

## Congestion surcharge slapped on shippers moving cargo out of Jawaharlal Nehru port

**T**HE severe congestion plaguing the Jawaharlal Nehru port, near Mumbai, has goaded all container lines using the port to recover additional charges from shippers moving cargo to the West.

Container lines operating out of the port to the US and Canada have decided to levy a \$50 per teu and \$100 per feu congestion surcharge on all shipments moving out to those two countries from both the P&O Ports run Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal and the state-run box terminal.

### Imposing

The Indamex consortium, comprising the government-owned Shipping Corporation of India, Contship Container Lines, CMA CGM and APL, has already started imposing the surcharge from October 15.

Other lines serving the India-US sector, including Maersk Sealand, Safmarine, Evergreen Marine, P&O Nedlloyd, NYK Line, United Arab Shipping Corporation and Hapag Lloyd, will recover the levy from November 6.

The India-Pakistan-Bangladesh-Ceylon Conference has gone a step further and decided to impose a surcharge of \$55 per teu and \$110 per feu on all Europe-bound cargo from November 25 onwards. "The congestion surcharge levied by the Indamex consortium is only on cargoes shipped from NSICT to the US," said Sudhir Rangnekar, SCI's director for liner shipping.

### Losing heavily

"We had seen the situation developing, and filed notice of our intention with the Federal Maritime Commission of the US on September 15, for applicability from October 15, as per the law. Lines have been losing heavily, since containers have to wait outside the port premises for days before they can come in."

The extra levy will further increase the cost of Indian exports to the US and Canada, since JNPT handles almost 60% of the containerised cargo in the country.

Not surprisingly, exporters and shippers are bitter in their criticism of the move by the lines to levy the steep

surcharge, saying that they are being forced to pay the levy for no fault of theirs.

"The fault lies with P&O Ports for handling 1.2m teu within four years of starting operations at Nhava Sheva, while their terminal has an installed capacity of just 600,000 teu," said a trade source, who did not wish to be identified.

Other shipping sources, however, felt that the privately run terminal was doing a sterling job in the face of heavy adversity; and that the real fault lay with the Jawaharlal Nehru port trust, landlord of the port, which chose to ignore repeated pleas and warning signals from NSICT over the past two years.

Estimates reveal that some 13,000 boxes are awaiting shipment at NSICT.

The figure has come down over the last one week, from a high of 20,000 containers, after sustained efforts on the part of the P&O Ports team.

**Lloyd's List  
Editorial**

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>ANTONINA NEZHANOVA</i>	passenger	RUS	RS	4,254	1,273	1978	Vessel developed a 50 degree list and badly damaged in Typhoon "Tokage" at Fushiki Oct 21. Vessel's hull cracked and flooded.
<i>ARATERE</i>	ro-ro	NZL	NV	12,596	3,977	1998	Reported Oct 19 had power black-out in Marlborough Sounds, between Allports Island and Dieffenbach Point. Power restored & returning to Picton at slow speed. Berthed at Picton Oct 19. Resumed service Oct 19.
<i>BBC CHINA</i>	general	ATG	GL	5,548	6,404	2001	Ran aground in lat 31 23.3S, long 29 54.28E, Oct 16. Tugs are in attendance. Water ingress in engine-room. All crew airlifted off the vessel. Engine-room, tanks, etc, flooded. LOF signed. Tug due on scene Oct 18.
<i>BERGSTRAUM</i>	chem/oil carrier	NIS	NV	6,045	9,494	1996	Reported towed to Le Havre 19 Oct 2004 due to main engine damage caused by regulator problem. Repairs to be carried out at Le Havre.
<i>IRINIKOS</i>	bulker	PAN	AB	35,744	61,748	1984	Grounded Oct 15 while entering Brindisi harbour in bad weather. Refloating attempt unsuccessful. Still aground Oct 21. Cargo discharge under way. LOF signed to Smit Salvage.
<i>KAIWO MARU</i>	training	JPN	—	2,879	1,425	1989	Ran aground in Typhoon "Tokage" at Toyama about Oct 21.
<i>MARK HANNAH</i>	supply	USA	—	190	—	1969	Towing barge Hannah 6301 while manoeuvring to a dock at Mackinaw City Marina to wait out stormy weather. Both vessels grounded Oct 18 Refloated 20 Oct with tug assistance.
<i>ODYSSEAS II</i>	ro-ro	GRC	—	1,284	178	1970	Reported not under command off Piraeus Oct 18, due to mechanical damage. Towed to Piraeus by tug <i>Iason</i> .
<i>OOCL SETO</i>	container	BHS	NK	4,882	6,013	1992	Grounded in lat 28 10N, long 129 15E, Kakeroma Island, Kagoshima prefecture, Oct 20. Vessel refloated same day. Bottom plating locally set in and scratched, no fractures. Resumed voyaged.
<i>SARAH 2</i>	general	PAN	—	2,493	4,354	1968	Grounded near Al Zubair Island, in approximately lat 15 06.7N, long 42 12.2E, Oct 13. Refloated at high water. Proceeded to Saleef. Diver's inspection found cracks on port side, above bilge. Water ingress into holds Nos 1 & 2.
<i>SVEN OLMANN</i>	container	ATG	GL	5,006	6,567	1992	Sustained main engine breakdown in Bay of Biscay Oct 12 and towed into Bilbao Oct 17 by tug <i>Sertosa Treinta</i> . Still in port Oct 20. Repairs not commenced, as owners studying extent of damage.
<i>TAI PAN I</i>	general	PAN	(HR)	9,103	14,827	1977	Reported Oct 18 that vessel had main engine problem about 500 miles west of Cape Town. Tug dispatched to assist. Vessel expected to arrive Cape Town in a few days. Tug still proceeding Oct 19.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



### AL TAWFIK (Georgia)

Novorossiysk, Oct 19 — General cargo *Al Tawfik* is detained by the Harbour-master of Novorossiysk on suspicion of a collision with a Bulgarian fishing vessel (fishing *Orion*). Understand that on Oct 3, while leaving Varna, *Al Tawfik* with pilot unboarded at 1955, local time, may have struck the concrete made 11-metre fishing vessel. As per the Bulgarian side the fact of the collision was fixed by the Harbour-master's office via radar centre where it was noted that after passing-by one of the markers disappeared from the radar screen. The vessel was then inspected in Novorossiysk by two Bulgarian engineers who have carried the sampling of paint scratches from the stem of the concerned vessel and will compare it with samples from the sunken vessel. Additionally it has to be noted that due to the collision one person of the fishing vessel died. — Lloyd's Agents.

### AL-MUHAMMADI (Pakistan)

Karachi, Oct 16 — Local Port Authorities advise that fishing *Al-Muhammadi* arrived Karachi from Muscat. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ALESSIA (Switzerland)

London, Oct 15 — General cargo *Alessia* is currently undergoing repairs at Falmouth, where it arrived Oct 11 from Fowey, for damage sustained to its port quarter following a collision with an unidentified fishing vessel in the Bay of Biscay. The vessel is berthed at Queens Wharf where it will remain for at least a week while steelwork repairs are being carried out.

### ALEXANDER THE GREAT (Greece)

Rijeka, Oct 21 — Passenger ro/ro *Alexander the Great* is still under arrest due to the request of shiprepairers at Bijela and no works are in progress. It is expected that the Commercial Court at Podgorica will announce a public sale soon. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ALGOLAKE (Canada)

Troy, Michigan, Oct 18 — The Algoma Central bulk *Algolake* (22851 gt, built 1977) stopped at Port Colborne on Oct 16, while welders and divers worked to repair two cracks that had been discovered above and below the waterline on its Kort (steering) nozzle. The repairs were finished by Sunday morning, but *Algolake* remained at Port Colborne, waiting for better weather. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

### AMER THAMES (Panama)

Mumbai, Oct 21 — The demolition of chemical/oil carrier *Amer Thames* has been completed. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ANDREW J. BARBERI (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated Oct 18, states: Ferry *Andrew J. Barberi*: The National Transportation Safety Board delayed its release of information about the Staten Island ferry crash today, saying criminal prosecutors need more time to review the information. The NTSB's last-minute announcement hinted at some degree of miscommunication between the federal agencies investigating the accident. The agency announced last week that photos, witness statements, and other documents would be made public today. The information was not to include analysis or conclusions by the NTSB. "NTSB is delaying release ... to permit (prosecutors) to review and comment in light of its ongoing criminal case," the agency said in a statement Monday. "It was a last-minute issue that was raised," said NTSB spokesman Keith Holloway, who declined to say what the issue was. "We just want to make sure we cover our bases when we do release the information." The U.S. attorney's office prosecuting the ferry case would not say when prosecutors had learned about the NTSB plan to release the documents or why U.S. Attorney Roslynn Mauskopf had asked the agency for the delay. Federal prosecutors have conducted an extensive criminal probe of the ferry accident, and filed manslaughter charges against the city's director of ferries, alleging he ran the system poorly. He has denied the charges. Pilot Richard Smith has pleaded guilty to 11 counts of manslaughter, one for each victim. The ship's captain and the ferry's port captain were charged with lying to federal investigators about the crash. They have pleaded not guilty.

### ANGELA J. (Antigua & Barbuda)

Vigo, Oct 18 — General cargo *Angela J.* (3804 gt, built 1995) which sailed from Rotterdam Oct 13 bound for Vigo, encountered heavy weather with winds gale seven to force nine (near gale - strong gale) and very high swell. On arrival at Vigo, two containers appeared damaged by heavy weather with further damage to other containers landed on Oct 17. The vessel sailed from Vigo on Oct 17. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ANGLIAN EARL (Barbados)

Falmouth, Oct 18 — Anchor handling tug/supply *Anglian Earl* is still under repair at Duchy Wharf. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ANNTORO (Norway)

Trondheim, Oct 15 — General cargo *Anntoro* is still at Kvernhusvik. No decision has yet been taken regarding repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ANTLIA (Russia)

Maassluis, Oct 18 — General cargo *Antlia* left Antwerp on Oct 17 bound for St. Petersburg. All in good order. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

### ANTONINA NEZHDANOVA (Russia)

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

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



**APOLLO DUA (Panama)**

See *Eastern Princess*.

**ARATERE (New Zealand)**

Wellington, Oct 19 — Ro/ro *Aratere* (12596 gt, built 1998), Picton to Wellington, had a complete power blackout/breakdown in the Marlborough Sounds between Allports Island and Dieffenbach Point. Vessel has now restored power and is slowly returning to Picton, with a tug ready to assist. — Lloyd's Agents.

Wellington, Oct 19 — Ro/ro *Aratere* had a complete power blackout in the Marlborough Sounds at about 1020, today, between Allports Island and Dieffenbach Point. Vessel later restored power and returned to Picton, with tug *Kokiri* standing by to assist. *Aratere* reberthed at Picton at about 1215. All passengers and ro/ro cargo being taken off and to reload onto passenger ro/ro *Aarahura*. — Lloyd's Agents.

Wellington, Oct 19 — Ro/ro *Aratere* resumed service today with the 1800 sailing from Picton to Wellington. — Lloyd's Agents.

Auckland, Oct 20 — It appeared an engine cylinder leaking air caused the breakdown of ro/ro *Aratere*, an Interislander spokeswoman said. The vessel is being investigated after separate incidents last month involving a steering fault and claims that it had cut in front of a freight vessel when entering Wellington Harbour. — Lloyd's Agents.

**BAHIA DE MALAGA (Canary Islands)**

Valencia, Oct 19 — Understand from the Communications Manager from Balearia that passenger ro/ro *Bahia de Malaga* arrived at Burriana port yesterday for repairs. ETC unknown as yet. — Lloyd's Agents.

**BALANCE DAWN**

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Five fishermen were rescued after trawler *Balance Dawn* struck a reef off central Queensland today. A police spokesman said the vessel hit Centenary Reef, around 260 km east of Yeppoon, at around 0200, AEST, holing the vessel. The five crewmen boarded dories and remained at the site of the sinking vessel as they contacted another nearby fishing vessel by satellite phone. The five were rescued safe and well, a spokesman said.

**BARREN ISLANDS (U.S.A.)**

London, Oct 18 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 2015, UTC: Fishing *Barren Islands* (145 gt, built 1944) reported an engine breakdown in the Bering Sea Oct 16. Vessel effected repairs. Understood it proceeded to an unknown port.

**BBC CHINA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Oct 16 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1930, UTC: General cargo *BBC China* (5548 gt, built 2001) reported aground in lat 31 23.3S, long 29 54.28E at 1900, UTC. (Note — *BBC China* sailed Port of Spain Sep 27 for Durban.)

London, Oct 17 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0850, UTC: General cargo *BBC China* is still aground. Two tugs are in attendance and a salvage assessment is being made. The weather on scene is very rough and this may preclude any salvage attempt today. The vessel's crew have all been safely airlifted off the vessel.

London, Oct 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Sixteen people were airlifted off general cargo *BBC China* in the early hours of today after it ran aground near Port Grosvenor on the Natal South Coast, the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) said. NSRI spokesman for the South Coast region, Edward Noyons, said the vessel ran into trouble at 2100 hrs, yesterday. "For the first two hours everything was okay and the master was looking for a tug to assist them... but then water started to flood the engine-room." He then requested assistance evacuating the ship's crew. Noyons said the ship's agents hired a Portnet helicopter, which airlifted the crew onto the beach just after 0100 hrs, today. The crew were bussed back to Durban at 0800 hrs, today. The damage to the ship was being assessed late this morning. Noyons said an inquiry would be held to determine what had led to the vessel running aground.

London, Oct 17 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *BBC China* has run aground at Port Grosvenor along the Wild Coast. The vessel, said to be carrying steel and aluminum en route to Durban, has floundered along a stretch of coastline that has become notorious for shipwrecks. Once the crew was airlifted to safety, salvors went on board to assess the damage. Gert Potgieter of Subtech Diving said: "The vessel ran aground and flooded. The engine-room, the bulks, the tanks, everything is full of water so there's no chance of being able to move it. What we have to do now is remove all the hazardous materials like its bunker fuels, remove that so that it doesn't go out into the sea and disrupt our ozone." There is already a slick of oil on the water's surface and on the rocks. However, it poses minimal threat to the environment.

Durban, Oct 18 — General cargo *BBC China*, Port of Spain for Durban, with bunkers, grounded at Port Grosvenor, approximately 110 miles south of Durban on Oct 16. The vessel is lying on the beach port side to. A LOF has been signed with Smit Marine (SA) and tug *Smit Amandla* is expected to arrive today. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Rough seas and bad weather today were preventing the salvage of general cargo *BBC China* which ran aground at Grosvenor Point on the Wild Coast at the weekend. MRCC assistant mission co-ordinator Mlungisi Ngubeni said *Pentow Surveyor* and coast guard vessel *Kuswag I* remained in attendance and had been monitoring the situation since yesterday afternoon. "The sea is still too rough for them to attempt anything. But they are assessing the possibility of

a salvage weather permitting," said Ngubeni. "The strong current is the only problem at the moment. It's causing the ship to list." Ngubeni stressed that *BBC China* was not sinking. He added that there were no signs that the ship was breaking up. *Pentow Surveyor* and *Kuswag I* were also monitoring the 1,846 tons of bunker fuel aboard. "The fuel tanks are intact but there is oil leaking from the bilges but it is very minimal." He said it was hoped that the remaining oil could be transferred to other vessels during the salvage operation. The vessel, with two onboard cranes, was said to be carrying 2,800 tons of "steel structures". *BBC China* was sailing from Port of Spain to Durban and from there to Dar es Salaam, the MRCC said.

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Salvors aim to remove oil and "small pockets" of hazardous cargo from general cargo *BBC China* before trying to pull it off the rocks at the Wild Coast. *BBC China* is lying on rocks in shallow water less than 100 metres off the beach, its starboard side exposed to the sea. Its cargo, which includes machinery, is intended for Dar-es-Salaam and Muscat. Small quantities of paint, batteries and bottles of compressed carbon dioxide are among the hazardous cargo on board, said Captain Bill Dernier of the South African Maritime Safety Authority, who was still waiting for a full report on the vessel's condition. A rough sea and stormy weather expected to hit the Wild Coast this week is threatening to further damage *BBC China*, but Dernier said the ship was still moving and bouncing, meaning there was a chance that it could be pulled off the rocks. "Our first priority, as always, is to get the oil and the hazardous cargo off first," he said. "The weather today is very good and there is not much oil to get off. It has 58 tons of heavy fuel, 60 tons of gas oil and eight tons of lubrication oil aboard."

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Efforts are being made to start cleaning the rocks following a minor oil spill at Port Grosvenor on the Wild Coast at the weekend. General cargo *BBC China* ran aground some 150m off shore. Members of the department of environmental affairs and tourism and workers from the local Port Grosvenor community are assisting. The cause of the vessel running aground is still unknown at this stage but there is no threat of a major oil spill. The department is awaiting a cargo manifesto to determine what cargo the vessel is carrying. At the same time, as part of precautionary measures, the department has dispatched heavy oil spill response equipment to the scene and has also closed the estuary at Msikaba River. Anti-pollution patrol vessel *Kuswag I* and *Pentow Surveyor* are on standby. The department's anti-pollution patrol aircraft, *Kuswag VIII*, is also being actively engaged to monitor the entire area along the coast.

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Strong winds and

choppy seas were today still hampering efforts to pump about 120 tons of oil from general cargo *BBC China*, the maritime safety authority said. Captain Bill Dernier of the South African Maritime Safety Authority said that strong winds were slowing the oil transfer process. "We have helicopters transporting gear onto the wreck and the necessary equipment is in place. We could start pumping the oil off by tonight or early tomorrow," Dernier said. "It all depends on the weather."

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *BBC China*: Captain Bill Dernier of the South African Maritime Safety Authority has copies of the ship's current manifests, and Smit Marine SA's salvage teams will use them to locate and remove hazardous cargo such as paint and carbon dioxide cylinders. Dernier said a salvage team from Smit had boarded the ship and was preparing to remove the hazardous cargo and the 58 tons of fuel oil that remained on the vessel, although he did not think they would begin today.

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Everything is in place to start pumping oil from general cargo *BBC China*, the SA Maritime Safety Authority (Sama) said today. The salvors hoped to start pumping the 120 tons of oil off the ship this afternoon, said Sama head Captain Bill Dernier. He said the teams started transporting equipment to the ship at first light. Pipes were being floated to the ship and heavy equipment transported by helicopter. It would take about five days to get all the oil off the ship, Dernier said. He said weather conditions were favourable at the moment, but there was a front coming through on Thursday, which may delay operations. The wind was north-easterly, at about 25 knots. Dernier reconfirmed that the only hazardous material on board was about nine tons of batteries, paint products and compressed gas. He said these would be difficult to access, but would also be removed during the salvage process. Sama was working very closely with the salvors, Smit Marine. Smit Marine had been contracted by the ship's owners to salvage what they could of the ship, said Dernier. "It is not a wreck yet, we are evaluating whether the ship will float and the owners have every faith in getting it off the rocks." Dernier said an enquiry into what happened would start tomorrow.

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Transfer of oil from general cargo *BBC China* grounded on the Wild Coast should start this morning, the department of environmental affairs has said. Salvors had been working since first light yesterday to set the equipment up and the pumping of oil from *BBC China* onto *Pentow Service* should begin early this morning, said departmental spokesperson Carol Moses. South African Maritime Association head Bill Dernier has said he expects the operation to take at least five days.

London, Oct 20 — Understand salvage

services are being rendered to general cargo *BBC China* by Smit Marine South Africa (Pty) Ltd under Lloyd's Open Form.

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Although the amount of oil spilled from stricken general cargo *BBC China* might be relatively small, it stretches one nautical mile north of the vessel and three nautical miles south of it, it is starting to wash up on Wild Coast beaches. A task team set up by the provincial Department of Environment Affairs has employed 20 additional people to clean up oil that is starting to wash up on the rocky shoreline around Grosvenor Point, MEC Andre de Wet said yesterday. "The coastline is a difficult area to get to but the locals are concerned and want to help", he said adding that more people would be employed in the clean-up operation. The vessel, which ran aground at Grosvenor Point on Saturday night (Oct 16), is leaking oil from three places which are all difficult for salvors to reach, Captain Bill Dernier of the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMS) said yesterday. *BBC China* hit a sandbank 150 metres off shore near Mbotyi. Salvage operations will continue today.

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: The spectre of oil pollution on a pristine part of the Wild Coast has become a reality as heavy seas pound general cargo *BBC China* stranded there. The rainy and stormy weather that swept over Cape Town yesterday is over, but for *BBC China* it was the last thing it needed. The ship has been taking a heavy pounding in the surf at Grosvenor Bay on the Wild Coast and more oil has leaked from its tanks. An oil sheen was visible up to 3km from the vessel, said Captain Bill Dernier of the South African Maritime Safety Authority. "It is not looking good. The salvage team tried three times this morning to board it but failed because large seas are breaking over it," he said. "They were going to try again at low tide."

#### **BELLONA (Sweden)**

London, Oct 16 — Product tanker *Bellona* sailed from Gothenburg on Oct 15.

Gothenburg, Oct 18 — Product tanker *Bellona* is still in dry dock due to severe problems with the rudder, rudder post and associated machinery. The vessel is expected to complete repairs around the end of this month. — Westax Marine Services AB.

#### **BERGSTRAUM (NIS)**

Le Havre, Oct 19 — Chemical/oil carrier *Bergstrum* (6045 gt, built 1996) is expected to enter Le Havre in tow this afternoon, due to main engine damage caused by a regulator problem. Repairs are expected to be carried out by SORENI Shipyard, Le Havre. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Bergstrum* sailed Esbjerg Oct 16 for Le Havre.)

#### **BETSIAMITES (Canada)**

London, Oct 18 — Barge *Betsiamites* (5279 gt, built 1968) ran aground in lat 50 12.06N, long 66 31.14W at 2100,

EDST, Oct 16. At the time of the grounding the barge was anchored in ballast. Winds of 40-50 knots were reported. No pollution reported.

London, Oct 18 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 2125, UTC, today: *Betsiamites* refloated at 1848, UTC, today. Vessel was re-ballasted and remains in Sept Iles. It is anticipated vessel will be towed to port.

#### **BLACK PEARL (Malta)**

Maassluis, Oct 18 — General cargo *Black Pearl* is still in Rotterdam. At the moment they are busy with the cargo. The vessel will leave port tomorrow at 1600 hrs, bound for Algiers. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Maassluis, Oct 20 — General cargo *Black Pearl* sailed from Rotterdam on Oct 19 bound for Skikda. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **BLUE OCEAN (Cambodia)**

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

#### **BONNY STAR (South Korea)**

Yokohama, Oct 15 — C.c. *Bonny Star* (4124 gt, built 1994) anchoring at Hachinohe anchorage, was in contact with fishing *Inari Maru No.1* at 0335, Oct 14 on its starboard stern portion. No serious damage was observed on the hull of the vessels. No water ingress, pollution or injuries reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BUNGA ORKID DUA (Malaysia)**

London, Oct 14 — Bulk *Bunga Orkid Dua* (25498 gt, built 1994), which was secured at Berth No 2, Roberts Bank, reported in contact with c.c. *Ever Unific* (69246 gt, built 1999), which was approaching its berth at 1500, PDST, Oct 13.

Vancouver, Oct 14 — While c.c. *Ever Unific* was arriving at Roberts Bank early afternoon of Oct 13, was in collision with bulk *Bunga Orkid Dua*, which was tied to Berth No.2 at the terminal. As a result, damages were sustained to the fore-castle areas of both vessels and have also been advised that *Bunga Orkid Dua* struck substantial dolphins and fenders on the dock. *Bunga Orkid Dua* sailed Roberts Bank at 0400, Oct 14, however, prior to doing so, the vessel's P&I Club provided security to the terminal, totalling C\$300,000 for the damages sustained. The P&I representative has advised that they are currently making arrangements to countersue the representatives of *Ever Unific* for damages sustained to *Bunga Orkid Dua* and the resultant damages to the dock. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CASTORO OTTO (Liberia)**

See *Stevens Power*.

#### **CEDARGLEN (Canada)**

London, Oct 18 — Bulk *Cedarglen* (18531 gt, built 1959) struck the wharf while docking at Quebec, at 2125, EDST, Oct 14. As a result some side plates in the forepeak were observed indented. No pollution reported. (Note — *Cedarglen* sailed Windsor (Ont) Oct 11 for Quebec.)



**CHAINAT NAVEE (Thailand)**

Hull, Oct 20 — General cargo *Chainat Navee* (15938 gt, built 1978), Malaysia/Singapore for UK and other ports, laden with various cargos, including wood and steel, reported a fire in No 3 'tween deck, this morning, when outside of Hull. Vessel was given permission to berth at Queen Elizabeth Dock, Hull and came alongside this morning, where it was attended by the local fire brigade. The fire has now been extinguished and the fire brigade are in the process of "dampening down". When it is deemed safe, the vessel will be inspected by surveyors etc. It is understood that the vessel has sustained some fire-related damage and there will also be fire, smoke and water damage to the cargo. It is possible that all the cargo onboard will be offloaded at Hull and the voyage terminated, but this will depend on the extent of the damage to the vessel/cargo. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Chainat Navee* was reported sailing Singapore 0905, Sep 11. Vessel arrived Penang Sep 13, sailing Sep 15. It subsequently arrived Swansea 1453, Oct 11, sailing 1740, Oct 14, bound for Newport, where it arrived 0556, Oct 15. It sailed 1946, Oct 17, bound Hull.)

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 70 firefighters were called to tackle a blaze on general cargo *Chainat Navee* carrying wood, oil and potentially explosive chemicals. Firefighters from across the city battled in intense heat and darkness to control the flames. Just metres away and separated from the fire only by a cargo hold wall were boxes of ferrous nickel, a chemical that explodes if it overheats or comes into contact with water. "It was an extremely hazardous operation," said Humberside Fire Service spokesman Nick Granger. "Fortunately we managed to contain the fire from the chemical. If we hadn't, it would have caused a violent explosion." The fire broke out when wood set alight in a hold measuring 45 metres by 25 metres at 2300 Tuesday (Oct 19) while the ship was at sea. The Thai crew tried to put it out with carbon dioxide sprinklers, which proved to be faulty. The vessel, which was on its way to Hull from Swansea, was given permission to dock in King George Dock, where it was met by firefighters at 0900 yesterday. They were sent into the hold with thermal imaging equipment and breathing apparatus and worked in 35-minute relays until the blaze was put out at 2300 hrs. Some fought their way to the heart of the fire, while others sprayed the metal walls with water to stop them overheating and triggering a blaze in the next hold. Station Officer Granger said: "We had to use water to keep it cool so the firefighters could be in there. If the fire had spread to the next hold with the ferrous nickel, it would have been a very different situation. The firefighters' quick work averted a disaster." The firefighters had to remove all the cargo in the hold with a forklift truck and make sure it was thoroughly soaked. The blaze gave off

thick smoke, but Station Officer Granger reassured residents it was not dangerous.

**CONTRADER (Panama)**

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

**COTSWOLD PRINCE (New Zealand)**

London, Oct 16 — General cargo *Cotswold Prince*, which has been sold to Indian breakers, arrived at Mumbai on Oct 12.

**CRISTOFORO COLOMBO (Belgium)**

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The master of hopper dredger *Cristoforo Colombo* that ran around in Russia's Maritime territory in September, was detained and brought back to the Sakhalin today. Regional prosecutors are considering what measure should be applied to secure the appearance in court of Captain Nicolas Verbraeken, accused of contaminating the Sea of Japan in Sakhalin's offshore zone with petroleum products. On Sep 8, powerful typhoon "Songda" shipwrecked the vessel off the port of Kholmsk. Some 200 tonnes of fuel leaked into the sea through the punctured hull. The six-kilometre oil spill along the coastline is estimated to have caused a damage of 57 million roubles. Verbraeken is accused of failing to take timely measures to prevent the accident. Sakhalin's environmental prosecutors ordered detention of the captain who spent two days in the Holmsk remand ward. But regional and town prosecutors did not back this action, and released Verbraeken on a 100,000-dollar bail. The bail has been paid, but Verbraeken allegedly tried to flee afterwards, the press service of the environmental prosecutor's office said.

**CYPRESS PASS (NIS)**

Bremen, Oct 21 — Vehicle *Cypress Pass* (42447 gt, built 1988) tore adrift from its berth at Nordhafen West, Bremerhaven, at 0900, Oct 21, during a storm, and the vessel's stern came into contact with vehicle *Freedom* (49821 gt, built 1997), which was at Nordhafen Ost. *Cypress Pass* is presently being towed back to its berth by two tugs. — Lloyd's Agents.

**DEMARES (U.K.)**

London, Oct 21 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 0431, UTC: Fishing *Demares* (171 gt, built 1984), weather force 6-7, gusting force 8 (strong breeze-near gale, gale), reported taking water in fish-room in lat 58 59N, long 00 52W at 2351, UTC, Oct 20. Coastguard helicopter lowered pump, which cleared the fish-room of water and then utilised to pump the engine-room dry. *Demares*, and partner vessel *Carisanne*, are heading for Peterhead making seven knots, ETA 1130, UTC, Oct 21. Co-ordination handed over to Aberdeen MRCC at 0405, UTC.

**EASTERN PRINCESS (Panama)**

Yokohama, Oct 18 — Ro/ro *Eastern Princess* (8650 gt, built 2004) while

berthing at the public berth at Shiomi Wharf No.3B, Sakai, the main engine of the vessel stopped suddenly due to a malfunction causing the vessel to loose control at 1530, Oct 16. The vessel dropped both anchors immediately, however, the vessel drifted to the opposite berth in the strong north-west wind. As a result the vessel's anchor chains contacted the port forward of general cargo *Apollo Dua* (6290 gt, built 1994). No serious damage was observed on the vessels and there were no injuries. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Eastern Princess* sailed *Hakata* Oct 14 and arrived *Sakai* Oct 16. *Apollo Dua* sailed *Bintulu* Oct 2 and arrived *Sakai* Oct 15.)

**EDAMGRACHT (Netherlands)**

London, Oct 20 — General cargo *Edamgracht* arrived at Adelaide Oct 17 and sailed Oct 18 for Newcastle (Aus).

**EGASCO FORTUNE (Egypt)**

Alexandria, Oct 16 — Bulk *Egasco Fortune* remains at Alexandria, awaiting owners decision regarding rotting cargo. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ENSCO 25**

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

**ENSCO 64 (U.S.A.)**

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

**EVER UNIFIC (Panama)**

See *Bunga Orkid Dua*.

**FAIRPARTNER (Netherlands)**

Maassluis, Oct 15 — General cargo *Fairpartner* sailed from Rotterdam at 1230, Oct 14, bound for Dunkirk. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**FEDERAL DANUBE (Cyprus)**

London, Oct 14 — Bulk *Federal Danube* (22654 gt, built 2004) experienced engine failure at 1746, EDST, Oct 13, while docking at Quebec. The vessel completed docking with tug assistance.

Montreal, Oct 19 — Bulk *Federal Danube* only experienced a minor engine problem, which delayed its departure by no more than six hours. The vessel sailed Quebec at 0400, Oct 15, on its scheduled voyage, and is now completing discharge of its steel cargo at Toronto. — Lloyd's Agents.

**FEDERAL PESCADORES (Panama)**

Miami, Oct 14 — Bulk *Federal Pescadores* is scheduled to dock at Rinker cement terminal on Oct 18, and the bottom video survey is scheduled for Oct 20. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 21 — Bulk *Federal Pescadores* arrived at Port Everglades on Oct 18.

**FESCO VOYAGER (Cyprus)**

Busan, Oct 19 — After crew investigation by marine police and completion of temporary repairs at Masan, c.c. *Fesco Voyager* sailed from Masan at 1825, Oct 15, bound Tianjin for dry-docking and permanent repairs. The permanent repairs of product

tanker *Jeanette* are being carried out at Hyundai Mipo Dockyard, Ulsan, and understand that the repairs will take until the middle of December. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

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

See *Cypress Pass*.

#### **FREITIND (Norway)**

Trondheim, Oct 15 — General cargo *Freitind*: No decision has yet been taken as to whether the vessel will be converted or scrapped. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **FU KUO HSIN NO.7 (Panama)**

Yokohama, Oct 20 — Temporary repairs to bulk *Fu Kuo Hsin No.7* were completed on Oct 10 and the vessel sailed the same day for China where it will be dismantled. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GENMAR TRANSPORTER (Marshall Islands)**

London, Oct 20 — Crude oil tanker *Genmar Transporter* arrived Singapore Oct 16.

#### **GLOBAL FREIGHTER (Finland)**

Turku, Oct 18 — Ro/ro *Global Freighter* is currently being repaired at Turku Repair Yard in Naantali. Repairs estimated to be completed on Nov 8. Currently the main concern is to get suitable spares for the damaged propellers. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GLOBAL WINNER (Panama)**

London, Oct 15 — Bulk *Global Winner* arrived Esperance Oct 10 and sailed Oct 12.

#### **HAMBLEDON (U.K.)**

Hull, Oct 18 — Vessel *Hambledon* is used for charity functions for running passengers from Grimsby to the Bull Fort which is based in the river. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **HANNAH 6301**

See *Mark Hannah*.

#### **HERA (Cambodia)**

See "Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria" under Weather & Navigation."

#### **HORNCLIFF (Liberia)**

See "Drugs Seized on Liberian Vessel at Dover, United Kingdom" under "Miscellaneous."

