sea wall. The crew restarted the engine and headed into Lake Huron, where the crew would investigate the engine problem. The vessel had just left Sarnia with no cargo en route to Meldrum Bay, Ontario, said Lawrence Swift, Canadian Coast Guard spokesman. He didn't know if there would be an official investigation. None of the 20-member crew reported injuries. The crew didn't know why the engine stopped, Swift said. (Note — *Mississagi* sailed Windsor Oct 3 and arrived Meldrum Bay Oct 5.)

MSC LUCIA (Panama)

London, Oct 13 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0025, UTC: C.c. *MSC Lucia* is currently in Sembawang shipyard, repairing. Bulk *Heng Shan* has left the port.

MSC REBECCA (Panama)

See *Umfolozi*.

NAPOLEON (Malta)

See *Jonathan Thomas*.

NATS EMPEROR (Cyprus)

Brest, Oct 12 — Bulk *Nats Emperor* (22540 gt, built 1987) Hamburg for Karachi, loaded, sustained heavy cargo shifting on deck, Oct 11. At 1745 hrs, vessel was in lat 49 08N, long 05 31W when master elected to divert to Brest for re-stowage. Vessel berthed at Brest at 0200, today. It is not known how long it will take to inspect the vessel and re-stow the cargo. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Nats Emperor* sailed Hamburg Oct 6 for Karachi.)

NAZEK T. (North Korea)

Bucharest, Oct 11 — General cargo *Nazek T.* is still in Constantza shipyard under repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

NICON FRONTIER (Panama)

London, Oct 7 — Bulk *Nicon Frontier* sailed Fairless Hills 1506, Oct 2, bound Boston (USA).

NINA

See *North Countess*.

NINA (Comoros)

Singapore, Oct 12 — The discharging of cargo from bulk *Nina* continues. Refloating attempt is provisionally expected on Friday, Oct 15. — Semco Salvage & Marine Private Ltd.

NORTH COUNTESS (Greece)

Buenos Aires, Oct 7 — In accordance with Coastguard's information, bulk *North Countess* (36600 gt, built 1986), during upriver navigation along the River Parana de las Palmas bound for San Nicolas, collided with sand motor vessel *Nina*, 60 m length, and sailing downriver bound for Buenos Aires, five km north from the Zarate-Brazo Largo's bridge, at Km.106 of the river, during night time on Oct 6. As a consequence of the collision, *Nina* sustained main damages and its crew was rescued by a Coastguard motor boat. The Argentine Coastguard is currently attending at the site performing salvage operations. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *North Countess* sailed Singapore Sep 5 for San Nicolas.)

Buenos Aires, Oct 8 — The collision between bulk *North Countess* and sand vessel *Dona Nina* (previously reported as *Nina*) was sustained at 2120, local time, Oct 6, in way Km. 112 of the River Parana de las Palmas. *North Countess*, loaded with coal, sustained light damages in way of its forepeak tank and after Coastguard's inspection, resumed its navigation bound for the port of San Nicolas. *Dona Nina* sustained main damages. Neither personal injuries nor pollution occurred as a consequence of the collision. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Oct 11.)

Buenos Aires, Oct 12 — Bulk *North Countess* is discharging at the port of San Nicolas (Km. 343 of the River Parana). Damages were observed in way of fore peak tank port plating. Hold No.1 will be available for inspection upon completion of discharge. Sand vessel *Dona Nina* was placed in Tandanor's dry-dock, in Buenos Aires. The vessel sustained severe damages in way of starboard Cofferdams Nos.3 & 4. — Lloyd's Agents.

NORTHICA (NIS)

See "Skagen Area, Denmark" under "Pollution."

OCEAN GALAXY (Hong Kong)

See "Collapse of Bauxite Loading Equipment, Discovery Bay, Jamaica" under "Miscellaneous."

OCEAN ROSE (U.K.)

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated Oct 12, states: A collision between a tanker and fishing vessel off the Whitby coast may have been caused as the watch officer of the tanker was not on the bridge. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch concluded a report into the collision in March, today. It found fishing *Ocean Rose* was hit by chemical/oil carrier *Reno* as it made its way to Immingham. The fishing boat sustained major damage and was again hit by the tanker as it offered assistance to its crew. A rescue helicopter and two lifeboats were sent to the scene of the collision off Staithes after a mayday call from crew on *Ocean Rose* who said their vessel was sinking rapidly. The fishing boat was towed back to Whitby. No chemicals were spilt from the tanker and no-one was hurt.

ODIN (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Oct 7 — General cargo *Odin* arrived Goole 2130, Oct 5.

ORADEA

Bucharest, Oct 12 — Pusher tug *Oradea*, which sank Aug 23, 1998, and refloated Sep 18, 1998, and towed to Giurgiu, is still laid-up at Giurgiu, with no changes occurring in the interim period in its position. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORION (Bulgaria)

See *Al Tawfik*.

ORSTA (Norway)

London, Oct 11 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Orsta* (347 gt, built 1964) experienced engine trouble at 1730, local time, Oct 10, while arriving at Voksa and ran aground. There was no damage to the seven cars on board and the 17 passengers were not injured. The vessel sustained damage to the rudder and propeller and is now undergoing repairs.

OSHA (Russia)

See *Ksenia Zharkikh*.

OTTON (Panama)

See "Netherlands" under "Port State Control."

PONGOLA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Durban, Oct 12 — General cargo *Pongola* is still under repair in the floating dock. The vessel is now expected to undock Oct 15 on completion of hydrostatic testing of the double bottom tanks. Further repairs will be effected alongside and are expected to complete on or about Oct 19. — Lloyd's Agents.

PRIDE A. (Greece)

Barcelona, Oct 13 — Product tanker *Pride A.* left Tarragona 1850, Sep 27 and remained anchored outside the port, where once it had effected temporary repairs it departed at 1500, Oct 5 for Piraeus (not as reported in issue of Oct 6) where permanent repairs were going to be made. — Lloyd's Agents.

PROSPERITY (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 13 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1320, UTC: Trawler *Prosperity* (478 gt, built 1979), official No.615485, reported taking water through crack in hull at 1210, UTC, Oct 12. Vessel sank approximately 90 minutes later in lat 41 53.4N, long 69 07.2W. The nine persons on board were all rescued safely.

REDEEMER (U.K.)

Southampton, Oct 12 — Salvage *Redeemer* is still alongside at Newhaven. Understand from port that the owners seem to have abdicated any responsibility for vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

REGAL PRINCESS (Bermuda)

See *Lake Eva*.

RENO (Madeira)

See *Ocean Rose*.

ROSELLA (Finland)

See *Tallink Autoservice*.

S. DURVILLE (Singapore)

Brisbane, Oct 14 — General cargo *S. Durville* is still in Brisbane Port and is now not expected to leave until at least Oct 21. — Lloyd's Agents.

SCARLET IBIS (Panama)

London, Oct 13 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1345, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier *Scarlet Ibis* (30411 gt, built 2004), Houston for Cristobal, had an "engine-room fire" approximately 260 nautical miles west-south-west of Key West at 2015, UTC, Oct 12. Two crew members were medivaced with severe burns. The fire was extinguished.

London, Oct 13 — Following received from the managers of chemical/oil carrier *Scarlet Ibis*, dated today: Wallem Shipmanagement regrets to report that an accident occurred on board its managed vessel, *Scarlet Ibis*, in which two seafarers were injured, one fatally. The seafarers were in the process of cutting the top off an empty 200-lts drum for use as a refuse bin for local cleaning when the drum exploded and volatile residue inside caught alight. At the time of the incident, which occurred approximately 1409, local time, Oct 12, *Scarlet Ibis* was in the Yucatan Channel between Mexico and Cuba on route to Punta Arenas having discharged its cargo in Houston. Following the incident, both men were given first aid and radio medical advice was obtained during which time the vessel's master turned the vessel towards Tampa and the US Coastguard were contacted. Both seafarers were evacuated by USCG helicopter and taken to Tampa General Hospital. Sadly one of the injured died on his way to hospital while receiving paramedic attention. The second injured seafarer is stable and receiving hospital care. Families of both seafarers have been informed. A Wallem Shipmanagement superintendent is visiting the injured seafarer in hospital and will thereafter join the vessel to carry out a thorough accident investigation. There was no damage to the vessel or equipment and the voyage to Punta Arenas resumed at 2100, local time.

SERENITY (U.K.)

Aberdeen, Oct 12 — Following information received from United Fishing Selling, owners of fishing *Serenity*: Engine of fishing *Serenity* first stopped at 0130, Oct 6, while shooting gear. The master placed several phone calls to electrical engineers in Fraserburgh to try to get power to start the main engine. All measures failed and as the weather was steadily worsening the master was becoming fearful of the crews safety. Aberdeen Coastguard was contacted at 0410. The Coastguard issued a message which was responded by supply *Troms Falken*. Vessel arrived alongside at 0730 and was towed to Aberdeen Bay. *Troms*

Falken then had to return to its original operation. Owners contacted Targe Towing and they utilised tug *Carrickfergus* to tow the vessel into the harbour. United Fish Selling requested engineers to visit vessel, (no details of work carried out). Vessel sailed Aberdeen at 1702, Oct 10, for Guard Ship Duty.

SOUTHERN MOANA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Suva, Oct 12 — General cargo *Southern Moana* sailed Suva in tow at 1500, Oct 7, bound Shanghai. — Lloyd's Agents.

SPETSES (Greece)

Piraeus, Oct 9 — Crude oil tanker *Spetses* arrived Piraeus Oct 4 from Spain. — Lloyd's Agents.

STOLT INNOVATION (Cayman Islands)

See *Antlia*.

SUNBELT DIXIE (Liberia)

Dubai, Oct 12 — Vehicle *Sunbelt Dixie* arrived Dubai Oct 7 and sailed Oct 9 for Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUOMENLINNA II (Finland)

Helsinki, Oct 8 — A Finnish commuter ferry captain has been suspended after passenger *Suomenlinna II* (329 gt) crashed into a pier because he forgot to turn off the autopilot — for the second time in three days. The captain was given a second chance to prove his seamanship after an accident on Tuesday (Oct 5) when two passengers and one crew member were injured after the vessel hit the pier at its destination, an island just outside Helsinki. "He has been on this route for more than 10 years and we discussed carefully that he would be more sharp in the future. He did not manage it," Jorma Salopelto, head of Suomenlinnan Liikenne which runs the ferry, told Reuters. Having yesterday once again forgotten that the autopilot was engaged, the skipper was unable to stop the boat from running ashore, completely demolishing the pier but without causing any personal injuries. The ferry company said he had not been drinking on either occasion. It is not clear if or when he will return to his job. — Reuters.

SUPERFERRY 14 (Philippines)

Manila, Oct 11 — Passenger ro/ro *Superferry 14* was towed to Herma Shipyard, formerly Bataan Shipyard & Engineering Corp, Mariveles, Bataan, Philippines. Future plans for the vessel presently unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, Oct 11 — A bomb planted by the Muslim militant group Abu Sayyaf caused the sinking of a Philippine ferry that killed more than 100 people in February, the government said today. Abu Sayyaf, believed to have links with al Qaeda, had claimed responsibility, but the government initially said the explosion and fire that sank passenger ro/ro *Superferry 14* at the mouth of Manila Bay were probably caused by an accident. "We have solved the *Superferry* bombing," President Gloria

Macapagal Arroyo said in a statement. "Today, criminal charges were filed against the six perpetrators. These are the same people responsible for the Dos Palmas kidnapping." Abu Sayyaf militants abducted three Americans, two of whom later died, and 17 Filipinos from the Dos Palmas beach resort in the southwestern Philippines in 2001. Two of the ferry bombing suspects, including one suspected of beheading American hostage Guillermo Sobero, were arrested in March after raids by security forces in Manila. Arroyo, whose announcement came just after she marked the first 100 days of her new term, said she had ordered the police and military to intensify their hunt for the four other suspects, including Abu Sayyaf leader Khadafi Janjalani. Janjalani had demanded \$1 million from the company that operates the Superferry vessels in exchange for "unhindered use of the waters" around the southern island of Mindanao, the Philippine National Police said in a statement today. Arthur Gosingan, a coast guard commandant, said investigators determined the explosion inside the ferry was caused by a bomb, matching a confession by an Abu Sayyaf member arrested in March. "It took us some time to complete the inquiry because it took us a while to raise the ship and tow it to a safer place to find out the cause of the explosion," Gosingan said. The officers and crew of the ferry reported smelling gunpowder as smoke enveloped the vessel after a powerful blast. — Reuters.

SUSIE (Romania)

London, Oct 7 — General cargo *Susie* arrived at Milos Sep 28, sailing Oct 1. The vessel was subsequently reported passing through the Straits of Gibraltar at 0642, Oct 6, bound for Ceuta.

TALLINK AUTOEXPRESS (Estonia)

Gothenburg, Oct 11 — Passenger ro/ro *Tallink Autoexpress* (4859 gt, built 1995) and passenger ro/ro *Rosella* (16850 gt, built 1980) turned against each other in the port of Tallinn Vanasadam (Old City Harbour) at midnight last night. *Rosella* was approaching the port and terminal as per ordinary procedures and noted *Tallink Autoexpress* still in port and slightly delayed from departure due bad weather conditions. During the manoeuvres, with one vessel arriving and the other departing, the situation and the flow from the propellers *Tallink Autoexpress* was in contact with *Rosella*. On board *Rosella* the pilotgate was damaged and become defective while *Tallink Autoexpress* was holed above the waterline and had to remain in port for investigation and survey. Divers found no hole below the waterline. *Rosella* was delayed about two hours due temporary repair of pilot gate. — Westax Marine Services AB.

TENACITY (Malta)

London, Oct 12 — Bulk *Tenacity* arrived Swinoujscie Oct 10 from Falmouth.

THE BOSS (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 11 — A press reporty, dated Oct 8, states: Commercial fishing *The Boss* (79 gt, built 1947, not *Boss* as reported in issue of Oct 11), ran aground on the south jetty of Yaquina Bay early yesterday morning, and three people on board were rescued without injury. A mayday call from the vessel was received just before 0130 hrs by the U.S. Coast Guard Station Yaquina Bay. The Coast Guard immediately launched a lifeboat and its vessel *Victory*. The rocks had punched a hole in the hull of the fishing boat, and its bilge pump was not keeping up with the incoming water. After arriving on scene, the lifeboat passed over a pump to the crew onboard *The Boss*, but they were unable to get the pump working correctly. Chief Warrant Officer Rich Glasgow, commander of Station Yaquina Bay, said they then passed a line over to the bow of the stranded boat and tried to pull it off of the rocks with the lifeboat. That effort was unsuccessful, and so they tried towing from the stern using *Victory*. "That probably moved them 80 to 100 feet but had no success," said Glasgow. During this time, the fishing vessel continued to get hammered on the rocks. Coast Guard personnel passed a second pump over to the boat, but the crew, again, had difficulty getting it to work. At that point, Glasgow requested and received permission from Group North Bend to transfer a Coast Guard engineer over to the disabled vessel. After that was accomplished, "the engineer went down into the engine-room, came back up and said there was six feet of water in the engine-room," Glasgow said. As the on-scene commander, he then made the decision to evacuate the boat. That order came at 0330 hrs, after trying for two hours to pull the vessel off the rocks. The lifeboat again came alongside, and the three-member crew and Coast Guard engineer were safely pulled onboard. By daybreak, just the stern of the boat was visible above the surface - the bow resting on the bottom. There was about 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel onboard when the boat went down, and yesterday morning, a Coast Guard boat attempted to place an oil boom around the wreckage. Because of the ocean conditions, however, they were unsuccessful. The Coast Guard Marine Safety Office in Portland is overseeing the salvage operation, and an on-site representative of that office had no immediate concerns about a fuel spill. The boat's owner/skipper, Joe Hernandez of San Diego, Calif., was on the south jetty yesterday morning to survey the wreckage of his boat. He said he had been inbound in heavy fog when he began experiencing rudder problems. The boat got turned around in a swell and then was slammed against the rocks. Hernandez has owned *The Boss* for the past four years, and he had no insurance on the vessel. And in addition to the loss of the boat and all its gear, he lost 10 tons of albacore tuna in the hold, which he was coming in to offload.

London, Oct 8 — Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 1710,

UTC: Fishing *The Boss*, 79 gt, built 1947, 83 feet long, WCP4615, grounded in Yaquina Bay in lat 44 36.7N, long 124 04.3W at 0930, UTC, yesterday. The vessel is still aground.

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated Oct 13, states: A tug was brought in Monday (Oct 11) and hooked up to a tuna boat (fishing *The Boss*) that sunk just inside the south jetty of Yaquina Bay last Thursday (Oct 7). The wreck was being towed further into the bay away from the main channel. A representative from the U.S. Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office said Monday they would have to examine the boat to determine how to proceed with the salvage operations.

THOR R. (Denmark)

London, Oct 8 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0830, UTC: Trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R.* remains in sunken condition. It is hoped to carry out efforts to raise the vessel Sunday (Oct 10) or Monday.

Esbjerg, Oct 8 — The operation to raise trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R.* has been postponed until high tide, 1235 hrs, on Sunday (Oct 10). One hour before the raising, a floating barrier will be deployed which will cover most of the shipping lane. The operation is planned to take around two and a half hours and during this time there can be no inbound/outbound traffic. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 9 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1610, UTC: Trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R.* remains in sunken condition. The operation to raise it has been postponed until Oct 13 as more preparation is required.

Esbjerg, Oct 11 — The raising of trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R.* has been postponed until high tide tomorrow 1431 hrs. — Lloyd's Agents.

Esbjerg, Oct 12 — The raising of trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R.* has been postponed until high tide tomorrow, 0307 hrs. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 13 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1015, UTC: Trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R.* remains aground. Understand another refloating effort will be made later today.

London, Oct 13 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1244, UTC: The next attempt to raise trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R.* will now be made at high tide tomorrow.

London, Oct 14 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1220, UTC: Trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R.* is still awaiting raising operations, which are now scheduled for Saturday morning (Oct 16).

TIME BANDIT

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

TINTINA

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

TOM T. (Sao Tome & Principe)

Bucharest, Oct 13 — As of Oct 1, general cargo *Tom T.* is still laid up at Midia. — Lloyd's Agents.

TONG YUN (China)

Yokohama, Oct 12 — C.c. *Tong Yun* is still under repair at Kobe. Repairing operations are now scheduled to be completed on Oct 19 or 20 and the vessel will sail from Kobe on Oct 21 for Tokyo. — Lloyd's Agents.

TRADEPOORT (Netherlands)

London, Oct 12 — Following received from the Rotterdam-based operators of general cargo *Tradepoort*, dated today: *Tradepoort* is currently at Jacksonville.

UMFOLOZI (Cyprus)

Durban, Oct 10 — C.c. *Umfolozi* (8328 gt, built 1982) and c.c. *MSC Rebecca* (37579 gt, built 1997) made contact at Durban outer anchorage during high winds while awaiting berths Oct 8. Minor damage was sustained by both vessels, however, there was no damage to cargo or containers on either vessel. *MSC Rebecca* berthed the same morning and *Umfolozi* that afternoon. *MSC Rebecca* proceeded to north berth to commence temporary repairs and thereafter proceeded to its normal discharge berth approximately 1300 yesterday. It is expected to depart Durban pm, Oct 12. *Umfolozi* proceeded straight to its normal discharge berth, where temporary repairs are being conducted. It is expected to depart Durban this morning. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Umfolozi* sailed Durban Oct 10 for Walvis Bay.)

London, Oct 12 — C.c. *Umfolozi* arrived East London Oct 11.

Cape Town, Oct 14 — C.c. *MSC Rebecca* arrived Port Elizabeth Oct 12 from Durban and sailed Oct 13 for Cape Town. — Lloyd's Agents.

URVAAG

Trondheim, Oct 12 — Fishing *Urvaag*: Owners inform no decision yet regarding sale or scrapping. — Lloyd's Agents.

VAN GOGH (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Lisbon, Oct 6 — Passenger *Van Gogh* arrived and sailed Lisbon Oct 5 for Vigo. — Lloyd's Agents.

VASTSJO (Sweden)

See "Skagen Area, Denmark" under "Pollution."

VIHAN 5 (Vietnam)

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

WELS (Germany)

Riga, Oct 10 — Chemical/oil carrier *Wels* arrived Riga Oct 10 from Frederikshavn. — Lloyd's Agents.

WINNER I (Panama)

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

YM PEOPLE (Hong Kong)

Colombo, Oct 8 — C.c. *YM People* sailed Colombo Oct 5 for Port Said. — Lloyd's Agents.

ZUARA (Malta)

See "French Atlantic Coast" under "Pollution."



MALACCA STRAITS

Manila, Oct 8 — Pirates attacked anchor handling firefighting tug/supply *Erna* (591 gt, built 1982) Oct 2 while towing a crane barge through the Malacca Straits, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs reported. The tug's Filipino master and chief engineer were taken hostage. The pirates also took with them the vessel's registration papers. No one was reported hurt during the attack. It was learned that *Erna* with its remaining crew, along with the crane barge it had been towing, is scheduled to dock this afternoon in Singapore. A statement released yesterday by the Department of Foreign Affairs said that the two unidentified Filipino crewmen of *Erna* "have been allowed by their abductors to make contact with their employer in Singapore and next of kin in the Philippines." "I have been informed that the boat owner has confirmed that both Filipinos are alive somewhere in Indonesia," Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo said in the statement. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Oct 11 — Anchor handling firefighting tug *Erna* arrived Singapore 1940, Oct 7.



NETHERLANDS

Zeebrugge, Oct 11 — Firefighting tug *Otton* is still detained by Dutch Government at Flushing, situation unchanged. All crewmen remain in jail. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

UNITED KINGDOM

See *Redeemer* under "Marine."



AL TAWFIK (Georgia)

See under "Marine."

ANATOLIY KOLESNICHENKO (Russia)

London, Oct 14 — Following received from The Admiralty Court, dated today: Ro/ro *Anatoliy Kolesnichenko* (18574 gt, built 1985) was arrested at Immingham yesterday. Vessel was arrested on behalf of the owner of cargo laden on board. (Note — *Anatoliy Kolesnichenko* arrived Immingham 0131, Oct 12.)

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

ANYA (Netherlands Antilles)

Cape Town, Oct 11 — Understood that anchor handling tug/supply *Anya* is to be sold by sealed tender, with tenders to be opened on Oct 13. — Lloyd's Agents.