#### **HYUNDAI NO.105 (Panama)**

London, Oct 21 — Indonesia's director-general of Sea Communication, Tjuk Sukardiman, has again written to Eukor demanding that it remove the wreck of vehicle *Hyundai No.105* from its waters. It is the second time in the last two months that Mr Sukardiman has written to Eukor, operator of *Hyundai No.105*. Both letters demanded that the wreck be completely removed. In the second letter sent this week the Ministry of Sea Communications repeated its previous statements that under Indonesian law the owner was responsible for the removal of the wreck and its cargo. An official at the Ministry of Sea Communications confirmed that

Mr Sukardiman had sent the letter earlier this week. The letter was also addressed to other parties involved in the case such as law firm DLA and Thomas Millers, managers of the vessel's P&I insurer the UK P&I Club. Indonesia did not say what action it would take if a plan to remove the wreck was not presented soon. Eukor spokesman Ferdi Stolzenberg said that the company was continuing to talk with a number of salvage companies about raising the wreck, and at the same time it was also talking to the Indonesian government. He added that progress was being made on studying the environmental impact of the wreck. Indonesian officials are seeking a complete wreck removal citing environmental concerns of leaving much of the vessel's cargo of 4,000 automobiles on the seabed. One of Indonesia's main concerns is that the wreck could be hit by another vessel. It lies just two cables south of the traffic separation scheme in the Singapore Strait, it has a clearance of 17 metres. Mr Stolzenberg said that the wreck had been added to navigational charts, the Singapore authorities were broadcasting warnings to shipping, there were buoys marking the wreck, and the Indonesian authorities said the had deployed boats at the site as well.

#### **INARI MARU NO.1 (Japan)**

See *Bonny Star*.

#### **IRINIKOS (Panama)**

London, Oct 18 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 0825, UTC: Bulk *Irinikos* (35744 gt, built 1984), cargo 58,000 tons coal, ran aground while entering Brindisi harbour in very bad weather at 1650, local time, Oct 15. A refloating effort over the weekend using five tugs failed and another refloating attempt is to be made today. (Note — *Irinikos* sailed Richards Bay Sep 17 for Brindisi.)

London, Oct 18 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1353, UTC: Bulk *Irinikos* is still aground. The vessel is expected to tranship part of its cargo tomorrow, prior to a further refloating attempt.

London, Oct 19 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1444, UTC: Bulk *Irinikos* is still aground. Refloating attempts today were unsuccessful, and operations are now under way to discharge part of the vessel's cargo.

London, Oct 20 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1002, UTC: Bulk *Irinikos* is still aground.

London, Oct 20 — Understood salvage services are being rendered to bulk *Irinikos* by Smit Salvage BV under Lloyd's Open Form.

London, Oct 21 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 0942, UTC: Bulk *Irinikos* is still aground. A vessel is due to arrive at Brindisi tomorrow to tranship part of the vessel's cargo, and a further refloating attempt will be made Oct 25.

Rotterdam, Oct 21 — The owners and underwriters of bulk *Irinikos* have awarded LOF 2000 to SMIT Salvage BV in order to refloat the vessel. A vessel

has been chartered to offload part of the cargo prior to any refloating attempt. During the offloading and refloating operation, tugs of Impresa Fratelli Barretta will be employed. — SMIT Salvage BV.

#### **JACK-UP RIG BARGE WASHED ASHORE AT SEAFORD BAY, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Oct 21 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 0810, UTC: A small jack-up rig barge, moored overnight at Peacehaven, broke moorings in gale force 8 winds and washed up on shore in Seaford Bay, lat 50 46.4N, long 00 05E, at 0600, UTC. The following items are known to have gone into the sea and have not been recovered at this time: One 20 ft by 20 ft container — serves as barge office — one generator, four of the rig's legs, one outboard engine. No reports of oil pollution at this time. Coastguards and East Sussex EPO are on scene with the barge crew recovering items from the sea.

London, Oct 21 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 1002, UTC: Salvors Titan Maritime are standing by and waiting to board as soon as weather improves. Barge is carrying 200 litres of red diesel, 250 gallons of hydraulic vegetable oil and two sealed 45-gallon drums of hydraulic oil.

London, Oct 21 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 1231, UTC: Salvors Titan Maritime intend to secure the barge to the shore at high water, then, as the tide goes out, they will start to dismantle it. High water at Newhaven is at 1649, UTC. There is still no sign of oil pollution.

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Shipping and walkers are being warned to stay away from the area after a 40ft rig broke up in gale force winds on the shore line at Seaford in East Sussex. The beach is littered with debris and two of the rig's legs and a 20ft x 10ft container housing its canteen are missing, the Coastguard Agency says. Newhaven Coastguard rescue team went to the scene after Sussex Police asked for help this morning. No one was on board the rig, which was undertaking coastal restoration work. A Coastguard spokesman said coastguards were on the scene warning people to stay away from the beach and navigational warnings had been issued to shipping. He said there was little threat of pollution and salvors had been appointed by Lewes District Council.

#### **JEANETTE (Marshall Islands)**

See *Fesco Voyager*

#### **JIIAAN (Canada)**

London, Oct 14 — Ro/ro *Jiimaan* (2830 gt, built 1992) grounded on a soft mud bank at 0925, EDST, Oct 11, while approaching Kingsville harbour. The vessel refloated under its own power. No apparent damage.

Toronto, Oct 15 — Ro/ro *Jiimaan* ran aground on a sand bar, but they were able to get it free and to dock at Kingsville, in its regular place. The



vessel was looked at, sounded and found to be in good order. It is available for sailing. The vessel is lake worthy, but not busy due to time of year. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **JIN CHENG SHAN (China)**

London, Oct 18 — General cargo *Jin Cheng Shan* sailed Fuzhou Oct 12.

#### **JOY VICTORY (Hong Kong)**

London, Oct 15 — Bulk *Joy Victory* sailed Hong Kong 0940, Oct 14.

#### **JUBILEE (Bahamas)**

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

#### **KAIWO MARU (Japan)**

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

#### **KAPITAN ENGLER**

See *Long Rock*.

#### **KAPITONAS KAMINSKAS (Lithuania)**

See "French Atlantic Coast" under "Pollution."

#### **KAPTAN ALIOSMAN (Turkey)**

London, Oct 15 — Ro/ro *Kaptan Aliosman* was reported passing Istanbul, in a westerly direction, at 1515, Oct 9, on passage Poti for Gebze. Vessel was reported arriving at Gebze later on Oct 9.

#### **KARINE A.**

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

#### **KEN EXPLORER (Liberia)**

London, Oct 18 — Following received from the operators of bulk *Ken Explorer*, dated today: *Ken Explorer* refloated on Oct 14 and anchored in deeper water. The vessel is continuing to discharge cargo, ETC approximately 10 days, after which it will be towed to a dry dock.

#### **KENT NAVIGATOR (Gibraltar)**

London, Oct 15 — General cargo *Kent Navigator* arrived Hamilton, Canada 0900, Sep 14.

#### **KSENIA ZHARKIKH (Belize)**

London, Oct 16 — Following received from Wellington MRCC, timed 0505, UTC: Fish factory *Ksenia Zharkikh* and trawler *Osha*: Tug *Titirangi* towed *Ksenia Zharkikh* into calmer water in Castlepoint and now awaiting calmer water/weather for *Osha* to reconnect tow and continue passage.

#### **KSENIA ZHARKIKH (Tuvalu)**

London, Oct 19 — Following received from the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize, dated today: Fish factory *Ksenia Zharkikh* was flying the Tuvalu flag at the time of the incident, not the flag of Belize.

London, Oct 21 — Following received from Wellington MRCC, timed 2250, UTC: Fish factory *Ksenia Zharkikh* is back under tow of trawler *Osha*, bound for India. Tow is now off the Coromandel Peninsula.

#### **LAKE EVA (Marshall Islands)**

Montreal, Oct 15 — Chemical/oil carrier *Lake Eva* sailed Montreal Oct 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated Oct 13, states: *Ro/ro Leconte* that was extensively damaged in May is undergoing sea trials and inspections this week following months of repair work. The Alaska Marine Highway System has not set a date for *Leconte* to return to service, said John Manley, spokesman for the Alaska Department of Transportation. Ferry *Aurora* will continue to handle *Leconte's* normal schedule until the repaired ship returns to service, Manley said.

#### **LONG ROCK**

London, Oct 18 — A press release from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency Duty Press Office, timed 1647, UTC, Oct 17, states: Solent Coastguard are assisting the master and crew of a tug (tug *Kapitan Engler*, 139 gt, built 1965) and its rock barge (spud leg barge *Long Rock*, length 52 metres) after the barge deposited its entire load into the water half a mile off Bonchurch, Isle of Wight, this afternoon. The Coastguard began their communication with the master of the tug at just before 1500 this afternoon. The barge had begun to list, resulting in the whole of its cargo of industrial machinery, 1,000 tons of rock and a large number of railway sleepers being deposited into the sea on the south west side of the Isle of Wight. Solent Coastguard requested Ventnor Coastguard Rescue Team to attend and the Bembridge all weather lifeboat was launched. The Coastguard helicopter India Juliet was diverted from other duties, but was released when it became clear that all the crew were safe onboard the tug. Bungy Williamson, Solent Coastguard Watch Manager says: "The barge is still listing, but has been put to anchor. It appears to be righting itself and we are in discussion with its owners about arrangements for a pump. The lifeboat is still on scene, stopping the sleepers which are floating on the surface of the water from drifting. It is hoped that the tug will be able to retrieve the sleepers."

London, Oct 18 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 0930, UTC: Barge *Long Rock* started listing after it took on water in air intake. After the barge lost its load and after the water was subsequently pumped out it stabilised and is now OK. Tug *Kapitan Engler* has proceeded to Falmouth to pick up a crane to attempt to retrieve the lost rock and the sleepers that have not already been recovered. At the moment lighthouse tender *Paricia* is taking soundings around the area. (Note — Understand *Kapitan Engler* and *Long Rock* are involved in coastal protection work at the eastern side of Portsmouth harbour entrance.)

London, Oct 19 — Barge *Long Rock* capsized in the Solent on Sunday afternoon (Oct 17), spilling 1,000 tonnes of rock and railway sleepers and causing a hazard to shipping. Yesterday,

efforts were still under way to establish the cause of the incident, although the cargo interest suggested that a freak wave may have been responsible. The incident occurred half a mile off Bonchurch, Isle of Wight, at around 1500, while the barge was under tow by a tug (tug *Kapitan Engler*). According to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, the barge began to list. As a result, its cargo of industrial machinery, rock and sleepers fell into the sea. Coastguard and lifeboat vessels attended the scene. But a coastguard helicopter was withdrawn when it became clear that the tug's crew were safe. Yesterday efforts were under way to clean up after the casualty. The barge was reported dry and upright, and was said to have recovered some of the timber. Plans to recover the lost industrial machinery from the seabed were being made, while an MCA aircraft was flying over the scene, looking for stray sleepers. The cargo belonged to Southampton company Trant Construction, and was bound for coastal protection work in Portsmouth harbour. Trant Construction director Simon Trant estimated the value of the consignment at £10,000 (\$18,000). He added that weather had been good, and that he had heard reports that a freak wave generated by another vessel could have been responsible. However, the MCA said it had not heard anything to this effect, and that it is awaiting the findings of a Marine Accident Investigation Branch report.

#### **LUZON SPIRIT (Bahamas)**

London, Oct 18 — Crude oil tanker *Luzon Spirit* arrived at Rotterdam on Oct 16.

#### **MARIE O. (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Oct 15 — General cargo *Marie O.* was reported arriving Gdansk 1820, Oct 8.

#### **MARK HANNAH (U.S.A.)**

Troy, Michigan, Oct 20 — As of noon yesterday, supply *Mark Hannah* (190 gt, built 1969) with barge *Hannah 6301*, containing calcium chloride, remained aground close to the entrance of the Mackinaw City Marina. The vessels ran aground at about 2200, local time, Oct 18, while trying to manoeuvre to a dock to wait out stormy weather. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

London, Oct 20 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1356, UTC: Supply *Mark Hannah* and barge *Hannah 6301* are still aground.

Troy, Michigan, Oct 20 — Supply *Mark Hannah* and barge *Hannah 6301* were freed with the help of tug *Mary E. Hannah* at around 1300, local time, today. The tow headed east through the Straits with *Mary E. Hannah* pulling and the *Mark Hannah* pushing. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

#### **MECIT KAPTAN (Turkey)**

London, Oct 15 — General cargo *Mecit Kaptan* was reported sailing from Tuzla Oct 9, bound for Gebze, where it arrived Oct 10.



**MIDDLETOWN (U.S.A.)**

Troy, Michigan, Oct 15 — Bulk *Middletown* should return to service next Tuesday (Oct 19), barring any slowdown in repair work to its hull, damaged recently in the St. Marys River. Crew members are expected to begin reporting back this weekend. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

Chicago, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulk *Middletown* came out of drydock at Fraser Shipyards yesterday and was expected to depart overnight or today. The vessel reportedly damaged about 400 feet of its bottom after rubbing the bottom on a boulder in the St. Marys River.

**MILAGROSA TRES (Philippines)**

Manila, Oct 20 — Ferry *Milagrosa Tres*, not *Milagros Tres* as before reported, is still undergoing repairs at Guimaras, ETC November. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MIRABELLA V (Isle of Man)**

Marseilles, Oct 15 — As repairs could not be effected in France yacht *Mirabella V* left the shipyard Marine Monaco on Oct 11 and was towed to Southampton to the manufacturing shipyard Vosper Thornycroft. — Lloyd's Agents.

**NAPOLEON (Malta)**

London, Oct 18 — Understood salvage services were rendered to bulk *Napoleon*, in ballast, by Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd under Lloyd's Open Form, dated Oct 12.

London, Oct 21 — Bulk *Napoleon* arrived at Galveston on Oct 14.

**NATS EMPEROR (Cyprus)**

Brest, Oct 15 — Bulk *Nats Emperor*: The re-stowage is now in hand and completion is expected by Oct 20. — Lloyd's Agents.

Brest, Oct 21 — Upon completion of the re-stowage of deck cargo, bulk *Nats Emperor* departed from Brest on Oct 19, bound for Karachi. — Lloyd's Agents.

**NIL DERYA (Turkey)**

Messina, Oct 19 — General cargo *Nil Derya* is still in port under arrest awaiting break-up. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Nil Derya* grounded near Calabria Sep 24, 2000. Vessel refloated with tug assistance same day and was towed to Crotona. No damage was reported but refugees were discovered on board.)

**NINA (Comoros)**

Singapore, Oct 15 — At 0510, UTC, a refloating attempt is presently being made on bulk *Nina*. — Semco Salvage and Marine Private Ltd.

Singapore, Oct 15 — Bulk *Nina* was refloated at 1300, local time, today. — Semco Salvage and Marine Private Ltd.

Singapore, Oct 18 — Bulk *Nina* remains in port at Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

Singapore, Oct 21 — Bulk *Nina* was refloated on Oct 15 and is currently anchored in Singapore waters. In view of the severity of the grounding position profile, the salvor decided to transfer part of the cargo on to barges in order

to lighten the vessel and at the same time reduce displacement. A total of 14,500 tonnes of coal was transferred on to six deck cargo barges between Oct 8 and Oct 13. About 44,000 tons of coal remains on board. In view of the current condition of cargo (fire and wet damage) and the high cost to redeliver it to the original destination, cargo owners are exercising an open tender sale. A few interested buyers have expressed their interest to buy. The salvage company officially terminated their services on Oct 20. The estimated salvage cost is around USD 3 million To date, there is no indication as to whether the ship owners intend to send the casualty for repairs and there is a possibility that the vessel could proceed to the scrapyard. — Lloyd's Agents.

**NYK ARGUS (Panama)**

London, Oct 20 — C.c. *NYK Argus* (75484 gt, built 2004) caught fire in the Mediterranean last night and is now heading to Southampton at reduced speed. *NYK Argus* had passed through the Suez Canal and was about 120 km north of Algeria when the blaze broke out in No 3 cargo hold that has now been sealed. There were no injuries among the 27-strong crew, said James Kirsop, deputy managing director for NYK Line in London. Neither has there been any pollution. The ship is deployed on Loop A of the Grand Alliance's Asia-Europe services. The containers in the hold that caught alight were not loaded with any dangerous cargo, the company said. The ship is continuing to Southampton under its own power. (Note — *NYK Argus* sailed Shimizu Oct 2, arrived Singapore Oct 7, sailed Oct 8 and passed Port Said Oct 17.)

**ODYSSEAS II (Greece)**

London, Oct 20 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: On Oct 18, while ro/ro *Odysseas II* (1284 gt, built 1970) was 3.7 nautical miles south-west of Piraeus, vessel "became not under command" due to mechanical damage. Vessel had 22 passengers onboard, none of whom were injured. Following the incident, the vessel was towed to Piraeus by the Lybousakis Union of Tugs, tug *Iason*.

**ONLY ONE D (Honduras)**

London, Oct 15 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1410, UTC: General cargo *Only One D* (475 gt, built 1975) is in lat 42 32N, long 64 37W, with lubricating oil pump problem. Vessel is proceeding slowly towards Nova Scotia. Owners are looking to charter a tug to assist.

London, Oct 15 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1646, UTC: Coast Guard vessel *Edward Cornwallis* is proceeding to rendezvous with general cargo *Only One D*, ETA approximately 2200, UTC. *Only One D* will attempt to effect repairs using a part carried on board *Edward Cornwallis*.

London, Oct 19 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1422, UTC: General cargo *Only One D* proceeded to Shelburne under its own power, escorted by Coast Guard vessel *Edward*

*Cornwallis*, and anchored in the harbour Oct 17. The vessel was expected to dock later the same day.

**OOCL SETO (Bahamas)**

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

**OSHA (Russia)**

See *Ksenia Zharkikh*.

**PANAGIA HOZOVIOTISSA (Greece)**

London, Oct 20 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus reports: Ferry *Panagia Hozoviotissa* (3204 gt, built 1977) sustained damage to the hydraulic system to the anchor windlass, at Laurium, during the afternoon of Oct 18. Following the incident vessel was prohibited to depart pending inspection of the repairs. The passengers were forwarded to their destinations on other vessels.

London, Oct 20 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Ferry *Panagia Hozoviotissa* yesterday afternoon was permitted to sail from Laurium after repairs to the damage had been completed and following issuance of a class maintain certificate.

**PANAGIA PSARIANI (Greece)**

London, Oct 20 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: On Oct 19, while ro/ro *Panagia Psariani* (1060 gt, built 1973) was making manoeuvres to depart and at the same time trying to avoid contact with nearby vessels, the vessel struck the breakwater of Chios port. No injuries or pollution were caused. Following the incident *Panagia Psariani* was expected to depart for Psara with 19 passengers on board, but was prohibited from departing by the Chios Port Authority pending inspection.

**PONGOLA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Durban, Oct 19 — General cargo *Pongola* completed repairs Oct 18 and shifted to loading berth Oct 19. The vessel is expected to sail in the next day or two. — Lloyd's Agents.

**POS DIGNITY (Hong Kong)**

See "Hong Kong Vessel Boycotted at Lulea, Sweden" under "Miscellaneous."

**PRINCESS OF THE PACIFIC (Philippines)**

Manila, Oct 15 — Ro/ro *Princess of the Pacific* was reportedly towed to China, on Sep 28, for break-up, not Singapore as previously reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

**QUEEN OF SAANICH (Canada)**

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Queen of Saanich* (9302 gt, built 1963) was in contact with the "berthing structure" at the Tsawwassen terminal, at 1335, Sep 13. BC Ferries communications manager for mainland services Deborah Marshall characterised the crash as a "pretty rare" incident for BC Ferries. There were probably a half dozen passengers who were hurt when they were jostled by the impact as the ferry made contact with the cement

structure. BC Ferries investigated the incident and determined a "missed approach" was the cause, due to operator/human error.

#### **SANDERLING NO.1 (Canada)**

London, Oct 19 — Fishing *Sanderling No.1* (58 gt, built 1974) reported aground near Bilton Island, BC, Oct 16. Vessel has been refloated and proceeded on voyage. No damages to the vessel.

#### **SANKO SPRING (Liberia)**

London, Oct 18 — General cargo *Sanko Spring* (29688 gt, built 1998) reported striking the dock while berthing at Kitimat Harbour, BC, at 1033, PDST, Oct 13. (Note — *Sanko Spring* subsequently arrived Vancouver Oct 18.)

#### **SARAH 2 (Panama)**

Hodeidah, Oct 19 — General cargo *Sarah 2*, ex Sara 1, (2493 gt, built 1968), owners Midweld Trading & Marketing Co, Jeddah for Dubai, ran aground in approximately lat 15 06.7N, long 42 12.2E, near Al Zubair Island, at 2330, Oct 13. Crew abandoned the vessel but subsequently, when Hodeidah Port Authority's tug arrived the scene, they assisted the crew to return on board. At the following high water with the assistance of tug, the vessel was refloated. It had to break its anchor cable since the anchor was fouled in the rocky bottom. Under its own power and navigational guidance from the tug it proceeded to the nearest port, Saleef. The diver from the Port Authority inspected the underwater body of the vessel and observed numerous cracks on the port side above the "turn of bilge". The Port Authority's technical team is endeavouring to patch weld the crack. Understand from the Port Authority that water ingress into hold Nos.1 and 2 is progressing gradually. Contingency plan for beaching vessel is in place. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SEA LANTANA (Hong Kong)**

Yokohama, Oct 15 — Bulk *Sea Lantana* (30400 gt) under construction, had an explosion on board at Tadotsu Shipyard, Oct 12. Four workers were injured in the explosion. — Lloyd's Agents. (See "Shipyard, Tadotsu, Kagawa Prefecture, Japan" under "Fires & Explosions" in issue of Oct 14.)

Yokohama, Oct 21 — Understand from local agents that the damage to bulk *Sea Lantana* is not so serious as to affect the completion of the vessel. Some pumps, small machines and tools are being replaced and an oil tank will need to be repainted due to burning. After these repairs, a trial run will be carried out on Nov 8, which is three days behind the original time schedule. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SEASPAN MONARCH (Canada)**

London, Oct 19 — Following received from Victoria RCC, timed 1950, UTC: Tug *Seaspan Monarch* (376 gt, built 1977) was escorted by a tug to a berth in the Fraser River today, after it had power loss.

#### **SEAVINHA (Malta)**

New York, Oct 12 — Product tanker *Seavinha* arrived New York Oct 12. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SHEN QUAN HAI (China)**

London, Oct 15 — Bulk *Shen Quan Hai* was reported sailing Balboa Oct 7.

#### **SHURI (Japan)**

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

#### **STAR HARDANGER (Singapore)**

London, Oct 18 — Part c.c. *Star Hardanger* (34364 gt, built 1995) reported aground in the vicinity of Buoy 21, Fraser River BC, at 1220, PDST, Oct 13.

London, Oct 18 — Following received from Coast Guard Victoria, BC, timed 2145, UTC: *Star Hardanger* touched bottom on the Fraser River Oct 13. Vessel proceeded on voyage same day, without assistance.

#### **STEVNS POWER (DIS)**

London, Oct 18 — The Marine Board Investigation Committee set up by the Federal Government to unravel the circumstances that led to the sinking of tug/supply *Stevens Power* yesterday submitted its report. The committee, which was inaugurated on Feb 11, 2004, by the Honourable Minister of Transport, Dr. Abiyi Sekibo was charged with responsibilities to investigate the circumstance that led to the sinking of the vessel, to examine the owner of the vessel and those who may have connection with it, to recommend appropriate action to take on the wrecked vessel to forestall environmental hazard, and finally, recommend appropriate measures against re-occurrence. *Stevens Power* sank off the coast of Bonny, River States, on Oct 19, 2003. At that time, the vessel was engaged to assist pipe-laying barge *Castoro Otto*, in laying pipes for the mining of crude oil from the Okpobo oilfield approximately 55 nautical miles off the coast of Bonny. All eleven crewmen on board the ill-fated vessel have still not been found and are believed to have gone down with the vessel at depths reaching 75 metres by one account. Submitting the report to the minister, the chairman of the committee, Chief Magistrate Victor Ugoji said that efforts to unravel the reasons for the sinking of the vessel were hampered by the fact that no crewmen on board the vessel at the time was found adding that the vessels working at the scene with the ill-fated vessel that time had all left the shores of Nigeria together with their crews. Ugoji however, noted that the committee discovered during investigation that contributory factors to the unfortunate incident varied from adverse human factors through discernible defective mechanisms of the vessel, particularly to avoidable lapses in regulation. He expressed the hope that the recommendations of the committee, which was contained in the volume "one" part "B" of the report, would be implemented. Receiving the report, the Minister of Transport who

was represented by the Minister of State for Transport, Mr. Musa Mohammed expressed dissatisfaction over the inability of the witnesses to appear and testify before the panel.

#### **STIG HALLE (Norway)**

Trondheim, Oct 15 — Repairs to General cargo *Stig Halle* have been completed and the vessel will leave Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra, this evening, for Fosen (Trondheimsfjord). — Lloyd's Agents.

Trondheim, Oct 18 — General cargo *Stig Halle* left Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra, 1910, Oct 15 for Fosen. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SUNRANA (Norway (Int. Register))**

Maassluis, Oct 16 — General cargo *Sunrana* (3663 gt, built 1976), sailing in the Boudewijnsluis, was in contact with the head of the lock at 1712, local time, today. Vessel sustained four metres of damage. The nautical commission and the agent were informed and will attend the vessel. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Oct 18 — General cargo *Sunrana* sailed Antwerp Oct 17 bound for Flushing.

#### **SUPERFLYTE (New Zealand)**

Auckland, Oct 18 — Repairs to catamaran tug *Superflyte* are nearing completion. Vessel has undergone sea trials and it is expected to return to service when final testing of replacement systems is completed later this week. Vessel will not have another destination as it is a catamaran passenger ferry, operating between Auckland and adjacent suburbs and islands. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SVEN OLTSMANN (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Bilbao, Oct 20 — C.c. *Sven Oltsmann* (5006 gt, built 1992) arrived at Bilbao in tow of tug *Sertosa Treinta* on Oct 17. The vessel had a main engine breakdown in the Bay of Biscay on Oct 12 and is at present still at Bilbao. The repairs have not yet commenced as apparently owners and experts are studying the damages sustained. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TAI PAN I (Panama)**

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Tai Pan I* (9103 gt, built 1977) is in difficulty to the west of Cape Town and salvage tug *Smit Amandla* has been sent to take it in tow. (Note — *Tai Pan I* sailed Santos Oct 1 for El Maan, Somalia.)

London, Oct 18 — Following received from the operators of general cargo *Tai Pan I*, timed 1055, UTC: *Tai Pan I*, cargo bagged sugar, had a main engine problem some 500 miles from Cape Town. Its master tried to repair the engine without success and a tug has been engaged to assist. The vessel is expected to arrive Cape Town in the next few days.

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Salvage tug *Smit Amandla* was today still proceeding towards general cargo *Tai Pan I* that



has stopped with engine trouble about 550 nautical miles west of Cape Town. *Smit Amandla* intends towing it to Cape Town for repairs. There is no fear for the safety of the crew.

#### **THOR R. (Denmark)**

Esbjerg, Oct 18 — Raising trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R.* has been postponed once again, authorities plan to roll the vessel into position at high tide, 0646, tomorrow. Authorities plan to proceed with the actual raising of the vessel on Wednesday, Oct 20. Aft section of the dredge is heavily damaged. Further damage will be reported when the vessel has been raised. The vessel will be brought to the floating dock in Esbjerg for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

Esbjerg, Oct 19 — At 0500, local time, today, the shipping lanes were blocked due to operations at the sunken trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R.* They have managed to roll the vessel into position. The operation lasted until 0710 and the shipping lanes are now open to traffic again. The vessel will be raised at about 0645, tomorrow. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 20 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1004, UTC: The operation to raise trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R.* has been postponed until Oct 22.

#### **TONG HAI (China)**

Istanbul, Oct 21 — Bulk *Tong Hai* (17119 gt, built 1981), Sibenik for Novorossiysk, had an engine breakdown while transiting Dardanelles at 0120, local time, today and anchored off Karanlik Liman. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Tong Hai* sailed Sibenik Oct 18 for Novorossiysk.)

Istanbul, Oct 21 — Bulk *Tong Hai* completed repairs by its own means and sailed Canakkale at 1135, local time, following completion of inspection and formalities. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TUG MERCUR (NIS)**

Gothenburg, Oct 15 — A local press report states: Tug *Tug Mercur* (324 gt, built 1964), with a Swedish master, and under the management of Marine Carrier Ltd, Piteoe, Sweden, is under suspicion of having caused damage to the electricity supporting cable between Sweden and island of Bornholm, 80 km from Swedish coastline. The current was interrupted and caused problems at the island. The tug, pulling the barge *Forest* (3459 gt) with full load of cargo/coal was on route from Estonia to Copenhagen. Police investigated the matter and found the tug had a missing anchor and chain. Damage is considerable and estimated for repair cost of DKK 10 million. — Westax Marine Services A/S. (Note — *Tug Mercur*, towing *Forest*, sailed Muuga Sep 28 for Copenhagen, and subsequently arrived Muuga Oct 6, from Copenhagen.)

Gothenburg, Oct 17 — Tug *Tug Mercur* arrived at Muuga, Estonia, yesterday, towing barge *Forest*. Loading has been completed and vessels will depart later today for Copenhagen and then onto Finland. Vessel has a new anchor and

chains. It is not known when the damage occurred, but it is believed to have been after the departure from Muuga on Oct 6. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Oct 18 — Tug *Tug Mercur* and barge *Forest* are now under way for Copenhagen, ETA Oct 22-23. — Westax Marine Services AB.

#### **UAL AMERICA (Bahamas)**

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters are looking for the cause of a blaze on board part c.c. *UAL America* (4980 gt, built 1994) in the Houston Ship Channel. It broke out in the cargo hold of *UAL America* around midnight. The crew tried to put it out themselves but then the Houston Fire Department stepped in and got things under control. But two hours later, the fire continued to burn. Understood plywood boxes were on fire. Crews checked the manifest and said nothing hazardous was involved and no one was hurt.

London, Oct 18 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1340, UTC: Part c.c. *UAL America* had a fire in No.1 hold containing oilfield equipment while at New Manchester Dock, Houston. Three fire units and a fire boat attended and the fire has now been extinguished. There were no injuries.

#### **URSULA LEONHARDT (Malta)**

Brest, Oct 11 — As of Oct 1, general cargo *Ursula Leonhardt* is still in port. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **VANGUARD (U.K.)**

London, Oct 15 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1120, UTC: Tug *Vanguard* was raised Oct 13 and taken to the west side of Rona where it was pumped out. *Vanguard* was then taken by multicat *Seeonee* to a pier at Kyle Akin where it arrived yesterday evening and is now awaiting owners instructions.

#### **WILLIAM J. MOORE (Canada)**

London, Oct 18 — Tug *William J. Moore* (542 gt, built 1970) reported both propellers damaged in lat 45 17.4N, long 73 55.5W, Oct 15. Vessel docked at approach wall of Beauharnois lock.



#### **AL BIRUNI (Egypt)**

Alexandria, Oct 16 — General cargo *Al Biruni* remains under arrest at Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **AL IDRISI (Egypt)**

Alexandria, Oct 16 — — General cargo *Al Idrisi* remains under arrest at Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **AL TAWFIK (Georgia)**

See under "Marine."

#### **ALBATROS (Cambodia)**

Trieste, Oct 21 — Ro/ro *Albatros* is still under detention at Trieste. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ALEXANDER THE GREAT (Greece)**

See under "Marine."

#### **ANATOLIY KOLESNICHENKO (Russia)**

London, Oct 18 — Ro/ro *Anatoliy Kolesnichenko* arrived Antwerp Oct 17.

#### **ANYA (Netherlands Antilles)**

Cape Town, Oct 18 — Anchor handling tug/supply *Anya* was sold to Diamond Fields Marine on Oct 13. Diamond Fields have indicated that the vessel will sail to Cape Town in approximately three weeks and undergo refurbishment allowing it to return to the operational area off Namibia during the first quarter of 2005. Diamond Fields also indicated that the vessels name will be changed in due course. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ANYA (South Africa)**

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated Oct 14, states: Diamond Fields International Ltd. has been declared the winning bidder for the fully equipped twin airlift diamond mining vessel *Anya*, to be named *Diamond Fields Discoverer*, in a sealed tender process ordered by the High Court of Namibia. The vessel previously operated successfully in Diamond Fields' license areas under contract with Gemfarm Investments (Pty) Ltd and Lazig (Pty) Ltd. Diamond Fields intends to upgrade the vessel and improve its mining efficiency from that of previous owners, and contemplates resumption of mining with this vessel in approximately six months time after completion of required upgrades. Funding for the purchase price and applicable taxes will be provided under a secured loan from Quest Capital Corp. in the amount of US\$1.55 million.

#### **ATLANTICA (Honduras)**

London, Oct 21 — A US federal judge has upheld an all-Ukrainian crew's motion to arrest their tanker *Atlantica* in Fort Lauderdale against more than \$128,000 in unpaid wages, but has asked the owner to post a bond of \$225,000 to stave off a judicial sale. The ruling came as other unpaid creditors intervened in the case, with claims amounting to at least \$42,000 which they say are due to them. The vessel was arrested on Sep 24 after 13 crew members including a lip cancer patient said they were owed four months wages amounting to \$112,000 and had sailed during the period with few supplies. The complaint alleged that Mikola Kovalenko, an able-bodied seaman, contracted cancer of the lip while in the ship's service, but the owner failed to provide him with prompt maintenance and care. However shipowner Grace Tanker, represented by Miami businessman Maurice Denis, filed a motion to release the ship after paying Mr Kovalenko his back wages. Mr Kovalenko returned to the Ukraine after signing a release that sought to



dismiss the original motion with prejudice. The owner also claimed the rest of the crew had signed an agreement to wait for their wages until the ship's voyage was completed and the freight received. In denying the Grace Tanker motion to release the ship, Magistrate Theodore Klein of the US District Court for the Southern District of Florida ordered the firm to post a bond of \$225,000 as of Oct 13 to cover crew wages, amounts due to the intervening suppliers and the claims of the substitute custodian. The order stipulates that the bond amount shall increase by \$2,500 a day for every day after Oct 13 until the bond is posted. It is understood the bond had not been posted as of yesterday. Meanwhile, the magistrate has agreed to allow the cargo of tallow to be offloaded and delivered to the consignee. This process was expected to begin today. It is also understood that five of the crew members on board had expired visas as of today. Whether they would have to fly back to the Ukraine or be allowed to remain onboard *Atlantica* in its present unusual situation remained to be decided. Magistrate Klein's order allocates the bond amount to cover outstanding crew wages, \$40,000 for the claims of substitute custodian National Maritime Services and \$42,000 for CSA Services, Cooper/T Smith Mooring and Crescent Towing.

#### **BANOWATI (Indonesia)**

London, Oct 15 — Bulk *Banowati* sailed Rotterdam Oct 13 for Gdansk.

#### **BERGUR (U.K.)**

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated Oct 20, states: The Irish Naval Service has detained a British-registered vessel off the south-west coast for alleged breaches of fishing regulations. Fishing *Bergur* (250 gt, built 1965) was intercepted by the patrol ship *Niamh* around 70 miles south-west of Valentia this morning and is being escorted to Castletownbere for inspection by Department of the Marine officials. A Spanish vessel was detained by the *Niamh* off Loop Head yesterday morning, also on suspicion of breaching fishing regulations.

#### **FERROMINA HARVEST (India)**

Mumbai, Oct 20 — Supply *Ferromina Harvest* is still under arrest for deficiencies which have not been rectified. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NIL DERYA (Turkey)**

See under "Marine."

#### **PISHVA (Iran)**

Abu Dhabi, Oct 19 — Ro-ro *Pishva* is still under arrest. Apparently the vessel has been arrested following non-payment of wages to its crew, additional payments collected in respect of cargo freight and port demurrage. The owners reportedly have absconded and the chances of an immediate release seem remote. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **RESHID BEHBUDOV (Azerbaijan)**

Mersin, Oct 19 — General cargo *Reshid Behbudov* is still under arrest

and the prospects for its release are currently uncertain. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SAKURA (Mongolia)**

London, Oct 15 — General cargo *Sakura* (1528 gt, built 1980), JVQR2, which arrived at Hong Kong at 1014 hrs, today, is now reported to be under arrest at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong.

London, Oct 19 — General cargo *Sakura* sailed from Hong Kong on Oct 16 bound for Haiphong.

#### **SALEM FOUR**

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

Alexandria, Oct 16 — General cargo *Salem Four* is still under arrest at Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SALEM SEVEN (Egypt)**

Alexandria, Oct 16 — General cargo *Salem Seven* is no longer under arrest but still at Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SHINSEI MARU NO.3 (Japan)**

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing *Shinsei Maru No.3* (495 gt, built 1986) has been detained in Cape Town, South Africa, on suspicion of fishing a highly endangered species in South African waters, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said Monday. In a report last Wednesday (Oct 13), the Cape Times said local authorities detained the Shizuoka-based *Shinsei Maru No.3* on suspicion of fishing Patagonian toothfish, also known as Chilean sea bass, in the country's exclusive economic zone without permission.

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: South African authorities have released Japanese fishing *Shinsei Maru No.3*, seized in Cape Town on suspicion of fishing for a highly endangered species in South African waters, the Japanese Embassy in South Africa said yesterday. The authorities determined that the vessel was not involved in poaching Patagonian toothfish, also known as Chelean sea bass, and on Tuesday night (Oct 19) notified the local office of the fishing company that operates the vessel, based in Yaizu, Shizuoka Prefecture.

#### **SPIRIT OF ONTARIO I (U.S.A.)**

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated Oct 20, states: The Rochester company that owns passenger ro/ro *Spirit of Ontario I* is once again back in control of the vessel. A ruling by the US District Court in Rochester turned custody of *Spirit of Ontario I* from the United States Marshal's Service for western New York back to Canadian-American Transportation Systems. US Marshals impounded the vessel last month after the Amerada Hess Corporation filed a lien against the company, saying the ferry operator hadn't paid a 372-thousand dollar fuel bill. The vessel remains tied to its dock at the Port of Rochester after the company suspended service to Toronto last month after running out of money. The ferry company is still working with its overseas lenders to resolve financial problems that put the service on hold.

#### **STRILBAS (Norway)**

London, Oct 19 — Standby safety vessel *Strilbas* sailed from Rotterdam on Oct 15 bound for Kopervik. (See issue of Oct 5.)



#### **BONNY, NIGERIA**

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated Oct 14, states: Rivers State Government is to investigate the cause of last Sunday's (Oct 10) oil spillage and pipeline fire in two Ogoni communities, Mohdo and Goi. The development came as Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) fire fighters finally gained access to the scene of the fire and put it out, after an initial attempt was allegedly impeded by militant Ogoni youths. Shell said the incident on the pipeline, labelled the Trans-Niger Crude Oil Pipeline, would cost the nation the loss of an additional 13,000 barrels (or N87.1 million) per day, until the leak points on the pipeline are clamped and activities resume. President of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP), Mr. Ledum Mitee, had said on Tuesday that the spill was "a nightmare of immense proportions" and had devastated farmlands, fish ponds and others. No life was, however, lost. Meanwhile, Rivers State Commissioner for the Environment Dr. (Mrs.) Roseline Konya said the government would get to the root of the incident. Konya, an Ogoni, claimed that the oil spillage and subsequent fire outbreak were not due to natural, machine failure or ruptured pipeline. The commissioner vowed that the ministry will investigate the cause of the fire at Goi and the spill at Mohdo, both communities in Gokana council area of the state. According to Konya, she was surprised that the fire broke out at a fishing pond at Goi instead of the scene of the spill at Mohdo which is some distance away. She said yesterday afternoon that SPDC had informed her that the fire had been put out but because her own staff are on strike, she could not confirm the claim. The commissioner also disclosed that as at yesterday afternoon, SPDC officials were still trying to clamp the leak point of the pipeline. On Oct 10, residents of Goi and Mohdo reported that there was a spill at the Trans Niger Trunk pipeline, behind the camp of Gitto Construction Company, handling the Bodo-Benin Road. Pressure from the pipeline allegedly went as high as 40 metres and soaked vegetation within some distance from the pipeline. But next day, at about 1000 hrs, there was a fire outbreak at Dooh stream in Goi village. The fire which destroyed farmlands, palm trees, cassava farms and other economic trees, was still raging as at yesterday morning. At the pipeline site, SPDC workers were seen trying to clamp the pipeline and one of the earth-moving vehicles that would

have been used to dig up the ground for the clamping, was stuck in the mud. Shell, Nigeria's biggest oil exploration and production joint venture operator, had said in a statement, Tuesday, that its fire fighting contractors were denied access to the fire scene, causing the fire to spread with the spill across ponds and nearby farms in the area. The company has in the past few years been suffering series of vandalism on its joint venture facilities and recording production cut back average of over 60,000 barrels per day. However, Shell said in another statement yesterday that if finally got community permission to work on the sites and had battled to reduce the intensity of the fire. The company said subsequent inspection of the leaking pipeline confirmed that the spill resulted from a hacksaw cut on its 24-inch pipeline, making a switch to an alternate 28-inch pipeline at two manifolds in Bomu and Ogale. The switch, which is expected to address the leakage, entails a production cutback of about 13,000 barrels per day but Shell said a higher cutback of 20,000 barrels per day had initially been envisaged. "We are progressing action to put out the fire, clamp the leak, recover the spillage," the company stated yesterday.

#### **OMEALCA AREA, VERACRUZ STATE, MEXICO**

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated Oct 19, states: Pemex will compensate 24 landowners in Veracruz state for damages after a 30-inch diameter pipeline exploded and started a fire last week, the company said in a statement. Pemex has recovered some 6,000 barrels of the 10,000 barrels of crude estimated to have leaked from the pipeline. The company will also complete reforestation of the affected area within a two-month period, the statement said. The statement did not mention the amount of damages that would be paid.



**Pollution**

#### **COMMENCEMENT BAY, TACOMA, UNITED STATES**

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated Oct 15, states: A spill of an estimated 1,000 gallons of heavy industrial oil has left deposits on 21 miles of South Sound shoreline. More was floating in open water and state and federal agencies were scrambling to limit the damage. "The amount of recoverable oil is very small," noted Coast Guard Lt. Aaron Meadows-Hills. "It's mostly thin ribbons of silvery sheen ... as far north as Alki, that are dissipating, evaporating." Crews were focusing on heavy oil deposits on six miles of shoreline at the south ends of Vashon and Maury islands. Skimmer boats were working four patches of heavy oil in open water - near Blake Island north of Vashon, in Tacoma's

Commencement Bay, in Dalco Passage between Point Defiance and Vashon, and between Point Robinson on the east side of Maury Island and the mainland. About 4,700 gallons of oily liquid had been recovered by midday, Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Mark Dix said, but it was not clear how much of that was the spilled oil. Contractors had 21 workboats and 10 skimmers out Friday, and had unspooled nearly 19,000 feet of containment boom plus 2,500 feet of soaker boom. About 240 people were involved, most of them in the field. Helicopters were ferrying supplies and monitoring the spill, Dix said at a news conference today. The worst of the mess could be gone in a few weeks through the forces of nature - tides and wave action - and human cleanup efforts, said Ecology spokesman Larry Altose. The source of the spill was not yet known. Vessels larger than 65 feet - mostly container ships, barges and tugs - and facilities on land were being investigated, Dix said. Fuel samples were being taken from land facilities and about a dozen ships - some at other locations after they'd left the Port of Tacoma - looking for a match to the spilled oil. State penalties, among the toughest in the nation, could be as high as \$100,000 per day if the polluter is identified, said Paul O'Brien, on-site coordinator for the state Department of Ecology. Coast Guard penalties begin at \$1,000 a day. Federal licenses also can be revoked, Dix said. Cleanup efforts will not be effective on "light sheen" areas, now including 15 miles of shoreline - mostly on the Key Peninsula side of Colvos Passage, which separates the mainland from Vashon Island, Altose said. Nature will do most of the work there, he said. The Coast Guard spent about \$100,000 yesterday from the Oil Liability Trust Fund and expected the tab to be higher Friday, when more equipment and crews were out, Dix said. The state share of clean-up costs so far had not been determined, O'Brien said. First word of the spill came from a tug boat early yesterday morning. Authorities have not determined when and where the spill occurred. Clean-up operations began around midday Thursday. The response - and assessment of the problem - was slowed initially by darkness and then by fog.

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated Oct 17, states: Now in its fourth day, the oil spill that began in South Puget Sound is "sheening in the water" as far north as Bainbridge Island, while rain and wind hampered some clean-up efforts yesterday. Water-skimming equipment used by the professional clean-up crews relies on calmer conditions. "Oil has been sighted a number of places, including as far north as Bainbridge's Eagle Harbor," said David Byers, of the state Department of Ecology, the on-scene co-ordinator of clean-up efforts. Even so, crews have collected 1.4 tons of oil debris from the beaches. Some 5,000 gallons of oil and water have been collected and 18,000 feet of containment booms are in place. The Coast Guard has been investigating

the incident, taking samples of oil from 20 ships that were in the area at that time. On Friday (Oct 15), an official familiar with the investigation said the search had been narrowed to two commercial ships as the possible source of the oil slick. Coast Guard Capt. Dan Ellis said it is unlikely that the spill was deliberately caused. Coast Guard investigators plan to take samples of both the fuel oil and bilge oil of the remaining suspect ships when they make contact with them. The type of oil spilled has yet to be determined, but samples have been sent to a lab for processing. Even if the ship's tank is refilled with another type of oil, the original substance will leave a unique fingerprint that will be exceptionally hard to eliminate, investigators say. The spill clogged beaches along Vashon and Maury islands and angered residents, who cherish their rural lifestyle in an area where seabirds are typically plentiful. So far, the impact on the birds in the area has been hard to judge, said Chris Lane, wildlife branch director with the state Fish and Wildlife Department. One Western grebe has been treated for oil contamination, but other birds are likely to have been exposed. After the birds are exposed to the oil they may fly off, and it often takes four or five days for the birds to come to shore, he said.

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Cleanup costs for the Dalco Passage oil spill passed the \$1 million mark yesterday and will grow even higher as crews continue to mop up beaches slicked by the thinning oil. But state officials said the emergency cleanup effort launched last week will slow this week as the oil continues to dissipate and a long-term strategy is put into place to monitor the sullied shores. The focus now is on finding the source of the spill, which dumped an estimated 1,000 gallons of oil into Dalco Passage between Vashon Island and Point Defiance in Tacoma, and evaluating the state's own response. Yesterday, the skimmer boats, which slurped up a few hundred gallons of oil, were recalled because the oil sheen was too thin to be skimmed. Beach cleanup crews remained at southern Vashon and Maury islands yesterday, to tend to the long strings of plastic pom-poms that soak up whatever oil is still washing ashore in each high tide, said Larry Altose, a state Department of Ecology spokesman. Yesterday, they said 15 miles of shoreline still had a "light sheen" and six miles had a "film coating." But that was better than the day before, when six miles of the coastline were pasted with "heavier oil." Although the worst of the spill has passed, about 9,900 feet of oil boom is still deployed to protect the most sensitive shore habitat. About six tons of oily debris - including soiled driftwood, seaweed and the like - has been picked up. No more stricken wildlife was found yesterday.

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated Oct 20, states: Coast Guard officials in Alaska boarded four vessels

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that arrived from the Seattle-Tacoma area and collected fuel samples as Washington workers finished the major clean-up work on a Puget Sound oil spill. A container vessel in Dutch Harbour, Alaska, two freighters in Anchorage and a tanker in Valdez were boarded Saturday (Oct 16), Sunday and Monday, respectively, said Coast Guard spokesman Roger Wetherell in Juneau. Fuel samples were sent to Puget Sound Marine Safety Office investigators. The vessels were not detained, said Wetherell and spokesman Paul Roszkowski in Kodiak. Washington state Ecology Department spokesman Larry Altose said that the investigation is not on the verge of finding the responsible party. Altose said small crews were likely to continue clean-up work for several weeks. They were out today on the south beaches of Vashon and Maury islands. The oil spill of at least 1,000 gallons has cost more than \$1 million in clean-up expenses. It has contaminated 21 miles of shoreline from the Key Peninsula and Tacoma to parts of Vashon and Maury Island.

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated Oct 20, states: Clean-up crews have collected 35 tons of oily debris from South Sound beaches since last Thursday (Oct 14). That is the latest tally on the federal-state effort to clean up about 1,000 gallons of industrial fuel dumped in the South Sound. Clean-up along six miles of beaches at the south ends of Vashon and Maury islands is expected to continue for several weeks, said Larry Altose, a state Department of Ecology spokesman. So far, investigators have not identified the source of the oil. The spill was first reported early Thursday by a tug operator in Dalco Passage, between Point Defiance and Vashon Island. US Coast Guard Capt Danny Ellis, commander of the Puget Sound marine safety office, confirmed that officials had boarded four vessels in Alaskan ports to collect evidence related to the spill. Investigators were waiting for results of laboratory analysis of the oil samples. The debris will go to the Arlington, Oregon, area for disposal, Altose said. Most of it is likely to be buried in a hazardous waste facility, but some will be dumped in an ordinary landfill, he said. As of midnight on Monday, the clean-up bill had risen to \$1.4 million, Altose said. Thirty-five workers were yesterday dispatched to the dirtiest island beaches, where they mopped up more oil. Other field workers dismantled most of the 12,900 feet of protective boom previously deployed to keep contamination out of areas such as Gig Harbor, Blake Island and Yukon Bay, Altose said. Protective barriers remained in place in Quartermaster Harbour and Olalla Bay, he said.

#### **COMMENCEMENT BAY, TACOMA, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES**

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated today, states: An oil spill stained Tacoma's Commencement Bay and spread to beaches on nearby islands

yesterday, polluting an ecologically rich area where grebes, ducks and other birds spend their winters. State Department of Ecology and U.S. Coast Guard officials estimated the spill at 1,000 gallons, Ecology spokesman Larry Altose said. The oil, first reported about 0100, yesterday, spread over five or six miles around the southern tip of Vashon Island north of Tacoma, and tainted nearby Maury Island. The Coast Guard said it appeared to be a heavy-grade industrial oil that can coat beaches, form tar balls and does not easily evaporate. Federal and state wildlife agencies received reports that at least two birds were found coated in oil, said Joan Jewett, spokeswoman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Cleanup operations began around midday yesterday with three boats skimming oil from the surface. The Coast Guard was reviewing a list of vessels that had been in the area, trying to narrow the possible sources of the spill. The agency did not immediately release that list or the number of vessels on it.

London, Oct 15 — Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, dated Oct 14: Oil-spill cleanup crews continued the response to the large oil spill in the Tacoma/Vashon Island area. The U.S. Coast Guard and Washington Department of Ecology are coordinating the response under a unified command. As of early this afternoon, the spill, which appears to have originated in Commencement Bay, Wash, has spread with tides to both sides of Vashon Island and inside the southern portion of Quartermaster Harbour. Shoreline clean-up crews are working to clean up and prevent the refloating of oil that has washed ashore on the southern Vashon and Maury Islands. On Vashon, crews are raking oiled sand and small pebbles above the high-tide line. On Maury, crews are installing oil-absorbing boom over the rocky beach to capture oil. Three skimmers, with two additional skimmer en-route, and several support vessels continue to collect oil from thick pockets. Skimming operations are being directed from the air by helicopter. Also, Coast Guard, Ecology and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife experts are making reconnaissance flights to gauge location and movement of the oil. Coast Guard and Ecology investigators are working to determine the source of the oil. It appears to be industrial oil, a heavy grade that can coat beaches, form tarballs and does not readily evaporate. Since no responsible party has come forward, the Coast Guard has opened the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund account and the unified command has contracted with Clean Sound Cooperative, National Response Corporation and Global Diving and Salvage to conduct cleanup operations. Department of Ecology teams began inspecting beaches at first light this morning. Boat and helicopter inspection of the spill was delayed by heavy fog that persisted until after sunrise.

#### **FRENCH ATLANTIC COAST**

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated Oct 17, states: The Office of the

public prosecutor of Brest fixed yesterday a guarantee of euro 230,000 to allow bulk *Kapitonas Kaminskas* (9965 gt, built 1978) to sail following suspicion that the vessel had caused marine pollution off the coast. The master, his second and chief mechanic of the vessel, that had sailed Bilbao for St. Petersburg when it was intercepted by France, were interrogated by the investigators of the Marine Gendarmerie, explained judicial sources. *Kapitonas Kaminskas* will not be able to leave the port of Brest until it pays the guarantee. Later, the people in charge of the ship will be judged by the Correctional Court of Brest. A patrol aircraft sighted the vessel yesterday evening with a 7.5 kilometre long, 150 metre wide slick about to 70 kms off the end of Penmarch. Once informed the office of the public prosecutor in Brest, ordered a French naval vessel to escort it to port. (Note — *Kapitonas Kaminskas* sailed Bilbao Oct 13 and arrived Brest Oct 16.)

London, Oct 21 — Bulk *Kapitonas Kaminskas* sailed from Brest on Oct 19 bound for Amsterdam.

#### **SWAN RIVER, PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

London, Oct 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A stretch of the Swan River in Perth has been closed following a massive sewage spill. More than 300,000 litres of sewage seeped into the river near Caversham when a Water Corporation sewerage main burst yesterday. Department of Health environmental health director Lindsay Gillam said although it was a big spill, the level of pollution it caused had yet to be measured. "It is a significant spill and the Department of Health is arranging samples to be taken from the contaminated area to determine the levels of pollution," he said. Mr Gillam said part of the river had been closed because of the risk of contracting gastric illnesses if people fished, swam or water skied in that area. "We are warning people not to have contact with the river water or take part in any recreational activities such as swimming or fishing in the contaminated area," he said. "Contact with the water could cause diarrhoea and vomiting." Warning signs have been put up 500 metres upstream and downstream of the spill, near Maxwell Road.

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A section of the Swan River in Perth which has been affected by a large sewage spill remains closed today as the Water Corporation conducts an investigation into the cause of the incident. More than 500,000 litres of raw sewage poured into the river on Saturday (Oct 16) after a main sewerage pipe burst at Caversham. The Swan River Trust says the sewage may have an adverse effect on aquatic life. The Health Department is warning people to stay away from the river as they risk becoming ill from the contaminated water.



## Weather &amp; Navigation

**AUSTRALIA**

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A thick blanket of fog covering Perth and the south-west of Western Australia is not expected to lift for at least a couple of hours. The Bureau of Meteorology says the fog extends from Jurien Bay north of Perth, to Albany on the south coast. The fog has prevented some aircraft from landing at Perth Airport. A spokesman from Main Roads says the fog is heaviest south of the river. Motorists are being warned to slow down and expect some delays travelling to work.

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Two New South Wales mid-north coast towns have been declared natural disaster zones after floodwaters cut off Bellingen and prompted evacuations, and severe storms battered Coffs Harbour. The NSW State Emergency Service today fielded 700 calls, mostly from Coffs Harbour residents concerned about damage, power loss and safety after the city was pummeled by heavy rain and winds. All roads to Bellingen have been blocked by floodwater and more than 100 residents and shopkeepers have been evacuated in anticipation of more rain. Several shops and homes were evacuated earlier today after they were flooded. Flood warnings from the Bureau of Meteorology earlier predicted the Bellinger River would reach a major flood level of more than eight metres after a night of heavy rain and high winds. But with further rainfall forecast for the next 24 hours, residents were warned that river levels would rise further and urged people to avoid floodwaters. Residents of a caravan park and four homes had been evacuated while 10 shops in a complex east of Bellingen had been closed. Evacuation centres have been set up in Bellingen and nearby Urunga to provide accommodation, food and clothing to stranded travellers and evacuees. Flood warnings have also been placed on the Nambucca, Orara and Hastings rivers where there has been minimal flooding. Meanwhile, at Coffs Harbour, 50 SES volunteers helped clean up after rain and winds of more than 90km/h brought down trees and powerlines, and blocked roads overnight. "There has been some damage to roofs and light structures as a result of falling trees and some localised flash flooding," the spokeswoman said. NSW Premier Bob Carr today declared both towns natural disaster zones, making financial assistance available to local councils, residents and businesses. Under the schemes, primary producers and small businesses can apply for loans of up to \$130,000 at a concessional interest rate.

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: The State Emergency Service (SES) in New South Wales is pooling resources from across the state to clean up the mid-north coast, hit by fierce storms and heavy rain since Tuesday night (Oct 19). Winds of up to 120 kilometres-an-hour and torrential rains have caused flooding and brought down power lines and trees, damaging homes. Emergency Services Minister Tony Kelly has declared the area a natural disaster zone. Many outlying communities in the region remain isolated by flooding but the road to Bellingen from the Pacific Highway has re-opened. The Waterfall Way west of the town remains closed, with water gushing across it. The SES says Coffs Harbour is the main focus of its clean-up today, after the city was hit by a wild storm early yesterday. SES spokesman Rick Stone says crews will work through today and into tomorrow to repair all the damage. "This is one of the worst instances of storm damage that we've seen for some time and it could take us a couple of days to finish all the jobs," Mr Stone said. The SES says rain has stopped falling across the region and the winds have dropped. In the Macleay Valley west of Kempsey, outlying communities are isolated with low-lying bridges and roads still under water. In the Manning Valley, there is a minor flood warning current for the Manning River near Wingham and Taree. The river is expected to peak around midday and some bridge and road closures are expected. Meanwhile, heavy rain overnight is great news for drought-affected Sydney but is causing traffic chaos around the city. Hopes for rain have been answered with 50 to 70 millimetres falling across the metropolitan area since yesterday morning. The weather bureau's Sean Carsen says it is good news for the parched catchment. "At this stage it probably looks like around 25mls was the average fall across the entire catchment so certainly very welcome rain," he said. But the heavy rain is also causing a variety of problems for commuters with local flooding cutting off roads across the city, debris from trees across roads and buses supplementing rail services on the southern line. The Cronulla ferry has been cancelled due to rough seas and the fire brigade has responded to flooding in units, roof leaks and clogged drains across the city.

Sydney, Oct 21 — Australia's wheat crop will be down this year due to severe drought conditions or below-average rainfall. October is the key month for grain crops as harvesting moves south from Queensland. Already Australian Wheat Forecasters managing director Brian Bailey has downgraded his forecast for the national wheat crop. He has adjusted his figures from 24.2m tonnes earlier this month to 21.1m tonnes, reported the Australian Financial Review today. This forecast is less than the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics' most recent forecast of 21.9m tonnes in 2004/05. Most of the

grain growing regions of Queensland, southern New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia have suffered. Farmers in all states have also been dealing with the wheat disease stripe rust. Across eastern NSW and southeast Queensland, below-average rainfall is likely to continue, the Bureau of Meteorology said in its quarterly outlook. But the chance of an El Nino event, which could cause another drought, has decreased, the bureau said. — "Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News."

**BANGLADESH/INDIA**

Dhaka, Oct 15 — At least 10 people have been killed and thousands made homeless by flooding in northwest Bangladesh over the past week, officials said today. Thousands of people have erected flimsy shelters on highways, embankments and areas of high ground where a lack of clean water has led to outbreaks of diarrhoea, they said. "At least seven districts have been affected by a fresh wave of floods following heavy rains," said a disaster management official in Jaipurhat, about 300 km from Dhaka. Most deaths were in the Jaipurhat, Gaibandha, Kurigram and Sirajganj districts as a result of house collapses, drowning and snakebite. At least 20,000 homes were damaged, forcing residents to seek refuge elsewhere, including in about 100 government shelters. Most rivers in the region, including the Brahmaputra, Jamuna and Atrai, burst their banks, submerging vast areas. The situation was unlikely to improve in coming days as the rivers showed no sign of receding, said an official at the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre. Officials of the agriculture department said at least 200,000 hectares of crops had been damaged. — Reuters.

**HURRICANE "IVAN"**

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated Oct 14, states: Hurricane "Ivan" caused an estimated \$6 billion in insured property damage, according to the Insurance Services Office Inc.'s Property Claim Services unit. That makes Ivan the third-costliest hurricane in U.S. history in terms of insured damage, according to PCS. Florida bore the brunt of "Ivan", with an estimated \$3.8 billion in insured damage. Alabama suffered \$1.2 billion in insured damage, followed by Georgia with \$350 million, Pennsylvania with \$225 million and North Carolina with \$135 million. Ten other states also reported "Ivan"-related damages.

London, Oct 19 — A press release from ENSCO International Inc, dated Dallas today, states: "In September, one of our Gulf of Mexico jackup rigs, *Enesco 64*, was severely damaged during Hurricane "Ivan". Platform rig *Enesco 25* also sustained damage during the storm. We are still in the process of assessing the full extent of damage to both rigs. The contract on *Enesco 64* was terminated in mid-September while the contract on *Enesco 25* reverted to a standby rate while repairs are undertaken over the remainder of 2004."

**HURRICANE "JEANNE"**

London, Oct 15 — Passenger *Jubilee* now renamed *Tropic Sun* under St. Vincent & Grenadines flag, was reported arriving and sailing at Dominica on Oct 14.

Fort Lauderdale, Oct 18 — Cement *Contrader*: Replacement parts are due to arrive on scene Oct 20 and a refloating attempt will take place shortly. — Titan Salvage.

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated Oct 20, states: The 10,000 gallons of diesel fuel and lubricating oil that remained stored onboard cement *Contrader* has now been removed, but the vessel has yet to be refloated. "All the oil has been cleaned from the boat," said Pat Bain, operations manager of Baychem Technologies, the oil spill response company contracted to clean up the wreck. He said all preparatory steps for the vessel to be refloated had been made, and the salvage team was now only waiting on a barge that also had the capability of stabilizing the vessel. Once stabilized, Mr. Bain said, the vessel, that is only partially submerged at high tide, would be raised and towed away. With the barge already en route to the wreck site, he said the vessel could be on its way out of Bahamian waters by this weekend. In addition to the fuel and oil removed from the vessel, Mr Bain said, an estimated 300 gallons had spilt into waters. However most of this oil, he said, had been contained within a perimeter around the vessel, absorbed with an environmentally friendly product and then disposed of. Reaffirming what Parliamentary Secretary Ron Pinder has said recently, Mr Bain explained that a complete investigation of the site could not be undertaken until the vessel was refloated. Meanwhile, Mr Pinder has promised a full report once the vessel has been removed.

**MADEIRA ISLAND, PORTUGAL**

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Strong winds and rain on Portugal's Madeira archipelago have downed trees, caused flooding and disrupted air traffic, officials said today. Four flights from mainland Portugal to Funchal, the capital of Madeira, were diverted last night to the neighbouring island of Porto Santo, airport officials said. Three of the flights, all by TAP-Air Portugal, were able to resume their trip to Funchal early this morning while the fourth flight, by Portuguese airline Air Luxor, was forced to return to Lisbon. The weather office forecasts the heavy rain and strong winds with gusts of up to 90 kilometres an hour will continue throughout today.

**THAILAND**

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A mudslide claimed three lives, injured about 10 other people and damaged nearly 20 houses during the early hours of yesterday morning. The entire village, in Krabi's Muang district, was subsequently evacuated. The mudslide occurred at Baan Huay Nam Khiew, alongside a mountain in tambon Khao Khram, about 003. It swept through about a 100

rai area, killing three members of one family. Officials and rescue teams entered the village to help transfer the injured to Krabi hospital, survey the damage and evacuate all other villagers from the area as ordered by the provincial disaster office. Muang Krabi district chief Jari Kaewbamrung said the mudslide was caused by several days of heavy rain. It submerged 50 rai of rubber and oil palm plantations and fruit orchards. It completely destroyed two houses, badly damaged two others and slightly damaged another 15. Krabi deputy governor Chai Panitchpornphan said the province would help all affected families and warned people against approaching the mountain. He said the mountain was almost 20km from the well-known tourist spot Nang Bay so there was no cause for alarm there.

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: This year's drought has damaged over three million rai of ricefields in Buri Ram province, and relief budget delays forced many residents of drought-stricken areas in neighbouring Nakhon Ratchasima to leave home in search of jobs in Bangkok. Narongrit Onchoi, chief of Buri Ram's agriculture office, said the drought caused damage to about 3.2 million rai of ricefields in all 21 districts and two subdistricts of the province. About 200,000 rai in Na Pho, Muang, Krasang, Lam Plai Mat and Ban Mai Chai Pot districts were hit hardest. An artificial rain-making centre was recently set up at Buri Ram airport in Satuk district. So far, about 30 flights had been made to produce rain in the five hardest-hit districts, he said. In Nakhon Ratchasima, the drought was widespread in Kham Sakae Saeng and Khong districts and Pra Thong Kham subdistrict where there had been no rain for more than four months. The drought affected vast areas of farmland in the province, including 80% of a total of about 90,000 rai of ricefields and plantations in Kham Sakae Saeng where farmers depended solely on rainwater. District authorities were trying to help by diverting water from tambon Chivik. Nakhon Ratchasima MP Somchai Chatpattanasiri said the drought forced many farmers in the three districts to leave home for jobs in Bangkok, as the province was still waiting for a 70-million-baht relief budget approved last year to arrive.

**TURKEY, GREECE AND BULGARIA**

London, Oct 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Eight months following the tragedy with general cargo *Hera*, which had 17 Bulgarian sailors onboard, Turkish marine authorities have not delivered the report over the accident. Under general practice of the International Marine Organisation (IMO), the investigative report and conclusions by the ship-flagged marine administration over the reasons of *Hera* sinking should have been ready and sent to IMO's headquarters within 60 days after the sea accident. Cambodia has reportedly granted its right of investigation to Turkey, as the shipwreck of Feb 13 occurred in Turkish territorial waters.

**TYPHOON "NOCK-TEN"**

London, Oct 17 — A press report, dated Oct 18, states: Tropical Storm "Nock-Ten" rolled slowly across eastern Micronesia yesterday. National Weather Service meteorologist Carl McElroy said "Nock-Ten" is a small, compact storm, meaning that if it approaches close to Guam, it could bring vicious winds, but if it takes even a slight turn to the south, Guam may, at worst, get some heavy rains and winds. As of around 1700, yesterday, the forecast closest point of approach was around 2200, yesterday, and about 75 miles south of Guam. But McElroy warned that since the storm was still more than 72 hours away, that could change drastically." As of 1900, yesterday, the storm was already packing maximum sustained winds of 65 mph and was moving westward at 7 mph. It was forecast to intensify slowly. The storm was threatening other Micronesian islands, and a tropical storm warning was in effect for the island of Fananu, and a tropical storm watch was in effect for Ulul, in the Hall Islands of Chuuk state in the Federated States of Micronesia. London, Oct 19 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Nock-Ten" was located near lat 09.7N, long 148.0E, approximately 280 nautical miles south-east of Guam and has tracked westward, or 270 degs, at five knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 90 knots, gusts 110 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 25 nautical miles in all four quadrants. The maximum significant wave height at is 22 feet. At 0600, UTC, Oct 20, the centre is predicted to be near lat 10.8N, long 144.9E, with maximum sustained winds of 110 knots and gusts to 135 knots.