BINTANG TIGA (Belize)

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated today, states; The Navy has seized Singaporean-owned boat *Bintang Tiga* suspected of involvement in an illegal sand dredging operation, along with five Filipino crew members, for sailing into Indonesian waters without proper documents. Chief of Tanjung Balai Karimun Naval Base Lt. Col. Bambang Wahyudi said yesterday the boat, which was flying the Belize flag, was caught on Sunday in the Tanjung Balai Karimun waters near Batam, the Riau Islands. It was the first Singaporean ship seized after Indonesia declared last year it had banned sand exports to Singapore. "After checking the boat's documents, it was revealed the boat, owned by Penta-Ocean Construction Co, Singapore, was only authorized to sail from Singapore into high seas," Bambang said. Bambang said police believed the boat was sneaking into Indonesian territory to survey islands for their potential sand. The boat was equipped with sophisticated electronic equipment, including a digital scanners with the ability to estimate the amount of sand content in Riau coastal areas. "The boat crew have confessed the boat was about to produce a survey on prospective areas for sand dredging," Bambang said. Bambang said the master and crew were being held at the Tanjung Balai Karimun Naval Base for questioning. They would later be handed over to the Tanjung Balai Karimun Prosecutor's Office, he said. Meanwhile, the boat master, Efen M. Velarde said he was not guilty of sand dredging and said his boat had entered Indonesian waters by mistake.

CATUMBELA RIVER (Madeira)

London, Oct 11 — Following received from the Admiralty Marshal, dated today: Ro/ro *Catumbela River* was sold Sep 27.

ENDEAVOR II (Greece)

Karachi, Oct 13 — The Sindh High Court has adjourned to Oct 19 for rehearing the case of crude oil tanker *Endeavor II*, which is still under arrest at Karachi Port, according to Karachi Port Authority and Partner Surridge & Beecheno, the counsel for M/s Andros Maritime of Greece, which owns it. The case was scheduled to be heard Oct 12 but due to illness of judge the date adjourned. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

GULF FLEET NO.74 (U.S.A.)

Limassol, Oct 13 — Anchor handling tug/supply *Gulf Fleet No.74* was released from arrest Oct 12. — Lloyd's Agents.

HIGHLANDER

Cape Town, Oct 11 — Fishing *Highlander* is still under detention at Cape Town. — Lloyd's Agents.

INVINCIBLE (Mongolia)

Colombo, Oct 11 — General cargo *Invincible* is still under arrest in Galle Harbour. — Lloyd's Agents.

KAWKAB (Egypt)

London, Oct 11 — General cargo *Kawkab* arrived Rijeka Sep 28 in tow from Venice. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARWA M. (Tonga)

See under "Marine."

MERCAN A. (Turkey)

Bahrain, Oct 11 — Bulk *Mercan A.* has been purchased by some local parties and is currently under repair in Bahrain. — Lloyd's Agents.

MILOS (Greece)

Maassluis, Oct 7 — Bulk *Milos* sailed Rotterdam 0150, Oct 6, destination Sorel. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

NOR HAV (NIS)

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated Sep 24, states: Work on ro/ro/c.c. *Nor Hav*, laid up at Turku Repairyard, in Nadendal, since the bankruptcy of Cargo Ferries, its previous owner, has been resumed. The vessel was sold during the summer to Danish company Cargo-Link A/S which expects it to be ready for service at the end of November. (Note — *Nor Hav* was arrested in order to undergo debt recovery procedures for outstanding payments. Vessel was at Turku Repairyard as of Jul 15, 2003.)

PANLI (Cayman Islands)

Alexandria, Oct 14 — Bulk/c.c. *Panli* (40504 gt, built 1982) is under arrest at Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Panli* arrived Alexandria Aug 4.)

RESHID BEHBUDOV (Azerbaijan)

Mersin, Oct 8 — General cargo *Reshid Behbudov*: No change in the condition, vessel remains under arrest. Vessel's shipping agent in Mersin reports that a development is expected Oct 11/12 on which an Azerbaijan Government Trade committee will visit Turkey for conclusion of the problem. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA SERENADE (Cyprus)

Koper, Oct 11 — Ro/ro *Sea Serenade*, now renamed *Chang Po Go*, is still in dry dock with unknown departure. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEAGREEN (Cyprus)

London, Oct 11 — Although c.c. *Seagreen* is still at South East Lamma Anchorage, Hong Kong, it is understood that the vessel is no longer under arrest.

SEMIRAMIS (Panama)

London, Oct 7 — General cargo *Semiramis* sailed Mumbai Oct 1, destination Singapore.

SHAMROCK**(French Southern Territories)**

London, Oct 12 — By virtue of an Order for Interlocutory Sale of the Vessel issued by the United States District Court for the District of Maine

on Sep 13 notice has been given that the Marshal will sell ro/ro *Shamrock* by public auction at 1400, EDT, Nov 12 at Portland, Maine.

**Pipeline Accidents****BONNY, NIGERIA**

London, Oct 12 — Shell has confirmed that there was an explosion at one of their production pipelines to Bonny terminal today. The resulting fire has been extinguished and repair work has already begun. The cause of the incident has not been established. Until repairs are complete, the terminal will run short of about 20,000 bbls of crude oil per day. This is likely to affect the loading programme for expected vessels and result in the declaration of a "force majeure".

GROZNY, RUSSIA

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

IVANOVO REGION, RUSSIA

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A backbone oil pipeline is burning in the Ivanovo region. According to the information department of the Russian Emergencies Ministry, the fire started at 0742 hrs, at present, the fire area is 1,000 square metres. An Il-76 aircraft of the Emergencies Ministry will leave for the site from the Domodedovo airport in Moscow. Currently, some 50 people and 14 vehicles are engaged in extinguishing the fire.

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated today, states: An oil trunkline is on fire on an area of 1,000 square metres, an official in the Russian Ministry for Emergencies has told Itar-Tass. The fire broke out at a branch of the Nizhny Novgorod-Yaroslavl trunkline today. Firemen and damage control teams are currently at work at the scene of the fire. The damaged section of the trunkline has been cut off and there is no threat to populated localities, the RME official pointed out. There has been no word about anyone injured.

OLAKKUR AREA, INDIA

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A Veeranam pipeline "leak", which sent water gushing to a height of about 40 feet, has affected the water supply to Chennai since Monday (Oct 11). Officials of the Veeranam project are attending the incident at Olakkur near Tindivanam and are repairing the breach. The water supply to Chennai has been suspended since Monday night and will only resume once the "leak" has been repaired.

OMEALCA AREA, VERACRUZ STATE, MEXICO

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated Oct 13, states: A crude oil

pipeline operated by Mexican state oil monopoly Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, ruptured today, causing a fire that injured three people. Pemex said the accident, near the town of Omealca in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz, was caused when a failure in the pumping system led to a temporary increase in pressure that ruptured the line. The incident occurred around 0700 hrs and the fire was brought under control by 1000 hrs. The company said it was working to recover the spilled crude oil. Pemex said three people were injured, and that more than 500 people were evacuated as a safety precaution. The fire was set off by a spark from a car that passed over the spilled oil. Two of the car's occupants were among the three people injured. The other injured person had driven past in another car, Pemex added. The company said all three were transferred to Pemex hospitals in the state to be treated for first- and second-degree burns.



Pollution

FRENCH ATLANTIC COAST

London, Oct 9 — General cargo *Zuara* sailed Brest Oct 6 and arrived Dordrecht Oct 8.

JAVA SEA, INDONESIA

London, Oct 9 — A press report, dated today, states: An oil spill has swamped a chain of tourist islands off the coast of the Indonesian capital, polluting a marine park and hitting businesses in the area, officials and media reports said today. Oil began leaking a week ago in the region known as the Thousand Islands, but government officials said they weren't sure what the cause of the spill was. Thousand Islands Regent Abdul Kadir was quoted as saying the spill may have been caused by leaking oil pipes operated nearby by China National Offshore Oil Corp. or by a mishap loading oil onto tankers. Similar accusations have been made against the company in connection with earlier spills. Villagers were reportedly using buckets and their hands to remove lumps of tar from the beaches and oil from the ocean surface in the area - located about 100 kilometres north of Jakarta in the Java Sea. "The current oil spill is the first incident in the past eight months, and the worst with a larger ecosystem and greater area effected," Kosasih Wirahadikusumah, director of the Jakarta Environmental Management Agency, said.

NIGERIA

Lagos, Oct 7 — A massive oil spillage reportedly from the Delta or Okan fields of ChevronTexaco Nigeria, is wrecking havoc on over 50 shoreline communities in Warri South West Council, Delta State. Reports indicate that the oil spill is substantial and in some of the water it is up to six inches

thick. The development has crippled fishing activities and has reportedly affected local drinking water. ChevronTexaco vessels are said to be tracing the spill in the affected areas. A fisherman said the spill, which began at the weekend (Oct 2-3), is still very serious and many communities in the Benin River area were worse off for it. — Lloyd's Agents.

SKAGEN AREA, DENMARK

Gothenburg, Oct 3 — Chemical/oil carrier *Vastsjo* (903 gt, built 1970) had an oil spillage outside the port of Skagen yesterday morning when oil was discharged from a larger vessel onto it. This was because the larger tanker was not able to call at Hanstholm port where delivery was to take place. A small amount and some lumps of oil was noticed all along the coastline of Skagen and 15 km south from there. An unfortunate mistake where the speed of the pumps was misjudged led to the spillage of some oil into the water. According to SOK Denmark, a helicopter observed areas of oil spillage and lumps of oil and samples were taken; however, due to strong winds in the area last night no oil has been collected yet but will probably affect the shoresand wildlife, etc. Clean up will be commenced this morning — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Oct 3 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1130, UTC: The other vessel involved in the oil spill incident at Skagen was tank *Northica* (4462 gt, built 1980). Clean-up operations are under way.

London, Oct 8 — Chem.tank *Northica* was reported sailing from Klaipeda 1300, Oct 7.

Helsingborg, Oct 8 — Chemical/oil carrier *Vastsjo* arrived Helsingborg Oct 8 and departed same day for Gothenburg. — Lloyd's Agents.

VASCO DA GAMA, GOA, INDIA

London, Oct 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Petroleum products leaked from pipes into the sea while being discharged from product tanker *Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon PVC* (28704 gt, built 1985) to the Indian Oil tanks in the port town of Vasco yesterday evening, causing major alarm among fishermen and the local people. Police said they have filed cases of offence against four senior officers of the Indian oil corporation and the discharge operations from the vessel that had come from Jamnagar (Gujarat) has also been stopped. Fishermen returning to Goa shore detected the spill into the sea and raised the alarm. BJP MLA, Rajendra Arlekar and a former minister Jose Phillip D' Souza, residing in the locality, helped mobilise the authorities for a clean-up action and also to prevent any further pollution. Police sources said while some 3000-5000 litres of kerosene spilled into the sea, the oil leak has been neutralised for which concerted efforts by the Mormugao Port Trust (MPT), fire brigade and oil company authorities continued until the early hours of this morning. The deputy conservator of MPT, Anil Panjwani said the leakage

took place from *Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon PVC*, owned by the Shipping Corporation of India. The cargo was for Hindustan Petroleum and was being transferred to the IOC tankers as they have more capacity to store.

Mormugao, Oct 8 — Product tanker *Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon PVC* sailed Mormugao Oct 6. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

VICTORIA HARBOUR, CANADA

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Transport Canada, The Canadian Coast Guard and the Victoria Harbour Authority are investigating the second serious oil spill in Victoria's inner harbour in recent weeks. Officials said this morning, they had not determined the source of the oil. The oil was easily seen and could be smelled from the Harbour Causeway in front of the Fairmont Empress Hotel and went to Fisherman's Wharf, some distance away. Police were called last night about 0830 hrs when someone complained about an overpowering smell of diesel fuel. Tests were being done on the oil and Harbour Master Dave Featherby said the sheen is from a light oil and cannot be boomed as part of a cleanup.



BANGLADESH/INDIA

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 38 people have died and hundreds have been injured as torrential rains lash parts of Bangladesh and India, inundating large towns and forcing thousands to flee their homes, officials said Friday. Eleven people died in landslides in Guwahati, taking the overnight death toll to 18 in the northeastern Indian city, officials reported. Witnesses said cars and homes were submerged by the worst deluge in a decade in Assam's biggest city. Guwahati residents took to makeshift bamboo rafts, an AFP reporter said from his flooded office in the town. In neighbouring Bangladesh, at least 11 people died and hundreds more were injured by a series of tornadoes that ripped through towns and villages on Thursday, officials said. Eight people were killed when a whirlwind crashed into a field where a large number of Muslims had gathered to pray in central Bangladesh yesterday, a police official said. Eight of the injured were in serious condition. In the eastern Indian city of Calcutta, which also adjoins Bangladesh, rains caused by a low pressure in the Bay of Bengal, have claimed nine lives since yesterday, officials said.

Guwahati, India, Oct 10 — At least 62 bodies were recovered after flash floods in Assam state, taking the death toll from fresh flooding in the past three days to 88, police and rescue workers said today. Witnesses said more than 40

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bodies fished out of the water by soldiers were lined up on a highway covered with white sheets. "Villagers were caught unawares in their sleep. So many were washed away before they could react to the sudden flow of water," local resident Biju Boro said. Authorities have opened more than 50 relief camps in schools and government buildings for the flood-hit homeless. Officials said most of the bodies were found trapped in branches of fallen trees after the flash floods in worst-hit Goalpara district in the Himalayan foothills, about 110 km from the state's main city, Guwahati. Water cascading down the hills swept vehicles off the highway into adjacent paddy fields and flattened hundreds of mud and thatched-roof homes after a torrential downpour that left more than 100,000 people homeless. "Now flood waters have started receding and there are possibilities of finding more bodies," said Violet Barua, superintendent of police in Goalpara. — Reuters.

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 100 people have died in flash floods in the north-east Indian state of Assam. Officials say the worst affected area is the western district of Goalpara, where more than 80 villagers are still missing. Goalpara district superintendent, Violet Barua, said rescue workers has recovered nearly 100 dead bodies from various parts of the district in the past 24 hours. More than 120 villages have been fully submerged in flash floods in Goalpara district that borders on Bangladesh. Nearly a dozen relief camps are open for the victims. But correspondents who have visited the area say thousands of villagers who have escaped the floods are still without food and water after nearly 24 hours.

Chittagong, Oct 11 — Local Met. office has confirmed that the local cautionary signal No.3 has been withdrawn. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated Oct 12, states: At least 22 bodies were recovered overnight in flood-ravaged Assam state, taking the death toll in flash floods and mudslides in north-east India in the past week to 184, the Indo-Asian News Service (IANS) reported today. A government official said the bodies were found by soldiers engaged in relief and rescue operations from the worst hit Goalpara district, 150 km from the main city of Guwahati. The overall situation in Assam improved today as flood waters receded. The flooding was triggered after waters poured into the paddy-growing district from hills in the neighbouring state of Meghalaya following four days of heavy rains in the thickly forested north-east. Officials said the rains, the worst in a decade to soak the region outside of a monsoon period, was caused by a depression in the Bay of Bengal. Assam accounted for 177 of the 184 deaths reported from the region, while neighbouring Meghalaya accounted for the others. Of the victims, 137 drowned in separate incidents in Goalpara district while the others died in landslides in Guwahati. About 40,000 people are still staying in 45

makeshift relief camps in Goalpara, while another 25,000 displaced by the flash floods are living in government camps in other parts of Assam.

COLOMBIA

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Some 20,000 people in northern Colombia have been victims of heavy rains that have swept areas around the city of Monteria, local authorities said yesterday. The worst hit areas included 20 neighbourhoods around the city of Monteria, 790 kilometres to the north of the capital, in the department of Cordoba, according to the government's disaster response agency. About 3,600 families have been evacuated from the drenched region. The rains, that started Thursday (Oct 7), are forecast to continue.

HURRICANE "IVAN"

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Nearly three weeks after the Gulf of Mexico churned under Hurricane "Ivan", oil and gas production remains well below normal levels because of slow repairs and widespread pipeline problems. Reports of the slow comeback drove oil and gasoline prices higher yesterday, with crude prices touching \$53 a barrel in early trading. The weather is still causing trouble. A storm system in the Gulf on yesterday led companies to stop many repair projects on the hundreds of offshore platforms that had been shut down during the hurricane. The price of crude oil closed up 65 cents yesterday to \$52.67cq, a new record for a closing price. Nearly 28 percent of oil production and 15 percent of natural gas production remains shut down, according to the Minerals Management Service. Average daily U.S. oil production in September hit its lowest point since the 1950s, averaging 5.03 million barrels per day, according to the Energy Information Agency. Rick Mercier, director of the Offshore Technology Research Center at Texas A&M University, notes that most offshore production facilities are coming back on line at a predictable pace, but there has been more damage to undersea pipelines than expected. "There was a fair amount of sea floor movement due to the storm that wasn't appreciated earlier," Mercier said. "So the production facilities are getting back on line, but the pipelines to get that production onshore experienced more leaks than expected." A Shell pipeline from the Na Kika field was broken in two places, one in 40 feet of water about 30 miles east of Venice, La., and the other in more than 200 feet of water about 15 miles farther east. The U.S. Coast Guard reported yesterday that repairs were completed, but more than 200,000 gallons of oil and 211,000 gallons of oily water were collected by skimming vessels and other methods. A 20-inch diameter Shell pipeline in the Main Pass area also was broken and is under repair. El Paso Corp. said it continued to repair two Gulf-region natural gas pipeline systems it owns. The Tennessee Gas pipeline is carrying just 70 percent of

its 1 billion cubic feet per day capacity, while the Southern Natural Gas pipeline is carrying just 370 million cubic feet per day versus the 500 cubic feet per day it normally carries. Even though pipelines are proving to be a major bottleneck, there continue to be production issues offshore. Shell Exploration & Production Co., the biggest operator there, reported yesterday that three of the platforms it operates have yet to return to normal, with two of them not expected to return to levels they were at before "Ivan" until sometime in 2005. The Cognac platform will be back to full speed by the middle of November, said spokesman Johan Zaayman, but the Ram-Powell tension-leg platform in deeper water won't be up to full production until the first quarter of 2005, after reaching 70 percent by early December. The Main Pass 252 platform also took heavy damage and won't be up to full capacity until early next year.

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Damage to oil and natural gas pipelines in the Gulf of Mexico from Hurricane "Ivan" could take up to six months to repair fully and restore production to levels before the storm, a federal official says. Chris Oynes, regional director of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service in New Orleans, said yesterday that the pipeline damage has emerged recently as a significant problem. Although Ivan did considerable damage to drilling rigs and production platforms much of that damage has been accounted for or repaired. Oynes said the current problem is that pipelines designed to carry oil and gas away from the production sites also have been damaged, Oynes said. Companies are approaching the MMS with requests to transport oil by tanker from production platforms to delivery sites on shore, Oynes said. "Companies are starting to realize that the pipelines are going to potentially be a longer-term problem. I think it's fair to say that the lasting nature of this is a bit of a surprise," Oynes said. According to MMS figures, about 25 percent of the oil and about 10 percent of the gas normally produced in the Gulf each day is currently shut in because of damage from "Ivan". Oynes said it was not clear when operations will return to normal. The MMS predicts that 150,000 barrels of the 475,000 barrels of oil that are shut in each day will be back on line by month's end. At the same time, the agency predicts that approximately 1 billion cubic feet of the 1.8 billion cubic feet of natural gas shut in daily will be back on line by the end of October.

HURRICANE "JEANNE"

Fort Lauderdale, Oct 12 — Removal of fuel from cement *Contrader* has been completed and options regarding removal of the vessel are being assessed. — Titan Salvage.

Santo Domingo, Oct 14 — Due to the flash flooding of the River Cumayasa at La Romana, Dominican Republic, resulting from the effect of the hurricane "Jeanne" Sep 16/17, a

significant quantity of yachts were severely damaged. Up to the present, we have only received information of damages to the following yachts: *Tintina*, *Marila*, *Maria Del Mar*, *Lorena* and *Time Bandit*. — Lloyd's Agents.

PORTUGAL

London, Oct 10 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Strong winds and rain have knocked down trees and power lines across Portugal and are blamed for the drowning death of a German tourist, officials and press reports said today. The unidentified 53-year-old German man drowned yesterday after he went swimming in rough waters in the southern Algarve province, Portugal's top tourist region, friends of the man told daily newspaper *Jornal de Noticias*. An 83-year-old man meanwhile suffered serious injuries after winds, which reached gusts of over 100 kilometres an hour, caused a power line to break and fall on the motorcycle he was driving in near the northern port of Viana do Castelo, daily *Correio da Manha* reported. Scores of downed trees blocked roads and damaged cars and homes across the country, emergency services officials said. The winds damaged at least 40 percent of the 300 hectares of greenhouses that exist in central Portugal, agriculture officials said while power company EDP said downed power lines briefly cut electricity in many places in the centre and north of the country. The strong winds are expected to continue until at least tomorrow night, the national weather office said.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Oct 12 — The Sulina channel was closed at 1200, Oct 11 due to bad weather, wind Beaufort 5-6 (fresh/strong breeze), sea 4-6 feet. — Lloyd's Agents.

TROPICAL STORM "LESTER"

London, Oct 13 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Lester": At 0900, UTC, the Government of Mexico has extended the tropical storm warning westward to Lazaro Cardenas. A tropical storm warning is now in effect along the southern coast of Mexico from Punta Maldonado westward to Lazaro Cardenas. At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Lester" was located near lat 16.8N, long 100.6W. Position is accurate to within 20 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the west-north-west or 300 degs at seven knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 1000 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. The radius of 34 knot winds: 25 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 45 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Oct 14, the centre is predicted to be near lat 17.2N, 102.2W, with maximum winds of 55 knots and gusts to 65 knots.

TROPICAL STORM "MATTHEW"

London, Oct 9 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Tropical Storm

"Matthew" formed in the western Gulf of Mexico today and its effects were already being felt in Louisiana. Rain that extended hundreds of miles ahead of "Matthew" flooded homes in coastal Terrebonne Parish, and authorities there opened two emergency shelters. At 2300, EDT, "Matthew" was located about 270 miles east-southeast of Brownsville, Texas. It was moving east-northeast near 9 mph and had top sustained winds of 45 mph, up from 40 mph a few hours earlier. A three-day forecast from the National Hurricane Centre in Miami showed the storm making landfall along the Alabama coastline Monday morning (Ocy 11). Forecasters said they did not believe it would strengthen dramatically. "We don't forecast it to be a hurricane," said meteorologist Chris Hennon.

London, Oct 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Matthew" flooded roads and homes across southeastern Louisiana yesterday as it blew towards the Gulf of Mexico with high tides and torrential rainfall. The National Hurricane Centre issued a tropical storm warning for residents from Intracoastal City to the Alabama-Florida border. The centre of the storm was expected to hit the coast early today. The town of Houma received 7.2 inches of rain in 24 hours, said Frank Revitte, a forecaster with the National Weather Service in Slidell. Tides were up to 4 feet above normal, causing flooding in the coastal towns of Montegut, Dulac and Cocodrie, said Michael Deroche, emergency preparedness director in Terrebonne Parish. A state of emergency was declared in the parish and two emergency shelters were opened. The storm weakened and was downgraded to a tropical depression yesterday morning, but later regained tropical storm strength. At 2300, EDT, the centre of the system was about 160 miles south-west of the mouth of the Mississippi River, with wind gusts about 40 mph. It was moving north-northeast at about 9 mph.