London, Oct 20 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Nock-Ten" was located near lat 11.6N, long 144.0E, movement past six hours 310 deg at 14 knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on the centre located by combination of satellite and radar. Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds 95 knots, gusts 115 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 25 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 1800, UTC, centre is predicted to be near lat 13.2N, long 142.1E, with maximum sustained winds of 100 knots and gusts to 125 knots.

London, Oct 21 — Following received from Reuters, dated today: Typhoon "Nock-ten" is forecast to strike Japan at about 1600, GMT, Oct 25. Data supplied by the US Navy and Air Force Joint Typhoon Warning Center suggest that the point of landfall will be near lat 24.1 N, long 124.3 E. "Nock-ten" is expected to bring 1-minute maximum sustained winds to the region of around 157 km/hr. Wind gusts in the area may be considerably higher. According to the Saffir-Simpson damage scale the potential property damage and flooding



from a storm of “Nock-ten’s” strength (category 2) at landfall includes: Storm surge generally 1.8-2.4 metres above normal. There is also the potential for flooding further inland due to heavy rain.

London, Oct 21 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon “Nock-Ten” near lat 13.7N, long 139.2E, at 0600, UTC, Oct 21. Movement past six hours 285 deg at 14 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 95 knots with gusts to 115 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 25 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 20 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 15 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 55 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 30 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 25 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 160 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 120 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 100 nautical miles north-east quadrant and 80 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 15.3N, long 137.6E. Maximum sustained winds 95 knots with gusts to 115 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 30 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 20 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 25 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 55 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 35 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 40 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 150 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 120 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 110 nautical miles north-east quadrant and 95 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Oct 22: Position lat 16.5N, long 136.1E. Maximum sustained winds 100 knots with gusts to 125 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 30 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 60 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 50 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 45 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 140 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 120 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 115 nautical miles north-east quadrant and 110 nautical miles north-west quadrant.

#### **TYPHOON “SONGDA”**

Moji, Oct 21 — The wreck removal work of general cargo *Blue Ocean*, which sank off Hatsukaichi on Sep 7, was commenced last week and it will take about one month for completion. — Lloyd’s Agents.

#### **TYPHOON “TOKAGE”**

London, Oct 15 — Following received from Reuters, dated today: Typhoon “Tokage” is forecast to strike Taiwan at about 0001, UTC, on Oct 20. Data supplied by the US Navy and Air Force Joint Typhoon Warning Centre suggests that the point of landfall will be near lat 22.3N, long 121.9 E. “Tokage” is expected to bring one-minute maximum sustained winds to the region of around 222 km/hr. Wind gusts in the area may be considerably higher. (See issue of Oct 15.)

London, Oct 16 — Following received from Reuters, dated today, states: Typhoon “Tokage” is forecast to strike Japan at about 1200, GMT, Oct 19.

Data supplied by the US Navy and Air Force Joint Typhoon Warning Centre suggest that the point of landfall will be near lat 25.9N, long 128.6E. “Tokage” is expected to bring one-minute maximum sustained winds to the region of around 185 km/hr. Wind gusts in the area may be considerably higher. — Reuters.

London, Oct 17 — A press report, dated today, states: The Central Weather Bureau, closely monitoring Typhoon “Tokage”, reports the chances of directly hitting Taiwan are decreasing. According to bureau forecasters, Typhoon “Tokage”, which has been in the Pacific Ocean since Oct 12, was centred about 880 kilometres south-southeast of Okinawa at 1030, today. The storm is moving northwesterly toward Taiwan at a speed of 18 kilometres per hour. It was packing maximum sustained winds of up to 154 kilometres per hour. The weather bureau is not expected to issue any warnings for “Tokage” today or tomorrow unless the typhoon hastens its pace and moves more westerly towards Taiwan, bureau meteorologists said. The forecasters said they’ll be monitoring how the northeastern trade winds coming from the north influence the typhoon’s course over the following days, adding that the typhoon is expected to bring tremendous amounts of rainfall to Taiwan in the following couple of days regardless of whether or not it hits the island directly.

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Japan is expected to be battered once again by a powerful typhoon this week. Typhoon “Tokage” is about 390 kilometres south-east of Miyako island in the Pacific region, with winds of 144 kilometres per hour. Japan’s meteorological agency says the typhoon is moving north-west at a speed of 20 kilometres per hour, and is forecast to hit southwestern Japanese islands, including Okinawa, as early as tomorrow.

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon “Tokage” is moving slowly towards Japan today, lashing the Okinawa islands with heavy rain and high winds as it headed north, threatening the country’s main islands with the second typhoon in less than two weeks. Packing winds of up to 144 kilometers an hour at its centre, “Tokage” was expected to hit southern Japan tomorrow, making it a record 10th typhoon to make landfall in Japan this year. Most schools in Okinawa were closed, NHK national television said, and around 100 flights had been cancelled. Some ferry services were also suspended. As of 0700 hrs (2200, UTC, Oct 18), the storm was located about 220 km south southwest of Naha, the capital of Okinawa prefecture, some 1,600 km southwest of Tokyo. It was moving north-north-east at 15 km an hour. Around 300 mm of rain was forecast to fall in some parts of western Japan by 0600 hrs, tomorrow (2100, UTC, Oct 19).

London, Oct 19 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon “Tokage” was located near lat 25.9N, long 127.9E,

approximately 20 nautical miles south-south-east of Okinawa, Japan, and has tracked north-northeastward, or 30 degs, at 13 knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 75 knots, gusts 90 knots. Radius of 64 kt winds: 40 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant over water, 40 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants and 25 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant over water. The maximum significant wave height is 34 feet. At 0600, UTC, Oct 20, the centre is predicted to be near lat 31.9N, long 132.1E, with maximum sustained winds of 55 knots and gusts to 70 knots, becoming extratropical.

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon “Tokage” engulfed the vicinity of Okinawa’s main island today as it moved northward from Okinawa’s capital Naha, injuring six people and paralyzing public transportation. As of 1900 hrs, the season’s 23rd typhoon was keeping its strength while moving north-northeast at about 30 kilometres per hour near Naha. Okinawa’s main island was experiencing winds of 90 km per hour or more.

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon “Tokage” left at least four people missing and 20 injured today as it raked southern Kyushu on a projected course for western Japan. “Tokage” paralysed railway and airline services mainly in western Japan and affected other public transport, both domestic and international. It is expected to make landfall in Shikoku or western Honshu in the afternoon and may sweep over Japan’s largest main island, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. As of 1300, local time, “Tokage” was located about 100 kilometres east-south-east of the city of Miyazaki and moving north-northeast at 45 kilometres-per-hour.

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon “Tokage” landed on Kochi Prefecture today after leaving two people dead, at least six missing and more than 30 injured as it raked the southwest while churning north. A total of 471 domestic flights had been cancelled as of noon, affecting some 44,000 passengers. Thirty-eight bullet train runs were cancelled and 15 other train services were delayed on the Sanyo Shinkansen Line, inconveniencing about 27,000, operators said. The typhoon, which at about 1300 hrs landed around Tosashimizu, Kochi, is expected to sweep Honshu later today through tomorrow morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. Many areas across Japan were hit by downpours and strong winds due to “Tokage”. The weather agency warned of continued rough weather and winds of 90 kilometres per hour or more. As of 1300 hrs, “Tokage” was moving north-northeast at 45 kph from the Tosashimizu area. It had an atmospheric pressure of 950 hectopascals, packing winds of up to 144 kph near its centre. Under strong



winds, c.c. *OOCL Seto* (4882 gt, built 1992) ran aground on Kakeroma Island, Kagoshima Prefecture, early today. No injuries were reported among the 16 Filipino crew members, the Japan Coast Guard said. At around 0500 hrs passenger *ro/ro Shuri* (9813 gt, built 2002) stranded on Uma Island in the Seto Inland Sea off Imabari, Ehime Prefecture. None of the 12 crew members was injured.

London, Oct 20 — Following navigation warning issued at 1131, JST, today: Stranded vessel, Onomichi Coast Guard office local warning No. 23: *Seto Naikai*, Omi Shima, approach north of Hyotan Shima: Stranded passenger *ro/ro Shuri* removed.

London, Oct 20 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Tokage" was located near lat 33.1N, long 133.3E, movement past six hours 030 deg at 20 knots. Position accurate to within 55 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite and radar. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 40 nautical miles in the north-east and 30 nautical miles south-west and north-west. At 1800, UTC, centre is predicted to be near lat 36N, long 138E, with maximum sustained winds of 40 knots and gusts to 50 knots, becoming extratropical.

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 11 people were killed and 62 injured as the biggest typhoon to hit Japan for more than a decade battered the south of the country with heavy rain and powerful winds, officials said. Typhoon "Tokage", which also left eight people missing, became a record 10th typhoon to land on the main Japanese islands in the past year. The storms have claimed at least 113 lives. Nearly 500 domestic flights were cancelled, affecting 44,000 passengers, and tens of thousands of homes lost electricity as the typhoon raced northeast at 50km an hour, with Tokyo in its sights overnight. The downpour was heavy enough for the Central Japan Railway Co. to cancel the bullet train between Tokyo and Osaka. With an 800km radius of powerful winds, Tokage is the biggest typhoon to land in Japan since the Meteorological Agency began its classification system in 1991. A police statement said 11 people were killed and 62 injured across Japan. The typhoon hit land 700km south-west of Tokyo in Kochi prefecture, where a 20m-high dike gave way at Muroto due to high waves, destroying several houses. "At least three bodies were found in the area. There might be more," a local police official said. Among the other eight killed, a 31-year-old man was found dead near a flooded river in Miyazaki prefecture after his vehicle skidded at a bridge, police said. Packing wind speeds of 144km/h, Typhoon "Tokage" triggered landslides and sent objects flying. Among the injured were four people trapped in an office building which was crushed in Oita, a 68-year-old man in Saga Prefecture who fell from his roof while fixing it and an 83-year-old woman who fell and broke her

thigh. Authorities have issued evacuation warnings to 17,434 people who live mainly in southern Japan. By this afternoon, 4250 people had voluntarily left for temporary shelters, the disaster agency said. In the southern island of Kyushu 45,300 households lost power, while 29,713 lost electricity in neighbouring Shikoku.

Lonsdon, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 21 people were dead yesterday as massive Typhoon "Tokage" churned north across the Japanese archipelago after hitting Kochi Prefecture. The typhoon made landfall near Tosashimizu, Kochi Prefecture, around 1300, and advanced through the main island of Honshu later in the day, leaving at least 25 missing and some 200 injured, the Meteorological Agency said. The season's 23rd typhoon became the record 10th to make landfall on the archipelago in one season. Many areas nationwide were swamped by downpours and strong winds due to "Tokage." October rainfall in Tokyo topped 570 mm, rewriting the monthly record set in 1945. A 31-year-old man was found dead after driving into a river in the city of Miyazaki. Two men separately fixing their roofs in Nagasaki and Ehime prefectures fell to their deaths. In Tosashimizu, one of five fishermen who were washed away by waves while moving their boats was later found dead. In Muroto, Kochi Prefecture, an elderly couple and a man died when their houses were demolished by high waves, according to local authorities. The torrential rains also triggered landslides around the country. A 24-year-old woman in Ehime Prefecture suffocated after her house was buried in a landslide around midday. A man who fell into a flooded canal in Miyazaki Prefecture was found dead, as was a newspaper delivery man in Oita Prefecture who apparently fell into a river. Among the missing were two fishermen who were washed away by high waves in Chiba Prefecture. Under strong winds, c.c. *OOCL Seto* ran aground on Kakeroma Island, Kagoshima Prefecture, early yesterday. No injuries were reported among the 16 Filipino crew members, according to the Japan Coast Guard, who said the vessel was pulled to safety in the afternoon and plans to continue on to its destination of Hong Kong as early as today. The Japanese passenger *ro/ro Shuri* meanwhile became stranded around 0500 on Uma Island in the Seto Inland Sea off Imabari, Ehime Prefecture. None of the 12 crew was injured. The typhoon also wreaked havoc with air and land transportation. A total of 874 domestic flights had been canceled as of 1800, affecting about 103,000 passengers in what could be the largest number of cancellations in a single day this year due to a typhoon. On the Tokaido Shinkansen Line linking Tokyo and Osaka, all bullet train services were halted at 1547 due to heavy rain, operator East Japan Railway Co. said. The trains resumed operations at 1910. Thirty-eight bullet train runs were cancelled and 15 other train services were delayed on the

Sanyo Shinkansen Line as of noon, affecting about 27,000 people, operators said. Some trains on the Kyushu Shinkansen Line were also cancelled. Utilities firms said that some 110,000 homes in the Kinki, Chugoku and Shikoku regions temporarily lost power due to the typhoon. The Hyogo Prefectural Government issued a request in the afternoon for the Ground Self-Defense Force to be dispatched to provide emergency disaster assistance in the city of Sumoto, located on Awaji Island in the Seto Inland Sea. The Sumoto River, which runs through the city, threatened to overflow, prefectural officials said. Some 100 troops responded to the call. Obama in Fukui Prefecture also issued an evacuation order to some 11,000 households because many rivers in the city were feared to flood.

London, Oct 21 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0120, UTC: Passenger *ro/ro Shuri* grounded in lat 34 06.77N, long 132 59.72E at 0505, JST, Oct 20, all crew safe. Vessel refloated at 1131, JST. C.c. *OOCL Seto* grounded in lat 28 10N, long 129 15E at 0030, JST, Oct 20, all crew safe. Vessel refloated at 1145, JST.

Moji, Oct 21 — Passenger *ro/ro Shuri*, while proceeding in Kurushima Kaikyo for sheltering from Typhoon No. 23, grounded off Imabari in lat 34 06.7N, long 132 59.7E, at about 0505, Oct 20. At about 1131 hours, the same day, the vessel was refloated by Fukada Salvage & Marine Works Co., Ltd. Bow thruster room has been flooded but no human casualty or oil pollution were reported. C.c. *OOCL Seto*, while sheltering from Typhoon No. 23 at Satsukawa Bay in Amami-Oshima, grounded in lat 28 10.21N, long 129 15.28E, at about 0030, Oct 20. At about 1130, the same day, the vessel was refloated by Nippon Salvage Co., Ltd. and divers' examination revealed that bottom plating was locally set in and scratched, but no fractures noted. The vessel resumed the voyage. No human casualty was reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Tokage" left about 30 people dead, 40 missing and more than 250 injured after passing through Japan from yesterday afternoon to this morning, wreaking havoc on public transportation services across the country. Rescue workers and Japanese troops mounted a search for at least 39 people still missing, digging through mud and debris and combing flooded rivers, Japanese media reported. Public broadcaster NHK said the combined deaths and missing were the highest in 16 years. In Kyoto, rescuers on motor boats and helicopters plucked all 36 passengers and a driver from a tourist bus after rising floodwaters had nearly submerged the vehicle early today, police said. "The death toll is likely to keep rising, as we take stock of the damage," National Police Agency spokesman Kojun Chibana said. At least 238 people had been injured, police spokesman Chibana said. Television footage showed powerful gusts uprooting huge trees, flash floods submerging cars to their

windows and entire hillsides crumbling away in landslides across southern and central Japan. Delivery trucks, tipped over by winds, lay on their sides. Today, concrete frames, wood splinters and electrical appliances were all that was left of homes in Muroto in southwestern Kochi prefecture, where massive waves broke through concrete tidebreaks and smashed into beachside properties. In large areas of western and southern Japan, neighbourhoods and farmlands were still under water. Nationwide, more than 7,000 homes were flooded and hundreds of others ripped apart or buried, Chibana said. Several Japanese oil refiners were forced to halt sea deliveries of oil products from their refineries in western Japan due to heavy rain and strong winds. The suspension was unlikely to affect domestic supply because the oil refiners have sufficient stocks of refined products to cover emergencies such as typhoons and earthquakes.

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Antonina Nezhdanova* (4254 gt, built 1978) has been badly damaged by a typhoon in Japan's Fushiki port. It has developed a 50-degree port side list and lowered to the bottom off the pier. Typhoon "Tokage" smashed the Russian vessel belonging to the Far Eastern Shipping Company against the concrete pier last night. The vessel's hull cracked and was promptly flooded. According to the rescue and co-ordination centre in Vladivostok there were 44 passengers and 68 crewmembers on board. All were promptly taken to safety. Nobody was hurt. Before Typhoon "Tokage" approached Fushiki the Russian master had asked the port authorities for a tugboat that would take the vessel to the open sea. For some reason the tugboat failed to be provided, the Vladivostok-based rescue centre said. The vessel left Vladivostok on Oct 16 and was expected to return on Oct 22.

Tokyo, Oct 21 — Japan's deadliest typhoon in more than a decade has killed at least 55 people, officials say as rescuers search frantically for 33 still missing in floods and landslides. Many people died in landslides set off by the heavy rains from Typhoon "Tokage" that pounded much of Japan yesterday. Others died in flooding or were swept away by massive waves as "Tokage" roared northeast. The typhoon moved out into the Pacific early today and was downgraded to a tropical depression soon after. A total of 167 people, including 102 trainees aged around 20, were being slowly taken to shore from their ship, training *Kaiwo Maru* (2879 gt, built 1989), which ran aground on a breakwater in the middle of the storm. Three suffered injuries such as broken wrists. The ship was waiting out the typhoon at Toyama when 144 km an hour winds and high seas swept it onto the breakwater, said an official at the National Institute for Sea Training, its operator. A Coast Guard official said: "Waves were crashing onto the deck, making it impossible for the crew and trainees to get out themselves." Most of the areas hit by landslides were rural, and in many cases the houses were

clustered just under steep slopes, a typical situation in mountainous Japan. The storm sideswiped Tokyo, buffeting the city with strong winds and rain, before heading out to sea. It was downgraded to a tropical depression at around 0900 today. — Reuters.

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: The management of the Japanese port of Fushiki where the Russian passenger *Antonina Nezhdanova* "sank" yesterday evening, failed to offer a tug to tow the vessel to high seas where it was safer to weather typhoon "Tokage," Tass learnt today from the vessel's master at the Russian consulate-general in Niigata. According to the master, the Japanese side notified the Russian vessel that there were no tugs at the Fushiki port at that time. A Japanese pilot came to the ship and said that there was no need to tow away the vessel from the shore and that "nothing dreadful will happen". The master's words echo an earlier version from the Vladivostok sea rescue centre. The vessel dashed against a pier during the typhoon. When it was holed, water gushed inside the ship and then it started listing. As many as 112 passengers and crewmembers were urgently evacuated. None of them was injured. All of them were later accommodated at passenger *Russ*, moored nearby. It also belongs to the Far Eastern Shipping Line. The damaged Russian ship now lies on the sea-bed with a list of 70-80 degrees to the port side. The question is now mullied over what to do with the vessel.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Strong winds during severe weather in Central Florida today damaged several homes and flipped aircrafts at an airport. Orange County Fire Rescue spokesman Bill Murphy said six homes sustained wind damage at the Deerwood Mobile Home Park near 1575 Pell Street. The damage happened at the same location where several residents reported seeing a tornado touch down. The tornado reports were not confirmed. There were also no reports of injuries. Strong winds also damaged aircraft at Orlando Executive Airport. Authorities said a small aircraft was lifted and thrown on top of another aircraft during the storm. Several other aircraft were also damaged. A 60 mph wind gust was reported at the airport during the storm.

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated Oct 18, states: Violent weather in Arkansas has left at least 11 people injured and thousands without power. A storm line produced at least two tornados that caused extensive damage in Saline and Pulaski counties. Thunderstorms dropped heavy rain in some areas. Authorities say more than 7500 lost power. Melissa Nelson, A-P correspondent, reports a line of strong storms began moving through Arkansas early this morning.

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated Oct 18, states: Driving rain and high wind caused heavy damage and injured at least 10 people today as

storms moved through Arkansas, knocking out power to thousands of customers, authorities said. Near the town of Sardis, Fire Chief Rick Morris said about 45 structures were damaged or destroyed. Several tornados were reported. Twisted metal and insulation from destroyed mobile homes sat in the top of trees.

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated Oct 18, states: More than two dozen aircraft at the Stuttgart Municipal Airport were hit by high winds causing millions of dollars in damage. Airport Manager, Carl Humphrey says they have 25 to 30 aircraft at the airport and only one was left untouched. A 16-thousand pound jet was even lifted up and moved by the winds. That aircraft alone was worth \$3.4 million dollars. Donald Dierks was in Little Rock when the storm hit. He rushed to Stuttgart only to find his aircraft upside down.

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated Oct 19, states: Heavy rains in northern California knocked out power to at least 144,000 customers today and forced the evacuation of 200 residents. The unusually early winter storm was concentrated over Napa and Sonoma counties north of San Francisco, where winds gusted to nearly 60 mph and some hilly and mountainous regions received more than a half-inch of rain per hour. About 200 residents in hamlets along the South Fork of the American River were told to clear out Sunday because authorities feared mudslides could occur on hillsides cleared of vegetation by fires. Pacific Gas & Electric Co. said most of the power outages were in pockets across northern California. Officials said the storm was headed toward southern California, where up to six inches of rain were expected in some areas. Emergency crews were bracing for potential flooding and mud and rock slides, particularly in areas ravaged by last October's disastrous wildfires.

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated Oct 20, states: A fierce storm that swept through California, killing at least three people, pounded the southern part of the state today, sending mud and floodwaters gushing, downing trees, caving in roofs and drenching streets and highways. The storm dumped more than two inches of rain in downtown Los Angeles and more than 10 inches on Mount Baldy. The downpour was strongest before dawn but eased during the day. Overnight, pooling rain partially collapsed roofs of at least a half-dozen businesses and an apartment building in Los Angeles and Orange counties; no injuries were reported. In central California, a tornado was spotted near the town of Dinuba, the National Weather Service reported. In the central Sierra, rescuers struggled against 50-mph winds through four-foot-deep snow as they searched for 10 missing hikers, including a group of four who vanished on Sunday (Oct 17) and a couple who disappeared during a day hike yesterday. Meanwhile, two Japanese climbers were found dead in Yosemite National Park after heavy



snow and winds prevented a helicopter search yesterday. In Southern California, two pipelines sending gasoline and jet fuel to Phoenix and Las Vegas were shut down because of the severe weather. Officials worried about gas shortages in those markets if the pipelines had to remain offline for an extended time. A spokesman for Kinder Morgan, which operates the pipelines, said it was unclear when they could be turned back on. The first heavy rain of autumn hit particularly hard in the foothill and mountain areas. In the Angeles National Forest, the body of a 19-year-old security guard was discovered this afternoon about half a mile from where he was swept away after his truck slipped into a wash while he was on patrol. North-east of Los Angeles, in the foothill town of Altadena, firefighters commandeered wheelchairs to lug sandbags to keep a nursing home from being flooded. In northern Los Angeles County, residents of 150 mobile homes in the Newhall area were stranded overnight until a bulldozer showed up to move three feet of mud from their access road. The area is not far from foothills that burned in a summer wildfire. "It was a flash flood, really," county fire Capt. Mark Savage told KABC-TV. "All the water that came from the burn area ... all that water had no place to go." In the San Bernardino Mountains, where hundreds of thousands of acres of forest land burned last autumn, heavy rain sent floodwaters gushing across roadways, carrying tons of mud with it. Near Crestline, falling trees took down power lines, fell into two homes and made roads hazardous. Rushing water also made roads impassable near Lytle Creek. Farther inland, Interstate 15, the main highway between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, was shut down for hours after at least 27 vehicles collided in afternoon dense fog in the Cajon Pass in San Bernardino County. No major injuries were reported. In the same area, flash flooding left a field of boulders over a road, stranding several dozen homeowners in the Devore area. Morning Metrolink commuter service from Riverside and San Bernardino to Los Angeles was halted after water covered tracks. Buses were used to ferry commuters. Some people had to be rescued after their cars and trucks were submerged to the door handles along a flooded road in Rancho Cucamonga, where soggy ground collapsed at a mobile home park, opening up a widening sinkhole under a trailer. Water also poured in to the top floor of the Barcelona Apartment Hotel in downtown San Diego, prompting the manager to evacuate numerous apartments.

## Earthquakes



### BANDA SEA

London, Oct 14 — A report, dated Oct 13, states: A moderate earthquake

occurred at 2035, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.7 event has been located in the Banda Sea in lat 06.05S, long 130.55E, depth 117 km.

### CHINA

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake shook south-western China today, injuring five people and damaging about 20,000 homes, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. The magnitude-5 quake struck the densely populated city of Baoshan in Yunnan province, the agency said. Of the five people who were reported injured, one was hurt seriously, it said. About 20,000 homes were damaged and some of them collapsed, it said. Several school dormitories were damaged as well, it added.

### FIJI

London, Oct 13 — A report, dated Oct 12, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1529, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located in the Fiji region in lat 17.16S, long 174.45E, depth 21 km. The hypocentral depth was poorly constrained.

### JAPAN

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong offshore earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.6 shook southern Japan today. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The quake, which struck at 1309 hrs, today, was centred some 90 kilometres below the ocean floor near Yonaguni Island, which lies between Okinawa and Taiwan, about 2,000 kilometres south-west of Tokyo, the Meteorological Agency said. There were no reports of injuries or structural damage, according to Okinawa Prefectural Police. They said the quake, which occurred deep below the ocean floor, was not felt in Okinawa's prefectural capital of Naha. The Meteorological Agency said there was no threat of tsunami.

London, Oct 19 — A report, dated Oct 16, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1854, UTC, Oct 16. The magnitude 5.8 event has been located near the east coast of Honshu, Japan, in lat 36.22N, long 141.29E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 50 km.

### PHILIPPINES

London, Oct 13 — A report, dated Oct 11, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0637, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.8 event has been located in Mindanao, Philippines, in lat 05.37N, long 126.41E, depth 21 km. The hypocentral depth was poorly constrained.

### SAMOA ISLANDS

London, Oct 13 — A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 2203, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.7 event has been located in the Samoa Islands region in lat 17.84S, long 175.13W, depth 10 km.

### TAIWAN

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake

measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale rocked Taiwan today, the Central Weather Bureau said. The quake struck at 1308, AEST, with an epicentre 109km north-east of Suao along the north-eastern coast. Its focus was 58km below sea level. It was measured at 5.0 on the Richter scale in eastern Ilan and Hualien counties and 4.0 in the capital Taipei. No immediate damage was reported.

London, Oct 16 — A report, dated Oct 15, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 0408, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.7 event has been located in the Taiwan region in lat 24.51N, long 122.67E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 96 km.

### VANUATU

London, Oct 13 — A report, dated Oct 11, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1814, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.9 event has been located in Vanuatu in lat 17.30N, long 167.82E, depth 25 km.



### MOUNT SOPUTAN, INDONESIA

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A volcano in Indonesia's northern-most province has begun spewing smoke, ash and potentially deadly heat clouds with temperatures as high as 600 degrees Celsius, officials have said. Mount Soputan in the North Sulawesi province sprang into life yesterday, throwing up smoke to a height of up to 400 metres said Yudi Juhara from the nearby volcano observation centre in Tomohon. He said that the top of the crater had been enveloped by clouds and only upper parts of the smoke column could be seen. "It has also been spewing heat clouds but we have not been able to see how far down the slope they have gone as the top of the mountain is still shrouded," he said. Heat clouds have temperatures of up to 600 degrees Celsius and burn all that lies in their path. So far there has been no report of casualty or damage. Mr Juhara said that the status of the 1,830 metre-high volcano had been raised to above normal yesterday, but added that tremors that usually accompany an eruption had become less frequent, indicating decreased activities.

### MOUNT ST. HELENS, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Molten rock has bubbled to the surface at Mount St. Helen's, the US volcano that has kept scientists on alert for a possible eruption for three weeks, experts said today. Palls of steam rose out of the crater on Tuesday and yesterday as the peak in northwestern Washington state vented as lava rose to the surface to formed a new dome, the experts said. US media showed images of glowing red

lava rising to the surface of the volcano. "We have magma on the surface and are entering a new period of dome growth on the mountain when it's common to have periods of quiet lava explosions," said Samantha Magsino of the Washington Geological Survey. The US Geological Survey said the lava was at a very shallow level following intense activity in the mountain for almost three weeks. "Abundant steam continued to rise from the fin area to the crater rim, from which it was dispersed southeastward by strong winds," the USGS said on its website. But earthquake activity around the peak remained at low levels, indicating that an eruption was not imminent, scientists said.

## Political & Civil Unrest



### AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, Oct 16 — Two U.S. soldiers were killed and three wounded by a roadside bomb while on patrol in the southern Afghan province of Uruzgan, a U.S. military spokesman said today. They were the first U.S. soldiers to die in Afghanistan since last week's historic presidential election and brought the number of U.S. military personnel killed since an operation to drive out the Taliba and al Qaeda was launched three years ago to 102. The bomb exploded northwest of Deh Rawood, 400 km south-west of the capital, Kabul, on Thursday (Oct 14). The military were unsure who was behind the attack, Major Mark McCann said, but Uruzgan is the home province of fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar. Millions of Afghan voted in the presidential election, braving threats of violence from the Taliban and its hardline Islamist allies. While the high turnout was regarded as an overwhelming success for Afghanistan's political transition, the absence of any major incident was also seen as a triumph for the U.S., Afghan, and NATO-led security forces. Counting began on Thursday and could take three weeks to complete, but early returns showed President Hamid Karzai, who has led an interim government since the fall of the Taliban militia in 2001, had struck an early lead. — Reuters.

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated Oct 17, states: Seven people, including three children and two US soldiers, have been killed in Afghanistan in a surge of violence. When a truck carrying supplies to US troops was set alight 125km east of Kabul, a crowd including children gathered to watch. It was then that a bomb exploded, apparently triggered by a remote device. Three children were killed as well as an Afghan policeman who had arrived at the scene to investigate the fire. In Uruzgan province, two US soldiers were killed and three were wounded in a landmine

blast targeting a US patrol. A separate landmine blast killed an Afghan soldier in western Herat.

Kabul, Oct 21 — A roadside bomb exploded in southern Afghanistan, wounding three U.S. soldiers and an Afghan interpreter, the U.S. military said today. The blast destroyed the two Humvees in which they were traveling in the Neka district of Paktika province on Afghanistan's southeastern border with Pakistan. One of the soldiers was in critical condition and one was seriously wounded, a U.S. military spokesperson in Kabul said. — Reuters.

### BURUNDI

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated Oct 15, states: Elections in Burundi, scheduled under a peace accord to take place by Nov 1 after years of civil war, will now take place in April. President Domitien Ndayizeye made the announcement after a meeting with mediating regional leaders in Kenya. The timetable for a new constitution has slipped due to disputes over power sharing between the Hutu majority and Tutsi minority. A referendum to agree the constitution was to be held before an election. It will now be held in November, the transitional president said on his return to the capital, Bujumbura. He had been discussing the new election timetable with heads of state from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Somalia and South African Deputy President Jacob Zuma. The leaders said they took their decision to postpone the polls on advice from Burundi's electoral commission. Under a power-sharing deal signed in August, the Tutsi minority will have 40% of government and national assembly posts, compared to 60% for Hutus. This deal is intended to form the basis for the new constitution. But the Tutsis want the presidency and vice presidency to alternate between the two communities. Burundi's ambassador to Kenya, Stanislas Nsabuwanka, says another reason for the delay is the failure to find accommodation for many thousands of former Hutu rebels into the Tutsi-dominated army.

### COLOMBIA

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A total of six individuals were injured as a bomb was set off at the facilities of the Colombian Construction Chamber (Camacol) in the northeastern city of Medellin, said local authorities yesterday. Calling the accident a "terrorist attack," Civil Defense official of the department of Antioquia John Aristizabal said it was yet to know who was responsible for it. Director of the Municipal System of Disaster Management and Prevention Mauricio Faciolince said the victims had been moved to medical centres for treatment. They are only "lightly injured," he said, adding that damages to the facilities were not serious. Police sources said the explosion occurred on the first floor of the building where the Camacol office is located, along with other institutions.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Kinshasa, Oct 15 — Heavily armed gunmen have seized a town and nearby copper mine in southeastern Congo, aid workers and government officials said yesterday. The attack on Kilwa, a town on the edge of Lake Moero which borders Congo's Katanga province and Zambia, prompted international mining company Anvil to evacuate staff from its mine, U.N. officials and an industry source said. "We have been told by aid agencies on the ground that heavily armed men last night marched into and took the town of Kilwa," Alexandre Essome, a spokesman for Congo's United Nations mission, said by phone from Katanga's capital Lubumbashi. "There was some shooting but we don't know if anyone was killed," he added. "But the staff from the mine have been evacuated." Essome said the identity of the gunmen had not yet been confirmed but they were thought to include local militias and Katangan Tigers, rebels who have fought for secession in southeastern Congo. Anvil said operations had been halted at the mine and about 30 of its senior and expatriate staff had been evacuated after about 50 to 100 rebels seized the site. "I think they're just a disaffected group of people. No one seems to know where they've come from," said Anvil Chief Executive William Turner, in Australia. "They clearly don't have any issues with the expatriates at Dikulushi, they don't have any issues with the company or the mine, and they've actually stated that," he added. Anvil said about 500 of its staff remained at the mine and operations were expected to resume by Monday (Oct 18). A mining industry source said the Congolese army was planning to confront the attackers. "These were Portuguese-speaking soldiers who came into town last night. The government forces ran away," the source said. "Anvil has evacuated their staff but the Congolese army is due to go in to resolve the problem tomorrow." The Democratic Republic of Congo's transitional government confirmed the attack but played down its importance. "Yes, there was an attack but it is not too serious and at the moment is still limited to the area near the border," government spokesman Henri Mova Sakanyi said. "The situation is still fluid but the army is taking steps to get it under control," he added.