London, Oct 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Matthew" weakened today after moving into southern Louisiana, causing scattered flooding as heavy rain drenched the area. A tropical storm warning along the Gulf of Mexico from the Alabama-Florida state line westward to Intracoastal City, Louisiana, was discontinued when "Matthew" weakened to a tropical depression, the National Hurricane Centre said in Miami. Up to 12 inches of rain flooded streets and homes in south-eastern Louisiana, according to the National Weather Service. No injuries were reported. A canal levee was breached in Terrebonne Parish, causing flooding in about a dozen homes. Officials patrolled flooded streets and blocked motorists from driving into lower St. Bernard Parish south-east of New Orleans, where up to two feet of water filled the roads. New Orleans received about three inches of rain yesterday and today and saw scattered power outages. The hurricane centre issued what it expected to be its

last advisory for "Matthew" late this morning, when its sustained wind had slowed to about 35 mph and its poorly defined centre was about 40 miles west of New Orleans. The storm was expected to continue to weaken as it moved farther inland.

TROPICAL STORM "NICOLE"

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Atlantic Canada felt the wet lash of a degrading tropical storm last night, leading to ferry service cancellations. Ferries between North Sydney, N.S. and Port aux Basques, Nfld. wasn't expected to resume until today. Traffic was restricted over the Confederation Bridge linking Prince Edward Island with New Brunswick. In addition, power crews were on standby as the remnants of Tropical Storm "Nicole" rolled over the region. "The remnants of a tropical storm is fueling a low pressure system and giving it a little extra oomph," meteorologist Tim King told The Canadian Press. The rain began yesterday afternoon. Forecasters expect between 40 and 60 millimetres to fall. "The rain has sort of just come in force now," Environment Canada meteorologist Andy Firth told CP early Monday evening. "We're used to a fair amount of rain down here coming quickly." Winds were expected to gust up to 90 kilometres per hour over the region. And in areas prone to high winds, such as the Cape Breton Highlands, wind speeds could hit 130 km/h. New Brunswick reported a few power-related problems. About 1,400 homes lost their power in the Moncton area, along with another 840 in Rexton. Both those outages were repaired.

TYPHOON "CHABA"

Moji, Oct 12 — General cargo *Vihan 5* is now considered to be a Constructive Total Loss and the wreck will be removed, as arranged by the vessel's P&I Club. Schedule of the wreck removal work has not, as yet, been decided. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 14 — Following notice to mariners issued today: Tug towing dead-ship, general cargo *Winner I*, departs Himeji, Shikama, section No.1, at 1215, JST, Oct 15 for Guangzhou, where estimated time of arrival 0400, JST, Oct 21.

London, Oct 14 — Following notice to mariners issued at 1920, JST, today: Tug towing dead-ship, general cargo *Winner I*: Towing suspended.

TYPHOON "MA-ON"

London, Oct 7 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0001, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Ma-on" was located near lat 22.7N, long 130.7E, south of Minamidaitojima, moving north, slowly, with maximum sustained winds of 95 knots near the centre. Radius of over 50 knot winds: 110 nautical miles. At 0001, UTC, Oct 8, the centre is predicted to be near lat 25.0N, long 131.5E, with maximum sustained winds of 95 knots near the centre.

London, Oct 8 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon "Ma-on" near lat 25.0N,

long 132.2E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 30 degrees at 14 knots. Position accurate to within 20 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 140 knots, gusts 170 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 30 nautical miles all quadrants. Forecast position lat 28.2N, long 133.9E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 130 knots, gusts 160 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 25 nautical miles. Forecast position lat 32.4N, long 135.9E at 0600, UTC, Oct 9. Maximum sustained winds 110 knots, gusts 135 knots. "Ma-on" located approximately 290 nautical miles east-southeast of Okinawa, has tracked north-northeastward at 14 knots over the past six hours. The warning position is based on 0530, UTC, today, multispectral satellite imagery. The warning intensity is based on satellite current intensity estimates of 140 and 155 knots. Maximum significant wave height at 0600, UTC, today is 30 feet.

London, Oct 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The most powerful typhoon to barrel into Japan's Pacific coastline in a decade made landfall today, unleashing gusts and torrential rains that grounded planes, flooded homes and triggered landslides. One person was dead and another missing. Typhoon "Ma-on" was the record eighth typhoon to reach Japan's shores this year. On Friday, Meteorological Agency officials said the force of the storm which had sustained winds of 100 mph, was more potent than any other to hit the eastern coast in 10 years. Hardest hit were the central states of Shizuoka and Aichi, where rainfall was heavy and gusts strong. The agency forecast about 10 inches of rainfall through tomorrow along the eastern seaboard of the main island of Honshu. It warned of possible landslides due to rain-soaked soil and high tides. National Police Agency official Yasushi Hisashima said a 48-year-old man who went missing late yesterday was found dead near his car on a valley road in the state of Wakayama. Aircraft, train and ferry services were disrupted. Public broadcaster NHK said about 150 flights and many ferry services had been cancelled. Railway operators had suspended bullet and local train services in central and eastern Japan, NHK said. Rescuers in boats plucked dozens of residents from waterlogged homes in Shizuoka prefecture, officials said. About 1,500 people had fled their homes for public shelters in the states of Shizuoka, Mie, Wakayama, Nara and Osaka. About 100 homes had been damaged by mudslides or flooded, police said.

London, Oct 10 — A press report, dated today, states: The most powerful typhoon to hit eastern Japan in a decade fizzled out today after causing a trail of destruction which left six people dead and three others missing, police and weather officials said. Typhoon "Ma-on" slammed into the Tokyo metropolitan area yesterday, causing floods and mudslides while paralyzing transport systems in the Japanese capital and surrounding areas. By 0900, today, "Ma-on" was downgraded to a

temperate depression, the Meteorological Agency said. The storm passed near Narita City, 50 kilometres east of Tokyo, and moved to the Pacific ocean at around 2000, yesterday. Express roads were partially closed while more than 400 domestic and international flights were cancelled yesterday. "Shinkansen" bullet trains ground to a halt in central and eastern Japan, affecting tens of thousands of passengers.

TYPHOON "TOKAGE"

London, Oct 14 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Tokage" was located near lat 13.7N, long 137.5E, approximately 930 nautical miles south-east of Okinawa and has tracked westward, or 270 degs, at six knots over the past six hours. Position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. The maximum sustained winds are 80 knots with gusts to 100 knots. The radius of 64 knot winds: 25 nautical miles in all four quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 18 feet. At 0600, UTC, Oct 15, the centre is predicted to be near lat 15.1N, long 135.0E, with maximum winds of 105 knots and gusts to 130 knots.

UNITED STATES

London, Oct 13 — press report, dated today, states: Recent hailstorms caused nearly \$40 million in damage in New Mexico, according to The Associated Press and Rocky Mountain Insurance Information. Based on the number of claims filed Friday (Oct 8), the insurance industry estimated the hailstorms have caused more than 8,300 auto claims and 4,100 home claims. Baseball-sized hail is to blame for most of the damage as chunks of ice pounded businesses, homes and vehicles last week. The campus of New Mexico Tech was among the hardest hit, where the hail ripped leaves off trees, shattered roofing tiles and smashed windows.

VIETNAM

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from flooding in Vietnam's southern Mekong Delta has claimed 27 lives, while another nine people were killed when heavy storms lashed the region, a disaster relief official said today. "Twenty-seven people have died in the floods since the beginning of the month, of whom 23 were children," an official of the Ho Chi Minh City-based regional flood and storm control committee said. The worst affected provinces were Dong Thap, An Giang, Long An and Kien Giang, which all border Cambodia, he said. "In these provinces we have had to evacuate 2238 families from their homes, while 16,609 other households have been affected by floodwaters and thousands of hectares of rice fields have been partially destroyed." The death toll was expected to increase as water levels on the Mekong River and its tributaries continued to rise, he said. Meanwhile, heavy storms that swept

across the Mekong Delta last week left nine children dead, all killed by falling debris, the official said.

Earthquakes



IRAN

London, Oct 8 — A report, dated Oct 7, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 2146, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located in northern Iran in lat 37.07N, long 54.39E, depth 35 km.

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated today, states: About 60 people were injured when an earthquake hit the north-eastern Iranian province of Golestan near the border with Turkmenistan early today, state radio reported, citing local officials. The quake, which had its epicentre near the border town of Agh Ghala, possibly inside Turkmenistan, measured the measured 5.8 on the Richter scale, it said. "About 60 people were slightly injured but there has been no information provided about any deaths or damage," local disaster official Ebrahim Karimi said. The official news agency IRNA said five similar quakes shook the region overnight.

NICARAGUA

London, Oct 10 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A powerful earthquake rocked Nicaragua's western coast today, sending residents running from their homes. No major injuries or damage were immediately reported. The magnitude 6.9 quake struck at 1526, local time, in Nicaragua, and was centred about 50 miles south-west of Managua, the U.S. National Earthquake Information Centre in Golden, Colo., said. Emergency officials said they had no immediate reports of major damage or injuries.

PHILIPPINES

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.4 shook Manila tonight, swaying high rises, knocking out power over a wide area and sending frightened residents into the streets. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The shaking began at 2235, and lasted for more than a minute. The epicentre of the quake was on Mindoro island, 55 miles south-south-west of Manila. The temblor was felt over a wide area, including nearly 90 miles north of the sprawling capital on the main Philippine island of Luzon. The US Geological Survey in Colorado said on its Web site the magnitude was 6.4 at a depth of about 73 miles. Panicked residents and hotel guests poured into the capital's streets. Police were easing traffic away from a condemned building that was cracking and dropping debris. Utility company Meralco reported widespread power outages, possibly due to damaged power lines.

Volcanic Activity



MOUNT ST. HELENS, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 9 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Molten rock appears to be slowly rising to the surface of the simmering US volcano Mount St. Helens, but an eruption is not imminent, experts said today. Scientists monitoring the bubbling peak said that the waves of earthquakes that have shaken the area ominously for more than two weeks are dying down dramatically, signalling a respite in the eruption alert. “We are still monitoring the situation closely, but seismic activity has slowed down significantly,” a US Geological Survey expert said of the quakes beneath the mountain in the northwestern state of Washington. The tremors are now hitting at a rate of one or two a minute, with a maximum magnitude of 1.5 on a modified Richter scale, he told AFP. A week ago, there were up to four quakes a minute measuring more than three on the same seismic scale as the peak belched steam and ash, threatening to erupt dramatically. The USGS said, however, that the lava cap in Mount St. Helens’ crater was continuing to rise, signalling that lava may be moving to the surface with minimal resistance, but far more slowly than it has in recent days. The dome has risen 15 to 30 metres since Tuesday (Oct 5), putting seismologists and local residents on alert for another possible eruption of the volcano that killed 57 people when it exploded in 1980. “As a result of the intense unrest of the past many days, we infer that magma is at a very shallow level,” the USGS said on its website. More steam was seen coming from the volcano yesterday, indicating that while the peak was calming, it was far from sleeping.

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Mount St. Helens vented a new column of steam yesterday, a lazy plume that rose out of the crater of the snow-dusted volcano. The billow of steam rose from an area where a large upwelling or bulge of rock has been growing on the dome-shaped formation of rock in the crater. The plume rose several hundred feet above the 8,364-foot volcano, and light wind slowly blew it toward the south and south-east. The plume appeared to be mostly steam, and scientists said any volcanic ash that was included was probably from past eruptions during the 1980s. Scientists believe the steam was created when part of the bubble of rock on the south side of the dome broke off, taking part of a glacier in the volcano with it. The ice melted, the water seeped down and that most likely caused the steam, said USGS geologist John Pallister. Scott described the emission as a “very lazy conductive rise of this warm, moist air,” unlike previous

weeks’ bursts characterized by more vigorous jetting that threw up ash, large pieces of rock and glacier ice.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, Oct 8 — Sporadic violence erupted in pockets of Afghanistan on the eve of the first presidential election, underlining the risk of sabotage by Taliban insurgents. A rocket exploded in the air above the main U.S. military compound in Kabul before dawn, damaging vehicles in a nearby car park. In the eastern city of Jalalabad, a rocket hit a house, wounding two young children, officials said. Taliban spokesman Latif Hakimi claimed responsibility for the rocket fire in Kabul and Jalalabad, and warned of more to come. “We plan to carry out more attacks,” Hakimi said by satellite telephone. “We claim the responsibility for all the attacks that take place today and tomorrow.” A large turnout in tomorrows polls and victory for the U.S.-backed President Hamid Karzai, who is from the Pashtun ethnic group that has traditionally ruled Afghanistan, would legitimise his rule. Close to 12 million Afghans have registered to vote, despite threatened Taliban reprisals. Women make up more than 40 percent of those who have registered, organisers say. An additional 1.3 million refugees in Pakistan and Iran are also eligible. Karzai is reported to be hoping for a turnout of about 60 percent, but many believe numbers will fall below that, and many women may not vote. — Reuters.

COLOMBIA

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated Oct 7, states: Colombian right-wing paramilitaries have vowed to demobilise 3,000 of their 20,000 fighters by the end of the year. The United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AUC) said the proposal was a goodwill gesture to revive flagging peace talks with the government. While the announcement has been welcomed, few believe it will move the two sides closer to a permanent deal. There is supposedly a paramilitary cease-fire in place, but it is violated almost daily. The problems facing the peace talks with the right-wing paramilitaries seem insurmountable. Much of the AUC leadership is either wanted in the US on drugs trafficking charges or guilty of crimes against humanity, which Europe says cannot go unpunished. Yet the paramilitaries want total amnesty for their crimes and immunity against extradition to the US. The negotiations with the government have not interrupted paramilitary involvement in the drugs trade. Recently, two-and-a-half metric tons of cocaine was seized up by the Caribbean coast that had been traced back to the paramilitaries. So whilst the notion of having 3,000

fewer men fighting the civil conflict is welcome, no one believes that lasting peace has moved any closer.

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated Oct 11, states: A Colombian paramilitary leader accused of kidnapping eight tourists last year has been arrested, police say. Jose Celestino Chamorro is allegedly a regional leader of the left-wing National Liberation Army (ELN). Judicial police chief Col Oscar Naranjo said Mr Chamorro ordered the abduction of four Israelis, two Britons, a German and a Spaniard on 12 September, 2003. Briton Matthew Scott, 19, escaped within days of his capture. The others were later released. Mr Chamorro, better known as Parmenio, was seized in the northern region of La Guajira, on the border with Venezuela, said Mr Naranjo. Three other suspects were arrested at the same time, he said. “We’re talking about an individual with more than 22 years at the service of terrorism,” said Mr Naranjo, quoted by the AFP news agency. He said Mr Chamorro was behind abductions and banditry throughout the region. The government of President Alvaro Uribe has attempted to crack down on the rebels. In July it claimed the measures were working, and that the number of hostages taken in the first six months of this year had dropped by a half compared with the same period in 2003.

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated today, states: About 700,000 Colombians have taken part in nationwide protests against President Alvaro Uribe. Demonstrators came from trade unions, civic groups and opposition parties, all complaining about different things. Their banners were directed against unemployment, Mr Uribe’s plans to raise taxes and to change the constitution to allow for his re-election. Hospitals in many cities were only offering emergency services and law courts were closed. Many classes across the country were cancelled as teachers joined the protest.

EGYPT

Taba, Egypt, Oct 8 — Bomb blasts hit Egyptian Red Sea resorts crowded with Israeli tourists, killing at least 19 people in back-to-back attacks that Israeli officials said appeared to be the work of al Qaeda. The suspected truck bomb that tore apart the Taba Hilton, just steps from Egypt’s border with Israel late yesterday, was followed shortly by back-to-back bombs at backpacker resorts further south on Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula, popular with Israelis. The death toll appeared certain to rise, with an Israeli general heading Israel’s role in the rescue operation saying 38 people were still missing. At least six of the dead were Israelis and many of the others were Egyptians. More than 100 people were wounded. Israeli officials said a truck bomb loaded with explosives rammed into the hotel lobby where it blew up and a suicide bomber detonated a bomb near the swimming pool moments later. One side of the 10-floor hotel building was torn off by the explosion, cutting off an entire wing of the 430-room hotel.

Israeli radio stations said some guests who were in their rooms at the time of the blast fell to their deaths. Firefighters said the ceiling of the hotel dining room where tables were set for dinner had collapsed and that bodies could be seen under rubble in the ruins of the luxury hotel. Hundreds of dazed tourists streamed over the border into Israel. A previously unknown pro-al Qaeda Islamist group called Islamic Tawhid Brigades claimed the blast on a Web Site. The claim, along with one from another unknown group calling itself the World Islamist Group, could not be verified. But Israel's deputy Defence Minister Zeev Boim told reporters the attack appeared to be the work of "international terror groups like al Qaeda or branches of it. It is not the kind of attack that we know comes from Palestinian terror organisations," he said. Israeli security agencies had warned travellers against visiting Egyptian resorts on the Red Sea, saying they might be targeted by Palestinians engaged in a four-year-old uprising or by international Islamist groups. As many as 10,000 Israelis were thought to be in Sinai for the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah at the end of Sukkot. Israel's Foreign Ministry was preparing to evacuate all of them in the next few hours. Two explosions within minutes of each other also hit backpacker beaches near the resort of Nuweiba, about 60 kilometres to the southwest of Taba. Two Israelis, a man and a woman, were killed in the blasts, Israeli officials said. The governor of South Sinai, Mustafa Afifi, told Egyptian television he believed the blasts were caused by "booby-trapped cars because we found small pick-ups completely burned out." Israeli officials said ambulances and the army's elite rescue team had been delayed for hours because Egyptian border guards had insisted on seeing passports and going through formalities. — Reuters.

Taba, Egypt, Oct 9 — Rescue workers sifted through the wreckage of an Egyptian Red Sea hotel today, hoping to find survivors after a series of bomb blasts targeting Israeli tourists in the Sinai Peninsula killed at least 33 people. Israel suspected the attacks were linked to al-Qaeda. Egypt's "al-Ahram" daily said Egyptian police were questioning 12 suspects about the explosions. An Interior Ministry spokesman said dozens of people were being questioned to gather information but said it was too early to talk about suspects. More bodies are thought to lie beneath the rubble of the luxury Hilton hotel at Taba, right on the Israeli border. It was the target of the biggest of a series of explosions on the eastern coast of the Sinai peninsula. The Israeli army said at least 33 people were killed. Most were Israelis but they also included Egyptians and Russians. Most were killed in the car bomb in Taba but two Israelis died in one of two near simultaneous bombings further south. Egypt's official news agency said 149 people were wounded. Israeli defense officials and an Egyptian security source said the blasts appeared to be linked to al-Qaeda. A previously

unknown pro-al-Qaeda Islamist group called Islamic Tawhid Brigades claimed responsibility for the blast on a website. The claim, along with claims from two other unknown groups, could not be verified. "There are lot of parties saying they are responsible. But investigations are ongoing and we are gathering more and more information and leads. I am confident we will know the culprits very soon," South Sinai Governor Mustafa al-Afifi said. — Reuters.

FRANCE

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion at the Indonesian embassy in Paris has wounded ten people, including four embassy staff. The explosion was "obviously an act with criminal intent," French Interior Minister Dominique de Villepin told AFP. Nine people hurt by flying glass had been sent to hospital, Mr De Villepin said. Later this morning the interior minister was to hold a meeting at his ministry to make "a precise assessment of the threats" currently facing France, he said. Mr De Villepin said a bag was left in front of the embassy under the country's flag early today. The bomb it contained left a crater up to 50 centimetres wide and 15 centimetres deep. The bomb caused windows to shatter and damaged two cars parked nearby. Indonesia is looking into the causes of the explosion.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Bissau, Oct 10 — Soldiers who staged a mutiny last week in Guinea-Bissau agreed today to return to their barracks after striking a deal with the government to end a five-day stand-off in the country. Angry soldiers demanding back pay for peacekeeping duty in Liberia seized key buildings in the capital last Wednesday (Oct 6) and killed the head of the former Portuguese colony's armed forces, General Verissimo Correia Seabra, and another officer. "The two parties agreed it was not a coup d'etat. We have agreed to the immediate return of the soldiers to barracks and the respect of the constitutional order, democratically and legally established," said a statement signed by Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Junior and General Batista Tagme Na Waie. They agreed to restructure the army, ask parliament to consider an amnesty for soldiers dating back to when the country's first president was ousted in a 1980 coup, and press the United Nations for cash to clear the salary arrears. "We never wished for the death of our two colleagues. We regret our acts. Nevertheless, the mutiny served as an example for the future of the army," said General Na Waie. Senior representatives from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Portuguese-speaking nations (CPLP) had jetted to the country to seek an end to the crisis. "I am pleased that the parties have signed this agreement but we will have to wait and see whether there will be a repeat of last week's events," said Nobel Peace Prize winner Jose Ramos-Horta, who is foreign minister of former Portuguese colony East Timor. "The situation is

serious in Guinea-Bissau, not just on an economic and social level ... the political situation is also very serious," he said before the deal. "There are lots of political parties but they are not up to improving stability." — Reuters.

HAITI

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Two beheaded bodies, one wrapped in tyres and set ablaze, turned up in Haiti's capital, officials said yesterday, the latest victims of violence fueled by supporters of an ousted president. The killings brought the death toll to 20 in a weeklong protest by backers of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who are seeking the former president's return to power. Last week, three policemen were beheaded in the capital. Aristide supporters say police started the violence by firing at unarmed protesters. They also criticize the authorities and UN troops for not disarming rebels who ousted Aristide.

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated today, states: An Argentine soldier in Haiti has been injured in the northern city of Gonaives - the second UN peacekeeper to be shot in Haiti over the weekend. On Saturday (Oct 9) a Brazilian was hurt in the capital, Port-au-Prince, during a battle with supporters of the exiled President, Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The Argentine soldier was shot in the arm as he was clearing a road block set up by protestors in Gonaives. The situation in the city is highly precarious. Aid workers report increasing violence and say they are becoming victims of attacks. The French agency Doctors of the World is pulling out of the city until security improves. The violence is also threatening to get out of control in Port-au-Prince. On Saturday there was a gun battle in the slum area of Bel Air as Brazilian troops and Haitian police conducted an operation against armed gangs. Sixty people were arrested. Haiti's government says supporters of Mr Aristide are behind the violence. There is some evidence that tactics by insurgents in Iraq are being mimicked. In the last week five beheaded bodies have been discovered in the streets of the capital. The US has warned Americans not to travel to Haiti except in an emergency.

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Violence in Haiti's capital has claimed at least 46 lives, with hospital records showing today that another 17 victims were shot and killed this week. Many shops and markets remained closed as hulks of torched cars and bonfires of tyres smouldered in the streets. Port-au-Prince has been beset by gunbattles and beheadings since a September 30 demonstration marking the 1991 coup that first overthrew President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. In February, the former priest fled the country again after a three-week revolt led by a street gang and former soldiers. Nearly two weeks later, tensions still are simmering with Aristide supporters demanding his return and an end to the "invasion" by foreign troops. US Marines arrived in Haiti the day

Aristide left and handed over to UN peacekeepers sent in June to stabilise the country. Rebels who want the interim government to formally reinstate the army that Aristide disbanded have accused the peacekeepers of doing little to halt the violence and say that they are ready to end it. Yesterday, as mourners gathered for the funeral of five assassinated police officers, gunfire crackled around the capital and businesses shut their doors again. Records at Port-au-Prince hospital showed 17 people with gunshot wounds died yesterday, eight of them in the Cite Soleil seaside slum that is filled with Aristide supporters and street gangs, and three in Martissant, a western neighbourhood that has been a flashpoint in the recent unrest. That raised the toll to at least 46 killed since September 30. One man was reportedly shot and killed near the presidential palace.

INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 9 — A suicide bomber rammed a car packed with explosives into an army convoy in Indian Kashmir today, killing four soldiers and a civilian and wounding 30 more, police said. A caller from Jaish-e-Mohammad, a rebel group based in Pakistan, claimed responsibility for the attack on a highway near Pattan, south of Srinagar, the summer capital of the region. The attack comes days after India and Pakistan proposed talks for November and December on various issues, including a bus service through divided Kashmir. "It was a ground-shaking explosion ... initial reports suggest it was suicide car bomber," a police official said, adding that some houses and vehicles were damaged in the explosion. Soldiers and sniffer dogs combed the area for militants after vehicles in the convoy were turned into a twisted mass of metal by the explosion that blocked traffic on the highway. — Reuters.

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Two suspected rebels have been killed in a gun battle with Indian soldiers today in the troubled Jammu-Kashmir state as 10,000 security troops took up positions to deter attacks in the lead up to tomorrow's by-election. An Indian army spokesman, Lt Col Batra, said soldiers killed the two unidentified suspects during a firefight in the remote Rampore village in the frontier Baramulla district, about 50 miles north of Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir. There was no indication that the gun battle was connected to a call by separatists and rebel groups for a boycott of the elections. One militant group, the Pakistan-based Harkat-ul-Mujahdeen, threatened to kill anyone participating in tomorrow's poll for four seats in the state council. Election officials have declared that 248 of the 367 polling stations are in areas where violence or disputes can be expected as 326,000 eligible voters cast ballots. The state said 10,000 security forces had been assigned to help police protect the polling stations.

IRAQ

Falluja, Oct 8 — A U.S. air raid, aimed at foreign fighters led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, killed 11 people and wounded 17 after a wedding party in the rebel-held Iraqi city of Falluja today, residents and doctors said. The U.S. military said a "precision strike" hit a safe-house used by associates of the Jordanian Islamist militant in northwest Falluja at 0105 hrs. Rescuers dug bodies from rubble with their hands after the raid on the house where residents said a wedding party had just taken place. "Credible intelligence sources confirmed Zarqawi leaders were meeting at the safe-house at the time of the strike," a U.S. military statement said. Before the latest raid, Falluja's chief negotiator said yesterday talks with the government could bear fruit soon. "The negotiations with the Iraqi government and the U.S. army have reached a positive stage and an agreement has been reached for radical solutions," Sheikh Khalid al-Jumaili told Reuters. — Reuters.

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated Oct 7, states: Two rockets have slammed into a hotel complex in central Baghdad. At least one rocket hit the Sheraton hotel, which lies in a compound with the Palestine hotel - both used by journalists and other foreign workers. Bursts of gunfire were heard shortly afterwards - believed to have come from US troops guarding the compound. A fire broke out outside the Sheraton hotel and several windows were shattered, but there were no reports of serious injuries. Shaken hotel guests fled the hotel, whose main entrance was filled with smoke and debris. Witnesses said the rockets were fired from the back of a truck parked in Firdous Square outside the hotel.

London, Oct 10 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 17 people are reported to have been killed in a suicide bomb attack near the oil ministry and nearby police academy in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. The explosion left a big crater near the ministry building, a frequent target for militants. The blast came as US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld arrived in the restive province of al-Anbar on an unannounced visit to American soldiers. The US is unlikely to cut troop numbers till Iraq holds polls in 2005, he said. In Baghdad, a ministry spokesman said the bomb may have gone off early. "The bomb apparently exploded prematurely at an intersection in front of the academy. Most of the dead were passers-by, including seven women," spokesman Assem Jihad said. A police officer quoted by the Associated Press news agency said the dead included police recruits. In a separate Baghdad explosion, a suicide bomber blew himself up near the culture ministry, causing injuries among passers-by.

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Iraqi Shia militiamen in the Sadr City area of Baghdad are due to start handing in heavy weapons, under a deal with the government. The transfer is expected to last five days, and put an end to six

months of brutal fighting in the area. The deal was announced yesterday - as two suicide bombings in other parts of Baghdad killed at least 11 people. The deal to end the fighting in the impoverished district of Sadr City was announced by a senior aide to radical Shia cleric Moqtada Sadr. He said the Iraqi government had agreed to free jailed members of Mr Sadr's Mehdi Army militia. In return the group would suspend attacks against US and Iraqi forces, and hand in heavy and medium-sized weapons. The Iraqi government is to pay cash for the arms and commit more than \$500m to rebuild the area, that has seen intense fighting since April.

Dubai, Oct 11 — An Iraqi militant group has threatened to behead a Turkish hostage within three days unless the United States releases all Iraqi prisoners and Turkish nationals leave Iraq, Al Arabiya television said today. The channel broadcast a video from the group, which called itself Tawhid and Jihad, showing three armed men surrounding the bearded hostage who was holding up identification. "We the Tawhid and Jihad group will cut off the head of this hostage if our demands are not met," one of the gunmen said. Arabiya said the gunmen had set a three day deadline. — Reuters.

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The US military has said its warplanes launched an overnight "precision strike" that destroyed a site in Fallujah used by militants loyal to America's top enemy in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Witnesses in the rebel-held city said the attack killed two civilian guards at Fallujah's most popular restaurant. Television footage showed a sign from the Haji Hussein kebab restaurant on the ground as the building burned. "Following the engagement, secondary explosions were reported, indicating the strong likelihood of weapons caches and explosive devices," said a military statement. "Terrorists frequently planned operations from this location," it said. "Plans included targeting Iraqi governmental leadership, Iraqi security forces, coalition forces and innocent Iraqi citizens." The same accusations have been used to justify previous US air strikes. Television footage showed residents surveying the crushed cement slabs and twisted metal where the restaurant had stood. Zarqawi has claimed responsibility for several suicide bombings and beheadings of foreign hostages. The attack came amid talks between Fallujah representatives and the US-backed interim government aimed at restoring calm to the Sunni Muslim city, hit by frequent US air strikes in the past few weeks. Some Fallujah insurgents have indicated a willingness to allow Iraqi security forces back into the city, 50 kilometres west of Baghdad, if US troops stay out. Stability in Fallujah, Iraq's most rebellious town, is crucial for the interim government's plans to hold nationwide elections scheduled for January. The US military said the target of the overnight bombing had

been under “the terrorist organisation’s control” for more than a year and “innocent civilians knowingly stayed away”. Residents said the restaurant, on Fallujah’s main street, had been as popular as ever over the past 12 months. The US military has said its recent operations have led to the killing or capture of a “large percentage of Zarqawi’s leadership”. Suspicious Iraqis ask why the captured foreign militants have not been named or shown on television. In separate incident, witnesses said a US military patrol opened fire at a car on a highway just outside of Fallujah and killed five civilians yesterday.

Baghdad, Oct 12 — The body of British engineer Kenneth Bigley, killed by his kidnappers last week after three weeks in captivity, was dumped just south of Baghdad Friday (Oct 8), sources close to the insurgency said today. Bigley, 62, was beheaded by followers of Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi Thursday (Oct 7), and a videotape of the killing handed to an Arabic television channel Friday. Insurgent sources told Reuters last week that Bigley was killed in the town of Latifiya, about 20 miles southwest of Baghdad. Those reports have not been independently confirmed. A spokesman at Britain’s Foreign Office in London said: “At the moment we haven’t got or found the body. We are making efforts to find it.” — Reuters.

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Ten former Turkish hostages have arrived in Baghdad after being released by an Islamist group in Iraq. “They are in good health, they were not treated badly, they’re very happy to be released,” said the chairman of their employer, the Vinsan construction firm. On Sunday (Oct 10) it was reported that the Salafist Abu Bakr al-Seddiq Group had agreed to release the 10 on condition that their firm left Iraq, but today the firm said it would now continue its work. Chairman of the board Ali Haydar Veziroglu said the company’s announcement in September that it was halting operations in Iraq was no longer valid, now that its staff had been released. Ankara-based Vinsan has been taking part in a multi-million dollar road project in Iraq. “We can confirm that the 10 Turkish hostages have been freed,” said a Turkish foreign ministry spokesman. Several Turkish nationals have been among more than 150 foreigners abducted in Iraq since April. Some Turks have been killed, including a contractor, Maher Kemal, whose apparent beheading was shown on a video released yesterday. Also yesterday Al-Arabiya TV showed a video of armed men threatening to behead a further Turkish hostage unless all Iraqi prisoners were released and all Turkish nationals left Iraq.

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion shook Basra, but there were no casualties, according to the British military. The blast occurred today about 500 metres from the Basra palace, the main British base inside the city, at 0950 hrs, (0650, UTC). “There was no coalition forces

involved. There were no casualties, neither civilian nor military. It is currently being investigated,” British squadron leader Steve Dharamaj told reporters.

Baghdad, Oct 13 — Three U.S. soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb attack on their convoy in eastern Baghdad yesterday night, the U.S. military said today. It said there were no other casualties in the attack at about 2200 hrs (1900, UTC). The latest deaths took to 820 the number of U.S. military personnel killed in action in Iraq since U.S.-led forces invaded in March, 2003. — Reuters.

Dubai, Oct 13 — A militant Iraqi group said it had beheaded a member of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) who it described as a “spy” working as a translator for the U.S. army, according to an Internet statement. The Army of Ansar al-Sunna said in a statement dated Oct 11 on its Web site that it had “enforced God’s law by slaughtering the apostate” Luqman Hussein Mohammed whom the group earlier said it abducted on Oct 5 in the western city of Ramadi. The site carried pictures of two masked gunmen standing next to the hostage. The site also posted links to a video tape of the apparent beheading but it was not possible to access them. “He (the hostage) admitted to participating in raids and the arrest of our women, children and elders in Ramadi by crusader forces and helping question those arrested,” said the statement. Last month the group posted a video tape of the apparent beheading of what it said were three members of the KDP, one of two main Kurdish groups represented in Iraq’s interim government. Yesterday, Army of Ansar al-Sunna said it had beheaded an Iraqi Shi’ite and follower of cleric Moqtada al-Sadr because he had been “spying” for U.S. forces. — Reuters.

Dubai, Oct 13 — An American photographer abducted by gunmen in Iraq said after his release yesterday that he was treated well but did not know why he had been kidnapped. Paul Taggart, 24, told Arab satellite television Al Arabiya that four gunmen grabbed him early Sunday (Oct 10) while he was driving from his hotel in Baghdad to Sadr City. “They fed me well, they didn’t hurt me in any way. I don’t know what their political interests were or financial. I don’t know who they were. I speak very little Arabic and they spoke no English,” he said in comments aired by Arabiya today. The New York-based picture agency representing him, World Picture News, said that Taggart, who had been in Iraq for about five months, was kidnapped in Baghdad’s Habbeya Square when his car was intercepted by what appeared to be a criminal gang. The agency said he had been on his way to a planned 10-day picture-shooting project in Sadr City. It said Taggart’s release was partly facilitated by his journalist colleagues in Baghdad, but gave no details. — Reuters.

London, Oct 14 - A press report, dated today, states: A suicide attack and roadside bombs killed six American soldiers, and Iraq’s prime minister

warned residents of the insurgent bastion of Fallujah to hand over terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi or face attack. Al-Zarqawi’s Tawhid and Jihad group has claimed responsibility for beheading several foreign hostages and for car bombings throughout the country. A videotape posted yesterday on an Islamic Web site showed militants linked to al-Zarqawi beheading two Iraqis the terror group accused as spies. “If they do not turn in al-Zarqawi and his group, we will carry out operations in Fallujah,” Prime Minister Ayad Allawi told a meeting of the 100-member interim National Council. “Fallujah of course is an honest city, but it has been manipulated by a deviant bunch that wants to harm Iraq.” The attacks on US forces, at a time when the Americans are applying pressure on insurgent strongholds in the Sunni heartland, occurred in the run-up to the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, which Iraqi television said would begin here tomorrow. Yesterday’s suicide attack came when a driver crashed into a US convoy, blowing up his car in the northern city of Mosul, killing two American soldiers and wounding five, the military said. Four other soldiers were killed in roadside bombings in the Baghdad area.

Baghdad, Oct 14 — Iraq’s interim prime minister has threatened to attack Falluja unless it turns in foreign militants, but a negotiator for the rebel-held city said today its people were being asked to chase shadows. Iyad Allawi told Iraq’s interim assembly yesterday that Falluja must surrender Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, America’s top enemy in Iraq, or face military action. “We want to know what proof there is that Zarqawi is in Falluja,” Hatem Maddab, a member of a Falluja negotiating committee, told Arabic Al Jazeera television, adding that the government had now halted peace talks. He said the fate of Zarqawi had not been raised in talks with the interim government aimed at restoring state authority in Falluja before nationwide elections due in January. “At this point in time, the negotiations are halted for the sake of consultation. We did not suspend any negotiations ... they were stopped by the government,” Maddab said. The United States has offered a \$25 million bounty for Zarqawi, saying he has links to al Qaeda and accusing him of orchestrating some of Iraq’s deadliest suicide bombings. Meanwhile, in Tokyo, international donors held a second day of talks on Iraq’s reconstruction as concerns persisted about the violence that has frightened donors from making good on funding promises. Only a few hundred million dollars of the \$14 billion pledged last year has been spent so far. — Reuters.

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The French newsmen Christian Chesnot and George Malbrunot, held hostage in Iraq since Aug 20, are reportedly still alive. Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin has told fellow politicians the two are still alive and “indirect” negotiations have resumed to try and free them.

Baghdad, Oct 14 — Two explosions, one of them a suicide attack, killed eight people including two Americans today in one of the bloodiest attacks on Baghdad's fortified Green Zone. It was the first suicide attack on what is supposed to be the securest corner of Iraq. The zone, in Saddam Hussein's former presidential compound, houses government offices and the U.S. and British embassies. "There were body parts scattered everywhere. There could be more than eight dead, and several are wounded," said a source at a U.S. military hospital inside the compound. Black smoke billowed from the sprawling compound on the west bank of the Tigris river after the explosions that targeted a popular cafe and a souvenir bazaar. A diplomat said a suicide bomber had caused at least one of the blasts. Six people were killed and three wounded in the attack on the bazaar, while two were killed and several wounded at the Green Zone cafe, the U.S. military said, adding that there was no evidence of either a car bomb or a mortar attack. A spokeswoman said two U.S. nationals were among the dead. "We don't know if they were military or civilian," she said. West of Baghdad, U.S. warplanes struck at targets in the rebel-held city of Falluja, killing two people, one of them a 13-year-old boy, and wounding three, hospital doctors said. Plumes of smoke rose from the city's Hay al-Jolan quarter after the mid-afternoon air strikes. In the northern city of Mosul, a roadside bomb killed a civilian and wounded six Iraqi National Guards and a car blew up near a U.S. military convoy, police and hospital sources said. Gunmen killed a woman journalist, Dina Hassan, and a judge in separate attacks in Baghdad, interior ministry spokesman Adnan Abdel Rahman said. Two senior Iraqi army officers were shot dead in Baquba, north of the capital, a colleague said. Police in Kirkuk said they had found the beheaded body of a man believed to have been working for U.S.-led forces. The body was dumped in Zab, 85 km south-west of Kirkuk. Gunmen kidnapped two Turkish and two Iraqi truck drivers in separate ambushes near Samarra, north of Baghdad, police said. — Reuters.

IRAQ-KUWAIT

Hamburg, Sep 27 — *Ro/ro Al-Zahraa* is still at Bremerhaven. — "Taglicher Hafenerbericht."

ISRAEL

Gaza, Oct 10 — The Israeli Air Force struck Palestinian militants as they planted a bomb intended for use against Israeli troops in a Gaza Strip refugee camp today, wounding three of them, witnesses and military sources said. They said a missile struck the gunmen in Jabalya camp, which Israeli forces stormed on Sep 30 in a search for Palestinian militants who fire rockets across the border into the Jewish state. Eighty-nine Palestinians and three Israelis have died. "One of our units spotted two terrorists planting a bomb and the Air Force struck them," an Israeli military source said. Palestinian

witnesses said three people were wounded in the strike, one of them critically. — Reuters.

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll in the northern Gaza Strip is mounting as Israeli forces press on with an offensive meant to stop rocket attacks on Israel. A Palestinian schoolteacher and a gunman died in separate missile strikes on Jabaliya refugee camp yesterday. Yesterday and today three gunmen died of injuries sustained in Israeli strikes, hospital officials said. Meanwhile, an investigation has been ordered into the shooting death of a 13-year-old Palestinian girl last week. Israel's top military prosecutor ordered the probe after Israeli soldiers accused their commander of returning to spray the girl with bullets when she had already been shot down. It is estimated that more than 100 Palestinians have been killed since Israel began its operation in northern Gaza in late September. Yesterday, a man died after Israeli forces fired a missile at what a military source described as "two terrorists planting a bomb". At least three people were wounded. Later, a 28-year-old schoolteacher was killed after a missile blew apart a house not far from the Kholfa Mosque, a power base of the militant Hamas group, witnesses and hospital officials said. Three more people were also wounded in the strike, the Palestinians said. A man wounded in a raid on the camp earlier this month died yesterday of his injuries, said hospital officials and today two Palestinian men wounded in operations in Jabaliya camp and the nearby town of Beit Hanoun yesterday also died. One of the men, 20-year-old Yassuf Abu Seif, was a member of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, which is loosely affiliated with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, reported AFP news agency.

Gaza, Oct 13 — An Israeli helicopter gunship fired a missile at a house during fighting in the northern Gaza Strip early today, killing a Hamas militant, medics said. The fighting erupted before dawn as Israeli tanks thrust deeper into the Palestinian town of Beit Lahiya as part of a two week old military offensive against militants firing rockets at Israeli border towns. Palestinian medics said a helicopter slammed a missile into a house during the battle, killing Mohammed Marous, 22, a member of the militant Islamic group Hamas's armed wing. Three other militants were wounded, two of them critically, they said. — Reuters.

Gaza, Oct 14 — Israeli air strikes killed five Palestinians in Gaza today after Hamas militants renewed threats to rain rockets on nearby Israel despite a massive 16-day-old army offensive aimed at crushing them. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon seeks a decisive triumph over militants to overcome rightist opposition to his plan to "disengage" from conflict with Palestinians by evacuating all Jewish settlers from Gaza and a few from the West Bank in 2005. Missiles killed two Hamas gunmen in the Jabalya refugee camp in north Gaza stormed by more

than 200 tanks and troop carriers after a Hamas rocket killed two toddlers across the border in Israel on Sep 29. Helicopters backing up a separate army sweep into Rafah refugee camp in Gaza's far south fired three missiles, killing two militants and a civilian man of 70, local medics and residents said. A woman was seriously wounded. Military sources said Israeli forces targeted gunmen who had just launched an anti-tank rocket at troops operating to uncover tunnels used to smuggle in weapons from nearby Egypt. Witnesses said Israeli troops with armoured bulldozers also demolished about 20 houses before withdrawing at around daybreak from Rafah. — Reuters.

IVORY COAST

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated Oct 11, states: U.N. peacekeepers briefly opened fire in northern Ivory Coast today to put down a crowd of protesters threatening to burn a U.N. armoured vehicle. Rebel officials said three people were wounded in the violence. Hundreds of people marched through the streets of rebel-held Bouake to protest the upcoming disarmament of rebel fighters, scheduled to start Friday (Oct 15). The crowd converged on a U.N. base housing a contingent of Moroccan peacekeepers and began removing barbed wire laid around the base. As a U.N. armoured vehicle drove past, the crowd surged toward it, prompting peacekeepers to fire several shots. A rebel spokeswoman in Bouake, Affoussy Bamba, said peacekeepers fired to disperse the crowd and wounded three civilians. Col. Omar el Kadir, a U.N. military spokesman in the commercial capital, Abidjan, confirmed that several people were wounded but he said the Moroccan troops had fired into the air not at the crowd.

MALDIVES ISLANDS

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated Oct 10, states: The Maldives today lifted a state of emergency imposed after a pro-democracy rally two months ago, restrictions that heightened international criticism of the South Asian archipelago's poor human rights record. The government declared the emergency after an unprecedented Aug 13 protest by 3,000 demonstrators in the capital, Male. It described the rally as a coup attempt not a charge denied by the main opposition Maldivian Democratic Party and banned citizens from gathering, demonstrating or criticizing the regime. Today, President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom lifted the restrictions, the government said on its Web site. "Although these security concerns had not wholly diminished, the government believes there are now sufficient measures in place for it to be able to lift the emergency," the statement said. Last month, the European Parliament passed a resolution linking European Union aid to the Maldives to good governance and an improved human rights record. It also called on member countries to warn their citizens against visiting the popular tourist destination.

The government began to ease the emergency law Friday (Oct 8), restoring the right of persons detained for more than 24 hours to know the reason for their arrest and be given access to a lawyer. Of the 185 protesters detained during the protest, 78 remain in custody. The government statement said the detainees would either face charges or be released "shortly."

PAKISTAN

Lahore, Oct 10 — A suicide bomber killed four people as he shot his way into a Shi'ite Muslim mosque and blew himself up in the Pakistani city of Lahore today, emergency workers said. The attack was the latest in a spate of sectarian attacks in Pakistan that has fueled fears of a flare-up in violence between minority Shi'ite and majority Sunni Muslims. Witnesses in the eastern city of Lahore said a man opened fire on a security guard who tried to stop him entering the mosque, then blew himself up inside. Khawaja Basharat, a Shi'ite community leader, said seven people had been killed but an official from the private Edhi emergency service said five were killed — the attacker, two guards and two children — and seven wounded. The bomber shot and killed two guards when they stopped him, Basharat said. "As soon as he entered, he blew himself up. The casualties could have been greater if the guards hadn't tried to stop him. He could not reach the prayer hall, the bravery of the guards saved many lives," he said. Earlier today, protesting Islamic students threw stones at police who replied with teargas in the southern city of Karachi ahead of the funeral of a leading pro-Taliban cleric and an associate assassinated by unknown gunmen yesterday. — Reuters.