Kinshasa, Oct 16 — Congolese forces have retaken a southeastern town from a mysterious armed group and killed 30 of the rebels, a provincial governor said today. The gunmen took the town of Kilwa earlier this week, prompting an international company running a nearby copper and silver mine to suspend operations and evacuate some staff. "Soldiers advanced on the rebels and retook the town yesterday. The situation is calm and the town is under the control of the loyalist troops," Kisulu Ngoy, the governor of Katanga province, told Reuters. "There was fighting yesterday and 30 rebels were killed. We captured six of the rebels," he said by phone from the provincial



capital Lubumbashi, adding 10 civilians had drowned in a nearby river as they tried to escape the fighting. The rest of the rebels, thought to number about 100, fled into the bush, Ngoy said. The group's attack caused alarm in Congo's capital Kinshasa as reports suggested some of the gunmen could be Katangan Tigers, a feared group which fought for secession in the south in the 1960s and later fled to former Portuguese colony Angola. Ngoy said that some of the gunmen had demanded independence for Katanga but many had been young men recruited in the town after it was seized on Thursday (Oct 14). Authorities should have a better idea of who the gunmen were after interrogating the captured fighters, a government spokesman said. — Reuters.

### INDIA

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A general strike shut down most shops and businesses across India's troubled northeastern Manipur state today, a day after a policeman allegedly shot and killed the brother of a top politician, police said. The streets of the state capital, Imphal, were largely deserted as residents stayed home to protest the killing, said J. C. Dabas, Manipur state's deputy police chief. Yesterday, a policeman allegedly shot Sanajaoba Singh with his pistol after he refused to allow a police car to overtake his motor scooter on a highway. The Telegraph newspaper said. Singh, 41, is the brother of former state Chief Minister R.K. Jaichandra Singh. The policeman allegedly involved in the shooting has been suspended from duty pending a probe, Dabas said. Angry protesters blocked roads yesterday and called for a 24-hour general strike, beginning this morning. The Apunba Lup, an umbrella group of students and activists of human rights and women's groups supported the strike call in a statement yesterday night.

### INDONESIA

London, Oct 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Tension was still high today in a village in Aralle district, some 400 kilometres from the South Sulawesi capital of Makassar, after two people were reported killed and dozens of homes burned down in a communal clash over a dispute on the formation of a new regency there. Hundreds of residents fled North Aralle village, now officially part of the recently established province of West Sulawesi, after it was hit by two days of renewed conflict on Friday (Oct 15), officials said. Polewali Mamasa Regent Ali Baal confirmed that some 1,000 residents had fled the riot-torn village to neighbouring Natula village, Mambi district, while hundreds of police officers evicted the attackers and reestablished control of North Aralle.

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: After two days of relative calm, violence broke out again in Aralle district, Mamasa regency, killing one man and injuring another. The incident occurred at 1000 when

some 300 Christians supporting the split of Polewali Mamasa regency into two regencies attacked those who opposed the split in the mountainous Aralleana subdistrict, Aralle district, Mamasa regency, West Sulawesi province. The attack was an apparent retaliation after scores of Christian houses and a church was burned down at dawn on Saturday (Oct 16) in Aralle district. Two residents opposing the split, Suharman and Usman, sustained severe stab wounds, according to chief of South Sulawesi Police Insp. Gen. Saleh Saaf. Suharman died later at a local hospital. The death of Suharman brought the total victims in the spate of violence that began on Saturday to three. Saleh said that police personnel were immediately dispatched to Aralle, some 400 kilometres from the South Sulawesi capital of Makassar, to defuse the situation. Upon arriving in the scene, hundreds of personnel with the elite police unit the Mobile Brigade quickly dispersed the attackers. The fresh violence yesterday was the third after a law was passed two years ago, which split Polewali Mamasa into two regencies.

### IRAQ

Baghdad, Oct 15 — U.S. warplanes bombed more targets in the insurgent-held city of Falluja early today, in what the military said were its latest strikes against America's top enemy in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. It said the raids at 0238 hrs, hit "command and control sites" used by senior associates of the Jordanian militant to store weapons and plan attacks. There was no immediate word on casualties. The military said air strikes since yesterday had destroyed "a key planning centre, a weapons transload and storage facility, two safe houses, a terrorist meeting site and several illegal checkpoints used by the Zarqawi network." Zarqawi's Tawhid and Jihad group claimed responsibility for twin suicide bombings inside Baghdad's Green Zone that killed at least five people, including three U.S. nationals, yesterday. — Reuters. (See issue of Oct 15.)

Baghdad, Oct 16 — Bombs damaged five churches in Baghdad early today in a fresh wave of attacks aimed at Iraq's small but deep-rooted Christian community. An Interior Ministry spokesman said the series of explosions starting at 40 00 hrs, (0100, UTC) caused no casualties and there was no immediate word on the identity or motives of the assailants. The ministry identified the churches attacked today as St Joseph's, St Jacob's, St George's, St Thomas's and St Rum's. — Reuters.

Falluja, Oct 17 — U.S. warplanes pounded Falluja today and American troops reinforced positions around the city in a battle targeting foreign militants led by America's top enemy in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Hospital officials reported casualties from the air strikes but said heavy fighting prevented ambulances from reaching them. Residents said explosions and heavy gunfire accompanied clashes on the eastern edge of the city, which pitted U.S. tanks against fighters with

rocket-propelled grenades and mortars. U.S. armoured personnel carriers and Humvee vehicles gathered on a highway on Falluja's outskirts, witnesses said. Air strikes yesterday night killed three people and wounded five, hospital sources said. Residents said dozens of houses had been damaged in eastern and western districts. A U.S. military statement said the warplanes targeted a checkpoint manned by Zarqawi fighters in the city's Jolan district after raids Thursday (Oct 14) hit two other checkpoints. In Baghdad, the capital's Sadr City slums came under mortar fire today at a stadium where weapons collected from Shi'ite militiamen have been stored, Reuters witnesses said. There was no immediate word on casualties. Shi'ite militiamen have surrendered few serviceable weapons under a week-long cash-for-guns scheme meant to halt fighting with U.S. forces in Sadr City, a U.S. officer said today, the last day of the handover. "Our expectations had been that thousands of weapons would be handed in," said Captain Brian O'Malley of the First Cavalry Division in Sadr City east. "We haven't seen that many." He told Reuters many of the surrendered weapons were old and broken. It did not appear that militiamen loyal to anti-U.S. cleric Moqtada al-Sadr had completely disarmed, he added, but Aqil al-Saffar, a senior Iraqi security official, said a large quantity of light, medium and heavy weapons had been collected in the past week and stored at the Defense Ministry. Two U.S. soldiers were killed and two wounded when two U.S. helicopters crashed in southwest Baghdad late yesterday. The military said the cause of the crash was being investigated. A roadside bomb wounded a British civilian and his Iraqi driver in the southern city of Basra today, police said. The unidentified Briton works for a land mine clearance agency. Iraqi National Guards raided buildings in the northern city of Kirkuk overnight and seized three people suspected of planning suicide attacks, along with caches of weapons and explosives, a guard officer, Major-General Anwar Amin, said. — Reuters.

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A car bomb that targeted police at a Baghdad cafe near the Australian embassy has killed seven people and wounded at least 20, according to the US military. The Australian embassy has told the Foreign Affairs Department there are no Australians nor any other foreigners among the casualties. A US officer at the scene of the blast says at least 20 people are wounded. The US military was also concerned that there might be a second bomb, possibly hidden in a nearby rubbish dump.

Dubai, Oct 18 — A militant group in Iraq said it had killed two Macedonian hostages whom it accused of spying for the United States, Arabic television Al Jazeera said today. Al Jazeera said it had received a video tape showing the killing of the men, accompanied by a statement from the Islamic Army in Iraq. It did not broadcast the killing. It

did not name the hostages and it was not clear whether they were among a group of three men — Dalibor Lazarevski, Dragan Markovic, Zoran Naskovski — who were seized by militants in Iraq in August. Al Jazeera aired a segment of the video showing two men speaking to the camera and then another shot of what appeared to be their passports. Their speech was not audible. The three Macedonians known to be hostage were builders for United Arab Emirates-based Soufan Engineering. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Oct 19 — U.S. forces freed the police chief of the rebel-held city of Falluja today after warplanes bombed what the military said were houses and arms dumps used by America's top enemy in Iraq. There was no word on casualties in the overnight raids, the latest in a drive against militants led by declared al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, said to be operating from Falluja. The police chief, Sabar al-Janabi, and his colleagues were detained on Friday (Oct 15) with the city's chief negotiator, Khaled al-Jumaili, who was released early yesterday. The U.S. military gave no reason for the arrests and never confirmed it was holding the four men. They were seized as they were moving their families away from Falluja for safety. Townspeople called off a demonstration set for today to demand the policemen's release. The U.S.-backed government, threatening to attack Falluja unless Zarqawi's men are handed over, plans a nationwide arms amnesty to start next week as part of its drive to pacify all of Iraq before parliamentary elections due in January. The United States is doing all it can to enable Iraqis to conduct the polls, Secretary of State Colin Powell told USA Today newspaper in an interview published today. "It's still possible to have the kind of election we want to have by the end of January. The key is security and building up Iraqi forces to make them competent, fully equipped and able to do the job," he said. Meanwhile, the United States has asked Britain to send troops now based in southern Iraq to more volatile areas closer to Baghdad to free up U.S. units to fight insurgents. British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon said a British team would be in the field today to assess practicalities, but said no decision had been taken. — Reuters.

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Saboteurs attacked a key oil pipeline in northern Iraq, setting it on fire, police said today. The pipeline, which connects the Beiji oil refinery with Turkey, was hit with explosives late yesterday, said a Beiji police officer on condition of anonymity. The incident happened about eight miles from the refinery, said Capt. Mohammed Salam with the firefighters brigade in Kirkuk. Beiji is 155 miles north of Baghdad. An official at the state-run Northern Oil Company also confirmed the attack but did not give details.

Baghdad, Oct 20 — Kidnappers seized the British-Iraqi head of an international charity in Baghdad

yesterday and later she was shown sitting anxiously and alone in a video broadcast by an Arabic television station. Margaret Hassan, who has dual nationality, is married to an Iraqi and has lived in Iraq for about 30 years, was abducted at 0730 hrs, said a spokeswoman for Care International in London. The Care International spokeswoman said Hassan, head of the charity's operations in Iraq, had deep roots in the country. "We want to stress that she sees herself as an Iraqi. Iraq is her home. She has been living there for many years and would never consider coming back to Britain," said the spokeswoman. Arabic Al Jazeera television aired footage of Hassan after her capture, sitting in a room and looking anxious. It showed close-ups of her identification cards and said an unnamed Iraqi group had said it had kidnapped her. Care International has now suspended its work in Iraq. Care Australia chief executive Robert Glasser said he believed Margaret Hassan was unharmed and that the agency was doing everything it could to secure her release. In other incidents, Four Iraqi National Guards were killed and up to 80 wounded in a mortar attack on their base at Tarmiya, about 16 miles north of Baghdad, a Defence Ministry statement said. A suicide car bomber attacked a U.S. military convoy in the western town of Habbaniyah. The U.S. military said it had no information on the incident but would investigate. American tanks shelled suspected rebel positions near the town of Duluiya north of Baghdad yesterday night, the Iraqi National Guards and witnesses said. U.S. warplanes struck overnight at what the military said were Zarqawi-linked targets in the rebel-held city of Falluja west of Baghdad. — Reuters.

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: US warplanes have killed a family of six in raids against rebels led by Al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, while a top international aid agency suspended Iraq operations after its manager was kidnapped. A Reuters witness saw a man and a woman and four children, two boys and two girls, being pulled out of the rubble of a razed home in the rebel-held city of Fallujah, about 50 kilometres west of Baghdad. The US military denied a family of six was killed, saying it launched four strikes against safehouses used by Zarqawi's fighters. "Intelligence sources indicate a known Zarqawi propagandist is passing false reports to the media," it said in a statement. Meanwhile, Care International, an aid agency working in Iraq on health and water projects, suspended operations after its British-Iraqi manager in Iraq, Margaret Hassan, was abducted and said it might pull out of the country altogether.

Baghdad, Oct 21 — Gunmen attacked a bus carrying Baghdad airport employees to work today, killing at least four people and wounding several others, including the driver, an airport employee said. "The bus was riddled with bullet holes. There was broken glass everywhere," said the employee, who asked not to be named. She said

there were at least 25 people in the bus when it was fired on as it passed through a Baghdad suburb. The bus was carrying administrative employees, she said. Yarmook hospital in central Baghdad said it had received several wounded, some of them in critical condition. Baghdad's airport, formerly a huge military base, is now protected by an independent contractor. Thousands of people are employed there, mostly involved with the relaunched Iraqi Airways or working for cargo shipping companies. - Reuters.

## ISRAEL

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Israeli troops appear to have withdrawn completely from northern Gaza after a 16-day operation. Soldiers and tanks moved back into Israel under cover of darkness in a matter of hours, witnesses said. An official said the withdrawal was also a mark of respect for the start of the Muslim holy season of Ramadan. Tanks withdrew from Jabaliya refugee camp and the towns of Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya, Palestinian witnesses said. Four Palestinians were killed in northern Gaza on the final day of Israel's operation: An air strike killed three men near Jabaliya whom Israel said were part of a militant group trying to approach Israeli positions and a 70-year-old Palestinian woman in Jabaliya camp was killed by an Israeli bullet as she gathered with her family to break her religious fast after sunset, local people said. "The operation has met its objectives and the level of Qassam attacks has dropped considerably," Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Zeev Boim said yesterday. A spokesman for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told Reuters news agency that Israel would return if necessary. "We will move in and act whenever we feel there is threat of rockets," said Raanan Gissin.

London, Oct 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Israeli troops have entered the Rafah refugee camp in southern Gaza in a new incursion to locate Palestinian weapons smuggling tunnels, the army says. About 10 tanks and three bulldozers went into the camp, on the border with Egypt, where they came under automatic gunfire. There were no casualties.

Jerusalem, Oct 18 — Israeli troops killed four Gaza Palestinian gunmen today, two of whom had slipped across the fenced border from the territory in a rare case of its kind, military sources and Israel Radio said. The other two were shot dead while trying to plant a bomb near a Jewish settlement in an occupied part of Gaza, the radio said. A military source said two Palestinian gunmen were shot and killed early today after breaching the heavily guarded fence around Gaza and approaching a kibbutz, in southern Israel's Negev desert. One of the militants died after an explosion probably caused by a bomb or explosives belt he was carrying, he said. The Hamas militant movement said it had sent the gunmen. Shortly afterward, soldiers at an outpost



outside the settlement of Rafiah Yam in southern Gaza spotted two militants planting a bomb nearby and shot them, the source said. Israel Radio said both militants were killed. — Reuters.

Gaza, Oct 19 — Israeli soldiers shot dead two Palestinian gunmen in Gaza today as they approached a border fence with a bomb, an army spokesman and Palestinian security sources said. An Israeli military spokesman said that soldiers opened fire on two Palestinians as they crawled toward Gaza's border fence with Israel with the apparent aim of planting a bomb. Palestinian security sources said they had been informed by Israeli authorities that two gunmen had been killed in a confrontation east of the north Gaza town of Beit Hanoun. Israeli troops backed by tanks were firing into the Beit Hanoun area, the Palestinian sources said. There were no immediate reports of casualties. — Reuters.

London, Oct 20 — Three of the crew of general cargo *Karine A.*, the vessel seized by Israel two years ago on suspicion of gun-running, have been given long prison sentences by an Israeli military court. The 47-year-old master, Omar Acawi, said to be a colonel in the Palestinian Authority naval police, has been jailed for 25 years. His two associates, Riad Abdallah, 39, and Ahmed Kharis, 39, were each sentenced to 17 years in prison. A fourth man arrested on board the vessel was released earlier this year in a prisoner exchange with the terrorist group Hezbollah. *Karine A.* was boarded by Israeli commandos on Jan 3, 2002, while it was en route from Iran to Palestinian Authority territory. The vessel was found to be carrying 80km range rockets, 122mm mortars, anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles and explosives, all from Iran.

#### IVORY COAST

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated Oct 13, states: Ivory Coast's former rebels say they will not start to disarm on Friday (Oct 15), as planned under a regional peace deal. They insist that they will not lay down their weapons until key laws are reformed to give more rights to those with foreign origins. President Laurent Gbagbo has promised that some of these laws will be considered once disarmament starts. There has been little fighting in a year but Ivory Coast remains divided, with the rebels controlling the north. The south remains loyal to Mr Gbagbo. The conflict has badly hit what used to be West Africa's richest country and Mr Gbagbo recently said that they key cocoa and coffee sectors are in crisis. More talks are due but the former rebels, now known as the New Forces, say they will not take part. In a televised speech to the nation yesterday, Mr Gbagbo "solemnly" promised to introduce a bill to parliament, paving the way for a referendum on a law which would make it easier for those of foreign origin to run for president. This is a key rebel demand. The current law, under which presidential candidates must have two Ivorian parents, has been used to

prevent Alassane Ouattara running for president. Mr Ouattara is popular in the mainly Muslim, rebel-controlled north. The other rebel demands are for the nationality law to be changed, to make it easier for foreigners to get Ivorian citizenship and for the creation of an independent electoral body to run elections due next year.

Bouake, Oct 15 — Rebels holding the north of Ivory Coast ignored a deadline to begin disarming today, refusing to hand over weapons until President Laurent Gbagbo implemented the country's peace plan in full. The passing of the deadline has dimmed hopes of reuniting the West African country, split in two since a civil war mushroomed out of a failed coup two years ago. The Oct 15 date for the start of disarmament was included in a pact signed in Ghana's capital Accra by all sides in July. That pact also set a Sept. 30 deadline for the government to adopt controversial political reforms first agreed in a 2003 deal, including a change to the constitution to allow an opposition candidate to run in presidential elections next year. "The Accra peace deal put laws before disarmament and we have to hold to that," said Sidiki Konate, spokesman for the rebel "New Forces" group that had pressed for the election law. Analysts said with neither side showing any desire to compromise, the peace process was in danger of falling apart. Ivorians had been on edge in the run-up to today's deadline, fearing fresh unrest. But army spokesman Yao Yao Jules said there were no reports of violence. — Reuters.

#### LIBERIA

Monrovia, Oct 13 — Rebel fighters are proving slow to come forward for disarmament in the far southeast of Liberia because they hope to get more money by handing their weapons in over the border in nearby Ivory Coast, Major General Joseph Owonibi, the deputy commander of UN peacekeeping forces in Liberia, said today. Owonibi told reporters that the number of fighters of the Movement for Democracy for Liberia (MODEL) surrendering their guns to the UN disarmament centre in the port town of Harper was lower than expected. Many were hanging back because they hoped to get US\$900 for handing in their arms in the Ivory Coast, where a disarmament campaign is due to start shortly, rather than the \$300 they would receive in Liberia, the Nigerian general said. He also complained that MODEL commanders in the Harper region were being uncooperative. Owonibi did not say how many former combatants had reported for disarmament in Harper, since a UN disarmament camp opened there on Sep 29. The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) said at the time that it expected about 1,000 fighters to hand in their guns there before the disarmament programme in Liberia finishes on Oct 31. Owonibi said another reason that relatively few MODEL fighters were coming forward in Harper might be that many of those based in

the surrounding district had chosen to disarm already at Zwedru, 170 km to the north, earlier on in the disarmament process. Abou Moussa, the acting head of UNMIL, urged all those MODEL fighters remaining in the bush 15 months after the signing of a peace agreement to end 14 years of civil war, to come forward quickly. He warned that they would not gain any benefits if they waited until the seven-month disarmament exercise came to an end on Oct 31. Moussa also noted that they stood little chance of getting money for their guns in Cote d'Ivoire, since the names of all those due to take part in the disarmament programme there had already been registered. He said UNMIL was offering them in Liberia a lot more than a straight resettlement grant of US\$300. "What we are offering as disarmament benefits in Liberia are more than the \$900 that is being offered in Cote D'Ivoire, considering the educational, medical and other assistance given to each disarmed fighter here in Liberia," Moussa said. The acting head of UNMIL confirmed that an official programme to resettle some 300,000 internally displaced people in Liberia would start on Nov 1, the day after the disarmament campaign ended. "We hope to resettle about 100,000 IDPs back to their places of origin by the end of the year and we do know that a lot of them have been going back on their own," he said. Earlier this week, the UN refugee agency UNHCR declared two more counties of Liberia safe for refugees and IDPs to return to. Six of the country's 15 counties have now been cleared for resettlement. Liberia's National Security Assessment Committee for Resettlement announced on Friday (Oct 8) that Bong and Rivercess counties had met the minimum requirements for the safe return of refugees and IDPs. Bong in central Liberia and Rivercess in the southeast join four other counties in western Liberia - Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount and Margibi - which had already been given the green light. Grand Bassa County, which lies between Monrovia and Rivercess, is yet to be declared safe, but an official of the government-run Liberian Refugees, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission told IRIN today that an official assessment of the situation there would be completed soon. Grand Bassa includes the port of Buchanan, Liberia's second largest city. The UNHCR began a programme to repatriate more than 300,000 Liberian refugees from other West African countries on Oct 1. About 50,000 had already returned spontaneously since the civil war ended in August 2003. — Reuters.

#### NEPAL

Kathmandu, Oct 14 — Nepali troops killed 10 Maoist guerrillas including three women in fresh fighting in the west of the kingdom, an army official said today. One battle began yesterday night when a group of rebels threw a crude bomb at a security patrol in Baglung, 350 km from Kathmandu.

Soldiers opened fire on the attackers and seven rebels were killed in the fighting, the official said. Three other rebels were killed in separate clashes, also in the west of the Himalayan country. — Reuters. (See issue of Oct 1.)

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Nepal's government has said it will temporarily suspend army operations against Maoists in response to a rebel truce offer. The Maoists offered last week to suspend armed operations for one week from this Wednesday (Oct 20) during the Hindu festival of Dasain. The government did not specify a time limit for its suspension. Mohammed Mohsin, Nepal's information and communication minister, told reporters: "There will be no offensive [action] from our side." But he added: "If there is any sabotage against us and if anyone tries to disturb peace the government will be on high alert to maintain peace." The government had come under tremendous pressure to reciprocate the rebels' truce. Rebel leader Prachanda said the Maoists' move was in response to calls from human rights groups and ordinary citizens. Human rights activists had argued for a temporary ceasefire, saying it could create an atmosphere for a longer truce and the resumption of peace talks. The talks broke down over a key rebel demand for a constituent assembly and elections to draw up a new constitution that the rebels believe will clear the way for a communist republic. The government rejected the demand.

#### PAKISTAN

Karachi, Oct 14 — Due to threats from local tribes of North West Frontier Province of Pakistan, work on the Gurguri oilfield in Banda Daud Shah tehsil of Karak district and the laying of a pipeline in Aman Kot was stopped. According to a local media report on Tuesday following a warning by a grand jirga (tribes) of 50 villages held under the auspices of the Khattak Grand Ittehad and Action Committee to attack and destroy the site if their demands were not met. All the 250 staff members of the Descon Engineering and MOLE, a foreign drilling company, were pulled out of the area under the protection of frontier constabulary and police. However, a large number of Frontier Constabulary personnel and police took control of the entire area to protect the site from the attackers. The project manager of Descon, Iqar Pervez, told journalists that he had sent the whole staff on leave till further orders. The staff included the Kohat chief manager of MOLE company, Cgyula Vegh, 50 officers and 200 workers. Mr Pervez said that in an attack on Sunday one of their drivers Shah Nawaz was injured and property worth Rs5 million was damaged by hundreds of armed protesters. The attack was led by local chief of Taliban Tehrik Nasrullah Jan. Mr Vegh was forced to hide in a container and later taken to a safe place via Hangu when some miscreants spread the news that the Taliban leader wanted to kill him. — Lloyd's List Correspondent

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 11 people were killed yesterday in a clash between suspected al-Qaida terrorists and a Pakistan army convoy in South Waziristan's tribal area in northern Pakistan, reports reaching here said. Intelligence officials were quoted as saying that four Pakistan soldiers were killed and five military vehicles were destroyed when unidentified men attacked a military convoy near Jandola, about 50 kilometres north of Wana.

#### PERU

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Police fired on coca growers protesting government eradication of their cocaine producing crop yesterday, killing two of the farmers after they attacked a police station near the southern border with Bolivia, authorities said. The confrontation occurred in San Gaban, 450 miles south-east of the capital, after nearly 800 demonstrators seized a local electric plant and then tried to take over the police station, the Interior Ministry said in a statement. Prime Minister Carlos Ferrero said a 30-day state of emergency had been declared and that police reinforcements were being flown hourly into the area in groups of 50. A state of emergency suspends basic constitutional rights such as freedom of assembly, permits authorities to enter homes without search warrants, and authorizes the president to charge the armed forces with maintaining order. Authorities recently discovered a 7,400-acre swath of coca there and launched operations to destroy the crops and dismantle 10 outdoor labs where the leaf was chemically processed into cocaine paste. "Eighty-five police were forced to use tear gas and then, because the mob was overrunning them, to fire shots to prevent the police station from being sacked and weapons stolen," killing two of the protesters, the interior ministry said. Six other growers and four police were injured in violent confrontations, the statement added. San Gaban Mayor Adolfo Huamantica told CPN radio the violence was sparked by the government reneging on a promise to send a commission to evaluate the situation with the coca crops. The growers were demanding an "immediate stop" to eradication efforts and wanted "direct talks," Huamantica said, adding that a decision to send police reinforcements to San Gaban "could bring regrettable consequences." Peruvian coca growers frequently protest attempts to deter the crop's production, arguing that coca leaves are part of Andean culture and have been used for centuries in ceremonies or chewed to ward off hunger. The government maintains that the vast majority of the coca is processed into cocaine. Peru's government permits the cultivation of about 25,000 acres of the plant for chewing and for sale to companies that produce pharmaceutical cocaine, package coca tea or make extracts used in soft drinks.

Lima, Oct 20 — Peru sent 250 police reinforcements today to expel hundreds of farmers occupying a hydroelectric plant in a protest against U.S.-backed coca eradication during which three people were killed. At least 800 farmers, whose coca crop is the raw material for cocaine, broke into the San Gaban plant in the southern region of Puno near Bolivia on Tuesday to protest U.S.-backed coca eradication and the destruction of 10 secret drug labs. Peru is the world's No. 2 cocaine producer after Colombia. The government said many of the protesters were drunk and police fired shots to break up the melee. Two farmers were killed and a third died en route to the hospital. A regional government official who declined to be named said the farmers had left peacefully by this afternoon but about 1,000 were still gathered outside waiting for news of talks with the government and anti-drug officials in Lima. He said they had damaged a control panel at the mid-sized plant which would cost \$1 million to replace. However, the damage did not interrupt the plant's operations. — Reuters.

#### SRI LANKA

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated Oct 17, states: Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels have dismissed new government proposals to restart peace talks. They say peace talks could only resume on the basis of proposals put forward by their own interim administration. The leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's political wing said they were shocked by reports of government proposals announced in Colombo. SP Tamilchelvan categorically denied that peace talks would resume next month on the basis of that blueprint. He also accused the government of sending out conflicting and confusing signals. Mr Tamilchelvan is currently leading a high-level committee on a European tour to study federal constitutions, and to explain their position on the peace process to western governments. Tamil Tiger rebels have already submitted their Interim Self-Governing Authority (ISGA) proposals for the country's war-torn northeast region. Tigers have been insisting that ISGA should be the basis for resuming peace talks. Though both sides have suspended talks, an official ceasefire has been in place since February 2002, brokered by negotiators from Norway. Reacting to reports of a senior government figure meeting the rebel leadership in northern Sri Lanka to discuss peace proposals, Tamilchelvan said none of their senior leaders met with government officials in recent days. He said Norwegians are facilitating efforts to restart the peace talks but the Sri Lankan government has not taken any constructive measures to resume a dialogue. Tamilchelvan said they will be meeting senior Norwegian officials in Oslo in the coming days before deciding on the future course of action.

#### SUDAN

Geneva, Oct 15 — A total of 70,000 people are estimated to have died as a



result of the conflict in Sudan's western Darfur region, with hundreds still dying every day, a top U.N. official said today. David Nabarro, head of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) health crisis action group, gave the new overall figure, saying malnutrition and disease meant the monthly fatality rate was about 10,000. The monthly mortality rate in Darfur has been little changed from the summer and the WHO calculated the new death toll on that basis, he said. Sudan's government said last week it would accept additional troops to monitor a shaky ceasefire in Darfur. The African Union (AU) said today it would start deploying 4,000 more troops there this weekend. Olusegun Obasanjo, Nigeria's president and AU chairman, said this would bring the troops total to 4,500 by end-November. Nabarro, who is coordinating WHO's Darfur response, said despite all the publicity surrounding the crisis, U.N. agencies had only received around half the \$300 million in aid they had sought. Because of lack of money, agencies had to distribute food and medicines in four-wheeled vehicles, which broke down, when they should be using helicopters. They had three or four chartered planes when they needed a standing fleet of 10 or more. Peace talks between the government and rebels, which collapsed last month, are due to reconvene on Oct 21. In the meantime, fighting continues, albeit less intensely, despite a ceasefire that came into force in April. The continuing violence forced the World Food Programme, the U.N. agency supplying food to the camps in which many of the displaced people live, to call off operations in part of northern Darfur earlier this week. Nabarro said that the WHO, which needs \$1.5 million a month for its work, was using borrowed money and could not continue through December without more cash. — Reuters.

## Labour Disputes



### BENIN

Cotonou, Oct 19 — Normal business ground to a halt in Benin today as the country's main trade unions began a three-day general strike to demand higher pay for government employees, better pensions and lower university fees. Only senior managers turned up for work at government offices, schools, banks and most businesses were closed in the economic capital Cotonou, health centres were short staffed and the city's normally busy streets were empty of traffic. The national news agency reported a similar situation throughout the country. The strike was called by four of Benin's five trade union organisations to support civil service pay demands ranging from 20 to 30 percent following a breakdown in negotiations with the government on Oct 1. The fifth trade union group

which did not join the strike was due to stage a protest demonstration in Cotonou today. — Reuters.

### BRAZIL

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated Oct 14, states: Brazilian bank workers today halted their month-long strike, hoping to negotiate an acceptable wage increase. The strike - which began on Sep 15 - was suspended for one week for talks with management about the percentage increase the workers would get, union leaders said. The union leaders had demanded a 35 percent wage increase and management countered with an 8.5 percent offer. Currently bank workers are countering with a 19 percent increase. The union leaders threatened to resume the strike if their demands are not met.

### CANADA

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated today, states: About 90 000 Canadian civil servants suspended their four-day-old strike yesterday to consider a nearly 10 percent pay increase over four years that the government called its final offer, as a union leader recommended rejection. The vote, by mail, was expected to take six to 10 weeks. Nycole Turmel, president of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, called on members to reject yesterday's offer. If her recommendation is heeded, the strike could resume before Christmas. The union said the government's pay offer was unacceptable because too many concessions were being asked in return. The strike, in the Coast Guard, customs, tax, immigration, weather and pensions services, began on Tuesday (Oct 12).

### CHILE

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Copper prices in New York fell as workers voted to end their strike at Chile's Codelco, the world's biggest producer of the metal. State-run Codelco made an offer that 760 supervisors on strike in northern Chile found acceptable, said Mario Sepulveda, the union treasurer. Prices had climbed 4.2 percent on Oct 8 when the strike began. Copper futures for December delivery fell 0.6 cent, or 0.5 percent, to \$1.303 a pound at 0825 hrs on the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange.

### GERMANY

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers have gone on strike at a General Motors factory in Germany in protest at the car maker's plans to axe thousands of jobs in Europe. The US car giant has not detailed exactly where sackings will happen, but has said that most of the layoffs will be made in Germany, as part of its efforts to save £340m. Within hours of its announcement outraged workers walked out at an Opel plant in Bochum. German television showed pictures of a truck driver who was unable to deliver a shipment of shock absorbers to Bochum because pickets

had blocked the entrance. GM is the world's biggest car manufacturer but has been facing intense competition. It aims to cut 12,000 jobs, or a fifth of its workforce, in Europe over the next two years.

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Angry workers at an Opel car plant in Germany remained on unofficial strike today, continuing their protest against plans by parent company General Motors for thousands of job cuts and defying calls from union leaders and the government to return to work. Employee representatives at the plant in Bochum, where workers stopped production on Thursday (Oct 14), had demanded assurances that there will be no compulsory layoffs as a condition for today's early shift resuming work. GM announced last week that it will cut 12,000 jobs in Europe by the end of 2006 - mostly in Germany - under a cost-cutting programme for its money-losing Opel, Vauxhall and Saab operations.