Islamabad, Oct 11 — Islamic militants holding two Chinese engineers hostage in Pakistan have threatened to kill one of them at 0700, UTC, unless security forces end a siege of their hide-out, a Pakistani government official said today. "There is a deadline of 12 o'clock (0700 GMT) but we have asked the tribe to ensure their safety," said a senior Pakistani security official, who asked not to be identified. "I am quite confident that the deadline will pass without any eventuality." Chinese diplomats have identified the engineers as Wang Ende and Wang Teng, who worked on Pakistan's Gomal Zam Dam project for China's state-run Sino Hydro Corp. Pakistani officials said the engineers were kidnapped with one or two Pakistani security men early on Saturday (Oct 9). The men were being held in South Waziristan, a tribal region bordering Afghanistan where security forces have been battling al Qaeda-linked militants since March, said a member of the delegation that went to try to secure their release yesterday. Pakistani officials said the kidnappers, who had explosives strapped to their bodies, were with their captives in an isolated mud-brick house in the Chagmalai area of South Waziristan, surrounded by tribesmen and security forces. The area is about

330 kms southwest of Islamabad. Pakistan officials said the kidnappers were taking orders from Mehsud, a former inmate of the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, who now heads tribesmen fighting alongside al Qaeda fighters in South Waziristan. They said Abdullah was demanding an end to military operations in South Waziristan, in which hundreds have died since March, in return for freeing of the men. Abdullah, who is not with the kidnappers, spoke to a group of local journalists yesterday in Spinkai Raghzai, an area near Chagmalai. He said the Chinese would not be safe until they and the kidnappers reached him. "Until they come to me, we cannot guarantee their safety," he said. Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao said on Geo Television there were four kidnappers, three of whom appeared Afghan. He said they had links to al Qaeda and the local tribes and had demanded the release of comrades held by the military. China — a traditional ally of Pakistan, supplying it with arms and hundreds of millions of dollars in development finance — has urged Islamabad to do all it can to rescue the engineers and also called on it to increase security for their co-workers. — Reuters.

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Assailants fired rockets at a residential compound, owned by a state-run oil company, in south-western Pakistan, today, and paramilitary troops retaliated, leaving at least five people injured, an official said. At least eight rockets were fired in the attack near an oil field operated by the Oil and Gas Development Corporation in Uch, about 250 miles south-east of Quetta. Paramilitary soldiers, guarding the residential area that houses workers from the oil field, returned fire with mortars and assault rifles. Three rockets landed near an officers' mess in the compound and that the other rockets crashed into a nearby field. Both oil company employees and attackers were among the injured, but the breakdown was not immediately clear. No one claimed responsibility, but attacks against security forces at oil and gas extracting facilities are common in the area. Authorities blame local tribesmen for launching the rockets to press the government to increase royalties for gas extracted in their territories.

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated Oct 13, states: The kidnappers of two Chinese engineers in Pakistan's South Waziristan region have refused to free the men. A delegation of tribesmen met the kidnappers yesterday night but failed to secure the release of Wang Ende and Wang Teng. The kidnappers' leader, Abdullah Mehsud, did offer to release a Pakistani guard and soldier in return for safe passage for him and his men. The Pakistani government has refused any such concessions in the past. The hostages and their four or five kidnappers are holed up in a mud house, surrounded by security forces. The tribal delegation was sent after a "jirga" meeting of the Mehsud tribe, to

which Abdullah Mehsud belongs, in the town of Tank, in South Waziristan. Leading elder, Qayum Sher, said: "The tribal jirga has totally failed. We have been unable to rescue the Chinese. The last effort will be that relatives of Abdullah Mehsud will approach him to urge him to release the captives." Abdullah Mehsud, who was freed after 25 months in US custody in Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, demands that he and his fighters be allowed to move on safely. He is not with the hostage-takers but they are taking their orders from him. Pakistani officials say he has also demanded an end to military operations against al-Qaeda fighters and tribesmen supporting them in the Waziristan region. Ali Ahmad Mehsud, a tribal escort who was taken hostage but freed along with three other tribesmen, said that three of the kidnappers seemed to be Afghans and two were Mehsuds. He said the kidnappers were armed with five Kalashnikovs, a rocket launcher and eight hand-grenades. He said the hostages had been handcuffed and their legs chained. They are also reported to have explosives strapped to them. Mehmood Shah, head of security in the tribal region, says the use of force cannot be ruled out, although Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao says the government wants a negotiated settlement.

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Pakistani forces have mounted a dramatic rescue operation to free two Chinese engineers held captive since the weekend in South Waziristan. One of the Chinese was believed to have been injured during the rescue. All five kidnappers were killed, military spokesman Maj-Gen Shaukat Sultan said. A Pakistani guard and a soldier held captive were also freed.

Islamabad, Oct 14 — A Chinese engineer held hostage by al Qaeda-linked militants in Pakistan was killed today but his colleague was rescued in a commando assault that killed their five kidnappers, officials said. Chinese engineers Wang Ende and Wang Peng were heading to work on a dam project in the remote South Waziristan tribal region when they were kidnapped on Saturday (Oct 9) by Uzbek and Pakistani militants led by a former Guantanamo Bay detainee. Pakistani military spokesman Major-General Shaukat Sultan identified the dead hostage as Wang Peng, who had worked as a surveyor on the project. He said Wang Ende was unharmed. Both men worked for state-run Chinese firm Sino Hydro Corp. The assault was carried out by commandos disguised as a tribal delegation, one of whom was seriously wounded, Pakistani security sources said. It was launched after shots were heard from the compound where the hostages were held, Sultan said. "The security forces heard firing from within the compound, which created a fear that the abductors had used violence against the Chinese engineers," he said. "Then immediately the security forces stormed the compound and killed all the five abductors." — Reuters.

RUSSIA

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The Stavropol-Grozny pipeline is damaged in the Chechen Grozny region near the settlement of Oktyabrskoye. At the section that was under repair, 170 metres of the pipeline were stolen. A group of persons who illegally pump oil damaged the line to use the pipes for oil storage, the regional counter-terrorist operation control headquarters in the North Caucasus told Itar-Tass last Saturday (Oct 2). Repair work is under way at the section now.

SAUDI ARABIA

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Saudi security forces shot dead three suspected militants in a gun battle in the capital Riyadh, the country's interior ministry has said. Seven security officers were wounded in the clash, but none of their injuries were life-threatening, it added. A spokesman said the security forces had stormed a building in the eastern Nahda district in the early hours of this morning. In a statement on the latest incident, the interior ministry said seven women and children were also in the house when it was raided. The women and children had been herded by the militants onto the first floor of the house "to use as shields and to mislead the security forces", it continued. Security forces found weapons and documents in the house, the statement added.

SOMALIA

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated Oct 10, states: Somalia's interim parliament has chosen Abdullahi Yusuf as the new president in the latest bid to bring political stability to the lawless African state. The election was held in a sports stadium in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, because Somalia's capital is still considered too dangerous. Today's election was the culmination of two years of often difficult negotiations in Nairobi. After two rounds of voting and three voluntary withdrawals, the field was narrowed down from 28 to just two candidates: Abdullahi Yusuf, a military strongman and president of the Somali semi-autonomous region of Puntland and Abdullahi Adow, a financier and former ambassador to Washington. After the final third round, Abdullahi Yusuf emerged the winner by securing 189 votes against 79 for his run-off rival. In his first speech Abdullahi Yusuf pledge to reconcile Somalis and bring peace to the country. His first job will be to choose a prime minister. Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed is not expected to return to Somalia for at least two months.

SUDAN

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Sudan's Government has resumed talks with rebels in the oil-producing south, while the United Nations set up a panel to investigate charges of genocide in the country. The negotiations on a final peace deal to end a 21-year-old southern civil war opened in Kenya as fears grew that the

widening crisis could plunge Sudan into chaos. A Sudanese intelligence official said the Government was arming tribes to counter a perceived new rebel threat in the east. Tensions within the political elite in Khartoum itself led to the sacking of a top aide to President Omar Hassan al-Bashir. At the talks in Nairobi, UN secretary-general Kofi Annan's special representative to Sudan, Jan Pronk, warned both sides not to re-open previous agreements signed in May. Sudan's First Vice-President, Ali Osman Mohamed Taha and Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebel leader John Garang both attended the opening and expressed their commitment to finish the process, begun in neighbouring Kenya in 2002. Two earlier attempts to finalise a peace deal have failed this year. Separate talks to end a rebellion since February 2003 in remote western Darfur, which has been suffering what the UN terms the world's worst humanitarian crisis, collapsed last month and are due to reconvene on Oct 21.

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated Oct 12, states: A month of fresh violence in the Sudanese region of Darfur has driven more than 200,000 people from their homes, the United Nations has said. Insecurity is also blocking aid to the 1.5 million displaced people inside the region, according to the UN's humanitarian co-ordinator for Sudan. Manuel Aranda Da Silva said robberies of aid workers were on the rise. The deaths today in a landmine blast of two aid workers, a Briton and his Sudanese colleague, have highlighted the dangers facing humanitarian agencies. Aid efforts a few months ago were hampered by logistical problems but now insecurity seems to be the chief obstacle, Mr Da Silva told Reuters news agency in Khartoum. "Security is probably becoming the main constraint to the delivering of humanitarian assistance in Darfur." There had, he added, been a "negative trend" of armed robberies against humanitarian workers in Darfur in the past three weeks. Despite a fragile ceasefire signed between the government and the rebels in April, ethnic conflict, attacks on civilians and clashes between Sudanese armed forces and rebels have all increased, Mr Da Silva said.

THAILAND

Bangkok, Oct 8 — Six police, soldiers and civilians have been killed in 10 separate attacks in Thailand's largely Muslim south in the last two days, police said today. The attacks included fatal shootings by gunmen riding pillion on motorcycles and a remote-controlled explosion near a military patrol in the region, where more than 360 people have been killed since violence erupted in January, they said. The latest incident was today, when a 38-year-old Buddhist soldier was shot six times with an assault rifle by men on a motorcycle in Pattani province, police said. He died in hospital. No suspects had been identified in the latest violence in the region. Most of those killed in the south have been civil

servants and security officers from both the Muslim and Buddhist faiths. Yesterday, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who has sacked two defence ministers this year for failing to tackle the violence, took charge of policy on the region, where many people speak Malay, not Thai. The government has blamed the attacks on oil and arms smugglers, drug dealers and some rural politicians who teamed up with separatists. But no suspected mastermind has been caught. Security agencies have accused some Muslim religious boarding schools, known in Malay as pondok, of being breeding grounds for militancy. Some teachers have given their students military training, the agencies say. — Reuters.

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Assailants opened fire with automatic weapons and grenade launchers on a government office and a police station in southern Thailand's today, killing two people and wounding five in the latest violence in the Muslim-dominated region, police said. Several bombs also exploded in the south in the early morning hours, as attackers stormed the homes of a local official and security personnel and stole weapons. About six suspected Islamic militants sprayed gunfire and launched grenades on an administrative office before attacking a police station across the street in Pattani province's Kapor district at about 0200 hrs, said police Lt. Gen. Thanacharoen Suwanno. Roughly 20 officers at the station fired back. The gunfight lasted about 15 minutes before the suspected insurgents retreated, he said. Police believe the attack was an attempt to steal weapons, Thanacharoen said. Hours later, a powerful bomb placed at the base of a tree and triggered by a mobile phone exploded about 200 metres away from the scene of the gunbattle as a regional police chief investigated. No injuries or damage occurred.

UGANDA

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The Ugandan army has killed 15 Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels in the northern part of the country. Lt. Paddy Ankunda, spokesman of the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) based in the north, said 15 rebels including two commanders were killed after an attack on their hideout in Padwat in Kitgum district. The two commanders, Lt. Col. Michael Odek and Captain Otto, were killed along with their five bodyguards. He said the army captured Otto's wife during the battle, adding that the woman had three rifles, a pistol, six magazines and 140 bullets. He said eight other rebels were also killed when the army attacked them in Agoro and palabel-kal. Ankunda said four other rebels, who were under the command of Col. Caesar Acellam, were captured. He said the army also recovered 10 semi-machine guns from the fleeing rebels. He added that the UPDF offensive would continue even if rebel leader Joseph Kony had crossed back from Sudan to help his commanders.

Labour Disputes

**BANGLADESH**

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated today, states: About 10,000 riot police and paramilitary troops patrolled the streets of the capital yesterday and stores and schools were closed across the country during an anti-government strike called by the main opposition party. Former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League party organised the strike to protest a recent deadly attack on an opposition rally, and to demand the government resign for early elections. The dawn-to-dusk strike also coincided with the anniversary of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's third year in office. The nationwide protest disrupted public transportation in the capital Dhaka and more than 60 other cities and towns, police said. Nearly 10,000 law enforcers were deployed at major roads across the capital city of 10 million people to prevent any violence, said Khan Hasan Saeed, a senior officer of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police. Riot police erected barbed-wire barricades around the Awami League headquarters in central Dhaka, preventing several hundred opposition members from taking to the streets, witnesses said. However, nearly 1,500 anti-government demonstrators marched through the streets in other parts of the city. No violence was immediately reported. Schools, shops and banks were shut down - a usual scene during such political strikes in Bangladesh.

CANADA

New York, Oct 11 — Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. the largest producer of iron ore pellets in North America, said today it reached a contract settlement with workers in Canada, ending a three-month strike. Cleveland-Cliffs said after the agreement was ratified by the United Steelworkers Union some operations resumed today at Wabush Mines, in Wabush, Labrador, even though today was the Thanksgiving holiday in Canada. There were no immediate details of the agreement that covers mining at Wabush and also pelletising and shipping facilities in Pointe Noire, Quebec. Approximately 575 hourly employees at Wabush Mines, which is owned with Dofasco Inc. and Stelco Inc., had been on strike since July. The Cleveland-based company said those agreements gave employees a nine percent wage increase over four years. Cleveland-Cliffs also put over \$220 million into pension plans and retiree health care accounts during the term of the contracts. — Reuters.

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Canada's largest public service union pulled 125,000 workers off the job as contract talks with the government continued past the

union-imposed deadline, a move that may affect more than 70 federal departments and agencies. The strike started at midnight after the federal government failed to negotiate new collective agreements with five groups of workers, Public Service Alliance of Canada President Nycole Turmel told reporters in Ottawa. The union is fighting proposed benefit rollbacks for its 80,000 administrative members, such as reducing marital leaves to three days from five. The union is also seeking permanent jobs for a third of Canada Revenue Agency's employees who are hired for short periods, Turmel said. About 10,000 operational services employees are closest to an agreement, Turmel said.

Winnipeg, Oct 13 — Canadian grain weighers returned to work today but inspectors were still on strike, a spokesman for the Canadian Grain Commission said today. The union representing the country's 101 grain weighers reached a tentative agreement on wages and other issues with the federal government, Paul Graham said, but the union and government continue to negotiate on contract issues for about 475 grain commission inspectors and administrative staff, who remain on strike, Graham said. Commission managers are filling in to keep grain moving, although there have been delays, Graham said. "The impact on grain movement hasn't been significant at all," Graham said. "There have been delays, but (it is) relatively small." Grain exporters are rushing to catch up with shipments after Canada's grain harvest was delayed by cold, rainy weather for four weeks, and have said they hope the two sides reach an agreement. The grain commission workers are part of a strike of 125,000 federal civil servants that started on yesterday. — Reuters.

CHILE

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Copper prices may rise for a sixth week in London after a strike at Chile's state-owned Codelco, the world's largest producer, threatened to cut global output amid dwindling inventories. Copper closed at a 15-year high last week as Codelco shut its Chuquicamata smelter after about 760 workers stopped work in a dispute over a labour contract.

London, Oct 11 — A press release from the International Transport Workers Federation, dated Oct 7, states: Global trade union federation the ITF has called on the President of Chile to prevent further bloodshed in the country's ports and begin an immediate investigation into an attack yesterday by Chilean Navy troops on a trade union leader. The Federation's General Secretary, David Cockroft, today wrote to Chilean head of state Ricardo Lagos to protest a serious assault on dockers picketing the port of Iquique, and on Jorge Silva Beron, General Secretary of the FETRAPI union, who remains in intensive care in a Santiago hospital. David Cockroft commented: "Eyewitnesses report that Jorge was singled out, surrounded and savagely

beaten by Chilean Navy troops. It is possible that he may even owe his life to the intervention of members of the paramilitary Carabinero Corps. If the Carabinero riot squad - who no one would accuse of treating protesters with kid gloves - felt that the assault had got out of hand we can be sure that it was truly savage." Port workers throughout Chile are discussing their response, and it appears that this may involve industrial action throughout the nation's ports."

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated Oct 8, states: Nine Chilean ports: Coronel, San Vicente, Lirquen, Talcahuano, Valparaiso, San Antonio, Tocopilla, Chanaral and Iquique, have been shut by protests following a violent government crackdown on dock workers. The original protest over wages in Iquique arose because terminal operators Iquique Terminal Internacional, Ultramar Agencia Naviera and Agunsa do not want to negotiate and and it is reported that the port will remain closed until they reach an agreement.

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated Oct 13, states: Codelco, the world's biggest copper producer, will meet for second day of talks with a supervisors union at its largest division, seeking to resolve a dispute over benefits that led the workers to go on strike last week. About 760 supervisors at a division in northern Chile of the government-owned company went on strike on Oct 8. Codelco hasn't made a new offer to end the conflict, said Mario Sepulveda, a spokesman for the union, in a telephone interview. "The situation is the same as yesterday," Sepulveda said. "We're trying to find solutions." The protest sparked by demands for increased housing benefits hasn't hurt mining at the division, which produced 53 percent of the company's copper in the first six months of the year, Jaime Andrade, a spokesman for the division, said yesterday.

NETHERLANDS

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A Dutch public transport-worker strike stopped all trains and limited bus and tram services across the Netherlands as labour unions stepped up opposition to government plans to curb employee benefits. The FNV Bondgenoten, CNV and MHP labour unions asked drivers of trains and regional public transport to strike in protest against cabinet plans that include lengthening the work week to 40 hours from 36 hours and cutting some tax breaks on pensions. "Participation in the strike is almost 100 percent," FNV Bondgenoten said on its Web site. More than 200,000 people on Oct 2, demonstrated in Amsterdam against the programme, following a bus and tram strike in the city on Sep 27. Finance Minister Gerrit Zalm has since said the government will proceed with reforms, designed to ease the spending burden on the state and companies as the cabinet struggles to hold the budget deficit within European Union limits. In Amsterdam and The Hague, buses and trams are running. Trains are

cancelled nationwide until 0200 hrs, tomorrow, said NS Groep NV, the Dutch railway operator, on its Web site. Rotterdam will have no public transport until 0400 hrs, tomorrow. In Utrecht, there will be no buses between 1000 hrs and 1400 hrs and limited public transport until 1530 hrs, today. Public transport will also be limited in the regions Groningen, Friesland and around the cities Maastricht and Nijmegen until 4 a.m. tomorrow, said the Dutch transport Web site www.9292ov.nl. The cabinet is cutting the budget to help get the country's deficit to below the European Union's three percent limit next year. Zalm has cut spending by 9.4 billion (\$11.7 billion) this year to stay within the limit in 2004 after breaching it in 2003. Workers in the construction, defence and health-care industries plan to stage their own strikes in coming weeks.

NIGERIA

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated Oct 7, states: Nigerian employees of Royal Dutch/Shell embarked on a two-day "warning strike" today to protest looming job cuts under a company plan to reduce costs and boost profits, company and union officials said. The country's two main oil unions called the strike, which will continue tomorrow, to express their opposition to severance packages being offered members that have been declared redundant, a union official said. "It's all limited to the offices, it's not targeting oil production and exports yet," said the union official. However, if workers' demands are not met, the next strike will aim to shut down Shell's entire operations, he said. A Shell spokesman in Lagos confirmed the strike and planned job cuts due to be completed by December, but said its oil production and exports have not been affected.

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The leader of Nigeria's National Labour Congress (NLC) said yesterday a renewable nationwide general strike against rising fuel prices will start on Monday (Oct 11) and last four days, after talks with authorities collapsed. "This first stage should be seen as a warning strike: it is meant to persuade the government and to convince them that Nigerians are truly, truly angry and that no reform can succeed without the people," NLC president Adams Oshiomhole told reporters. "After these four days, if the federal government still has not revised these prices, then we will suspend the strike for two weeks and after two weeks the strike will be renewed," he said. "The length of that renewal will determine whether it is then going to be indefinite or it's going to be for another period." Two weeks ago, the NLC issued an ultimatum to the government, demanding a roll-back of fuel prices to their level before Sep 23 when they jumped 25% per litre, to 55 naira. The ultimatum warned that failure to do so would lead to a general strike from Monday (Oct 11), a move that could hit crude production at a time when world prices are already at an all-time high.

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A four-day general strike over rising fuel prices has begun in Nigeria. The largest trade union grouping in the country, the Nigerian Labour Congress, said more strikes would follow if a 25% price increase was not reversed. The unions are ignoring a court order issued last month, which banned them from striking for reasons other than working conditions. This is the third time in 18 months that Nigerians will stay away from work in protest at the fuel price increases. Adams Oshiomhole, the NLC president, said after the four days the action would be suspended to give the government the opportunity to change its position and start talking to the union. He said that he wanted to persist with union action to resolve the matter once and for all.

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Many Nigerian shops and offices are closed at the start of a four-day general strike over fuel price rises in Africa's largest oil producer. The strike call has been followed in the main cities of Abuja and Lagos, but oil production has not been affected. Task force Police have been put on alert across Nigeria and one person has been shot and injured in the northern city of Kaduna, when they dispersed protesters who had attempted to close roads in support of the stayaway. This morning, most shops, offices and petrol stations in Lagos were closed and there was much less traffic than usual. Some market traders opened in the afternoon. Many Nigerians support the idea of a strike but cannot afford not to work. The strike was also well observed in the capital, Abuja.

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Many Nigerian shops and offices remain closed on the second day of a general strike, called over fuel price hikes. Trade unions have joined a government team to find ways of easing the impact of a 25% rise, but refused to end the protest. The strike, which began yesterday, is one reason why the price of oil has reached a record high of \$51 a barrel for London Brent crude. However, support for the strike appeared to be on the wane yesterday, with many drivers and market traders out doing business by the afternoon. Many Nigerians support the idea of a strike, but cannot afford not to work. One person was shot and injured in the northern city of Kaduna when police dispersed protesters who had attempted to close roads. In a bid to take the steam out of the strike, President Olusegun Obasanjo set up a task force to look at the effects of the fuel price rises, which included NLC leader Adams Oshiomhole. After its inaugural meeting yesterday, Mr Oshiomhole told reporters: "The strike continues tomorrow, because before you can begin to tinker with the strike, you have to have irreversible progress. We haven't yet got there." Mr Oshiomhole said after four days, the action would be suspended to give the government the opportunity to change its position and start talking to the unions.

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Nigeria's nationwide strike enters a fourth day today, a critical day for the country's umbrella union to decide whether to prolong, suspend or even call off the ongoing warning action against rising domestic fuel prices. The strike is due to end at midnight today and resume in two weeks if the government fails to bring fuel prices back down, but the Nigeria Labor Congress (NLC), which is leading the strike, has threatened to extend the ongoing action in protest over the killing of at least two people in clashes between the police and protesters. It will make a decision later in the day. Meanwhile, a committee consisting of union leaders, cabinet ministers, lawmakers and rights groups will meet to fashion out ways of cushioning the effects of the price increases. If parties of the committee could reach an agreement, it's possible that the NLC will call the strike off. The government yesterday tried to seek a court order to stop the strike but ended in failure. The strike has brought much of the west African country to a near standstill as tens of millions of Nigerians deserted offices, markets, and highways. "The strike is very successful. We are very happy," said Uyop Chris, a senior official of the NLC. "Nigerians have come out to fight the government for them to know the increase in petrol prices is not acceptable to the people," he said.