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A strike at a General Motors factory in Bochum, Germany, over plans to cut 12,000 jobs at GM Europe has started to hit production at plants elsewhere. Employees at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant in north-west England have been sent home due to a parts shortage. "Protest action in Germany means some key components aren't getting through," a Transport and General Workers' Union spokesman said. Loss-making GM Europe wants to cut 500m euros (\$623.8m; £347m) from its budget. As strike action entered its sixth day, workers and unions are meeting in Germany today to decide how to proceed. A day of protests took place at GM plants across Europe yesterday. Employees at the Ellesmere Port plant had taken part in a one-hour consultation meeting yesterday, in which messages of solidarity were sent to GM employees in Germany, who are expected to bear the brunt of the job cuts. Vauxhall workers have been told there will probably be more than 400 jobs cut in the UK - 340 at the Ellesmere Port plant in Merseyside and 94 at the van factory in Luton. Unions have said that about 4,000 jobs will be lost at the Bochum plant in the Ruhr Valley in western Germany. Yesterday, the cessation in production of parts at the factory forced Opel to stop production in Ruesselsheim, Germany and Antwerp in Belgium. Management at Opel have said they will try to find a way of ensuring the survival of its main factories in Germany - including the Bochum plant - beyond 2010 while finding "socially acceptable" ways of cutting back on the numbers of employees. A spokesman for GM Europe said that once the Bochum workers turned up for their shifts then production could begin "very, very quickly". Analysts have said GM is determined to press ahead with the cost saving measures, despite the threat of widening strike action. The firm has not yet confirmed which of its 11 European plants will be affected, but GM's German sites appear most vulnerable

because of high labour costs. Germany has the second-highest labour costs in the world, according to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). GM Europe lost \$161m in the first half of 2004, up from \$68m one year earlier, according to the latest figures.

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated Oct 20, states: Workers at a General Motors Corp. plant in Germany voted today to end their nearly weeklong walkout in protest at thousands of threatened job cuts, a union official said, abandoning a strike that has forced two other factories to a halt. "We have decided to go back," Wolfgang Nettelstroth, a spokesman for the IG Metall industrial union, said after a meeting of the work force at the Adam Opel AG plant in Bochum. The factory's chief employee representative, Dieter Hahn, said more than two-thirds of the employees voted to resume production.

### ITALY

London, Oct 19 — Up to 150 dockworkers blocked the demonstration of a new hi-tech container-handling system at the port of Genoa, claiming that it would have a damaging impact on jobs. The workers were also protesting against what they said was EU vice-president Loyola de Palacio's view that shipowners should be free to choose their dockside labour force rather than having to work with existing port co-operatives. The protest came as a demonstration of the new container-handling technology, dubbed Project Integration was about to get under way before an audience including Grimaldi group patriarch Aldo Grimaldi and Giovanni Montanari, president of shipowners' association Confitarma. The technology demonstration did eventually take place inside, a Grimaldi source said. The technology, developed at a cost of E10m (\$12.5m) and co-funded by the EU, with the participation of 25 companies and organisations from 13 countries, is designed for ro-ro and ro-pax vessels. At its heart is a remote controlled vehicle said to be capable of loading or unloading up to 500 teu per hour, and its backers claim it will rid port terminals of cranes and trucks. They also claim the new technology will allow for a tripling of productivity from 10,000 teu per ha to 35,000 teu per ha and six-hour vessel turnaround times, allowing a terminal handling four vessels every 24 hours to reach a theoretical annual capacity of 2m teu, close to what the port of Genoa handles annually.

### IVORY COAST

London, Oct 19 - A press report, dated today, states: A farmers' strike over prices has shut down the Ivory Coast cocoa industry after exporters closed their warehouses. The country, which produces 40% of the world's cocoa every year, is now facing threats from unions to start torching trucks carrying supplies to ports. "The price is too low, it's a scandal," said union leader

Theodore Zougba. "We are going to burn our cocoa." Cocoa prices rose 1.3% in New York in response to the action. Cocoa production got off to a slow start in the Ivory Coast this year after the government set farmgate prices later than usual and wet weather slowed the drying and transport of beans. Union leaders are demanding \$0.75 per kilogram, up from \$0.60, and they want prices to be guaranteed. Unions did not call on farmers to stop harvesting the crop and cocoa grinding plants in the country were still working using existing cocoa stocks. The cocoa industry employs 600,000 Ivorians and produces about 1.4 million beans a year.

### MEXICO

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Workers at Mexico's biggest copper mine went on strike today over a dispute with the mine's operator, Grupo Mexico SA, about the value of a payment the company had promised to workers in 1989. The National Mining, Metallurgical and Similar Workers Union said the strike began at Cananea at midday. The union contends Grupo Mexico hasn't paid them the equivalent of 5 percent of its equity as promised and that the company is offering to make the payment at the value the shares had 15 years ago. The union is demanding a disbursement at the current value. The payment is related to the privatization of Cananea and Grupo Mexico's other major Mexican mine, La Caridad. Grupo Mexico is the world's third largest copper producer, with operations in Mexico, Peru and the U.S. The union, which has among its members workers at other mining and metals companies, said today it will seek support for the strike from other mining chapters.

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated Oct 18, states: Grupo Mexico said today it's calling on government labour authorities to rule against a strike at Cananea, the company's biggest copper mine. Workers at Cananea, in northwestern Sonora state, went on strike Friday (Oct 15) demanding payment of 5 percent of Cananea's equity, related to the privatisation of the mine 15 years ago. Grupo Mexico said in a news release today that the National Mining, Metallurgical and Similar Workers Union was demanding 15 percent wage increases, but refused to negotiate the collective contract renewal until the five percent equity issue was resolved. The equity issue is not included in the contract. Grupo Mexico said it has been in talks with the union leadership seeking to resolve conclusively "that old claim of the so-called five percent." Courts have ruled previously that the company isn't obliged to make the payment. The company said it's taking the case to arbitration, requesting that labour authorities rule against the strike. Authorities can order strikers back to work if they consider there are no grounds for the stoppage. Grupo Mexico called on the union to return to the negotiating table to seek a wage settlement in line with the rest of the

industry. Average private sector wage settlements this year have been between four percent and five percent.

### NEW ZEALAND

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Air New Zealand says it is not expecting flights to be delayed today despite strike action by 400 workers. Baggage handlers and check-in staff in Auckland and Christchurch who are members of the Service and Food Workers Union have stopped work until midnight tonight. The action comes after a breakdown in pay negotiations. Tanya Lim from Air New Zealand in Australia says staff will be moved from other areas to minimise delays.

### NIGERIA

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Nigerian trade unions have called an official end to their four-day general strike against fuel price rises. But union leaders warned they will call an indefinite stoppage in two weeks' time if the government fails to bring down the price of petrol. The strike shut down banks, businesses, shops and public services. Nigeria's oil industry was unaffected but analysts say further stoppages could disrupt production in Africa's biggest oil exporter. "The strike is officially suspended and we will meet within the next two weeks to decide what action to take," Owei Lakemfa, spokesman for the Nigeria Labour Congress said. Fuel costs have been rising since President Olusegun Obasanjo deregulated the sector a year ago and removed government subsidies. A committee including government official and union representatives has been set up to discuss ways of easing the impact of a 25% increase in petrol prices. But the unions have so far said they want nothing less than an immediate price cut.

### UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of baggage handlers at Gatwick Airport are staging their sixth strike in three weeks. Servisair employees are mounting picket lines at the entrance to the West Sussex airport for 12 hours from 0800 hrs, today in a dispute over workloads. The suspension of a union official has also angered the Transport and General Workers' Union (T&G) members. Previous strikes at the airport have had little effect on flights and passengers, according to Servisair. The ground handling firm which employs the workers said 97% of flights had left on time during two previous stoppages earlier this month. It said contingency plans would again be put into place today to minimise disruption. The strike is the second this week. Talks between both sides are still deadlocked, but Servisair managing director Andrew Saunders said the company was "ready and willing" to meet the union to resolve the dispute. "Throughout this period of stoppage, we will continue to minimise disruption to



the travelling public and will work with our airline partners to maintain a full service," he said.

## Awards & Settlements



### EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated Oct 20, states: A Bethel jury awarded a man more than \$1 million after finding that an Alaska state trooper used excessive force during an arrest in Emmonak in 2002. The civil jury awarded Kevin Patrick, 32, \$1.08 million after hearing evidence during a five-day trial concerning his arrest by trooper Eric Spitzer. The 12-person jury found that Spitzer used excessive force and caused injury to Patrick when he arrested him Dec 18, 2002. Spitzer arrested Patrick after authorities received a report that he was driving a snowmachine drunk from Alakanuk to Emmonak, was suicidal and had assaulted a local police officer, according to Patrick's attorney, David Henderson. Henderson said that even though Patrick was unarmed, Spitzer deployed his taser gun and used it seven times on Patrick while handcuffed. Spitzer has denied using the taser gun while Patrick was in handcuffs, and he said he shot only four times. Henderson said two witnesses from Emmonak who watched the arrest testified that Patrick was handcuffed when Spitzer used his taser gun on him. Spitzer's attorney argued unsuccessfully that the trooper "used the level of force sufficient to accomplish the arrest, and there is no evidence he used more than was necessary." Norma Shorty, a village health aide, said two days after Patrick was arrested she was called to the jail to check on him. She testified that he had eight separate burns on his back, shoulder and chest. The jury was shown blowup photographs of the marks. Alaska State Troopers believe that the evidence in the Patrick arrest shows that Spitzer acted professionally and reasonably in taking the suspect into custody, said troopers spokesman Greg Wilkinson. Wilkinson said that before the arrest, Patrick had escaped from the Alakanuk holding cell while being allowed to use the rest room. He was being detained in connection with the assault of Alakanuk Village Police Officer Feliz Patrick with a shovel, Wilkinson said. Troopers were told that Patrick was intoxicated, armed with a gun and suicidal, he said. Wilkinson said troopers have asked the state Department of Law to review the case for a possible appeal. Judge Leonard Devaney ruled that the jury would not hear allegations about Spitzer using excessive force in another case in 2002. Plaintiffs in that case lost after alleging that Spitzer used an excessive amount of pepper spray and caused injuries.

The other civil case took place in Palmer, where Spitzer was stationed before he voluntarily transferred to St. Marys in the Bethel region, Wilkinson said.

### MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated Oct 19, states: A 10-year-old girl who suffered severe brain damage after mistakes were made during her birth has been awarded £3.4m in damages. Charlee Lisney, from Orpington, was born at the All Saints Hospital in Chatham, Kent, in July 1994 and now has cerebral palsy. The Medway NHS Trust, which managed the hospital, has issued a full apology. Charlee is confined to a wheelchair and needs round the clock care by her parents, who have given up work to look after her. The High Court heard how she was due to have been delivered by caesarean section before midday on Jul 9, 1994, but was born at 1000, BST the following day.

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A girl from Whitchurch who was left seriously disabled after she was asphyxiated in her mother's womb has won damages of £2.5-million. Claire Elizabeth Jury, who is now 12, brought a claim for damages against the South West Peninsula Health Authority in relation to the standard of care she received at the time of her birth at Freedom Fields Hospital in Plymouth in 1992. It was alleged there were clear and obvious signs that Claire was suffering foetal distress and that she needed to be delivered urgently by emergency caesarean section. It was further alleged that Claire suffered a period of oxygen deprivation which could have been avoided by an earlier delivery, and as a result she has permanent brain damage. The parties reached an agreement on liability in October 2003 - an 80:20 split in the claimant's favour - and on October 18 2004 Mr Justice Eady at the Royal Courts of Justice in London agreed the proposed settlement of £2.5 million.

### PATENT INFRINGEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated Oct 14, states: Gaithersburg-based Digene, which markets a DNA-based test for cervical cancer, has settled a patent-infringement suit against it by Enzo Biochem for \$16 million, plus guaranteed royalty payments in future years. Under the agreement, Digene has paid Farmingdale, N.Y.-based Enzo Biochem \$16 million — \$2 million of which will go toward royalty payments. It also agrees to pay royalties of at least \$2.5 million in the first year and at least \$3.5 million in each of the next four years. Digene says its obligation to pay royalties to Enzo will expire no later than 2018. It will take a \$14 million charge in its fiscal 2005 first quarter as a result of the settlement. Enzo Biochem filed the suit in 2002 over a method for detecting infectious viruses.

### ROAD ACCIDENT, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Victoria's Transport Accident Commission (TAC) must pay a lifetime of medical expenses to a one-year-old girl who had a stroke the day after a car accident. Sabrina Filonis, now aged five, was injured in a Melbourne accident just four days before her second birthday on December 26, 2000. A life-threatening stroke the following day left her with a permanent brain injury that requires intensive rehabilitation and lifelong care. The TAC had refused to pay the expenses claiming the stroke might not have been caused by the accident. But senior member Jacqueline Preuss found in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal that she was satisfied "the accident was the cause of the injury". The decision is likely to be worth more than A\$5 million over Sabrina's lifetime.

### ROAD ACCIDENT, SUSSEX, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The families of four student band members killed in a 2001 bus crash settled a wrongful-death lawsuit against two travel companies and their drivers for \$15 million. The agreement came one day before a trial was to begin against Boston companies Crystal Transport and Kristine Travel and Tour and drivers Hin C. Kan and Fred C. Pranger. Van Hool, the Belgian manufacturer of the bus, will also contribute to the settlement, lawyers for the families said yesterday. The tour bus was carrying 42 children from Oak Hill Middle School to a concert in Halifax, Nova Scotia, when the vehicle flipped on its side before dawn in April 2001 in Sussex, New Brunswick. The driver lost control after speeding into a hairpin turn on a highway exit, investigators said. The families of five survivors also sued. Two settled their lawsuits, one for \$275,000 and another for \$130,000.

### ROAD ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Victims and families who sued over a van crash that killed seven young magazine salespeople have reached a \$1.85 million settlement with the employers and their insurance companies, attorneys in the case said yesterday. Twelve people were thrown from the van when it crashed five years ago. Five people were left badly injured. The settlement will allow the "plaintiffs and their families to move on with their lives and try to put this terrible tragedy behind them," lawyer Victor Arellano, who represents one of the injured plaintiffs, said in a statement late yesterday. His client, Monica Forgues, was paralyzed from the neck in the March 1999 accident near Janesville. The van was carrying a cross-country crew of magazine subscription sellers when it rolled over, and the lawsuit claimed the magazine sellers' employers, Youth Employment Services and Subscriptions Plus, were responsible for the accident. The van's driver was sentenced to a seven-year

prison sentence on charges of vehicular homicide. Also, YES, which has changed its name to Altantic Coast, was convicted in 2000 of seven counts of homicide by negligent use of a vehicle and ordered to pay fines and restitution to the victims and their families. YES was hired by Subscriptions Plus to sell subscriptions and then send them to Oklahoma to be processed, according to court records. The case was scheduled to go to trial in April.

#### **SUB-STANDARD SERVICE, UNITED STATES**

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated Oct 14, states: The actress Sandra Bullock was awarded about \$7 million in damages when a jury agreed with her claim that a builder did shoddy work on her Lake Austin home. She has been locked in a legal battle with the builder of a lakefront home she has never moved into. Travis County jurors had to consider 48 questions before reaching a verdict today. Among the questions were whether a contract between builder Benny Daneshjou and Bullock was breached, whether labour and material costs were inflated, and whether Daneshjou violated federal racketeering laws. Jurors answered most of those questions in Bullock's favour, awarding what her lawyers estimate will be about \$7 million in damages, including lawyers' fees, the Austin American-Statesman reported on its Web site. Daneshjou's lawyers said their client plans to appeal. Jurors didn't answer the question of whether Daneshjou broke any racketeering laws. The lengthy trial began in August. Bullock's lawyers argued that Daneshjou was responsible for \$4 million in repairs needed to the 10,000-square-foot mansion, which was never finished. Witnesses testified the house had water damage, faulty framing on the roof, wiring within the drywall that was too small and damage in the masonry. Daneshjou's lawyers had said a former project manager and most of the subcontractors were to blame. Jurors awarded Bullock more than \$2 million for repairs, \$400,000 for maintaining the house since February 2000, and found that Daneshjou's company was responsible for \$280,425 in overcharges for labour.

#### **VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW, UNITED STATES**

London, Oct 17 — A press report, dated Oct 16, states: Utah will get \$1.8 million from the manufacturers of the allergy drug Claritin. The money comes as part of a multi-million dollar settlement the drug's manufacturer, Schering Plough, has agreed to pay for overcharging state Medicaid programmes. The settlement is the result of a five-year federal investigation into the company's attempts to market Claritin with large health insurance companies as the drug faced increasingly stiff competition from other allergy drugs. Prosecutors said when Cigna Corp., one of the nation's largest health insurers, threatened to switch its patients to other, less expensive medications, Schering-Plough

offered the company \$10 million in incentives, plus a \$1.8 million "data fee" for information it did not actually need. The agreement lowered the price of Claritin for Cigna, but violated a federal law requiring drug makers to give their lowest prices to Medicaid, the government's health programme for the nation's lower-income families.

#### **WRONGFUL ARREST, UNITED STATES**

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: The city of Chicago has agreed to pay \$2 million to settle the wrongful arrest lawsuit of one of two young boys accused in the 1998 murder of 11-year-old Ryan Harris. The Chicago City Council must approve the settlement, which was announced yesterday by lawyers for the boy and the city. "We feel that the size of the settlement and the fact that the city has made a settlement is an acknowledgment by them that this child was wrongfully arrested and prosecuted," said the boy's attorney, G. Flint Taylor. The city did not admit any wrongdoing in the settlement, Law Department spokeswoman Jennifer Hoyle said. The city has denied the boys into making statements about Harris' murder. "We felt it was in the best interest of the city (to settle), given the expense of simply taking the case to trial in the first place," Hoyle said. "We were prepared to take it to trial had we not been able to reach this agreement." The boys, aged seven and eight, were charged with the girl's murder, but were later cleared when DNA tests linked the case to Floyd Durr, a Chicago man who has since been convicted of sexual assaults on other young girls. The older boy's lawsuit against the city is still pending.



#### **BACKWELL AREA, SOMERSET, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators were yesterday examining the cause of a train fire in which more than 20 passengers had to be evacuated. The blaze on the 2006 Wessex Trains service from Bristol Temple Meads to Weston-super-Mare on Monday evening (Oct 18) burnt out the rear carriage and badly damaged a second carriage. Twenty-one passengers and two crew were taken to safety from the four-carriage train at Backwell Common, Somerset. Three people were treated by paramedics at the scene for smoke inhalation. A spokeswoman for Avon fire service said four appliances and 30 firefighters attended the scene. She said the rear engine of the Wessex Train was "severely burnt out". When emergency crews arrived, people were already being evacuated and firefighters climbed up an

embankment to the train line and along tracks to assist. A British Transport Police spokesman, Jeff Perkins, said a preliminary investigation suggested that a mechanical fault caused the fire. A Wessex Trains spokesman said there would be a full investigation.

#### **BELGRADE, YUGOSLAVIA**

London, Oct 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Three railcars carrying 150 tonnes of sulfuric acid derailed today at a railway station in Belgrade, but the substance did not leak out, a chief of firefighters said. The train was on its way from the Bulgarian town of Dimitrovgrad to the western Serbian town of Sabac when it derailed while approaching a rail station in a Belgrade suburb, Topcider, Milan Jovanovic told radio B92. "Special teams of the railroad company are still working on bringing the railcars back to the tracks," he said, adding that the situation was under control. The cause of the incident was not immediately clear.

#### **CHENGUTIA, BANGLADESH**

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated Oct 18, states: A goods train derailed at Chengutia station in Kushtia early today, disrupting rail communication between the district and rest of the country for about 11 hours. The railway sources said two bogies of the freight train derailed at around 0300 hrs, after it left for Chengutia station to unload goods. No trains to and from Khulna could run for 11 hours. Three intercity and two express trains remained stranded near Chengutia Station. The rail communication resumed at about 1400 hrs after a relief train from Khulna arrived at the accident site in the morning and recovered the bogies.

#### **COLLINS AREA, MONTANA, UNITED STATES**

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated Oct 18, states: A train that originated in South Dakota derailed today near Collins, Montana, on its way to Seattle. A spokesman with the Burlington Northern Sante Fe Railway says 25 hopper cars carrying soybeans jumped the track and closed the line. Workers are still trying to establish what caused the three-engine, 107-car train to derail. The spokesman says most of the derailed cars would be moved to the side to allow crews to repair the tracks and get traffic moving again, possibly by this afternoon.

#### **ITALY**

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Rail authorities in Italy have had to take emergency action after a driverless train's engine hurtled nearly 200 kilometres through the countryside at 80 kilometres an hour. The driver had set the engine in motion, leaned out to see if the line ahead was clear, then slipped and fell from his cabin. The locomotive automatically gathered speed up to 80 kilometres an hour. Stations along the



line were evacuated as the engine smashed its way through heavy obstacles piled on the track in an attempt to stop it. It was finally switched on to a track to a remote disused station, where it came off the rails. There are no reports of any injuries from the engine's 200-kilometre ghost ride.

**LOS ANGELES AREA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Oct 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A freight train carrying hazardous materials derailed early yesterday, damaging at least four homes and forcing more than 200 people to evacuate, officials said. No serious injuries were reported. Investigators were trying to identify the hazardous materials on board and determine whether any leaked when the nearly 50 freight cars and trailers left the tracks, Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy Luis Castro said. About 500 gallons of diesel fuel spilled. Derailed cars, badly battered two homes and littered several back yards with twisted metal and debris. One boxcar went through the roof of a home, and two others smashed into a wall outside a house next door. One resident was treated at the scene for injuries caused by debris, Castro said. Union Pacific spokesman John Bromley said the train carried "things like paint and batteries," but Los Angeles County fire inspector John Mancha said there were also small quantities of sulfuric acid, a resin solution and butane lighters. The train had been en route from Los Angeles to Marion, Ark., when it derailed in the Los Angeles suburb of Pico Rivera.

**SANDERSON AREA, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES**

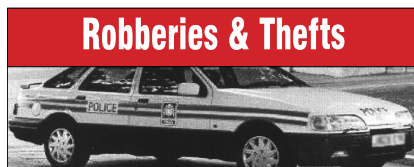
London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated Oct 17, states: Twenty-five cars on a train travelling through Baker County derailed yesterday night. Baker County Sheriff Joey Dobson says the CSX train was heading east near the town of Sanderson, west of Jacksonville. A Jacksonville Fire Hazmat Team deemed the area safe. The train had been carrying hazardous materials prior to moving through the area. Police say it could take days to clean-up. No one was injured in the derailment.

**SHEIKHPURA, PUNJAB PROVINCE, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Oct 16 — Pakistan Railway said one of its cargo/parcel trains bound for Karachi from Lahore caught fire at Sheikhpura in Punjab Province of Pakistan yesterday. An official of Railway told journalists that goods worth Rs. 6.5 million (£60,549) were burnt to ashes in Bogi No. 44346 of Parcel Express No. 502. He does not rule out criminal activities. He said, however, fire brigade of Sheikhpura extinguished the fire within half an hour. Further investigation is going on. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A freight train derailed early today, damaging one home and forcing the evacuation of about 30 others, officials said. No injuries were reported. Some of the approximately 30 freight cars that left the tracks were carrying chemicals, and firefighters were working to determine what kind they were and whether any leaked, said sheriff's deputy Luis Castro.



**CASH FROM TRANSPORTATION FIRM, MINAMIKAWACHI, JAPAN**

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Four or five men Sunday (Oct 17) robbed a transportation company of 524 million yen (£2,667,291) in cash in the town of Minamikawachi, Tochigi Prefecture, the second biggest amount stolen in Japan in the past 15 years, police said yesterday. The men entered an office of Tobu Transportation Co at around 1820, Sunday, tied up two security guards with sticky tape, took the money and ran away, the police said. The cash was from sales collected from 30-40 supermarkets and other customers over the weekend. The company was supposed to take it to Tokyo yesterday morning

**MONEY, MEXICO**

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Bandits broke into the vault of an armoured car company in northwestern Mexico and stole at least 120 million pesos (A\$14 million). The robbers intercepted two security guards on their way to work late Saturday (Oct 9) in Ciudad Obregon, then threatened to hurt the guards' family members unless they helped with the robbery, Sonora state police said in a statement on Monday. The attackers then entered the building of Seguridad Especial de Proteccion, which distributes money by armored vehicles, and waited all night with the guards, fleeing with the money on Monday, when the doors opened automatically, police said. A spokesman for the state police, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said today the case was still under investigation and there had been no arrests.

**MONEY, SAO PAULO, BRAZIL**

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated Oct 13, states: Brazilian police are hunting a highly organised gang of robbers who tunneled their way into a transport company from a nearby house and made off with \$1.6m. About 12 men, wearing monkey and clown masks, broke through into the Sao

Paulo firm's bathroom after digging a 120m tunnel, police said. The robbers ordered the 75 startled employees to stuff money into bags. Police think the gang may have had inside help as the bathroom was the only room without an alarm. Staff at the Sao Paulo company, which transports money for banks, were on the late shift on Monday night (Oct 11) tallying notes for automatic teller machines. Suddenly they were faced with a dozen armed and masked men who ordered them to put the money, some 4.7m Brazilian reais, into bags. The men then fled back through the tunnel. "They mapped the tunnel with exact precision," police chief Naif Saadi told the Associated Press. The company, Nordeste Transbank, is part of one of Brazil's biggest security firms and transports money for some of the country's biggest banks, the state oil company and the post office.

**MONEY, TOCHIGI PREFECTURE, JAPAN**

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Masked bandits made off with \$4.8 million in cash following a daring raid on a transport company yesterday night in northern Japan. It was one of the biggest heists in Japanese history. Four or five bandits raided the transport company in Tochigi prefecture, north of Tokyo, attacking two security guards with stun guns, the Mainichi Shimbun reported today. They threatened the guards with what appeared to be handguns before making off with bags that were taken from an unlocked safe. The guards were not injured during the raid. Police said the raiders spoke only limited Japanese, suggesting at least one of them was a foreigner. They all wore facemasks with holes cut out for the eyes, the paper said. The money had been collected from another firm and was to be delivered to a Tokyo business today.

**PAINTINGS AND JEWELLERY, BRAZIL**

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated Oct 16, states: More than 20 stolen works of art worth nearly £3m have been recovered by police in Brazil. The paintings, by Brazilian artists such as Aldo Bonadei, were found as three men were arrested over the theft, which happened in March. Claudio Sabongi, brother Marcelo and nephew Mario were allegedly caught when trying to sell the paintings back to their owners. It is alleged they stole them from art collector Graziela Lafer Galvao. The paintings were discovered in a black bin bag in front of a church in Sao Paulo. Some £1m-worth of jewellery which was taken was also found. Mrs Galvao's family sent nearly 2,000 emails to museums and art collectors around the world telling them about the theft, according to Aldo Galiano, the police inspector in charge of the case. Paintings by Candido Portinari and Emiliano Di Cavalcanti were among the collection.

## Miscellaneous



### DRUGS SEIZED ON LIBERIAN VESSEL AT DOVER, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 16 — Customs officers have made a second major seizure of cocaine in a week from a ship at Dover cargo port. Three plastic bags containing 30kg of the Class A drug worth around £1.6m were found in the hold of c.c.ref *Horncliff* (12887 gt, built 1992), loaded with bananas, Customs and Excise said. Customs officers boarded the vessel when it arrived in Kent from Colombia on Wednesday (Oct 13). No arrests have yet been made. The find follows the discovery of 120 kg of cocaine worth £7.2m on Monday. It was allowed to continue its journey to Antwerp after the crew were questioned and released. Customs said their inquiries were continuing. (Note — *Horncliff* arrived Antwerp Oct 14 and sailed Oct 15.)

### HONG KONG VESSEL BOYCOTTED AT LULEA, SWEDEN

Gothenburg, Oct 19 — Bulk *Pos Dignity* (40014 gt, built 2004), on maiden voyage, has been temporarily stopped and under boycott at the port of Lulea. This is due to the union Transport having requested information on the wages and salary for the crew of 22 persons, originating from China and South Korea, and suspicion of general low wages for the crew on board. Understand that there is no signed agreement for the crew and the vessel is to remain in port until the management company Sido Marine have signed the agreement in accordance with salaries as per ILO standard. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulk *Pos Dignity* blocked from leaving a Swedish port (Lulea) has been allowed to leave after the crew's wages were increased. The International Transport Workers' Federation and the South Korean shipping company, Cido Maritime, signed an agreement boosting the wages of the 22 crew members by more than three-times. *Pos Dignity* was headed for St. Petersburg.

### INFESTATION OF LOCUSTS ACROSS NORTH AND WEST AFRICA

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated Oct 14, states: The United Nations is flying six more aircraft to combat swarms of crop-devouring locusts in West Africa. The planes will join four others already spraying in the region, where up to four million hectares of land are estimated to be infested. Hundreds of thousands of litres of pesticides have been ordered to fight the locusts, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said. Dense swarms are reported to be

heading to Libya, Algeria and Morocco. "Six fixed wing aircraft are arriving this week... and they will be followed shortly by four helicopters," said Clive Elliott, Head of FAO's Locust Group. "Operations in the near future will need to switch to the northern parts of the Sahara to protect North African countries," he said. Mauritania, Mali, Senegal and Niger have been worst affected by the locusts whose numbers have swelled due to good rainfall, making conditions favourable for breeding. More than 40% of Mauritania's crops have been wiped out in some areas, the FAO estimates. "The situation is critical. We don't have the means to cope with the situation," said Mohamed El Hacem Ould Jaavar, Chief of Intervention at Mauritania's National Centre for Locust Control. "We have only seven teams in the field and two aircraft for spraying. We can tap into reservists for personnel - they are already trained - but we need equipment and cash for pesticide." Almost a year after the FAO launched its first appeal - only \$20m of the \$100m needed to fight the plague has been received from donors. "The longer we wait, the more money we are going to need," the FAO'S Jacques Diouf said. As agricultural sectors in North Africa prepare to do battle, Said Ghaout, director of Morocco's National Centre for Locust Control, says it is still more effective to concentrate efforts in West Africa. "For each dollar spent on control in the Sahel, it saves \$3-\$4 being spent here in the north later on," Mr Ghaout said.

### OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

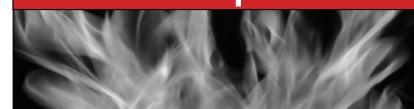
London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Vietnam reported today more bird flu outbreaks among poultry, underscoring the difficulty in stopping the spread of the disease, which has killed 31 people in Asia this year. Last week, some 3,000 chickens from three private farms in southern Tien Giang province died or were culled after they were suspected of contracting the disease, said Cao Van Hoa, deputy director of the provincial agriculture department. Hoa said samples have been sent to the regional animal health center in Ho Chi Minh City for testing, and results were expected in a week. In Soc Trang province, about 230 kilometers south-west of Ho Chi Minh City, authorities culled some 400 chickens at a farm after 500 birds died on Oct 1, an official from the provincial animal health bureau said. Meanwhile, authorities in the southern province of Long An have culled more than 2,300 chickens after about 250 birds from two farms died from the disease on Sep 30, provincial officials have said. The Ministry of Agriculture will hold a meeting in Long An province on Wednesday (Oct 20) to discuss measures to tighten surveillance against bird flu in the southern provinces, Bui Quang Anh, director of the Veterinary Department, told a news conference. He said the government will send more inspection teams to the region to ensure all steps are being taken to try to stamp out the disease.

Bird flu has killed or forced the cull of more than 43 million poultry in Vietnam.

### OUTBREAK OF BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY, UNITED STATES

Tokyo, Oct 15 — Japan moved a step closer today to easing a ban on imports of U.S. beef, saying it planned to exclude young animals from blanket testing for mad cow disease. Holding out the possibility of a compromise on one of the main bones of contention in U.S.-Japan beef trade talks, Agriculture Minister Yoshinobu Shimamura said Japan's Food Safety Commission would be asked to allow animals aged 20 months or younger to be excluded from a policy of testing all cattle. Japan was the biggest market for U.S. beef before an import ban was imposed 10 months ago following the discovery of a case of the deadly brain-wasting disease in Washington state. "We will ask the United States to apply the same safety policy to American cattle," Shimamura told a news conference. The change in testing policy would pave the way for a resumption of U.S. beef imports because most U.S. cattle sold as beef are slaughtered between the ages of 15 and 18 months. The Food Safety Commission is expected to approve the decision, although it could take a few months. Shimamura said the ministry would soon hold high-level talks with U.S. officials to discuss ways to resume U.S. beef imports. In the previous talks, Tokyo asked that all U.S. cattle be tested for mad cow disease before the meat is exported to Japan but Washington rejected this as unnecessary and too costly. Washington has said it wants cattle under 30 months old to be exempted from testing. Currently, the United States carries out only spot tests for BSE on animals 30 months old or older. Younger cattle are believed by scientists to carry the lowest risk of the illness. One potential problem is coming up with a way to prove that U.S. beef sent to Japan is from cattle aged 20 months or younger. In expert-level talks last week in Colorado, U.S. officials told a Japanese delegation they could estimate cattle age by checking the maturity of meat and bones. Japanese officials said the method was not accurate enough. — Reuters.

## Fires & Explosions



### BUSH, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A cool change across much of New South Wales has brought much needed respite for exhausted firefighters, who had battled for 48 hours in sweltering conditions. Any sense of relief was overshadowed by tragedy with the death of a NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteer from a suspected heart attack in the Hunter



Valley, yesterday morning. After two days of unseasonably high temperatures and low humidity, the cool change is expected to allow firefighters to get on top of the few remaining troublespots. A total fire ban will remain in force on the state's far north coast today. A fire that burnt out more than 1100 hectares of bushland near Woodburn on the far north coast over the past two days has been contained. Crews are also working to hold in check a fire that has burnt more than 250 hectares of bushland between Hastings Point and Cabarita further north. No property was under threat. There were some extra fires, today, in the Hunter and Hastings area and some fires flared up in the Tweed Heads area, but there was no property damage.

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Today's weather forecast should help firefighters regain control of bushfires burning across Queensland's south-east. The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting moderate winds with isolated showers near the coast. Queensland fire commissioner Lee Johnson says most of the bushfires are under control. "The outlook is for weather conditions to improve for us, which will bring cooler conditions and hopefully a much much better day so the immediate outlook will improve," he said.