NORWAY

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Norway's oil rig strike is set to escalate tomorrow night, cutting total output by around 55,000 barrels of oil a day, the Norwegian Shipowners Association told Dow Jones Newswires today. The association also said a further 150,000 barrels a day of output is being delayed because the drilling vessels aren't able to drill production wells. The dispute between the association and the Federation of Oil Worker's Union started three months ago, "and there is no end in sight," the association's chief negotiator, Ketil Lenning, said. So far the strike has cost oil companies, rig owners and oil supply companies, around \$119 million, the association said. North Sea physical prices have been high this month, as demand for the light, sweet varieties of crude, which are easy to refine, has been healthy. Dated Brent-Forties-Oseberg, the benchmark against which two-thirds of world oil supply is priced, was assessed by Platts as reaching a record high yesterday of \$47.45 a barrel. While current production will be cut by a total of 55,000 barrels a day at the Glitne and Varg fields, the strike will also delay development drilling at Ekofisk, Oseberg, Troll, Valhall and Statfjord fields, preventing planned production of a further 150,000 barrels a day. "Based on the price of oil over the relevant period and the loss of future income, the real loss will be equivalent to approximately half the value of the lost oil production," the shipowners association said. The union says it's

striking over job security, with rig owners hiring contract workers outside the country. "The rigs are filled with foreign contractors at the same time there are several hundred jobless ex-Norwegian workers," said Bjoern Tjessem, deputy leader of the Federation of Oil Workers' Union. With no plans to sit down at the negotiation table, he says the strike could last well into the new year.

PAKISTAN

London, Oct 10 — A press report, dated today, states: The Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has lost Rs 30 million as the strike by company workers entered its sixth day yesterday, a source in the company said. Company workers, demanding the regularisation of contractual employees and bonuses, have been locking up PTCL exchanges from 1000 hrs to 1200 hrs, which has cost the company Rs 30 million because of the closing of ISTD and international gateways, the source said. However, the management is still insisting that negotiations cannot progress until the strike is called off, said Rana Tahir, the PTEU general secretary. He said the management called union leaders for a meeting yesterday, but stuck to its previous position. He accused the company of delaying tactics. Union leaders in Lahore have threatened to start a complete strike if their demands are not met by Oct 15.

Karachi, Oct 12 — For the first time in the history of Pakistan a state owned Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has sought Pakistan army assistance to cope with law and order if its employees go ahead with their threat of a complete strike from Oct 14. A local media reported that in a letter to the army high command, the PTCL management requested that the army should be prepared for an emergency take over of the system in case of the strike. PTCL management has described it as a precautionary step to be taken in case there is no breakthrough in talks with the employees union. After a breakdown of talks on Friday (Oct 8) the union, already on a two-hour token strike, has threatened to go on a countrywide complete strike if its demands are not met by tomorrow. The demands include 15 per cent increase in salary, regularisation of daily wage earners, restoration of quota system and medical facilities. — Lloyd's List Correspondent

Karachi, Oct 13 — Pakistan Telecommunication Company Ltd (PTCL) today said an agreement has been reached between management and its employees union for charter of demands following successful talks held yesterday evening. As a result, the union has withdrawn its countrywide strike call for the complete system Oct 14. A statement of state owned telecommunication organization-PTCL said the management has accepted a number of demands including 15 per cent increase in salary, grant of a bonus next month, regularisation of daily wage earners, restoration of the quota system and medical facilities. The

company in its statement said its plan to accommodate temporary workers is in final stages and assured all future assistance in solving problems. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Baggage handlers working for Servisair at Gatwick Airport are staging a further 12-hour strike today in their ongoing dispute over workloads. Members of the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) will be mounting picket lines at airport approach roads from 0800 hrs until 2000 hrs. Passengers are being advised to check in normally, as Servisair say they have put contingency plans in place. Strikes are also planned for next Wednesday (Oct 13) and Friday (Oct 15). The union is staging a series of 12-hour protests over what it says is inadequate rest time between shifts and the suspension of a senior steward. A strike on Wednesday (Oct 6) as part of the same dispute involved about 600 workers but left flights unaffected. Servisair, the ground handling firm which employs the workers, said flights had left Gatwick on time. Talks between the union and the company broke down on Monday (Oct 4). Both parties say they are ready to negotiate, but no further meetings have been scheduled.

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Baggage handlers at Gatwick Airport are staging their fifth strike in a dispute about workloads. Servisair employees who are members of the Transport and General Workers' Union will man picket lines on roads approaching the airport from 0800 hrs. The previous strikes at the West Sussex airport had no effect on flights and passengers, according to Servisair. Two 24-hour and two 12-hour walkouts have been held by the handlers in the row over "exhaustive workloads". The suspension of a senior steward is also being blamed for the action with another strike planned for Friday (Oct 15). Managers from Servisair, which employs 600 baggage handlers, have been helping to deal with the luggage during the strikes. The firm is one of four baggage handling companies at the airport. Both sides have said they were willing to negotiate but talks have broken down and no further meetings have been scheduled.

The punitive damages against Medtronic Inc. are in addition to \$110 million in compensatory damages the Fridley, Minn., company was ordered last month to pay surgeon Gary Michelson. Medtronic called the award "unjustified and excessive" and said it will appeal. The jury said a company subsidiary, Medtronic Sofamor Danek Inc. of Memphis, breached agreements with Michelson to produce and sell implants he invented to treat patients suffering from damaged or diseased spinal discs. The devices are small metal cages that are inserted between vertebrae. The total damages could be increased by \$60 million since the verdict includes a percentage of the income Medtronic received from selling the devices. Michelson had sought a total of \$1.7 billion in damages. Marc Marmaro, one of Michelson's lawyers, said Medtronic will further violate his client's patents if it continues selling some of the "devices and methodologies" in its product line. Medtronic spokesman Robert Hanvik declined to comment on the possibility of continued patent disagreements with Michelson. "We don't believe that today's verdict will have any material impact on our ability to supply products to our customers, or to continue to innovate," he said.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The parents of a girl starved of oxygen at birth are expected to accept a £4.2m compensation settlement today. Millie Bond from Wombourne, now six, was left with severe cerebral palsy after mistakes were made at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton. Failures by a midwife and others led to foetal distress not being detected sufficiently early during the induced labour, the family's solicitor claims. The settlement is expected to be agreed at the High Court in Birmingham. The settlement follows an earlier interim payment of £1m from the trust and will provide for Millie's round-the-clock, long-term care. In response to concerns from the family, the hospital said today that changes to working practices had been put in place since the incident.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A jury deciding a medical malpractice case has awarded \$1.5 million to the family of a Lafayette woman who died in 1999 as a result of complications from two surgeries. A Tiptecanoe Circuit Court jury found that Dr. Gerritt F. Smith, a general surgeon with Unity Surgical Center, was negligent in his care of Robin L. Christopher, 39, who died at Home Hospital in 1999. Christopher's husband, Edward Christopher, told the Journal and Courier of Lafayette for a story Saturday that the family feels like justice was served with the verdict. However, Christopher's family will not receive the full \$1.5 million award. Under the Indiana law that was in

Awards & Settlements



BREACHING OF AGREEMENTS, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A federal jury awarded \$400 million in punitive damages yesterday to a doctor who accused a medical technology company of infringing on his patents for a surgical device to treat spinal injuries.

effect at the time of Robin Christopher's death, the maximum damages the family can recover for their medical malpractice claim is \$750,000, of which \$650,000 is paid by the state's patient compensation fund. The fund was established by the Legislature as a means of controlling malpractice liability insurance costs. If the surgeries had occurred after June 30, 1999, the Christophers could have recovered up to \$1.25 million. Rules of law prohibited jurors from being informed about the compensation limit. Smith performed surgeries on Christopher on April 9 and April 14 at Home Hospital after X-rays from a prior surgery showed an unidentified mass in the centre of her chest. Attorneys for the Christophers alleged that Smith damaged a major blood vessel in Robin Christopher's chest while performing a diagnostic procedure. They also alleged that Smith failed to adequately prepare for complications in the follow-up surgery that led to her death. The \$1.5 million verdict is one of the largest ever awarded by a Tippecanoe County jury.

Railway Accidents



ATLANTA, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated today, states: One of two train cars that derailed and overturned at a CSX road yard in north-west Atlanta, early today, spilled its cargo of styrene into a nearby dyke. What caused the accident remains unconfirmed, but Gwinnett County fire officials say the chemical spill has not prompted any evacuations. The styrene, which is used in manufacturing plastic products, flowed toward a nearby natural dam which apparently corralled the stream. The liquid apparently leaked through a valve on top of one of the derailed cars. Both Gwinnett County firefighters and a clean up company were called to the scene and are assessing the situation, authorities say. Firefighters established a 1,000-foot safety perimeter around the accident site, but, the spill does not appear to be a threat to any of the nearest homes located within 1,000 feet of the train yard.

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Two freight trains collided shortly before noon today in south Baltimore near the M&T Bank stadium. The trains carried no hazardous chemicals, but several were marked to carry them, so hazmat crews were called as a precaution. Both trains have black boxes. CSX says it will take several days to get that information and interview those on board to determine the exact cause. The speed limit on the tracks is 25 miles per hour. One of the trains was bound for Cumberland, Maryland. The other train was headed

to northern New Jersey. In all, the freight trains comprised more than 140 cars, three derailed. Late tonight, a CSX spokesman said no commuters should be affected. The tracks should be cleared before tomorrow morning and inspected. The collision is responsible for two minor injuries, suffered by the conductor and the engineer on the New Jersey-bound train.

GILLETTE AREA, WYOMING, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated Oct 12, states: Nine cars on a coal train derailed at about 0500 this morning 13 miles east of Gillette. No one was hurt in the accident, according to Gus Melonas, a spokesman for Burlington Northern Santa Fe. Officials are still investigating the cause, Melonas said. At the wreck site this morning, seven cars were thrown off the tracks with several having spilled their coal into a ditch or onto the tracks. Some were twisted and bent and one car's wheels had been torn off. A hole had been ripped into the side of one. More than a dozen workers used front-end loaders and other heavy equipment to scoop the coal and pull the trains off the tracks. The 125-car, double-engine coal train originated at Codero Rojo mine and was on its way to Kansas City, Mo., Melonas said. The wreck will have minimal impact on Powder River Basin train traffic, he said. An adjacent rail line is open.

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated Oct 12, states: Three railroad tanker cars derailed today at a South Los Angeles intersection, but no one was hurt, authorities said. The mishap happened about 1000 at Avalon Boulevard and Imperial Highway, said Jim Wells of the city fire department. None of the cars leaked, and there was no hazard to the public, Wells said. Crews were sent to get the cars back on track.

OCALA, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A freight train derailed near Ocala Train Depot yesterday evening. The CSX train carrying asphalt and coal ran off the tracks smashing into nearby buildings. Parts of the train spilled over near the sidewalk of the train depot, while other sections slammed into buildings. "We do have structural damage to this pavilion overhang here at the train station where you have people standing under the cover, people boarding the train. We have damage to building, Mullins Auto Garage, that's just behind here," says Ocala Fire Rescue Spokesperson Wendell Rora. Officials say people working at the building the train ran into heard the noise and were able to get out of harm's way. Fortunately, no one was hurt. "There were two crew members on board. No one was injured. We're looking at approximately 72 cars, and 2 engines, and we have 9 cars that derailed," says Wendell Rora. All trains scheduled to go through the scene of the

derailment are being held or rerouted. The spokesperson for Ocala Fire Rescue says CSX and the National Transportation Services will investigate what caused the derailment.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated Oct 11, states: Nine cars of a 71-car Union Pacific freight train derailed this morning, a company official said. The train was headed from Laredo to Baton Rouge, La., when it derailed on the south-western edge of San Antonio about 0900. Seven of the derailed cars were car carriers, five of which toppled on their sides, Union Pacific spokesman Mark Davis said. No injuries were reported, and no cause has been determined, he said. The derailment, along with several previous Union Pacific rail incidents in and around San Antonio, remain under investigation, he said.

THORNTON, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The derailment of a coal train at Thornton, about 20 miles from Newcastle port, late yesterday afternoon (Oct 11) has disrupted coal supply to the port from all Hunter Valley mines. Rail lines from mines outside the Hunter region are not blocked and coal continues to be received from Teralba Mine, Lake Coal Mines, South of Newcastle, and Stratford Mine near Gloucester, which transports by road. All rail lines expected to be back in service by 1200, local time, tomorrow. One vessel alongside at Kooragang terminal has been delayed but by changing the berthing rotation to allow vessels with all their coal cargo already received at the port, loading at all other berths has been maintained.

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Commuters travelling to work yesterday were thrown off schedule as disrupted rail services continued in the aftermath of a train derailment near Thornton. Buses replaced trains between Newcastle, Maitland and Dungog yesterday morning until the lines were cleared and regular rail services resumed at noon. State Rail had expected trains to run to normal timetables early yesterday morning, but delays with clearing the derailed carriages and spilled coal from the tracks meant the lines remained closed to passenger services until lunch time. Pacific National communication officer Chris White said the freight train was re-railed and removed from the line at 1100 yesterday. One wagon still remained on the down coal line, which was also expected to be removed yesterday afternoon. Mr White said it was too soon to determine what caused the incident. He said Pacific National was assisting the Federal Government-run Australian Transport Safety Bureau's investigation into the derailment.

London, Oct 14 — Following a train derailment which affected coal supplies

to the port of Newcastle earlier this week, Port Waratah Coal Services has advised that the main railway lines were cleared and returned to normal operations yesterday evening (Oct 13). At this stage, the rail loop to Bloomfield Mine is still blocked and is not expected to re-open until Monday, Oct 18. Cargo from this mine is the only cargo still affected.



Miscellaneous

COLLAPSE OF BAUXITE LOADING EQUIPMENT, DISCOVERY BAY, JAMAICA

Kingston, Jamaica, Oct 8 — Bulk *Ocean Galaxy* arrived Port Rhoades Oct 5 to load ore, but while loading, the shuttle collapsed. The shuttle was removed yesterday and it was noted that there was minor damage to hatch coaming and minor damage to upper inner hatch side wall, starboard side. Vessel sailed this morning for Corpus Christi, where the master advised that repairs will be effected. — Lloyd's Agents.

Kingston, (JAM), Oct 8 — Bulk *Ocean Galaxy* sailed Kingston Oct 8 for Corpus Christi. — Lloyd's Agents.

OUTBREAK OF RABIES, CHINA

Beijing, Oct 11 — Rabies killed 237 people in China last month, remaining the biggest killer of all infectious diseases, Xinhua news agency said. It did not give a reason, but last year the China Daily blamed the new popularity of pet dogs for a huge increase in rabies cases. Rabies, tuberculosis, hepatitis B, AIDS and infant tetanus were the major causes of death in September, accounting for 81.08 percent of total reported deaths, Xinhua said yesterday, quoting a report by the Health Ministry. Tuberculosis had the highest incidence rate of serious diseases, followed by hepatitis B, dysentery, gonorrhoea and syphilis. This is the sixth straight year that China has seen a big jump in rabies infections. — Reuters.

POWER OUTAGE, VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Power supply has been almost fully cut to Vladivostok today as a result of a mechanical damage caused to the local power supply transmission line. The power transmission line is used to supply power to the regional centre from three electric power stations based in Partisansk, Primorye and Artyomovsk. For the time being, Vladivostok is supplied with power in an emergency regime. Power has been supplied to the city centre from the TETS-2 thermal power plant based in Vladivostok, that meets only 30% of the overall power demand. Repair teams of the Dalenergo Company are working in the area of the damaged power transmission line.

Normal power supply to the city might be resumed within a few hours, the repair teams said.

TEMPORARY SHUTDOWN OF REFINERY, MINA AL-AHMADI, KUWAIT

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Kuwait's largest refinery, Mina al-Ahmadi, went into temporary emergency shutdown early yesterday as a precaution after a malfunction in steam units feeding the 460,000 barrels-per-day plant, senior energy officials said. But the complex was in restart mode hours later, added the officials at state-run Kuwait National Petroleum Corp. (KNPC). "It is expected that the refinery will return to normal production today," Mohammad al-Hajeri, who heads KNPC's public relations department, said in a statement. No shortage of supplies to the local or international markets will result from the incident, Hajeri said. He said the refinery opted to shut some units as a result of a mechanical malfunction in its steam production equipment that occurred at 0755 hrs. "As a result, there was a sudden drop in steam pressure, which prompted the refinery management to stop some refinery units as a precautionary step and in compliance with emergency procedures followed in such cases," Hajeri added.



Fires & Explosions

BUSH, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Four fire crews have been sent to a blaze near Toorbul north of Brisbane and a strike team has been moved to Caboolture as firefighters remain busy across south-east Queensland. Several fire crews are also battling fires at Kilcoy, north-west of Brisbane, and Nanango in the south Burnett, that have been burning for several days. Both are within containment lines but senior fire officer Barry Pearce says he is concerned about strong winds forecast for later today. "Kilcoy, we have quite a number of appliances still involved there," he said. "It's contained within its boundaries but with the winds picking up we're just concerned about that one. "Nanango is contained within its containment lines. Then again we're worried about when the wind pops up." South of Brisbane, strong winds are causing problems for firefighters battling a blaze that has burnt more than 1,000 hectares in the Gold Coast hinterland. More than 100 firefighters and State Emergency Service volunteers are struggling to contain the fire between Wongawallan and Ormeau. The Rural Fire Service's Len Jeavons made an aerial inspection of the area this morning. He says flames, driven by winds, gusting up to 60 kilometres an

hour, are making for a number of fire fronts. "A lot of area's been burnt, a lot of inaccessible country, it's come pretty close to a few houses when you actually look at it from the air and there's a number of rural residential houses and lodges over in that area where we now have crews in working around and we are putting in containment strategies for that area." Meanwhile, the weather bureau says the situation should ease this weekend.

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire is threatening property at Toorbul north of Brisbane and a fire in the Gold Coast hinterland has jumped its containment lines as winds across south-east Queensland cause havoc for firefighters. Four fire units have controlled a blaze near Toorbul but officers are working to protect homes in the area. Two fire tankers have also been sent to another fire that's just broken out near Boonah, west of Brisbane. As expected, weather conditions across the south-east have deteriorated. Senior fire officer Barry Pearce says a blaze near the Gold Coast has intensified due to strong winds. "Wongawallen we've had a fire jump our fire break and it's heading in a south-easterly direction," he said. "No properties are under threat but we are advising people to shut their windows and doors." Fire units are also fighting two blazes at Kilcoy north-west of Brisbane and Nanango in the south Burnett.

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Homes are alight in the Gold Coast suburb of Gaven and others are under threat north of Brisbane as bushfires continue to rage out of control in Queensland's south-east. A Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) spokeswoman confirmed a number of homes were on fire. Others were under threat to the north of Brisbane in Caboolture and Kilcoy, she said. A banana plantation near Kilcoy had also been destroyed, she said. The Golden Door Resort at Wongawallen in the Gold Coast Hinterland remained on standby for evacuation with a blaze burning dangerously close to it, she said. The Wongawallen fire has jumped a firebreak at Wongawallen Road and was heading in a south-easterly direction. Residents have been advised to close windows and doors and await any instructions to evacuate. The fire there is burning over about 2500ha and 60 firefighters are battling the blaze. Meanwhile, a special school at Calamvale south of Brisbane has been advised to evacuate due to smoke from grassfires in the area. The train line between Wacol and Oxley near Ipswich, west of Brisbane, was also closed for an hour due to smoke from a nearby grass fire, causing lengthy delays.

London, Oct 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters hope easing weather conditions will help them contain fires which have ravaged the south-eastern corner of Queensland over the past few days. Total fire bans have been put in place across 29 local government areas and are to remain in place for two weeks. The Queensland government has warned that anyone

caught deliberately lighting fires will be severely punished. More than 600 firefighters have been battling blazes across the region, including major fires at Mudgeeraba, in the Gold Coast Hinterland, Toowoomba and Helidon, west of Brisbane, and Caboolture and Kilcoy, north of Brisbane. All were now under control, but a Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) spokeswoman said crews would try to take advantage of the cooler conditions ahead of expected worsening weather next week. The fires have destroyed seven homes, six at Crows Nest and one at Helidon and numerous sheds and vehicles had been destroyed. Crews will be putting in breaks, today, and taking advantage of the cooler conditions to try to contain them before next week, the spokeswoman said. The fire bans extend from Hervey Bay, north of Maryborough, west to Kingaroy, south west to Crows Nest and Toowoomba, and south to the Gold Coast. QFRS Deputy Commissioner Frank Pagano said weather conditions were likely to worsen next week.

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A huge bushfire burning in northern NSW for 24 hours has been contained on some fronts but firefighters are continuing to battle several breakouts. The Rural Fire Service is working to bring the blaze under control as quickly as possible with hotter weather conditions predicted around the area tomorrow. A fire spokeswoman said more than 1000ha of land, including 900ha of private property, 10km south-east of Woodburn, had been burnt out. Four helicopters were involved in the battle and more crews were expected to attend as the fire entered the top end of Bundjalung National Park today, she said. The spokeswoman said the fire, which was reported shortly before 1500, AEST, yesterday, had been contained in the north-west and was under control on the western side but crews were still working on the east and north-eastern sectors. "Firefighters are working really hard to get containment, it will be an extensive operation over the next couple of days," she said. "I believe it has just entered the top end of the Bundjalung National Park. "There are no properties in the area but we are trying to stop it from entering the park." The spokeswoman added that worse bushfire conditions were expected tomorrow. "We have had some quite high temperatures here today, it's hit the mid- to late-30s with a low humidity," she said. "Tomorrow's weather is expected to be worse than today's, so we'll see what tomorrow brings and have a better idea then of how long it will take to contain the fire." Another bushfire was reported near the Grand Parade in Sutherland, southern Sydney, this afternoon. A NSW Fire Brigade spokesman said seven Rural Fire Service tankers were tackling the blaze, which was burning within containment lines. No properties were in immediate danger, he said.

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Tasmanian fire

crews are continuing to battle two large bushfires in the state's north-east. Tasmania Fire Service district officer Ken Burns today said a fire at Saddleback State Forest, near the tiny town of Mathinna, had burnt out between 600 and 700 ha, mainly the remnants of Forestry Tasmania pine plantations. "Forestry has got between 35 and 40 people working on it at this stage," he said. Meanwhile, on the east coast, a bushfire that started yesterday south of Bicheno has ripped through about 500 hectares of coastal scrub. Mr Burns said eight crews were at the scene, including TFS and Parks and Wildlife officers. A TFS helicopter surveyed the area this morning to determine the extent of the fire, with ground crews putting in control lines. No property was under immediate threat.