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated today, states: The Rural Fire Service says two fires in northern New South Wales have now been contained. A weather change late yesterday helped efforts to bring the fires at Bogangar and Ocean Shores under control. Smoke from the fire at Ocean Shores forced the closure of a primary school yesterday and burnt out around 200 hectares.

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Visitors to a popular recreational area near Binalong Bay on Tasmania's east coast are being urged to keep away as fire crews continue to fight a blaze in the vicinity. A fire in the Doctors Peak area has so far burnt about 2,000 hectares. Late yesterday, firefighters were trying to make the most of a lull in weather conditions to establish control lines in the area. Fires burning at Fingal and near Bicheno are now under control. District fire officer Ken Burns says while campers were evacuated from the Binalong Bay area on Thursday, it is still not safe to return. "We don't want campers in there at the moment, the road may become impassable we don't want them to be isolated so certainly we're discouraging people from visiting the area," he said. "It's a popular holiday recreational area, we don't want sightseers or visitors or campers in there at the moment."

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Two bushfires remain burning across New South Wales but the blazes on the state's far north coast have been contained and backburning operations are underway. The twin fires broke out this week near Cabarita just south of Tweed Heads and the second about 30 km south at Ocean Shores. New South Wales Rural Fire

Service spokeswoman Rebel Talbert said once backburning was completed about 500 hectares of bush, including the Billinudgel Nature Reserve, would be destroyed at Ocean Shores. She said about 300 hectares would also be burnt out at Cabarita. "They are still burning and they were doing a lot of backburning around Ocean Shores today that put up a large amount of smoke so there is a lot of smoke in the area," Ms Talbert said. About 355 students at the Ocean Shores Public School were sent home yesterday after smoke from the fire began billowing across school grounds. Ms Talbert said yesterday's cold change had calmed down the numerous fires that broke out through the week.

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters enlisted from North Queensland to help fight the bushfires in the state's south-east will return home tomorrow as conditions ease. Around 40 firefighters were brought south from Cairns and Townsville to help fight the fires that have plagued large parts of south-east Queensland for a fortnight. Conditions eased today with a slight drop in temperature and moderate south to south-east winds. Today at suburban Tingalpa a fire flared up off Stanton Road, adjoining Brisbane's Gateway Motorway. Seven urban crews and two support vehicles were called at 1415, AEST, and the fire was out at 1525, AEST. The Gateway Motorway and Wynnum Road however were closed because of thick smoke for about an hour, causing widespread delays.

London, Oct 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire near the coastal town of St Helens in Tasmania's north-east is expected to be contained by the end of today. The fire has destroyed more than 2,500 hectares in the Mount Pearson State Forest. Cool conditions and light winds yesterday gave firefighters the chance to gain some control over the blaze north of St Helens. A helicopter was used to drop water on the fire while about 50 firefighters attacked it from the ground. Fire crews will also continue to black out the edges of contained fires at the Mathinna timber plantation and in the National Park south of Bicheno today.

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters expect to contain the bushfire burning near St Helens on Tasmania's east coast by late tomorrow. Most of the blaze burning at Doctors Peak was brought under control during the weekend (Oct 16/17) thanks to the help of two helicopters dropping water on the flames and 50 firefighters attacking it from the ground. Incident controller Adrian Pyrke says light winds have also made firefighting easier. "The fire is estimated to be about 2,300 hectares and the size has hardly grown at all over the past few days because of the very mild conditions," Mr Pyrke said. Meanwhile, firefighters continue to black out the edges of two other contained blazes at Mathinna and south of Bicheno.

## COAL MINE, XINMI, HENAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A gas blast tore through a Chinese coal mine, killing at least 60 people in the country's deadliest mine accident this year, the government said today. Officials reported that another 88 were missing and chances of finding them alive were slim. Some 446 people were at work in the Daping Mine southwest of Beijing at the time of the explosion and 298 escaped alive, said Sun Huashan, deputy administrator of the State Administration of Work Safety. The official Xinhua News Agency said the explosion occurred yesterday night in Henan province. The agency cited local officials saying 60 miners were confirmed dead and more than 1,000 rescuers was searching for 88 others. Xinhua said most of the miners whose bodies had been found so far died of suffocation in the toxic fumes. "The chances of the workers surviving are rather slim," Sun said at a news conference in Beijing. State television said the gas density in the mine shot up from two percent to 40 percent in less than three minutes. Poor ventilation is a common problem in China's accident-plagued mines. The cause of the accident was under investigation, said an official reached by telephone at the Henan Province Coal Mine Safety Inspection Bureau. He refused to give his name. The state-owned Daping Mine employs 4,100 people and is located in the Songshan Mountains, about 25 miles southwest of the major industrial city of Zhengzhou. China's coal mines are the world's deadliest, with thousands of deaths reported every year in explosions, underground floods and other accidents often blamed on negligence or lack of safety equipment. Fires, floods and other accidents in coal mines killed 4,153 people in the first nine months of this year, the government said today in a regular report on industrial safety. It said that figure was down 13 percent from the same period last year, due largely to a nationwide safety crackdown.

## FACTORIES, KARACHI, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Oct 20 — A huge fire on Monday (Oct 18) damaged the godown of the country's largest tyre manufacturer in the private sector, General Tyre & Rubber Company in Karachi, Sindh Province of Pakistan and a towel factory causing the loss of millions of rupees. Central Fire Brigade station said that about twenty fire brigades took part in fire fighting operations and later extinguished it after five hours of rescue operations. The fire broke out 1700, local time, in the godown situated in Korangi Industrial Area near Murtaza Chowk, having finished and unfinished rubber products and chemicals. The fire not only engulfed to the whole godown but also spread to a neighbouring towel factory. The cause of fire is still unknown, however the initial report suggested losses in millions of rupees. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**FOREST, CHINA**

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: The forest fire in Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province has been brought under control, thanks to efforts of more than 11,000 people. After six days of fierce firefighting and the assistance of artificially produced rainfall, the four major fire sites — Yichun, Zhanhe, Heihe and Daxing'anling forestry areas — are all basically out, according to officials. All the forest brigades are still closely watching the situation while clearing up hot spots, the official said. The provincial and municipal weather bureaux are awaiting orders to continue artificial rainfall when the weather permits in Hujia, Heilongjiang Province. "The casualties and fire losses are not available at present," said Zhao Sheng, director of the Heilongjiang Provincial Forestry Fire-control office. Governor of Heilongjiang Province Zhang Zuoji commanded the firefighting work on spot. The fire broke out at 1452, Oct 14, in Heihe. Investigators found the fire started accidentally when forest-fire control workers lighted a fire in the woods along the fire-control belt which separates the protected forest from other vegetation. In addition, the dry, clear and windy weather, which has lasted since the National Day, also accelerated the fire's spread. The fire expanded violently to the surrounding Yichun, Daxing'anling and Zhanhe forestry areas. Some 1,682 fire brigades, 1,619 armed police and more than 8,000 people were mobilised to extinguish the blaze. Heilongjiang Forestry Administration reported 21 forest fires and fire alarms in six days.

**FOREST, INDONESIA**

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Choking haze from forest and ground fires blanketed the southern parts of the Indonesian island of Borneo today, disrupting flights in central part of the island, officials said. At least two flights in Muara Teweh city in Central Kalimantan province were cancelled early today because of smoke from fires lit to clear new plantation land, said an airport official named Erny. Visibility in the morning was only 700 metres, she said. There were 442 "hotspots" or burning areas on Sumatra island on Thursday (Oct 14). Parts of Indonesia were on Wednesday enveloped in one of the worst days of haze this year, prompting residents to don face masks to ward off thick, choking fumes. The haze, caused by forest and ground fires across Indonesia, descended on the province of South Kalimantan on Borneo island, reducing visibility and filling the air with a noxious burning smell.

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Thick haze from forest fires in Central and East Kalimantan provinces continued to blanket some cities in Kalimantan yesterday, but heavy downpours over the weekend helped ease the fog in some cities in Sumatra. In Samarinda, East Kalimantan, visibility has been reduced to one kilometre because of the

haze. The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administrations (NOAA) satellite found 17 fires in East Kalimantan, 225 hot spots in Central Kalimantan and 133 in South Kalimantan on Sunday (Oct 17). Yusman, the head of Meteorology and Geophysics Agency (BMG) at Termindung Airport in Samarinda predicted the thick haze in the province would last until the end of October, when the wind's direction in Central and South Kalimantan is expected to change. The number of patients with respiratory illnesses reached more than 700 this month, from last month's 400. However, Dr. Djatmiko Wahyono of the city's health agency said the condition remained under control. In Palembang, authorities announced heavy rains around most parts of South Sumatra had put out as many as 414 hot spots in the province, Antara reported. Thick haze had blanketed the province for the past three days. The local health agency had provided about 50,000 masks to be distributed to local residents, particularly children.

**FOREST, RUSSIA**

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Thirty forest fires have been registered in the Far East, with 20 having started yesterday. The most complex situation is in the Amur region where the Khingan wildlife sanctuary is on fire. More than 1,500 hectares of forest and 16,000 hectares of bushland and other areas are ablaze. Strong wind with gusts of up to 20 metres per second blows the fire and complicates fire-fighting efforts. Forests are also burning in the Primorye Territory and the Jewish Autonomous Area. All fires are raging deep in the taiga and pose no threat to settlements, the regional forest protection service told Itar-Tass.

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated Oct 17, states: Areas of burning forests and surrounding territories have sharply increased over the past 24 hours in the Amur and the Jewish Autonomous regions. Another seat of fire flared up in another wooded territory in the Khingan nature preserve where fire has been raging over 1,500 hectares of forest for several days. Flames spread over 150 hectares in the territory in one day, Tass learnt today from a duty officer of the Amur forest protection air base. Apart from wooded areas, territories with no forests are also ablaze in the preserve. More than 30,000 hectares are now in flames. Some 24 fires over a total area of more than 30,000 hectares were recorded in the Jewish Autonomous Republic, Tass learnt from a duty officer of the Far Eastern forest protection air base. The use of fire-fighting aviation is limited over thick smoke and poor visibility. This notwithstanding, helicopters with skydivers flew to seats of fire. There are three seats of fire in the Khabarovsk Territory. Two of them were localized. Specialists of land and air fire-fighting services fight fires in all the zones of burning taiga.

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: The fire situation

has deteriorated again in forests of the Far East. Forty fires were registered on the total area of more than 33,000 hectares, a source in the far Eastern emergencies centre told Itar-Tass today. Twenty-five fires broke out for the last day. The taiga and adjoining areas are ablaze in the Amur, Jewish autonomous area, Primorye and Khabarovsk territories. The most difficult situation emerged in the Amur region. The forests are blazing in the Khingansky national park where more than 1,600 hectares of forests and 30,000 hectares of not forests in the national park are afire. As many as 350 people and 65 pieces of ground machinery are mobilized for extinguishing fires in the region. The use of aviation is limited over poor visibility.

**PREMISES, BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND**

London, Oct 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The extent of the damage caused by a major blaze in Belfast city centre is being assessed by the Fire Service. More than 100 firefighters brought the fire in the city's main shopping district under control. Firefighters from across Belfast as well as crews from Portadown, Lisburn and Newtownards were called in to help tackle the fire. It is not yet known how the fire started and at this stage police do not believe there was anyone in the building. Fire crews were originally fighting the blaze from the inside, but because of cracks at the front of the building they had to withdraw and fight the fire from the outside. 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." There has been extensive damage to some buildings. Press Association editor in Northern Ireland, Deric Henderson, said: "As I understand it, the fire seems to have started at the back of the building in the Berry Street area. "We are the only office on the fourth floor and they have been completely gutted and there is extensive damage on the lower floors and on the ground where you have Waterstone's and Goldsmith's." He said the fire had been devastating and that files, computer equipment and personal effects had been destroyed. Thousands of books, worth hundreds of thousands of pounds, have been destroyed in the fire. "The water damage, I imagine, will have destroyed most, if not all, of the stock." Meanwhile, conservation architects from the DoE's Environment and Heritage Service are waiting to inspect two listed buildings caught up in the blaze.

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A major fire which caused millions of pounds of damage in Belfast city centre was arson, police have said. The blaze, which broke out on Thursday (Oct 14), caused massive damage to a number of premises in



Royal Avenue. More than 100 firefighters took several hours to contain the blaze in a four-storey building. It contains Waterstone's bookstore, Goldsmith's jewellers, and the Northern Ireland bureau of the Press Association. Forensic scientists examined the site to establish how the fire started. They had been delayed for several days because the building was deemed too unsafe to examine. A police spokesman said today: "Officially, we are now treating it as arson." Conservation architects have examined the listed buildings affected by the fire, and are to submit a report. But it is thought no major re-building work will be required. Thousands of books, worth hundreds of thousands of pounds, were also destroyed in the fire.

#### **PREMISES, CARACAS, VENEZUELA**

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire has destroyed the upper portion of one of the tallest buildings in the Venezuelan capital, Caracas. The cause of the fire in the 56-storey East Tower of Parque Central complex is not yet known. Firefighters backed by military helicopters and troops battled for more than 12 hours against the blaze in the building housing government offices. Work was halted in the mid-afternoon yesterday amid fears the structure was on the brink of collapsing. "There is a problem because the building is made of steel," Information Minister Jesse Chacon said, warning that high temperatures could lead to it melting. No-one is believed to have died in the blaze but some 25 firefighters were injured after inhaling poisonous fumes, officials said. Infrastructure Minister Ramon Carrizales said the fire was expected to stop on the 34th floor of the building - but the flames instead entered the ventilation ducts and rose "to the 44th floor with great violence". Caracas fire chief Rodolfo Briceno blamed low water pressure and poorly maintained emergency equipment for the failure to stop the fire.

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated Oct 18, states: Hundreds of firefighters backed by helicopters battled a raging blaze that destroyed at least 12 floors of Venezuela's tallest skyscraper yesterday. Authorities said nobody died in the fire, but at least 25 firefighters were injured after inhaling toxic gases. Officials do not know the origin of the fire that broke out in the pre-dawn hours at a government office inside the East Tower of the Central Park building complex. About 200 firefighters supported by soldiers fought the flames for more than 12 hours. Military helicopters ferried water to the building to help douse the flames. The reinforced concrete skyscraper, built in 1979, is filled with government agencies and ministries, but is also home to the Caracas Museum of Contemporary Art, which owns a valuable collection of abstract art. Interior and Justice Minister Jesse Chacon said at mid-afternoon that firefighters working inside the building were ordered to leave out of fear the whole structure

would collapse. All nearby buildings were also ordered evacuated. The East Tower was not properly equipped to put out fires.

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Venezuela's Parque Central East Tower, South America's tallest skyscraper, sustained damages of at least \$300 million in a blaze two days ago, according to the country's interior and justice minister. The fire, which destroyed the top 22 stories of the 56-storey east tower of Caracas' Parque Central, was worsened by a lack of maintenance on the building, Interior and Justice Minister Jesse Chacon said in remarks carried by the state radio station. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

#### **PREMISES, OKLAHOMA CITY, UNITED STATES**

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A four-alarm fire gutted a half-century-old shoe business today. One firefighter was injured after responding to the blaze at Loveless Shoes on the city's southwest side. Firefighters, who responded to a call at 1115 hrs, estimated damage at \$1.5 million. There were no other reports of injuries. Flames continued shooting from the building four hours after the fire started, and a tall cloud of smoke was visible from miles away.

#### **REFINERY, MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated Oct 14, states: A fire broke out at the Tesoro refinery early this morning, officials said. It began at 0245 hrs in a gas holding tank in one of the refinery's storage areas, Tesoro spokesman Jon Ballesteros said. The fire burned for three hours before being extinguished at 0545 hrs, said Paul Andrews, Contra Costa Health Services hazardous materials specialist. The incident was declared "all clear" at 0622 hrs. No one was injured, and the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

#### **REFINERY, SENDAI, JAPAN**

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire broke out at 1235, today at Nippon Oil Corp's refinery in Sendai in northeastern Japan, but it was extinguished about two hours later, local firefighters said. According to the firefighters, the fire occurred in oil desulfurization equipment, which is away from oil tanks. No one was injured due to the fire. Black smoke was briefly seen billowing from the refinery, which is adjacent to Sendai port.

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Japan's Nippon Oil Corp. is operating its sole 145,000-barrel-a-day crude distillation unit at its Sendai refinery at 50% of capacity following a fire Saturday (Oct 16) at the refinery site, the company's president said today. "Local firefighters are conducting an investigation at the refinery site...we are running the CDU at half capacity," Fumiaki Watari told reporters at a regular news conference held by the Petroleum Association of

Japan. Watari is also chairman of the association. The local fire department ordered Nippon Oil to immediately halt operations at a vacuum flasher unit and gasoil desulfurization unit at the refinery after the fire broke out at a pipe associated with the vacuum flasher unit. A CDU is the main refinery unit that processes crude oil for producing refined products such as gasoline, gasoil and kerosene. "There may be some shortfalls in our gasoil production there caused by the lower operations at the Sendai refinery," Watari said. But he added the company should be able to cover any shortfall by shipping gasoil to its customers from its other refineries.

#### **SHIPYARD, TADOTSU, KAGAWA PREFECTURE, JAPAN**

See *Sea Lantana* under "Marine."

#### **TEXTILE MILL, KARACHI, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Oct 20 — According to the Central Fire Brigade Station, a huge fire broke out in a big privately owned textile mill in the SITE Industrial area of the Karachi-Sindh Province of Pakistan this morning and about nine fire brigade vehicles are still busy extinguishing it. An official of the fire brigade said that the fire started in the Lucky Textile mill in the SITE area this morning. The factory is located on plot A/8E. He said detail of loss and causes of the fire will be known after all fire vehicles are returned with a submission of the initial investigation report by the duty officer. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **WAREHOUSE, CONYERS, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Oct 17 — A press report, dated Oct 16, states: A massive warehouse fire that sent a cloud of chlorine-tinged smoke into the air and prompted the evacuation of hundreds of homes is believed to have been started accidentally, according to the results of the fire investigation. Rockdale County and the Georgia Fire Marshall's Office officials concluded the May 25 BioLab blaze was not intentionally set, although they could not determine the fire's exact cause, according to a report released yesterday. BioLab is a manufacturer of pool and spa products. Capt. Phil Norton, chief investigator with the Rockdale County Fire Department, noted in the report that the fire destroyed much of the physical evidence and hindered investigators in determining the cause of the fire. Norton reported that the investigation into the BioLab fire in Conyers was closed "unless new information or evidence comes to light." Arson investigators were called to the scene on May 26 and begin interviewing workers and supervisors. At that time, the site was deemed unsafe with chemicals still burning under the buildings collapsed roof. Investigators soon believed the fire was not intentionally set and considered several scenarios during their investigation. In a draft synopsis included in the report, Norton, along with state fire

investigators, considered that the fire may have been the result of a reaction caused by spilled chemicals.

#### **WAREHOUSE, NAIROBI AIRPORT, KENYA**

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful explosion at a Nairobi airport, in Kenya, has left two people injured and caused part of the roof of the departure terminal to collapse. However, authorities say the blast appears to be an accident. "We think that the explosion was caused by flammable substances at the customs storage section," Kenyan Government spokesman Alfred Mutua said. "We don't think it was a bomb, because the explosion came from a Customs bonded warehouse where flammable materials are usually kept," Tourism and Information Minister Raphael Tuju, said. Police have closed the airport, which is located on the outskirts of the Kenyan capital. The airport handles light aircraft and domestic flights, mainly to the country's national parks which are popular with tourists. A police spokesman says the impact of the blast blew off a section of the building's tiled roof and sparked a fire, which was quickly extinguished by firefighters. It also destroyed furniture, goods kept in the warehouse and shattered window panes inside the departure lounge, and sparked panic throughout the facility.

Nairobi, Oct 17 — An explosion believed to be accidental struck a warehouse at a Nairobi airport, injuring two customs workers, Kenya's information minister said. Information Minister Raphael Tuju said flammable material at a customs bonded warehouse was believed to have caused the afternoon blast at Wilson Airport, southwest of the city centre. "It wasn't a bomb," Tuju told reporters at the airport. "The preliminary information we have is that it came from a customs bonded warehouse." The explosion at the one-storey building tore roof tiles off and shattered wooden beams and windows. "We believe there must have been some flammable material," Tuju said. Police spokesman Jasper Ombati said a preliminary investigation had not yet determined what type of material it was, nor why it exploded. Police sealed off the airport, and re-opened it a few hours later. — Reuters.

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

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated Oct 15, states: Firefighters held three Northern California wildfires in check today, but dense smoke caused health warnings to be issued as the state entered the peak of fire season, fire officials said. Two wildfires that burned more than 20,000 acres in the Eldorado National Forest were about one-third contained, but portions of two highways remained closed. Residents in the mountain community of Kyburz were allowed to return home. Others in nearby Silver Fork were kept away as firefighters burned out areas to protect summer cabins, fire officials said. A third fire in Yolo and Napa counties northeast of San Francisco, which had burned about 39,100 acres, was expected

to be contained by the weekend, but another fire broke out about five miles away today. Smoke from the fires cast a pall over the Sierra foothills and Central Valley, prompting counties to issue health advisories and forcing school officials in some communities to keep children indoors and cancel tonight's football games. As of last week, more than 171,000 acres had been charred statewide during the fire season that began in May. The total is 70,000 acres more than an average year and does not include the acreage from the three current fires, said Karen Terrill, a spokeswoman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

London, Oct 17 — A press report, dated Oct 16, states: A fire in Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy basin grew to 1,500 acres today, and park officials were searching for a man suspected of setting the blaze. The fire was burning in rugged wilderness in the north-west portion of the park, National Park Service ranger Scott Gediman said. The area is remote, and no structures were threatened, he said. The fire was first spotted yesterday. Firefighters evacuated two hikers who said they had seen a man lighting fires along the trail. Fire crews were building a line around the blaze to contain it. The fire is near the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, which provides water to more than 2.4 million San Francisco-area residents.

London, Oct 17 — A press report, dated Oct 16, states: Firefighters gained on a 7,700-acre blaze near Highway 50, which links Sacramento and South Lake Tahoe. The fire was 65% contained today. Residents were allowed to return home yesterday, but others in nearby Silver Fork were kept away as firefighters burned out areas to protect summer cabins, fire officials said. South of that fire, crews had a 12,900-acre blaze 40% contained, but full containment was not expected for another week because of a heavy concentration of dead trees and brush. The state's largest fire, a 39,138-acre blaze in Yolo and Napa counties northeast of San Francisco, was almost fully contained today.

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated Oct 18, states: A rainstorm helped firefighters gain control of wildfires burning across the Sierra Nevada, including a nearly 17,000-acre blaze and a smaller fire ignited by a suspected arsonist in Yosemite National Park. The 16,800-acre fire in the Eldorado National Forest was about 50% contained yesterday because of the heavy rain, said state Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokeswoman Donna Winkelman. Meanwhile, a 7,700-acre fire in Eldorado was fully contained. And the 2,000-acre fire in a remote section of Yosemite was mostly snuffed out by the rain. The larger Eldorado National Forest fire was half contained yesterday and a section of Highway 88 that had been closed was reopened. However, drivers were warned of "extremely hazardous conditions" because of poor visibility, Winkelman said. The fire was not expected to be fully contained until the weekend because of a large amount of dead trees and brush around the site.

Although the smaller Eldorado fire was contained, a portion of Highway 50, which links Sacramento and South Lake Tahoe, remained closed. At least some residents who had been evacuated were allowed to return home.



#### **9G-MKJ**

London, Oct 14 — Boeing 747-200, 9G-MKJ, operated by MK Airlines, crashed at Halifax International Airport, Nova Scotia, at 0652, UTC, Oct 14, while taking off for a flight to Zaragoza, Spain. The aircraft caught fire. The seven persons on board were killed.

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated Oct 17, states: Investigators have recovered the flight data recorders from the wreckage of the cargo jet (9G-MKJ) that crashed at Halifax International Airport last week. Bill Fowler, spokesman for the Transportation Safety Board, says there's been substantial heat damage to the recorder, but it is a crucial discovery. "This is an important milestone in the investigation," said Fowler. It will be taken to Ottawa where it'll be examined to determine if the information recorded on the data recorder is still intact. That information could include the position of the Boeing 747 and whether there were any engine problems right before Thursday's (Oct 14) crash. Yesterday investigators recovered the bodies of the seven crew members who were killed in the accident. Killed in the crash were four British nationals, two Zimbabweans and a German.

#### **ABORTED TAKE-OFF, CLEVELAND HOPKINS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CLEVELAND, UNITED STATES**

Chicago, Oct 15 — The aircraft carrying Democratic vice presidential nominee Sen. John Edwards aborted takeoff from Cleveland's airport today when the pilot spotted a potential problem with a generator, Edwards' press secretary said. The chartered Boeing 727 pulled to a stop on the runway at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, Mark Kornblau said. No one was hurt, he said. "According to the pilot, of three generators (on board), one indicated problems and he aborted takeoff as we were heading down the runway," Kornblau said from the airport, where the aircraft was being inspected. — Reuters.

#### **AC-CID**

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated today, states: It is understood one person has died and another has been injured in a crash involving a light aircraft at Jersey's airport. It is thought the accident happened at about 0750 BST, today. The area near Les Ormes golf course has been sealed off by Jersey police, who are investigating the incident



and will be issuing a statement later. Officers from the Air Accident Investigation Branch are now flying into the island from the UK.

St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Oct 17 — At 0648, UTC, Oct 16, Money M2OP, registration AC-CID, stalled on return to Jersey aerodrome and, approximately one half mile west-south-west of the runway, nose dived to the ground. The aircraft was destroyed and a fire ensued. The one person onboard was killed. The accident will be the subject of an A.A.I.B. investigation. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **AIRCRAFT DAMAGED, STUTTGART MUNICIPAL AIRPORT, ARKANSAS, UNITED STATES**

See "United States" under "Weather & Navigation."

#### **C-GITS**

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Human error caused a fuel leak in an Air Transat aircraft and inadequate safety procedures led to the Canadian jetliner's crew having to glide in for a dramatic engines-out landing that averted catastrophe three years ago, says an official report published today. Eleven people were injured, none seriously, when the aircraft with more than 300 people aboard descended more than 9,000 metres without power and made an emergency landing in Portugal's mid-Atlantic Azores Islands on Aug 24 2001. Passengers aboard Air Transat's Airbus A-330 called Capt. Robert Piche a hero when he landed the unpowered jet on the runway at Lajes air base in the Azores after gliding for 19 minutes after the second engine failed. But accident investigators determined that the pilots turned a fuel leak into a near-disaster. They failed to recognise the leak and tried to correct from memory - rather than by following a checklist - what they believed was a weight imbalance, during which time they pumped tonnes of fuel onboard. Following the incident, Canada's government imposed a fine and restrictions on Air Transat's fleet after the airline admitted mechanics installed improper equipment on the aircraft. A 103-page report by the Portuguese Aviation Accidents Investigation Department traced the incident to the pre-flight installation of a replacement engine which had a different configuration from the engine being removed. The report urged a review of cockpit checklists and warning systems to provide clearer information about fuel discrepancy situations. In a statement released late yesterday, Air Transat said it supports the recommendations included in the report. "Since the occurrence we have reviewed our training programs and enhanced our processes, in terms of both maintenance and flight operations," Allen Graham, airline president and CEO, said in the statement. "Passenger safety has always been and continues to be our top priority; this event is unique in our history." Piche's extraordinary skills, including making a steep, 360-degree

turn only a few kilometres from the threshold of the Lajes runway to lose sufficient height, then gliding to a landing, impressed the Portuguese investigators. "The captain's skill in conducting the engines-out glide to a successful landing averted a catastrophic accident and saved the lives of the passengers and crew," the report says. The senior mechanic during the installation "relied on verbal advice" instead of checking technical service documents, the report said. Fuel and hydraulic tubes were not properly matched, resulting in the tubes coming into contact. The fuel tube then fractured, causing a fuel leak, the report said. The aircraft lost six tonnes of fuel before the crew detected the leak, according to the report. After the incident the airline undertook a comprehensive review of its maintenance and operations program. Airbus and Rolls-Royce, the engine maker, advised operators to inspect fuel and hydraulic lines. In other findings, the report said overhead oxygen masks for passengers did not drop down during the emergency because the doors of the mask containers failed to open, and that a jammed emergency exit hampered evacuation of the aircraft.

#### **CRASH, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES**

See N322WW.

#### **CRASH, CORSHAM AREA, WILTSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A light aircraft has crashed in a field in Wiltshire which is thought to be used as a private airstrip. Two men were on board the aircraft when it crashed at 1530, BST, yesterday at Manor Farm, Wadswick near Corsham. One of the passengers managed to get out of the aircraft, and has non life-threatening leg injuries. Police said the second man is in a more serious condition with head injuries. Both passengers were taken to the Royal United Hospital for treatment. The Moony single engine aircraft, had left Old Sarum earlier in the afternoon. The men were first attended on the scene by paramedics brought in by the air ambulance. The Air Accidents Investigation Branch - based at Farnborough - is expected to examine the wreckage this morning.

#### **CRASH, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA**

See 9G-MKJ.

#### **CRASH, MITCHELL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MILWAUKEE, UNITED STATES**

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A pilot was forced to make a belly landing this morning at Mitchell International Airport after the Beech 99 aircraft's landing gear got stuck. It was a freight express cargo flight. The pilot was the only person on board and was not injured. Emergency crews were still on the scene at 0900 hrs.

#### **CRASH, MOUNT HALEAKALA, MAUI, HAWAII, UNITED STATES**

Honolulu, Oct 20 — A Cessna 310 went down on Mt. Haleakala, Island of Maui on Oct 17. The Cessna was register to WardAir Aviation Inc. of Kailua, Oahu, Hawaii. It was reported the Cessna landed at Kahului Airport at 2118 to refuel and was headed for Kona, Hawaii. Six minutes after take-off the control tower lost radar and radio contact with the aircraft. The Maui Fire Department sent its rescue helicopter to the remote area and the crew spotted the wreckage. The pilot and owner of WardAir, Ward Mareels was killed. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, CARDIFF, WALES**

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A British tourist flight travelling to Paris turned back shortly after take-off when the plane struck a bird. The Boeing 737, operated by budget carrier bmibaby, left from Cardiff just after 0730 hrs carrying 127 passengers and struck the bird within minutes of taking off. A bmibaby spokesman said today that the plane had made a "declared emergency landing" at Cardiff as a precaution. "This was due to a bird striking the aircraft. The aircraft landed safely and without incident," he said. "Emergency services were in attendance as a standard precautionary measure but were not required. "All passengers have been disembarked and will be travelling on to Paris on a replacement aircraft."

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MUMBAI, INDIA**

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: An Alliance Air Boeing-737 with 55 passengers and crew on-board landed at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport amidst full emergency measures following a technical snag. The flight from Nagpur landed safely, an airport official said. The commander reported "fluid loss" in the hydraulic system. The aircraft was later towed to the parking bay.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, CHITOSE AIRPORT, JAPAN**

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A KLM Royal Dutch Airlines jumbo jet made an emergency landing in northern Japan this morning after the pilot complained of engine trouble, authorities said. Flight 861, which had 284 passengers and crew aboard, had engine problems in airspace west of Wakkanai, 682 miles north of Tokyo, an official with the Land and Transport Ministry's Chitose airport office said on condition of anonymity. The plane was bound for Tokyo from Amsterdam. The Boeing 747-400 landed at Chitose airport on the island of Hokkaido about 45 minutes later, he said. There were no injuries to the people aboard, who were flown to Tokyo's Narita airport on an alternate plane. The ministry was investigating the cause of the incident.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, COLD BAY AIRPORT, ALASKA, UNITED STATES**

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A Continental Airlines jet bound for Houston from Tokyo experienced engine trouble and was forced to make an emergency landing today at Cold Bay. Flight 6, a two-engine Boeing 777 carrying 241 passengers and at least 15 crew members, landed just after 0400 hrs at Cold Bay's airport, according to Gordon Bliss, an operations officer with the Federal Aviation Administration. No injuries were reported. "They were having problems with one engine, so they shut that one down and put the plane down before anything got worse," Bliss said. Continental spokesman David Messing said pilots on the flight received warning of reduced oil pressure in one of the engines, which was shut down as a precaution. Procedure then called for the aircraft to be diverted to the nearest airport, he said. Cold Bay is a community of 95 located 642 miles southwest of Anchorage. A replacement jet was to be flown from New York to pick up the passengers, Bliss said.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, EL PALOMAR, ARGENTINA**

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: The aircraft carrying Argentine President Nestor Kirchner made an emergency landing yesterday after engine trouble, but no one aboard was injured, a spokesman for the air force said. Kirchner and his officials took the "Tango 01" from a Buenos Aires airport to the northern province of Entre Rios. Just minutes after the take-off, the plane's left engine went wrong and caught fire. The pilot had to land it at the El Palomar air field, north of the capital. Argentine Prime Minister Alberto Fernandez said later that the president and the others aboard were not wounded. Kirchner has cancelled his trip and flew back to Buenos Aires by helicopter. The cause of the accident is under investigation by technical experts.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, FUKUOKA AIRPORT, JAPAN**

London, Oct 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A Japan Airlines plane bound for Nagoya from Naha, Okinawa Prefecture, made an emergency landing this afternoon at Fukuoka airport due to engine trouble. No one was injured in the incident. JAL Flight 3256, with 150 passengers and five crew members, contacted the Nagoya airport office around 1350 hrs, to report the engine trouble, and made the emergency landing about an hour later, according to the airline. The airline said one of the Boeing 737 plane's gauges indicated a problem with the engine on its left wing. The flight was cancelled, and the passengers were redirected and taken to Nagoya on a Japan Railway Shinkansen bullet train.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE, UNITED STATES**

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 100 federal prisoners spent the night in New

Hampshire after their plane experienced mechanical troubles and had to land at Manchester Airport, according to the U.S. Marshals Service. Officials said there was no danger to the public, and insisted that each prisoner would be carefully tracked and guarded. The plane, which the service's Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System operates, landed at the airport about 1600 hrs (yesterday). "It did have to land in Manchester, and did indeed have mechanical problems," said Stephen Monier, U.S. Marshal for the District of New Hampshire. Monier would not disclose where the plane was from or where it was heading. According to the New York Daily News, the aircraft was originally traveling from Fayetteville, N.C., to Newburgh, N.Y.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, MIRNY, RUSSIA**

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A Tu-134 passenger airliner, bound for Yakutsk-Khabarovsk, made an emergency landing today. The airliner's undercarriage failed to retract. There were five crew members and 40 passengers on board. The crew decided to return to Mirny. None of the crew members or passengers was hurt.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, PIEDMONT TRIAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES**

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A Delta Air Lines jet with more than 250 passengers was forced to make an emergency landing at Piedmont Triad International Airport yesterday after its crew reported smelling smoke in the cockpit. None of the 252 passengers and seven crew members aboard the Boeing 767-300 were injured in the incident, Delta spokeswoman Katie Connell said. Delta Flight 871 was flying from Atlanta to LaGuardia Airport when the pilots noticed a smoky odour in the cockpit and the aircraft was diverted to Greensboro, Connell said. The aircraft touched down around 1845 hrs and taxied to the gate under its own power. Crews replaced a part and the jet took off again before midnight.