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The bushfire threat has intensified at Springbrook on Queensland's Gold Coast, where homes are under threat. Tom James from the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service says a dozen fire tankers and aerial water bombers are attacking the blaze, which is being fanned by 30 knot winds. "We have got approximately 12 fire appliances down there now fighting the fire near the Hinze Dam and there has been property threatened down there," he said. "I don't know if there has been any property lost at this time but they have had difficulties due to the terrain around that area. "It is very steep and hilly they have been having difficulties there."

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Homes and properties are under threat from a fire at Springbrook on the Gold Coast hinterland. Eleven fire tankers and several helicopters are being used to fight the blaze that broke out shortly before 1300, AEST. The fire is in rugged, inaccessible terrain. Authorities say northerly wind gusts at Coolangatta have reached more than 30 kilometres an hour, and local humidity remains high.

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Forestry Tasmania hopes two fires burning in the state's north-east will be brought under control later today. The main fire at Mathinna has already burnt out more than 700 hectares of state forest. A smaller fire just south of Mathinna has burnt through around 80 hectares of recently logged pine plantation and remains out of control. Another 10 crews will be brought in today from other forestry districts to help fight both fires. Forestry Tasmania district fire officer Steve Manson says easing winds and lower temperatures should help bring both fires under control by the end of today. "If the weather's kind to us, we hope to have them under control and then it's just a matter of mopping them up," he said. Meanwhile, the Fire Service and Parks and Wildlife have spent the night back-burning south of Bicheno, where 1,100 hectares of dry coastal vegetation have been burnt.

HANGAR, YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated Oct 10, states: Three historic airplanes that survived World War II were pulled to safety as a hangar housing an aircraft museum burned to the ground. No one was injured in the yesterday evening fire at the Yankee Air Museum in Wayne County's Van Buren Township, 25 miles west of Detroit, but the fire destroyed the museum's wooden hangar at Willow Run Airport, built by Henry Ford to produce World War II bombers on assembly lines like those used at his automotive plants. The cause of the fire remained under investigation today. The 50,000-square-foot hangar and its contents - including two airplanes undergoing restoration, photos, books, uniforms, equipment and memorabilia - were destroyed, museum president Jon Stevens told The Ann Arbor News. He estimated the loss at \$5 million to \$7 million. The heart of the museum's aircraft collection - a C-47 transport, B-25 bomber and B-17 bomber, all restored to flying condition - were saved because the crew of the B-25 had just returned from a flight and managed to pull the planes out of the burning hangar. Stevens said officials with the 23-year-old museum already had decided to rebuild.

LISTED BUILDING, LLANGERNYW, WALES, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews are tackling a large blaze at a three-storey derelict building in Llangernyw, near Abergele. The flames broke out at Hafodunos Hall shortly after midnight and eight appliances are currently at the scene. North Wales Fire Service say the blaze is not yet under control, but no one is reported to have been injured. Earlier this year, plans to turn the 19th Century Grade 1 listed Gothic hall into a hotel were unveiled by a developer. Hafodunos Hall was designed by architect Sir George Gilbert Scott in the 1860s. The grounds of the hall were designed by Kew Gardens director William Hooker.

MEDICAL CENTRE, KENSINGTON, MARYLAND, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated Oct 10, states: A fire at a medical office building in Kensington has been ruled an accident. Flames broke out at the Randolph Medical Centre on Randolph Road at about 1100 hrs. A fire department spokesman says it started in an exhaust fan in a third floor restroom. Damage is estimated at \$3.5 million. Fire Department Captain Oscar Garcia says a water pipe broke inside the building during the fire, which soaked a lot of expensive medical equipment. Garcia says the building will be closed at least tomorrow, and probably for a few days.

OIL WELL, SHERMAN TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated Oct 12, states: An explosion at an oil well in Sherman Township sent a

worker to Cadillac Mercy Hospital today. Firefighters from the Burdell-Sherman townships Fire Department responded to the scene about 1230 hrs, just west of 150th Avenue and south of 19 Mile Road. Two semi-trailer style holding tanks sat beside an oil rig. Flames shot from one of the tanks. "It was a pretty big explosion," said a worker at the scene, who declined to give his identity. Firefighters sprayed water and then foam into the tank to put out the fire. "It's some kind of highly flammable oil," said Walt Hartline, Burdell Township firefighter. He said he did not know what caused the explosion. "Right now the well is secure and everything is OK," said Dennis Barrett, Quicksilver Resources Inc. drilling supervisor.

POWER STATION, EYE, SUFFOLK, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Thirty firefighters have been tackling a serious fire at a power station in north Suffolk which broke out early this morning. Six fire engines from Suffolk and Norfolk were needed to bring the flames under control at a pumping station in the Fibropower plant at Eye. The complex burns poultry litter to generate electricity. The plant has been shut because of damage to hydraulic equipment, but is expected to re-open shortly. Steve Brown, plant manager said: "The damage looks to be superficial and we would expect to be running very soon."

PREMISES, BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 100 firefighters have brought a major fire in Belfast city centre under control. A four-storey building containing Waterstones bookstore and Goldsmith's jewellers has been severely damaged. The blaze was discovered in the early hours of this morning. The Fire Service said that it had now been contained. It is not yet known how the fire started and at this stage police do not believe there was anyone in the building. Part of the road is closed and motorists are being advised not to enter the city centre. Chris Kerr, Assistant Senior Divisional Commander with the Fire Service, said it was one of the worst fires in many years. "We have 20 fire appliances in attendance and four special aerial appliances and those crews are still working under very harsh conditions at rooftop level," he said. "This is a major incident and one of the largest fires in Belfast for many years." Approximately 25% of the second floor and 50% of the third floor have been damaged, but sadly all of the fourth floor and roof structure have been destroyed," said the officer.

PREMISES, OKAUCHEE, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated Oct 7, states: A five-alarm fire in Okauchee, in Waukesha County, destroyed three buildings along Wisconsin Avenue this afternoon. The

fire started in an unfinished condominium development, Mission Lakes. It was to be a 58-unit complex for people ages 55 and older. Part of that development included the St. Joan of Arc Church, built in 1910. Services were no longer being held there, but it was going to be the clubhouse for the complex. Workers tomorrow will try to save what remains of the structure, 12 News' reporter Mike Anderson said. An unoccupied house was also ruined. It used to be the pastor's home. It has already been knocked down. Fourteen different fire departments battled the fire, including Okauchee, Oconomowoc, Stone Bank and the town of Summit. As of 1500 hrs, firefighters were still pouring water on the fire. One worker was injured. He was treated for smoke inhalation. The preliminary cause of the fire that it started on the third floor by a welder, Anderson reported. The damage estimate is \$4 to \$5 million.

RECORDING STUDIO, LOS ANGELES, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated Oct 10, states: A "major explosion" and fire severely damaged a recording studio today in Burbank, western Los Angeles, but there were no immediate reports of injuries, local US firefighters said. The blast occurred inside the International Recording Corp. building at about 0815, local time. It tore through the building, scattering debris up to a half-block in every direction, said Burbank fire Captain Ron Bell. Some 75 firefighters were sent to the scene after the alarm was first reported. The building was engulfed in fire, with flames shooting through the roof when crews arrived. There also may have been a "small secondary explosion" at the building, according to Bell. The fire was not put out even two hours after the blast. There were no reports of injuries. "No injuries have been reported but we have not made entry into the building," Bell said. The cause of the explosion is unknown. Arson investigators were at the scene.

REFINERY, TEXAS CITY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated Oct 7, states: Workers at the Marathon Refinery in Texas City, are cleaning up after a small fire. Authorities say around 0200 hrs, a pump seal leak led to a small fire. Firefighters with the Marathon fire department were able to put it out a little over an hour later. One unit is now shut down, and the other units are operating at a reduced capacity.

SCHOOL, HALESOWEN, WEST MIDLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A blaze at a school is likely to have been caused by arsonists, fire investigators say. More than 50 firefighters were called to The Earls High School in Furnace Lane, Halesowen, yesterday evening. Nearly half of the first floor of the school was destroyed. The school was established in the 17th Century and has nearly 1,200 pupils. The school will be closed

until Monday (Oct 18) while investigations into the cause continue, officials said. Vij Randeniya, deputy chief officer of the West Midlands Fire Service, described it as a "needless fire". He said it should not have spread, if the building had had sprinklers fitted.

SHIPYARD, TADOTSU, KAGAWA PREFECTURE, JAPAN

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Three workers were seriously injured today in an explosion at a shipyard in Tadotsu, Kagawa Prefecture, police and other sources said. The 1445 hrs blast occurred inside a vessel but no fire was reported. The three men received burns and were taken to a hospital in Marugame, where they are being treated in an intensive care unit, officials said. A fourth worker was taken to the hospital but his condition was not immediately known.

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Four workers were injured in an explosion yesterday afternoon in a waste oil tank at the bottom of a cargo ship under construction at a shipyard in Tadotsu, Kagawa Prefecture, police said. Hisayuki Inoue, 48, of Hanzancho in the prefecture, who was in the engine-room above the tank, remained unconscious after being burned over his entire body. Takeshi Nishimura, 35, and Hirofumi Yamaguchi, 29, suffered serious burns, while Takashi Hamada, 31, suffered minor burns. The police are questioning officials of Tsuneishi Corp. on suspicion of professional negligence resulting in injuries. The explosion occurred in the tank in the aft of the ship on the west pier of the firm's Tadotsu factory at about 1440 hrs. Several workers, including Inoue, began painting the ship's interior at 0800 hrs and were preparing to ventilate the ship of fumes after moving into the engine-room.

SHOPPING COMPLEX, NEWTON ABBOT AREA, DEVON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated Oct 7, states: Staff at a Devon retail store partially destroyed by fire on Wednesday (Oct 6) have started a clear-up operation. Trago Mills' store near Newton Abbot may cost from £3m to £5m to repair after the blaze broke out and damaged about half of the building. Owner Bruce Robertson has already made an early survey of the damage with a loss adjuster. About 50 staff turned up today to clear up and a fire investigation team has started work at the site. Managers have already announced that a fire salvage sale will be held, and are pledging to get the safe parts of the building re-opened for business within weeks.

SHOPPING COMPLEX, NEWTON ABBOT, DEVON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire officers investigating the cause of a huge fire at a major retail centre in Devon say they have ruled out arson. The Trago Mills' store, near Newton Abbot, was partially destroyed by the fire and repairing the

damage is estimated to cost up to £5m. Devon Fire and Rescue Service are hoping to reveal the cause of the fire by the end of the week. However, a spokesman warned that the fire was so severe that no cause may ever be found. He said fire investigators wanted to be absolutely sure of their findings before making them public. Peter Smith, principle fire investigator on the case, said because of the size and seriousness of the blaze the investigation had been "painstaking." "A hydro-carbon sniffer dog was used to positively eliminate accelerant as a cause or effect of this fire," he said. "We were also able to determine roughly where the fire had started and eliminate quite a lot of other things as a cause. "We now have to ensure we've gathered all of the witness and forensic information that we need to make a positive conclusion." Parts of the site including the Co-op supermarket, petrol filling station and car sales area, have now reopened to the public. Trago bosses say they hope the garden centre and a temporary customer service centre will reopen this weekend. They say normal business should be resumed at the site within 20 weeks.

SUPERMARKET, NEWCASTLE, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 13 — A fire which swept through a large Newcastle supermarket overnight has caused more than Aus\$2 million damage. Firefighters were called to a blaze at a supermarket and adjoining liquor store on Main Road about 2300, local time, Oct 12, a New South Wales police spokesman said. The supermarket was under refurbishment at the time, by a group of tradesmen using oxy-acetylene equipment. The men and a security guard were forced to flee after noticing flames quickly spreading from the supermarket's electrical switch room. Fire trucks attended the scene, but hazardous materials in the building, including liquid petroleum gas and alcohol, hampered all efforts to extinguish the flames. The building was destroyed, causing at least \$2 million damage, he said. Police and fire investigators will examine the scene this morning to determine the cause of the fire.

WAREHOUSE, GEMPOL, EAST JAVA, INDONESIA

London, Oct 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire today razed the tobacco warehouse owned by cigarette maker Philip Morris in Gempol, Pasuruan regency in East Java. Five fire trucks were deployed from Sidorajo and Pasuran regencies and PT HM Sampoerna, another cigarette maker. The fire firefighters found it difficult to control the fire in the 180-metre by 70-metre warehouse that was full of dried tobacco ready to be blended for Marlboro. "The fire was reportedly started at about 2030 hrs. We have yet to know what caused the fire or the losses," Gempol Police sub precinct chief Adj. Comr. Sujud said. "A short circuit could had caused the fire as there were no employees in the warehouse at that time," he added.

WILDFIRE, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated Oct 7, states: Crews in the River Valley battled a massive wildfire for much of yesterday afternoon. More than 70 firefighters from nine agencies worked to get the fire under control. Booneville Fire Chief Roger Osborne said firefighters were lucky that nature was on their side while they were battling the blaze. "The humidity today has been around 20 to 25 percent," Osborne said. "It's been real low humidity, and we've had strong, gusty winds (that are) ideal to carry fire off." Officials said more than 300 acres burned in the blaze.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A wildfire fueled by dry brush grew to nearly 30,000 acres yesterday and prompted the voluntary evacuation of a remote community near Lake Berryessa in northern California. Swirling winds wreaked havoc on fire lines throughout the day, sending ash drifting onto the Napa Valley wine country town of St. Helena to the west and producing a smoke plume that could be seen as far south as San Francisco. The fire burned through trees, brush and dry grass in a steep and remote region of Napa and Yolo counties before reaching the edge of Lake Berryessa's northeast shoreline yesterday. On its way, it destroyed a fire lookout east of the lake on 3,057-foot Berryessa Peak. Fire officials issued a voluntary evacuation for Lake Berryessa Estates, a community of 75 near the lake's northwest shore. Evacuees were being sent to a nearby school. Despite the fire's spread, no other structures were lost and no injuries reported, a fire spokeswoman said. The blaze began Sunday (Oct 10) evening near the Yolo County farming community of Rumsey before spreading to nearby hills. Officials believe the fire was intentionally caused and are investigating.



AIRCRAFT DITCHED INTO SEA SOUTH OF OAHU, HAWAII, UNITED STATES

See VHDD5.

AIRCRAFT DIVERTED TO STANSTED AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft flying from Hong Kong to London's Heathrow airport has been diverted to Stansted following a security alert. The Virgin airlines aircraft landed safely at about 0530 hrs following a reported bomb threat in a telephone call, officials at Stansted said. There were thought to be more than 200 passengers on board, plus an unspecified number of crew. Essex Police are at the airport

investigating. A Virgin Atlantic spokesperson confirmed that Flight VF201 was diverted to London Stansted as a "precautionary measure". The spokesperson added: "The aircraft and passengers are now subject to full security checks by the appropriate authorities."

AIRCRAFT GROUNDED, NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, INDIA

London, Oct 9 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Bangkok-bound Indian Airlines aircraft was hit by a bird at the take off point of the runway in the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport today. The plane with about 65 passengers on board was immediately taken back to the bay. The aircraft was grounded for necessary examinations and to assess the extent of damage caused by the hit, Airlines sources said. Later, the stranded passengers of the flight were sent to their destination in another aircraft which had arrived from Port Blair, airport sources added.

CRASH, BADAKHSHAN PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, Oct 12 — A UN helicopter flying to retrieve ballot boxes after Afghanistan's landmark election was forced to crash-land in a remote snow-covered corner of the country today, officials said. Three crew and five passengers will have to spend the night in a snowfield at an altitude of more than 12,000 feet before US-led forces in Afghanistan can attempt a rescue operation tomorrow, they said. An emergency bundle of food and warm clothing will be dropped later today over the area, in a remote part of the northern province of Badakhshan, said UN spokesman Manoel de Almeida e Silva. The helicopter, a Russian Mil Mi-8, suffered engine failure. The crew and passengers were not injured, Silva said. David Avery, chief of operations for the UN-Afghan Joint Electoral Management Body, said another UN helicopter would be flown to the area to retrieve ballot boxes as soon as possible. — Reuters.

CRASH, BEATRICE, NEBRASKA, UNITED STATES

See N173DC.

CRASH, CLERMONT, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

See N2771J.

CRASH, DIJON AREA, FRANCE

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated Oct 9, states: Four Belgians were killed when the light aircraft they were travelling in crashed today in eastern France, local officials said. The aircraft left from the Belgian town of Ostend on a flight to a deluxe hotel in a chateau near the city of Dijon. The Piper PA 46 Malibu IT crashed in a wooded area about 15 kilometres from its destination, killing the two men and two women on board. The cause of the crash was not immediately known.

CRASH, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A Boeing 747 cargo plane with seven crew members on board has crashed at Halifax International Airport. There appear to be no survivors, says RCMP Const. Joe Taplin. The jet, owned by MK Airlines, was taking off just before 0400 hrs, when something went wrong and prevented the jet from getting airborne. There are reports the tail of the plane hit the ground during take-off. It continued off the end of the runway, broke into pieces, and burst into flames. The jet had just refuelled prior to take-off and was loaded with fuel, resulting in a massive fire. Fire fighters estimate it could be a few hours before the blaze is extinguished. Twenty fire engines and 60 fire fighters are on the scene. The jet's tail is lying in a field just off the end of a runway. The bulk of the aircraft is lying in pieces past a wooded area about a kilometre away. Vennavally-Rao says the weather is clear and does not appear to be a factor in the crash. There was a three-person crew in the cockpit, along with a spare crew, and a loadmaster. The crew are either from the United Kingdom, South Africa or Zimbabwe, said an MK Airlines spokesperson. The crash reportedly knocked out power at the airport and closed it for a time. It was re-opened a few hours later and flights are resuming on a limited basis. The jet was flying from New York to Spain. It had a cargo of tractors and stopped in Halifax to pick up a load of lobster and fish. The Transportation Safety Board of Canada is assembling a team of investigators in Ottawa, said spokesman John Cottreau.

Accra, Oct 14 — Freight company MK Airlines confirmed today that one of its Ghanaian-registered Boeing 747 cargo planes crashed in Halifax, Canada, killing all six crew members aboard. "It's a Boeing 747 jumbo. It was only the crew on board, there were six of them and there were no survivors," Wisdom Ametepe, managing director of MK Airlines in Ghana, told Reuters. "It's too early to say what caused the crash. We have to wait for an investigation," he said. Ametepe said the crew was from Zimbabwe and Britain. He said MK Airlines usually picked up fish in Canada. "We haven't had any problems since we've been operating (out of Ghana) since 1994," Ametepe said, when asked about the company's safety record. Francis Nkansah, senior supervisor at Ghana's Civil Aviation Authority, confirmed MK Airlines had been operating in Ghana since 1994 and had 16 planes registered in the former British colony. — Reuters.

CRASH, MARION AIRPORT, IOWA, UNITED STATES

See N7841N.

CRASH, ST-ROCH-DE-L'ACHIGAN, QUEBEC, CANADA

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated Oct 11, states: Investigators said a stalled engine may have led to an aircraft crash today that killed two men

in St-Roch-de-l'Achigan, north-east of Montreal. The light aircraft went down in the morning, landing just metres from a home near a regional airport. The two men died on impact, said provincial police spokesman Jayson Gauthier. "Witnesses rushed to the scene and they saw that one of the individuals was already ejected out of the plane," said Gauthier. "The other one remained inside and they got him out of there and the flames were still raging through the plane." Andre Turenne, lead investigator for the Transportation Safety Board, told all-news channel RDI the aircraft likely suffered mechanical problems. "The engine didn't seem to have any signs of rotation," he said. "One propeller, even two propellers didn't seem to be turning. Other than that, we don't have other information about engine failure, or a failure alert or a distress call." Police had not identified the victims as of this afternoon. St-Roch-de-l'Achigan is about 40 kilometres north-east of Montreal.

CRASH, VILLERS-LE-LAC AREA, FRANCE

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated Oct 10, states: Two Germans died today when their small plane crashed in a forest in eastern France and caught fire, police said. The single-engine aircraft had been flying from Switzerland and was heading to Germany when the accident happened near the village of Villers-le-lac, they said. The cause of the crash was not immediately known.

EMERGENCY LANDING, CARDIFF INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WALES, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 10 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Emergency services were put on full alert yesterday when an aircraft developed a technical fault minutes after taking off from Cardiff International Airport. The 0937 hrs Air Wales flight to Dublin spent just nine minutes in the air before being forced to return to the South Wales airport. Police officers, firefighters, ambulance crews and the airport's own fire and rescue services were all scrambled to the scene as a precautionary measure. Passengers flying on the 50-seater ATR42 turbo-prop aircraft were evacuated from the cabin upon landing, and were due to resume their journey on a replacement flight. An airport spokeswoman confirmed that the incident was the result of a technical fault rather than any kind of security alert. A spokeswoman for Air Wales described the technical fault as minor and added, "This was merely a precautionary measure and there was no risk to passengers at any time. "The aircraft landed at Cardiff, which is Air Wales' main engineering base, to allow engineers to carry out a full inspection."

EMERGENCY LANDING, DURBAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Durban International Airport's runways were

closed off for an hour this morning after a Cessna 414 was forced to make an emergency landing. Airports Company of South Africa spokesman Colin Naidoo, said the aircraft experienced problems with its landing gear but the pilot eventually managed to land the aircraft safely. "Neither the pilot nor the passenger were injured. The airport was closed this morning because the aircraft landed safely but was stuck in the middle of the runway," said Naidoo. He said ACSA then followed civil aviation laws and closed the airport, delaying departing and incoming flights. "Civil aviation authorities and the police will investigate the matter," he said. Journalist Greg Pearce, waiting to catch a flight out of the city, said the damaged aircraft had been moved to the side of the runway, with the tail resting on the ground. Emergency fire trucks were parked close to the aircraft.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MINNEAPOLIS, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A Northwest Airlines flight turned around partway into a flight from Minneapolis to San Francisco yesterday after part of the wing flew off. Northwest spokesman Kurt Ebenhoch says the Boeing 757 carrying 179 passengers lost a wing slat, a moving piece on the front of the wing. Ebenhoch said the aircraft turned around and returned to Minneapolis yesterday and landed without incident. Passengers boarded a different aircraft and continued to San Francisco.

EMERGENCY LANDING, NAWABSHAH AIRPORT, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Oct 14 — Pakistan state owned airline-Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) today said one of its aircrafts, carrying 30 passengers, bound for Sindh Province of Pakistan, made an emergency landing at Nawabshah airport due to an engine fault yesterday morning. The PIA flight PK-155, was chartered by Oil and Gas Development Co.(OGDC) to transport its technical staff from Karachi to Khairpur. A spokesman of the national airline said while the aircraft was in mid-air, the captain found a technical problem with the aircraft and made an emergency landing. Later, a PIA technical team reached Nawabshah and brought the aircraft back for repair. The passengers were shifted to another flight PK-541, which had come from Karachi and took off to Moen-jo-Daro. — Lloyd's List Correspondent

FIRE ON AIRCRAFT, KUNMING, CHINA

London, Oct 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Prime Minister Marek Belka escaped a potential disaster when he was forced to evacuate his official aircraft as it caught fire just seconds before it was to take off from the city of Kunming. Belka was flying in one of the Polish government's decrepit aircraft to Vietnam for the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM). The Tu-154 Soviet-built aircraft landed in China to refuel. Just before it was to take off again, one of the aircraft's three engines caught fire.