**G-EKMW**

London, Oct 18 — Mooney M-20J (Mooney 201), G-EKMW, crashed on the island of Jersey at 0648, Oct 16, while on a flight from Jersey to Teeside. The one person on board was killed.

**GROUNDING OF FLIGHTS, PERU**

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated Oct 14, states: The Peruvian government ordered Lan Chile SA's local unit to ground all its flights starting at midnight tonight after a judge said the company is violating domestic ownership laws. Lan Peru, as the unit is known, will stop flights to 11 local and 11 international destinations from tomorrow, spokeswoman Monica Verastegui said in a statement sent by e-mail. The company will appeal the decision, the statement said. A group of rival airlines that weren't named will serve Lan Peru's customers, and the company will reimburse money to

customers who require it, the statement said. The decision affects 5,500 passengers. The company has 1,300 Peruvian workers, the statement said.

**INCIDENT AT SUNGSHAN AIRPORT, TAIPEI, TAIWAN**

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of passengers were stranded at Taipei's domestic airport yesterday as dozens of morning flights were cancelled while a Transasia Airways' Airbus A-320 that had veered off a runway was being removed, officials said. The aircraft that had been stuck in a ditch off the runway since Monday evening was not hauled away until 0830 yesterday, and Sungshan Airport remained closed for two additional hours, the officials said. Some 5,000 passengers were stranded at the airport. The Transasia plane from Tainan veered off the runway while landing at about 2000 Monday in the rain. Aviation authorities are investigating the cause of the accident, in which none of the 106 passengers and crew members on board were injured.

**INCIDENT AT SYLHET AIRPORT, BANGLADESH**

Karachi, Oct 16 — Bangladesh state owned airline-Biman Bangladesh Airlines (Biman) said today that its F-28 aircraft has been declared abandoned by Lloyds Aviation Insurance Company Ltd and efforts are being made to scrape it. A Biman spokesman told Lloyd's that the management of the airline has sought expression of interests from a number of international firms to arrange the decoding of the voice recorder-black box, aboard. He expressed hope that decoding, would facilitate finding out the causes of the plane mishap. Meanwhile, the two committees formed by Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh and Biman separately to investigate the mishap are still busy and may take a few more weeks, he pointed out. The Fokker plane skidded off at MAG Osmani Airport, Sylhet in northeastern Bangladesh, injuring 50 of the 83 passengers and crew on board Friday (Oct 8). The aircraft, whose nose went four feet deep into a nearby canal, caused serious damage to its cockpit. The wings also were damaged but the fuselage of the aircraft was still in a relatively good condition. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Oct 19 — Bangladesh State owned airline-Biman Bangladesh Airlines (Biman) is expected to get \$2.65 million from a Lloyd's Aviation Insurance Company as insurance coverage for its ill-fated Fokker F-28 aircraft, which skidded off at MAG Osmani Airport, Sylhet, on Oct 8. Local media reported that a settlement has been reached between both parties and under the settlement, the national flag carrier, which started salvage operation of the F-28 near Sylhet airport, will also retain the aeroplane. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**N119DM**

London, Oct 18 — Schweizer 300C, N119DM, crashed near Diamondhead, Mississippi, at 1720, Oct 16, while on a



local flight from Diamondhead. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were not injured.

#### **N171S**

London, Oct 18 — Beechcraft Twin Bonanza H50, N171S, crashed near Somerville, Virginia, at 1800, Oct 17, while on a local flight from Somerville. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

#### **N300HT**

London, Oct 15 — Bell 206B JetRanger, N300HT, crashed near Eutaw, Alabama, at 1620, Oct 14, while on a flight from Selma, AL. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was not injured.

#### **N322WW**

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A twin-engine Beechcraft 55 with two people aboard crashed during a rainstorm this morning in an industrial section of downtown Atlanta, authorities and witnesses said. There were no immediate reports of injuries, said Atlanta Police spokeswoman Marion Lee. Witnesses told local TV stations that the aircraft spun out of control and hit an abandoned building. A rainstorm was moving through the city at the time. A fire caused by the crash was quickly extinguished, said Bill May, spokesman for the Atlanta Fire Department. Video footage showed wreckage on the ground near a one-storey building, and part of a wall was blackened. There were two people on board the aircraft when it crashed at 1055 hrs, said FAA spokesman Christopher White. The aircraft had taken off from the DeKalb-Peachtree Airport in Atlanta and was headed to Venice, Fla., he said. The aircraft is registered to J&R Aircraft Inc. of Nokomis, Fla.

London, Oct 20 — Beechcraft Baron B55, N322WW, crashed near Atlanta, Georgia, at 1450, Oct 19, while on a flight from Atlanta to Venice, Florida. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

#### **N357RB**

London, Oct 14 — Cessna 210, N357RB, operated by Glen Aircraft Inc, while on a flight from Sarasota, Florida, to Abaco, Bahamas, with two persons on board, reported mayday before it ditched into the ocean at 1850, UTC, Oct 13, off Freeport, Grand Bahamas. The aircraft sank and both persons on board swam ashore.

#### **N454FL**

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated Oct 15, states: A Piper PA-28, carrying three teenagers on their way home from a scouting trip for elk, crashed near the Oregon coast, authorities said today. The aircraft had been missing since yesterday, when the teens called to say they were headed home. The wreckage was spotted by a logger, and there were no survivors, Yamhill County Sheriff Jack Crabtree said. It was unclear when the aircraft crashed. The wreckage

was discovered this afternoon in a heavily wooded area in Lincoln County, about 35 south-west of McMinnville. Sheriff's Lt. Ken Summers said the aircraft crashed into trees and burned. The bodies were found inside. The aircraft was rented from Cirrus Aviation in McMinnville. A spokeswoman at the company said Havel had previously rented aircraft from the company.

London, Oct 18 — Piper PA-28-140 (Cherokee), N454FL, crashed near Newport, Oregon, Oct 15 while on a local flight from McMinnville, OR. The three persons on board were killed.

#### **N5272H**

London, Oct 18 — A press report, dated Oct 17, states: A single-engine aircraft crashed near Whiteman Airpark in Pacoima today as a student pilot practiced takeoffs and landings, but the man appeared to be uninjured, a Los Angeles fire official said. Fire crews were called to 12605 Osborne St. at 1247 hrs, said Bob Collis of the Los Angeles Fire Department. Collis said the Cessna struck some power lines, wound up in a dirt lot and overturned. The pilot declined to be taken to a hospital for further examination, said Collis.

London, Oct 18 — Cessna 152, N5272H, crashed near Whiteman Airport, Los Angeles, California, at 1945, Oct 17, while on a local flight from Los Angeles. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The one person on board was not injured.

#### **N6410W**

London, Oct 15 — Piper PA-18-150 (Super Cub), N6410W, operated by Roger Christensen, with one person on board, crashed and flipped over at Oak Harbour, Washington, at 2018, UTC, Oct 13. The aircraft was substantially damaged and the pilot seriously injured.

#### **N709CK**

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A Kalitta Air LLC Boeing 747 (N709CK) cargo plane from Chicago landed safely at Detroit Metropolitan Airport early today after losing an engine somewhere over Michigan. Federal Aviation Administration officials in Chicago say the aircraft took off from O'Hare International Airport late yesterday. It was bound for New York's Kennedy International Airport when it reported mechanical problems with one of its engines. The aircraft was diverted to Detroit Metro in Romulus, where it landed without incident. No one was injured. After the landing, officials discovered the engine was missing. FAA officials say Michigan authorities are searching for the engine. The FAA will investigate, with results expected to take weeks.

#### **N8396A**

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A small jet went down in a residential area of eastern Jefferson City, damaging a building,

authorities said. It was believed only the pilot and co-pilot were aboard the CRJ2, a regional jet that could seat between 20 and 40 people, said Jefferson City police Capt. Michael Smith. There was no immediate information about injuries, either to anyone in the aircraft or on the ground in the neighbourhood just north of U.S. 50 a few miles east of downtown. Smith said the aircraft was apparently experiencing engine problems when it went down after 2200, last night. FAA spokesman Tony Molinaro said a house was damaged. "One aircraft engine was along the road. There was some debris in a tree, and a burned area," Smith said. "You could still smell the fuel." Neither Smith nor Molinaro knew where the aircraft took off or where it was going.

London, Oct 15 — Bombardier Challenger 600-2B19, N8396A, operated by Pinnacle Airlines, crashed near Jefferson City, Missouri, at 0316, Oct 14, while on a flight from Little Rock, Arkansas, to Minneapolis, Minnesota. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A small jet (Bombardier Challenger 600-2B19, N8396A) crashed in a residential area of Jefferson, Missouri, killing the only two people on board, airline officials said yesterday. The aircraft had aborted an earlier scheduled takeoff because of an apparent mechanical problem. Federal investigators said yesterday the regional jet affiliated with Northwest Airlines had aborted a scheduled flight Thursday (Oct 14) from Little Rock, Ark., after an indicator light went on for a mechanical system that distributes engine heat throughout the aircraft. An indicator light typically signifies a problem. After undergoing maintenance, the 50-seat Pinnacle Airlines aircraft was being flown without passengers to Minneapolis when its engines failed late Thursday and it crashed into a residential area in Missouri's capital city, killing the two pilots. No residents were hurt. While noting the previous mechanical problem, National Transportation Safety Board member Carol Carmody said: "We're not going to speculate on what the causes are" for the crash. According to the NTSB, the aircraft reached 41,000 ft before it stalled and lost power from one engine. At 13,000 ft, the second engine quit. The last contact air traffic controllers had with the aircraft was at 9,000 ft, when a pilot reported an airport beacon in sight, Carmody said. The crash site is about two miles from the Jefferson City airport. Carmody said NTSB investigators planned to move the engines to an airport hangar Saturday for closer evaluation. Authorities also had recovered the flight data recorder. At the crash scene, the cockpit was separated by about 70 yards from a large chunk of the fuselage and was so shattered that it could be difficult to recover the aircraft's instruments, Carmody said.

**N85MM**

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A small plane crashed in the south Chicago suburb of Joliet last night, killing the pilot, police said. The plane took off from the Joliet Regional Airport just before 2000 hrs, but turned around a short time later and tried to land, officer Chris Gombosi said. The plane had some type of trouble and crashed near McDonough Street and Springwood Drive, police said. No one on the ground was injured. National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration officials will investigate the crash site, police Lt. Tab Jensen said.

London, Oct 15 — Vans RV-6A, N85MM, crashed near Joliet, Illinois, at 1955, Oct 14, while on a flight from Erie, Pennsylvania, to Joliet. The one person on board was killed.

**N875JX**

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A commuter plane crashed today in woods as it approached an airport in northeastern Missouri, killing at least eight of the 15 people on board, officials said. At least two people from the flight survived and were being treated at a local hospital, and five were missing, said Adair County Chief Deputy Larry Logston. The last communication from the Jetstream 32 twin-engine turboprop indicated it was on a normal approach to Kirksville Regional Airport, and there was no mention of any problems, said Elizabeth Isham Cory, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration in Chicago. The plane crashed four miles south of the Kirksville airport, she said. The plane, believed to have been Corporate Airlines Flight 5966, was on a regular route from St. Louis when it crashed shortly after 1930 hrs, she said.

London, Oct 20 — BAe Jetstream 31, N875JX, operated by Corporate Airlines, crashed on approach to Kirksville, Missouri, at 0036, Oct 19, while on a flight from St. Louis, MO, to Kirksville. The aircraft was destroyed. Thirteen of the 15 persons on board were killed and the other two were seriously injured.

**N916SH**

London, Oct 20 - A press report, dated today, states: An Eurocopter BO-105 helicopter (N916SH) used as an air ambulance crashed into a bay early today, killing all three crew members aboard, officials said. Two bodies were recovered and divers were looking for the third victim. The helicopter left Santa Rosa Beach bound for DeFuniak Springs, about 25 miles away, to transfer a critically ill heart patient to a Pensacola hospital. No patients were aboard when the chopper crashed, said Mike Burke, a spokesman for Sacred Heart Health Systems, which operates hospitals in Santa Rosa Beach and Pensacola. The crew members included the pilot, a Sacred Heart nurse and a fire department paramedic. Their identities were not immediately released. Walton County Search and Rescue divers found two bodies in the wreckage in Choctawhatchee Bay and

continued a search, said Lt. Stan Kirkland of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Sacred Heart officials said the crew radioed minutes after departure that they were aborting the mission because of bad weather and were heading back to the hangar at Santa Rosa Beach. There was no distress call then and no further communication with the helicopter. The aircraft is one of two AIRHeart helicopters owned by Metro Aviation Inc. of Shreveport, La., that Sacred Heart operates in the Florida Panhandle.

**N9437H**

London, Oct 15 — Cessna 182R (Skylane), N9437H, crashed near Idaho Springs, Colorado, Oct 13 while on a flight from Denver, Colorado, to Aspen, Colorado. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

**RPC-1325**

London, Oct 17 — A press report, dated today, states: The pilot and the copilot were killed after their light aircraft crashed into a mountain during heavy rains yesterday afternoon in Palawan. Initial investigation revealed that the victims were aboard a Pacific Airlines Britten Norman Islander aircraft with registry number RPC-1325. Heavy rains caused the pilot to lose control, causing it to crash around 1530 hrs in Coron town. The two were on their way to Manila to deliver fish. Heavy rains also caused rescue teams from the Coron police to halt search-and-rescue operations and the bodies of the victims were recovered at the crash site only around 1130, today. Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla, Air Force spokesman, said the aircraft crashed minutes after it took off from an air strip in Coron. The aircraft went down some five nautical miles away from the airstrip where it took off. Padilla said the aircraft was a total wreck.

Manila, Oct 18 — A 10-seater BN-2a Islander with tail No. RPC-1325, owned by Pacific Airways, crashed in the vicinity of Borac district, a mountainous area in Coron, Palawan Oct 16, while enroute to Manila from Coro. The two pilots were killed. Reports said the Islander crashed only a few minutes after it left the Coron airstrip enroute to Manila. The Air Transport Office is conducting an investigation as to the cause of the crash. — Lloyd's Agents.



## Product Recalls

**AUDI MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES**

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of Audi's are being recalled for acting up in extremely cold temperatures. Over 28,000 Audi of America vehicles have been recalled due to throttles freezing if the car is driven for a lengthy time at temperatures below five-degrees. Audi

officials say ice can form on the throttle, causing it to stick - not allowing drivers to slow down. The cars can only then be stopped if you put it in neutral, brake hard, or turn the car off. Models affected are the 1998 and 1999 Audi A-6, equipped with a 2.8-liter V-6 engine and automatic transmission.

**CHRYSLER MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES**

London, Oct 13 — A press report, dated Oct 12, states: The Chrysler Group is recalling close to one million minivans due to electrical problems that have caused the driver side air bag to fail, according to regulators. The problem has been linked to injuries in four crashes according to the National Traffic Highway Safety Administration, which said it had received hundreds of complaints on the issue. The recall covers 955,000 minivans and affects five models: the Dodge Caravan and Grand Caravan, Plymouth Voyager and Grand Voyager, and Chrysler Town and Country from the 1998-2000 model years. Chrysler said it will replace the clockspring that supplies current to the driver's side air bag on those vehicles that have less than 70,000 miles and have a problem. The automaker will offer an extended warranty to those customers whose vehicles have not developed the problem.

**COOLER PUMPS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Oct 13 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 150,000 Evaporative Cooler Pumps in voluntary co-operation with Little Giant Pump Company, Oklahoma City, OK. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The motor caps on the cooler pumps are not made with flame-retardant material and an internal electrical failure can ignite the cap, posing a fire hazard to consumers. The firm has received 26 reports of pump fires with two incidents involving property damage. The recalled pumps circulate water in evaporative coolers which cool the air in a room or building through the evaporation of water. The recalled units have a light blue motor cap and include the following model and item numbers, which can be found on a label on the motor cap: CP1 ø 115 540005, CP1 ø 230 540015, CP2 ø 115 541005, CP2 ø 230 541015, CP3 ø 115 542005 and CP3 ø 230 542015. Units with beige motor caps are not included in this recall. Sold at Industrial/HVAC distributors and hardware stores sold the pumps from February 2003 through August 2004 for between \$35 and \$85. Manufactured in China. Consumers should stop using the pump immediately and contact Little Giant to receive a replacement cap and instructions free of charge. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**DISHWASHERS, AUSTRALIA**

London, Oct 13 — A report from Product Recalls, Australia, dated Oct 12, states: Omega and Smeg Dishwashers, supplied by Hagemeyer Brands Australia Pty Limited,



manufactured between November 1998 and May 2003, with a 9-digit serial number ending in either 0,1,2,3,8 or 9, located on the inside edge of the dishwasher door on the right hand side, some of which were sold after May 2003, are being recalled. A plastic-coated capacitor fitted to the dishwashers in question has a potential, in a very small number of cases, to overheat, leading to a failure of the dishwasher and possible water, smoke and/or heat damage. Customers should first identify whether they have the affected model. Customers can go to the website (24 hours) www.omegasmeg.com.au/recall or call the Toll-free hotline on 1800 180 347 (9am to 5pm Monday to Friday). A service call to replace the affected component will be arranged free of charge. Market/recall coverage national.

**ISUZU MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN**

London, Oct 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Isuzu Motors Ltd said yesterday it will recall about 1,200 units of its Mu and Wizard station wagons for free repairs due to defects in generators. The vehicles to be recalled were manufactured between February 2000 and December 2001, the company said in a report to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

**SATURN MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE**

London, Oct 16 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Saturn officials

say they plan to voluntarily recall nearly all of its VUE sport utility vehicles. The move is to address concerns raised by federal regulators investigating the vehicle because its rear suspension failed during two government rollover tests. The recall affects more than 246,000 VUEs in the 2002-through-2004 model years, most of those in the United States.



**SYRIA**

Lattakia, Oct 9 — Waiting time is presently 24 hours at Lattakia and four days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**UNITED STATES**

London, Oct 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Scores of mammoth cargo vessels laden with Asian imports often must wait a week before their thousands of steel containers are loaded or unloaded at the docks along the coast of Los Angeles and Long Beach. With vessels arriving faster than dockworkers can handle them, the ports can't keep ahead of the rising tide of Pacific Rim cargo. The delays have revealed problems with everything from harbour operations to the truck and rail systems that move goods

inland. Port officials have hired thousands of new dock and rail workers and plan to make the port a 24-hour operation. But the changes won't be fully implemented until next year, and many see the planned improvements as a temporary fix. Over the past three decades, the twin ports have grown into the nation's main entry point for cargo containers. Last year, the equivalent of 11.3 million 20-foot containers passed across the docks. Only the ports of Hong Kong and Singapore saw more cargo. Port authorities calculated that traffic would increase 5 percent this year. Instead, fed by China's booming manufacturing industry and U.S. consumers' appetite for imported goods, traffic increased 10 percent. The ports moved about half of the \$750 billion worth of cargo that moved through the West Coast last year; the balance entered through more than two dozen other major Pacific ports. Vessels now wait an average of five to nine days before they're unloaded, sometimes longer. Trains and trucks can't carry the goods away fast enough. "You have to think of it as a system," said Dick McKenna, deputy director of the Marine Exchange, which monitors vessel movements at the ports. "The pressure is really the amount of cargo we're getting." This month, the average number of vessels in the harbour hit 80, more than double the usual. His past week, more than 90 vessels were in port, the most this year, McKenna said.

**Port Delays**

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbot Point	18-Oct-2004	Coal: Eleven vessels due by 8/11; up to 2 days delay expected.
Brisbane	18-Oct-2004	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth; Four vessels due by 10/11; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	18-Oct-2004	Coal: Three vessels at berth, 19 at anchor; 27 vessels due by 20/12; vessels are berthing in order of cargo availability; up to 15 days delay expected.
Dampier	18-Oct-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: Five vessels at anchor; 6 vessels due by 1/11; up to 6 days delay expected; East Intercourse Island; One vessel loading at berth, 3 at anchor; 11 vessels due by 31/10; 1-10 days delay expected.
Esperance	18-Oct-2004	Iron ore: One vessel due 20/10; no delays expected.
Geraldton	18-Oct-2004	Iron ore: One vessel at anchor; up to 6 days delay expected.
Gladstone	18-Oct-2004	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Three vessels at berth, 9 at anchor; 42 vessels due by 13/11; up to 7 days delay expected; Barney Point: CQPA has advised a shutdown 15-26/10 for train unloading and 15-31/10 for ship loading operations; 4 vessels due by 8/11; up to 8 days delay expected.
Hay Point	18-Oct-2004	Coal: Five vessels due by 26/10; up to 7 days delay expected.
Newcastle	18-Oct-2004	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: Two vessels at berth, 8 at anchor; 30 vessels due by 8/11; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel at berth, 3 at anchor; 13 vessels due by 15/11; Kooragang and Dyke terminals: 1-7 days delay expected.
Port Hedland	18-Oct-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: One vessel loading at berth, 3 at anchor; 2 vessels due by 26/10; up to 4 days delay expected; "B" berth: One vessel loading at berth, 2 at anchor; 3 vessels due by 27/10; up to 4 days delay expected; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island): 1 vessel loading at berth; 1 vessel due 20/10; no delays expected; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel at anchor; 5 vessels due by 27/10; up to 2 days delay expected.
Port Kembla	18-Oct-2004	Coal: Fourteen vessels due by 20/11; CB1: 1 vessel due 24/10; up to 1 day's delay expected.
Port Latta	18-Oct-2004	Iron ore: One vessel due 19/10; no delays expected.
Port Walcott	18-Oct-2004	Iron ore: One vessel loading at berth, 8 at anchor; 13 vessels due by 31/10; up to 6 days

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## Port Conditions

delay expected; 2 ship loaders are being used on a more frequent basis, requiring 2 loading plans: one for single ship loader, 1 for dual loader operation; shippers request that load plans be submitted as early as possible (10 days) so they can coordinate stockpiles more effectively.

### Bulgaria

Bourgas	18-Oct-2004	Eleven vessels in port of which 5 loading (3 coils, 1 scrap, 1 metal), 6 discharging (1 copper cathodes, 1 billets, 1 coal, 2 equipment, 1 iron ore); 4 vessels in roads of which 3 to load (2 empty, 1 bunkering), 1 to discharge containers; 16 vessels due of which 9 to load, 7 to discharge.
Varna	18-Oct-2004	Varna East, Varna West, Balchik: Thirty-six vessels in port operating of which 22 loading, 9 discharging, 5 discharging/loading; no vessels waiting in roads.

### Chile

Antofagasta	18-Oct-2004	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 12 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers, general cargo.
Iquique	18-Oct-2004	No vessels berthed, 6 berths vacant; 13 vessels due this week.
San Vicente	18-Oct-2004	Three vessels berthed, 1 berth vacant; 11 vessels due during the week; Steel pier: 1 vessel at terminal, 1 berth vacant; no vessels due this week; Coronel pier: 1 vessel at terminal, 2 berths vacant; 1 vessel due this week; Oil terminal: 1 tanker at terminal, 1 berth vacant; no tankers due this week.
Valparaiso	18-Oct-2004	Two vessels berthed, 6 berths vacant; 3 vessels at anchorage: 14 vessels due this week.

### Cyprus

Larnaca	19-Oct-2004	Three conventional vessels discharging at berth; 3 conventional vessels due 20/10; no delays expected.
Limassol	19-Oct-2004	Three conventional vessels discharging at berth, 4 container vessels discharging/loading at berth; 9 vessels due 20/10 of which 3 containers, 2 conventional vessels, 3 passenger vessels, 1 cruise vessel; no delays expected.

### Egypt

Adabiya	18-Oct-2004	Five vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 3 general cargo, 1 bulker, 1 tanker.
Alexandria	18-Oct-2004	Thirty-four vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 31 general cargo, 1 container, 1 tanker, 1 bulker; 13 vessels at inner anchorage, 6 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	18-Oct-2004	Twenty-one vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 14 general cargo, 3 bulkers, 4 container vessels; 1 vessel at inner anchorage, 6 at outer anchorage.
Dekheila	18-Oct-2004	Eleven vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 2 containers, 8 bulk carriers, 1 tanker.
Port Said	18-Oct-2004	Three vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 1 general cargo, 2 container vessels.
Suez	18-Oct-2004	Five vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 3 general cargo, 2 passenger vessels; 2 tug boats; 2 vessels dry-docked.
Suez Canal	18-Oct-2004	Eighteen vessels transiting Northbound, 22 Southbound.

### India

Calcutta	19-Oct-2004	Eight vessels loading at berth, 9 discharging at berth, 1 vessel bunkering, 2 under repairs/dry-docked; 27 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Chennai (Madras)	19-Oct-2004	Seven vessels loading at berth, 8 discharging at berth, 1 other vessel at berth; 3 vessels at outer anchorage in not ready status; 27 vessels due, with the following delays expected: TNEB coal, steaming coal, fertiliser, containers, others: up to 1 day; scrap, iron ore: up to 2 days.
Jawaharlal Nehru	19-Oct-2004	One vessel loading at liquid berth; 1 tanker waiting at anchorage to discharge; 1 fertiliser/raw materials/cement vessel due, with no delays expected; 3 tankers due; no delays expected for berthing at LB-01/LB-02.
Mumbai	19-Oct-2004	No labour problems. Four vessels loading at berth, 5 discharging at berth; expected delays: container vessels: 12 hours; bulkers: 1-2 days on completion of 50% of cargo documents; general cargo vessels: berthing within 24 hours of arrival.

### Mozambique

Maputo	15-Oct-2004	24 hours berthing/sailing. Some restrictions to berthing at certain badly-lit wharves. For general cargo berths vessels have to be geared as no shore cranes are available. The port is working normally and is expected to continue so, hence vessels should berth on arrival, day light, draft and weather permitting. No berthing delays. There is a shortage of equipment, except at container terminal. Shed space available. Safe draft for transiting the channel is:
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**Port Conditions**

		9.1 m 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 the ramps be portside vessels berth with the flowing tide. Pilot launch: operational. Two tugs operational. Leading lights: lit. Transport car for pilots: operational. Two container gantrys operational.
<b>Matola</b>	15-Oct-2004	coal terminal, Ressano Garcia railway line, Goba Railway Line, Limpopo railway line: operational. Six vessels at berth of which 2 loading (1 scrap, 1 coal), 4 discharging (1 diesel, 1 vehicles, 1 bulk wheat, 1 clinker); 5 vessels due 15/10; 18 vessels due by 20/11 of which 4 to load, 10 to discharge, 4 to discharge/load containers.
<b>Pakistan</b>		
<b>Karachi</b>	19-Oct-2004	One vessels loading cement at berth, 9 discharging at berth (2 crude oil, 1 palm oil, 1 DAP, 1 wheat, 1 jute, 1 coils, 1 loading and discharging containers; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load containers, 2 waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 crude oil); 2 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 2 vessels due (1 containers, 1 chemicals), with no delays expected.
<b>Port Qasim</b>	19-Oct-2004	Four vessels discharging at berth (2 palm oil, 2 wheat); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge VCM; QICT berth: 1 vessel loading/discharging containers.
<b>Poland</b>		
<b>Gdansk</b>	18-Oct-2004	Six vessels in port operating of which 5 loading at berth (2 coal, 2 bulkers, 1 general cargo), 1 discharging grain at berth; 1 tanker in roads; 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 21 vessels due.
<b>Gdynia</b>	18-Oct-2004	Eleven vessels in port operating of which 4 loading at berth (2 coal, 2 general cargo), 7 discharging at berth (3 bulkers, 2 grain, 2 general cargo); 17 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 40 vessels due.
<b>Russia</b>		
<b>Novorossiysk</b>	18-Oct-2004	Sixteen vessels in port operating of which all loading; 5 vessels in roads, all to load; 67 vessels due of which 64 to load, 1 to discharge bulk sugar, 2 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 2 tankers loading crude at berth; 5 tankers in roads of which 4 to load crude, 1 fuel oil; 7 tankers due, all to load crude oil.
<b>Slovenia</b>		
<b>Koper</b>	18-Oct-2004	Port working normally; Eight vessels berthed of which 1 vessel discharging/loading containers, 1 bulk carrier discharging minerals, 1 barge loading coal, 4 vessels loading steel products/sawn timber/general cargo, 1 tanker discharging mineral oils; 16 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 3 vessels to discharge/load containers, 2 bulk carriers to discharge minerals, 5 bulk carriers to load coal/grain, 2 vessels to load general cargo, 1 Ro/Ro to discharge vehicles, 2 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 1 tanker to discharge mineral oils no delays expected.
<b>Spain</b>		
<b>Bilbao</b>	18-19-Oct-2004	Thirty vessels in port operating (7 tankers, 23 others), of which 3 loading, 13 discharging, 14 loading/discharging.
<b>Cadiz</b>	18-19-Oct-2004	Ten vessels in port of which 3 Ro/Ros, 1 container, 2 tourist, 1 coke, 1 wheat, 4 under repairs; no delays expected.
<b>Sagunto</b>	18-19-Oct-2004	Twenty-six vessels in port operating of which 5 loading (3 steel, 1 cement, 1 vehicles), 14 discharging (12 steel products, 1 timber, 1 anhydrous ammonia), 1 discharging/loading steel products, 6 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo; Outside commercial wharf: no vessels; no delays expected.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>		
<b>Colombo</b>	18-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 berthing at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion; conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 & 2 are facing delays in navigation after commissioning of SAGT 1 & 2 berths (former QEQ 1 & 2). Ten container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 12 discharging at berth (8 containers/feeders, 1 general cargo, 1 bagged cement, 1 bulk cement, 1 steel); no vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 1 waiting at anchorage to discharge bulk cement; 6 vessels dry-docked, 1 under arrest, 1 awaiting orders; SPBM: 1 vessel; 1 vessel at new tanker berth; 6 vessels due (5 container/feeders, 1 bulk cement), with no delays for general cargo, bagged cargo, containers/feeders expected.

**Port Conditions**

**Ukraine**

Ilichevsk	18-Oct-2004	Nine vessels in port operating of which 3 loading, 4 others, 2 discharging/loading containers; 2 vessels in roads to discharge/load containers; 7 vessels due of which 4 to load steel products, 3 to load/ discharge containers.
Mariupol	18-Oct-2004	Seventeen vessels in port operating of which 15 loading (4 steel, 1 pig iron, 3 fire-clay, 4 ckoal, 1 lifts/coal, 1 equipment, 1 coke), 1 discharging foodstuff, 1 discharging/loading equipment/rails; 7 vessels in roads, all to load (2 steel, 1 ammonium nitrate, 2 coal,1 fire-clay,1 container); 60 vessels due of which 55 to load, 3 to discharge, 2 to discharge/load.
Odessa	18-Oct-2004	Eighteen vessels in port operating of which 10 loading (9 metal, 1 wheat), 6 discharging (4 baggage, 2 citrus), 2 discharging/loading containers; 8 vessels in roads of which 4 to load (2 metal, 2 wheat/barley), 2 to discharge (1 sugar, 1 bananas), 2 to load/discharge containers; 70 vessels due of which 37 to load (33 metal, 1 scrap, 1 pig iron, 1 ferro alloy, 1 wood), 7 to discharge (1 wheat, 1 wood, 1 general cargo, 4 oil), 26 to load/discharge containers.

**Yemen**

Hodeidah	17-Oct-2004	All berths occupied; Six vessels berthed of which 2 containers, 1 general cargo, 1 corn, 2 bulk wheat; 1 container vessel anchored; waiting times: general cargo,: up to 2 days; bagged cargo: 2-4 days; bulk cargo: 2-6 days; containers: no delays expected.
Mokha	17-Oct-2004	Both berths available; no vessels at berth, none anchored; no delays expected.
Sevastopol	17-Oct-2004	One vessel in port loading steel; no vessels in roads; 5 vessels due of which 4 to load steel, 1 to load fuel oil.

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