INCIDENT AT SYLHET AIRPORT, BANGLADESH

Dhaka, Oct 8 — At least 25 people were injured when a Bangladesh Biman Airlines Fokker aircraft skidded off the runway in bad weather after landing in the northeastern city of Sylhet on Friday, officials at the airport said. “The F-28 aircraft with over 70 passengers ran off the runway just after landing,” said an immigration official at the airport, 300 km from the capital, Dhaka. The aircraft fell into a ditch full of water, with its nose submerged, trapping the pilot and a passenger, rescuers said. “We are trying to rescue the lady pilot of the aircraft, Shahana Akhtar, and Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, a former government adviser,” airport manager Siddiqur Rahman told reporters. Airport officials said at least 25 people, including three crew, were injured. Biman officials in Dhaka said the aircraft left the capital at 0846 hrs (0246, UTC) and landed 19 minutes later at Sylhet, the country’s third-biggest airport. “It was raining when the flight BG 601 carrying 79 passengers met with the accident,” another airport official said. — Reuters.

Karachi, Oct 10 — Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) said that the BG-601 Fokker F-28 aircraft of state owned airlines-Biman Bangladesh Airlines remains at crash site of Osmani International Airport in Sylhet until insurance company officials inspect it. The aircraft with 79 passengers on board skidded off the runway at Sylhet Airport and crashed into a canal on Friday (Oct 8) as a result, 50 people including the pilot were injured. The aircraft is badly damaged. It took off from Zia international Airport-Dhaka 0845 hrs and the mishap occurred at about 0910 hrs amidst rain. The government has formed a probe committee of the civil aviation authority headed by its Chairman Zahed Quddus, who has started probing into the crash while Biman’s internal probe committee headed by its chief of flight safety is yet to launch an investigation. The three-member CAAB inquiry team, which went to Sylhet last night, talked to the officials and staff of the control tower at Sylhet airport and collected flight records and documents related to the landing system. Meanwhile, Biman pilots were back at work yesterday afternoon, several hours after they had refused to fly domestic and regional flights in protest against a reported comment by state minister for civil aviation on Friday’s crash. They called off the work stoppage following the minister’s affirmation that he did not put blame on the pilots for the crash. — Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

Karachi, Oct 11 — Officials of UK-based Lloyds Aviation Insurance Company Ltd, Bangladesh state owned Sadharan Bima Cooperation (SBC) the reinsurer of the insurance agreement and the probe committee visited the crash site of Biman’s F28 aircraft at Sylhet Osmani International Airport runway in Bangladesh yesterday. They thoroughly inspected the ill-fated aircraft that skidded off the runway

injuring 50 of the 83 passengers and crew on board Friday (Oct 8). A Biman official told local media that insurance officials would be analysing the condition of the aircraft whose nose went four feet deep into a canal, causing serious damage to its cockpit. The wings also were damaged but the fuselage of the aircraft is still in a relatively good condition, he said. The Biman official said if the Lloyds representative finds that the aircraft can be repaired to make it worthy for flight or not, it will be recovered from the crash site. — Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

N12625

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A mid-air collision at a Tri-state airport yesterday sent two aircrafts crashing to the ground. The crash happened as both aircrafts were trying to land the Cincinnati-West Airport in Harrison. Preliminary evidence suggests the pilot flying the Cessna-152 failed to see the Cessna 172 and clipped it from above. Aviation experts worked with the Ohio State Highway Patrol to put together a possible explanation of what happened. “They were telling me that they thought that one of them at least was so intent on the practice of landing that they didn’t notice the other aircraft coming in,” said Sergeant Pete Combs, patrol officer. Three men were injured. Two of them were taken to University Hospital. None of the injuries were reported to be life-threatening. The FAA is investigating the crash.

London, Oct 12 — Cessna 172P (Skyhawk), N12625, and Cessna 152 (Aerobat), N68298, were in collision in mid-air near Harrison, Ohio, at 1740, Oct 10. N12625 was destroyed and N68298 sustained substantial damage. One of the two persons on board N12625 was seriously injured and the other suffered minor injuries. The one person on board N68298 was seriously injured.

N173DC

London, Oct 7 — Piper PA-23, N173DC, privately operated, departed Beatrice Municipal Airport, Nebraska, and crashed shortly after departure at 2028, Oct 3. Aircraft is reported destroyed and the pilot is in serious condition.

N233PA

London, Oct 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A single-engine 1978 Piper Warrior crashed into a house today, killing the pilot and passenger, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration said. No one in the house was injured in the crash, which happened minutes after the pilot reported his engine had quit, said FAA spokesman James Peters. Killed were Scott Hanlon, 44, of New Milford, and Katherine Johnson, 49, of Danbury. The FAA said Hanlon was the pilot. Part of the aircraft slammed into the kitchen and part of a wing was on the deck of the house in Madison, in south-central Connecticut, Peters said. The aircraft was headed to Danbury Airport in western Connecticut. It was registered

to the Danbury Flight School. The National Transportation Safety Board was investigating.

London, Oct 12 — Piper PA-28-161 (Warrior II), N233PA, crashed near Madison, Connecticut at 2148, Oct 11, while on a flight from Nantucket, Massachusetts, to New Haven, CT. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were killed.

N2771J

London, Oct 11 — A press report, dated Oct 10, states: Two people were killed early this morning when their single engine four-seat Cessna 172, en route from Long Island to Fulton County, northwest of Albany, crashed in the town of Clermont, 40 miles south of Albany, police said. The names of the victims were not immediately released by authorities. The Columbia County Sheriff’s Office said the aircraft, registered to the Fulton County Flyers Club, in care of James H. Wallace of Caroga Lake, NY, went down shortly after midnight. A local resident reported hearing the crash at 0040 but the wreckage wasn’t found until shortly before 0700. Jim Peters, a spokesman for the FAA’s eastern region, said the aircraft took off from MacArthur Airport in Islip, on Long Island, and was en route to Johnstown Airport, about 50 miles north-west of Albany, in Fulton County, when it disappeared from air traffic controllers’ radar screens at 0034. He said there was no distress signal from the pilot before the aircraft went down. The cause of the crash is being investigated by the National Transportation Safety Board. London, Oct 12 — Cessna 172R (Skyhawk), N2771J, crashed near Clermont, New York, at 0434, Oct 10. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N3832U

London, Oct 7 — Cessna C336, N3832U, privately operated, crashed under unknown circumstances in a remote area 2.5 miles south-west of Magee, Mississippi. The aircraft was the subject of an alnot alert on Sep 24 and the wreckage was located at 1133, Oct 4. Aircraft is destroyed and the four persons on board are reported fatal.

N5964

London, Oct 7 — Cessna A185E, N5964, privately operated, was found destroyed and the pilot, the sole occupant, is reported fatal, eight miles north of Luna, New Mexico, at 1625, Oct 3.

N68298

See N12625.

N7841N

London, Oct 7 — Piper PA-28-180, N7841N, operated by Fling County Club Inc, on vfr from Quad Cities on final to runway 17 at Marion Airport, Iowa, drifted east. Aircraft clipped old hangars, took off landing gear, and crashed into new hangars tearing off wings at 1440, Oct 3. Aircraft is reported destroyed and unknown injuries.

VHDDS

London, Oct 7 — Cessna C182, VHDDS, enroute from Hilo, Hawaii, to Pago Pago, experienced engine failure and ditched in ocean approximately 1,000 miles south-west of Hawaii at 2132, Oct 4. Second aircraft in flight observed a liferaft but was unsure if it was occupied. US Coast Guard responded.



DAIMLER-CHRYSLER MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 12 — Daimler-Chrysler in the US is recalling close to one million minivans because the driver's side air bag might not work. The recall affects the Dodge Caravan and Grand Caravan, Plymouth Voyager and Grand Voyager, and Chrysler Town and Country from the 1998 to 2000 model years.

POWER ADAPTERS, WORLDWIDE

Washington, Oct 8 — Dell will recall about 4.4 million power adapters for some of its laptop computers because of a risk of overheating, which could lead to a fire or electrical shock, the computer maker said today. Dell has received seven reports of incidents involving the AC adapters overheating

but no injuries were reported, according to the the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, which helped coordinate the recall. Roughly 990,000 of those adapters were sold to U.S. consumers while the rest were sold overseas or to corporate customers in the United States, a Dell spokesman said. The recall covers adapters used with some Dell Latitude, Precision and Inspiron notebook computers and have the words "DELL" and "P/N 9364U," "P/N 7832D" or "P/N 4983D" written on the back. The adapters, manufactured by Delta Electronics Inc., were included in computers sold between September 1998 and February 2002 and were also sold separately. — Reuters.



CHILE

See under "Labour Disputes."

FRANCE

St Malo, Oct 11 — Due to repairs on the lock doors, St Malo port will be closed between 1700 and 2200 on Oct 13. — Lloyd's Agents.

PANAMA CANAL

Balboa, Oct 7 — Panama Canal update: Lock works commenced at 0001, Oct 6 at Gatun Locks and is anticipated to continue through until

2359, Oct 13 (eight days). Work is being conducted at Gatun Locks only. Delays for non-booked vessels are running as follows:- Panamax northbound, approximately 48 hours with increasing tendency; Panamax southbound approximately 72 hours with increasing tendency; regular vessels under 91 feet beam no restrictions, approximately 48 hours with increasing tendency. Change to Gatun Locks lane outage: The outage scheduled for the East lane of Gatun Locks that was previously announced in MR's advisory to Shipping No.A-47-2004 on Sep 29, 2004, has been shortened from 10 to 8 days. The Gatun Locks east lane will only be out of service from 0001, Oct 6 through until 2359, Oct 13. On Oct 14 and 15, the East lane will be open for limited traffic, which will result in a net increase of the daily transit capacity of 20 percent, while scheduled maintenance on locks shore infrastructure is being completed. Relay operations will be conducted on the West lane during this 10-day period. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 12 — The East Lane of Gatun Locks will reopen with reduced capacity on Oct 14 and 15, following the completion of principal lock works at 2359, tomorrow (Oct 13). The Gatun Locks are not expected to be operating at full capacity until 0001, Oct 16.

SYRIA

Lattakia, Oct 2 — Waiting time is presently 24 hours at Lattakia and five days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	11-13-Oct-2004	Coal: 13 vessels due by 8/11; no delays expected. A maintenance shutdown is underway from 07.00 hrs. 5/10 to 07.00 hrs. 12/10.
Brisbane	11-13-Oct-2004	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 4 vessels due by 1/11; no delays expected. Grain: no vessels.
Dalrymple Bay	11-13-Oct-2004	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 17 anchored; 37 vessels due by 20/12; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability; 1-10 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion can be expected, although vessels with other stems are experiencing longer berthing delays.
Dampier	11-13-Oct-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 anchored; 9 vessels due by 26/10; 1-11 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 9 vessels due by 31/10; 2-7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; a maintenance shutdown will start ca. 11/10; shippers will always consider a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels awaiting HW; cargo shortages are evident, delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn.
Gladstone	11-13-Oct-2004	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 3 vessels berthed, 11 anchored; 26 vessels due by 29/10; up to 8 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; Barney Point: 2 vessels due by 4/11; no delays expected. There will be a maintenance shutdown from 15-31/10. Grain: 1 vessel due 23/10 to load sorghum.
Hay Point	11-13-Oct-2004	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 13 anchored; 5 vessels due by 17/10; up to 9 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion.
Newcastle	11-13-Oct-2004	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels berthed, 13 anchored; 22 vessels due by 28/10; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels berthed, 6 anchored; 10 vessels due by 30/10; 2 unallocated vessels due by

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Port Conditions

		29/10; 1-8 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal and cargo receipt. Grain: 3 vessels due by 21/10, 2 to load wheat, 1 sorghum; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Adelaide	11-13-Oct-2004	Grain: No. 27 berth: 8 vessels due by 26/10, 3 to load wheat, 4 barley, 1 barley/wheat; up to 7 days delay expected due to berth congestion.
Port Hedland	11-13-Oct-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 3 vessels due by 18/10; 1-7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 vessels anchored; 3 vessels due by 17/10; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; a 48 hour maintenance shutdown will start 06.00 hrs. 12/10 to 06.00 hrs. 14/10; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel anchored; 2 vessels due by 17/10; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 2 vessels due by 16/10; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion, maintenance shutdown and cargo availability. Due to heavy demand for product, acute cargo shortages are being experienced at wharf stockpiles. Vessels will continue to berth as product becomes available.
Port Kembla	11-13-Oct-2004	Grain: 2 vessels due by 30/10, both to load wheat; no delays expected. Coal: 1 vessel anchored; 14 vessels due by 20/11; CB1: 1 vessel due 10/10; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Walcott	11-13-Oct-2004	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 17 vessels due by 28/10; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; as a result of a heavy schedule for July and maintenance requirements, it is extremely likely that vessels will berth out of order. In the next few days there will only be one lump re-screening plant available, which will mean not being able to load two lump vessels at the same time. Shippers advise that stores, air freight and crew baggage can no longer be delivered to vessels or taken off at berth. With immediate effect, all stores, airfreight and bags must be delivered/removed by launch.
Portland	11-13-Oct-2004	Grain: 4 vessels due by 27/10, 2 to load wheat, 1 barley, 1 wood-chips; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	11-Oct-2004	Seven vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (3 coils, 1 equipment, 1 containers), 2 discharging (1 containers, 1 coal); 8 vessels waiting in roads, of which 5 to load (2 coils, 3 empty), 2 to discharge (1 steel sheet, 1 coal), 1 to take on bunkers; 10 vessels due of which 3 to load (1 billets, 1 containers, 1 coils), 7 to discharge (3 equipment, 2 iron ore, 1 coal, 1 containers). Varna Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 4-10 October: Forty-six vessels in port operating of which 27 loading (3 scrap, 2 bulk wheat, 3 sunflower seeds, 1 gasoline, 3 bulk maize, 1 petcoke, 2 bulk cement, 1 bulk EDC, 2 bulk dense soda, 2 bulk sulphuric acid, 1 bulk/packed soda, 1 kaolin/bulk other, 1 bagged/packed soda, 1 bagged kaolin/other, 1 bulk copper concentrate, 1 bulk silica sand, 1 technical salt), 8 discharging (1 bulk copper concentrate, 5 bulk coal, 1 bulk coal/bulk anthracite, 1 cement on pallets), 11 discharging/loading (9 containers, 1 clinker/bulk soda, 1 equipment/dangerous cargo); 5 vessels waiting in roads.
Chile		
Valparaiso	12-Oct-2004	Three vessels berthed, 5 berths vacant; 3 vessels anchored; 13 vessels due this week.
Cyprus		
Larnaca	11-Oct-2004	Two conventional vessels discharging at berth; 1 conventional vessel due 13/10; no delays expected.
Limassol		Five container vessels loading/discharging at berth, 4 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 14 vessels due 13/10 of which 4 containers, 4 conventional vessels, 4 passenger vessels, 2 cruise vessels; no delays expected.
Egypt		
Alexandria	11-Oct-2004	Thirty-six vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 27 general cargo, 2 containers, 1 bulker, 1 Ro/Ro, 1 reefer, 4 tankers; 3 vessels at inner anchorage, 8 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	11-Oct-2004	Twenty-eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 18 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 6 containers; 8 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	11-Oct-2004	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 5 bulk carriers, 1 containers.
Suez Canal	11-Oct-2004	Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 31 Southbound.
Israel		
Ashdod	12-Oct-2004	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 15 vessels discharging at berth (12 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 4 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker); 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 15 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (10 general cargo, 5 bulkers), 5 container vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge; 2 vessels awaiting orders; 15 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.

Port Conditions

Haifa	12-Oct-2004	No labour problems. Seven vessels discharging at berth (5 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 7 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 1 car carrier, 2 tankers); 5 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (2 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 10 vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge (8 containers, 2 tankers); 2 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 15 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Mozambique Maputo	8-Oct-2004	Twenty-four hour berthing/sailing. Some restrictions to berthing at certain badly-lit wharves. Vessels have to be geared for general cargo berths as no shore cranes available. The Port is working normally and is expected to remain so, hence vessels should berth on arrival, daylight, draft and weather permitting. No berthing delays envisaged. A shortage of equipment is being experienced (except at the Container terminal). Shed space is currently available. Safe draft for transiting the channel is 9.1 metres plus the tide of the day. Density of water varies from 1.018 to 1.023. Vessels with ramps on starboard side can berth with the ebbing tide. Should ramps be portside, vessels to berth with the flowing tide. Pilot launch is operational. Both tugs are operational. Leading lights are lit. Both container gantries are operational. Matola coal terminal is operational. Ressano Garcia, Goba and Limpopo railway lines are all operational. Five vessels are currently in port berthed, of which 2 loading (1 aluminium 1 magnetite), 3 discharging (1 containers/bagged rice, 1 pipes/vehicles, 1 diesel); 23 vessels due by 20/10 of which 6 to load (2 aluminium, 2 minerals/coal, 1 scrap, 1 gas), 12 to discharge (2 aluminium, 2 petcoke, 1 bagged aluminium/machinery, 1 petrol, 1 bulk wheat, 2 vehicles, 1 bagged rice, 1 clinker, 1 general cargo), 5 to discharge/load containers.
Pakistan Karachi	11-Oct-2004	Two vessels loading at berth (1 MOL, 1 cement), 6 discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 chemicals, 1 coal, 1 general cargo, 1 jute, 1 phosphate), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 crude oil, 1 chemicals); no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 5 vessels due (3 containers, 2 general cargo), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	11-Oct-2004	Three vessels discharging at berth (1 MEG, 1 iron ore, 1 wheat); 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 1 coal, 1 HSD, 1 VCM, 1 palm oil).
Russia Novorossiysk	11-Oct-2004	Nine vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 1 coils/steel bundles, 1 bulk cement, 1 coils/lumber, 1 pig-iron, 1 WRIC, 2 aluminium, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 diesel oil; 3 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 1 UAN solution, 1 bulk cement, 1 wheat; 69 vessels due, of which 68 to load (5 pig-iron, 8 coils, 1 pipes/steel sheets, 1 zinc, 6 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 coils/steel sheets, 3 scrap, 6 aluminium, 9 copper, 3 bulk NPK, 1 ammonium sulphate, 2 HBI, 1 WRIC/pipes/steel sheets, 2 bulk urea, 1 WRIC, 3 slabs, 1 flow ers, 2 slabs/steel billets, 2 steel billets, 2 wheat, 1 sunflower oil, 2 DRI, 1 steel billets/coils/tin plate, 1 steel billets/copper/equipment/pipes/tin plate/coils, 1 steel sheets, 1 pipes, 1 beetroot), 1 to discharge containers. Oil terminal: 2 tankers berthed, both loading crude oil; 2 tankers in roads, both to load crude oil; 16 tankers due, all to load, of which 15 crude oil, 1 fuel oil.
Tuapse	11-Oct-2004	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, both loading, of which 1 gasoil, 1 crude oil; 1 naphtha vessel berthing; 1 fuel oil vessel in roads; 6 vessels due by 25/10, of which 1 naphtha, 1 gasoil, 3 crude oil, 1 slops.
Slovenia Koper	11-Oct-2004	Port working normally; no berthing delays. Ten vessels berthed of which 3 bulk carriers discharging coal/minerals/solid chemicals, 2 bulk carriers loading coal/grain, 3 vessels loading steel products/sawn timber/general cargo, 1 car carrier discharging/loading vehicles, 1 tanker discharging mineral oils; 14 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 3 to discharge/load containers, 1 bulk carrier to discharge ore, 4 bulk carriers to load coal, 2 vessels to load general cargo, 3 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 1 tanker to discharge mineral oils.
Sri Lanka Colombo	5-Oct-2004	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Occasional heavy rains being experienced at present. Six container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 15 vessels discharging at berth (9 containers/feeders, 2 bagged fertiliser, 3 bulk cement, 1 bulk palm oil); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 5 vessels dry-docked, 1 under arrest, 1 at new tanker berth; 7 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.

Port Conditions

Ukraine

Ilichevsk	11-Oct-2004	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (6 steel products, 1barley), 2 charging/loading containers; 2 vessels in roads of which 1 to load steel products, 1 other vessel; 19 vessels due, of which 9 to load steel products, 2 to discharge ore, 8 to load/discharge containers.
Mariupol	11-Oct-2004	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading (6 steel, 1 fire-clay, 1 coal, 1 ammonium saltpetre, 1 barley), 1 to discharge containers; 7 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 5 steel, 1 coal, 1 pig-iron; 59 vessels due, of which 51 to load (25 steel, 1 pig-iron, 13 coal, 1 containers, 7 fire-clay, 1 ammonium nitrate, 2 sunflower beans, 1 ammonium sulphate), 3 to discharge (1 equipment, 1 foodstuffs, 1 heavy lifts), 5 to discharge/load (2 containers, 2 equipment/steel, 1 heavy lifts).
Odessa	11-Oct-2004	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (4 metal, 1 wheat, 2 barley, 1 ferro alloy), 1 discharging luggage, 2 loading/discharging containers; 6 vessels in roads, of which 3 to load (2 metal, 1 wheat), 2 to discharge (1 sugar, 1 citrus), 1 to load/discharge containers; 66 vessels due, of which 30 to load (26 metal, 1 scrap, 1 barley, 2 ferro alloy), 8 to discharge (1 meat, 1 barley, 3 luggage, 3 oil), 28 to discharge/load containers. Oil products: 1 vessel berthed loading gasoil; no vessels in roads; 5 vessels due by 16/10, all to load, of which 2 fuel oil, 3 crude oil.

United States

Houston	12-Oct-2004	Channel open under normal traffic. Pilots report normal 40 ft. 0 ins. max. draft in Houston ship channel; Cargill terminal: no delays; LDC Dreyfus terminal: no delays.
Kalama	12-Oct-2004	Kalama export terminal: 3 days delay; United Harvest terminal: no delays.
New Orleans	12-Oct-2004	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 3-4 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 1-2 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 4-5 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 8 days delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 4-5 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 4-5 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected; Peavey/Paulina: 2 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 4-5 days delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: 2 days delay expected; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 5 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 3 days delay expected. Four-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to decrease to 3.0 ft. by 16/10. Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: SW Pass to New Orleans (Mile 090.0) - 47 ft. for all vessels; New Orleans (Mile 090) to Baton Rouge (Mile 233.5) - 45 ft. for all vessels; Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 36 ft. bw.; vessels with drafts up to 47 ft. have been handled up to Mile 180 in the past, but are approved by pilots on a case by case basis, based on current river conditions.
Portland	12-Oct-2004	Columbia Grain terminal: 1 day's delay; CLD Irving terminal: 1 day's delay; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays.
Tacoma	12-Oct-2004	Temco terminal: 2 days delay.

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